

The following sketch is based chiefly upon the somewhat unique record of the daily life of a pioneer of the Burlington Bay District, known in early days as "the head of the Lake." This record is the personal diary of Benjamin Smith, born in 1773 in Sussex County, New Jersey, his parents having come from Ludgate Hill in London. He came to Canada with his father, not as a loyalist of 1784-5, but in the subsequent immigration as a sympathizer with the British cause. In 1794 he married and started life on a new farm in the neighborhood of Lancaster. At the same time he began a diary for his own information. This is simply a brief daily record of his ordinary employment alike on the farm and in going and coming throughout the district. All the entries are simply statements of fact, there being no comment or expressions of opinion. The diary is thus a photographic record of the daily life of a pioneer farmer. That portion of it prior to 1799 has been lost and there are a few sheets missing here and there. The original, it is understood, is now deposited with the Ontario Archives at Toronto.

Being a daily record of the round of farm duties, journeyings to the mill, the store, the neighboring farms, etc., there are necessarily many repetitions of practically the same entry. This in itself, however, is useful as enabling one to measure the relative amount of time and attention given to the various occupations of that period. It indicates also the changes which took place with the passage of the years in the relative importance of this or that occupation or duty. As the settlement developed, the farms were cleared up and facilities increased for disposing of additional lines of produce and procuring new conveniences and supplies. The present sketch is confined to the period between the beginning of the century and the outbreak of the War of 1812. The central record is supplemented, especially as to prices and in many other particulars, by information derived from other unpublished records, still in the possession of private individuals in the same part of the country. For the opportunity of making copious extracts from the diary itself and from other early records, I am chiefly indebted to Mr. Joseph Smith, Inspector of Schools and historian, of the County of Wentworth.

When the settler arrived in the wilds of Western Canada