

From "Guide Book & Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts, 1879" – Maps by Jno Rogers, Sketches by S. Penson. H.R. Page and Co, Toronto.

Description of Ryde Township in 1879.

It contains 39,500 acres of land, and 928 of water, many excellent hard wood valleys and much low and swamp lands, capable of yielding good crops after thorough drainage. The first settlers were Messrs. Housey of Housey's Rapids, Joshua Long, Robt. Benn, Brass (two families), Brooks (two families), Wyle. Mr. Wyle is the father of the first white child born in the township. There are eight or nine German families in Ryde. Seven years ago (say 1872) there were no settlers. Five years ago Ryde came into market. There is a good winter road to Bracebridge, but Gravenhurst is the natural business centre. After the Rusks (two brothers), Daney and Matz (three families) had settled in Ryde they did not know of each others places of residence. Messrs. Downie and Long were settled five miles apart, and each unknown to the other. They came in by different routes about six years ago. Downie heard someone chopping, met Long, and found that he had a near neighbor, and that there was a road to Bracebridge.

Perusal of the atlas indicates 72 dwellings, two schools, and one post office (Housey's Rapids)