

1793

Founding of Oxford-on-the-Thames now Ingersoll

When John Graves Simcoe became Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792, he formulated a plan to settle the vast forests of the British colony. Simcoe proposed to offer individual colonizers whole townships of 60,000 acres or more if they would guarantee to bring 40 families to the land and complete the necessary road links throughout the territory. Thomas Ingersoll, together with a number of business associates, applied for the rights to a township located south of the Thames River. From the beginning there was no doubt that the driving force to the association was Thomas Ingersoll. With great energy he set out to fulfill the terms of the contract. In doing so he played a major role in the early development of Oxford County and the Town of Ingersoll. In 1793, Thomas Ingersoll paid his first visit to town that would one day bear his name.