

tled at Hemstead. He married Hannah Golder, and had a family of three sons, Samuel, Sylvanus and Elijah. Samuel and Sylvanus were the two pioneer brothers of Upper Canada; Elijah lived and died at Hemstead.

Samuel Sprague, the elder of the two pioneers, was the first to come to Canada, arriving in 1812. He followed the usual overland route to the mouth of the Oswego river, where he and his family embarked in what were known as Durham boats. Coasting along the eastern shore of the lake, they ascended the Bay of Quinte, and landed east of the village of Northport, on what is known as James Morden's farm, where it is commonly recognized that the first frame house in Sophiasburg was built. He settled on lot 28, 1st concession of Sophiasburgh. Mr. Sprague had been induced to emigrate by Benjamin Smith, who had preceded him to the Bay of Quinte in 1801, and settled at Demorestville. About that time Samuel was employed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and being especially skilled, occupied a responsible position. He owned a schooner, which he leased to a man who, unknown to him, engaged in the contraband trade, with the result that it was confiscated by the United States Government. After his arrival at Northport, Samuel built a schooner for Benjamin Smith, and later began the construction of one for himself, which was partly completed at the time of his death.

He died while returning from Montreal, after taking down and disposing of a raft of square-oak timber. He was a ship carpenter by trade, and oak being plentiful on his own property and in the surrounding forest, he had been engaged for more than three years before his death in cutting, squaring and rafting oak to Quebec. It was on one of these trips, his last one it unfortunately proved, that he contracted typhoid fever and died on his way home somewhere about the Long Sault—near Prescott or Cornwall. He had sold his raft of oak for \$1,000, but died among strangers who no doubt robbed him. His widow was never able to trace or recover any portion of the money.

Seven years after the migration of Samuel Sprague his brother Sylvanus followed him. The enticing accounts narrated by Isaac Raynor, a friend of the Sprague family who had lived in Prince Edward County and who gave glowing descriptions of the fertility of the country and the prosperity of the people, induced Sylvanus to sell his property and belongings and start for

Canada. His son Sylvanus, who was born in 1808, and was eleven years old at the time of his father's migration, still lives in Ameliasburgh and vividly recalls each feature of the journey. The father, mother and children reached Albany by way of the North River, and then proceeded on their way with a covered wagon and team. Having stowed in the wagon all the household goods it would hold, only the mother and daughters could ride; the father and sons walked, carrying their guns and shooting what game they wanted. They passed through a fine settled country by following the State road to Sackett's Harbor, and thence they proceeded to Kingston.

Sylvanus was so disappointed with the country that he determined to return to Long Island when his teams secured the rest they so badly needed; but in the meantime he was persuaded to take possession of a new log house. Then one little incident after another cropped up to deter him from commencing his return journey. Some one needed a house, and as Sylvanus was a builder of experience, it was only natural that he should undertake the task. On his success in that work his services were in demand by the pioneers throughout the settlement. It became too late to think of returning that year; he postponed his journey until the next fall. Then when that time came he found he had loaned out the considerable sum of money which he brought with him, and he could not get it back for some further length of time because wheat, which was the pioneer's only security, had first to be thrashed by horses treading it out, then ground at Kingston and afterwards shipped as flour to Montreal, to be sold and the money, after all deductions had been made, would not return until the following May. It was not until 1824 or 1825 that cash was first paid for wheat in Prince Edward. The first buyer was Charles Bockus, who afterwards became an M. P. The next was Hon. Billa Flint. These two brokers paid money for the wheat, which they had ground and shipped to Montreal; but later Montreal started mills and bought the wheat direct. As Sylvanus Sprague could not afford to leave Canada without receiving his money he accepted a proposition to work Benjamin Smith's homestead on shares. As events progressed and the opportunity for him to return arrived, he found that the links which bound him to the Bay settlement were too strong to be broken. He remained in Sophiasburgh for twelve years, when, in 1832, he moved to Ameliasburgh.