

James Ross, James McCallum, Alex. Sutherland and Arch. Black 1844.

The dawn of civilization in Middlesex first appeared in Delaware. Here the first immigrants camped; here the first clearings were made; and here, for many years, the centre of trade was located. Delaware was a thriving village before London assumed any importance, and was for a time a dangerous rival. Patents were issued as early as 1797. As early as 1793 Ethan Allan received a grant of 2,200 acres, and he and Jasper Crow settled there in 1801, though both left a few years afterwards. And here too, we find a trace, but only a trace, of the pioneer Highlander of the county. Ronald McDonald, a British army officer, who in 1798 obtained a patent of the land on which Delaware village stands, but soon after sold out to Dr. Oliver Tiffany. It would be of very great interest to learn something of his preceding and subsequent career, but no particulars could be gathered, and the number of other Highlanders in the township during the pioneer period appears to have been very small.

Henry W. Acres, of Delaware village, is one of the very few surviving pioneers of the township. He was born in England in 1828, and came to Delaware with his father in 1834, when only six years old. He distinctly remembers the days of the rebellion, saw six men hanged in London, and has a store of very interesting reminiscences of the Bullens, Seabrooks, Millars, Mounts and other old residents of Delaware. He thinks there were no Highland pioneers in the township, at least none that he knows of till the close of the pioneer period. Donald, Duncan and Hugh McPherson were the first to come in about 1850, and were followed soon after by John McNichol, James Henderson and Archie Thompson. Others who came at a later date or were there some years afterwards were William J., Henry, Samuel, Donald and Colin Campbell, Hector McPherson, Peter Munroe, Peter McArthur, James McCallum, George and John McFarland. It is stated that John

Sutherland came in 1820, and if so, he would be, next to Ronald McDonald, the first Highland pioneer of Delaware.

When Andrew J. Ross unearthed the assessment roll of the township of Williams for the year 1833, no doubt the first one, he struck a mine of information. For the purpose of comparison he has also sent statistics from the assessment rolls of 1834 and 1837. The assessors for 1833 and 1834 were Donald Fraser and Duncan Campbell and for 1837 Donald Fraser only. At the foot of the list is the entry, "in the county of Huron."

On the 1833 roll there are forty names as follows: James Bremner, Colin McKenzie, Simon Bisset, James McPherson, Donald Fraser, Donald McIntosh, Hugh McKenzie, Duncan McKenzie, Hugh Crawford, Peter McIntyre, Duncan McFarlane, Hugh McIntyre, Godfrey McTaggart, Barbara McCallum, Donald Henderson, Donald Gillies, Allan Gilchrist, John Stewart, Alex. Thompson, Andrew Thompson, Duncan Stewart, James Stewart, Hugh McIntosh, Alexander Clarke, Alex. Stewart, Malcolm McIntyre, Alex. Campbell, Duncan Campbell, Peter Currie, John Moore, Duncan, Jno and Donald McNeil, Alex. Anderson, John Anderson, Alex. McDonald, Donald McQueen, Hugh Clark, John McKilican, John McGill. The list shows that the pioneer settlers of Williams were Highlanders with scarcely an exception.

Mr. Ross says: "I have been able to gather but little from the rolls on account of time. It would take six months to extract all they contain of our early growth and subsequent history. I give the statistics in full." The following is a tabular statement for the three years:

	1833	1834	1837
Wild land, acres . . . . .	4500	12103	12902
Cultivated land, acres	141	296	729
Horses . . . . .	1	2	12
Oxen . . . . .	22	50	101
Milch cows . . . . .	32	62	163
Young cattle . . . . .	3	13	79
Population (on rolls)	40	88	96
Assessed value. . . . .	£1254	£3231	£4627