

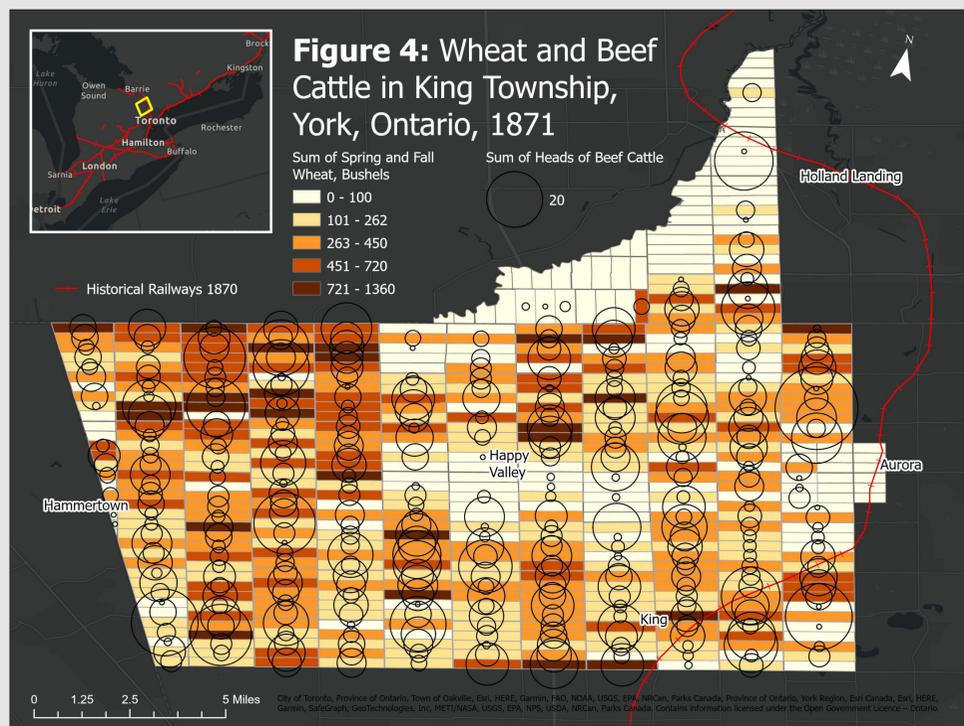
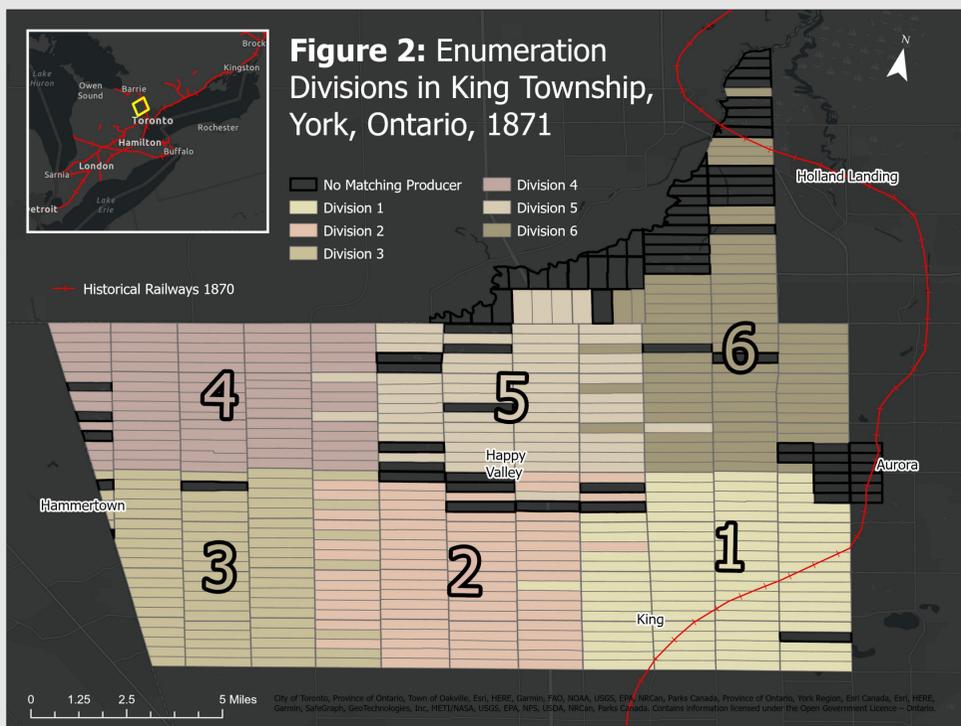
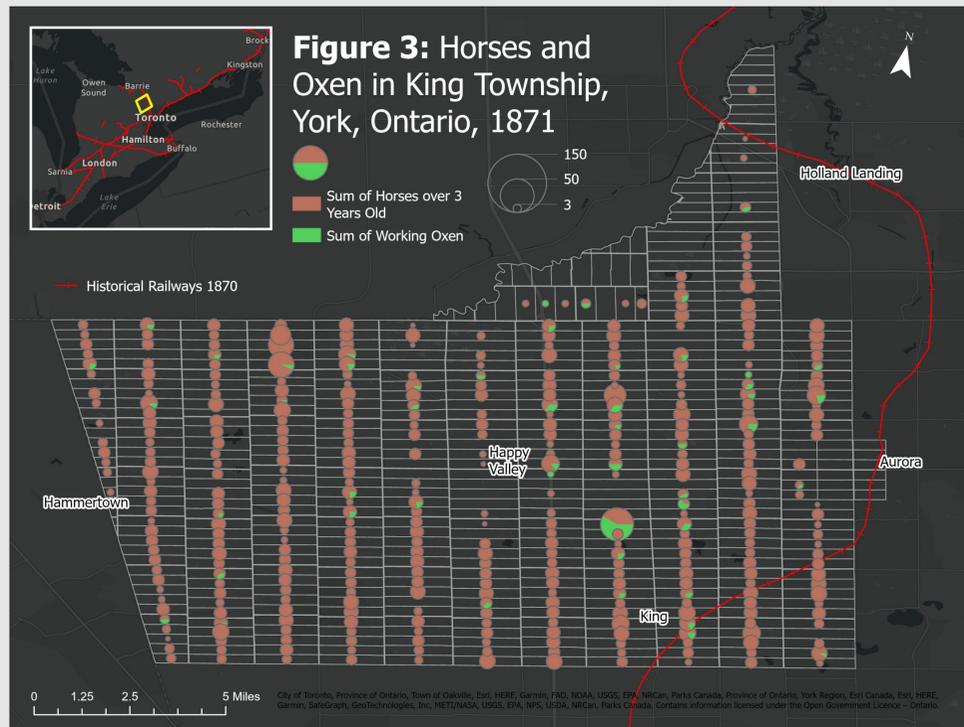
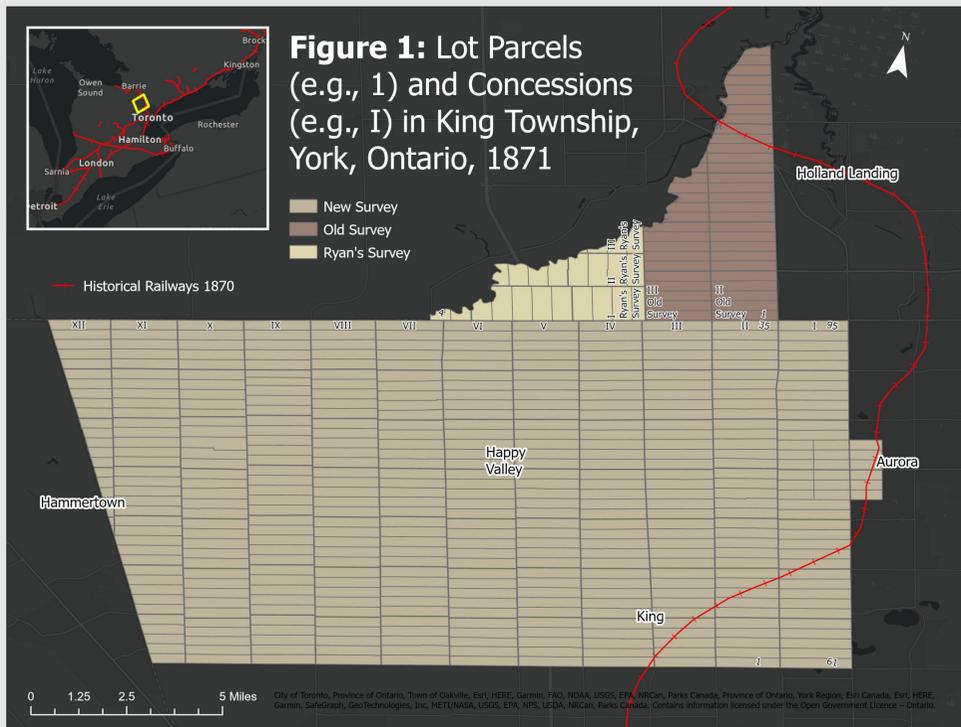


Locating Farmers in Lot Parcels in King, Ontario: Mapping the 1871 Canadian Agricultural Census

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A Longstanding Roadblock Historical geographers have long used the Canadian Census to map Canada's agricultural history at the country, province, county, and township scale. But in this project, Dr. Joshua MacFadyen and I have taken the groundbreaking step of mapping agricultural census data *within* townships, allowing us to answer research questions such as: 1) What impact did transportation infrastructure (e.g., railways and canals) have on local producers? 2) Which areas of a township were farmed differently from others? 3) What impacts did the local environment have on settlement and farming practices within townships?

Addressing Canadians Dr. MacFadyen's team of student researchers has digitally transcribed the cropland, livestock, and firewood data of over 70,000 Canadians recorded in the 1871 Canadian agricultural census manuscripts. This data includes the *lot parcel* and *concession* information of tens of thousands of Canadians, including over 1,000 in King Township, Ontario. The lot parcel and concession are still used today to divide land within Ontario townships. Joining the census data to the lot parcel and concession fabric using a shared unique identifier reveals historical spatial patterns within townships for the first time.



Troubleshooting the Join A few farmers needed their unique identifier updated manually in order to join to the spatial layer successfully. Farmers who lived in the Old Survey and Ryan's Survey areas were being incorrectly joined to the New Survey area. To fix this, I checked for notes on the census manuscripts, which sometimes indicated which survey area a farmer belonged in. Sometimes, I inferred that a farmer belonged in the Old or Ryan's Survey because the farmers recorded before and after them in the census manuscripts were recorded in these areas. Farmers who were recorded close to each other in the manuscripts lived close to each other physically.

A New World Since each farmer belonged to an enumeration division, we can map these divisions for the first time (Figure 2). Dr. MacFadyen's database of 55 agricultural variables can be mapped to reveal spatial patterns within townships, such as the ratio of horses to oxen (Figure 3) and wheat to beef cattle (Figure 4). The latter is especially exciting because wheat and beef cattle are in different census schedules but can now be mapped together to reveal a spatial relationship. By the 1870s, after decades of wheat monoculture, Ontario farmers began to raise beef cattle to replenish the soil (Derry). The areas with the most beef cattle had the highest yields of wheat.

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References *Derry, Margaret Elsinor. "The Development of a Modern Agricultural Enterprise: Beef Cattle Farming in Ontario, 1870-1924." PhD. diss., University of Toronto, 1997. *The Animals in the Circular Economy Project, "1871 Census of Canada Agroecosystem Microdata, Database," Joshua MacFadyen and the Lab for Geospatial Research in Atlantic Canadian History, University of Prince Edward Island, 2023. *Pin clipart by Ciker-Free-Vector-Images on Pixabay.



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