



L'Histoire de GORE

I – mai 2012

Pétition des premiers colons de Gore

Pour Son Excellence George Comte de Dalhousie, KGC, le capitaine Général et Gouverneur en chef des provinces du Bas-Canada, du Haut-Canada, & c. & c. La pétition des soussignés citoyens d'Irlande.

Plus Humble Éminence,

Les pétitionnaires de Votre Excellence émigrés d'Irlande dans le but de s'installer, eux-mêmes et leurs familles, dans une certaine partie des colonies américaines de Sa Majesté, et sur leur débarquement à Québec, après les recherches nécessaires, ont décidé de procéder au canton de Godmanchester, Hinchinbrooke ou Hemingsford. Au moment de leur application auprès de l'agent pour ces cantons, ils ont été avisés que toutes les terres avaient été allouées. Ensuite, les pétitionnaires ont procédé au canton de Wentworth, car ils ont appris qu'il y avait des terrains à lotir; mais ils étaient là à nouveau déçus, les terrains n'avaient pas été arpentés.

Ainsi, mon seigneur, après avoir erré jusqu'à ce que leurs ressources fussent épuisées, et leurs familles dépassées par l'hiver, il ne leur restait aucune possibilité. Ils ont dû ériger des baraques immédiatement pour se protéger des rigueurs climatiques, et de périr, ce qu'ils ont fait sur un « gore » de terre domaniale, à l'est du canton de Wentworth, et à l'arrière de la Seigneurie d'Argenteuil. Pétitionnaires de Votre Excellence, peuvent produire des témoignages irrécusables de loyauté et de bonne moralité, de membres du clergé de l'Église d'Angleterre, et de capitaines de milice sous les ordres desquels ils ont servi. Par conséquent, ils implorent très humblement que Votre Excellence saura gracieusement leur permettre de rester sans danger sur ledit terrain, jusqu'à ce que, à une époque future, il pourra être arpenté et loti.

Ceci est la volonté des pétitionnaires de Votre Excellence ainsi que le devoir de prier.

James Stevenson	John Johnson
George Stevenson	Rob ^t McMahon
James Stevenson	Sam ^l Campbell
John Stevenson	Mich ^l [Hawkins?]
William Stevenson	John Campbell
Rob ^t Stevenson	Francis Davis
Rob ^t Smyth	Alex ^r Cochrane
James Campbell	Andrew Timmins
James Campbell	Dan ^l Timmins
John Davis	Hugh Timmins
Rob ^t Davis	Andrew Timmins
James [Kelso?]	John Timmins
Thomas Smyth	Arthur Davis Sen ^r
John [Kelso?]	Arthur Davis Jun ^r
Noble Johnson	Griffith Morrison
Adam Johnson	Joseph McMahon
Arthur [Kelso?]	

Toute réponse que Votre Excellence daignera gracieusement accorder, peut être dirigée à James Stevenson, Bureau de Poste St-André, Argenteuil.

Recensement de 1825

N° Feuillet	Nom	Nb.de personnes
1281	Robert Mc [M?]ahan	1
	Joseph Mc [M?]ahan	3
	John Campbell	1
	Alexr [Calan?]	6
	Wm Christie	1
	Wm Wright	5
	James Stevenson	7
	Wm John Christie	
	Widow McDonald	7
	Robert Smith	7
	Thomas Smith	3
	Thomas Morrow	6
	Richard Evans	5
	Wm Evans	3
	John McDonald	3
	Wm Boyd	8
	Andrew Temmons	7
1282	Wm Henderson	7
	Wm McManus	1
	Robert Morrison	4
	Robert ? Mc [onnel]	5
	? McCallum	7
	Archd McArthar	3



Les gens se demandent souvent l'origine du nom de Gore. En retraçant des documents relatifs à l'histoire du canton, nous avons découvert ce qui suit.

En juillet 1824, Joseph Bouchette, arpenteur-général du Bas-Canada, a entrepris un voyage officiel des nouveaux établissements du Québec, incluant ceux des cantons au nord de la rivière Ottawa. Son périple fut long, mais finalement, à la fin du mois d'août, il s'est rendu de Lachute à Chatham et Wentworth. Par la suite, à pied et en canot, il se dirigea vers les « établissements d'émigrants sur une pièce irrégulière à l'arrière d'Argenteuil... » Il est arrivé à ce qu'il a appelé un « beau » lac, où plusieurs bûcherons avaient érigé des campements temporaires. Bouchette nota que la « terre sur cette étendue irrégulière (en anglais « gore ») disponible est généralement convenable pour la culture... »

Ceci semble être la première utilisation du mot « gore » pour décrire la région. Bouchette a utilisé le terme en tant que référence d'arpenteur – dans ce contexte le mot « gore » fait référence à une bande de terre, un terrain irrégulier ou une petite étendue de terre située entre de plus grandes divisions. Le « gore » qu'il décrivait était coincé entre la Seigneurie d'Argenteuil et Deux-Montagnes au sud et à l'est, et le canton de Chatham et Wentworth, à l'ouest.

Deux ans après le voyage de Bouchette, un groupe d'immigrants irlandais a utilisé de nouveau le mot « gore » pour décrire l'endroit où ils se sont installés. Dans une pétition adressée au Gouverneur-Général des Canadas en 1826, ils ont raconté les épreuves qu'ils ont vécues afin de se rendre à cet endroit.

Après un voyage long et ardu et, l'hiver approchant, ils ont érigé des habitations de fortune « sur un terrain gouvernemental irrégulier («gore»), à l'est du canton de Wentworth, et à l'arrière de la Seigneurie d'Argenteuil ». Ils ont demandé le droit d'y rester jusqu'à ce que le terrain soit arpenté et prêt à être loti. Quelques 33 hommes ont signé la pétition.

Tôt en 1829, 22 lots sur les quatre premiers rangs furent arpentés et en 1832, le travail pour délimiter le restant des lots était accompli. Ces lots étaient, en fait, déjà occupés par quelques uns des colons qui avaient signé la pétition en 1826 ou par des nouveaux immigrants. En janvier 1832, Thomas Barron, agent des terres, a envoyé une « Pétition des colons sur la Terre Domaniale appelée Gore, à l'arrière de la Seigneurie d'Argenteuil dans le comté de Deux-Montagnes, qui se sont acquittés de leurs obligations de colonisation, et prient que les lettres patentes puissent étre émises pour leurs lots. » Un total de 71 noms sont énumérés sur la pétition. Certains hommes et leurs familles vivaient dans le secteur depuis six ans. Avec la pétition de Thomas Barron et le rapport topographique de Joseph Bouchette – les deux datent de 1832, le nom Gore était presque officiel.

De temps en temps, une référence apparaît indiquant que le nom de Gore fait référence à Sir Francis Gore, le lieutenant-gouverneur du Haut-Canada, 1806-1811. Ceci est une erreur. La preuve documentaire démontre que Gore a été nommé ainsi pour sa forme et son emplacement.

LJ & LJM

Colonies sur le « Gore » de terre à l'arrière d'Argenteuil

Après avoir passé la nuit sous le toit d'Archibald McArthur, où je n'ai connu aucun degré d'hospitalité ou de confort, je me rendis à Wentworth, et de là, je suis passé chez les colons émigrants de cette portion de terre à l'arrière d'Argenteuil, principalement sise sur les bords d'un beau lac, approximativement un mile de longueur et un quart de mile de largeur, que j'ai traversé, longitudinalement, en canot. Les terres disponibles à cet endroit sont généralement convenables pour la culture, consistant en bon et mauvais sol.

Les habitations le long du lac semblent être plutôt des abris temporaires de commerçants de bois que des logis permanents d'agriculteurs, donnant à l'ensemble plutôt l'aspect d'une suite de chantiers, qu'une colonie d'agriculteurs. En effet, le droit d'occupation de leurs terres est si précaire (aucun de ces individus n'étant établis sur des assises juridiques,) qu'ils étaient peut-être réticents à afficher leurs biens craignant la confiscation par la suite. Un arpentage de ces terres en friche me semble une nécessité indispensable, et la situation particulière de ces gens, ou au moins de la majorité d'entre eux, requiert une mesure d'indulgence et d'encouragement de la part du Gouvernement Colonial de Sa Majesté. En ce qui concerne le nombre d'habitants et l'état des améliorations sur cette partie des terres non arpentées de la Couronne, je demande la permission de se référer à la Déclaration n° 12. De cet endroit, je revins sur mes pas vers Chatham....

Notes and références

Publié dans l'Express de Gore, mai 2012, Vol. 02 - N° 05

Cet article a été recherché, compilé et écrit par Louise Johnston et Luc J. Matter. Vous pouvez les contacter à louise.johnston@mail.mcgill.ca ou 450-562-2594 et lucmatteria@yahoo.ca ou 450-562-8093.

Cet article se concentre sur la désignation et les premières colonies du Gore. Le prochain article portera sur les futures colonies et le développement du canton. Nous inclurons le rapport topographique de Joseph Bouchette de 1832 et encore plus.

Reproductions:

Joseph Bouchette, *General report of an official tour through the new settlements of the province of Lower-Canada [microform]: performed in the summer of 1824, in obedience to the commands and instructions of His Excellency George, Earl of Dalhousie, G.C.B., captain general and governor in chief of British North-America, &c. &c. &c.* Quebec: Printed by Thomas Cary & Co. Free-Masons' Hall, 1825, Page 75. (Online source: <http://archive.org/>)

Petition to Earl of Dalhousie from settlers, 1826. National Archives of Canada, Lower Canada Land Petitions, RG1 L3L, pages 89677-78. (Online sources: Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca> and Eileen's Genealogical Gateway, <http://www3.telus.net/public/mcelroye/webpages/index.html>)

Census of 1825. National Archives of Canada microfilm #C-718, 1825 Census of Lower Canada [Quebec], County of York, Gore between Chatham and Argenteuil, sheets 1281-1282. (On-line source: Eileen's Genealogical Gateway, <http://www3.telus.net/public/mcelroye/webpages/index.html>)

Références:

Petition of the settlers on the Crown Land called the Gore, in rear of the seigniory of Argenteuil in the county of Two Mountains, who have performed their settling duties, and pray that letters patent may [be issued] for their lots. Lower Canada Land Papers, RG 1 L3L, Barron, Thomas, 1832-1840, Vol. 114, pages 56111-56114. (Online source: Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>)

Joseph Bouchette, *A Topographical Dictionary of Lower Canada, 1832.* London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green and Longman, page 76. (Online source: <http://archive.org/>)



The Story of GORE

I – May 2012

Petition of Early Gore Settlers

To His Excellency George Earl of Dalhousie, K.G.C.,
captain General and Governor in chief of the provinces of
Lower Canada, Upper Canada, &c. &c. The petition of the
undersigned citizens of Ireland.

Most humbly sheweth,

That your Excellency's petitioners emigrated from Ireland,
for the purpose of settling themselves and families, in
some part of His Majesty's American colonies, and on
their landing at Quebec and making the requisite
enquiries, were decided to proceed to the Township of
Godmanchester, Hinchinbrooke or Hemingsford. On their
making application to the agent for these townships, they
were informed the land was all allotted. Petitioners then
proceeded to the Township of Wentworth, which they were
informed was then lotting out; but there they were again
disappointed, in consequence of the land not being
surveyed.

Thus, my lord, having wandered about until their
resources were exhausted, and their families overtaken by
the winter, they had no prospect remaining, but that of
immediately erecting shanties to protect them from the
inclemency of the weather, and perishing, which they did
on a gore of Government land, east of the Township of
Wentworth, and in the rear of the Seigneurie of Argenteuil.
Your Excellency's petitioners, can each produce
unexceptionable testimonies of loyalty and good
character, from clergymen of the Church of England, and
of captains of yeomanry under whom they served. They
therefore most humbly implore that your Excellency will be
graciously pleased to suffer them to remain unmolested on
the said land, till at some future period, it may be surveyed
and lotted out.

This your Excellency's petitioners will as in duty bound
ever pray.

James Stevenson	John Johnson
George Stevenson	Rob ^t McMahon
James Stevenson	Sam ^l Campbell
John Stevenson	Mich ^l [Hawkins?]
William Stevenson	John Campbell
Rob ^t Stevenson	Francis Davis
Rob ^t Smyth	Alex ^r Cochrane
James Campbell	Andrew Timmins
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Thomas Smyth	Arthur Davis Sen ^r
John [Kelso?]	Arthur Davis Jun ^r
Noble Johnson	Griffith Morrison
Adam Johnson	Joseph McMahon
Arthur [Kelso?]	

Any answer your Excellency may be graciously pleased to
grant can be directed to James Stevenson, Post Office
St. Andrews, Argenteuil.

Census of 1825

Sheet N°	Name	N° of persons
1281	Robert Mc [M?]ahan	1
	Joseph Mc [M?]ahan	3
	John Campbell	1
	Alexr [Calan?]	6
	Wm Christie	1
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1282	Wm Henderson	7
	Wm McManus	1
	Robert Morrison	4
	Robert ? Mc [onnel]	5
	? McCallum	7
	Archd McArthar	3

89677
To the Hon^{ble} Secy of the Interior, U.S. Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.
The petition of the undersigned citizens of
Ireland
Sheweth
That your Excellency's
petitioners emigrated from Ireland, for the purpose of settling
themselves and families, in some part of His Majesty's American
colonies, and on their landing at Quebec and making
the requisite enquiries, were decided to proceed to the Township of
Godmanchester, Hinchinbrooke or Hemingsford. On their
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unmolested on the said land, till at some future period, it may be
surveyed and lotted out.

The Naming of the Gore

People often wonder how the Gore got its name. In tracing documents relating to the history of the township, we have discovered the following.

In July of 1824 Joseph Bouchette, surveyor-general of Lower Canada, began an official tour of new settlements in Quebec including those in townships north of the Ottawa River. The tour took him a great distance, but finally in late August he made his way from Lachute up to Chatham and Wentworth. He then trekked on foot and by canoe to "the Emigrant Settlements on the gore of land in the rear of Argenteuil...." He came to what he said was a "fine" lake where a number of lumbermen had set up temporary camps. Bouchette noted that the "land composing this vacant tract or gore is in general fit for culture...."

This appears to be the first use of the word 'gore' to describe the area. Bouchette employed the term as a surveyor's reference—in this context the word gore refers to a strip of land, an irregular piece of land, or a small tract of land lying between larger divisions. The gore he described was wedged between the Seigneuries of Argenteuil and Deux Montagnes on the south and east, and the townships of Chatham and Wentworth on the west.

Two years after Bouchette's visit, a group of Irish immigrants again used the term "gore" to describe the place where they had settled. In a petition to the Governor General of the Canadas dated 1826, they recounted the hardships they had endured in order to get to this spot. After a long and arduous journey and with the onset of winter, they had set up shanties "on a gore of Government land, east of the township of Wentworth, and in the rear of the Seigneury of Argenteuil." They requested that they be allowed to remain until the land was surveyed and ready to be allotted. Some 33 men signed the petition.

By early 1829, 22 lots on the first four ranges had been surveyed and by 1832 work to map out the remaining lots was complete. These lots were, in fact, already settled either by some of those who had signed the 1826 petition or by new immigrants. In January of 1832, Thomas Barron, land agent, sent a "Petition of the settlers on the Crown Land called the Gore, in rear of the Seigneury of Argenteuil in the county of Two Mountains, who have performed their settling duties, and pray that letters patent may [be issued] for their lots." A total of 71 names are listed on the petition. Some men and their families had been living in the area for up to six years. With Thomas Barron's petition and Joseph Bouchette's topographical report—both of 1832—the name Gore was all but official.

From time to time a reference appears saying the Gore is named after Sir Francis Gore, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, 1806-11. This is an error. The documentary evidence proves the Gore was named for its shape and location.

LJ & LJM

Joseph Bouchette's first report on the Gore, 1824

Settlements on the Gore of land in the rear of Argenteuil

After passing the night at Archibald McArthur's, under whose humble roof I experienced no common degree of hospitality and comfort, I advanced into Wentworth, and thence passing into the Emigrant

Settlements on the gore of land in the rear of Argenteuil, chiefly established on the borders of a fine Lake, of about one mile in length by a quarter of a mile in width, which I traversed, longitudinally, in a canoe. The land composing this vacant tract or gore is in general fit for culture, having still its due portion of good and bad soil.

The huts along the Lake seem to be rather the temporary residence of lumber dealers than the permanent dwellings of farmers, giving the whole more the appearance of a collection of *chantiers* or timber-yards, than a Colony of Agriculturists. Indeed the tenure of their lands is so precarious (none of these individuals being settled upon authority,) that they were perhaps loath to expose their property to forfeiture hereafter. A survey of that tract of the waste lands seems to me indispensably necessary, and the peculiar situation of these people, or at least of the majority of them, claim in some measure the indulgence and countenance of His Majesty's Colonial Government. With respect to the number of inhabitants and the state of the improvements on this portion of the unsurveyed lands of the Crown, I beg leave to refer to Statement No. 12. From this place I retraced my steps into Chatham.....

Notes and references

Published in *The Gore Express*, May 2012, Vol. 02—No 05

This article has been researched, compiled and written by Louise Johnston and Luc J. Matter. You can contact us at louise.johnston@mail.mcgill.ca or 450-562-2594 and lucmatteria@yahoo.ca or 450-562-8093.

This article focuses on the naming and early settlement of the Gore. In the next article, we will look at further settlement and the development of the township. Included will be Joseph Bouchette's topographical report of 1832 and much more.

Reproduced here are:

Joseph Bouchette, *General report of an official tour through the new settlements of the province of Lower-Canada [microform]: performed in the summer of 1824, in obedience to the commands and instructions of His Excellency George, Earl of Dalhousie, G.C.B., captain general and governor in chief of British North-America, &c. &c. &c. Quebec: Printed by Thomas Cary & Co, Free-Masons' Hall, 1825, Page 75. (Online source: <http://archive.org/>)*

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