

sick mother and children took refuge on the Mohawk River. In the fall the commander of the British forces at Fort Niagara, hearing of their destitute condition, sent out a party with some Indians to bring them in. They brought five families, viz: Nelles, Secord, Young, Buck, and Bowman; five women and thirty one children, and only one pair of shoes among them. They arrived there on the 30th of November, 1776. In the Spring of 1777 my father joined Butler's Rangers. His brother, only nine years of age, went as a fifer. In 1789, the year of the famine, their only food was the leaves of trees, milk and fish. As soon as the wheat was ripe they rubbed it out and boiled it as a great treat."



1778 = 1783 Strange stories are told of the hardships of the United Empire Loyalists in reaching Canada, in wagons, on foot, by water, long and arduous journeys, the help given them by rations from Fort Niagara. The name of McGregor Van Every occurs in the census taken by Col. Butler in 1783. Mr. Van Every tells that they were the first settlers in East Flamborough and came from the Mohawk Valley, took six weeks to travel to Montreal. "My mother carried the first plow share here. In fording a river on rafts, forcing the cattle to swim, they took to pieces the farming implements and carried them separately. There were three houses at Hamilton and the board shanty of Robert Rand. My father's house was of white oak. There were five brothers; one returned to find a young girl whom he loved, and found her in three days fastened to a tree; he cut her thongs. Later he made known his love, but she was promised."

D. W. Smith's notebook tells of a method of crossing the river: "Nineteen covered wagons, conveying families, came to settle in Lincoln County. The way they cross the river is remarkable. The body of the wagon is of close boards. They caulk the seams and by shifting off the body it transports the wheels and the family to the other side, and the vehicle is then put together again."



1780 = 1782 The story of the Gilbert Captivity published in 1784 is connected with Niagara and gives several facts, confirms dates and gives several names familiar to us, shewing the