

1. IN THE BEGINNING



Mount Nemo Scout Camp is located near the former Village of Zimmerman located at the corner of Appleby Line and No. 2 Sideroad on Bronte Creek, or Twelve Mile Creek as it was once called. Around 1814, Peter Zimmerman acquired land near Appleby Line. His three sons eventually farmed there.

One of the sons built a large flouring mill, a sawmill, a turning factory, a house and a store on his property on the east side of Appleby Line at No. 2 Sideroad. Zimmerman grew to have a shoe shop, tailor shop, carpenter and blacksmith shops and its own post office in the general store. The original school was built in 1873, but its replacement, built in 1929 still stands on the east side of Appleby Line. Zimmerman Methodist Church, now Trinity Baptist Church was built in 1891. A number of the local houses were built by the early settlers.

The Zimmerman Mill burned to the ground on January 14, 1914. The village slowly declined until the general store closed during the 1930's.

The land on which Mount Nemo Scout Camp now sits was originally granted from the Crown to 2 different farmers. Thomas Moore received a crown patent to 200 acres in Lot 7 of Concession 2 on June 1, 1808. 50 acres of this land was sold to John McLaren on November 6, 1847. John McLaren then obtained a crown patent to the 100 acres in Lot 8 of Concession 2 on December 11, 1849, bringing his total farm to 150 acres. On November 18, 1867, the property was sold to

William Spence. Andrew McBride purchased the property on August 24, 1871. The property was then sold on April 25, 1872 to William George Sinclair, who acquired a further 6 acres of Lot 7 on October 13, 1880.

The following were the next owners of the land:

June 9, 1908	Grant Wilbert Sinclair
April 2, 1914	Joseph G. Clifton
January 28, 1915	Hugh and Mary Ann Forgie
October 23, 1918	John Malin
October 1, 1921	Samuel and Florence French

The last owners defaulted on a mortgage to Jennie Byrne during the depression. She died February 13, 1946. The property was purchased from her estate for \$5,200 on November 7, 1946, and title was taken in the name of three members of what was then called Hamilton District Council: Gordon M. Jackson; Redvers D. F. Bourne and Alfred W. E. VanSomeren.

The property was transferred to the Provincial Council, which holds the property for Hamilton Wentworth District, on June 29, 1965.

Prior to the purchase of the property, the farm house which had been located near Tetonka Lodge burned down while the farmer was away shopping. When the property was purchased, the only two buildings which remained were the barn, including a shed, and a chicken coop. The barn was located where the overflow parking lot is today. The chicken coop was located on the road to B.P. Lodge and would become one of the early Scout buildings.

Two buildings from the Sulphur Springs Camp at the Hermitage were moved to the new campsite

