

saw-mill, and in the spring of 1833, commenced the erection of the grist-mill, completing it in the same summer.

In the summer or fall of 1833, J. C. W. Daly came to the place and located temporarily in one of the Canada Company's shanties. He came as the resident agent of the Company, and, very soon after his arrival, built the frame house still standing, facing the foot of Ontario street, which for many years was his office and residence. This is said to have been the second frame building in the County, and is of course the oldest at present in existence.

Soon after Mr. Daly's arrival, Wm. Way came in and started a cabinet shop. There were also two or three itinerant shoemakers who settled temporarily, leaving again after doing all the "cobbling" the few inhabitants needed attending to.

The first actual purchaser of land from the Canada Company within the town plot, was John Sharman, a native of Bedfordshire, England, still residing here, and now the oldest living resident. He started a blacksmith shop, and was the first blacksmith in the County of Perth. Mr. Sharman's son Henry was the first white child born in the present limits of Stratford, and the first death in the settlement, was that of Mrs. Sharman. Previous to his arrival, which was on July 10, 1834, most of the population was comprised of the officers and retainers of the Canada Company, and of Sargint, who in the early days, was a man of means and no little prominence.

Very soon after this, however, quite a number of settlers came in and located along the Huron Road, in the townships cornering at Stratford. As to Stratford itself, the improvement was far from rapid during the first few years of its existence. The townships adjoining became pretty well settled before it assumed pretensions to anything of more importance than a straggling village. Still, though slow, there were no periods of retrogression ; its development was sure. In 1852, a descriptive