

An enlarged Newspaper clipping from "Ottawa Evening Citizen" dated November 24, 1934 in "Reminiscences..."

## **Samuel Francis An Expert Axe-Maker Established Reputation In Renfrew District In The Early Fifties.**

In the early fifties in the then growing village of Renfrew, near the Creek, stood a rough-cast house occupied by Samuel Francis, a young axemaker from the neighborhood of Smith's Falls. He had the shop by the Creek side and there he and his assistant, William Roberts - put such faithfulness and good steel into every axe turned out it soon made Francis' axes in demand on the Bonnechere and Madawaska.

About the middle fifties, he removed to the permanent site of his factory, by the north side of the Bonnechere, stowing his household in the cosy nook further down the stream. Roberts was still with him, and with a succession of apprentices, prominent among whom was Elkanah Mayhew, he continued in business, until axemaking was on the wane, and he himself began to be broken down.

Of Quaker extraction, he had many traits of character that befitted such descent, being a quiet, gentle, devout man, who did much in the cause of temperance, and took a deep interest in all that made for moral and

spiritual uplift in the community. He loved his quiet home and clung to the true hearts that were around him there. His other love was for children, who all knew him as their friend and crowded round him in the later days when he had leisure, and rejoiced his heart greatly by their confidence and affection.

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