

CHAPTER XVIII.

SOME ADDITIONAL FAMILIES.

Soon after the settlement of the pensioners in 1832, numerous families were attracted to the location who subsequently became more or less prominently identified with the business interests of the embryo town, and among them was the late Geo. Copeland, Sr., who came in 1833. Mr. Copeland was born in Lincolnshire, Eng., and migrated to Van Wert, Ohio, with his grandfather and uncles when eleven years of age, his father having died while he was an infant. He was bound an apprentice to one of his uncles in the milling business, and his uncle being inclined to dissipation, he ran away and became a sailor on Lake Ontario during the memorable cholera year 1832 in which he underwent many harrowing experiences, having frequently to land at ports on the way to bury those who died on the vessel as well as those who died on shore, notably at Bronte near Hamilton, where in one case the father and daughter had died and the remainder of the family were ill, and all the neighbors, so that none were able to perform the burials. Mr. Copeland finally made his way to Beaverton where he married a Miss Westcott, and he used to relate with considerable glee, that he had not money sufficient to pay for his wedding suit. He came to Orillia and Coldwater where milling prospects were opening, thence to Penetanguishene where he purchased a saw mill and water power from Andrew Mitchell and later erected the old grist mill on the creek which still bears his name. The mill was built by John Gill, the machinery being almost entirely of wood except the run of stones, very little iron being used in the construction. Mr. Copeland occupied the identical log house built for Mr. Gill years before while engaged in building the saw mill for Andrew Mitchell and which house was Mr. Copeland's home till his original brick residence, the first brick house in Tiny, was built by Mr. Hark, very near the same spot. The only approach to his mill at that time was through a trail near the brow of the hill, Robert Street being then an impassable swamp. The late Robert Hark was the first brick-layer and mason brought to the Garrison to do work for the Government. The old mill, for a time the only grist mill this side of Holland Landing, except the Indian