

- Early 1800s – Upper Canada is the newest colony in British North America. It's covered in thick forests & has few roads in the area.
- Colony leaders came from Loyalist families, British army officers & the upper class.
- Making a living was difficult. Colonists depended on each other and used a barter economy to trade goods & services.

The Importance of Social Class

- Family background meant a great deal—especially to the upper class.
- British aristocrats who come to Canada must do more labour than in Britain. Many see themselves as British still rather than Canadian.

Family Compact

- Descendants of Loyalist settlers, they were a small group of officials who helped run U.C. & saw themselves superior to others.
- They were snobs who didn't welcome others into their group. All members knew each other and many were related.
- They had control over the government, who got government jobs & how tax money was spent.

The Problem of Land

- Most settlers who came to U.C. wanted to be farmers. Others were in farm support industries like blacksmiths or wagon makers.
- Many settlers arrived to find the best lands were taken by **absentee owners & land speculators**. Speculators would drive up the price of land making it unaffordable for most settlers.

Clergy & Crown Reserves

- Crown & clergy reserves were blocks of land (2/7 of all land) set aside to provide income for the government and the Anglican Church.
- These lots were scattered through the townships and not cleared. This delayed road construction.

Role of the British Government

- The British government wanted to recreate the English model of landowning – wealthy aristocrats owning most of the land.
- The government believed that aristocrats could best rule the colony. They were more likely to maintain strong ties with Britain.
- Most immigrants didn't like this & many of the British policies were discriminatory & anti-democratic.

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