

HOPE TOWNSHIP.

THE Township of Hope occupies a desirable position in the County of Durham and Province of Ontario, and contains an area of about 64,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Township of Cavan; on the south by Lake Ontario; on the east by the Townships of Hamilton and South Monaghan, and on the west by the Township of Clarke. The Township of Hope was first permanently settled in 1793, by the families of Messrs. Myndert Harris, Lawrence Johnson, Nathaniel Ashford, and James Stephens, United Empire Loyalists, so-called, who, at the close of the Revolutionary War, found themselves subjected to all manner of persecution by the triumphant insurgents, on account of their loyalty to the British Crown. Their several possessions were confiscated, and they were driven to seek homes elsewhere. Capt. Jonathan Walton and family, also, arrived at the above date; but he never was considered a permanent settler—returning a few years afterwards to Schenectady, N. Y., he opened up a profitable trade with our settlers, who, in the absence of any regular shop, were accustomed to barter off their produce for “store goods,” which he brought from the other side. It is not necessary here to allude to the hardships endured by our pioneers on their journey from the United States to Newark (now Niagara), where Gov. Simcoe was then stationed. They were well received by His Excellency, who ordered a gun-boat to convey them and their families to Smith’s Creek, then an Indian village of the Mississauga tribe, named “Cochingomink.” The Township was, shortly after the arrival of our settlers, surveyed and laid out. During the same summer, the families of Almus Peek and John Trull arrived at the settlement.

During 1795-6, a Crown mill Patent of the land upon which Port Hope now stands, was issued to Messrs. Elias Smith and Jonathan Walton, upon the conditions that they erect a grist and saw mill upon the excellent water privilege of the creek that flowed through the centre of the village. The work was undertaken in 1795, but owing to the raceway, constructed at the foot of the hill on the east side of the creek, freezing solid, the contractors were compelled to abandon their original plans, and move the frames further north. The mill was finally completed in 1797, the location chosen being the site of the present Stone Mills, now occupied by Mr. G. B. Salter.

In 1810, the number of assessed ratepayers in the village and Township was 67; total assessed value of property, £6,012 14s.

During and after the War of 1812, large numbers of Americans and their families arrived at Smith’s Creek village, and settled upon lands in the Township.

In 1815, Jeremiah Britton opened up on Mill street, opposite the grist mill, a general store, the first in the settlement. In 1817 a Post Office was established, Charles Fothergill receiving the appointment of Postmaster; and two years later (1819), at a public meeting of the inhabitants, the name of “Smith’s Creek” was changed to that of its present one—Port Hope. The village and township at