

through the woods, and had the happiness of meeting with the long lost husband and father. For a long time after the arrival of Land, very few settlers arrived. Immigrants preferred the high grounds of Ancaster and Barton. The Indian grass was hard to exterminate; rattlesnakes abounded, and in the summer months mosquitoes proved a most formidable and intolerable plague, and the soil was not the best for agricultural purposes. Stoney Creek and Ancaster were places of considerable importance before Hamilton was more than a mere hamlet, yet it appears to have been a sort of rendezvous for the surrounding neighborhood. At a very early period a man named Smith built a tavern on the site of Charlton's vinegar works, corner of King and Wellington streets, and a lodge of Freemasons used to meet here as early as the year 1795. In 1796 a considerable number of settlers arrived, but the exact dates cannot be ascertained, but the following are the names of those occupying the site of Hamilton in 1812.

Abel Land occupied two hundred acres north of Barton and east of Wentworth streets. John Aikman occupied the next lot and his log house stood near the corner of Burlington and King streets. Ephraim Land owned four hundred acres east of Wellington and south of Main streets. Robert Land's farm was north of King and east of Wellington streets, and his house stood on the south-east corner of Barton and William streets. Peter Ferguson whose name is preserved in the avenue so called, owned two hundred acres east of Mary and north of King streets, his house was near the corner of Ferguson avenue and Robert streets. Nathaniel Hughson, after whom Hughson street is named, owned two hundred acres east of Mary, west of Wellington and north of King. Captain Durand owned the only farm south of Main street, his house stood on John street. A man named Barnum kept a tavern on the north-east corner of James and King streets where Hamilton's drug store now stands, he also owned a farm extending from James to Merick. Daniel Kirkendall owned a farm of two hundred acres north of King and west of Bay, his house stood above the hollow near the Great Western shops.

In 1814 William Sheldon opened the first store in the place. This was a frame building and stood on the corner of King and John streets. Black, Carpenter, Knight and Shute, were the first cabinet makers, the factory of the latter stood where White's block now is on King Street. John Aikman was the first wagon maker and Edw. Jackson the first tinsmith. Their shops stood on the south side of the gore on King street. The first foundry, a stone building owned by McQuesten and Fisher, stood near the south-east corner of the gore. John Law kept the first district school which was situated on King street. The first blacksmith shop stood on the south-east corner of King and Ferguson avenue, and was occupied by Thomas Reynolds. Andrew Miller, locally known as "Yankee Miller" bought out Barnum after the war and