

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRANT (Continued)

weaker, someone thought the cries were not of a human being, but those of a panther.

As soon as it was day Mrs. Jasper sent her boys out to try and find in the snow a trail of who or what uttered the cires. Charles Jasper found a trail which led up to the body of poor James Wallace, frozen stiff, a victim of the dangers of life in the back woods. One of Mrs. Jasper's sons walked all the way to Owen Sound for a coroner, a Dr. Gordon. The body was buried in the bush not far from where it was found.

The Durham Road was opened up through the forest in 1850, in the following year the road then called Durham and Southampton Road, which road commenced between lots 15 and 16, and ran north to the 5th concession, the present Elora Road was opened as far as Paisley. The opening of these roads enabled settlers to take up land back of the free grants.

Among the most prominent of those who did so was John Eckford and William Chisholm. For some months these two families were the most northerly settlers in the township being separated from their nearest neighbours by one or two miles of unbroken forest.

The names of some of the early settlers were William Mills, Sebastian, John and Andrew Kirstine, Len and Wm. Dickison, John McNeil on the south line, James and Sam, McWhinney, Bob Gounlock, Joe and John Harley, John and Joe Lamb, Jas., Andrew and William Rowand, Anthony, Jas. & Chas. Myles on north line, Adam Clement, James, Tom and Andy Wilson, Wm. & Richard Buimi took up lots on Durham Road as well' as others Besides these early settlers mentioned there were many more.

The first baby boy came to brighten the pioneer home of Brant to the log shanty of Wm. "King" Johnston in June, 1850, he was christened Nathaniel. To Mr. and Mrs Thomas Adair four months later, came the first baby girl in the township who on attaining womanhood was married to Donald Sinclair, M.P.P.

The first medical man to render professional assistance to pioneers was Dr. Wm. Bird who resided hear Hanover on Lot 67, Con. 1 SDR, "Johnston's Corners" is the name that will always be given to the corner at which Mr. Johnston located. In 1854 he erected a tavern subsequently burned down. Mr. Johnston's death took place, September 22nd, 1870.

In 1849 land was taken up in Greenock where Riversdale now stands by two French