

BELLEVILLE.

Although the following brief historic sketch of the early settlement of Belleville appeared in the edition of this Directory four years ago, the facts and incidents and information are of such a character that they will bear re-publishing, and indeed, a Directory of Belleville would not be complete without it.

ITS HISTORY.

During the American revolutionary war, and within a few years after its close, a large number of U. E. Loyalists turned their steps toward what was then the wilderness of Upper Canada. Kingston being a place conveniently reached, it was there that the settlement along the bay of Quinté commenced. As the number of refugees increased, the settlement was gradually extended up the bay; and by the year 1790, there might have been seen, here and there, all along its thickly wooded and beautiful shores, the rudely constructed log-house surrounded by a comparatively few acres of cleared land.

These pioneers, whose only mode of transport was by batteaux, took possession of that land which could be the most conveniently reached; and, when the best of it along the bay had been taken up, they ascended the various rivers which emptied into the bay, by the boats, when it was possible; and when impossible, the river was taken as a guide whose bank was followed until such land was discovered as promised to yield fruit to the tiller.

Among those who first settled at the western extremity of the bay, on the northern shore, were Captain Singleton, Captain Myers, and John Taylor; all of them British soldiers of the revolutionary war. Captain Singleton, who had been living a few years in Ernestown, came to Thurlow in 1789, having received from Government 400 acres of land to the east of, and adjacent to an Indian reserve of 200 acres on the east side of the river Moira at its mouth. He erected a log house on what is known as the old