

the fact that there must have been a good deal of Scotch in Canada even at that period ; and so there was. Many North Britain men had left their homes in the old world to hew out for themselves homes in the new. Ebenezer Wilson was one of this class.

Ebenezer Wilson, John's father, was a highly intelligent person. He had a large family of children, and John was the oldest. Settled on the farm, John had to work hard, as did his father and mother. They were able to purchase a farm, but the working it was another matter. The early settlers in Canada had all to endure great hardships if engaged in farming, and the Wilsons were not an exception to the general rule. Clearing land, felling large trees, summer fallowing, and all the usual labour of the first settlers is difficult work for the most experienced in such matters. It may be well understood, therefore, that a Scot from Paisley, entering upon such an enterprise, would have his hands full.

In his latter years, John Wilson used to tell of his having carried the first bag of potatoes raised on the farm to Perth, the nearest market, twenty miles, and bare footed. It so happened that the road was part swamp, part morass, and part stone, so that the young man may be said, in some part at least, to have had a hard road to travel.

The father, mother, and whole family suffered great hardship. After paying for the farm, they had but scanty means, and were often obliged to exercise great self-denial. As Scotchmen are proverbial for their thrift, so it was with them. John had received something of an education in Paisley, before leaving Scotland. His aspirations were something higher than a farm life in the woods, he therefore bethought himself that he might not only better his own condition, but relieve his father somewhat by completing his education in Perth. John Stewart, (familiarily known as four-eyes Stewart, from the fact that he wore spectacles), at this time kept school in Perth, and Master Wilson became a pupil of his. John Stewart