

He then sold to Charles Bowman. This he says was in 1824. My father came to Bowmanville and took charge of the business in 1824. From the time the first hut was erected till then, the increase was very slow. As a census taken by Mr. Simpson, probably in 1825 shows 118 persons all told, there being only one house on the north side of the road. As for the Indians, I do not think they were very numerous along the shore of Lake Ontario, between Toronto and the bay of Quinte. There is no evidence to show that such was the case, in the shape of relics such as arrowheads, etc., as comparatively very few have been found. I suppose this is accounted for as their favorite hunting grounds lay farther north among the smaller lake and rivers. I have been told that an Indian burying ground was found on Liberty st., at least some remains were discovered, indicating that the sand knoll has been used for burial purposes, at some remote period. This was not far from Mr. John Medland's present residence. I do not know that any other has ever been discovered in Darlington. I have never heard from any source that there was any regular settlement of them known to the early settlers nearer than Scugog lake. A few scattered bands of the Rice Lake Indians perhaps did some hunting in the summer time up and down our creeks but they never interfered with the white people appearing quite harmless and kindly disposed. About 1835 I remember quite a number were camped in wigwags on the brow of the hill near Mr. Mark D. Williams' residence. They came from the west, the Humber region and although the older inhabitants used to tell romantic tales about them, such existed only in the vivid imaginations of the rehearsers.

I now refer to the Burkes one of the first families who came into the wilderness, hewed out a home for themselves on the shore of Ontario, and were closely identified with and had a good deal to do in the succeeding expansion and growth of the business both of town and townships. One of the sons of John Burke the pioneer, remained on the homestead, owning the 400 acres of land, they having built a fine large frame house there at a very early period. The Burke family were noted through all this section for their kindness and hospitality. From the very earliest period after they were surrounded with

the ordinary comforts of a farm house, the result of their own skill and toil, the door was ever open and help bestowed upon every poor struggling settler who came to them for assistance and though through lapse of time and changing conditions it is seldom thought of still there are some even yet of the descendants of those who were helped, who speak of them with gratitude. Mr. David Burke was a highly religious man and did much active work in the church with which he was connected. He had appointments in different parts of the country and before there were any settled clergymen he did a good deal to try and elevate the moral condition of the people. He was one of Nature's noblemen. He could have had but few early advantages in the way of education but notwithstanding this drawback he was quite a noted figure among his compeers. A true story and a good one is told of an occurrence in connection with the rebellion of 1837. After Ben Lett left the country and a reward of £500 sterling was offered for his capture, dead or alive, the whole community was on the quiver and the extreme party were so anxious for his arrest that any tidings of his whereabouts were eagerly sought after. It was while this public tension was at its height that the following took place. Mr. Simpson then in management of the Bowman business, had gotten a number of Roman Catholic Irishmen from Ops to work on the mill dam which had been carried away by the spring freshets. Mr. Burke being short of hands in the hay harvest, got one of the men to go to the farm to assist. He was put to work in a field by himself. In the meantime a brilliant idea struck young David who was at home and he determined to have a little fun at the expense of the raw Irishman dressed appropriately for the occasion and armed with an old blunderbuss he suddenly dropped down on the man from Ops who was evidently taken aback by the apparition of an apparently armed desperado. Mr. Dave told him that he was Ben Lett and that he heard they were very anxious to make him a prisoner and invited him to undertake the job, finally making him promise on his sacred honor that he would never reveal the fact, but when he got up town among his friends he told as a great secret what he had encountered. It became whispered around from one to another until it