

family at that early period, and emigrate to the new colony at its very first commencement, and sailed with three sons, George, Thomas, and Charles, from Hull, in Yorkshire, on the 1st July, 1792, arriving at Kingston in October of that year, it having occupied them three weeks in steady travelling to get from New York to Oswego, such was the wild condition of the rear of the state of New York at that time.

Mr. Denison resided at Kingston with his family, where he built a residence, until the year 1796, and was about to return to England disheartened by adversities and the unavoidable hardships attending colonial life at that early day. He was, however, deterred from his purpose by the entreaties of his old friends, who persuaded him instead to move up to York, a place just surveyed from the forest for the capital of Upper Canada, and there permanently to settle with his family.

He accordingly came to York (now Toronto) in the Autumn of 1796, and resided at "Castle Frank," a log building erected by Governor Simcoe, a short distance up the river Don, when he first visited the locality as a wilderness, to settle upon a site for the new capital, and which was the first dwelling built by the white man at the Town of York.

At this time the only inhabitants were those mechanics and laborers, who had been sent up by the Government to prepare buildings for the reception of the various departments, and were in charge of Mr. McGill, a commissariat officer—these, with a few men of the Queen's Rangers, sent to furnish a protection against the Indians, who were found in great numbers around the settlement, all lived in huts or shanties.

Mr. Denison continued to reside at York, where he built a cottage for himself, until about the year 1798, when having purchased a tract of land comprising lots 3 and 4 on the Humber, and 3 and 5 in rear thereof, in the Township of York, he went there and settled as a farmer.

While residing at York he lost an infant daughter, but there being at that time no public burial ground, no churchyard,