



The Story of GORE

III – June 2013

Introduction

In the first two installments of the *Story of Gore*, we looked at the naming of the township, the different petitions of settlers and the first census records. We also looked at the conditions in Ireland that drove people to emigrate to Lower Canada and to Gore. In this issue we make the long journey from Ireland and we look at what the settlers found here. In addition, we are including the allotment map and the list of settlers who obtained title to the land.

The Journey from Ireland to Gore

In 1830 the journey from the Old to the New World, from an Irish county such as Sligo, Mayo or Antrim to Gore, would have taken about two months give or take a few weeks. The journey began overland as potential emigrants made their way to a port in Ireland or England. In that year a reporter from the *London Times* described the scene in one Irish city.

In the port of Sligo alone, there are six vessels now lading with passengers for Quebec, besides two which have already sailed. "For the last few weeks," says a communication from this place, "whole families of comfortable looking persons have passed daily through our streets, seated on carts containing their luggage and provisions for the voyage. Our town actually swarms with men, women and children, waiting for the sailing of vessels from our port." It is said that moiety at least of the persons going are Protestants, and I am inclined to believe it.

The use of the term "comfortable" is relative here. Most of the Irish Protestants who emigrated to Gore were not particularly well off, but neither were they totally impoverished. Their financial resources were scant, but they were solvent and they were probably literate. They had both the foresight and the ability to emigrate and their decision to leave Ireland probably saved their lives.

Were any settlers destined for Gore among those who left from the port of Sligo in 1830? Quite likely! In that year William Strong of Sligo, Matthew Hammond of Cavan, Christie Carruthers of Fermanagh and probably the families of William Graham and Jarvis Westgate came to the township. We can say with a great deal of certainty that William Strong and his family would have sailed from Sligo. They arrived in Gore on July 10, 1830.

The sea voyage to Quebec City took about six weeks. Conditions on board varied—some captains treated the passengers well, others forced travelers to live in a crowded, unsanitary ship's hold. As paying passengers, the immigrants bound for Gore would have had better conditions than those who came later during the height of the Irish famine.

Some ships carried straight on to Montreal, but most stopped at Quebec and passengers then boarded another boat—a steamer—for the trip up the St. Lawrence. At Montreal, the settlers got one step closer to their destination when they boarded a flat-bottomed batteau or Durham boat for the trip to St. Andrews East or Carillon.

Once they docked at St. Andrews the new arrivals began the long walk to Gore. The road system in 1830 was fairly well developed in the southern part of Argenteuil, but was sparse in the northern areas. From St. Andrews, settlers likely took Beech Ridge Road up through the West Settlement and what is now Bethany to Chute Mills (as Lachute was then called).

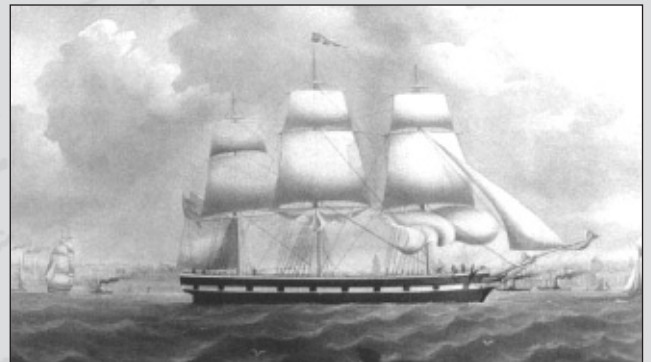
In Lachute, the travelers turned east and walked along the road on the south side of the North River to White's Bridge, at what is now Chemin du Lac Sir John (Route 329). After crossing the bridge they turned back west along the north side of the North River and then turned up Dunany Road.

When they reached the southeast corner of Wentworth they turned east and headed into Gore via a trail cut from Clear Lake to Lake Sir John. Then they started walking through the woods to their allotment. This part of the journey, from St. Andrews to Gore, would have taken one or more days depending on the season, the size of the group and how many possessions they were carrying.

In 1930, a full 100 years after the Graham family settled in Gore, Edward Graham wrote a journal in which he described his early years in Lakefield and Arundel. In one part of the memoir he recounted the story of his grandfather, father and uncle trekking from St. Andrews to Gore. Edward Graham was born in Lakefield in 1868. His father was William Graham and his mother was Amanda Johnston.

I was the eighth in a family of ten, eight boys and two girls. All the people who lived in the district I was born in were of a strong robust stock and produced many men who exceed[ed] six feet in height. Mostly all were descendants of Scotch Irish parents. My father was but five years old when he arrived at Montreal in 1830, when sailing ships were the only means of crossing the Atlantic. My grandfather carried a feather bed from St. Andrews East, Que. to Lakefield.... Dad & uncle Richard walked.... [text missing].

In 1886 on passing over this road with Dad, he showed me the house, a stone one, where they lodged over night on their way north. In a few days they arrived at the place where they got busy to make a home for themselves in the backwoods on land only fit for goats to live on, rocks & stones everywhere....



Sailing ships such as the Mohongo carried passengers from Ireland to Quebec. The Mohongo was built in New Brunswick for the McCorkell Line of Derry, Ireland, in 1851 and made over 100 crossings without serious mishap. (Photo from *The Ships List* website and the Jackie Crawford Collection.)

Allotment map of Gore

This allotment map gives the names of the settlers who obtained letters patent for their land. The first grants were made in 1840 when the Township of Gore was officially formed. However, some settlers had been resident since the mid 1820s. The list was compiled prior to 1890 and thus does not include the names of those who received grants or purchased their land after that year. The actual map is based on an 1841 survey map by William Teasdale. The names, which have been written in by hand, are taken from *List of Lands Granted by the Crown in the Province of Quebec, from 1763 to 31st December 1890* by Charles-François Langlois.

We are also including a listing of the settlers by range and lots numbers (W for the west side of the lot and E for the east side of the lot) and the date of the letters patent.

Range I

Lot	Name	Date
1W	Robert McMahon	19 Oct 1840
1E	James Campbell Sr.	14 Dec 1840
2W	Arthur Davis	14 Dec 1840
2E	James Stevenson	28 Oct 1840
3W	James Stephenson	14 Dec 1840
3E	Robert Smith	28 Oct 1840
4W	Andrew Timmons Sr.	14 Dec 1840
4E	Daniel Timmons	14 Dec 1840
5W	Robert Kenny	14 Dec 1840
5E	Legal Rep. of James Mahon	5 Jan 1882
6W	Thos. Morrow	14 Dec 1840
6E½	Robert Mayble	28 Oct 1840
6E½	Wm. Boyde Jr.	28 Oct 1840
7W½	Wm. Boyde Jr.	28 Oct 1840
7W½	Robert Mayble	28 Oct 1840
7E	John Mayble	14 Dec 1840
8W	Legal Rep. of Thos. Morrison	3 Nov 1875
8E	Joseph Mahon	27 Apr 1882
9W	Unassigned	
9E	Legal Rep. of Thomas Wilson	28 Jun 1886
10W	Legal Rep. of Joseph Lister	21 May 1884
10E	William J. Beatie	18 May 1884
11W	John Sheret	14 Dec 1840
11E	Geo. Sheret	28 Oct 1840
12W	Isaac Patterson	20 Feb 1863
12E	Thomas Lister Jr.	4 Dec 1874
13E/W	John Miller	14 May 1878
14W	John Miller	14 May 1878
14E	Robert Kettle	15 Apr 1876
15W	Unassigned	
15E	John Lyster	23 Feb 1882
16W	Andrew Timmons	14 Dec 1840
16E	Thomas Morrison Sr.	12 Mar 1867
17W	Wm. Wright	14 Dec 1840
17E	James Campbell Jr.	14 Dec 1840
18E/W	Samuel Campbell	14 Dec 1840

Range II

1W	John Campbell	14 Dec 1840
1E	Alexander Cochran	14 Dec 1840
2W	Garven Christie	14 Dec 1840
2E	Wm. G. Christie	28 Oct 1840
3W	Geo. Stephenson	14 Dec 1840
3E	John Stephenson	14 Dec 1840
4W	Wm. Stephenson	14 Dec 1840
4E	James Boyd	4 Feb 1886
5W	James Boyd	4 Feb 1886
5E	William Boyde Jr.	14 Dec 1840
6W	James Boyd	4 Feb 1886
6E	James Boyde	28 Oct 1840
7W	Alexander Johnson	28 Oct 1840
7E	Wm. Hunter	28 Oct 1840
8W	Wm. Henderson	28 Oct 1840
8E	Wm. McManners	14 Dec 1840
9W	George Rogers	21 Apr 1864
9E	Wm. Lister	15 Mar 1867
10W	James McManners	14 Dec 1840
10E	Edward Beaty	14 Dec 1840
11W	James Parker	18 Jun 1875
11E	Patrick Kerr	14 Dec 1840
12W	Unassigned	
12E	Thos. Robertson	14 Dec 1840
13W	John Timmons	14 Dec 1840
13E	Octave Lorin Sr.	28 Dec 1875
14W	Octave Lorin Jr.	28 Dec 1875
14E	John Rogers	27 Aug 1874
15W	George Moore	12 Mar 1867
15E	George Young	28 Feb 1882
16W	George Young	23 Feb 1882
16E	Unassigned	

17W	John Silverson Sr.	4 Mar 1879
17E	Unassigned	
18W	Henry Pete	26 Aug 1874

Range III

1W	Wm. Crawford	14 Dec 1840
1E	Michael Payn	14 Dec 1840
2W	David Christie	28 Oct 1840
2E	Joseph McMahon	28 Oct 1840
3W	Thomas Hesse Jr.	14 Dec 1840
3E	Jacob Hesse Sr.	28 Oct 1840
4W	Wm. Jackle	28 Oct 1840
4E	Thomas Crawford	14 Dec 1840
5W	Thomas Smith	14 Dec 1840
5E	Wm. Byrne	14 Dec 1840
6W	John Parker	14 Dec 1840
6E	James Bennet	28 Oct 1840
7W	John Bryars	28 Oct 1840
7E	John McDonald	14 Dec 1840
8W	Wm. McDonald	14 Dec 1840
8E	Daniel Parker	14 Dec 1840
9W/E	Thomas Barron	29 Dec 1840
10W	Widow of Richard Robertson	14 Dec 1840
10E	Frederick Rodgers	28 Oct 1840
11W	Haslet Hicks	13 Mar 1867
11E	Hazlot Hicks	28 Oct 1840
12W	Samuel Rodgers	28 Oct 1840
12E	Wm. Craig	28 Oct 1840
13W	Geo. Rogers	14 Dec 1840
13E	Michael Craig	28 Oct 1840
14W	Charles Moore	14 Dec 1840
14E	Unassigned	
15W	Unassigned	
15E	Unassigned	
16W	James Hamilton	26 Sep 1866
16E	James Fish	4 Dec 1874
17W/E	James Fish	4 Dec 1874
18W	James Fish	4 Dec 1874

Range IV

1W	Robert McKnight	28 Jan 1885
1E	John Morrison	26 Oct 1883
2W	John Morrison	26 Oct 1883
2E	Unassigned	
3W	Unassigned	
3E	Michael Good	24 Sept 1866
4W	James Good Jr.	24 Sept 1866
4E	Robert Good	24 Sept 1866
5W	Robert Brown	25 Feb 1884
5E	John Meikle	4 Dec 1861
6W	James McDonald	28 Oct 1840
6E	Joshua McDonald	15 Apr 1885
7W	Unassigned	
7E½	Thomas McNeil	19 Aug 1878
8W/E	James Sutton	28 Jan 1885
9W	George Rogers	4 Sept 1869
9E	Henry McDonald	14 Dec 1840
10W	John Kerr	14 Dec 1840
10E	Geo. Jackson	14 Dec 1840
11W	Andrew Elliot	14 Dec 1840
11E	Wm. Evans	28 Oct 1840
12W	James Armstrong	14 Dec 1840
12E	Robert Armstrong Jr.	14 Dec 1840
13W	Wm. Wilson	14 Dec 1840
13E	Robert Armstrong Sr.	28 Oct 1840
14W	Matthew Scott Sr.	3 Nov 1870
14E	Edward Dawson	14 Dec 1840
15W	Legal Rep. of John Hodge	26 Aug 1878
15E	Legal Rep. of John Hammond	26 Aug 1878
16W	John Hammond	15 Mar 1867
16E	Matthew Hammond	26 Aug 1878
17W	Robert Hodge	27 Apr 1882
17E½	Robert Hodge	27 Apr 1882
17E½	Unassigned	
18W	Unassigned	

Range V

1W	Thomas McNeil	30 Aug 1877
1E	Unassigned	
2W	Unassigned	
2E½	Unassigned	
2E½	John Williams	15 Mar 1867
3W	Thomas Williams	15 Mar 1867
3E	Unassigned	
4W	Hugh McKnight	17 Jul 1877
4E	John Chambers	13 Mar 1867
5W	Thomas McNeil	15 Mar 1867
5E	Thomas McNeil	1 Oct 1883
6W	Thomas McNeil	1 Oct 1883
6E	Anthony Copland	24 Sept 1866
7W	Thomas McNeil	11 June 1862
7E	Thomas McNeil	24 Feb 1865
8W	Unassigned	
8E	Legal Rep. of Mathew Rogers	28 Jan 1885
9W	George Rogers	15 Mar 1867
9E	Unassigned	
10W	Unassigned	
10E	Unassigned	
11W	Unassigned	
11E	Unassigned	
12W	Unassigned	
13W/E	George Sherret	16 May 1879
14W	Margaret Nicolson	17 Jul 1873
	Widow of Thomas Dixon	
14E	Thomas Evans	22 Aug 1881
15W	Elizabeth Nicolson	26 Aug 1878
	Widow of John Rogers	
15E	John Nicolson	21 Mar 1871
16W	John Nicolson	25 Oct 1870
16E	John Nicolson	19 Jun 1882
17W	George Nicolson	12 Mar 1867
17E	Wm. Strong	30 Apr 1867
18W	William Strong	5 Mar 1880

Range VI

1W	Louis Viger	15 Jan 1888
1E	Jacob Williams	15 Mar 1867
2W	John Williams	12 Mar 1867
2E	Samuel Rathwell	24 Sept 1866
3W	Sarah Kilford Widow of Chs. Rathwell	17 Feb 1870
3E	Hans McCulloch	15 Apr 1876
4W	William Thompson	11 Jan 1877
4E	Joseph Thompson	13 Mar 1867
5W	Joseph Thompson	13 Mar 1867
5E	Richard Thompson	26 Oct 1883
6W	Philip Good	13 Mar 1867
6E	William Good	1 Oct 1883
7W	Philip Good	1 Oct 1883
7E	Unassigned	
8W/E	George Rogers	6 May 1867
9W/E	James Kerr	26 Apr 1881
10W/E	David Hammond	20 Mar 1882
11W	Matthew Strong	19 Jun 1882
11E	James Scott Jr.	10 Jan 1871
12W	James Scott Sr.	12 Mar 1872
12E	James Scott	10 Jan 1879
13W	James Scott	24 Sept 1866
13E	Jarvis Westgate	12 Mar 1872
14W	Elizabeth Carrol	20 Mar 1871
	Widow of John McKinley	
14E	Wm. Parker	24 Sept 1866
15W½	James Scott	12 Mar 1867
15W½	William Parker	22 May 1868
15E	Matthew Scott Jr	7 May 1869
16W	James Dixon	19 Sept 1870
16E	George Pollock	28 Jun 1870
17W	John Kyle	19 May 1870
17E	William Strong	5 Mar 1880
18W	Wm. Strong	5 Mar 1880

Allotment map of Gore



William Teasdale, surveyor, walks the Gore

In the winter of 1829 William Teasdale, a surveyor in the employ of Joseph Bouchette, Surveyor General of Lower Canada, began to walk and stake out the first three ranges of Gore in order to carry out a detailed appraisal and description of the land. This followed the 1826 petition by settlers to have Gore surveyed so they could obtain entitlement to their land. Teasdale and his crew spent several months tramping through the rugged, snow-covered terrain.

Joseph Bouchette was something of a dreamer—readers will recall he described the beauty of Gore, saying that with its

sparkling lakes and lovely vistas it will “afford one of the most picturesque and romantic spots in the province.” William Teasdale, on the other hand, was a realist. In his report he wrote the following:

The general features of the Township of Gore are; very Mountainous, Extremely Rocky and broken by numerous Lakes and deep Ravines: The greater part of it will scarcely ever admit of cultivation by the plough, and can never remunerate the occupier but by the rearing of young stock.

Like Bouchette, Teasdale had high praise for the Irish immigrants who had taken up residence in the township. "The settlers," he wrote, "generally have from 10 to 20 Acres of their lands cleared of the timber, and by their persevering industry, appear to live in comfort." He went on to say that transportation and mobility were very real problems. "The greatest disadvantage to which they are subject is the want of roads; the nature of the ground rendering roads of expensive and difficult construction."

What did the immigrants find here?

After a grueling transatlantic voyage the new immigrants must have eyed the farming areas along the St. Lawrence—which had been settled for a hundred years or more—with great delight. Their high spirits would have been tempered somewhat by what they saw coming up the Ottawa and especially after disembarking at St. Andrews and trekking up toward Gore.

The further north they travelled the more rough the land became. As they drew near their destination and got their first glimpses of homesteads hacked out of the bush, they must have taken pause, a deep breath and then prepared themselves for the Herculean task of clearing the land. But we imagine they would have been somewhat prepared for what they found by those who had gone on before them, by the stories heard along the way, and perhaps by helpful land agents.

What they found here was a very hilly and rocky landscape dominated by coniferous species along the lake shores, the stream valleys and low lying areas, while hardwoods dominated the higher elevations.

Mr. Bill Pollock, forestry engineer provided the following information at our request:

Without any disturbances such as forest fires, wind damage, ice storms and insect or disease epidemics they would have remained that way for centuries. Indeed, without any disturbances species that can regenerate in, and tolerate, the shade caused by the overhead canopy would eventually dominate the forest. Beech and sugar maple are both tolerant species and thus will dominate the hardwood forests on the drier hilltops. Beech is slightly more tolerant than sugar maple and in a hardwood forest without any disturbance beech will slowly increase its dominance and the forest could eventually become a pure beech forest.

Seeds of species such as poplar, aspen, white birch, white spruce and most pines that require more sunlight reaching the forest floor would not germinate and even if they did the great majority, if not all, the seedlings would eventually die under the heavy shade.

In undisturbed coniferous stands the tendency would be for balsam fir to dominate the forest. Have you ever noticed in a stand of white pine there is little regeneration of white pine? Often the understory is almost pure balsam fir. If there is any white pine the fir will often overtop it, reducing the amount of light it needs and eventually causing the pine to die.

The tolerance of a species to shade is a very important factor in forest succession and ecology.

Thus the settlers would have found forests with many mature trees—assuming there had been no relatively recent natural disturbances—and not the kind of forest we are familiar with today. Our wooded areas are relatively young and made up mostly of second growth, with smaller trees and considerable undergrowth. The forests of today grew back after the settlers cleared the land or the bush was harvested for various industrial purposes.

They would also have found trails used by indigenous peoples and the game animals they hunted. Gore straddles both Iroquoian and Algonquian hunting grounds and so the settlers might also have found camps used by men who came here for the fall and winter trapping seasons.

How the settlers changed the landscape

As we saw earlier, before receiving title to their lot of land, settlers had to clear two acres in the first three years and three acres in the first seven years. When Gore was completely surveyed there were about 105 lots of 200 acres each. Some of those remained that size but the majority were subdivided into 100 acre parcels (e.g. lot 11a, range III). There were then, about 210 lots of 100 acres available for settlement.

According to the 1851 census Gore had 133 households with a total population of 976 people. On average there were seven people per household. This particular census includes an agricultural return. About 180 lots were occupied, meaning they were held by a settler family. According to the census figures about 25 per cent (some 4,700 acres) of the occupied land had been cleared for growing crops and for pasture land while the rest of the settled land (about 13,200 acres) was wooded or "wild". Thus, in 1851, about 75 per cent of Gore's total land mass was still wooded.

Some areas of Gore were more suitable for cultivation than others and visitors to the township would have seen a mix of forests and clearings. According to the census just about every settler had cleared more than the minimum three-acre requirement. On average, they had cleared about 35 acres each. Some had as much as 100 acres under some form of cultivation or in pasture.

Notes & references

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The quote from the *London Times* comes from The Ships List website, Ship Arrivals at the Port of Quebec, 1830, June 7-July 9, "Emigration from Ireland &c." <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/Arrivals/1830b.shtml>.

The quote from Edward Graham's journal comes from the National Archives of Canada, *Reminiscences of the life of a family of Scottish settlers at Lakefield. MG29-C31, R6449-0-5-E*.

The quote from William Teasdale's survey notes comes from Archives Nationales de Québec, Carnet C38, Canton de Chatham (gore)/William Teasdale, 1831-10-14

- 1 carnet(s) de notes. Available online.

We wish to thank William S. Pollock, B.Sc.F, F.Ing., consulting forest engineer, Timmerlinn Woodlands Services, Ste Agathe des Mots, for providing us with an overview of the forests in Gore prior to European contact.

Information on the 1851 agricultural census for Gore comes from the National Archives of Canada, Census of 1851, Canada East, Deux Montagnes (county), Gore Township. Available online.

The allotment list comes from *List of Lands Granted by the Crown in the Province of Quebec, from 1763 to 31st December 1890* by Charles-Francois Langlois. Quebec: The Queen's Printer, 1891. Available online at http://archive.org/details/cihm_94807