

were born at Fort Erie, one on May 5, 1794, the other on November 25, 1795. This would be evidence that Mr. and Mrs. Fleming had come to Aldborough before the birth of their child Henry, who was born on March 23, 1798, and was always understood by the family as having been born in Aldborough. Dr. Fleming has in his possession a memorandum of the births of his grandparents' children, and the place of the birth of the first two is given as Fort Erie, but nothing is said regarding where the others were born. As the Western District was a wilderness at this time, the inference is that the children were born in Aldborough, and that no name could be given to the place of their birth.

Mrs. Fleming used to relate that some time after her settlement in Aldborough they were visited in 1804 by Rev. Mr. Bangs, which would indicate that their settlement was at least anterior to that of Col. Talbot, who came to Dunwich in 1803. Mrs. Fleming always asserted that she was twenty-two years of age and her husband thirty-six when they came to Aldborough. As she was born on July 14, 1774, and he in 1760, her statement would distinctly fix the date of settlement in Aldborough as being 1796. Other corroborative evidence is furnished in the fact that the clearing on lot 6 extended some fifteen rods on lot 7, afterwards owned by Mr. McKillop, father of the present county crown attorney of Middlesex. Mrs. Fleming used to explain this clearing by stating that the survey made just after their settlement had been incorrect, and they in consequence had extended their clearing too far. This seems to have been the survey of 1797, when concessions 1, 2, and 3 were laid out from the west line. Mrs. Fleming always insisted that her children were all born in Aldborough, with the exception of the two eldest. Andrew Fleming, the second son, was born March 24, 1800, and claimed Aldborough as his birthplace, and in a written statement made by him in 1852, regarding the battle of the Thames, he states that he was on the battlefield the day after the fight, and was then past thirteen years of age. As far back as February 9, 1820, an order-in-council was passed at Toronto granting Barbara Fleming, of Aldborough, lot 17, concession 4, township of Dawn, in recognition of the fact that she had been a United Empire Loyalist.

From the above it will be seen that it is safe to assume that Mr. and Mrs. Fleming were the first settlers in Elgin, and that the date of their settlement may be distinctly fixed at 1796, just one hundred years ago. They builded better than