

Background Paper – CLUSTER #1

To accompany interpretive binder

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Overall Fanshawe Pioneer Village Storyline

Fanshawe Pioneer Village tells the story of rural communities¹ in Middlesex County in the former townships of Westminster, London, West Nissouri, Lobo, Delaware and North Dorchester from 1820 to 1920. This chronological framework starts at the time of initial settlement within the Upper Thames River Watershed, follows the development of farms and the nearby crossroads, villages and towns, and ends during a period of migration to cities that brought dramatic change to rural communities.

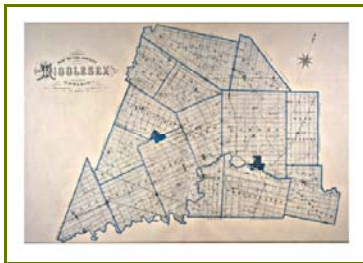


Figure 1
Middlesex County 1877

¹ Definition of community – A group of people living in the same area who work together for mutual or public benefit.



Interpretive Cluster #1

Fanshawe Settlement - 1820-1850 - Storyline

(Elgie Log Cabin, Elgie Garden, Colbert Log Barn, Hop Yard, Log School, Concession Road)

Cluster#1, Fanshawe Settlement 1820-1850, tells the story of the impact upon the land and aboriginal people of settlers who emigrated from Europe and other parts of North America to the London area in the first half of the 19th century.

Many settlers were well established in their places of origin but came to Upper Canada to improve the prospects of their families or to escape deteriorating social and economic conditions. Settlers often travelled in family groups and came out to join relatives already in Upper Canada. Farming in Upper Canada was hard and endless work for this first generation of settlers but people survived, in part, because of the support offered by family and friends. Communities of similar origin came together to build barns and to provide education for their children. At the same time, they worked with and were influenced by other communities of origin and aboriginal peoples living in the London area. The *choices* each individual and each community made has had an impact on the land and on subsequent generations living in the London area.

Theme 1 - Landscape Change

Waterways, climate, the quality of the soil, and other geographic features were critical to the opening for settlement of this part of central Upper Canada. Settlement by Euro Americans, dictated by strict settlement conditions that had to be met to receive government land grants, had a profound impact on the land and the environment. Settlement practices gradually transformed a forested landscape into an open countryside regimented by land surveys. At the same time, seeds brought by immigrants with them to Canada and planted in new gardens quickly naturalized, competing and overtaking native plants in the newly created meadows and clearings.

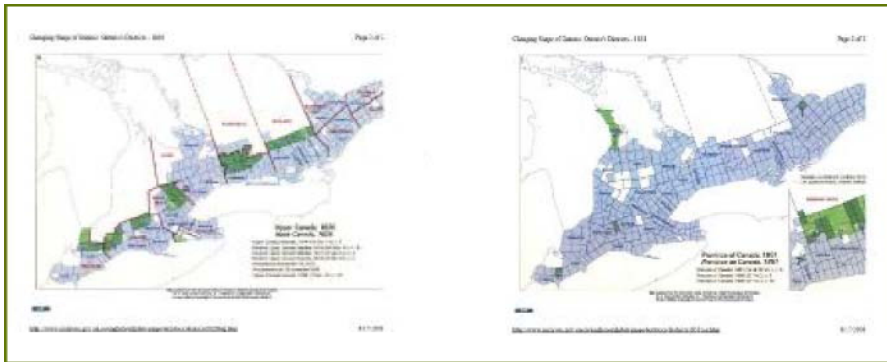


Figure 3
Upper Canada 1826

Figure 2
Canada West 1851



Theme 1 . The frontier experience



Figure 4
 A buttonwood (sycamore) tree approximately 18 feet in circumference, the largest kind of southern Canadian hardwood, near Chatham, Upper Canada, 1840. Watercolour by Philip John Bainbrige (1817-1881)
<http://www.canadianheritage.org/reproductions/23240>

Rosser writes of the original land in what is now London Township that:

The township is an almost level plain and fertility of its soil is excellent. The land is well drained by several tributaries of the Aux Sables and Sydenham rivers. It was originally covered with a dense forest of species of oak, maple, basswood, beech, hickory, walnut, ash, elm, cherry, poplar, and pine. Shrubs, many of them bearing edible fruit, grew in open spaces and along streams. Wildflowers carpeted the forest floors in great profusion in the spring. The little streams with their numerous beaver ponds teemed with fish. Indigenous animal life was plentiful, as were all native birds. (Rosser 1975)



Figure 5
 Oak Opening (Michigan Natural Features Inventory, 2004)

Oak openings, a fire-dependent savanna type dominated by oaks with or without a shrub layer (Michigan Natural Features Inventory 2004), were also noted by early settlers in the London District (Harris and Warkentin 1974).



Theme 1 . Land grants

Between 1810 and 1820 surveyors divided the land into lots in the former townships of Westminster, London, West Nissouri and Lobo, now Middlesex Centre and Thames Centre. For example, London Township comprised 96,000 acres. Using the “double front” system² of surveying popular 1818-1851 (Harris and Warkentin 1974) the township was divided into 6 concessions of which each concession comprised 8 blocks, each block equaled 4 - 200 acre lots. Settlers generally acquired ½ lots of 100 acres each. Each 100-acre ½ lot was 30 chains (1980 feet) wide at the road x 34 chains (2244 feet) deep.

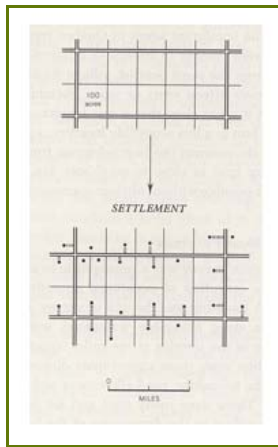


Figure 6
Double Front System (Harris and Warkentin 1974)

Many settlers in the London area acquired land through the auspices of Colonel Thomas Talbot. However land in Lobo Township could be acquired by direct petition to the Land Office in York (Lobo Township Heritage Group 1990). In order to permanently secure the land certain “settlement duties” had to be met. These duties included:

- within 3 years - build house of dimensions at least 16 feet x 20 feet and occupy it
- clear road allowance across the front of the lot
- clear and fence 5 acres
- cut large trees up to one chain length (66 feet) from road (Lobo Township Heritage Group 1990)

Clearing the land and road allowance became fundamentally important to the settler not only as a means to open land on which to grow crops and export them to market but also as a requirement of owning land.

² A "double front township" means a township where the usual practice in the original survey was to survey the township boundaries, the proof lines and base lines, if any, and the concession lines forming the front boundaries of the half lots and to establish the front corners of the half lots and divide the concessions in lots having regular dimensions of 30 chains in width and 66.67 chains in depth and make a road allowance 1 chain wide between every fifth lot and between each concession. Ontario, [Surveys Act](http://www.canlii.org/on/laws/regu/1990r.1029.4/20030205/whole.html), R.S.O. 1990, c. S.30 <http://www.canlii.org/on/laws/regu/1990r.1029.4/20030205/whole.html>



Theme 1 . Clearing the land

In the oak openings clearing could be as simple as girdling³ the trees, leaving them to die and rot, and then planting amongst them. In the thicker forest where there was a danger of these rotting trees falling on something or someone, settlers were forced to cut the trees down using axes, haul the logs away, and burn them. 2-3 acres per year could be cleared in this manner (Harris and Warkentin 1974). Logging bees like this one in Peterborough County in 1826 helped to speed at least one part of the process:

As soon as the ground was cool enough, I made a logging Bee at which I had five yokes of oxen and twenty men, four men to each team. The teamster selects a good place to commence a heap, generally against some large log which the cattle would be unable to move. They draw all the logs within a reasonable distance in front of the large log. The men with hand-spikes roll them, one upon the top of the other, until the heap is seven or eight feet high, and ten or twelve feet broad. All the chips, sticks, and rubbish are then picked up and thrown on the top of the heap. A team and four good men should log and pick an acre a day when the burn has been good.

My hive worked well, for we had five acres logged and set fire to the same evening. On a dark night, a hundred or two of these heaps all on fire at once have a very fine effect, and shed a broad glare of light for a considerable distance. In the month of July in the new settlements, the whole country at night appears lit by these fires. (Strickland 1970)

It was reported that smoke from the fires of clearing in West Nissouri and other parts of southwestern Ontario could be seen as far as Chicago (Leverty 2000). The ashes would be boiled down in a large kettle of up to 60-gallon capacity, resulting in pearl or pot-ash that could be sold as “black salts” for use in various industries.

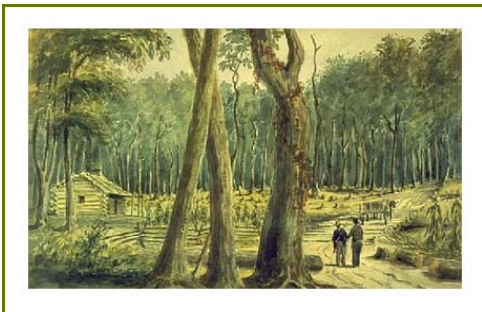


Figure 7
A pioneer farm clearing near Chatham, Upper Canada. c. 1838, with deciduous native hardwood

To fulfill settlement duties, roads also had to be cleared and maintained. Road frontage for a 100-acre ½ lot amounted to almost 2000 feet, 3/8 of a mile, or the length of six football fields. A well-maintained road was important for the economic and social development of a community

³ Girdle - cut ring of bark from tree: to remove a ring of bark and underlying tissue from a tree trunk in order to kill the tree. Encarta Online Encyclopedia.



although it allowed for more incursions into the natural landscape. Clergy and Crown Reserves set aside for later development were major impediments to the development of early townships and fuelled some of the anger that led to the Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada.

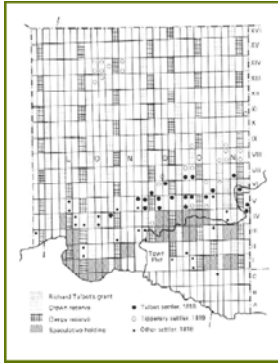


Figure 8
London Township 1818 showing location of Clergy and Crown Reserves.
 Elliott, B. S. (1988). Irish Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach.
 Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press: 128

Theme 1 . **Wheat staple economy**

“Cleared” land would have included stumps left to rot amongst which the seed was sown. Wheat, potatoes, and vegetables were likely planted in the first clearing. Cattle, hogs, and sheep browsed in the surrounding woods. Clearing progressed apace. At least 3 cleared acres were required to feed a family of four (Harris and Warkentin 1974).

Once cleared a wheat-fallow-wheat farm could be established. One field was planted in vegetables for the family and the others were in wheat or fallow, rotating yearly. The system was enlarged but not substantially changed as the clearing proceeded.

In many ways it was a good system. “Wheat-fallow-wheat” allowed for raising of marketable produce for sale or barter, it required little attention and gave the settler more time to clear, it held back the recolonization of the cleared land by species like hardwood suckers, chokecherries and raspberries, women and children could tend the vegetable garden, and stock could live in the woods. Little capital investment was required – just wheat seed, a few tools, oxen, and the labour of clearing.

Farmers imported seed they thought would produce good yields. Nathaniel Carrothers writing in 1839 from London, Ontario to his family in Ireland:

I want you to get me some gras seed one kind I want which I disremember the name of but it is the softest and lightest of all the grass kinds I remember us to have sown on the narrow strip of meadow below the kill the have it in many parts of the country I think Andrew Montgomery can easley get it for you only one pound of it I want let it be very Clean it is jenerly sown on bottoms so you cant mistake it; it produces very soft and light hay I want you to try the seed shops in eniskilen if the have got any of the Italian rye grass see and if the have get me a pound of it likewise it is sown and cultivated in england and scotland and far preferable to any other gras; gather me allso a pound of the common gras seed of your own stabel loft letting it be clean possible marking the name of each kind on the enclousur we have the timethay and



rye gras here the grow well put I don't like them as the don't produce any after groth ...
 (Houston and Smyth 1990)

However, most settlers following a wheat-fallow-wheat system paid little heed to "improving agriculture" ideas like manuring, rotation of replenishing crops, and more intensive farming. In an era when land was plentiful and cheap while labour was scarce and expensive, most settlers chose short-term gain over long-term planning and soil conservation.

Ideas of land use were framed for these early settlers by original experiences in their home countries. They practised an "ecological imperialism" (Wood 2000) that lead to changes in soil and climate still felt today.

Settler Practice	Impact
• cutting and rooting out trees	• soil erosion
• burning debris from clearing	• depletes quality of soil
• draining wetlands	• water loss
• driving off or killing wildlife	• loss of diversity
• introduction of non-native species	• loss of native species

Theme 2 . Becoming Canadian - Development of a "Canadian identity"

Political, economic, and social conditions in Europe and other parts of North America promoted immigration to Upper Canada and into what is now southwestern Ontario. Once in Canada 19th century Middlesex County residents displayed unique patterns of work, education and socialization that were frequently divided on the basis of class, religion, gender, or ethnicity.

Theme 2 . The North Tipperary Irish

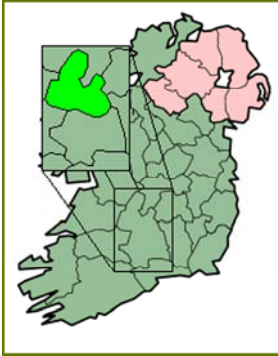
Emigrants from Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, other British North American Colonies and the United States all contributed to the development of Lobo (Lobo Township Heritage Group 1990), London (Gibb 2001), West Nissouri (Leverty 2000), and Westminster Townships.

In Cluster 1 – Fanshawe Settlement 1820-1850 we focus on immigrants from North Tipperary, Ireland, as a "case study" of how one group changed and adapted to what was to become Canada.

County Tipperary is a county in Ireland, situated in the province of Munster. North Tipperary is a part of this county. By 1600 all but 1/8 of Ireland had been stripped of its trees. In southwestern Ireland where Tipperary is located the mean winter temperatures are 41-44 o F., with some sheltered spots allowing for year-round growth. The traditional Irish field system consisted of an infield where vegetables were grown, an outfield of commercial crops like oats, potatoes, turnips, grasses, wheat, and barley, and a detached summer grazing ground for livestock (Mannion



1974). By the early 19th century, a more commercial approach was taking hold. Methods of “improving agriculture” were being introduced. Most farmers would have been familiar with methods of maintaining soil fertility like liming and draining (Mannion 1974)



Elliott writes:

North Tipperary in the early 19th century was an area of commercial agriculture and improving communications, with both large and small farms aggregated into the small estates of a numerous, resident, but economically precarious minor gentry... Culturally ... North Tipperary was not a traditional society. The Irish language was dead by 1820. Faction fighting in the region was viewed as barbarous both by Dublin Castle and by O’Connell’s Association ... The disturbances themselves were a reaction against the economic consequences of the nineteenth-century conjuncture of North Tipperary’s distinctive social and tenurial structure with an atypically high rate of population growth.” (Elliott 1988)

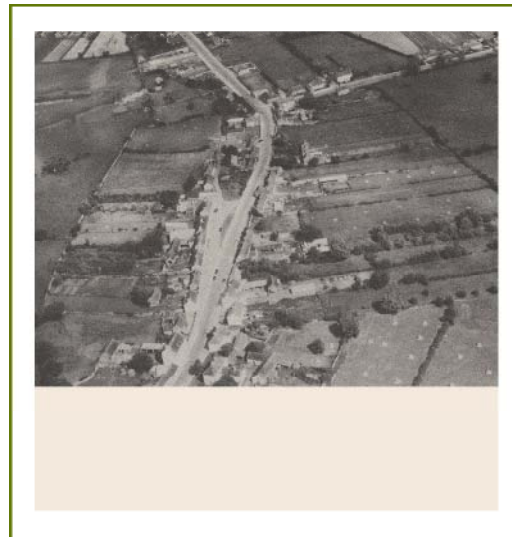
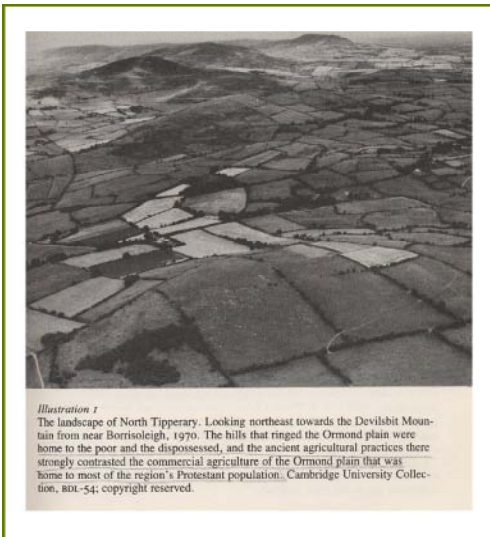


Figure 9
Town of Shinrone, County Offaly, 1963 from Elliott, B. S. (1988). *Irish Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach*. Kingston, McGill-Queen’s University Press. **Illustration 2**



Figure 10
North Tipperary from Elliott, B. S. (1988). Irish
Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach.
Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press:
Illustration 1

Many of the Protestant farmers in North Tipperary were descendants of English settlers who had been encouraged to emigrate to Ireland in Cromwell's time, only 150 years earlier. At the beginning of the 19th century these relatively new immigrants witnessed a kind of "perfect storm." With the end of the Napoleonic Wars agricultural prices fell and smaller land-holding gentry were forced to increase the size of their home farms, throwing small tenants off the land or to smaller holdings. Yet little industry had developed to take up the slack as it had in other areas. A population boom was underway, particularly amongst the Catholic population, leading to a greater demand for land and a proportionately smaller number of Protestants. Social disruption and disturbances increased. "Middling" farmers and tradesmen were squeezed by the Protestant gentry on one side and the Catholic labouring poor on the other (Elliott 1988).

It was from this group of "middling" farmers and tradesmen that came those who emigrated with Richard Talbot in 1818. They were followed by a "chain migration" of family and friends for thirty to forty years afterward (Elliott 1988). Thirty-eight families of neighbours and acquaintances of Richard Talbot, a small landholder in North Tipperary, decided to participate in his emigration scheme, funded in part by the British government. The emigrants were "substantial rural stock" representing the Protestant classes leaving the southern Irish counties. Half of the original group were farm people leaving small leaseholds while a dozen more were tradesmen like shoemakers, weavers, blacksmiths and carpenters (Houston and Smyth 1990). A very few were "gentry" or gentlemen.

Those who settled in London Township in 1818-19 were:

George Foster (gentleman);
John Geary (farmer);
William Geary (gentleman);
William Geary Jr. (farmer);
Charles Goulding (whitesmith⁴);
Folliott Gray (farmer);
John Gray (farmer);
Thomas Guest (farmer);
Joseph Hardy (saddler);
William Haskett (glazier and painter);
Thomas Howard (farmer);
Thomas Howay (farmer);

⁴ Whitesmith - a person who works with "white" or light-colored metals such as tin and pewter. While blacksmiths work mostly with hot metal, whitesmiths do the majority of their work on cold metal (although they might use a forge to shape their raw materials). Wikipedia
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitesmith>



Robert Keays (shoemaker);
 Benjamin Lewis (farmer);
 Francis Lewis (farmer);
 Joseph O'Brian (farmer)
 Robert Ralph (farmer);
 John Sifton (carpenter);
 Edward Allen Talbot (gentleman);
 John Talbot (gentleman);
 Richard Talbot (gentleman);
 John Turner (pensioner) (Rosser 1975)

Theme 2 . First Homes

Even with a small group of settlers, it is difficult to accurately depict day-to-day lives that were often unrecorded. However, Mannion (Mannion 1974) suggests that the material culture of any immigrant group is affected by:

- **Tradition**
 Traits transferred either at the time of migration or brought later from the homeland to the new settlement
- **Borrowing**
 Traits from neighbouring cultural groups in the new settlement area may be imitated or adapted
- **Invention**
 Traits are independently invented
- **Combination**
 Tradition, borrowing and invention combine to produce something new

We can make some educated guesses based on the material that is available on them and on settlers from similar backgrounds and in similar circumstances.

When the Richard Talbot settlers left Ireland farmhouses like these dotted the countryside:



Figure 12
 Farm houses with figures and carts outside. James Henry Brocas ca. 1790-1846. Reproduction rights owned by the National Library of Ireland



Figure 11
 Farmhouses & outbuildings beside a river. Samuel Frederick Brocas ca. 1792-1847. Reproduction rights owned by the National Library of Ireland.



The first “shanties,” built as temporary residences by the settlers, probably resembled small Irish cottages.



Figure 14
A thatched cottage with farm animals and figures at the foot of a mountain Brocas, James Henry ca. 1790-1846. Reproduction rights owned by National Library of Ireland



Figure 13
Shanty From Rosser, F. T. (1975). London Township Pioneers. Belleville, Ontario, Mika Publishing Company: 12

However, a more substantial log building like the Elgie Log House was more likely modeled on homes built by other settlers already in Canada.



Figure 15
Shanty from Harris, R. C. and J. Warkentin (1974). Canada Before Confederation: A Study in Historical Geography. New York, Oxford University Press: 120

Theme 2 . Interiors

The interior layout and furnishings of the home tend to be more traditional. Mannion illustrates how the interiors of the homes of Irish settlers in Peterborough and Miramichi resembled those of a cottage in Western Ireland

Interior finishings like hearths and chimneys were also likely influenced by old country traditions. But the broad Irish hearths with built-in benches flanking the fire were probably not feasible in the colder climate of Upper Canada, where heat loss would have been a concern.



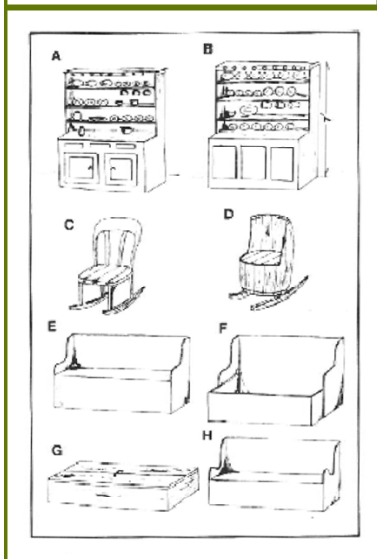
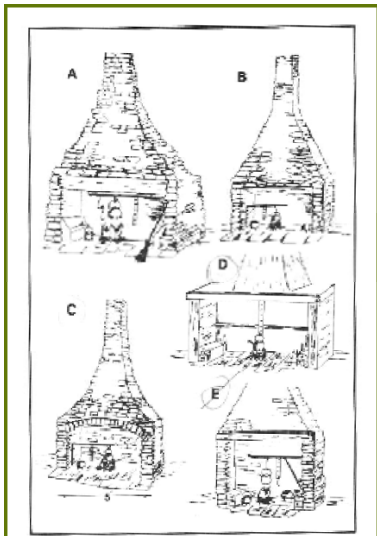


Figure 17 Hearths & chimneys in Canada & Ireland From Mannion, J. J. (1974). *Irish Settlements in Eastern Canada: A Study of Cultural Transfer and Adoption*. Toronto, University of Toronto Press. : 156

Figure 16 Furnishings From Mannion, J. J. (1974). *Irish Settlements in Eastern Canada: A Study of Cultural Transfer and Adoption*. Toronto, University of Toronto Press. : 154

Although the original Richard Talbot settlement group probably lost their goods and supplies in a shipwreck on Lake Erie (Rosser 1975), many settlers of the “middling” farm class who joined them later would have been able to bring goods with them from Ireland. Amongst these were cooking utensils including



- a 3-legged pot,
- a bake oven,
- an iron pan, and
- a kettle (Mannion 1974).

According to Mannion, most foods cooked by these early Irish immigrants were boiled or stewed foods like potatoes, cabbage, and bacon, making the 3-legged pot the key utensil. Thin oat cakes and potato bread were baked on the griddle. (Mannion 1974)

The main room in the typical Irish cottage was a kitchen/living room in which furniture lined the walls, leaving the centre area free. The kitchen table was normally placed beneath the window. A large wooden dresser with bottom drawers or cupboard and open shelving on top was the key piece of furniture.

The North Tipperary Irish, although probably the largest, were just one of many groups that settled in London, West Nissouri, Westminster, and Lobo Townships. Their lots were interspersed with those of neighbours from other British North American colonies, the United States, Britain, and Europe. Concerns about which they were passionate in Ireland like religion and politics although still strong may have been diluted by the mix of people within which they found themselves.

Theme 2 . Social gatherings

This mixing of people from different cultures and countries, that we consider to be the 'Canadian mosaic,' would have been encouraged *informally* through social gatherings for work and pleasure. In a population that was still relatively dispersed settlers had to depend for socializing on who was there. Occasions like work bees, Saturday night at the tavern, and even religious "revival" meetings brought people together. As the concessions filled and roads were improved more opportunities to socialize were made available – pea-shelling and quilting bees, get-togethers with dancing, weddings, funerals, and so on. (Harris and Warkentin 1974; Leverty 2000)

Theme 2 . Schooling

Formally, schools in 19th century Upper Canada were seen as ways of creating this national identity. (Katz and Mattingly 1975) Change began in the early 1800s when the British government saw education as a tool to promote cultural identification with Protestantism, the English language and British customs. As a result of the 1837 rebellions, Ontario adopted anti-American and anti- Republican views and opposed hiring American teachers or using textbooks from the United States. There were American publications throughout the province and allegations of the insidious political threat posed by these American texts in the schools were common after the rebellion activity of the late 1830s.





Figure 18 Page from Irish National Reader

In response, educators in Upper Canada adopted aspects of Irish schools, most importantly Irish readers, which had been conveniently written for both a Protestant and Catholic population. Within a month of his official appointment in 1844, Superintendent Dr. Rev. Egerton Ryerson encouraged the publishing of Irish readers for Canadian use. Adopting these new texts was voluntary, but within a year nearly half of the common schools in Upper Canada adopted the Irish readers. (Houston and Prentice 1988)

The Irish National Readers featured Bible stories, animal stories, and poems. Bible stories included graduated lessons on scripture history with titles such as *Adam and Eve* and *The History of Joseph*. Animal stories included descriptions of stags, bears, camels, cats, cuckoos, foxes and hens. These *Readers* were also written at a time of high infant mortality and widespread disease and seem morbidly preoccupied with death and the hereafter. The *Irish National Readers*, prepared for Irish children, were soon criticized for their lack of relevance to schoolchildren outside Britain. Many pages were taken up with descriptions and woodcut illustrations of Irish scenes, the flora and fauna of the British Isles and English kings and warfare. The Irish readers had a profound impact on education as the school-books were the central figure of the common school; especially in rural areas, available school-books dictated the curriculum. As of 1 January 1847, all foreign (i.e. American) textbooks were prohibited

Theme 3 . Farms, Farmers and Farming

Middlesex County was built on a foundation of agriculture. In the first half of the 19th century agriculture developed from a means to feed one's self and family to an indispensable industry. With this development came the need for a coherent system for marketing farm surpluses. This need to get farm produce to consumers drove the evolution of settlement through roads and the creation of a built environment.

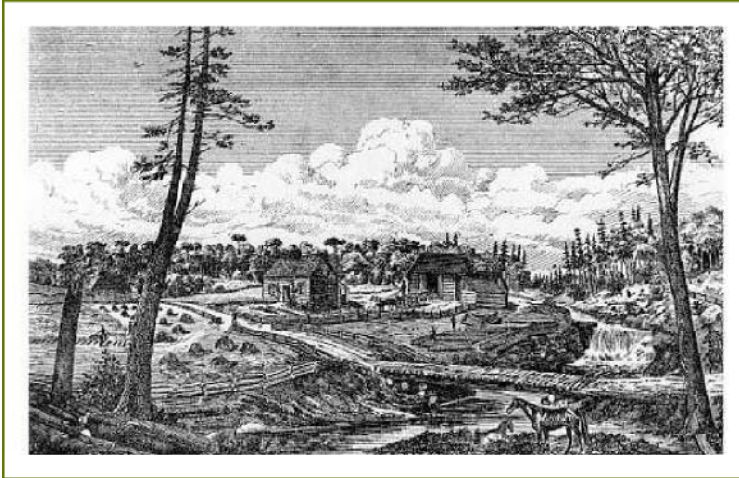
Theme 3 . 1840's Farm at Fanshawe Pioneer Village by Jeremy Robson



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Our 1840 farmstead depicts an established farm first settled about 1820 in London Township. The farm is proved up on, all settlement duties done and is legally owned by the family.

There are from 10 to 20 acres cleared out of the 100-acre farm. The smaller stumps have rotted to the point that they have been removed, but the big stumps remain. Clearing will continue for many years.



The farmstead is located near the cleared road allowance, and consists of a house with a work yard around it, a barn and outbuildings with a work yard in front of the barn, and a well.

The farmstead is fenced to keep wild animals, and livestock *out*, rather than to keep livestock in, as pigs and cattle were allowed to roam free. This is well documented in the London township council meetings. A new registry of livestock brands, tells who owns what animals when they were rounded up in the fall, and the spring.

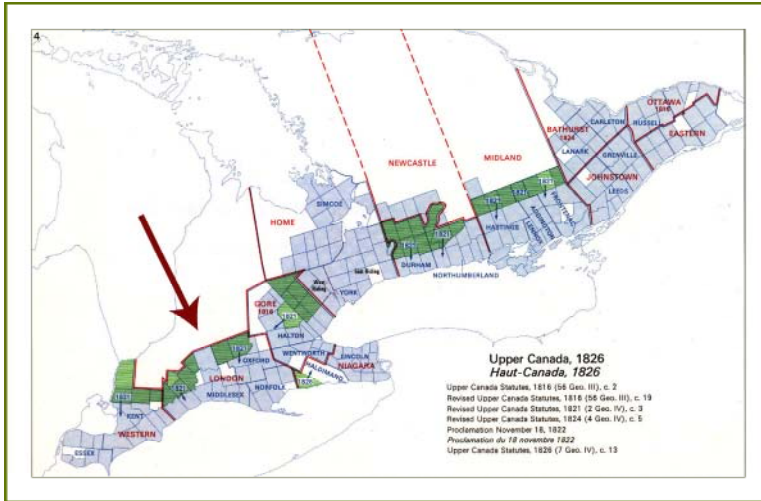
In the London Township area hops, for beer production, was an early cash crop.

Production soon exceeded demand from the local breweries. This led to the formation of the London and West Missouri Hop Growers Association, which was the first co-operative to sell the members hops for the best price. Hop yards where up to about 2 acres, and as little as $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre in size. An example of this is being set up behind the main garden.

Livestock includes a couple of grade cows, at least one team of oxen, and by the 1840's a team of horses. For wool there are a few sheep, kept around the barn, and a bunch of semi-wild pigs left to forage in the bush. Poultry is a small flock of chickens, and likely a few geese, or ducks, and possibly a few turkeys. The horses, sheep and poultry would be kept around the barn in fear of wild animals. The pigs and cattle would be left to fend for themselves in the bush.

Crops grown consist of wheat, oats, corn, and potatoes, with some barley grown for sale for beer. Hay is natural grasses harvested for feed. The main tillage tool is an A-frame harrow, as it works around the stumps, and does not get caught up on the roots. Seeding is done using a broadcast tray, and the seed is sown by hand, and then harrowed in after. Corn and potatoes are planted in hills made by hoeing up dirt into a pile.





<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/maps/textdocs/districts1826big.htm>

A year later in 1827, a Hamilton-area paper, *The Gore Gazette*, described the new community:

A considerable tract of land has been cleared – roads laid out – bridges built – and between 20 and 30 buildings, about half of Frame, have been erected – including a temporary Jail and Court House – a very respectable tavern – a Blacksmith’s Shop, a Brewery (erecting) – one or two small Merchants’ Shops and some very good Dwelling Houses. The site is a very handsome one, at the Fork of the Thames, on an elevated piece of table land, commanding an extensive view of Forests and cultivated Farms on the opposite banks of the Rive, the South & the west & thro’ a fine avenue of trees on Dundas street, which has been opened from the Town for several miles. ... The Town is favourably situated and but for the state of the roads in it neighbourhood, which are at this time, scarcely passable, might soon become a place of some importance. (Miller 1992)

At about the same time, construction began on the London District Courthouse and Gaol.



The Gaol and Courthouse, London, Canada West, (c. 1841) Museum London

<http://www.museumlondon.ca/Historical/Itinerant/dartnel1.html>

Although many District officials were reluctant to leave Vittoria, the original district capital located on Lake Erie, John Harris, the district treasurer since 1821, quickly obtained land in London and in 1834 built the oldest part of the still standing "Eldon House" (Armstrong 1986)



Eldon House c. 1860 (Armstrong 1986)

John Balkwill opened his "London Brewery" in 1828 at the southwest corner of Richmond and Horton Streets. In 1847 the brewery passed to the partnership of Eccles and Labatt and was owned fully by Labatt by 1854.

Theme 4 . The Rebellion of 1837

In early December 1837 the peaceful village was suddenly disrupted when rebellion, or rather two disorganized rebellions, struck Upper Canada. In Toronto (as York had been named again in 1834) and its northern hinterland, William Lyon Mackenzie led an abortive uprising which has often been seen as the only outbreak; in the Southwestern Peninsula, however, Dr. Charles Duncombe of St. Thomas led another, equally unsuccessful uprising. London was fortunate, for despite the fact that it was the district town, the rebellion's major rallyings and skirmishes took place around it, largely at Sparta near St. Thomas and in modern Brant County. ... London was completely taken by surprise. With the incredibly bad communications rumours were rampant; no one knew what was happening. ... Allan Napier MacNab of Hamilton, the builder of Dundurn Castle, marched west with the militia and snuffed out the western uprising with little difficulty. Many of the rebels were jailed at London, but none were hanged for their part in the uprising. (Armstrong 1986)

Again, in 1838, a large group of exiled Canadians and Americans attacked Windsor. Forty-four of these invaders were taken prisoner to the London gaol, six were sentenced to be hanged with others exiled to Tasmania. In the months that followed, rebellion supporters, and those who were believed to have supported the rebels, left the area (Armstrong 1986).

At least partially in response to the uprisings, in 1838 London became a garrison town for the British army. This led to many changes in the community. Currency became sterling rather than



dollars. There was a growth in services for the soldiers, including more inns and whorehouses. And for the officers, more sports and theatre were offered. (Miller 1992)



Figure 20
Ball at London Barracks from Alexander Sketchbook, 1843. Reproduced in Armstrong, F. (1986). The Forest City: An Illustrated History of London, Canada. London

In 1840 London was officially incorporated as a town. By 1845 there were planked or macadamized⁵ roads to the east, west, and south, sufficient to allow for a daily stagecoach. There were government offices for district administration along with 4 banks, almost 40 retail shops, and 18 taverns. Commercial enterprises included a grist mill, a saw mill, 2 foundries, 3 tanneries, 4 breweries, 2 distilleries, a carding machine and cloth factory, a carriage makers, 5 wagon makers and 15 blacksmiths. (Wood 2000)

⁵ **Macadam** is a type of road construction pioneered by the Scotsman John Loudon McAdam in around 1820. ... He used 2-inch broken stones in a layer 6-10 inches deep and depended on the road traffic to pack it into a dense mass, although for quicker compacting, a cast-iron roller could be used. This basic method of construction is sometimes known as water-bound macadam. Although this method required a great deal of manual labour, it resulted in a strong and free-draining pavement. Roads constructed in this manner were described as "macadamised". Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macadamize> Accessed 12/4/08





Left: Lady Alexandra's View (1842)

Right: London, Canada West (1849) Museum London

<http://www.museumlondon.ca/Historical/Itinerant/halwell2.html>

Districts were relatively isolated from one another at this time and, as the district capital, London was engrossed in serving its hinterland – the surrounding townships. Local farmers grew able to produce crops and livestock for sale, receiving money in return that allowed them to purchase goods and new technology. As demand for goods and technology increased, it became cheaper to manufacture these products nearby. (Harris and Warkentin 1974).

Three tiers of urban centres developed (Wood 2000) p. 7:

- Major – port, centre of government
- Regional – tributary to major centre
- Small – some services, no relationship to regional or major centres

Small centers were the most precarious. They served the needs of the farm community by providing services by which the farmer could export local agricultural goods as well as providing for sale more exotic goods that could not be produced locally. A small urban centre could serve a community within a radius of 4 ½ miles – the maximum distance a farmer with horse and wagon could travel to deliver a load and return in one day (Wood 2000) p. 148. A group of small centres were defined by their nearest principal town, in this case, London.

The growth of small urban centres was largely dependent on road improvements and the presence of a post office. A post office was widely considered to be a mark of civilization and provided a strong reason for the farm family to come into the centre in which it was placed to collect their mail (Wood 2000) p. 56. The 1840s marked the zenith of the road system in early Ontario with many, well-maintained roads and frequent stagecoaches. The development of railways in the 1840s and 1850s stanchied this development and dealt a blow to small centres with road but not rail access.

At the same time, township-based governance, an inherently more democratic process based on local elections, was superseded by a more centralized form of government through the District Councils Act in 1841 (Wood 2000) p. 5



Theme 5 - In the context of a changing world

Many first generation immigrants, both farmers and villagers, were technologically sophisticated people familiar with the rapid change happening worldwide. Through the postal system, newspapers, monthly magazines, and improved transportation, they were aware of innovation in science, literature, and art as well as new technology like railways, canals, and the telegraph. This new technology connected residents to and drew them into the larger world, both mentally and physically.

Key dates:

- **1820-1850 Post Napoleonic Wars – Recessions**
- **1840s – several harvests fail across Europe – Great Irish Famine 1845-1849**
- **Queen Victoria = 1837-1901**
- **1840**
 - uniform penny postage
 - Wilkes circumnavigates Antarctica
 - New Zealand declared British colony
 - First transatlantic passenger cruise of Cunard Line 700-ton wooden steamship “RMS Britannia” – Liverpool to Halifax
 - Wm. Henry Harrison defeats Van Buren to become President USA

- **Decade of 1840s – progress and resolution in Canada (Monet 1971)**
 - 1837 – Durham Report
 - 1841 – churchgoers in Canada West = 22% Anglican; 20% Presbyterian; 17% Methodist; 14% Roman Catholic
 - 1841 – School Act – enables Province of Canada to develop state-supported education
 - Universities – Victoria College, Cobourg (1841); Queen’s University (1841); King’s College [becomes U. of Toronto] (1842)
 - 1841 – Toronto Temperance Society – over 1000 members
 - Governors-General = Sir Charles Bagot (1842); Lord Elgin (1847)
 - 1847 – Typhus outbreak
 - 1848 – Reformers sweep election
 - 1849 – Cholera outbreak
 - 1847 on – World trade depression



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