

Harvey District Settled Ninety-eight Years, July 13, from Berwick-on-Tweed

Descendants of Men and Women Who Carved Homes Out of
Wilderness, Still Live in Progressive York County Com-
munity—Founders Walked There From Fredericton.

[By The Daily Gleaner's Own Correspondent]

Harvey, N. B., July 15.—Interesting data regarding the history and progress of this settlement, two years short of a hundred years old on Saturday, July 13, was brought to light recently in an account written by an old gentleman of the district and supplemented with other data gathered from historical reports.

Interesting Sidelights.

In a lengthy account of conditions in the locality at the time when it was first settled in 1837 and during the succeeding few years several interesting sidelights on conditions of the time were given. The first settlers walked from Fredericton on a lumber road for two days, crossing swampy land during the journey and carrying their few belongings with them. Cooking was done usually by the women-folk but often by the men. The first permanent dwelling built consisted of a "comfortable" house with a stone fireplace. All work of clearing land and of hewing out building materials from the forest had to be done by the settlers themselves, there being no preparatory work accomplished before their arrival. There were often hardships of a severe nature before the houses of the settlers were completed. One family was caught by the first snowstorm with no roof on their abode, and snow had to be melted from one corner of the floor in order that the mother with her young child might find a place to sit.

Food Supplies.

The main food of the settlers during the first weeks consisted of hard tack and coffee, which had been obtained on the vessel that brought them from their homes on Berwick-on-Tweed. Preserved foods were also brought from Fredericton. One of the main food-items after the settlers arrived at their homes was cornmeal. Later potatoes and buckwheat were grown.

Furniture.

Furniture was for the most part home-made. A table might consist of a stump sawn off. All the cooking was done on a fire made in the middle of the camp. It was not unusual at first to see houses with no door, but a piece of canvas hung over the door opening in its lieu. The houses, which were built of logs, were usually about 12 by 20 feet in size. The first homes were those of John Coburn, Thomas Piercy and John Carmichael. The first house on the road from Fredericton was owned by a Mr. Embleton.

First Children.

The first girl born in the new settlement was Mary Ann Thompson and the first boy was Thomas Harry Craig. There was no mill in Harvey and all the grist had to be taken to Fredericton, the trip being made often with wheel-barrow to convey the grain, there being no horses in the settlement. Oxen were also used. The buckwheat was pounded in a "knocker trough" and was sifted for pancakes. Bread was first made on griddles and was at first 4 inches thick. Bakers were obtained later, these being flat round pots of iron which were placed in the fireplace and covered with coals. Seed for spring planting was carried from Fredericton on the backs of the men, and during the first year or two it was not uncommon for the men to be so ill-provided with supplies that it was necessary to cook and eat the seed before it could be planted. The first school in the district was taught by a Mr. Thompson. The building was also used as a church, the elders being men many of whose posterity are at present living in the district. They were Mr. Thompson, Thomas Hubert, Thomas Piercy and Matthew Piercy.

First Settlers.

The ship "Cornellus" brought the first settlers from Berwick-on-Tweed, in the borderland between England and Scotland, and they consisted of the following men with their families: William Embleton, James Mowatt, William Messer, Thomas Hubert, William Grieves, John Coburn, David Casford, John Thompson, Robert Wilson, William Bell, Harry Craig, Thomas Mowatt, Alex. Hay, James Nesbitt,

Matthew Piercy, Mr. Montgomery, Thomas Kay, James Gow, George Davison, Thomas Piercy, John Scott, John Whitman, John Carmichael, John Nesbitt, Robert Tait, Thomas Brown, William Patterson, Thomas Wilson, William Robertson, George Nesbitt, John Nesbitt, Thomas Nesbitt, Robert Embleton, Robert Wilson, William Coburn, James Craig, James Nesbitt. The settlers landed in Fredericton on July 13. Born on the boat during the trip was Miss Peggy Casford.

Stock Raising.

At the present time the settlement at Harvey is much larger than that formed by the original settlers. The district has developed into one of the best agricultural areas in the Province. Land has been cleared and stock-raising has been entered into on an extensive scale, the breeding and raising of Jersey cattle being one of the main industries. The Harvey district during the past 10 or 12 years has built up for itself in connection with the Jersey cattle industry a reputation which extends throughout the Dominion, several of the farmers of the district being recognized as authorities on the subject of cattle raising.

In addition to cattle, swine, poultry and sheep are also raised in the district to a considerable extent, one of the hens of the district at the present time leading the Dominion over all breeds in the country-wide egg-laying contests.

Communications.

The district has advanced steadily in self-improvement and at present is well connected with other parts of the country. It is on a main trunk highway and railroad and has telephone and telegraph communications. There is also the strong possibility that before the hundredth anniversary of its settlement it will be connected with the New Brunswick Power Commission lines.

Surrounding District.

The village itself is the centre of a large farming area, including Manners-Sutton, Coburn, Tweedside, York Mills, Acton and Cork Settlement.

Cork Settlers.

Settlers in Cork were: Timothy Daly, John Russell, Jeremiah Coughlin, Timothy Daly Jr., Edward Connors, John Barry, John Driscoll, John Coughlin, John Donahue, Daniel Hurley, Michael Maloney, Miles O'Leary, George Winn, Miles O'Brien, Dennis Reardon, John Maloney, Daniel O'Brien, Owen Smith, James Gorman, Jeremiah Crowley, Michael Crowley, David Scanlin, Daniel Murphy, Daniel O'Donnell, James Scaley, Michael O'Brien, Michael Sullivan, Anth. Kennedy, R. Davis, James McManu.