

United States. This part of the country was first known as the District of Mecklenburgh and afterwards as the Midland District.

From the time of the first settlement in 1784 until war was declared, a period of nearly twenty-eight years had elapsed and during those years great progress was made by the pioneers. The land was cleared, houses were built, saw and grist mills erected wherever water falls afforded the necessary power to run the wheels, and many stores were opened.

The Court of Quarter Sessions was established in 1789 and the New England system of town meetings in 1791. These settlers were of American origin and when Town Meetings were first established it was rather in defiance of the authorities at Niagara, whom the American revolution had led to distrust democracy. The first held in Adolphustown were more than a year before they were authorized by the Legislature of Upper Canada. Three bills were introduced into the House before the Council and House were satisfied and came to an agreement, and even the third was amended by the Council before being finally accepted. One authority states that "It was the conception of law that was fostered in the men of Ontario by their town meetings which led in a large measure to the establishment of Responsible Government in this Province."

By 1812 many roads had been made, schools were started, churches built and quite an air of settled conditions prevailed around the bay. Communication with the east was by the St. Lawrence River during the months when navigation was open and by means of a road along the north shore of the river in winter. With the western part of the province the lake route and a road to York along the north shore of the lake were similarly utilized. The route taken during the war years by the batteaux in going from Kingston to the western part of the country was through the Bay of Quinte to the "Carrying Place", the name still applied by the older settlers to the narrow neck of land connecting the County of Prince Edward with the main land, which isthmus is now cut by the Murray Canal. Here these flat-bottomed boats were hauled out of the water, placed on rollers made of wood and hauled across to the waters of Lake Ontario at Brighton Bay. In the winter the main line of transport was up the bay shore to a point opposite the Stone Mills (Glenora) across the ice to the mills