

SEDITION NEVER HAD BREEDING PLACE AMONG
PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS IN WATERLOO COUNTY

Forefathers of Some of the German-Canadians Now Resident There Were the First Settlers in the Interior of Ontario

MIGRATION TO CANADA WAS DUE TO THEIR LOYALTY TO BRITISH IDEALS

Pioneers and Soon Bought Sixty Thousand Acres of Land and Paid for it in Silver Coin Which Was Carted Through Bush

The forefathers of some of the Germans of Waterloo County were the first settlers in the interior of Ontario. "And these people have always been loyal to the country of their adoption, sedition never had a breeding place among them," said Rev. A. B. Sherk, in a paper on "The Pennsylvania Germans of Waterloo County, Ontario," in a paper read before the Ontario Historical Society in 1906.

"These people were in full sympathy with British institutions, and came here to enjoy their benefit. We must also keep in mind that many of the Pennsylvanians who settled here were British by birth, being born before the revolt of the colonies. They and their families were Britons, and came here to claim their rights as Britons," says the same authority.

The First Immigrants.

Samuel Betzner and Joseph Sherk, brothers-in-law, came from Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1799, when Buffalo was not, when Hamilton was a swamp, Dundas a mill and one log house, and Ancaster the lonely outpost of civilization.

They, plunged into the dense forest, found the Grand River, liked it, bought from Joseph Brant, the great Mohawk chief, and brought in

their families and belongings on sleds dragged through the bush by oxen. The village of Blair near Galt now marks the place where they settled.

Bought 60,000 Acres.

They were the vanguard. The main army of occupation followed. In 1802 it was found that the property, part of the "Beasley Tract," was mortgaged for \$20,000, a vast sum in those days. The German company was formed among the Mennonites of Pennsylvania. A joint stock company with that amount of money as capital. In silver coin the \$20,000 was packed in boxes, placed on a light wagon and entrusted to two men, one from Waterloo, one from Pennsylvania. They brought it over 500 miles of bush roads unarmed. The Mennonites do not believe in war. They delivered it safely; 60,000 acres of Waterloo county passed into the hands of the German company.

Loyalty to Britain.

Such were ancestors of the Pennsylvania Germans of Waterloo county. They came not for land, for Ohio was just being opened for settlement, not for money, because the Pennsylvania Dutch were rich, but from loyalty to British freedom ideals of religious and civil life.