

flour from destruction. Doubling the Point they put on shore in the adjoining cove. A troop of hungry Indian dogs saluted them upon landing by loud barking, from which they knew that Indian camps were there. The Indians had retired within their wigwams; but upon their arrival one old fellow crawled out of his quarters and invited them in to pass the night. They consented, and after the flour had been secured from the drizzling rain by covering the boat over it on the shore, they followed the Indian to his wigwam. Each one was given a blanket, and after wrapping themselves up, and stretching around the fire amongst the members of the Indian's family, they passed the night in his wigwam. Returning, as they were, from a trading establishment, they had a quantity of tobacco, with some of which the old Indian's hospitality was repaid in the morning. He was delighted with the tobacco, and when they left the encampment he gave the father two ducks recently shot, one for himself and the other for his wife at home.

About this time, traffic over the Nine Mile Portage from the head of Kempenfeldt Bay to Willow Creek was abundant, and gave employment to the settlers with their teams. With his yoke of oxen, George and his brothers often hauled goods across this Portage. They lived but four miles from the eastern end of the Portage; they frequently found employment in that way as the four sons were now growing up to manhood and some of them were obliged to find work away from home.

Their mother who was a thrifty and tidy person made some of the clothing worn by her sons from flax, grown and manufactured at home. For a time, George possessed but a single shirt, one made from this home-made linen. Often he would lie in bed over night while this one was being washed, and on rising in the morning would find it again ready for use. Such was roughing it in the bush in early times!

About the time of their arrival in Innisfil a movement was on foot among the settlers of the Penetanguishene district to have the "Main Road" opened through Innisfil and thus complete overland communication between Lakes Huron and Ontario. All parts of the highway except through Innisfil had by this time been constructed. To do this a sufficient sum of money was raised by subscription. The two eldest sons, John and George, secured the contract for the construction of this road from the head of Kempenfeldt Bay as far south as the present site of Churchill, a distance of eleven miles. This work was performed in the autumn of the same year in which they came to Innisfil, viz., 1825, and for it they received the sum of \$55, being at the rate of \$5 per mile. The contract for the remaining part from Churchill to West Gwillimbury, was secured by John Cayton of the latter place. He, however, had little acquaintance with the forest, and was obliged to employ the brothers, John and George, to open his portion of the road also. This forest track which they were the first to open throughout the entire length of Innisfil was rough and winding at first, but it was straightened in subsequent years. In early records it is named "Main Street," and at the present time it is often called the "Main Road." The famous traveller John Galt, mentions it while on his way in 1827 to Penetanguishene. "At the head of Kempenfeldt Bay," he says, "we met horses with our luggage, which had come through the forest (from