

employment and was thus able to support his little family and keep the wolf from the door. The district around Meaford was settled shortly after their arrival in Innisfil, and considerable teaming was required by the settlers going there, some of which he did. On one occasion in 1832, or not long after it, he was employed to take a load of provisions, probably dressed hogs, with his team to the Meaford district for one of the settlers. It was late in the winter, near spring indeed, and the journey was made by way of the Sunnidale road to Nottawasaga Bay, over the ice of which their destination was reached. The condition of the ice was so bad that at one place the whole party narrowly escaped drowning.

His escapes from drowning were numerous. Once he and his brother John were crossing Kempenfeldt Bay on the ice with a big cheese which they had purchased in the north. The ice broke in with them, and both narrowly escaped death. They managed to save themselves as well as their goods.

Amongst other narrow escapes was one from death by lightning. Once while riding homeward on horseback at a short distance north of Victoria, now Stroud, a tree just a few yards from him was struck by lightning and shattered to pieces, the fragments flying about them. Horse and rider were completely stunned for a short time, but soon recovered and went on their way. Such were the dangers to which the pioneers were exposed.

In those days Indians were more numerous and consequently of greater importance in the life of the new settlements than they are now. Surrounded by numbers of them at all times until recent years, he became intimately acquainted with them and their ways. Shortly after the family came to Innisfil, a numerous band of wild Nor' West Indians passed through their farm on the way to Toronto to interview the Governor in regard to some matter that affected their tribe. These conducted themselves in a very terrifying fashion by whooping and yelling around the house of the new settler. With this exception, the Indians always treated them with civility.

For the purpose of bartering furs, many Indians in those days from northerly parts of the country, several times a year visited Holland Landing, which was an emporium for a large territory. Whiskey was too often the commodity they got in exchange for their furs. On one occasion, he counted no less than thirty large wigwams clustered on the common adjoining Holland Landing. He was on a trip there at the time, for that place was the nearest trading post to them as well as to the Indians. It is usual now to see Indians dressed in clothes like our own; then, the dress of an Indian was merely a blanket. Their habits of living were also very irregular. He used to relate an amusing story of an old chief's enormous appetite. Not many years after settling in Innisfil, he and several others were logging on the town limits of Barrie, near the present residence of Mr. Thomas Cudde. In the woods close by, a band of Nottawasaga Indians was encamped, the old chief of which came up to the men and gazed in wonder at their work. He was fully eighty years of age. The logging was a novelty to him which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy, for he tried to help the men roll logs with his hands—as any other novice would—and to pick up brands and carry them to the