

## WHAT THE SETTLERS GOT

Financed, from 1816 until 1822, by the 'Military Chest' the Perth Military Settlement was a heavily subsidized undertaking and the first settlers benefited greatly from that government support.

### Land

Conceived and managed by the British Army, the allocation of land at the Perth Military Settlement followed a scale based on rank in the army on date of discharge.

Lieutenant Colonels	1,200 acres
Majors	1,000 acres
Captains	800 acres
Subalterns	500 acres
Sergeant Majors & Quarter Master Sergeants	300 acres
Sergeants	200 acres
Privates	100 acres
Civilians	100 acres

Officers ranked Colonel and higher did not qualify for land grants. Despite the above official scale many half-pay officers, and others, by means fair and foul, managed to secure free acreages far in excess of the official allowance

### Individual Tools

The British Army Settling Department undertook to supply the following 'tool kit' to each individual settler; head of family or single man, soldier and civilian. Whether or not all settlers received their full kit, however, often depended upon availability as constrained by logistical problems. Not all of the tools were necessarily worth having. The 'naval' axe originally supplied proved utterly worthless and had to be replaced by 'American' axes.

Spade	1	Adze	1
Felling Axe	1	Brush-hook	1
Bill-hook	1	Scythe	1
Reaping-hook	1	Pitchfork	1
Pick-axe	1	Harrow teeth	9
Hoe	2	Hammer	1
Plane	1	Chisel	1
Auger	1	Band-saw	1
Gimlets	2	Files	2
Hinges	2	Door	1
Door lock & key	1	Glass panes	9
Putty	1 lbs.	Nails	14 lbs.
Camp-kettle	1	Frying-pan	1
Blanket	1 for each man & woman and 1 for every 2 children		

## Concession Tools

In addition to the tool kit supplied to each individual settler (above) the following tools were also supplied for common use. The concept of this allocation seems to have been based on providing one set of these tools to each Township concession but, in reality, they were provided to groups of neighbours, usually about four families, formed in a more ad hoc way.

Pit-saw	1	Crow-bar	1
Cross-cut saw	1	Grindstone	1
Sledge hammer	1		

## Seed

The first arrivals at Perth in 1816 were provided with some seed potatoes and three bushels of fall wheat seed. The following year this was augmented with seed to plant beans, oats, grass, and corn.

## Rations

The first settlers arriving at the Perth Military Settlement were provided food rations, originally for one year for soldiers and six months for civilians. The ration was set at the same rates as issued to a soldier on active service during the War of 1812-1814, i.e. a full ration for the husband, one-half for a wife and one-third ration for each child. The soldier's official daily ration in North America during the War of 1812 consisted of:

- 1 lb. of flour (much of it provided as baked bread or biscuit)
- 1 lb. fresh beef or 9 1/7 oz. of pork
- 1 3/7 oz. of pork or 6/7 oz. of butter
- 3/7 pint of peas, beans or lentils
- 1 1/7 oz. of rice
- 1/3 pint rum or wine

Even during the war, however, the exact composition of the ration was constantly amended as dictated by availability of supplies and the capacity of the army to deliver them; and the same constraint dictated substitutions applied to the Perth Military Settlement. Changes in the ration, however, attempted to maintain approximately the same nutritional and monetary value.

In 1817 the ration allowance was amended to provide wives and male children over 17 years of age with full rations and all other children a one-third ration, and then increased again to an 'extended ration' granting all children over the age of 10 years a full ration. The time period was also extended by a year.