

place a trial. In fact, for myself, I clearly saw that the great expenditure of money in the building of the canal would likely make the place an important point for trade and commerce; and by casting my lot in this part of Canada I might do well and make a comfortable home. Nevertheless I cherished the fond hope that in a few years I would again return to Ireland for good and end my days there. Having got the lot, I at once set about clearing and making it ready for a building. I employed men to cut down the timber and take out the stumps. In doing this, they cut down a very fine curley maple tree, and thinking it a pity to burn up, what appeared to me, to be so valuable, I had a few large logs put aside to dry. Intending to have it cut up and made into furniture at some future time. Afterwards in 1832, I engaged a cabinet maker from Kingston to make a sideboard out of it. This he did, and I have it now in my dining room and intend to keep it and hand it down to my children as a memento of our first arrival at By-town in May, 1827.

After the lot was cleared up I had a small but comfortable building erected, and again entered actively in business pursuits. In all my undertakings I received every encouragement from Col. By and was successful beyond my most sanguine expectations.

The educated class being very few, the excellent education that I received gave me many advantages, and I soon formed an intimate acquaintance not only with the Col. but with all the Imperial officers in charge of the canal in after years. This made our residence in By-town, and our home a pleasant one; I soon gained the goodwill and esteem of the towns people generally, and was one of the first Justices of the Peace and Judge of the Court of Requests appointed by the Government. I took a leading part in all matters affecting the interests of the community and became one of the prominent citizens of the town. Our friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Sparks and the family continued uninterrupted and when he divided his farm (Lot C in concession C of Nepean), into town lots he named one of the principal streets "O'Connor street" after me.