

This is a triangular-shaped township, which as yet contains only an Indian settlement, called Aldersville.

Near Rice Lake, and about fifteen miles north-east from Cobourg, is a settlement of Mississauga Indians, who, previous to the year 1826, were Pagans, wandering in the neighbourhood of Belleville, Kingston and Guananoque; and were known under the name of the Mississagas of the Bay of Quinte. In 1826 & 27, between two and three hundred were settled on Grape Island, in the Bay of Quinte, six miles from Belleville, where they commenced planting, and where schools were established by a Wesleyan Methodist Missionary for their instruction. On this island they resided eleven years, subsisting by agriculture and hunting. Their houses were erected partly by their own labour, and partly at the expense of the Methodist Missionary Society; the number, at length, amounted to twenty-three; besides which, they had a commodious building for religious service and schools, another room for an infant school, a hospital, a smithy, a shoemaker's shop, and a building for joiners' and cabinet work. These however were relinquished, to be sold for their benefit in 1830, when they removed to their present location, which was granted to them by Sir John Colborne. It contains 2,000 acres, which is divided into lots of twenty-five acres each. The village, or street, which is called Aldersville, is about a mile and a half in length; it contains thirty-six houses, six barns, a saw-mill, and a large school-house, in which divine worship is performed; all erected under the direction of the Indian Department, out of the annuity of £642. 10s. to which this band is entitled for the surrender of a vast tract in the rear of the Johnstown and Midland Districts. Of the thirty-six dwelling houses, twenty-two are framed, and the remainder are of square logs, all of commodious size: the barns are framed, of forty by thirty feet in dimensions. These Indians are 233 in number; each family has at least half its lots of 25 acres cleared; and several have nearly the whole under cultivation. The total quantity cleared is between 360 and 400 acres. Their stock consists of eight yoke of Oxen, two horses, eleven cows, twenty-one heifers and calves, and a number of pigs and poultry. They possess eight ploughs, six harrows, three carts and waggons, and twelve ox-sleighs.

When on Grape Island, a cabinet maker, blacksmith, shoe maker, and occasionally a tailor, were employed by the Methodist society, to instruct these Indians in their several trades. Although it was found difficult to keep the scholars at their work, and considerable losses were sustained in the undertaking, yet the Indians shewed unusual ingenuity, and gained considerable knowledge in those branches, which has been of much use to them since their settlement at Alnwick, where no shops have yet been erected.

For four years past, a school, on the manual labour plan, has been in operation. This system combines elementary instruction with domestic economy. The girls are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, together with house-keeping, spinning, knitting, needle-work, and the management of a dairy: in the latter department are seven cows. The boys are taught in the same branches as the girls, and in English grammar; and in the business of farming. For this purpose, a model farm of fifty acres in extent is provided. The scholars, twelve in number, are boarded and lodged in the mission family, and clothed at the expense of the Missionary Society. They are all clad in cloth spun by the Indian girls. During four years past, thirty-one girls and fourteen boys have received instruction in this school.

Two hundred and fifty acres of Crown lands are open for sale in the township, at 8s. c'y per acre.

ALBERT PORT.

A Village in the township of Ashfield, situated on the Ashfield River at its entrance into Lake Huron, nine miles above Goderich. Albert has one tavern. Population about 40.