

Pins on Lake Erie (Rond Eau Point) to be hereafter called the Land Guard, where "a situation for a town is to be reserved." In 1795 there was set aside by the governor in council as a town plot and military reserve 600 acres of land, comprising lots Nos. 1 and 2 in Harwich, and lot No. 24 in Raleigh, a portion of which was surveyed and mapped out by Ab. Iredell, deputy surveyor the same year, to the number of 113 lots of one acre, or 13 chains and 13 links square, each. The ground which this survey covers is the double tier of lots commencing at the present eastern boundary, and comprised between Gaol and Water streets to William streets; thence the double tier between Colborne and Murray streets to the eastern boundary; thence crossing the creek, the double tier between Wellington and King streets to the present western boundary. The map covering this survey, and bearing date 1st Nov., 1795, shows the Gaol and Market blocks, reserved as such; as also the block comprised within King, Third and Forsythe streets for church purposes. It shows also Baker's block house on the reserve, and a small hut on lot 50, at the eastern boundary, built by Meltrum & Park, Merchants of Sandwich, for the purpose of trading with the Indians, then resorting on the branches of the creek near the burying ground. No other houses are shown. There is, however, shown at the upper end of King street, and just outside the eastern boundary, either a bridge or mill dam, probably Clark's first mill dam, with a temporary bridge over it, as a crossing over the creek. Shortly after the survey grants were made of the lots to the number of 30 or more the patents bearing the date of 1802. Notwithstanding that grants of lots had been so early made, no real settlement of Chatham commenced until about 1826, nor was there anything approaching the character of a village for a few years after. William Baker, the ship-builder, removed back to Detroit after the completion of the gun boats. To Wm. Chrysler, who settled here in 1820, belongs the honor of being the first permanent settler. True Abram Iredell, the surveyor, erected the first house ever built in Chatham sometime prior to 1800. He was moreover, the first real estate holder, but he also moved away. His place, however, deserves particular mention. Those who do not know it by the number will recognize it as the lot at the corner of William and Water streets, and once as a part of Hyslop and Ronald's ship yard. On this lot sometime about 1800, Ab. Iredell planted out the pioneer orchard or Chatham, the remains of which are still represented by two or three veteran apple trees, some ten feet in circumference, which may still be seen in all their aged grandeur, silent witnesses of many stirring events. Here lived in its shadowy existence the first Chatham ghost; the ghost of a colored boy who was supposed to have been foully murdered and secreted in a root-house or cellar built into the slope of the upper bank of the river near by, and which appeared at times at some particular spot, then made its way to the root-house, there to vanish.

Under the shadow of the same old apple trees and old walnuts and elms near by, and on the military reserve beyond, lay the Indian army under Tecumseh, on the night of the third of October; whilst on the north bank of the river opposite, lay the British, their vanguard at the Ebert's farm, and their rear guard at Cosgrave's. And past these same old trees, for the road then followed the high river bank from the mouth of the creek, which was then there bridged, Gen. Harrison's Kentuckians pursued them the next day. Indeed this spot and the military reserve should be sacred to Chathamites. It was at the point of the latter that the first blood was shed in the struggle of the Thames. It was there that General Proctor had promised the Indians that he should make a stand and fight for their homes and villages, and from which it was with difficulty the English officers could induce them to retire further up the river. And it was there that their rear guard, on the morning of the 4th, remained to destroy the bridge, burn Baker's blo