

CASTLEFORD RESIDENTS / BEFORE CONFEDERATION

by

Doris Waddell

Census of 1851

Part 2

Thomas Clarke is described as a weaver and farmer, Church of England, aged 56, born in Dounty Down, Ireland. His wife Elisabeth, aged 42, was born in County Wexford, Ireland. 23-year old Thomas, born in Quebec completes their household. Their residence is described as a log house.

The next stop on Mr. Forrest's trip was at what he calls the "shanty" of James McConeghy, aged 44, Church of Scotland, born County Antrim, Ireland; his wife Elisabeth, aged 30, born in Cork, Ireland. Their children are listed as John (14), Mary (13), Anne (11), Sarah (10), Robert (9) Elisabeth (6) James (5) Martha (4), and William (1), all born in Horton.

Then comes the hotel and farm operation of Thomas O'Neil. O'Neil was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in 1796, Church of England, his wife Catherine (Church of Scotland) in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1801. He was the Postmaster at Castleford at this time, a member of the township council, and was commissioned a lieutenant in the First Battalion of the Renfrew Militia on June 23, 1847. He died in 1854, after which his wife continued to operate the hotel and Post Office, subsequently selling the property and business in 1860 to John Warnock. The O'Neil premises is described as "frame house and hotel". Six servants are listed: 20-year old Emmon Smith, born in England; 20-year old Elisabeth Alart, born Clarendon; 56-year old James Gibbons, born Scotland; 15-year old Thomas Decon from Clarendon; 33-year old William Kelly from County Wexford, Ireland; 14-year old James Russell from Pakenham.

Immediately next is a "stone house" occupied by Peter O'Neil, merchant, also of County Carlow, Ireland, Church of England, aged 44, ....possibly a brother of Thomas?

Then is the household of Duncan Ferguson (56) and his wife Anne (59) both of Perthshire, Scotland, Church of Scotland; Mary (26), Donald (24), Robert (19) and Jean (17) all born in Beckwith Township.

The next family is that of the school teacher, Matthew Anderson, from Renfrew, Scotland, his wife Janet and their five children.

Then, Edward Burke from Limerick, Ireland, Roman Catholic, aged (36); his wife Maria and their four children and five servants, occupied a stone house, his occupation being that of "hotel keeper". Burke, like Elliott Johnston, was an Ensign in the 2nd Battalion of Militia.