

THE FRENCH AND THE IRISH

John O'Farrell, a Quebec lawyer, said in 1872: "It is not generally known that long before Wolfe scaled the heights of Abraham, a large Irish settlement had been established in Canada. They intermarried with the French and the Franco-Irish element was still further increased by the absorption of the Irish Brigade, many of whom were rewarded with grants of farms in Lower Canada."

O'Farrell pointed out that of the 2,500 families that made up the population of Lower Canada in 1700, a hundred were shown by parish registers to have been born in Ireland. "French priests often gallicized the spelling of Irish names so that Thimote Sylvain was actually the son of Cornelius and Elizabeth O'Sullivan, both citizens of Cork."



Photo: Public Archives Canada PA 10254.

GERMANS

The first 3,000 Germans to settle in Canada arrived in Halifax in 1750. Three years later 1500 of them moved down the coast to Lunenburg. After the American Revolution a good many German speakers moved north from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including a group of "Pennsylvania Dutch" Mennonites who settled in Waterloo County.



Photo: Public Archives Canada C 45079.

THE BARR COLONY

The Rev. I.M. Barr visited Canada in 1902, was impressed with its possibilities and went back to England to raise a band of immigrants. He was persuasive and successful and his colonists arrived in 1903 and settled first in 500 tents beside the railroad tracks in Saskatoon. Barr, a poor administrator, was soon replaced by the Rev. G.E. Lloyd, who got the settlers in place, strung out along a 200-mile road leading to what eventually became the town of Lloydminster. Those who stuck it out became prosperous farmers and the Rev. Mr. Lloyd became the first Bishop of Saskatchewan.



Photo: Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

THE MÉTIS

When New France was new, it tried to limit the number of young men who could run through the woods. It issued congés—licenses—but the young men often went trading without them. By 1700 they were ranging to the Red River, and many did not bother to come back. They hunted buffaloes, married Indian women and founded the New Nation, the Métis. Scottish and English traders adopted their ways and their children became Métis too. Today tens of thousands of their descendants live throughout western Canada.



Photo: Public Archives Canada PA 122562.



Photo: Provincial Archives of Manitoba

SHOVELLING OUT

"One of the most controversial clearances took place from the estates of Lord Palmerston and Sir Robert Gore Booth in County Sligo . . . the emigration agent at St. John accused Gore Booth of shovelling out the old and infirm and asserted that Lord Palmerston's emigrants wore the foulest rags and the children appeared stark naked. . . ."

Helen I. Cowan, *British Emigration to British North America, the First Hundred Years.*



Photo: Public Archives Canada PA 38667.

THE TRAIN WEST

" . . . The coaches have a corridor through them and are divided into sections to contain four passengers each. Above the seats is a tea tray affair, which can be closed up into the roof during the day or used for baggage. At night the baggage is stowed away under the seats, that are converted into a bed or two, while the tea tray becomes a bunk into which two travellers can clamber up."

Noel Copping