

Recollet Father preached to the Indians at Matchedash Bay. In fact, Champlain brought Jesuit missionaries with him, who could either preach or fight, as occasion seemed to require. More than a century ago, a flourishing mission existed on the largest of the group now known as the Christian Islands. Some small stone ruins of their buildings are still visible. The mission was ruined by the victorious and implacable Iroquois, then in the height of their power, and it is said some of the converts were tortured to death; whence the Hurons, and their friends the Ojibways, have ever since called the group "THE CHRISTIAN ISLANDS." Shortly before the breaking out of the American Revolution, when Sir William Johnston was virtual Dictator among the Indians of North America, a Grand Council was called; and as all the tribes were then at peace, delegates came from all quarters. Among others, a deputation came down Georgian Bay from the North Shores, traversed the intermediate territory, and ascended the Oswego River to the place of meeting among the lakes of New York. During the war of 1812, a small naval depot was established at Penetanguishene. In 1817, Lieut. (afterwards Admiral) Bayfield, was appointed to the survey of Erie and Huron, including Georgian Bay. He spent six years in this work, and the accuracy of his charts is a theme of wonder and congratulation to the present day to all navigators.

As is generally the case, emigrants from the different parts of the three kingdoms settled together in bodies on their first arrival, according to their several nationalities; and as, on their friends and acquaintances coming out, they naturally joined those who had formerly been their neighbors, the various country people are still found living together as they had done in their native land. Thus, in the Townships of West Gwillimbury, Tecumseth, Mono, Essa and Innisfil, the population is principally composed of Protestants from the North of Ireland. The Township of Adjala was originally inhabited by Roman Catholic Irish, large settlements of whom are also to be found in the Townships of Vespra, Flos and Mendonte. Natives of the island of Islay form a majority in a large portion of the Township of Oro, in which there is also a large settlement of English, and large numbers of French Canadians settled in the vicinity of Penetanguishene at a very early date. The Township of Nottawasaga is almost entirely settled by Highlanders. The Irish