

been expelled by the harsh and unscrupulous agents of the Duchess of Sutherland, from their lovely and home attached Kildonan Valley—children to the manor born—and whom he, at his own expense, bore by ship by way of Hudson Bay and thence, by Norfolk River and Lake Winnipeg, to their new Kildonan on the Red River, where, upon conditions easy and fair, were furnished them lands, and until self-sustaining provided with necessities and accommodation.

May the arrangements with the Baldoon settlers have been similar or what they may, the good people of Argyle—principally from the Mull—to the number of 26 families and 111 souls, all told, set sail from Kirkcudbright Bay (?) where they had rendezvoused since the preceding year from fear of French privateers, in the good old ship "Oughton" of Greenock, in the summer of 1804, arriving, as an old Baldoon settler and emigrant has put it, "in Quebec, where some left the ship; all left at Montreal; thence in French carts to Lachine, thence in bateaux to Fort Erie, thence to Amherstburg, and thence to the Chenal Ecarte or Baldoon, our destination."

Scarcely had they set foot upon their new settlement, when misfortunes overtook them. No proper provision had been made for their reception. The ship carpenters and others sent in advance to prepare cabins for their accommodation, had decamped without accomplishing their purpose—it is said had run off to Sandwich from fear of the Indians. Their position was terrible; their isolation complete. The nearest inhabitants were on the "Thames," 17 miles distant, and accessible only by a devious trail, known to and attempted by few, across the plains via Big Point and the higher ground to "Dolsen's," Lot No. 5 on the river, Dover West. To the north and east the forest stretched unbroken. To the south and west extended the equally boundless St. Clair and the expansive Grand Marais. Exposed to the intolerable heat of an August and September sun, to myriads of mosquitoes and poisonous insects, to the miasmatic vapors of a vegetable decaying soil, and neighboring fetid bogs, and but barely covered with tents or some other off-hand and nondescript shelter, which eventually had been provided, they fell sick with those dire diseases (malarial fever and dysentery) and no less than 42 out of their original number fell their victims the first season of their arrival.

The particular spot at which these Highland Scottish Israelites effected a landing into the Baldoon land of promise, was at a point where the "Sny" bends or cuts into the "farm," a little below and east of the small creek, which enters the former stream there. Here, was erected shortly after the arrival of the settlers, upon a knoll facing the "Sny" about 100 yards or so distant therefrom, and at a point pretty correctly marked by the old and solitary willow tree, the "Baldoon House" or "Castle," a story and a half structure, which stood for several generations and until the past few years, a well known and historical landmark in that vast expanse of prairie landscape. Built of frame and lined within with brick, it presented such an appearance, its contemporary by a few years, as the house of John Dolsen, Lot No. 5, River, Dover West, does now; a longish house, steep roofed, with large verandah in front, at the ends of which, and incorporated with it were built two small apartments used as storerooms or pantries. From the Castle, in a line about north-east and towards what is now Wallaceburg, struck out a row of cabins which the Earl had erected for the settlers, who were to occupy the lands on the north-west side of the "farm," the eastern portion of the same on Bear Creek being reserved for his private sheep, whose sheep fold lay near that stream, and whose site is now, in 1881, bearing for Mr. Little of Wallaceburg, a very heavy crop of onions. A little east and south of the "Castle," stood a storehouse, erected for the general benefit, and attached to which in log hewn pens, were housed the horned cattle and