

Canniff property. The site of the house was on a rise of ground not far from the bay, just at the present easternmost limits of the town, south of the Kingston road. An old half filled well yet marks the spot. He was the first settler in the neighborhood of Belleville.

John Taylor, the father of Sheriff Taylor, came soon after, and purchased from Captain Singleton, lot No. 5, upon which he built his log-house.

Captain Myers, who had settled several years previously near the Trent river, came to the Moira river, not many years after. He was the first one to improve the valuable water power of the river, and for many years after, the settlement on the river as well as the river itself, was known by the inhabitants of the bay as Myers' Creek. But prior to the time at which Captain Myers constructed his log-mill and his cabin adjacent thereto, there had been one or two shanties erected at the mouth of the river. Here, stretching down the bay a short distance, was a clear space of some thirty acres, called the plains. The earlier navigators up and down the bay would generally see upon this spot a number of Indian wigwams. The rest of the land between the two hills on either side of the river was an uninviting cedar swamp. A path led up and down the bay, and another up the east bank of the river as far as the fourth and fifth concessions. It was not until the first part of the second decade of the nineteenth century that the buildings began to multiply at the mouth of the river, and the place could be regarded as a village. In 1810, there was not more than a dozen buildings in existence, and these were mostly of an inferior kind. Captain Myers' brick house on the hill, and a two-story frame building in the swamp at the foot of the hill, in front of where now stands the jail, and which has recently been taken down, were the only buildings of note in the place, and these were quite outside the village.

In the year 1816, just after the Declaration of peace, Myers Creek, or the village of Thurlow, as it was sometimes called, received the name of Belleville, and under the following circumstances: Governor Gore and his wife Lady Bella travelled, it is said, through the Province, and stayed a night at Myers Creek. Shortly after, there was met one evening at Mrs. Simpson's tavern