



## "I WILL GIVE YOU 400 ACRES FOR YOUR HORSE, SADDLE AND BRIDLE"

These words struck the deal and Stouffville Village was on the way

Written by  
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for The Tribune  
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"It is generally well known that after the war and declaration of independence of the United States of America from the British Empire, there were a goodly number of citizens who remained loyal to the British Crown and preferred to live under British rule.

These United Empire Loyalists as they were called, refused, for conscience sake, to take the oath of allegiance to the newly established government and of course—as they expected—their properties were confiscated and they themselves were driven out of the country. Many of them were in

good financial circumstances and of high social standing, but they willingly left their fine properties and pleasant surroundings for the wild forest life which confronted them in their new Canadian homes, rather than violate their consciences.

Five thousand of these expatriated colonists betook themselves to New Brunswick, twelve thousand to Nova Scotia and ten thousand to Upper Canada.

Quite a number of the new immigrants were men of good business ability and soon found their way into important official and business positions, while those preferring rural life spread themselves, with other immigrants from

England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany, France, Switzerland and other European countries along the frontier of our new provinces. This looks very much like a Providential arrangement, for in many instances they became the pioneers of community centres and important villages, towns and cities. These new immigrants at this particular time were certainly a God-send to our new country, for they were generally an industrious, thrifty and conscientious people. They, along with those in whom we are particularly interested, and who arrived shortly afterward, entered heartily into the work of trans-

forming this wooded country into cleared up farms and fruitful fields. These were times of hard work and many privations, but they were as a rule a healthy, hardy, hopeful, honest people, who after a few years had the satisfaction of seeing their faith and labors amply rewarded, and as their young families grew up around them, became, not only contented but enthusiastic citizens of this new country.

### Pro-British Rule

The reason why I have stressed the character and work of these early settlers (especially the U.E.L. section) is because about this time and for the same reason, Abraham Stouffer, our pioneer,

resolved to change the place of his habitation from Pennsylvania to Upper Canada, because he also preferred to live under British rule. Here I would ask your indulgence, while I give a short sketch of family history. The Stouffers can presumably trace their history back as far as A.D. 937, but actually and consecutively to the year 1630, when Daniel Stouffer was born in the town of Thun, Switzerland. We trace the record down from Daniel to Hans the son of Daniel and to Henry the third son of Hans and from Henry to Abraham, who with his family settled near the city of Chambersburg, Pa., and built a flouring mill in 1793, which was operated for 90 years by

his direct descendants. This Abraham was the father of our pioneer Abraham Stouffer, who was born 1780. He learned the milling business in his father's mill, which was a great help to him in after years, and emigrated to Canada in 1804.

Now this makes six Abraham Stouffers in direct succession, the last five of whom were and are still continuous owners and occupants of the east half of lot No. 2, Whitechurch and almost continuously of the west half also. This is the lot our pioneer grandfather received from the Crown. The other four hundred acres are comprised in the present village of Stouffville. This is an interesting and rather unique item of history,

and I sincerely hope that the grand succession may continue for many years.

After this introduction, we come to the story of removal from Pennsylvania and settlement in Upper Canada, of our pioneers. In that Pennsylvania neighborhood lived a goodly number of Stouffers and Reesors. One branch of the Stouffer family going to the County of Waterloo, of which the late Rev. Byron H. Stouffer was a member, the other branch coming to the County of York.

Spying Out the Land  
Our pioneer, Abraham Stouffer married Elizabeth Reesor, a sister of Peter Reesor, who became a prominent figure in this history. In 1802 it was  
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