

married in 1801, by Col. James Ingersoll, J. P., and died in Burford, August 4th, 1834, of Cholera. His uncle, Thomas Watson, had, during the Revolutionary war in the United States, rendered Colonel Simcoe some essential service, after he had been taken prisoner by the Americans—this service was not forgotten by him when he was appointed Governor of Upper Canada (1792); for soon after his arrival he wrote to Mr. Watson, and not only most pressinglly urged him to come himself, but “to bring all his friends and relations with him, and promised them a whole town-ship.” The Governor being not only anxious to reward him for past services, but equally anxious to get the Province settled by individuals from the United States, Mr. Watson, relying on a Governor’s promise, sent his son, Thomas Watson, to the county of Oxford, in company with his cousin, the late Thomas Horner, in the year 1793, before even a surveyor’s chain had jingled in its woods; and probably they were the first white persons who ever trod its soil.

To accommodate them, the Governor had ordered that the three first concessions of the Township of Blenheim should be at once surveyed.—Surveyor Jones and his Indian party arrived while they were there, to survey out those concessions, and they waited while that was done, and selected a site for a mill, and returned, Mr. Watson with the intention of not coming back, and Mr. Horner intending doing so. At the time of this, their first visit, the nearest white settler east was where Brantford now stands, and the nearest one west where Chatham now stands.

Mr. Horner resided for some time in Newark, (Niagara) and then moved to the town of Detroit, and remained there until that town was formally given up by the British government, then in possession, to the American General, Wayne, in 1796. Mr. Horner then proceeded to the town (now city) of Albany, N. Y., to purchase the material and engage the mechanics to erect his saw-mill—the first erected in the county of Oxford. He packed his goods in two small, roughly-made boats, which he launched on the river Hudson, near Albany, proceeded up the Hudson to the river Mohawk, and up said river about 100 miles; then carried their goods and boats across to the Norvel creek, thence down the Norvel creek to lake Oneida, across the lake to the Oswego river; thence into Lake Ontario, along the Southern coast of that lake to the Burlington Bay beach; drew their boats through a small outlet of the bay, and then proceeded across the bay and landed, all safe, near where Dundurn castle now stands. The boats were then made fast for future use, and the goods drawn by oxen, on roughly-made sledges, to their destination in Blenheim. The mill was got up and in working order in the latter part of 1795. It had not been run at all before the dam broke away,—and from the scarcity of hands, it could not be rebuilt till 1797, in which year the first plank was sawed.—

The ho
is built
the fir
1809, a
the pre
west of

Whe
the tow
formed
townshi
success
and sha
because
and exp

On th
the Nor
Deputy-
war of 1
ed, not
folk) wa
unemplo
was his
alist, he
very lip
shown hi
any capa
unsucces
River In
attack D
men. I
caught at
collected
standing
ing to giv
Even un
was thou
frontier f
toward h
Creek, on
General F
mons was
and remai