

The Dows came by sailing vessel to Montreal, then by Durham boats up the St. Lawrence as far as Prescott, and then by steamboat to Hamilton.

The Durham boats were a slow means of conveyance. It took a fortnight to make the trip from Montreal to Hamilton. At the various rapids all the passengers except the infirm or sick had to get out and walk up the shore, the men carrying the smaller children. The boats were then drawn by ropes or pushed with poles against the stream.

On leaving Hamilton the party reached Freeleton the first day. Here they got lodging in the tavern, but no breakfast was to be had in the morning, for love or money. So they packed up and went on a couple of miles, when they came to Mrs. Kelly's, who, with characteristic Irish generosity, supplied the hungry children with bread and milk. This act of kindness was never forgotten. The good woman refused to take any remuneration for the food, which, moreover, she could not likely very well spare. The older members of the party got their breakfast farther on, and, pursuing their way, the adventurers made their way up through Guelph to Nichol.

The only settlers in Nichol in 1827 were Roswell Matthews, Silas Burlingame, Wm. Singer, Abraham Jewel Flewelling, a native of the Maritime Provinces, the second to make a clearing and the first to plant an orchard in Nichol; and two men named Allan and McGregor. In 1827 two names were added to the list of settlers: Philip Jones and Felix McGinn. During the next few years a number of settlers came into Lower Nichol, though it is often difficult to give precise dates. Among them were: John Cruden, John Gunn, Thomas Boyce, James Elmslie, John Cunningham, Robert Scott, Patrick Clifford, Peter Butchart, John Robertson, Robert Peters, A. F. Sheratt, Thomas Wilson, James Creighton or Craighton, James Davidson, Daniel O'Connor, James and John Millar; Henry Metcalf, Eugene and Patrick Scanlon, Geo. Elgie, Robert and John (?) Cook, James Craig, John Munro, and John Mutrie.

Among those who came in in 1833 were: Samuel Broadfoot, Thomas Dow, Mr. Dunwoodie, the family of Mr. John Munro, he having come out the year before; Alex. Clark, "Yankee" Cummins and Samuel Owens. In 1834 there arrived: Alex. McNie, Alex. McNie, Alex. McDonald, James Horne and James Cattnach.

Mr. Thomas Wilson was the father of Mrs. John Beattie of Fergus. Mr. Duswoodie was the father of Mrs. Gilbert Hunter, mother of the late Mrs. S. Marshall, now, 1900, living in Fergus, with faculties still alert and strong. She is yet fond of conversing about the old days. A son of a Dumfriesshire baronet, Mr. Dunwoodie came out to Canada in the spring of 1833, when Mrs. Hunter was a lass of twelve. He bought 400 acres near the east corner of Nichol. In the fall of the same year Messrs. Adam Fergusson and James Webster passed Mr. Dunwoodie's place on their way up to the projected settle-