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## Early Years cont'd

residence in some other township. The writer has combined both lists and placed the surnames into alphabetical order. Some surnames are misspelled. The list uses the names as given and records the last listed lot and concession number.

It is interesting to note that Edwin C. Guillet, in his 1957 book "The Valley of the Trent" has published a list of "First Settlers, Haldimand Township, 1796." This list of 35 names, compiled by Aaron Greeley, were those who had taken lots as of the 29th of October, 1796. Eight months later, in June 1797, 26 of the 35 names were not included in another listing. One had taken land in Percy Township. The other 25 names disappeared from Northumberland County listings indicating that people were on the move, trying perhaps to better themselves at some other location.

Mr. Guillet, in the same book, publishes two interesting letters. The first letter, written by Joseph Keeler to Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe, and dated 27th June 1796, mentions about bringing in a number of hands to

begin the settlement of Cramahe and Haldimand, and a surveyor.

The second letter, written on the 3rd of June, 1797 by Elias Jones of Hamilton township to the Surveyor-General. Jones writes "We have thirty-seven actual settlers in the Township of Hamilton, and a number more have taken lots." Jones signs himself as being "one of the proprietor agents."

The 1797 listing is an important one. The census lists for the respective townships came several years later. In 1794 the legislation was set up for the provision of county registry offices. The registration of property deeds in Northumberland County came a few years after the 1797 listings. To genealogists this list is invaluable. The listing by townships follow:

Next issue: the list of settlers' names.



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