

of Brantford, except a small one where Chatham now stands, and it is supposed that Mr. Horner was the cause of the Burtch family following in the year 1799.

We are informed that the family remained some time at the small settlement on the Grand River, where Brantford now stands, and where they provided themselves with a yoke of oxen and a home-made sled, wherewith to convey themselves and their goods to their destination. At the Horner settlement they again halted a short time and, probably, laid in a stock of provisions, before undertaking the last stage of twelve miles. This proved to be their most tedious and perilous journey, on account of the many miry swamps, and the thick timber which had to be chopped before they could proceed. Frequently the oxen had to be unyoked and driven through singly, then yoked up and hitched to the sled on the other side of the swamp, by means of a connection of long poles tied together and reaching across the whole swamp. Thus it took three days to reach the brow of the hill overlooking the valley westward, where the town of Woodstock now stands. Here, on lot No. 18, in the first concession of East Oxford—at that time called "Oxford on the Thames," and embracing what now constitutes three townships—they 'squatted,' claiming the 200 acres under the rights of first settlers. Young Archibald, a youth of thirteen, assisted his family to erect a log shanty for a residence and a shed for the oxen.

The reader, like the writer, can only fill in from imagination the hardships, privations, and fears that this single family must have endured in the heart of this great wilderness; exposed to wild beasts, Indians, and a short supply of food. No roads, no bridges over the rivers, no mills to grind their corn when grown, and no place within reach to purchase supplies for food and clothing, even if they had money. True, in the winter, when the swamps were frozen, they could go to Hamilton or Toronto, but it was little better there, even if in existence at all.

The first assessment roll of which we have knowledge was in 1812, and from it we learn that there were then 60 persons assessed, and, among them, "Zechariah Burtch, lot 18, concession 1—200 acres, 30 cleared—1 horse, 2 oxen, 4 cows." "Archibald Burtch, north half lot No. 19—100 acres, 6 cleared, 1 horse, 1 cow." He subsequently purchased the south half,