

The Township of Delaware

The dawn of civilization in Middlesex first appeared in Delaware. Here the first white man permanently settled about the beginning of the nineteenth century. About 1801, Ethan Allan and Jasper Crow settled along the Thames and were the pioneers of Middlesex, they were not, however, founders of wealthy families, as many early settlers were. When the war broke out in 1812, Ethan Allan joined the American forces and was seen no more in Delaware; shortly after, Jasper Crow abandoned his family, and it is supposed also joined the enemy's force, his widow for many years lived on the farm and his descendants may still be found in the vicinity. Shortly after Allan and Crow, came Gideon Tiffany, who acquired large tracts of land along the river, and dying, left his sons in independent circumstances, but few of his fertile acres, however, are at this day owned by his descendants. Squire Springer also acquired large tracts of land here about the same time, and took up his residence a few hundred yards north of where Delaware Village now stands. Shortly after the war, McAlvan Ladd and Dudly Ladd settled here, and from that time the Township began rapidly to fill up, particularly along the river front.

Patents were issued as early as 1797, when lot 15 in concession D, 200 acres, was granted to Thomas Sumner, and in the next year 1000 acres were patented to Captain Thomas Allison of the 24th Regiment who was afterwards a merchant in Quebec. Some time afterwards Ranald McDonald got a patent for the lot on which the village was built; he sold to Dr. Oliver Tiffany, who placed it in charge of Gideon Tiffany his ~~son~~ brother, who founded the old *brother*