

RECOLLECTIONS OF MOSES HAYTER, THE FIRST JAILER OF SIMCOE COUNTY.

By Samuel Lount Soules.

In fulfilment of a promise I made you some time ago, I will write in regard to some events that are not generally known, which took place seventy years ago. It would not have taken me long providing I could have come across some of my old manuscripts treating of the subject; but I failed to light upon the right ones and had to do the best I could from memory. I have endeavored to write nothing but facts, without enlarging or putting on any varnish.

I shall begin with 1832, when the Township of Innisfil had but a very few settlers. A man by the name of Moses Hayter came from the city of London, Eng., to Canada. His occupation in London was that of a grocer in a small way; but being of a romantic turn of mind he came to the conclusion that he would strike out for Canada and see if he could better his fortune in some other way. So bidding his wife and two boys, Benjamin and Charles, goodbye, he set sail, and after a tedious voyage landed in New York, and from there he came to Toronto, and made enquiry at the Crown Lands Office where he could obtain a lot of Government land. He was advised to seek information from some of the oldest settlers who had taken up land in some of the recently surveyed townships in the County of Simcoe.

From Toronto he pushed on as far as the Holland Landing; and from there he came on as far as Myers' Corners, now the village of Stroud. Now at this time my father, David Soules, had settled upon lot 26 in the 14th concession of Innisfil, on the south shore of Kempenfeldt Bay, generally known as Big Bay Point, and had been there about ten years. At this time there was no road from there to Myers', only a very blind trail which was occasionally used to reach the Penetanguishene Road (which itself was scarcely fit to be called a road at the time). Myers advised Hayter to see Soules, who would advise him what was best for him to do, and the shortest way to reach Soules would be by this trail, seven miles through an unbroken forest where wolves and bears were very numerous. Now I make this statement to show the courage, perseverance, and determination of this new comer.