

there appeared some 60,000 who rather than forsake the British flag for that of the United States moved across into what is now the Dominion of Canada. Among them were some of the most loyal, enterprising, adventurous and successful citizens of British American colonies. A considerable number of these United Empire Loyalists made their way into Zorra in the early 1820's.

The two earliest settlers from the Highlands of Scotland, of whom we have any record, were William and Angus McKay, who came out from Sutherlandshire in 1819. William had been a captain in the Ninety-third Sutherlandshire and Argyleshire Highland Regiment and at the close of the Peninsular War he had been granted his discharge. Landing in New York these two brothers secured work for a time on the Erie Canal. William came to Zorra the following summer and settled on lot 9 concession 9 on the 9th line. With indomitable courage such as characterized those Highland settlers, he set to work to build a log shanty. As there was no lumber, he used a blanket for a door and it was recorded that night after night Captain McKay would be wakened from sleep by wolves pawing at the blanket or by bears and other wild animals prowling about his log cabin. For weeks, he was isolated there on that bush homestead many miles from his nearest neighbour. Then in response to his request, his brother, Angus, came and settled on another hundred acres in the same vicinity.

After some years hearing that his relatives were among those who were being evicted from Duke of Sutherland's estates so that the land may be converted into sheep pastures and sporting grounds, Angus McKay returned home to Scotland and induced a shipload of relatives, friends and others from Sutherlandshire to accompany him back to Canada. The ocean voyage, typical of that time, was made in a small sailboat and extended thirteen weeks and the immigrants had to provide their own food, bedding and other necessities for the long voyage. After landing at Quebec they had the tedious and dangerous trip of two weeks up the St. Lawrence in small open boats towed by oxen. By ox-cart and along blazed trails through forests of Ontario, they made their way to their future home in Zorra.

Together with these English and Scotch settlers in the area north of Hickson came German settlers. Henry Eckstein who moved from Sebastopol to Tavistock in 1848 and built himself a log building at what is now the corner of Hope and Woodstock streets because he learned a railroad to Goderich would not touch Sebastopol, was the first German settler in this section of East Zorra.