

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PARISH OF PAIN COURT, ONTARIO KENT COUNTY

Until 1790, Pain Court had no more history than any other part of the country. Indians were the only inhabitants of those immense forests which covered the beautiful and fertile farms of to-day, whose fertility was unknown to the natives of the wild forests.

The Indian was very easily satisfied; the native fruits, wild game of the forest, and resources of the lake and the river were plentiful, and this seemed sufficient to render him happy.

In the year 1790, the first white man who took up land in this part of the country, was a Mr. Parson, coming from Pennsylvania, who settled on the south side of the river Thames, in the township of Raleigh.

Two years later Mr. John Van Dolzen, from Holland, chose a tract of land on the north side of the river which is lot 16 today. These two men were the first white men who located in the county of Kent.

Twenty-five years later, in the year 1815, two French families came to settle on the north-west side of the river, on lots 6 and 7. They were Baby and Paquette.

During the year 1815, five more French families came to settle in the part of the parish which is known as "Pain Court Block." They were J. B. Lauzon, Gabriel Peltier, J. B. Faubert, Louis Dezilia and J. B. Primeau. Those first settlers chose, for their future home, tracts of land the most suitable to their needs, part of their farm being in the forest and the other in the plain. By doing this, they were able to begin at once to cultivate wheat for their living and get all the lumber they needed to build their houses and barns, and the necessary