

Emigrants' Manuals Described Harvey District In Early Years

List of Families for Year 1845—Produce of Community and Resources in 1851—Interesting Comments on Possibility of Employment of Ordinary Labor.

(Staff Correspondence of The Daily Gleaner) 1937

Harvey Station, N. B., July 14.—An interesting account of the early settlement at Harvey and the conditions of the country in the period between 1837 and the middle of the nineteenth century is found in an emigrant's manual written by a man named Johnson about 1845 or somewhat earlier. Such manuals as that by Johnson probably had a great deal to do with the Scotch settlers first determining to come to the colony from their homes in Wooler.

Mr. Johnson stated, in reference to the district, as follows:

"At the distance of twenty-four miles from *Frederickton, on the great road to St. Andrew's, is the Harvey Settlement, formed in 1837 by emigrants from Northumberland (England), and which, by its present thriving condition, proves what can be done by sober and industrious men even on an inferior quality of soil.

"Accompanying this is a tabular return of the state of the settlement in 1843, with the remarks of the commissioner.

"With such settlers for our ungranted lands, the most astonishing and gratifying results would soon be manifest.

"In the vicinity of Harvey is an Irish settlement, formed in December 1841, under the gratuitous management of the same commissioner, whose

report and return accompany those of the Harvey Settlement, and furnish an additional proof of the success attending persevering industry.

"Some good tracts of land are still ungranted beyond the Harvey, on the *Magadavic River and its branches and lakes, and in the vicinity of the contemplated railway between St. Andrew's and Woodstock."

Emigrants' Manual.

In a book entitled "The Emigrant's Manual," by a man named Burton, which was published in 1851 we find the following references to Harvey.

"In the papers relative to emigration to North America, laid before parliament in 1849 a statistical return of one of the newest settlements—the Harvey Settlement—is printed. The settlement is situated twenty-four miles from the town of Frederickton on the great road to St. Andrews. The

colonists were a body of Northumbrians. The return is so old as the year 1845, but the importance apparently attached to its publication in this country, in the following passage in the letter in which it is transmitted by the district commissioner to Governor Colebrook, induces us to present a portion of the general result to the reader:

"It is desirable that the accompanying return may be circulated among the settlers' friends and countrymen in the north of England, as well as in other parts of the United Kingdom, so that the capabilities of our new land-soil may appear and that it may also be made known that we have at least 5,000,000 acres yet undisposed of—a great portion of which is of better quality than the land at Harvey, whereon the sober and industrious emigrant may create a home under the protection of British laws, and in the enjoyment of British institutions."

"The return refers to a tract on which it is stated that 'not a tree had been felled in July 1837.'"

The account goes on to give a list of the settlers who came to Harvey, the number of acres they were able to place under cultivation by 1843, the acres of new land for crop the next year, and the estimated value of the land of each and the improvements which had been made on it. The tabulation as given in the 1845 report is as follows:

Name.	Acres in Crop 1843	Acres New Land for Crop Next Year	Est. Value of Land and Improvements
William Embleton...	6	3	60 0 0
James Mowatt	3	4	100 0 0
William Messer	0	0	0 0 0
Thomas Herbert	14	8	155 0 0
William Grieve	0	0	0 0 0
John Cockburn	16	10	180 0 0
David Leford	6½	5	118 0 0
John Thomson	6½	4	100 0 0
Robert Wilson	15	10	165 0 0
Henry Craigs	11½	5½	150 0 0
William Bell	6	5	130 0 0
Thomas Mowatt	3	4	92 0 0
James Wisbet	5	1½	150 0 0
Alexander Hay	10	4	100 0 0
Andrew Montgomery	6½	2	150 0 0
Matthew Percy	11	5	135 0 0
James Corne	9	5	126 0 0
Thomas Kay	6½	3	73 0 0
George Davidson	4	3	75 10 0
John Scott	5	2	90 10 0
Thomas Percy	8	4	180 10 0
John Carmichael	6	2	92 0 0
John Wightman	7	3	135 0 0
John Nesbitt	10	5	130 0 0
Robert Tait	10	3	70 0 0
William Patterson	10	4	120 0 0
William Robison	10	6	130 0 0

It will be noted that there are 27 families in this list. This would indicate that at least 3 families had joined the settlement after the original band had settled in 1837, or else that marriages had taken place in the community accounting for three new families. It will be noted that two of the names mentioned, William Messer and William Grieve, would appear to have either just taken up residence in the community or to have just branched out for themselves in 1843.

Produce Enumerated.

The 1851 account goes on:

"These settlers collectively produced 115 tons of hay; 91½ tons of straw; 6955 bushels of potatoes; 270 bushels of wheat; 2920 bushels of oats; 504 bushels of barley and buckwheat; and 160 bushels of turnips. They possessed 41 cows, 19 oxen, 9 horses; 59 sheep; 97 swine and 40 young cattle. Of buildings they had 28 dwelling houses; 26 barns and 47 other outhouses."

Some interesting comments are made in the work in regard to labour in the colony during its early days. It states:

"It is well that it should be at once understood that New Brunswick is not at present a good emigration field for the mechanic or the mere laborer, who has nothing but his work to give. There is of course, employment for the workman—especially in the staple produce of the country—lumbering, or timbercutting but it seems to be pretty fully supplied. If it were not, it is not one to induce aspiring men of the better class of skilled laborers to follow it. The work is hard. It is of a kind that necessarily demands a lifetime of seclusion in the lonely forest."

In their circular for 1851 they give a rather better account, announcing that the "immigration agent stated, in a letter dated 10th March, 1851, that the demand for unskilled labour was on the increase and that a moderate number of ordinary labourers and farm-servants might find employment at fair wages in 1851."

Capitalist Workers.

"With regard to other labourers, they appear to be already sufficiently abundant in the colony. It is not a place where great capitalists who can give much employment go. It has been chiefly colonised by capitalist-workers; men of small means, who clear and labour in their settlements—and it is to this class only that it is at present suitable. Mr. Johnson found an impression there, that if a man had from 50 pounds to 100 pounds, with industrious habits and common sense and caution, he was sure to get on; and the province was though much more suitable to this class than to men of large means. He mentions many well-to-do Lowland Scotsmen of this class; but he does not give so good an account of the success of the Irish and Highlanders. The government agent calculated that nine-tenths of those who landed in New Brunswick in 1849, passed into the United States, led by the better

encouragement for labour. The Emigration Commissioners reported, in 1850, that though there had been a good harvest, and other matters had been on the whole encouraging to the settlers, the demand for farm-labourers was likely to be very limited 'if any,' while for ordinary or skilled labour, the resident population was reported to be 'quite sufficient.'"