

brothers and a sister. At last permanent settlement seemed to have come. The Burchells lived at Freedy Harbour for over 30 years, and members of the Hunter family still occupy the big farm at the North End. To the Hunters the Island owes much of its development, perhaps the most important being road-building, and more recently logging. They specialized in sheep-raising - Thetis Is. mutton being second to none!

Arthur Nixon bought the third Curran farm in the 1890s, and lived there many years. He married Miss Deena Roberts. I have many happy memories of visits to them. There was an immense old stone fire-place in the kitchen, built by Curran himself. Arthur Nixon's untimely death was really due to lack of communication and transportation. Rupert Forbes, with his mother and sister, and Major & Miss Heneage all came in the early 1900's. The Forbes are still at Overbury and the Heneages lived in the big house - now Camp Columbia - till ill-health and age forced them to leave, only a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Burchell were outstanding characters. He wore (always, as I thought!) jackets with large checks and a straw "boater" jauntily tipped over one eye. "Madame", as she was affectionately called, dressed in the latest fashion, had a smart hair-do (no Beauty Parlours then!) and most gorgeous jewelry - I can hear the jingle of her bracelets even now! As a special treat she used to take me into the store with her. This had an intriguing smell, combined of cheese, bacon, soap, coal-oil and all sorts of other things. The chief customers, the Indians shopped unhurriedly, one article at a time, for which they paid, got their change and then began all over again. Mrs. Burchell was equally patient! The Burchells introduced many "firsts" to Thetis among which were the store, a saw-mill, whose engine ran on crude oil - (This cut most of the lumber used on the island) and a Naphtha launch. Mr. Burchell was a keen architect and carpenter - among many additions to the house, were a ball-room and a lovely little chapel.