

to be given in somewhat indefinite form and to be transmitted by an irregular post over so long a distance, it can easily be seen how uncertain some points might become and how irregular certain transactions might be.

The crossing of mails, the disappearance of carriers the loss of correspondence, the necessity of acting without formal and detailed orders, all tended to throw matters into a somewhat irregular and at times irreconcilable condition.

August 28th, 1788, Lord Dorchester wrote to Major Mathews to encourage settlement on the east side of the River, but that no lots must be settled upon before purchase by the Crown from the Indians: "also to report the progress made by some Loyalists in their settlement on a spot proposed for this class of men on the east side of Detroit River, and to state his ideas fully of what may be done for its further encouragement, as well as for establishing a Military Post at that quarter."

In 1790 Major Matthews wrote from Plymouth Barracks, giving a summary of his investigation, in 1788. He stated that he went from Quebec to Detroit in 1787 with instructions from Lord Dorchester. After describing the fortifications at Detroit, he says:

"Should this Post be given up, and another taken, the most convenient place will be at the entrance of the River, upon a point at present occupied by some officers and men who served the war as Rangers with the Indians. The channel for ships runs between this Point and Isle Aux Bois Blanc, which should also be fortified, the distance from each to mid-channel about 200 yards. There is a fine settlement running 20 miles from this Point on the north side of the Lake."

Here in 1788 is the reference to the future post at Amherstburg. The settlement on the north side of Lake Erie refers to what was known as "the two connected townships" (Colchester and Gosfield).

May 15th, 1787, Lord Dorchester wrote Major Close, giving him orders for the settlement of any claims of Indians, and to lay out a township opposite Bois Blanc, to be called *Georgetown*.

The District of Hesse in the west had been set apart by proclamation, dated July 24th, 1788, and early in 1789 the Governor was authorized by Council to appoint a Land Board, and the following were appointed as the first members in 1789: