

Page 3 Background History of the Area

This timber was all rather an unusual size, in fact the Annan district was noted as having some of the finest in the "County of Waterloo". as it was then known. But the soft elm overtopped them all. In the winter of 1847-48 one was cut down about two miles south of Annan, which measured seven feet in diameter on the stump, and fully eight feet at the ground. Its height was estimated at about ninety feet. Four expert choppers worked on it over five hours to fell it. The butt was gnarled and fifteen feet was cut off, then four rail and five rails were saved, the top being left to rot. Another large elm, about the same size in diameter was cut a few years later on a farm about three miles northwest of Leith.

The pioneers were not long in establishing themselves. Mr. Thomas Vickers, in his cheese factory on Lot 35, Concession B, no doubt contributed to the 16, 387 pounds of cheese produced in Sydenham in 1861.

Sydenham soon became a successful farming country is proved by the statistics for the year 1861, when there were 15,298 acres under cultivation and 11,987 acres under crop.