

## **ST. HENRY'S CEMETERY, RODNEY ONTARIO**

- *taken from the booklet written by Wilf Johnston, Sept 15, 1979.*

In an unregistered deed of 1871, St. Henry's Cemetery is shown. It is said that the bad weather and the difficulty of getting to Wardsville Cemetery for Henry Schnekenburger's burial led his widow, Regina, to donate the land for a cemetery and church on her farm. This also carried out Henry's wish.

A Protestant artisan, who lived near where Wilfred Doan now resides, hewed the oat cross and carried it a mile to the cemetery. That cross is still standing in 1978. The gentleman was Adolph Musale: he also made furniture and coffins.

In the early days, priests were not always present at the funerals. Someone would recite the Rosary and the prayers for the dead, then a few hymns would be sung.

The pioneer cemetery has the graves of: Schnekenburgers, Colemans, Martinis, Ramsteins, IIs, Limbergers, Hitzels, Koerners and Lebolts. There is a white marker for Frederick Pickette, 1874, at the southeast corner. This could be the first burial. In Father Chisholm's account he has a Mr. Oatts as the first burial., He had hewn the shingles for the church. There have been tow burials as recent as 1975.

By 1963 the bottom of the cross had rotted. This was sawn off and moved farther back. The cross is encased in a cement base and metal supports. The work was done by Jerry Coleman. A five foot metal cross, in the middle of the cemetery was erected as a grave marker about 1950 but no one seems to know by whom.