

In many respects it was a very hard year and greatly retarded the settlement. About 1820, what was known as old country settlers began to come in, and about that time Messrs. Covert, Jeffrey, Wade, Plews, Wallace, Spear, Dale, McCormick, Powell, Rowe, etc., came in. The largest emigration into Canada was in the years 1830, '31 and '32. At that period a large number of colonist families came in and spread all over the township, filling up around Baltimore, Coldsprings, and other parts. Space will not allow of us giving names. From this time up till about the year 1850, emigrants kept coming in, though in fewer numbers. Since that period very few have come in.

The first settlers required to be brave men and women with stout hearts and strong arms, to enter our unbroken woods. It was a formidable undertaking to be buried in them, and day after day to go forth to make war against the forest trees and hew them down with the hope of working themselves out to the light of day, making for themselves and children a home. The old settlers tell many interesting stories of the hardships they had to endure, of the scarcity of necessary food and clothing, the hard shifts they were put to to procure these things. Of their endeavors to eke out their scanty fare by fishing, shooting birds and hunting deer and bear, by wild rice and greens from various plants. Even after they had grown some crop, of having to pound out their corn in some hollow stump or log, which perhaps they could still point out to their children. Of having to carry their wheat to Kingston, the nearest mill, in boats. Of, on one occasion, having been driven into Presque Isle for shelter and of being frozen in there; or of their having to carry on their backs all the flour they needed for the winter's use through twenty or thirty miles of woods. A settler would come in and either draw or buy a lot, chop down a few large trees and put up a shanty, covering it with bark or split basswood logs. Leaving for a short time he would come back bringing his wife with him, the young couple having taken their wedding jaunt over a blazed track through the woods, carrying all their worldly possession on their backs, making their bed of cedar or hemlock boughs, setting themselves down in the forest to subdue the wilderness and by patient industry and perseverance hew out a home.