

Pioneer Homes in our Area.

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"The axe, the flame assail'd the trembling glade
The cottage rose on disencumber'd ground,
Mid lands new ravish'd from the forest's shade,
The winding wormfence stole its ample bound;
Deep bosom'd in th' embowering wood's embrace
His store increasing mark'd the flight of time;
And fondly there he rear'd his youthful race
From childhood's blush to manhood's blooming prime,
And reap'd the fertile field and bless'd the
gen-erous clime."

- From "A Year in Canada and other Poems"
by Ann Cuthbert Knight - 1816.

The homes of the vast majority of settlers who came to open up farms in Upper Canada progressed through three stages - the shanty, the log house and the frame, brick or stone dwelling. The shanty days were few although they might last for two or three years, at least until the men might raise a log house. The shanty was a shelter erected very quickly and usually not very carefully. Some of the crudest hardly resembled a building at all. These were no more than open tents of boughs built in front of a few logs piled up to make a back wall. A big fire burning at the open end warmed the enclosure. Often the opening was closed with a blanket and many a settler has been awakened by the snuffing and