

Weeks passed before the family arrived in New York and eventually Niagara. Colonel Ball agreed to take them towards their home as he knew they would meet Richard coming for them. They met near Hamilton and what a joyous reunion it must have been! The family followed the trail through the forest, stopping at night at different homesteads until they reached their home. Here they found plenty of work and no doubt Richard was glad to have help from the older boys. More land was cleared, wood cut for heating, cooking and for keeping necessary fires burning to protect the family from wild animals. Wolves, bears and deer roamed the forest and there was plenty of wild geese, ducks, turkeys and other game to furnish their meat supply. Skins were used for clothing and bear fat for candles - skills probably learned from Indians and other neighbours. Berries and fruit were dried for winter and sap from the maple trees was boiled into maple syrup and sugar. Sometimes a "bee tree" was found and the honey eaten by the family. Life was not easy for the Wilson family. Sarah, unaccustomed to hardship in England, learned to weave her own cloth from homespun yarn and make the family's clothing. Laundry was done in a creek a few miles to the east. The family was unaware of a closer creek to the west.

Richard Wilson must have been an industrious and hard-working individual. In addition to the back-breaking labour of clearing his own land, it is reported he threshed grain for many of the neighbouring farmers. This tradition was followed for many years by some of his descendants known as the "Wilson threshing gang". In those early days, payment for threshing was a percentage of the grain. History records that Richard had to walk miles to have wheat ground into flour. As a result of one of his early trips to sell grain, he received