

BOWEN ROAD:: 1800's. originally called Ferry Rd.

At the foot of this St. was the lower Ferry Landing. The boats were no larger then row boats. To the north before coming to Frenchman"s Creek stood a grain elevator: blacksmith shop: shoe Shop : 2 hotels: a dance hall and a customs house; a dock and a shingle mill operated by Stockdale & tait.

The dock where the Fennians landed was directly at the foot of Bowen(the site of Williams dock inlate 20's).

On the S.W. cr. stood the Ferry house and tavern of Freeberry(Freeberry's Landing. In the 1860's this tavern was run by Joseph Stevens.he also owned the dock and shingle mill for anumber of years.From J. Stevens the taver went to Joe Lanigan.

About the year 1851 and 1852 the late James Haggart started a Ferry between Freebury's landing at the foot of Bowen Rd. to Hertel Ave. at Black Rock on the American side. His fine little side wheeler steamer the "Cygnet", under her captain Dick Taylor, was placed on the route, but only operated during the summer months.

After a trail of two possibly three seasons, the service was discontinued; possibly for want of sufficient patronage. Another gentleman by the name of James Haggart, who at the time was Capt. of the Fort Erie Ferry boat, and afterwards conductor of the Dummy over the International Bridge; said he ran the Ferry for one season.

Clustered around the foot of Bowen Rd. at the time was a grain warehouse, blacksmith shop, shoe shop, dance hall, and two hotels. One of the hotels was kept by a man named Freebury, and following him Joseph Stevens, and the last was Joseph Lanigan, who had a licence 1875. A considerable business was done in ferrying people and goods over the river, in small boats and yawls. There was a custom's office stationed there, and on the dock was a Customs house, and also the shingle mill of Messrs. Stockdale and Tait. It was at this dock that the Fenians landed on a fine morning of June 1866. The shingle mill was not burned, but was torn down after the raids. (O'Neil of course did not damage the hotels) All the buildings have disappeared, however remains of the old dock can still be seen.

It was at this point that the old Western Union Telegraph Company installed their first submarine telegraph cable. It was abandoned when the International Bridge was completed, and the cable ran over it."

Shortly after the Fenian raids Joseph Stevens left the Hotel, and purchased a farm on the Gilmore road lot 5 con. 5 the west half.