

THE history of the town, which for nearly a hundred years has borne the name of Port Hope, began near the close of the eighteenth century. A trading post flourished here at least as long ago as 1778, at which time the site was occupied by a small Indian village. The name of the village, which consisted of a number of wigwams, inhabited by the Mississauga Indians, was Cochingomink. The first white man who left any enduring monument of his presence, was one Peter Smith, a trader, who dwelt in a log hut on the bank of the creek which empties into Lake Ontario at this point. The hut stood on the east side of the creek, about two hundred yards from the latter's mouth and disappeared before the advent of the last century. Peter Smith in his day achieved some fame throughout this region as a hunter and trapper, but his ostensible calling was that of a fur trader. He enjoyed an enviable reputation among the Indians for truthfulness and fair dealing, and was resorted to by them from far distant points. The creek which flowed past his door was named after him, and the village itself came in process of time to be called Smith's Creek.

The date of Peter Smith's arrival at Cochingomink cannot now be definitely ascertained, but he was succeeded about 1790 by a man named Herchimer, who took possession of the hut and carried on the fur trade established by his predecessor. Neither of these traders, however, can in strictness be called permanent settlers.

The first white man who took up his abode on the site of Port Hope, with a view to permanent residence there, was a Mr. Myndert Harris, a U. E. Loyalist, who removed thither from Port Royal (now called Annapolis), in Nova Scotia,

