



The Story of GORE

IV – June 2014

“Oats and beans and lumpers grow....”

In Volume II of the Story of Gore series we touched briefly on why the Irish left their homeland to find a better life in North America. One can imagine how reports of their new lives in Canada, which reached friends and relatives who stayed behind, may have inspired and encouraged them to try as well. They had little to lose. In spite of the deep attachment to Eire, life for most people who did not belong to the gentry, aristocracy or the landholding classes, was a permanent struggle for survival.

Food scarcity was a constant threat and the only food staple a small tenant farmer (60 per cent of the population) could rely on to provide enough quantity to see a family through the year, was the potato. Reliance on the potato—called the Irish Lumpers—was so great that the average working man needed 14-15 lbs per day in order to have some kind of decent nutrition.

This astonishing statistic has been encountered a number of times in the literature including in the Great Famine Museum in Ireland. Assuming an average family size of six, a family would need 50 lbs per day, which translates into 9-10 tons per year. This amount could be grown on an acre of land given all the right conditions.

Most families had a pig as well, which provided the meat part of the diet as well as the fertilizer for the potato field. But many people did not have access to enough land to grow sufficient food. And then there were always the localized crop failures which led to many famines before as well as after the Great Famine of 1847-1848.

So the accounts of abundant land availability in the British Colonies, and the opportunity to own land free of interference from land owners and their agents, must have been a very strong drawing card in encouraging people to leave.

And later during the Great Famine the only options for many were to leave or die. One million left, one million died. What they found on coming here and what they accomplished in their new country is beautifully illustrated by the Agricultural Census of 1851, which was recently made available by Archives Canada.

From the early 1820s onward as families started arriving in Gore, more and more land came to be cleared and more and more self sufficient family farms developed, on land they actually owned and on which they could grow and graze whatever they chose and the produce was theirs to use as they saw fit.

This was a complete reversal of the conditions they left behind, and though life was rugged and hard the settlers experienced a sense of freedom and hope for the future which had been denied to many generations. Consequently the 1851 census is a revelation of how many sources of income from the land the settlers exploited—families harvested several kinds of grain, grew a variety of vegetables (including the potato) and raised cattle, sheep and pigs.

Because of space constraints the following is a list of crops and commodities which were left out of the comprehensive census you see on the adjoining page.

Crop	Acres	Bushels
Peas	19	145
Buckwheat	52	500
Turnips	9	456
Clover, etc.		3
Carrots		41
Mangle wurtzel		15
Beans		12
Hops		0
Flax & Hemp		0
Tobacco		0
Maple sugar		380 lbs
Cider		0
Linen		0
Flannel		1670 yards
Calves		342
Cured pork		0

Noteworthy are the small quantity of maple sugar and the large quantity of flannel produced. For the latter they had the wool and the need for warm and sturdy clothing and blankets etc. As for cider, hops, flax, hemp and tobacco, certainly hops must have been grown as it still occurs in what is now a wild version. Whether any brewing or distilling went on in Gore with such a cornucopia of ingredients is open to speculation. It did in other townships.

Though our Irish immigrants left behind a world of hardship, hunger, feudal conditions, religious and political strife, the latter two still affected their new life here to some degree. The pre-Confederation (up to 1867) period was marked by serious discord especially in the urban centers as we will see in the ongoing *Story of Gore*. **LJM**

The Census of 1851—Schools, Stores and a Grist Mill

In January of 1852 Alexander Johnston began the arduous and time consuming task of gathering information on every single household and farm in Gore for what is now known as the Census of 1851. Johnston had been resident in the Gore for 21 years and knew the people and the place well.

In the months that followed he travelled from one end of the township to the other and compiling data on the 976 people who lived here at the time and on the 132 farms then in operation. The resulting record provides a wealth of valuable information on residents of the Gore and gives us a glimpse into life in a mid-19th century farming community.

Nearly 25 years had passed since settlers first arrived in Gore and the place had been transformed from wild bush into a real community. The vast majority of residents were in farming and a number of support services and industries had been established as well.

The township boasted five schools, all of which were in operation. The school teachers listed in the census are Robert Campbell, John Moffitt and Daniel Welburn. According to our calculations approximately 600 children lived in Gore, though not all were of school age. In addition three small stores were in operation and they were run by James Arnott (in Lakefield), William Strong (in Cambria), and George Rogers. Johnston noted there were no taverns in Gore!

The Anglicans and the Methodists each had places of worship. These were wood frame buildings and, according to Johnston, together seated about 500 people. Joseph Griffin was the minister at the Anglican Church and though he is not listed as such, William Craig was the Methodist preacher. According to the census the vast majority of residents—646—were Anglican (Episcopalian). There were 126 Methodists, 200 Presbyterians, three Roman Catholics and one solitary Baptist. (Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Lakefield was built in 1858 as was St. John's Anglican Church in Shrewsbury. We note with sadness that St. John's was destroyed by vandals in January, 2014. The Methodist Church, located in Lakefield, which was torn down in 1931, was built in 1862.)

All families in Gore lived in log houses which they likely constructed themselves from trees on their land. Only two wood frame buildings are reported in the census. One was a house where Rev. Joseph Griffin lived. The other was the school house in Lakefield.

Information as to Mills, Factories, &c., &c., their cost, power, produce, &c.	Number of persons usually employed therein.
39	40
<p><i>In this Census district Grist Mill with two runs of stones one for making oat meal and the second for wheat the former does a great deal of business in the winter while the latter gets very little to do in consequence of so little wheat raised in the settlement</i></p> <p><i>there is one Saw Mill adjoining the Grist Mill</i></p> <p><i>The above Mills was raised in 1832 and cost five hundred pounds but it being a wood building it is not considered to be value[d] for more than the two thirds of that sum now. It would rent about forty pounds annually</i></p>	2

The 1851 Agricultural Census

Here is a partial listing of the 1851 agricultural census for Gore. Square brackets [] indicate a correction made by us. A question mark ? indicates we were unable to make out the exact entry. A sub-total is given at the end of each page with a recapitulation at the end of the listing. As mentioned above, the 1851 census was actually taken in 1852. Exactly how data on agricultural production for 1851 was gathered is not clear to us. Individual farmers were, possibly, asked to make a note of their crop yields.

Samuel Reynolds, William Burns, William Gordon and George Rogers (not the same as above) were all shoemakers. Two weavers lived in the township—Samuel Campbell and George Westgate, as did two blacksmiths—James Smith and William McAllister.

James and William Arnott operated the grist and saw mill in Lakefield. In his comments Alexander Johnston wrote the following:

In this Census district there is one Grist Mill with two runs of stones one for making oat meal and the second for wheat. The former does a Great deal of business in the winter while the latter gets very little to do in consequence of so little wheat raised in the settlement.

There is one Saw Mill a[d]joining the Grist Mill.

The above Mill was raised in 1832 at cost of five hundred pounds but it being a wood building it is not considered to be value[d] for more than two thirds of that sum now. It would rent about forty pounds annually.

By far the vast majority of residents in Gore were first and second generation Irish who had immigrated here over a period of 25 years. Between 1845 and 1852 as they worked the land, build homes, raised families, grew crops and began to enjoy the benefits of prosperity (albeit modest), they undoubtedly heard news from relatives and friends in the Old Country. During this same seven-year time period, famine and death swept through Ireland devastating whole communities. LJ

<p><i>there is five Schoolhouses and Park School in operation</i></p> <p><i>there is three small stores in this district no tavern</i></p>	<p><i>there is two places of worship</i></p> <p><i>one Jurisdiction Church a frame building of wood and seats about three hundred people</i></p> <p><i>one Methodist Church built of wood and seats about two hundred people</i></p>
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SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Quebec, 27th January, 1852.

D. Day

Name of occupier	R a n g e	L o t	Arpents held by each person or family	Number of Acres of Land				Wheat		Oats		Potatoes		Hay tons	Wool Cloth lbs yards		Cows	Horses number of animals	Sheep	Pigs	Butter	Beef in pounds	Pork		
				Under Cultiv- ation	Under Crops in 1851	Under Pasture 1851	Under Wood or Wild	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	24	25	33	36	42	46	48	49	50	51	53	54		
1	Isaiah Curry	2	½	100	50	20	30	50	1 ½	18	8	150	1 ½	100	10	26	18	7	2	10	3	400	600		
2	Arthur Davis	2	½	100	45	10	15	55	2	19	8	200	1	100	8	19	15	5	1	7	4	400	300		
3	William Smith	1	½	100	50	30	20	50	3	49	10	200	2	100	20	33	12	9	3	12	2	600	800		
4	Robert Smith	1	½	50	10	6	4	40	1	12	4	50	1	80	4	19	9	3	1	5	2	150	400		
5	Robert Smythe	1	½	50	20	12	8	30	1	12	4	50	1	80	4	18	10	5	2	7	3	400	300		
6	Daniel Timmins	1	1	200	50	30	20	150	1	11	7	120	2	150	5	20	16	6	1	10	3	400	400		
7	James Stephenson	1	½	100	30	15	15	70	1	7	7	70	2	80	5	16	12	3	1	6	4	150	400		
8	Thos Guy	1	½	100	40	10	30	60				4	50	¼	12	3	30	15	3	2	11	2	200		
9	Samuel Cam[p]ell	1	½	100	16	8	8	84				1	16	1	50	3 ½	6								
10	Robert McMahon	1	½	100	45	25	20	55	1 ½	12	6	90	1	60	4	18	20	7	2	7	3	50	300		
11	John Campbell	2	½	100	14	10	4	86	1	15	4	50	1	100	6	20									
12	Wm J. C[h]risty	2	½	100	30	15	15	70	1	10	5	75	1	60	4	20									
13	Hugh Porter	2	½	100	40	25	15	60	2	18	12	120	1	60	6	14	9	5	2	6	5	200	500		
14	Alex'r Sutton	2	½	100	30	15	15	70	1	10	4	60	1	70	4	20	10	3	2	8	2	200	400		
15	Levy Miller	6	1	200	30	16	14	170	1	10	4	80	1	100	8	18	15	5	2	13	3	300	400		
16	William Boyd	1	½	100	35	15	20	65				4	70	1	90	6									
17	Robert Kenny	1	1	200	20	6	14	180				1	15	½	30	4									
18	John Brinkman	6	½	100	20	6	4	90				3	60	2	80	1	7	7	2	3	5	100	400		
19	James Kerr	6	½	100	20	10	10	80	½	7	5	100	1	60	6	5									
20	Robert Kerr	6	½	100	8	5	3	92				3	50	1	65	1									
21	Robert Henderson	6	½	100	12	8	4	88	1	14	4	80	1	60	1	6									
22	Edward Parker	4	½	100	15	6	9	85				5	50	2	110	5	10	11	3	1	5	3	150		
23	Thos McNeil	5	½	100	18	12	6	82				4	60	3	100	3	6								
24	David C[h]risty	3	½	100	30	15	15	70	2	20	5	100	2	150	4	16	16	3	2	6	4	200	500		
25	Michael Payn	3	½	100	20	10	10	80	1	10	5	50	1	40	3	16	16	3	1	6	2	200	400		
26	Michael Good	4	1	200	60	20	40	140	1	8	6	60	2	100	6	15	12	5	2	10	4	300	400		
27	James Good	4	½	100	40	6	34	60				2	50	1	60	6	13	12	4	1	6	3	250		
28	Robert Brown	4	½	100	20	6	14	80				2	50	1	50	5	18	12	3	1	7	2	200		
29	James Good	4	½	100	30	18	12	70	½	10	4	50	1 ½	80	8	12									
30	John Gains	4	½	100	20	10	10	80																	
31	William Good	6	1	200	15	8	7	185				5	60	2	100	2									
32	William Hess	5	½	100	40	10	30	60	1	10	4	60	1	100	6	15									
33	William McKnight	5	½	150	20	6	14	130				3	40	½	40	5	12	12	4	2	5	2	250		
34	Samuel Rathwell	6	1	200	30	16	14	110	1	7	3	70	1	60	8	10									
35	William Morrow	6	½	100	16	4	12	84				2	30	½	40	2	6	6	3	1	3	3	200		
36	Joseph Thompson	6	1	200	30	19	11	110	2	40	6	120	2	100	12	20	23	6	2	11	5	450	300		
37	H McCulough	6	1	200	30	16	14	110	½	8	6	100	1 ½	20	8	15	12	4	2	6	3	300	130		
38	John Williams	6	1 ½	250	30	13	17	220	½	5	6	110	2	70	3	12									
39	James Chambers	5	½	100	30	12	18	70	1	8	5	150	2	100	10	7									
40	John Moffat	5	½	100	30	12	18	70				2 ½	30	2	150	9	22	15	3	2	6	1	150		
41	Thos Edwards	5	1	200	50	25	25	150				6	100	1	50	14	9								
42	Anthony Copeland	5	½	100	20	10	10	80				3	80	1	60	7	10								
43	William Watchorn	5	½	100	36	15	21	64	1	12															
44	Wm Brinkman	5	½	100	25	10	15	75	1	8	4	70	1 ½	100	6	21	14	2	3	7	4	200	372		
45	John Mahan	1	½	100	35	15	20	65				3	30	1	30	8	6								
46	Thos Wilson	1	½	100	30	8	22	70	½	6	2	30	½	14	4	7									
47	Joseph Lister	1	½	100	15	3	12	85				2	18	¼	20	1									
48	Thos Kelly	2	½	100	30	10	20	70	½	6	2	20	¼	15	8	12									
49	John Robinson	2	½	100	30	10	20	70	½	6	3	70	1	40	5	5									
50	George Brown	2	½	100	5	5		55				2	30	1	60	2									
	Totals Page 1			30	6000	1405	647	758	4595	33 ½	388	210 ½	3444	60 ¼	3546	288	554	339	185	68	285	133	11100	4872	15708

Name of occupier	R a n g e	L o t	Arpents held by each person or family	Number of Acres of Land				Wheat		Oats		Potatoes		Hay tons	Wool Cloth lbs yards		Cows	Horses number of animals	Sheep	Pigs	Butter	Beef in pounds	Pork	
				Under Cultiv- ation	Under Crops in 1851	Under Pasture 1851	Under Wood or Wild	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.	A c r e s	Pro- duce Bsh.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	24	25	33	36	42	46	48	49	50	51	53	54	
1	William Williams	2	½	100	30	20	30	50	1	18	8	115	1	30	10	34	15	4	3	9	5	209	600	
2	Wm Lister	2	1	200	45	10	35	155	½	6	3	40	1	20	8	9								
3	Edward Beatty	2	½	100	40	16	24	60				6	71	1	30	8	9							
4	John Silvester	2	1	200	30	25	5	170				18	250	½	7									
5	Patrick Kerr	2	1	200	60	30	30	140	1	11	14	140	1 ½	100	13	39								
6	Robert Kerr	2	½	100	2	0	0	98				0	2	15	12									
7	William Kerr	2	½	100	40	24	15	60	2	15	8	100	2	Blight	8									
8	Joseph Boyd	2	½	100	40	20	20	60				8	100	1 ½	100	9	15							
9	William Hammon[d]	3	1	200	60	20	40	140	1	6	5	100	2	50	15	15	7	3	10	5	500	400	600	
10	James Rogers	3	½	100	30	12	18	70	½	3	3	51	1 ½	60	8	10								
11	James Hamilton	3	1	200	60	30	30	140	1	13	8	100	2	150	20	20	18	9	2	13	5	600	300	700
12	John Thompson	3	½	100	30	10	20	70				3	50	½	5	2	6							
13	Charles Moor[e]	3	1	200	40	12	28	160	1	4	3	50+	1	80	5	10	10	5	3	8	5	200	600	
14	Michael Craig	3	½	100	20	4	16	80				2	25	1	150	4	12	7	4	1	10	4	108	
15	George Rogers	3	½	100	30	9	21	70	1	15	4	100	2	200	3	20	18	6	2	11	5	200	600	
16	William Craig	3	½	100	35	20	15	65	1	8	5	70	1	10	10	20								
17	Samuel Rogers	3	1	200	48	16	32	152	1	10	4	100	2	250	10	30	13	7	2	13	5	400	350	700
18	Andrew Liang? Leary?	1	1 ½	300	50	12	38	250				4	51	1	100	10	10							
19	Robert Kettle	1	½	100	15	5	10	85				2	40	1	60	5								
20	Stuart Martin	1	½	100	9	5	4</																	

