

from them to the British, with their posterity, were to enjoy forever." When the survey of this grant came to be made it was found to be a difficult task, on account of the windings of the river, to carry it out exactly as worded, and a compromise was agreed upon by which a block twelve miles wide was laid out, keeping the Grand river as nearly as possible in the centre of the survey. This splendid tract of country comprised about 675,000 acres, and included the land now forming townships in the counties of Haldimand, Brant, Waterloo and Wellington. In the latter county Nichol township came up against the base line, and at least three sides of Nichol were surveyed before any other part of the county, the other townships being built around her. The bend of the Grand River in Woolwich leaves that township almost in the shape of a fan and clips a corner from Guelph township. Some years after, when the valuable character of the grant was better appreciated, Chief Brant endeavored to have the reserve pushed up the Grand River to its source. This was refused by the Government, as they claimed they could not in 1784 grant to the Indians more than they then owned, and neither the officers of the Crown nor the Indians suspected the Grand River extended beyond the base line. The greater part of this reserve was long since surrendered to the Government, and now contains in the townships of Tuscarora and Oneida, 52,133 acres, on which there are some 3,700 Indians. The line from Burlington to Arthur and the twelve mile reserve on the Grand river was the start of the survey of Wellington, being both directly due to the settling of Chief Joseph Brant and the Mohawk Nation in Upper Canada.

II.

The People Whom We Have Supplanted

An Indian is now a rare sight in Wellington County, but within the memory of many who are not yet considered old, visits from travelling bands of red men were quite common. They would come with their wives and children, with their guns, their knives, and their hatchets; and would take up their abode for days, or weeks or even occasionally for months in some wood or swamp, where they would erect their wigwams, and hunt and fish and trap and drink fire-water to the extent that the locality afforded them opportunity. They would pound the black-ash log, till it yielded its thin smooth pliant layers of fibre, and these they work up into baskets of many shapes and sizes, sometimes of the natural color, but oftenest ornamented with striped work of red or yellow or blue. They would make bows and arrows and axe handles and stable-brooms. These wares they