

were few." Under terms of settlement later specified by the government, timber rights and final approval of any land transaction remained with the Six Nations Council. Some 266 members of the Credit Band moved to Tuscarora "in time to plant", probably in May 1847. This was not the total population of the Credit Village as many had settled on other reserves between 1840 and 1847. At one of the first Council meetings at the new location, the settlement was named New Credit.

During the first year of settlement at New Credit, the Mississauga faced numerous hardships, including the absence of roads and large areas of uncleared land. Other prolonged problems involved the sale of the former Credit lands, Jones's repeated efforts to have the funds applied to New Credit's development, and the continued presence of squatters. The latter problem, not fully resolved in 1847, persisted for a number of years and discouraged some Mississauga from farming certain sections. But from 1847 it was generally evident that the Mississauga intended to re-establish their former farms. Log houses soon appeared and many began clearing and working 50 acre farm lots. Some fishing was done in Lake Erie to supplement food supplies. In March, 1848, Peter Jones reported that during a recent visit he had found the New Credit Indians "contented with their new homes". By December 1848 a frame sawmill constructed by a Brantford millwright was in operation. (The mill later burned but was rebuilt in September 1852.) During these early years both Chief Peter Jones and Chief Joseph Sawyer frequently requisitioned the Indian Department for funds to purchase hay, seed, fruit trees, other agricultural necessities, and provisions.

The growth of New Credit was particularly noticeable in 1849. Many had left the Band over the past two years but by April 1849 the population included 25 who had returned from Rice Lake, Owen Sound, Muncey Town, and the Six Nations Reserve. In February 1849 Peter Jones learned that Chief Joseph Sawyer had arranged with the Six Nations for the expansion of New Credit to include adjoining lots 1-6 in the first concession of Oneida township. The settlement of this section aggravated the squatter problem. Some observers complained of the Indians' prolonged absences and neglect of some farms, but reports throughout the 1850's and 1860's indicated gradual agricultural improvement.

Farming was actively encouraged by government agents, the Reverend Peter Jones, and other Methodist missionaries as a means for maintaining a permanent settlement and congregation. Jones paid constant attention to the Reserve's need for farm supplies, buildings, and financial aid from the Indian Department. His dedication extended even to personal demonstrations of farming techniques. David Thorburn (Superintendent of the Six Nations and the New Credit Reserves), Jones, and others further recognized the Indians' full participation in contemporary agrarian society as the means to success. As a Wesleyan Methodist missionary, Peter Jones