

But settlement made slow progress and from the period named until the survey of the tract by Thomas Smith, Deputy-Surveyor in 1821, and its incorporation with the County of Kent under the name of Sombra Township the same year, few additions to the population by way of settlement were made thereto, and the old St. Clair tract remained beyond the mere river margin, as ever—a deep forest primeval.

*Was non est.* Its site was still a wilderness, as it was on the arrival of the Bal-  
doon emigrants in 1804. The more venturesome of these hardy settlers who  
ascended Sydenham's stream, found it a dense forest whose dark lines of  
gloomy giants margined the shores to the water's edge. Its solitude was then  
extreme. Then no welcome sound in human tongue broke the painful stillness.  
Save for the occasional splash of the water fowl in the wild rice beds near by, or  
the stroke of the woodpecker's bill against the dead trees in the forest's deep  
recesses, the silence was complete. Yet evidence of humanity was not  
wanting. An Indian village of Shawnees was not far distant, and marks of  
their later hunting camps on the "Point" were not yet obliterated. In the  
rich mold of the upper soil of the latter lay, in their long sleep, in many a  
layered ridge and mound, under the cool and grateful summer shade of the  
maples which they loved, the remains of many a warrior red and bold, and  
old and ancient—Indians who, perhaps, had fought the pioneer pale face of  
yore, the English at the "surprise of the Forts" under Pontiac, or the