

Township of Townsend

THE Township of Townsend is bounded by the Townships of Walpole on the East, Oakland on the North, Windham on the West and Woodhouse on the South. It is watered mainly by the Nanticoke Creek, which runs diagonally across the Township from northwest to southeast. Its most marked characteristic is the almost universal excellence of the soil, which varies greatly in composition, the general tendency being toward clay in the east and sand in the west. The surface is greatly undulating throughout. Probably there is not a Township in Ontario better adapted for agricultural purposes than Townsend, which is called the "Banner Township." In 1798 this land sold at 25c an acre.

The first settlers of Townsend, who were the Culver's, came in from the South. A few trappers who lived with the Indians had made temporary homes here previous to the arrival of the Culver's, but it was the Culver family who settled upon what is known as the "Hart Farm," Lot 24, Con. 11, which was the first farm ever tilled in Townsend. The Culver family crossed the Niagara by fording it, and coasted along Lake Erie until the harbor at Port Dover was reached. They then penetrated the dense forest, following an Indian trail until they reached the spot above mentioned. Here they pitched their tent; that is to say, they drove stakes into the earth and formed a rough wigwam in which they abode until a log house was built. The Culver's were followed by the Beemer's, who settled near what is now Colborne in 1798, and the Sovereens, Job Slight, Ezra Parney, — Avery and Job Loder.

Immigration went on but slowly. Even as late as 1817 the population amounted to only 716, as shown by the returns of the Government for that year. The names of the settlers who were farming in Townsend about this time are as follows, beginning at the south of the Township :

Joseph Woolley, John Beemer, Philip Beemer, John Fero, the Culver's, Michael Shoaf, Richard Wilcox, Adam Bowlby, William Kitchen, John Heath, Jacob Clouse, Amos Merrill, Nathan Wade, John Barber, Joseph Kitchen, Job Loder, — Perry, Ezekiel Foster, L. Sovereen, Ezra Parney, Job, Aaron and Neil Slack, Leonard Clouse, John Walker, Loder Parks, John Messacar, Philip

