

Emigration from Great Coates

"They stayed 2½ years in Whitby, Canada West (now Ontario) before buying 50 acres further west in County of Middlesex, Township of West Williams, Canada West from the Canada Company and moving there in 1857. It was solid forest and the family set about immediately clearing the land and as soon as possible a log dwelling was erected, fields were laid out, a well planned drainage system established, an apple orchard planted and a well dug. Before long, Thomas bought the neighbouring 50 acres from Rufus Mackey; later he also bought the 100 acres to the east."

My great-grandfather's obituary said he stayed in Whitby Township 2 years later than the rest of the family, arriving in West Williams in 1858 at about 16 years old (he was the oldest of the 3 boys).