

Mr. Keith and Mr. Watt chose the farms on the eleventh concession of Nichol upon which they so long resided: Mr. Keith's was east of the Irvine and is now partly included in the village of Salem; Mr Watt's was west of the river, and immediately north of the present bounds of Salem. Mr. Elmslie's farm lay along the west bank of the Irvine adjoining Mr. Watt's, but in the twelfth concession. All the farms are beautifully situated, and in the days when dense woods crowned the hills and filled the vales, and when the flow of the Irvine was full and steady, the surroundings were picturesque and romantic indeed.

Of those that made up the first party in 1835 we have not got a full and authentic list. These, however, were among the number: Mr. James Moir and family; Mr. Peter Brown and family; and Mr. Robert Melvine and family. Mr. James Moir, son of the James Moir mentioned, and now living in Elora, is the only surviving member of the party. The Browns returned to Scotland after a comparatively short residence here. In the family last mentioned there were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Melvine and family; George Cromar, Mrs. Melvine's eldest son by her first husband, and James Melvine, then a baby, who died in 1855. There was besides the man Dawson whom Mr. Melvine seems to have engaged on the voyage out, and who, notwithstanding his sage and effective counsel to the others, did not himself long remain in the settlement. Mr. Melvine, who was ill with consumption and had come out in hope of relief, for there was said to be no consumptives in Canada, died a year or two after his arrival. His widow afterwards married Mr. Alex. Tytler, a neighbor.

Among those who came in the same ship as the persons just mentioned, or shortly after them, were Wm. and John Gibbon, brothers of Mrs. Elmslie, both of whom married sisters of Mr. Elmslie, also the Mairs, Mackies, Middletons, Pries, Wedderburns, Calders, Cummings, and Brockies. Mr. John A. Davidson, who afterwards moved to Eden Mills where he died, came in about the same time.

Mrs. John Watt, of Salem, is the fortunate possessor of an old hand-made map of Nichol, the work of her mother, a sister of Mr. Andrew Grant and afterwards Mrs. Hugh Roberts, of Pilkington. The map was outlined in 1845 by "a nephew of Brucklay's" (the younger Fordyce) but seems to have been filled up as to details by Miss Mary Grant in 1848 and sent home to a brother in Scotland after whose death it was sent back as being of interest to friends here. The map or plan is the result of much patient and loving toil, "all done when I should have slept" as Miss Grant touchingly says in a letter written on the back of it. It shows not only the bounds of the various concessions and lots in the township; but also the course of the streams; the amount of clearing, woodland and swamp on every lot; the names of the owners, who were also for the most part occupants, of almost every lot; and even the location of houses and other buildings that had been erected.