

Historical Sketch

1850-1910

THE Township of Scarboro was first settled in 1796. The names of the first settlers were David Thomson Archibald and Andrew his brother. They were natives of Westerkirke, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. James Elliott and Andrew Joinson and William Davenish also came into the township at this time. The two former were from Westerkirke, the latter from the City of London.

It was several years after the first settlement, however, before many settlers came into the township. From 1805 till 1814 good land could have been bought for seven shillings and six pence per acre and from 1814 till 1824, for fifteen shillings, but after that time immigration increased and the price of land rose rapidly.

David Thomson was the first to begin clearing the land. He settled on Lot twenty-four, 1st Concession. The first white child born in the township was a daughter of David Thomson in 1800.

The first couple married in the township were James Elliot and Jeanie Thomson, daughter of Archibald Thomson in 1802.

The first school was taught in the home of James Elliott by an Englishman by the name of Poccoek, in 1805, and the first school house was built not far from where St. Andrew's Church now stands on Concession 1, on the Springfield Farm.

The first ministers who preached in the township of Scarboro were of the Baptist and Methodist denominations.

The earliest record we have of a Presbyterian Minister visiting the township is in 1805, when the Rev. Robt. McDowell, who was stationed at Adolphustown, visited the settlers of Scarboro