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The First Settlers Reaching the 7th Line District of Missouri Managed the Crossing of the Thames by Expert Felling of Large Trees - by Elizabeth Vining - Aug 8, 1938.

Settlements were made in Missouri early in the 19th century. Records show that as early as 1807 people were coming into parts of East Missouri, although twenty years or more passed before land was taken up in the seventh line district.

The Village of Thamesford which dates before the War of 1812 was first known as St. Andrews. The first bridge across the Thames here was formed by two elm trees. Stopping on the east side incoming settlers felled a large elm across the stream. This tree was trimmed. Crossing on it they felled another huge elm allowing it to fall across the river to the eastward, forming a satisfactory bridge.

The Skirmish During the War of 1812

In connection with the War of 1812 an interesting event took place in the community. A company of twenty men under the command of Captain Metcalfe, surprised and took prisoner 80 American troops near Thamesford. During the long march to Colonel Talbot's residence about half of the prisoners escaped.