

of Independence and befriended by certain loyal British subjects. Thus one of his first acts when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792 was to look for some way of assisting those who had aided him. When Governor Simcoe assembled his first parliament on March 23, 1793 at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-lake) one of the first proclamations offered a township of land in Upper Canada to anyone who had remained loyal to Great Britain and was willing to undertake to bring in forty families as permanent settlers.

In 1793, Thomas Ingersoll presented a petition to the Government on behalf of himself and his associates in Massachusetts taking up this offer. The petition was granted and Mr. Ingersoll was to select the land, about 66,000 acres. His settlers were to receive the land for sixpence per acre, the usual grant per settler being 200 acres. With the assistance of Joseph Brant, Chief of the Six Nations Indians and a body of experienced Indians hunters and guides, he explored the unoccupied lands west of the Grand River and chose what is now the three Oxford Townships along the River La Ttanche (French named it so because of its wide valley). The Indian name for the river was As- Kun-E-Se-Be (antlered like an elk) and it was renamed Thames in 1792 after the English river. When Thomas Ingersoll and his family returned in 1795 there was still no road west of Ancaster - nothing but bush from Hamilton to Detroit so they stayed two years at Queenston before pushing westward. It was here that Laura, eldest daughter of Thomas Ingersoll met James Secord whom she married about 1800. The Ingersolls subsequently settled on the Indian trading-post which is now part of the Town of Ingersoll. These sixty-six thousand acres became the townships of Oxford-on-the-Thames and later West, East and North Oxford townships.

At about the same time that Thomas Ingersoll settled in Oxford County, Thomas Horner was granted the township of Blenheim. While Col. Simcoe was prisoner in U.S.A., Mr. Thomas Watson had given him essential help so when he became Lieutenant-Governor, he wrote Mr. Watson urging him to come to Canada and bring his relations and friends with him. Mr. Watson's son and his cousin, Thomas Horner of New Jersey came in the year 1793 and Governor Simcoe had the first three concessions of Blenheim surveyed for their use. Horner settled on the west side of the present village of Princeton on a site to the west of the creek which was first called Whitman's Creek and later Horner's Creek. After selecting a site for a sawmill, they returned to U.S.A. Mr Horner returned in 1796 with material and