



During these times, my ancestors would travel to England in the late fall with a ship full of apples and pears for the English market and return in the spring with cattle. The best cattle were kept on the farm for herd improvement while others were sold to local farmers.

Legend has it that one winter while the men were away, renegades came through on Stagecoach Road (today called “Staff Avenue”). The women and children barricaded themselves in the bedrooms while the renegades broke into the home to steal all the cheeses and preserves. They were not harmed. When the renegades left the next morning, a riding crop/switch was left stuck in the ground. The Staff women left it there, to show the men upon their return home to Canada. The switch sprouted roots and grew to be the gorgeous Horse Chestnut Tree that stands tall and proud today off the north-east corner of the farmhouse.

The story continues ... who were these renegades? It is written that the renegades were Jesse James and his entourage!

Apparently, Jesse James fled the United States of America to avoid persecution. He had family in Lucknow, Ontario and spent the later part of his life with them. If he was travelling from New York State, U.S.A. to Lucknow, Ontario, Canada, then he would have journeyed through the Niagara Region. And, clearly, Jesse James and his bandits would have cleverly taken the lesser-known Stagecoach Road versus the higher travelled King Street to avoid authorities.

This is the story told by my ancestors, that has been handed down through the generations. Regardless of its veracity, it is a great tale that will be told for generations more.

It is appropriate that the largest tree on the estate with its majestic limbs and hardened trunk is honored by our Cabernet Franc. Throughout the various vintages, the wine is hardy, muscular, tannic, and long lived, just like this “old tree”.

A writer once incorrectly wrote that “The Chestnut Tree” made famous by our most prized Cabernet Franc was “just an old tree”.

Well

Once upon a time, the road in front of the estate was named “Stagecoach Road”. “King Street” was the greater travelled route just below the Niagara Escarpment, and Stagecoach Road was the lesser-known road running along the top of the Niagara Escarpment. Stagecoach Road crossed between our farmhouse and the original barn (now long demolished) previously located across the road. In addition, there was a tollbooth located across from my brother’s home, just a short 100 metres from the farmhouse, charging passersby a fee to cross our property.



3210 STAFF AVENUE, JORDAN ON L0R1S0
877-566-1719 INFO@SUE-ANNSTAFF.COM
WWW.SUE-ANNSTAFF.COM