

was not in so good condition, the windows and floor being somewhat broken. It was, however, sometimes occupied by persons using the Portage as giving better shelter in a storm than tents. There had been other houses here. I could then have pointed out several foundations on which they once stood. One I remember in particular: one side wall of logs and part of both ends were still standing, and were used by Indians and others as firewood. I was told that the Indians had burned the others. At the time the work at the Portage was being carried on, another was begun, perhaps in conjunction with it. A small military post was established near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, and, but for a grove of pretty tall pine trees, in full view of the bay of that name. Several strong log houses, loop-holed and stockaded, were constructed. Heavy guns, or artillery of any sort, were never there. The forts spoken of in the EXAMINER's articles, names and all, must have come into existence long since that period.\* I could guarantee that the denizens of that time never heard of them. And the taking of the sleeping crew of certain American warships must also be classed among recent growths, for the reason that it was in itself a very unlikely thing, and that the people who were there more than sixty years ago, and were familiar with all the country's traditions, never heard of them. Of the names mentioned as authority something must be said. First, Mr. David Soules was a gentleman whose word would be taken for any statement he would see fit to make, wherever he was known. That he aided in building boats and other work of that time, that he saw manacled men led away as prisoners, there is no need to doubt. But the manacles would lead us to suppose they were not prisoners of war, but men taken in crime. Mr. David Soules, and his brother James, with their families, were the first settlers in the township of Innisfil. Francis Hewson, Esq., an Irish gentleman, settled on the south side of Big Bay Point, the Soules brothers a little to the west of it. In 1822 they had good cleared farms, comfortable log houses, stocks of cattle, and good barns. All round them an unbroken forest; and they dealt hospitality to the pioneers beyond them with a kind and liberal hand. Many of these found more than shelter under the hospitable roofs of these first pioneers. Of Mr. McWatt, it is only right to say that he came to the country a young man of good antecedents and education, in 1832, and that no one acquainted with him could suppose him capable of wishing to im-

\*Mr. Williams here refers to an article in the Barrie EXAMINER of November 6th, 1896, giving a traditional account of the naval attack upon the post at Nottawasaga, by U. S. vessels, on August 13th, 1814, and the capture of two American schooners, "Tigress" and "Scorpion," by British forces near St. Joseph's Island, September 3rd and 6th.