

HISTORICAL.

Prior to the year 1818, that portion of the Country lying north of Rice Lake, now comprised within the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria, was unknown to civilized settlement—the hunting ground of the aborigines of the Country. In that year a number of English families, from the County of Cumberland, took advantage of the survey then being made of the township of Smith, and settled upon the communication road. What were the privations of those sturdy pioneers of settlement, who, unused to their new mode of life, had ventured thus far back to conquer the forest, and carve out for themselves a competency amid the unsettled and uncivilized regions of this Country, may be easily imagined. Separated from intercourse with the world abroad by an almost impassible barrier of dense forest; deprived of the ordinary appliances of civilized life; without a mill to reduce their grain to flour; with nothing but their axe and a sturdy spirit of indomitable perseverance to depend upon; they settled in this new land, and trusting upon God and their own energies, determined to overcome the host of difficulties that stared them in the face. As a substitute for a mill, it is said that they cut a hole in the top of a large pine stump, as a mortar, and using for pestle a heavy piece of wood, attached to a lever similar to what may now be seen at farm wells, pounded the grain; while others were content with simply boiling the wheat with milk.

About the year 1822, a Mr. Scott, a millwright, who had the year previous erected a mill at Cobourg, erected one, or an apology for one, on the site now occupied by that owned by Mr. Wallis. The Building had a saw mill at one end, a couple of run of stones at the other, and below, a still where unrectified whiskey was manufactured and supplied to the few settlers who would drink it, and to the Indians. Miserable, however, as was this apology for a mill, it was still an important step onward; and although it is of record that one of the settlers in Smith had to carry his bag of wheat no less than sixteen times on his back to the mill before he could get it ground, yet it was a good change from the primitive idea of a pine pestle and mortar.

In the year 1825 a considerable accession to the population took place by what was familiarly known as the Robinson Emigration. As early as the year 1822, the attention of the British Parliament was seriously directed to the subject of Emigration to the Colonies. As a result of this, in 1823 a regular scheme of Emigration was organized and entrusted to the Hon'ble Peter Robinson. The emigrants of that year settled in the Bathurst District; but the second Emigration, that of 1825, principally from the South of Ireland, was settled in the Townships of Douro, Smith, Otonabee, Asphodel, Ennismore, Emily and Ops. In the evidence given by Mr. Robinson before the Parliamentary committee of the House of Commons in May 1827, occurs a description of the route from