

The men at once set to work felling trees and building log houses. Spring came unusually early that year and vegetables and grain were planted in the small patches cleared and grew amazingly. The cattle thrived on the buds of the underbrush.

Each year more land was cleared and more buildings were erected. By 1804 a smithy, shoemaker's shop, tailor's shop, bake house and tannery were in operation, as well as the saw mill and grist mill, which were among the first buildings put up. A handsome wrought iron scraper, made in the smithy, and a most necessary adjunct to every door step at that time, may still be seen at the residence of Mr. R. N. Slater, on the Aylmer Road. Mr. Slater's house was built by a grandson of Philemon Wright, and there also may be seen the large stone, which formed the door step of the house of the old pioneer.

All this time the Indians, who had long considered this land as their hunting ground, watched with suspicion the inroads of the white men. They continually traded venison and maple syrup, but were not friendly, and finally demanded, through an interpreter, what authority Philemon Wright had for cutting their trees and taking their land. They were told the "palefaces" had authority from their "great father" across the water and from Sir John Johnston, the Indian Agent. The Indians affected not to believe this and advised the "palefaces" to "take a walk." They were answered that nothing had been or would be done without authority, and Mr. Wright promised to go to Montreal, the next moon, to see Sir John Johnston and abide by his decision. According to promise Philemon Wright went and returned in due course, with a message