

ization of this county seems to have taken place from the east, westward ; the townships of Murray, Cramahe and Haldimand having been settled before Hamilton. As far as we can judge, the settlement of the township proceeded at first on two lines, first between concessions A and B as far as lot 20, and then between concession A and the first concession. The other line of colonization was along the Danforth road, that winds through concessions first and second until it reaches lot 25, and then follows the line between the second and third concessions through the rest of the township.

The first settlers seem to have been principally United Empire Loyalists or their descendants, men who would not turn from their allegiance to their king, but who chose rather to see all their property confiscated and themselves exiled and forced to make their home in a new country, where they could still dwell under the protecting folds of the British flag for which they had braved and endured so much. Up till the year 1837, the town of Cobourg formed part of the township of Hamilton, so it is impossible to distinguish in the earlier years between those that settled in the town or in the township. When we first knew the township, the principal settlers along the first line of colonization from the east were the Mallory, Phillips, Stanton, Covert, Brock, Ash, Boswell, Wolcott, Buck and McDonald families. Then west of Cobourg the Burnham, Nichols, Jones, Stiles, Gifford, Rowe, Wilder, Hagerman and Wade families, beside many others. On the second line, the first settlers were the families of Jaynes, Parker, McKague, Blezard, McEvers, Lacy, Bates Lindsay, McKeyes, Smith, Dean, Hagerman, Hollenbeck, Seton, Harris, Richmond, Sowden, Bouskill and others.

Though the old settlers often spoke of the war of 1812, they did not seem to have suffered much from it. They used to speak of the cost and difficulty they had in procuring salt and some other articles they had been in the habit of getting from the United States. The war of 1812-15 was followed by several bad seasons, especially the year 1816, which was very cold and when there is said to have been frost every month in the year. No corn ripened, fodder and provisions were scarce and dear.