

SARNIA METHODISM

These explorations were largely made before the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock.

Sad was the death of our pioneer explorer. Somewhere in the Georgian Bay region in 1632, Brule was murdered and his body eaten by savage Indians.

COMING OF THE PIONEERS

"Pioneers! O Pioneers!"—Whitman.

Apart from a few explorers and men in the military service, who were really romads, not settlers, the first white settlers of Western Ontario were members or descendants of members of the Cadillac colony of 1701. In 1752 there were twenty families on the shore lines of the present County of Essex. The first baptismal record (R. Catholic) in that settlement is dated July 16, 1761, the first marriage, January 23, 1769, and the first burial, March 20, 1769. Some of the pioneers may have been baptized or married in Detroit, but these are the first recorded in Western Ontario.

By the proclamation of Lord Dorchester, July 24, 1788, that portion of Quebec now called Ontario, was divided into four districts. The fourth was called Hesse, its eastern boundary being a line run due north from the most easterly extremity of Long Point. On Oct. 15, 1792, these districts were re-named, and Hesse became the Western District.

In 1791 the Province of Quebec was divided, becoming Lower and Upper Canada, and by the proclamation of John Graves Simcoe, July 16, 1792, the four original districts were sub-divided into nineteen counties.

The nineteenth county was named Kent, included part of the present county of that name, and included "all the land not being territories of the Indians, as far north as Hudson's Bay; south to the Ohio River and west to the Mississippi." This vast area had also been included in the District of Hesse.

The first official survey in Upper Canada began in 1781, and between that and 1790 surveyors acting under government orders had surveyed some of the Townships in Essex County, and disbanded soldiers settled there. These constituted the second incoming of white settlers to the western part of this Province. The first had been French and R. Catholic. The second were English speaking and chiefly Protestant.

The next settlement was that of the Lord Selkirk settlers. In 1804 Lord Selkirk sent 111 of his sturdy Highlanders who formed a settlement known as Baldoon on the Cheyn Ecarte