

Chapter 5 Conclusion

The study of Emily Township settlement shows that, between 1820 and 1851, there were three distinct periods of land acquisition and settlement. Between 1820 and 1825, large amounts of land were allocated to hundreds of would-be settlers, of whom fewer than one-hundred actually settled. The second stage in Emily's settlement began in late 1825, with the arrival of the Peter Robinson Irish, and appeared to quickly alter the stagnant settlement of 1825. A third phase of settlement, beginning in the late 1820's, witnessed the settling of the northern tiers of the township, and a fairly steady flow of colonists, who occupied Crown lands and other vacant lots throughout the township. Beginning in this third period, many descendants of first-generation settlers also struck out on their own, on additional lots or inheriting a section of the family farm.

The data analysis showed that, in general, persistent settlers from either the 1820 to 1825 core group, or the 1820 to 1828 period, were more successful in frontier agriculture than later arrivals. The relationships between time settled and cleared land, wheat production, and live-stock held, show the importance of experience in nineteenth-century agriculture. Other factors which had significant relationships with land clearance included family size, farm size, oxen, and soil type. Further, until at least 1841, the Robinson settlers had significantly less success in creating their farms, compared with their Protestant neighbors. Accessibility to transportation routes and

grist-mills appears to have been of particular importance in the success of early Emily Township farmers.

In conclusion, it would appear that this paper is but a starting point in the analysis of settlement patterns and early Upper Canadian agriculture at the township level. While the study has tended to focus on the persistent settler and his success in creating a farm out of wilderness, it is evident that there were many factors, both human and environmental, that were important in frontier settlement processes.

This study of Emily Township has taken a few glances at individual success. The glowing tribute of an anonymous writer in the New Dominion Monthly (1872), may best sum up the achievements of the persistent early settlers of Emily Township.

' In becoming land-owners, the thousands in Canada who hold in fee simple the farms they cultivate have achieved a great triumph.'