

ing of 28,512 acres, is the only one in connection with which no purchase or price is named in the records at present available. The purchaser, however, seems to have been the Hon. Thos. Clark, of Stamford, near Niagara Falls, and the price to have been £4564. Some time elapsed, however, before the deal could be completed. The Indians had claimed the right of selling or leasing their lands, but this claim was refused by the Government, who maintained that the fee simple had always been vested in the Crown, the Indians having only the right of occupancy in the lands granted them. After a good deal of disputing the Indians finally surrendered their claims and petitioned George III. to issue letters patent to the purchasers of the lands. Whether or not Col. Clarke was the purchaser in 1798, at any rate on April 17th, 1807, a patent was granted him by the Crown to Block 4, consisting of 28512 acres, a mortgage being given by Clarke to Wm. Claus, Trustee for the Six Nations, to the amount of £4564. On Oct. 1st of the previous year Col. Clarke had given his bond to Wm. Claus and Alexander Stewart for this amount, payable in a thousand years, the interest to be paid annually. Claus was a son-in-law of Sir William Johnson. The Crown gave Col. Clarke the land on the conditions mentioned, in recognition of his military services, and the new township was named after Col. Nichol, who had distinguished himself in the war of 1812. All lands in the township were bought of the Hon. Thomas Clarke, or of his heirs and executors, principally the latter, for his will was probated in 1829. Several large blocks were sold. In 1832 Wm. Gilkinson bought 13816 acres, being the south half of the township. In 1834 Adam Fergusson and James Webster bought 7367 acres, comprising lands on both banks of the Grand river, at Fergus and for some distance down, and the lands northeast of those, roughly speaking, the northeast quarter of the township. Alex. Watt and George Elmslie also bought blocks of land for the Bon Accord settlement; but they bought from Mr. Gilkinson. Among those concerned with the Clarke estate as heirs, trustees or agents were Rev. Robert Addison, Rebecca Addison, Hon. James Hamilton, Samuel Street, Robert Grant and Thomas C. Street, names that frequently appear on deeds and other documents. It would be interesting to know more about those that bore them.