

except where the makers thought it needful to deviate to avoid small lakes, swampy land, or steep hills, and for these purposes there were some pretty wide deviations, both east and west. This road was the base on which the first settlement was formed. I am not quite certain of the date of the sitting down of the first settlers. Our family came in 1822, but most of our neighbours said they came in three years before. That would take us back to 1819. I think this would apply generally to the first ten miles of the south end of the road. But there were some families settled at the north end within seven or eight miles of the Naval and Military establishment at Penetanguishene, generally spoken of as "The Establishment" by the settlers, traders and others, at that time, and for some years afterwards. With my father I visited this establishment in August of 1822, and took in the impression that the clearings and buildings of the settlers at that end of the road had the appearance of being older than the same things at the south end. I got the notion that they might have been in earlier by a year or two, but not more. The road, if we do not mention the bridges over streams and some short pieces of crossway, was not much more than a trail through the woods, north of the first twelve miles, a very hard road to travel, used as a road in summer only by persons on foot or horseback, and very little of the latter, for less than half-a-dozen would number all the horses in the settlement, taking in both ends. Cattle would also be driven up the road as beef supply for the establishment, and for the use of settlers. The road was also used when the soldiers of the garrison were relieved, one corps or regiment for another. I remember when a company of the 79th Regiment was marching up to relieve a company of the 71st Regiment, that two men of the former died upon the road from hard travel, great heat of the weather, mosquitoes, and bad beer they had been drinking made and sold to them by one of the settlers. The officer commanding was court-marshalled and censured severely when it was found that he had not appointed a rear guard to look after stragglers. When the ice on Lake Simcoe would become strong enough to carry teams, say from the middle of January until after the middle of March, there would be some lively times on the road teaming supplies with sleighs to the establishment, to the fur traders and the settlers. The only access to the settlement from the front was by Lake Simcoe—in the summer by small sailing vessels and row boats, and in the winter over the ice. There was no land road until 1826 or '27. A mere track, or trail, was run through Innisfil about that time, and settlers began to come in upon it. All the supplies needed by the people, except what grew on their new farms, had to be brought either by boat or teamed over the ice in