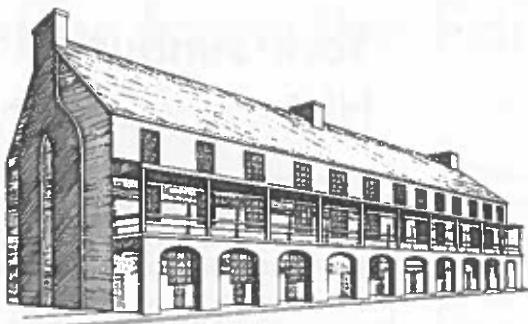


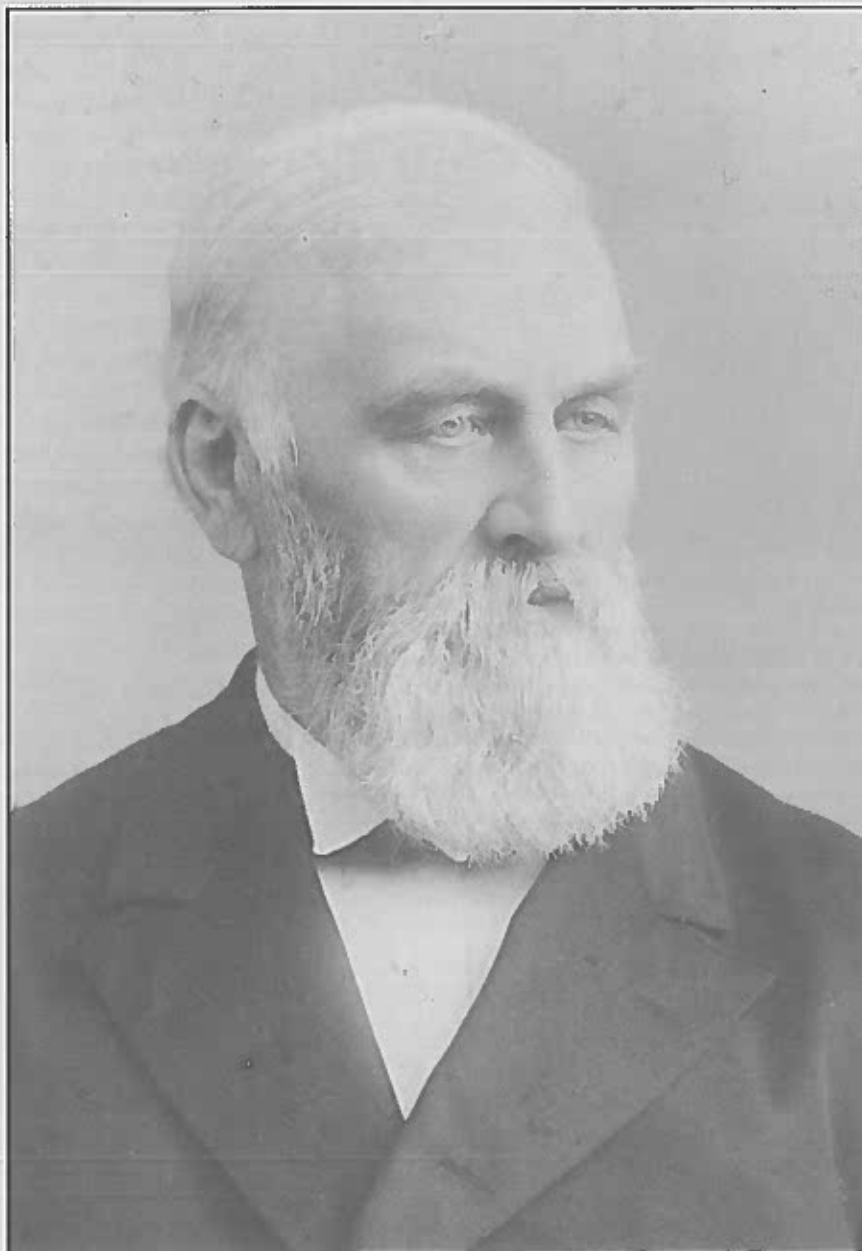


The Officers' Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 12, Number 1

Winter 1996



Marysville's
Alexander Gibson, Sr.
(1819-1913)

The "Boss"
We Never Knew



A New Book
by
Lucy McNeill



Beyond York-Sunbury
to the
Northwest Territories



James Chapman
on
Maritime Union



The Newsboys
of
Yesteryear



Andrew Mitchell
on
Collecting Antiques



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Volume 12, Number 1 Winter 1996

This is the official publication of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, Inc., Officers' Square, Queen Street, P.O. Box 1312, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, E3B 5C8. Telephone: (506) 455-6041.

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Individual memberships are \$20 per year and \$35 for two years (which includes *The Officers' Quarterly*). A life membership is \$200. Corporations, individuals, and organizations may also become sustaining members.

Editor: Ted Jones

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FRONT COVER

Alexander Gibson in his later years, a rare portrait by the Scholl Photographic Studio of Saint John, New Brunswick at the turn of the century. One of the original copies of this picture has been recently discovered in a Gibson Family Album and is reproduced here, courtesy Eugene Morris of Fredericton, New Brunswick.

VIDEO RELEASE

A 30-minute documentary film on the life of Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson was pre-viewed in Fredericton on January 17th and shown on CBC television on February 3rd. Senator Fergusson is a Life Member of the York-Sunbury Historical Society and a 1984 recipient of the Martha J. Harvey Award of Distinction.

Letter from the Editor... *Ted Jones*

Alexander "Boss" Gibson was a big man (6 1/2 feet tall) who lived a long life (94 years). Bigness and longevity were also the trademarks of his business accomplishments, the legacy of his industrial career (lumber, cotton, railways) and his town of Marysville (located in York County, New Brunswick, and now amalgamated with Fredericton) continually being recognized, especially during this past year.

Firstly, a section of the former town of Marysville was designated as one of only five Historic Districts in Canada, a decision made by the Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada upon a recommendation by the Fredericton Heritage Trust. The area named includes the cotton mill, the brick housing for mill workers along River and Mill Streets, and that part of Canada Street ("Nob Hill") where mill managers built large residences. It is one of the few preserved mill towns in North America with so many significant buildings still standing.

Secondly, Alexander Gibson was inducted into the New Brunswick Forestry Hall of Fame as a 19th century industrialist best known for his cotton mill and his sawmills, the latter employing hundreds of men and being supplied with large volumes of timber from the Nashwaak, St. John, and Miramichi river watersheds. David Dickson, a retired New Brunswick Justice, accepted on behalf of his great-grandfather and said that Mr. Gibson would have appreciated this honour, "but perhaps he would have said nothing because I've never heard that he had great oratorical skills."

After reading the news reports, I wondered what else Mr. Dickson might recall about his famous ancestor and if any memorabilia had been passed along

the family line. An interview-visit was granted, at which time I was loaned Boss Gibson's Minute Book for the Canada Eastern Railway Company (dated from 4th December AD 1891) and Boss Gibson's Record Book for the Canada Eastern and for the Northern and Western Railway Company of New Brunswick (dated from "this thirty-first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three").



This picture was taken at the old Fredericton race course, west of the CPR station on York Street. Fredericton's second Exhibition Building is in the background. The men standing beside the engine are Alexander "Boss" Gibson (left) and Fred B. Edgcombe (right), the latter having been a railway agent who sold train tickets for many years at his big dry goods store on Queen Street. Notice the two pieces of boiler plate attached to the lower part of the engine's "cowcatcher," one on either side. They were raised and lowered from the cab of the engine, scraping snow and slush from the rail tops and the space inside the rails, leaving what railroad men call a "good rail" for the driving wheels of the engine. This device was the first railway "flanger" ever used in the world and it was invented by John Hamilton, a blacksmith who worked in the Devon (Fredericton North) roundhouse for the old New Brunswick Railway & Land Company. Time: early 1870s

A number of inquiries seem to indicate that these two leatherbound books are the only surviving accounts from the many Gibson enterprises. But what a find! The wheat-coloured pages with the stylized penmanship of various clerks and legal advisors are signed by such notables as Alexander Gibson, Sr. himself, as

President; his sons, Alexander, Jr. and James, as two of the several Directors; Jabaz Bunting Snowball, a partner, who later became Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick; stockholders Francis E. Winslow, Esq., E. Byron Winslow, Esq., and Senator William Muirhead; Hugh Havelock McLean, a Saint John barrister who also went on to become Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick; Charles H. Hatt, the Cotton Mill's head bookkeeper who married Boss Gibson's daughter Annie and whose large and elaborate house is still standing at 293 Canada Street in Marysville; James S. Neill, a Fredericton Hardware Merchant who purchased shares in one of the railway companies.

Inserted loosely between the covers of these two railway books are business letters, meeting announcements, lists of stockholders, telegrams, bank notices, and policy agreements — all with the fashionable letterheads of the day. A researcher's dream! Hopefully, in time, these rare books and their contents will be placed with the York-Sunbury Historical Society Collection at the Provincial Archives. In the meantime, historians should remember that Boss Gibson was greatly involved with the early railway industry in this province, beginning as a director of the Fredericton Railway Company in 1866, and that he himself built railroads in two different New Brunswick localities: the original Gibson Branch of the CPR, with its narrow-gauge line from Gibson (subsequently known as Devon but now in Fredericton North) to Edmundston, later becoming part of the old New Brunswick Railway Company; the Canada Eastern line between Gibson and the Miramichi (Chatham/Newcastle),

Letter from the Editor . . . continued from page 3

which was constructed under the auspices of the Northern & Western Company and which became a part of the Intercolonial Railway before being included in the CNR system. The first steel railway bridge across the St. John River at Fredericton, completed in 1888, also owes its existence, in a large measure, to the energy and spirit of Alexander Gibson!

David Dickson informed me that his great-grandfather had refused a knighthood, that he had always maintained a low profile as a public benefactor, seldom being photographed. However, several years ago, Mr. Dickson was shown an old Gibson family photograph album which had surfaced mysteriously at a local book sale. He directed me to a Mrs. Carol Yaqzan of Fredericton, who had purchased the album because of its antique value, not realizing until later that it was Boss Gibson, his relatives, and acquaintances who appear in the crystal-clear black & whites. Eventually, the album found its way into the possession of a Mr. Eugene Morris of Fredericton, who acquired it for his wife, the former Madeline McKay, great-granddaughter of Stewart Gibson (uncle of Boss Gibson).

Following an interview-visit with Mr. Morris, I was loaned this beautiful anti-

quated album, bound in maroon velvet with a large silver clasp and containing 48 professional portraits by such well-known early photographers as John Harvey, George Schleyer, Isaac Erb, J. Y. Mersereau, and G. A. Buckhardt. Unfortunately, only one of the photographs was labelled, that of "Mary Gibson Merritt, age 9 weeks." This is probably Mary Sophia Gibson, the tenth child/fifth daughter of Boss Gibson, born 27 December 1867. She married Frank M. Merritt and their son, F. Gibson Merritt, married Edith Valerie Clarke, whose daughter Edith Barbara Merritt married George Jamer of Fredericton.

The UNB Archives identified another of the photographs as the 1898 graduation picture of Wilfred Currier Kierstead, who later joined the University faculty, along with John Miles Gibson, a grand-nephew of Boss Gibson. In yet another photograph, the rotund figure of Alexander "Sandy" Gibson, Jr. was easy to recognize as he had been before the camera many times during his 21 years as the first mayor of Marysville and then as a Liberal member for the New Brunswick Legislature and the House of Commons.

Nine high school graduation photographs (five girls and four boys) are

grouped at the end of this fascinating album, each bearing the crest of Beverly High School, 1911, each on a similar mount, the name of the studio being "W. M. Smith/Beverly, Mass." An inquiry has been forwarded to The Beverly Historical Society regarding the fact that Mary Jane (Jennie) Gibson, a niece of Boss Gibson, married a Mr. George Bliss of Fredericton and settled in the Boston area with their three daughters — Grace, Agnes, and Alice. Could one of the graduation portraits be of a Bliss daughter and thus a grand-niece of Boss Gibson?

As research continues, it is hoped that all 48 photographs will be identified eventually. For now, the first photograph in the album appears on the cover of this issue of *The Officers' Quarterly*, some of the others being printed throughout this particular issue, all courtesy of Mr. Eugene Morris. Any assistance with identification will be appreciated, so that, in time, the remarkable life of Alexander Gibson and his extended family will be more fully pieced together; in fact, a definitive biography is long overdue. Until then, *The Quarterly* is also proud to present in this issue several Gibson pieces never before published. As a result, reader response is most welcome. ♪

GIANT FLEA MARKET

The York-Sunbury Historical Society will hold a giant Flea Market in early Spring in front of the York-Sunbury Museum at Officers' Square on Queen Street. We invite members and friends to start now setting aside those used or new articles, crafts, collectables, and antiques (except clothing). Take them to the Museum, where they will be stored until the day of the sale, or call 455-6041 if you wish to have your items picked up. Co-ordinators for this event are Carolyn Atkinson and Pat Flemming. All proceeds will go directly to the Society to offset ongoing expenses. Exact dates will be forthcoming. Thanks for your cooperation!

IT'S A TEAPOY!

When the members of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, their friends and guests, visited King's Landing last September, a small piece of furniture (painted Oriental red) was shown and no one, including the artifacts custodian, knew what it was. The item was a teapoy (which in Hindi means "three feet") and it was used from Georgian to mid-Victorian times, when making tea in the drawing-room was fashionable. The maid or butler would bring forth an ornate box (about 20 by 30 inches), containing tea and sugar in separate compartments, and supported on a pedestal of three or four ornamental legs. When not in use, the teapoy was often set up for a little display table for the tea service. We thank Society member Katherine Le Butt for drawing this to our attention after she saw a picture in *The Globe & Mail* of an antique dealer's "unusual Regency period inlaid rosewood Tea Poy on an elegant lyre base."

MARY GRANNAN EXHIBIT

Plans for the 1996 Mary Grannan Summer Exhibit are now under way. We are looking for "Just Mary" artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia. We invite members and friends to loan any items relating to Miss Grannan, her family, her years in Fredericton, and the Golden Age of Radio. Please contact the York-Sunbury Museum at 455-6041 if you can be of assistance.

Curator's Corner ... by Bruce Lynch

In my first "Curator's Corner" (Summer 1995), I reminded my readers that it is not time that increases our distance from the past, it is only our attitude. I recall that statement because, as a new year opens, it seems wise to temper our enthusiasm for the future with a continued awareness and appreciation of the past. We should not forget that what we will become owes much to what we have been.

What we have been is documented by the bricks and timbers of the constructions left behind by our predecessors. One such predecessor is Alexander "Boss" Gibson and one such construction is his cotton mill in Marysville, recalled for me by two pale pink bricks found in the York-Sunbury Museum's collection. These two unique artifacts came from Gibson's own brickyard at Brick Hill in Marysville, where all the bricks were made (using local clay) for the entire cotton mill. Stone used for the foundation of the mill was quarried from Gibson's own land, which he had acquired soon after his arrival in York County.

Gibson was born near St. Stephen, Charlotte County, in 1819, beginning his career at thirteen when he gained employment in a St. Stephen saw mill. As a young man, he shared the operation and ownership of a Lepreau saw mill with his brother-in-law Thomas Robinson. From there, Gibson expanded his empire to the banks of the Nashwaak River in York County, purchasing various business holdings in 1867 and beginning the development of Marysville, named for his wife and for his eldest daughter. He later expanded into Blackville on the Miramichi, but Marysville would become his greatest triumph. It was there that he operated his saw mill, shingle mill, lath mill, and cotton mill.

Designed by Lockwood & Green of Boston, the cotton mill opened in 1885. It was four storeys high, 418 feet long, and

100 feet wide. A Dye House and a five-storey ell warehouse were added later. One million feet of southern hard pine were used for the framework (posts and beams); the 13-foot ceilings were of tongue-and-groove pine. Three-inch spruce deal was used for all the floor areas, covered with planed birch boards one and one-quarter inches thick. The walls were whitened lime and calcimine. There were 518 arched windows and each one had 36 panes of glass. Heated by steam, the building had a modern sprinkler system to protect it from fire, but the 800 electric lights became the major innovation throughout, the first to be installed in the Fredericton area, just a few

and still is, the main feature in the industrial design of this large and impressive brick structure.

By 1908, however, a challenge had been issued from Upper Canada, as Ontario and Quebec cotton manufacturers battled Gibson in a price war. He lost, selling out to Canadian Cottons, Ltd. in 1908. The new owners, with a series of mill managers, maintained production until 1954, when foreign competition forced the mill's closure. It re-opened in 1956 under the ownership of Hamilton Cotton, who handed the mill over to Whittaker Textiles in 1973. The cotton mill last saw production in 1977, when Lyon Industries made limited use of its finishing plant.

Alexander Gibson's cotton mill, now a Provincial Government office complex known as Marysville Place, currently provides space for 400 employees of the Departments of Supply & Services, and Municipalities, Culture & Housing. The building has been a National Historic Site since 1986.

I thank Supply & Services for the donation of the bricks to the museum, having saved them

during the renovation period of the main structure and the demolition of the Dye House and the warehouse. As I have said, it is these common artifacts that give new life to those who have created them, to those like "Boss" Gibson, whose presence shaped our modern landscape and whose dreams built the future.

I close with fond wishes for the New Year 1996 and with thanks to those who have helped make the past year such a success, among them these Museum volunteers: Nicole Boertjes, John Claus, Roger Farr, Velma Kelly, Jean Macdonald, Mark Parker, Allan Penman, Melanie Savage, Lisa Todd, Margaret Walls, Amanda White. Special thanks to my wife, Trish. ♪



Marysville Place

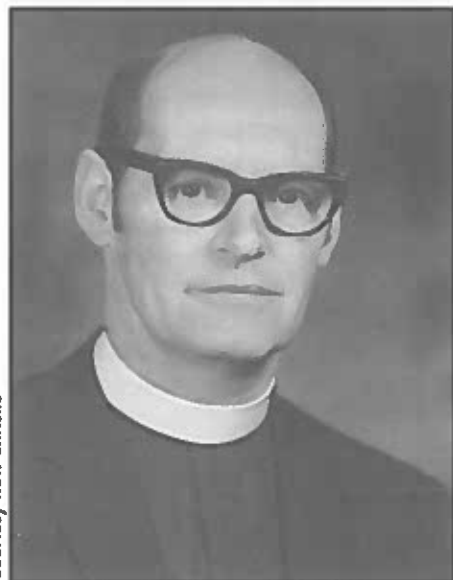
years after Thomas Edison obtained a patent for incandescent bulbs.

As a cotton mill, over 500 people were employed to work upon 1500 looms of four different types with 60,000 spindles, run by two 650-hp engines with ten boilers. By 1887, the mill, passing raw cotton from the Southern United States through its Picker Room to its Carder Room, Spinning Room, Dye House, and Weaving Room, produced 1,860,000 pounds of cloth, measuring 15,600,000 yards, mainly flannelette and shirting material. In order to achieve these results, the mill hands were at their work stations early in the morning, the bell in the centre tower ringing at 5:50 and again at 6:50. Displaying a roof with iron cresting and brick corbelling, the 128-foot tower was,

Passing Through ... by Rev. G. Howard Christie

Memories of Marysville

Marysville (York County, New Brunswick) as I knew it in the years of my ministry there (1958-1966) was a town stretched out along both sides of Canada Street and the Nashwaak River. The centre of the community was close to the large red-brick cotton mill built by Alexander "Boss" Gibson, who named the town for his wife, Mary.



Courtesy Rev. Christie

Rev. G. Howard Christie

We lived in the Parsonage, which had been built next door to the magnificent Methodist Church erected in 1873. Some said it was the most beautiful church east of Montreal. Pictures show it to have been a gigantic circular structure with a dome roof and a towering 109-foot steeple. Inspirational stained-glass windows, tall pillars, and a large chandelier hanging in the middle of the nave drew the eyes upward. Douglas Pond, who was a neighbor of mine and a staunch member of the United Baptist congregation, gives this description in his book, *The History of Marysville*: "The best of imported southern pine was used for the sills and other weight-bearing sections of the structure. Its interior was finished in mahogany, walnut, and whitewood. French and Italian artists were brought from New York to decorate the interior. The stucco work was very fine and the frescoing elaborate.

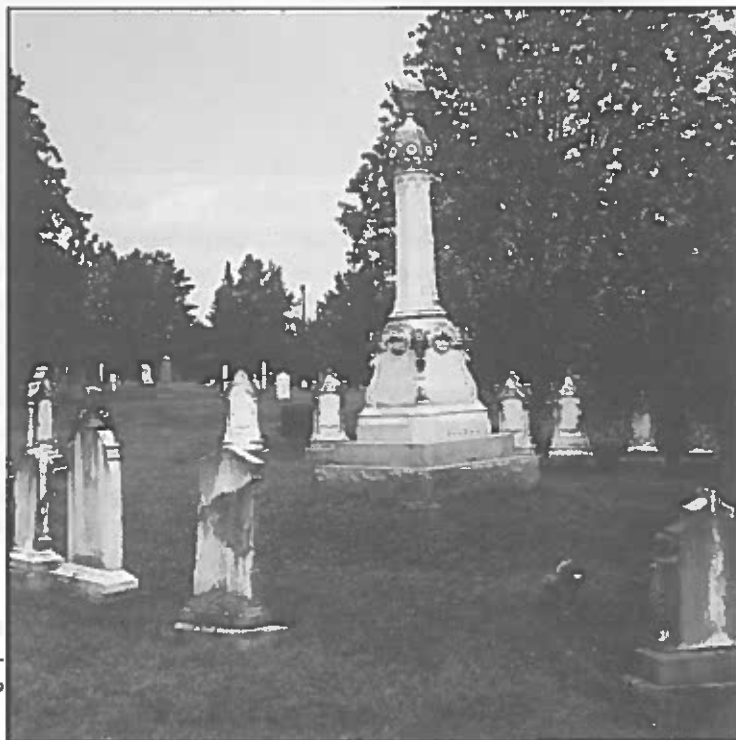
The ground work on the ceiling was sky blue and studded with golden stars. The windows were of the finest English stained glass and were inscribed with some of the greatest and most suggestive passages in the *Book of God*. The pulpit was under a triple arch, the centre one bearing the beautiful prayer, 'Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.' The pulpit Bible was presented to the church by Isaac Burpee (a native of Sunbury County who became a Member of Parliament), one of Mr. Gibson's most intimate friends. The church would seat 400, but pews were so arranged that 200 more could be accommodated."

The cost of the church, said to be about \$68,000, was paid by Alexander Gibson, who also built, furnished, and paid for the parsonage next door, and all the church salaries. Sadly, on a Sunday afternoon, following the morning service on 29 January 1911, fire destroyed this splendid 38-year-old building. The present church, a much more modest structure, was financed by the insurance proceeds. Inside, a wooden pinnacle from one of the miniature spires, the only item that survived the 1911 fire, is on display. It had rolled down the hill during the fire and was picked up and saved by some children. Also on display are two Gibson family Bibles, given to the church by Alexander Gibson.

The original parsonage, later called the manse, was a

rambling house, well-suited to raising a young family of five active children. Behind were the woods and, across the street at the end of the driveway, flowed the Nashwaak River to explore and appreciate. When it was built, the parsonage had been furnished in grand style by the "Boss" and some of the items were still there in our day. In the "parlor," which we kept locked and out of reach of clamouring children, was a complete antique set of hand-carved rosewood furniture: a settee, four occasional chairs, "Mr. & Mrs." upholstered chairs. There were also two marble-topped tables and two mahogany "What-Not" shelves. This room was later transformed into the Minister's Study. In the early 1970s, after we had left and after the manse was demolished (1969), the furniture pieces were sold to members of the congregation.

The United Church of Marysville, one of several churches in the town (including Baptist, Anglican, Pentecostal, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic), was an



Photograph - Ted Jones

The Gibson family plot, located in the cemetery behind the United Church, has an interesting circular arrangement, a large stone pillar in the centre being a monument to the "Boss."

Passing Through . . . continued from page 6

important part in our lives. We had active groups from Cradle Roll to Senior Adults. A Young Peoples' Union helped to shape values, attitudes, and abilities, and developed leaders for later in life. The popular youth choir was led by Mrs. Hugh (Ida) Titus, whose husband was the York County school superintendent at the time. Families of people working again in the Cotton Mill, which had recently reopened, served in the senior choir and helped with wedding receptions, suppers, and other church events. The Ladies' Aid made quilts for the Red Cross to give to the needy; men of the church served in the Legion, on the town council, and in business. I served as chaplain to the Fredericton detachment of the 12th Field Regiment and preached at church parades on various occasions.

Memories of "Boss" Gibson still lingered in the town. He was an ardent Methodist and regular in church attendance. He would be heard giving a vocal "Amen" in approval during the sermon. On one occasion, when the minister was late, the "Boss" banged his cane on the floor and left saying, "Where there's no time, there's no truth!" He had his own views about religion and what sort of

message a sermon should convey. If he disagreed with or did not like the sermon being preached, he would drown out the clergyman by tapping his foot and whistling and humming aloud. Most often the sermon would be changed the next time! Yet, he was a religious philanthropist, extending his kindness to the Baptists, the Anglicans, and the Roman Catholics by donating land for their churches.

One Sunday in early June, 1961, I was aware of more traffic than usual on Canada Street. I soon learned that during the night the Nashwaak River was in flood. The bridge to Penniac, up stream, had been washed out and the Marysville bridge was threatened. We stood with others along the high banks, watching in horror as small buildings, trees, and planks swept by in the muddy swirl. No service at Penniac that day and a scant congregation at Marysville because the bridge was closed.

Reflecting back stirs pleasanter memories too. We often picnicked with our family along the Nashwaak River and enjoyed drives to Taymouth when the sloping banks and quiet twistings of the river were bordered with golden colours of autumn. A wood-fired furnace requir-

ing sixteen cords of firewood kept our house (the old Methodist Manse) warm in winter and also warmed the minister as he laboured to stack it in the cellar before freeze-up!

At the back of our house was attached a large woodshed. One winter, a squirrel found its way between the house walls and could be heard scrambling about while the ladies of the church conducted a meeting in the spacious living room. At one time, we were surprised by drips of water coming from the dining room ceiling. We found that the squirrel had pulled insulation away from the bathroom pipes under the floor above so that they had frozen and burst. The capers of this same animal also made publicity when our son was interviewed by telephone on a children's television program.

During our Marysville days, I had been invited to offer the Opening Prayer at a special UNB Convocation (October, 1961). With me on the platform were such men as Lord Beaverbrook, Krishna Menon (Minister of Defence for India), and K. C. Irving. At the reception following, I suggested to Beaverbrook that he honour the town of Marysville with a statue of Alexander Gibson. His Lordship

George Taylor Collection, PANB, p5/46A



"Boss" Gibson's Methodist Church with the Parsonage on immediate left.

Passing Through ... continued from page 7

replied, "Let the town honour its own past." And it did! When the old Cotton Mill was renovated and reopened as an office complex (Marysville Place) in December of 1985, an entrance was added to the tower, where a huge bronze statue of the "Boss" is located. (It must be remembered that, in 1901, a consortium, headed by Lord Beaverbrook, had offered to buy Gibson out. He agreed, on the condition that he would still manage the cotton mill. Beaverbrook refused because he thought that Gibson was too old. When Beaverbrook wrote his book *My Early Life*, he stated that the Gibson enterprise was an old-fashioned family concern dependent on the banks for working capital, with a patriarchal head who was contemptuous of banking rules and regulations and given to arbitrary decisions which made it impossible for the bookkeepers to keep track of affairs. According to Beaverbrook, "The Bank closed in on the old man. It was a sad day. The old homestead has been destroyed and there is no mark or sign of the dwelling-place of the most colourful and, in his day, the most important lumber operator on the Nashwaak and St. John rivers. I always take off my hat when passing the place where Mr. Gibson lived.")

My wife, Dorothy, recalls reading a composition our second son wrote for his teacher, composing it in his mind as he walked to school early one morning. He looked down on the houses by the river on our side. Across the bridge, which spanned the quiet slow-moving river, stood the old brick cotton mill with streets of houses clustered around it and up the hillside. The smoke from their chimneys rose straight up, undisturbed in the sunny quietness of the day.

Our family will always have fond memories of the little town of Marysville and the people associated with it. ❧

(After serving churches in PEI and New Brunswick, the Rev. Mr. Christie did post-graduate work in Boston and was subsequently appointed Chaplain to the Montreal General and the Royal Victoria hospitals. Now retired, he lives in the Montreal area and is Minister Emeritus of the St. Lambert United Church.)

Collecting Antiques — An Expert Tells How

A Report by Christine Laurin

For the November 1995 lecture program, members of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, and others interested in collecting antiques, were treated to an interesting evening with Dr. Andrew Mitchell, collector and connoisseur of British and Canadian antiques, and former owner (with his wife Katherine) of Aintree Antiques on Regent Street in Fredericton. The illustrated presentation was held in the Pioneer Kitchen of the York-Sunbury Museum, the guest speaker showing and passing around examples from his private collection as he explained the techniques for dating and determining the origin of porcelain, pottery, silver, and glass.

Dr. Mitchell told the large audience that New Brunswick is particularly rich in antiques. Among the reasons, he listed the following: the area was one of the earliest settled parts of Canada; Loyalists brought many fine pieces to the province; Saint John was a major port in Victorian times; and the province, buoyed by a high level of prosperity in the 1880s, fostered the development of many silversmith shops, cabinet-makers, and furniture factories.

With all these riches, the New Brunswick collector is often forced, especially in the case of auctions, to rely on his/her "eyes, ears, and fingers" in evaluating an antique's age and origin. However, the speaker explained that there are four indicators of the age of an antique: shape, markings, materials, style.

Dr. Mitchell noted that unexpected shapes indicate that certain antiques are not modern. For example, he showed his audience a spoon and knife from the 1700s, the spoon having a perfectly oval bowl and upturned handle, the knife featuring a curved-up blade and a downcurved handle. He also held up a china plate with an unusual ribbed edge, explaining that this item was a copy of a silver mold.

The case of glass is another example. When examining an old drinking tumbler,

the collector should always check the bottom first; if it is uneven, it is probably at least 60 years old. Moreover, if one spots a *pontil* mark, which is also called the *puntty* and which is made by the rod with which the glass is removed from the blow-pipe, then it is a good sign that the glass was hand-blown. Dr. Mitchell then showed a cordial glass with a twist stem, a thread design, and a small bowl (for a strong drink). This was followed by a rummer glass (a type of goblet without handles), and a Victorian champagne flute (a drinking-vessel with a tall slender bowl).

An overview of types of markings of which the collector should be aware when examining silver and china was next on the program. In comparing the differences between English and American silver, Dr. Mitchell pointed out that various types of marks have been stamped on English silver since the year 1300 in order to inform the buyer of the object's place of origin, quality, and date. The following five marks can usually be found on English silver: the Standard (Sterling) Mark, the City of Hallmark, the Sovereign's Head, the Annual Date Letter, the Silversmith's Initials. The first of these, represented by a lion walking to the left, indicates "Sterling" quality. The City of Hallmark shows where the piece was manufactured. For example, Birmingham is represented by an anchor; London, a Leopard's head; Sheffield, by a crown; Chester, by three sheaves of wheat and a sword. The Annual Date Letter is assigned by the manufacturer for each year, usually following an alphabetical sequence. The piece can therefore be precisely dated.

North American silversmiths, those in New Brunswick being no exception, tried to promote the quality of their own products by imitating the English hallmark method (i.e. Pseudo-Hallmarks). Dr. Mitchell said that it is not uncommon to find on North American silver the mark of a lion, the City Mark, and the letter

"G" for Gorham. Another indication that the piece is probably North American is the number .925, which signifies that the piece is 92.5% pure silver. Yet, English and North American silver tend to differ in the location of their markings. English manufacturers marked their silver on its side, while North American markings are commonly found on the bottom of an object.

It was also learned that the collector should beware of marks designed deliberately to deceive. If one sees the word "Silver" or the terms "Bengal Silver" or "Argentia Silver," for example, the piece is probably not silver. And, the collector should be on the alert for false hallmarks on electroplate, the latter being silver plated over a copper-nickel alloy.

Dr. Mitchell divided the development of different styles in pottery and porcelain into five distinct periods: Classical (to 1830); Industrial Innovation (1830-1860s); Arts and Crafts (1860-1870s); Art Nouveau (1890-1905); Art Deco (1930-1960). He explained that the emergence of these different styles was directly related to the creation of new materials, techniques, and schools of design, illustrating this part of his lecture with examples from each era, such as the super-bright colors and severe geometric features of Art Deco objects and the gentle curves and the very stylized forms of Art Nouveau.

The key to determining the date and origin of china is knowing what symbols

to look for and what they signify. Among the questions the collector should ask is whether the piece has been dated. Some have an impressed date, which can be as elaborate as "January 1875," or as simple as "1/75." In addition, terms such as "Detergent-Proof," "Bone China," or "Stoke-on-Trent" are a good indication that the piece is modern. Another indicator of age is the use of certain legal marks such as "Ltd.," which was not employed widely until 1880.

there is a "ringing" sound, it is likely porcelain. Similarly, a collector can judge whether or not a piece is lead crystal by also flicking the glass, a "ringing" sound indicating that it is lead, a "clunk" sound that it is not.

Because the various symbols for porcelain factories, potters' marks, and date marks are too numerous for the collector to memorize, Dr. Mitchell recommended *Miller's Pocket Antiques Fact File* (compiled by Judith & Martin Miller, published by Penguin

in 1988), a reference book that covers styles, periods, and manufacturers, and which contains helpful glossaries for those interested in collecting antiques.

The highly informative evening concluded with "show & tell," several members of the audience challenging Dr. Mitchell to recognize and comment upon an ornate jewellery case, Oriental bronzes, an old English custard dish with a unique manufacturer's mark, cast iron fox tongs, a hand-carved snuffbox, an anti-

quated combination lock, an old-fashioned ice shaver, and several items of pottery, porcelain, and fine china. He succeeded admirably, extending an invitation to call upon him at any time in the future for assistance in collecting and identifying antiques. *

(Christine Laurin has a Masters Degree in Library & Information Studies from McGill University. She lives in Fredericton and is interested in local history.)



A special type of spatterware was made for the Canadian market and it is called Portneuf. (Upper Canada Village Collection, Ontario Department of Tourism & Information.) It was originally believed that the crude earthenware was made at Portneuf, Quebec, but studies have proved that it was probably made at Staffordshire for sale in Canada. Portneuf is very similar to the spatterware that was made for sale in Pennsylvania and New England. It is a thick pottery and was decorated with elk, deer, robins, wild flowers, ferns, leaves, or stylized designs and it often had spatter or sponged decorations. The ware was usually decorated in green, blue, or other muted tones. —from Know Your Antiques (New York, 1967) by Ralph & Terry Kovel

Collectors often find it difficult to distinguish between pottery and porcelain. Simply put, pottery is anything made from baked clay, including earthenwares and stonewares covered in distinct glazes. Porcelain, by contrast, is made from china clay and china stone, the result being a hard white material. Thus, porcelain is generally translucent; pottery is not. A collector can also judge whether a piece is pottery or porcelain by flicking the object with his/her fingers. If a "clunk" sound results, it is probably pottery; if

Feature Article ... by Michael Flinn

Alexander Gibson & Marysville: The Paternal Development of a York County Town

The sources available for an examination of Alexander "Boss" Gibson's Marysville are quite limited. Many documents, which would have undoubtedly been useful, could not be located: records of the Gibson General Store, copies of rental leases for the company houses, diaries of men and women who worked in the cotton mill. It is not known whether these items are still in existence; if so, such primary sources could reveal important information regarding Gibson's paternalism towards his employees.

Unfortunately, the primary sources which are available may not be very reliable. Early newspapers such as *Butler's Journal*, *The Capital*, *The Daily Herald*, *The New Brunswick Reporter*, *The Royal Gazette*, and *The New Brunswick Courier* are often

filled with misconceptions, and one must be aware of this shortcoming when utilizing the press. However, it is interesting to note that Gibson's career always received good press coverage: an article about him in *The Daily Sun* of Saint John (15 March 1895) was repeated verbatim in *The St. Croix Courier* of St. Stephen a week later.

The census data for 1891 for Marysville could be another source of inaccuracy, depending upon the ability of the enumerator, in this case a Mr. W. T. Day. The Royal Commission on the Relations of Capital and Labour in Canada, although a good primary source containing interviews with

for the most part, although the brief biographical accounts and the rare periodical sketches tend to be for community glorification, often painting Alexander Gibson as a saint. These are mostly newspaper features marking special occasions in Marysville's history and published decades later in *The Daily Gleaner* and

The Telegraph-Journal. Despite the possible problems with these sources, there is enough information available to show how Gibson's paternalism contributed to the success of Marysville in the 1880s. Readers may also refer to *The History of Marysville, New Brunswick* by Douglas Daaman Pond, published in 1983, and the following articles printed in *The Atlantic Advocate*: "The Town That Refused to Die" by



Audrey Long Collection, PANB, P87/2

The Marysville Mansion of "Boss" Gibson was located near the present-day Alexander Gibson Memorial School. Built in 1866, this Victorian manor was constructed in the Gothic style. A ballroom ran the entire length of one side; a circular staircase rose to the third floor. It was here that the Gibsons entertained such prominent people as Governor-General & Lady Dufferin, and Sir John A. & Lady Macdonald. After Gibson died in this house, the place slowly deteriorated until it was demolished in 1918.

Marysville cotton mill workers in 1888, must also be examined with a skeptical eye, as the answers given by the mill workers may be truthful or skewed to preserve their jobs. Furthermore, the Report does not contain any interviews with women who worked in the Marysville cotton mill!

The secondary sources are adequate

Al O'Donnell (September, 1957); "Alexander 'Boss' Gibson" by Fred Phillips (July, 1967). A full-length biography of the builder and philanthropist known as "Boss" Gibson has yet to be written; in the meantime, researchers and historians are looking forward to the publication of Volume XIV of *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, in which

Gibson's colourful career will be narrated in detail by Dr. D. Murray Young of Fredericton, a native son of Marysville.

* * *

In 1879 the Conservative Government led by Sir John A. Macdonald introduced the National Policy in an effort to promote the economy of Canada, a country still in its infancy. This policy was instrumental in bringing prosperity to the Maritimes; however, it was not solely responsible for the economic growth of the Maritimes in the late nineteenth century. This growth also required the impetus of bold industrial leaders who were willing to risk their own economic wellbeing for the chance of attaining even greater wealth.

In the Maritimes, Alexander Gibson was one of the men at the forefront of this risk-taking. He was born in Charlotte County, New Brunswick in 1819 to an Irish farming family of humble origins, beginning his career in the lumber industry early in his life in Milltown, also in Charlotte County, and then in Lepreau, 21 miles west of Saint John.

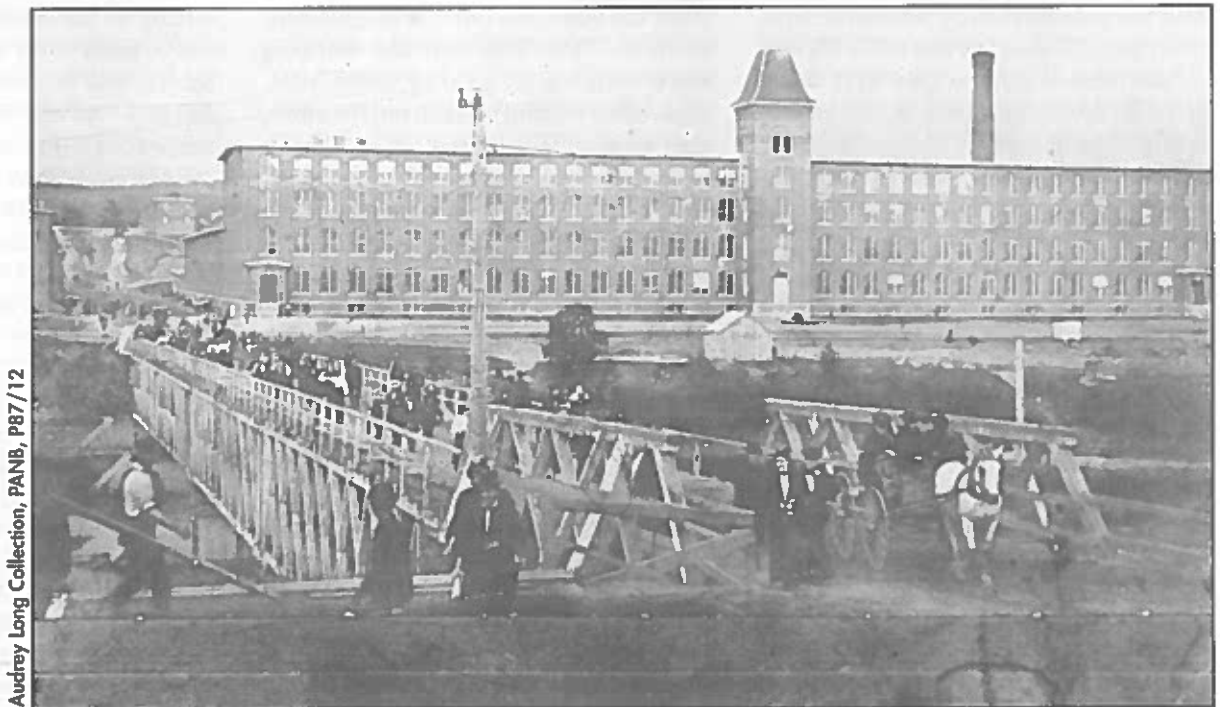
In 1862, Gibson purchased the town of Rankinville (near Fredericton) for £5000 from lumber industrialist Robert Rankin, and renamed it Marysville in honour of his wife. Rankin had formed the Nashwaak Mill and Manufacturing Company in 1836 and ran it into bankruptcy by 1840. He could not find a buyer for his property until Gibson came along and took the struggling settlement and transformed it into a bustling lumber village which frequently produced about half the exports of the port of Saint John. This earned him the title of "Lumber King."

Gibson's business ventures did not end with the lumber industry. At the age of 62, spurred on by the protective tariffs of the National Policy, he decided to risk entering the textile trade and began construction of a cotton mill in Marysville in 1883. Completed in 1885, the mill was the largest of its kind in Canada at the time. In the beginning, Gibson was extremely successful in this new venture, producing \$500,000 per annum in cloth. By 1888, his assets included his lumber industries, his cotton mill interests, his railroad enterprises, various other business ventures, the town of Marysville, and control of \$3,000,000 in capital in the form of a joint stock company. He had transformed Marysville from the village it was in the 1860s and early 1870s to a successful and prosperous town of approximately 2500 people by the 1880s.

However, just as the National Policy was not the sole reason for the economic growth of the Maritimes, Alexander Gibson was not the sole reason for the success of the cotton mill and Marysville. He needed workers to run his cotton enterprise, many of these workers being brought from the United States, England, and other parts of Canada because Marysville residents were not knowledgeable of the cotton

industry. Thus, in large part, the success of the mill depended upon Gibson's treatment of his workers. He was aware that he required satisfied people in order to make the mill as successful as possible and this also meant a happy and contented town. If the workers were happy, they would work harder and there would be less chance of industrial turmoil, a contented town supporting Gibson's actions, making the mill a complete part of everyone's lives. He used a system of mutual benefit to ensure success, a paternalism which extended towards his employees and members of the town and which essentially contributed to the political, religious, economic, and social wellbeing of Marysville in its heyday during the 1880s — an aspect of industrial relations which has been largely overlooked by historians.

The town of Marysville was created by the presence of the lumber mill and grew substantially with the construction of the cotton mill, both industries being owned and operated by Alexander Gibson, both securing him almost complete ownership of the town, putting him in an indisputable position to control the manner in which the town was managed. In this respect, he preferred his employees to live in



Changing shifts at the Marysville Cotton Mill

his houses, purchase goods from his store, and attend his Methodist church. Some people who knew Gibson in the 1880s described him as not liking opposition to himself or to his family, these characteristics earning him his next two titles: the "Boss," which probably flattered him; the "Czar of Marysville," which probably insulted him. Such descriptions did not characterize him as paternalistic, but, even though he was a skilled and ruthless businessman, his involvement in town affairs was predominately shaped by the opinions of his workers and the Marysville residents. Upon the town's incorporation in 1887, *The Daily Gleaner*, in commenting on Gibson and his ownership of Marysville, noted that "the humblest ratepayer in his employ has an equal voice with him in the management of the town affairs. It is an instance of democracy in its broadest form."

Having a voice in the politics of Marysville was conducive to the work habits of Gibson's employees. If he gave the workers no voice at all in the town affairs, they would have likely felt repressed and this might have led to labour troubles. However, because Gibson allowed the workers a role in town politics, they were more contented with their lives in Marysville and were consequently contented with their employment at the mill. This is substantiated by the fact that there were no labour conflicts in Marysville while Gibson was in charge, another article in *The Daily Gleaner* for 1887 describing Marysville as "a town of workers." Contented and hardworking employees led to an efficient work environment which, in turn, resulted in greater profits for Gibson. Though he was not required to allow the workers and residents political involvement, it was obviously beneficial for all to do so. It was so beneficial that Marysville was granted local self-government!

"Boss" Gibson's paternalism was equally instrumental in promoting the individual economy of the mill workers and the residents of Marysville. These economic benefits began with the competitive wages Gibson paid his operatives. The men received on av-

erage \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day while the women were paid an average of \$0.80 per day. Children worked for an average of \$0.40 to \$0.65 per day. On top of these competitive wages, Gibson provided living accommodations for his workers at low rents. These houses were constructed of brick and of wood and were made to last, the rent depending upon whether one lived in a double or single tenement building. Singles were rented at \$4 per month when they were first constructed in 1888; doubles at \$2 per month in 1885. As most of his mill employees lived in his tenement houses, Gibson was aware of what they could afford and was certainly generous in settling the rents.

In an effort to make available to his workers all the necessities of life, Alexander Gibson built a general store, and it was said that everything a man required for comfort, luxury, and necessity was here in endless profusion. Furthermore, he provided these goods for inexpensive prices and allowed workers to buy on credit. But, despite being able to buy goods on credit, in most cases, Gibson always paid his workers all that was owed them in cash and trusted them to pay their bills on their own. He also did not require the workers to buy only from his store; he left the decision up to them. The fact that the workers were reliable in paying their bills, most often buying goods from his store, was an excellent indication to Gibson that they were satisfied.

As a further reward to his mill workers for their hard work, Gibson would often abolish their debts at the general store in periods of increased profit. An instance of this benevolence occurred one humid summer morning in the late 1880s, after Gibson had procured a profit of \$60,000 from business deals. He made his way down to the general store and informed the sun-baked clerks that he was going to build a fire. He did so by burning the account books, clearing the debts of all his workers!

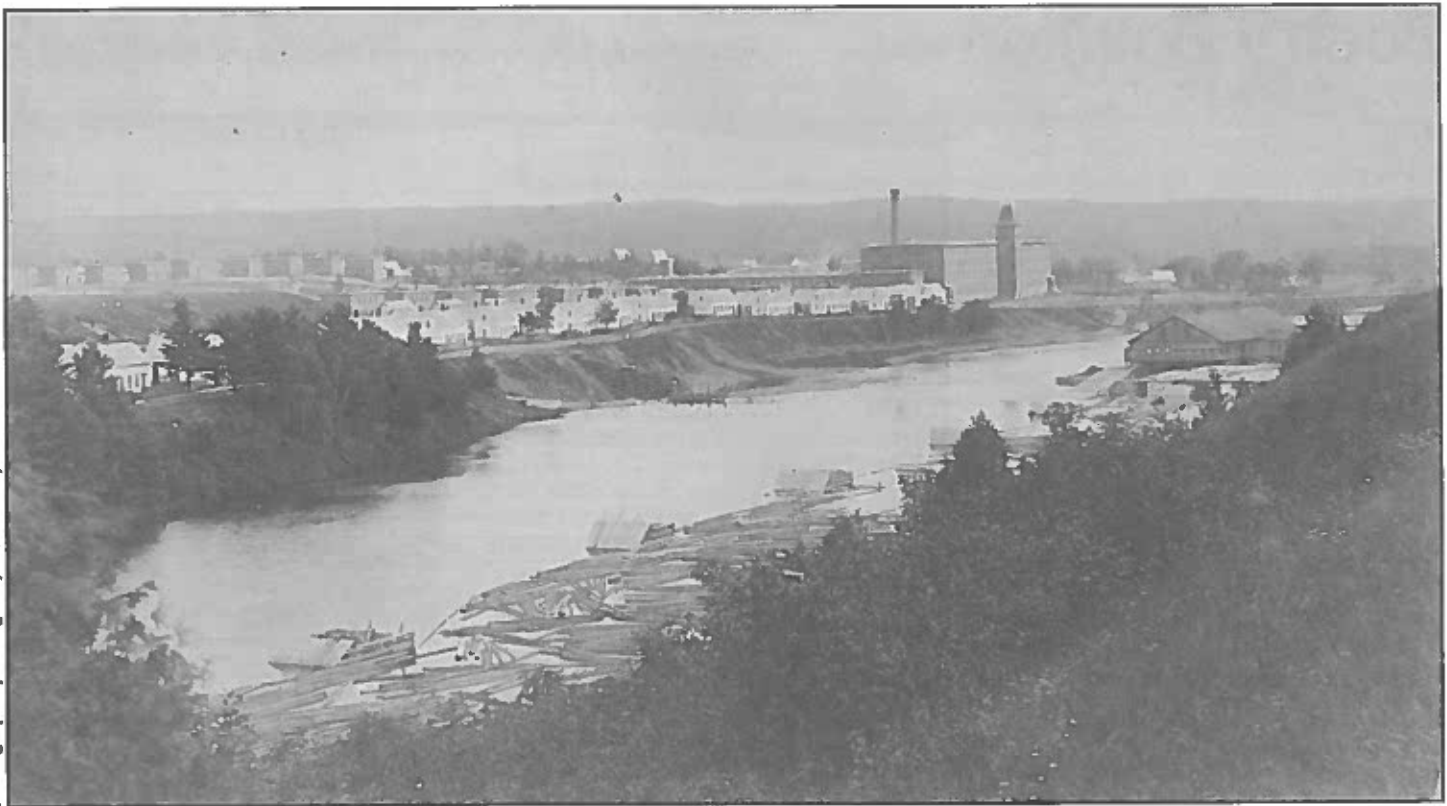
The most prominent issues in industrial relations were economic, the majority of strikes being the result of

the workers' demands for higher wages that matched the standard of living in their community. Alexander Gibson ensured that this type of conflict did not emerge in Marysville by keeping his workers happy with their wages and maintaining a comparable standard of living. This was best observed if he was forced to fire a worker for loafing or disobeying his orders. Almost invariably, he would check on the fired worker a few days later, hoping he had learned his lesson, asking him to come back to work. Actions like this informed the mill workers that they had a friend in Gibson, his personal respect providing everyone with a sense of security which strengthened the symbiotic relationship between the town and the mill.

Gibson was proud of his town and he delighted in giving to both his employees and the residents. Many people who lived in Marysville at the time had fond memories of him, such as all the times he would meet children on their way to school and give them candy. He also derived great pleasure in throwing picnics for the town, loading three or four hundred people on railway flatcars and taking them sometimes as far as Loggieville (five miles NE of Chatham) for a day's outing at his expense. Though he did not always fund events, he often extended his benevolence at public activities. At one in 1887, there were numerous cakes and other sweets left over from a town festival. Not wanting the ladies' hard work to go to waste, he purchased all the remaining desserts and held a picnic for the children of Marysville the following day.

His benevolence was twofold at Christmas time. Every December, he would have train loads of turkeys brought in for his workers, and people still talk about the big banquet the "Boss" gave at the mill on Boxing Day, 1885: there were 1000 guests and he had one turkey for every four! The town was extremely appreciative of this seasonal spirit and, not long after the event, there appeared in *The Daily Gleaner* a testimonial compli-

(Photograph by George Taylor; courtesy David Dickson)



The Village of Marysville, late 1880s, showing the company houses, the cotton mill, and the saw mill on the Nashwaak River.

menting Mr. Gibson on his generosity and his strong support of temperance within the community.

This tribute pointed to another aspect of Alexander Gibson's paternalism towards his workers and his town: his attempt to strengthen the moral behavior through temperance. With his support, Marysville organized the largest division of the Sons of Temperance in New Brunswick by the end of the 1880s, Gibson himself participating in numerous marches, often acting as marshal for these processions. He was so confident of Marysville's temperance that, when asked by the Royal Commission on the Relations of Capital and Labour in Canada about the moral standard of his workers at the cotton mill with regards to liquor, he replied, "There has been no liquor sold here since I have been in this place, and if any comes to this place, it is brought here in the bellies of the hands from Fredericton, and I am determined that none shall be sold in this place as long as I have the swing." Thus, in an effort to keep his workers and his town sober, the "Boss" became

a positive influence on the social development, which, in turn, lent support to his cotton mill and aided its economic success.

He was a rare industrialist. The paternalism he extended to his cotton workers and the town of Marysville acted as a harmonizing agent between the interests of Alexander Gibson and the town's development, and prevented the occurrence of industrial disputes. This was in marked contrast to the cotton mill at St. Croix (Charlotte County), where the breakdown of industrial relations resulted in a bitter strike in 1886. The political, religious, economic, and social development of Marysville grew tremendously during the 1880s as a result of Gibson's philosophy: happy workers were good workers! The effect that this had on the success of the overall economy of Marysville was evident from data in the 1887 Report of the Royal Commission: \$760,800 for the total amount of EXPORTS from Marysville; \$438,200 for the total amount of IMPORTS from Marysville.

These figures reveal that, even though Gibson was a paternalistic capitalist, he was still able to obtain profits from his business ventures. Unfortunately, he trusted too many people in his life and, as a result, by 1908, he eventually lost all he had accomplished, either to Upper Canadian businessmen or fire. He died 14 August 1913 at his home in Marysville. Some say he was completely broke at the time; others say he had been receiving a small pension. Regardless, his story lives on as one of the most remarkable industrial careers in the annals of Canadian history. *

(Michael Flinn has been a life-long resident of Marysville. Because of his interest in local history, he hopes one day to write the biography of Alexander "Boss" Gibson. In the meantime, he has just completed a BA (Honours in History) from UNB, is currently involved in the BED program, and plans to pursue a Masters and a PhD in history. The summer of 1995 provided him with an opportunity to study in Rome.)

Poetry Pavilion *(The original Officers' Quarters was called the Pavilion)*

Most courteous patrons, on this joyful day,
All News-Boys wish their best respects to pay,
To those whose generous favor, freely given,
Sustained their Press through pinching

forty-seven

With friends like you our Press shall
never yield

A venial aid, nor shall it e'er a shield
Supply, to screen corruption, or the knaves
Who wish both Printers and their
Patrons slaves.

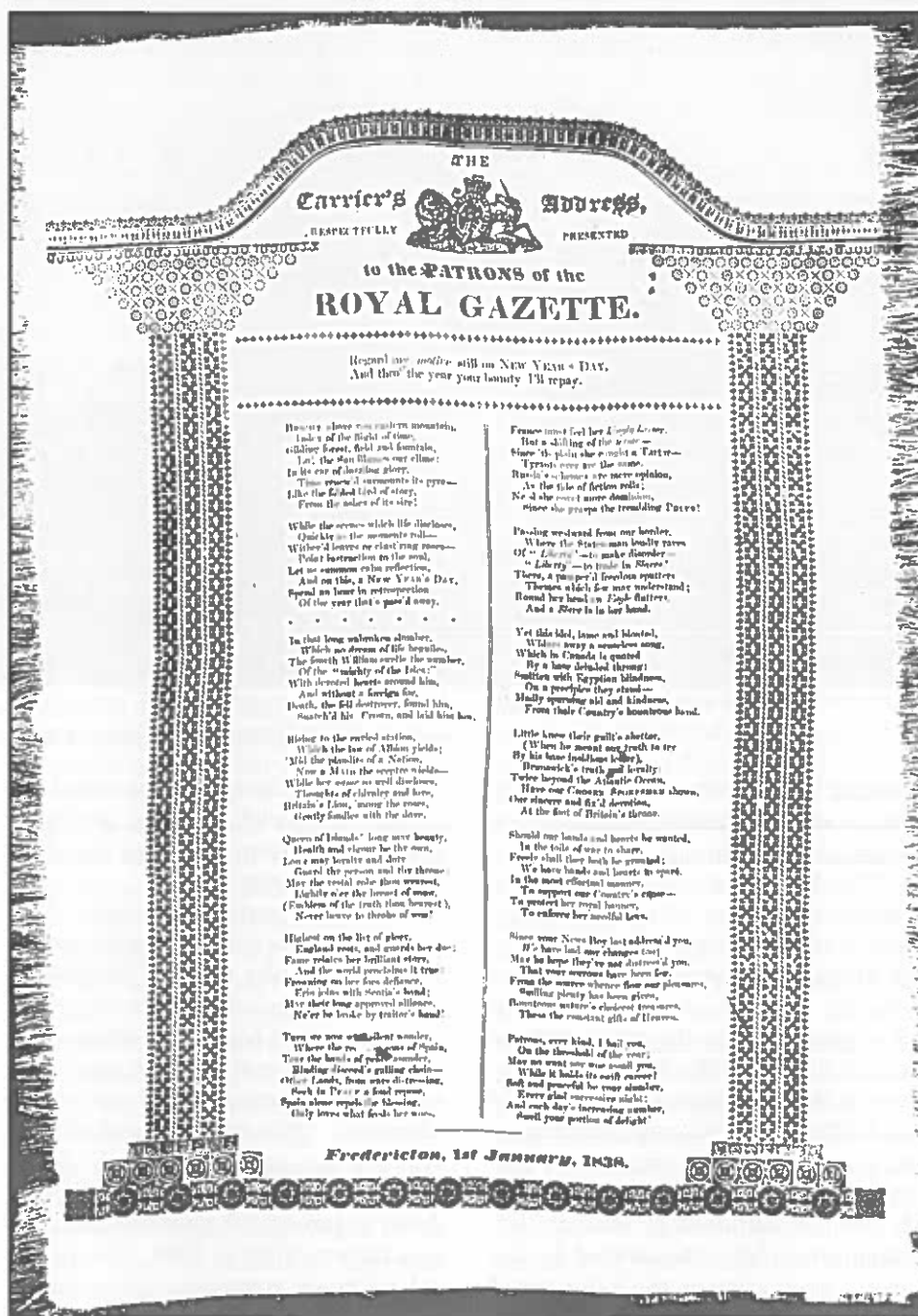
Such are the words of the first verse of fifteen that are neatly printed on creamy-colored satin beneath the title, "The News-Boy's Annual Address/To the Patrons of The Headquarters/ Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1st January 1848." The other fourteen verses tell of the famine in Ireland in the previous years and extol the press.

Remarkable as is the doggerel poetry, far more wonderful is the elaborate design in printing that forms an ornamental framework for the verses, the border being grouped with fine and delicate tracery. Printers of today should marvel at the perfection with which the tiny pieces of type have been put together. Everything was hand set in printing establishments in the last century, and printing on satin was especially difficult.

The delivery of the Newsboys' Annual Letters was a well-established custom throughout the 1800s and a means of obtaining free-will offerings and handsome tips from the newspaper patrons for the past year's work. Being a delivery boy in those days was also a training time for many of the future leaders of the New Brunswick press. Harry Chubb, son of a Loyalist, was to become a leading publisher and a future mayor of Saint John through the *New Brunswick Courier*, which he founded in 1811. As a young boy, Chubb is mentioned in the Newsboy's Address of the New Year, 1802.

Another beginner in those formative years was the future King's Printer George Lugin, who in 1815 was to move the *Royal Gazette* from Saint John to Fredericton. The Newsboy's Address for the *Royal Gazette* of January 1st, 1808, was dedicated to subscribers of the paper by young Lugin in these opening words:

Once more kind Patrons the Season's return'd,
So famous for bringing good cheer,
And George as is usual with vendors of News,
Again wishes a Happy New Year.
The comforts last Season your bounty
procured,
Are uppermost still in my mind,
And I trust (if too sanguine I hope you'll
find excuse)
This year the same bounty I'll find:
The troubles of life are but hard to be borne,
Unless Hope the dark prospect should gild
Thus my pockets — which time has depriv'd
of their store,
Hope tells me will shortly be filled.



The York-Sunbury Historical Society Collection in the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has two different newsboy's addresses (also called The Carrier's Address). The one reproduced on this page is To the Patrons of the *Royal Gazette*, Fredericton, 1st January 1838. The other one, which consists of 24 stanzas and which is in a more fragile condition, is To the Patrons of The *New Brunswick Reporter*, Fredericton, 1st January 1848. Unfortunately, the donors are unknown.

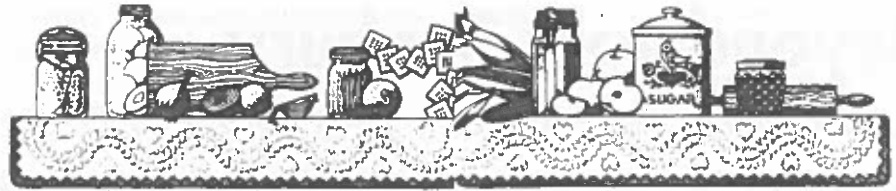
The Newsboy's Address quoted at the beginning of this column was a gift to The New Brunswick Museum in 1932 from a Mrs. F. H. White of

New York City, formerly of Fredericton. The artifact had belonged to her father, a Mr. M. H. Hart of Fredericton.

The *Officers' Quarterly* is interested in locating more of the Newsboy's Addresses and in finding out more about them and their various newspapers of the 1800s. Please contact the Editor if you have any information in this regard. ☺

(The Editor wishes to thank PANB staff members Ruth Grattan, Fred Farrell, Wanda Lyons, and Luis Nadeau for assisting him with the preparation of the Poetry Pavilion column for this issue.)

Recipes from the Pioneer Kitchen ... York-Sunbury Style by Pat Flemming



American lyricist Sammy Cahn probably thought about Canadian winters when he wrote the popular tune "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" But this year, the United States has received an unprecedented share of the "white stuff." Thus, snow shovellers on both sides of the border have been working overtime. The result: stupendous appetites! The remedy: hearty fare from the kitchen — delicious recipes that are easy for the cook, yet satisfying and nutritious for everyone, including winter sports enthusiasts and even those who prefer to stay snow-bound before the fireplace with a good book. Here are several all-time favourites for a complete meal, beginning with hot tea biscuits, which taste great in the winter with casseroles, stews, or soups. My sister Polly is a great cook and makes these often:

OLD-FASHIONED BISCUITS

4 cups flour (save 1/4 cup to roll biscuits)
8 tsps. baking powder
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup shortening (Fluffo or Crisco)
2 cups milk

Mix all dry ingredients with a pastry blender. Make a well in the center and add the milk all at once. Combine with a fork until flour is incorporated. Turn mixture onto a pastry board, but handle as little as possible. Roll out lightly. Cut out biscuits one-inch thick with small, medium, or large cutter. Arrange each biscuit touching on a cookie sheet. Brush milk on top of each biscuit. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes in a 400° or 425° oven.

Beef stew was served regularly in our household when I was growing up and, with nine children and several UNB student boarders to feed, my mother (Josephine) made plenty of it! The following is her standard recipe which I continue to use today:

ENGLISH BROWN STEW

1 1/2 lbs. stew beef (cut in one-inch cubes)
flour, salt and pepper
2 Tbsps. shortening or vegetable oil
1 clove garlic (minced)
1/2 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. allspice
1 tsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce

2 cups tomato juice
1 1/2 cups water
4 to 5 small onions
1 1/2 cups diced potatoes
3 medium carrots (diced)
3/4 cup diced celery

Shake the meat in a bag along with the flour, seasoned with salt and pepper. Melt the shortening and brown the meat and garlic in a fry pan. Reduce the heat and add the paprika, allspice, sugar, lemon juice, Worcestershire Sauce, tomato juice, and water. After browning the meat, cover and cook 1 1/2 hours at low temperature. Stir occasionally, adding more water if necessary. Then add the onions, potatoes, carrots, and celery. Cover and cook 15 minutes, until vegetables are tender.

The long winter evenings provide a wonderful opportunity to have friends over for supper. Give yourself time to join in the conversation by having this main course already in the oven:

COMPANY CASSEROLE

4 tbsps. butter or margarine
4 tbsps. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups hot milk
1 four-oz. pkg. cream cheese, cut in small pieces
2 tbsps. chopped green pepper
2 tbsps. chopped pimiento
1 tbsps. finely chopped onion
2 seven-oz. cans tuna, drained
1 fourteen-oz. can green beans or peas, drained
2 cups Chow Mein noodles or potato chips

Melt butter in large saucepan. Add and blend in flour and salt. Stir in hot milk slowly. Add cream cheese and cook and stir over medium heat until sauce is thickened and cheese is melted. Add green pepper, pimiento, and onion. Break up tuna and fold tuna and green beans (or peas) into sauce. Pour mixture into greased 1 1/2-quart casserole. Top with noodles or chips and bake at 350° for 25 minutes.

We no longer see the heavy iron soup kettle on top of the kitchen stove or over the fire. Today, homemade soups can be made in a fraction of the time. Here is a delectable and substantial meal in itself:

CORN CHOWDER

5 slices bacon
1 medium onion, thinly sliced & separated into rings
1/2 cup diced celery
1/4 cup chopped green pepper
2 medium potatoes, pared and diced

1/2 cup water
1 nineteen-ounce can cream corn
2 cups milk
1 teaspoon salt
Dash pepper
Butter or margarine

In large saucepan, cook bacon till crisp. Remove bacon, crumble, and set aside. Reserve 3 tablespoons bacon drippings in saucepan, discarding remainder. Add onion, celery and pepper to saucepan and cook. Add potato and water, cooking over medium heat 10 to 15 minutes. Add corn, milk, salt, and pepper; cook until heated through. Pour into warmed bowls and top each serving with bacon pieces and a pat of butter. Serve with biscuits or crackers. Great on a cold day!

Bread Pudding or Poor Man's Pudding has returned to our dining room tables after an absence of many years; in fact, some high-class restaurants, such as The Sheraton Inn and The Algonquin Hotel, often include Bread Pudding on their dinner menus. Here is a very basic recipe from *The Fanny Farmer Cookbook*, first published in 1896:

BREAD PUDDING

5 cups of diced bread
3 cups warm milk
4 Tbsps. of butter
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup seeded dark raisins

Add the diced bread and soft butter to the warm milk and soak for 15 minutes. Combine the beaten eggs, sugar, salt, nutmeg, and vanilla. Pour this mixture over the soaked bread and stir lightly. Fold in the raisins. Pour into a buttered baking dish and bake one hour at 325°F. Serve with plain or whipped cream. (If a fancier pudding is desired, make the same recipe as above, but use four egg yolks instead of two whole eggs. After baking the pudding, spread with a thin layer of jam or jelly. Add 6 tsps. of sugar and a few grains of salt to the beaten egg whites, whipping until stiff. Spread over the jam or jelly, return to the oven, and bake five minutes at 425°F.)

Don't forget, winter is the perfect time of year for experimenting with recipes, so have fun in your kitchen and enjoy the results!

(Society member Pat Flemming is a freelance writer and journalist living in Fredericton.)

Beyond York-Sunbury

A Northern Adventure . . . by Michael Drury

As the twin-engine Otter workhorse banked sharply over the pingos, settled noisily onto the gravel air strip, and taxied past abandoned oil-exploration buildings toward the tiny pre-fab air terminal, we wondered what adventures awaited us in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories. Situated on a narrow, low, treeless spit of land in Kugmallit Bay in the Beaufort Sea, it was first settled in the mid-1930s by the Hudson's Bay Company, and the name, not to mention the location, has always intrigued me.

My fascination with the North began while I was still in high school, when a friend went off to the Arctic to work for HBC and came back with exciting tales of life amongst the Inuit. Shortly thereafter, another friend began a lengthy teaching career that touched a number of northern communities, and his stories served to increase my interest. Finally, a couple of years ago, a friend of Valerie (my wife), who had been teaching in Tuk for many years, convinced us to apply and, on 24 July 1994, we arrived, with suitcases and cartons of personal belongings, to begin a one-year teaching assignment at the Mangilaluk School, the only one to serve the population of just under 1000 inhabitants.

Tuktoyaktuk is predominantly an Eskimo community, but most of the people are not of the Mackenzie Inuit, who originally inhabited the surrounding region. During the expedition of Captain John Franklin of 1825-28, a party under Dr. John Richardson explored the Arctic Coast from the Mackenzie Delta to the Coppermine River. Along the shore, they frequently encountered groups of Mackenzie Inuit who depended mainly on sea life for their existence. Some of these settlements were of considerable size; however, Kittigazuit with 1000 persons then is now abandoned! The elders in Tuk still refer to this community with a fondness, as they recall the old way of life. Alaskan Inuit

eventually migrated into the area, and the current chief of Tuk, Emanuel Felix, along with his wife, Christine, trace their ancestry to Alaska. In fact, they still return occasionally to visit with relatives.

During the whaling boom of 1889-1912, the principal port on the Beaufort Sea was Herschel Island, where today all

Catholic missions in 1937. Thus, Inuit from villages and camps along the coast were attracted to settle in Tuk by the possibility of employment in the transhipping operations.

The economy was reinforced further by the construction of a Distant Early Warning Line station by the American and Canadian governments during The Cold War. Unfortunately, this facility closed in the Fall of 1993. In recent years, oil and gas explorations centered on Richards Island, 50 kilometres to the west of Tuk, brought activity to the area, although today only the abandoned warehouses and barracks remain. The Federal Government has also established a site of the Western Arctic Polar Continental Shelf Project, which provides a base for scientific investigation during the Summer months.

The school year in Tuk differs from most other communities in the Beaufort-Delta region. Since it is a coastal locality, and because of past dependence on the sea for livelihood, the school board has adjusted the school year back by one month with start-up in early August. This allows the academic year to conclude by mid-May, when the more traditional families take their children back out on the land after the long, dark winter. The local Education Council offers opportunities for the teachers to accompany a native family to the land to experience first-hand the harshness, as well as the beauty, of nature in this Arctic landscape.

The student population at Mangilaluk School numbers approximately 250, from Kindergarten to Grade Eleven. The final year of high school, Grade Twelve, will be phased in by the year 1995-96. Prior to 1993, any children wanting a high school education had to board at a residential school in Inuvik. Now that the NWT Department of Education has extended secondary schooling into most northern communities, families will no longer have to endure this difficult separation. I had



Mike Drury is dressed for temperatures that dipped as low as -47°Celsius, when every footstep on the snow-packed roads left an endless squeaking sound.

(Photo by Valerie Drury)

that remains are a few abandoned buildings and a National Park Service that conducts tours during the brief tourist season. Subsequent to the decline of Herschel Island's importance, the HBC sought to transfer its supply point to an area between the inland waterways of the Mackenzie River and the Arctic Coast, and chose the current site of Tuktoyaktuk, as the result of a survey in 1934. The establishment of the HBC post was followed by Anglican and Roman

the interesting challenge of teaching various courses to students from grades five to eleven. There was no language barrier, all of these children being able to speak English.

There is a strong movement in place within the school district to ensure that the native Inuvialuktun language, traditions, and customs will be preserved. Known as Inuktagiit, it offers opportunities for teachers in every subject area to include examples, if not entire units, binding the rich cultural past to the present. Even though television and the Internet are flourishing at the 69th parallel, the importance of the past will not be lost. There is also a trend to prepare native people to become teachers in their own schools, thereby lessening the reliance on southern instructors.

Travel into and out of the community depends upon the season. Since the Dempster Highway's northern terminus is Inuvik, road traffic to Tuktoyaktuk is non-existent, that is, until the Mackenzie River freezes to a depth of two metres, which happens just before Christmas. At that time, the Department of Highways builds, opens, and maintains an ice road connecting the two communities. It follows the Mackenzie River out to the delta and onto the Beaufort Sea.

Approximately 180 kilometres in length, and depending upon weather conditions, the trip between Tuk and Inuvik takes about three to three and one-half hours by car. An air of expectancy begins to develop around the first of December, speculating as to when the road will open. Similarly, by mid-April, a feeling of sadness descends when the area is once again isolated from the outside, with travel restricted to a 30-minute plane ride or a half-day journey by river barge.

Realizing that the landscape around Tuk is one of the most unusual in Canada, we would have found the vast areas of lake-strewn tundra monotonous were it not for the presence of hundreds of ice hills called pingos. One of the largest is situated about six kilometres from the village and is a popular destination by canoe in the summer and snowmobile in

the winter. A cone-shaped hill that consists of a massive core of ice covered by a thin layer of soil, the pingos occur mostly in depressions that were formerly lake basins, over half of them completely or almost surrounded by water. They are the result of powerful forces of underground ice encroaching on the surface, which, as the ice expands, creates pressure and pushes itself upward to form a pingo. Because the Arctic Coast is above the tree line, these natural landmarks, some rising a few hundred feet above the plain, offered invaluable assistance as direction



The fur-trimmed parka and sealskin mukluks worn by Valerie Drury were handmade by a senior female resident of Tuktoyaktuk.

(Photo by Mike Drury)

markers on an otherwise featureless landscape.

During our brief year in Tuk, we met and made friends with many of the inhabitants. Walking to and from school each day in the late Summer and early Fall, we would stop and watch whitefish being split and placed on drying racks, along with beluga whale and herring. Valerie's Grade Four class was taken to the nearby beach where Nellie Pokiak made tea and cooked bannock on an open

driftwood fire. There were regular public drum-dancing exhibitions staged in the local community centre, as well as drum-dancing classes offered in the school as an extra-curricular activity. A kayak-building demonstration in the school lasted for several weeks, and we were able to observe an authentic seal-skin vessel being built as it would have been constructed at the time when European explorers first visited the western Arctic shores.

Our government accommodation consisted of a comfortable three-bedroom bungalow, located on the shores of the Beaufort Sea and electrically heated by the village generator. Fresh water was delivered to us every other day, the days in between being reserved for sewage removal. We were allowed to bring 3,000 pounds of personal belongings from New Brunswick, sent by moving van a month before our departure. This included 2,000 pounds of food (canned and dry goods only) because of the scarcity and the high cost at the HBC store (bread, \$3 per loaf; oranges, \$6 per dozen). Our meat supply was already there — fresh caribou, which we kept frozen solid on our back porch.

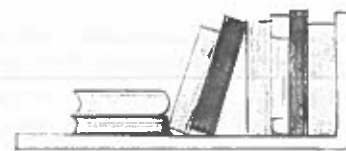
As the Winter progressed towards Spring and the 24 hours of darkness gave way to longer and longer days, the odd polar bear skin, along with wolf and Arctic fox hides, could be seen drying on racks and the sides of houses. Throughout the year, carvers were busy producing Inuit art from soapstone, caribou antler, musk ox horn, and narwhale tusk.

Valerie and I will always remember the people and the community of Tuktoyaktuk. Our farewells in mid-May were a blend of excitement at returning home to our families, along with sadness at leaving behind a world that previously we had only read about or heard about from friends. ❧

(Michael Drury is a Guidance Counsellor at Fredericton High School. A graduate of UNB and McGill University, he has also taught in Sackville, New Brunswick, and Montreal, Quebec.)

The Officers' Bookcase ... by Anita Jones

Early Settlement in Sunbury County



A Cloud of Witnesses

by Lucy McNeill

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Privately published, 1995

101 pages, illustrations.

Most Maritimers are aware that one result of the American Revolution was the arrival, in what was then called Nova Scotia, of large numbers of Loyalists, many of them well educated but not necessarily prepared for life in a largely undeveloped land. What many people may not have considered is what brought these British citizens to America in the first place.

A Cloud of Witnesses (a title based on a phrase from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*) provides much interesting information about the forebears and descendants of one "immigrant" couple, Dr. Joseph Clarke and his wife Isabella Elizabeth (née Alleyne). In the process, the reader learns about the reasons some of these settlers came to the New World, in particular to serve as clergymen and to operate plantations in Barbados. Once the War of Independence was under way, many hardships were endured by those remaining loyal to Britain; the author presents examples of how individuals were affected, and a document claiming damages for confiscated property is reproduced in the Appendices.

Details about the day-to-day lifestyles of those living in New Brunswick and in Upper Canada in the late 1700s and early 1800s provide fascinating reading. Attitudes toward slaves are reflected in a 1786 advertisement in the *Royal Gazette* for public assistance in apprehending two slaves who had escaped in the vicinity of Mauderville, N.B. One cannot fail to admire the courage and energy of 31-year-old Isabella Gamble when she undertook — with her five children, her sister, and her father — a difficult journey of some five weeks by canoe through rugged terrain from Mauderville to York, in Upper Canada.

Author Lucy McNeill undertook genealogical research after her arrival in

Fredericton in 1955, realizing that ancestors of hers had settled in Mauderville in 1783, having arrived with the "Second Fleet" of Loyalists in June of that year. Dr. Joseph Clarke became a successful farmer, in addition to having a medical practice. His wife Isabella had a sister named Benjamina in honour of an uncle slain in a 1728 duel in Boston, and another sister named Abel Dudley, after two brothers lost at sea in 1740. Joseph and Isabella Clarke's daughter Isabella mar-



Courtesy Mrs. McNeill

Lucy McNeill in her younger years. A valuable and long-standing member of the York-Sunbury Historical Society and a 1984 recipient of the Martha J. Harvey Award of Distinction, she continues to live in her own home on historic Church Street in Fredericton, maintaining an interest in Society events.

ried Dr. John Gamble a year after they had met on the Loyalist ship in 1783; one of their descendants founded the Procter & Gamble Company. Nehemiah Clarke, a brother of Joseph, is buried in the Old Loyalist Burying Ground in Fredericton.

The author has included within the text some timely philosophy for potential researchers: "Like many other young people, I had paid but scant attention to my grandmother's stories of earlier times"; "Both the telling of history and the recitation of historical dates are apt to be bor-

ing to the young, but with maturity the full significance of these seemingly dull practices can be understood"; "My grandmother had a metal box in which there were many letters. There must have been a wealth of information in them, but they were destroyed after her death by an unthinking agent, something I find hard to forgive." Readers will also enjoy her literary style, as shown by this excerpt:

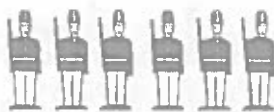
Even with speedy modern transportation, any grandfather would find two or three days' travel an irksome task. Joseph Clarke must have been a patient man and a loving father to put up with such a difficult trek. It must have taken a minimum of five or six weeks to accomplish this epic journey — a trip that can now be made in an hour and a half by jet or sixteen hours by car. What a debt of gratitude we owe to our Loyalist ancestors, people such as Joseph and Isabella Elizabeth Gamble and their families, who showed such fortitude and rugged endurance in the difficult time in which they lived. Women in particular led lives of unremitting toil and great hardship, so it is our hardy women Loyalist ancestors whose accomplishments stand out most boldly against the circumstances of their times.

Mrs. McNeill has drawn on an extensive array of resources, and has included excerpts from several. The book presents a number of clearly produced illustrations, and appendices of various genealogical tables. The reader would do well to refer to these family trees while reading the text of the book. With the frequent repetition of names from one generation to another, a reader trying to follow the genealogy might otherwise become confused. Unfortunately, this reviewer was left wondering exactly where Mrs. McNeill fits into these family trees.

At 90 years of age, Lucy McNeill (née Ashworth) is to be commended for the time and effort that she has put into this informative book. *A Cloud of Witnesses* is a valuable contribution to Loyalist history in New Brunswick and to the genealogy of the Alleyne, Clarke, Gamble, and Hubbard families connected to the story. ❧

(Anita Jones is a schoolteacher and freelance writer/editor living in Fredericton.)

Garrison Ghosts



The York-Sunbury Historical Society was established 64 years ago. In the last eight issues of *The Officers' Quarterly* (1994 & 1995), this particular column has been reflecting back 60 years to see what the Society, and the world at large, were doing in 1934 & 1935. This year, the four issues for 1996 will look back at the year 1936 to see what items of seasonal interest can be brought forth to haunt our readers.

* * *

The Winter Olympics for 1936 took place in Garmisch, Germany. Although Norway swept the speedskating medals, a little fellow from Saint John, New Brunswick won the hearts of the spectators because of his consistency and perseverance. He was the Dominion's only racing skater at the 11th Olympiad and his name was Tommy White.

On 18 January 1936, popular British author Rudyard Kipling died at age 70. Although he had lived in New England for part of his life, he only visited and travelled in Canada, a country in which he was deeply interested, where he received an Honorary Degree from McGill University, and where he continued his friendship with two remarkable New Brunswickers — Max Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook) & Andrew Bonar Law.

Ignored by royalty throughout his life, because he "coined" the phrase Widow of Windsor (regarding Queen Victoria), Kipling was overshadowed by royalty in death, King George V having died on 20 January 1936. However, Kipling was honoured in life by receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature, and in death by having his ashes placed in Westminster Abbey.

As the public continued to mourn George V, the people of the British Empire heard Edward VIII give his first address, a tradition whereby the King delivers a message shortly after his accession. Instead of having someone else read the text, as had been done by former Monarchs, he spoke himself from a studio at the BBC on March 1st.

Closer to home, a sensational murder trial in Moncton, New Brunswick domi-

nated the news that winter, brothers Arthur & Daniel Bannister (ages 19 & 20) being found guilty of killing Philip & Bertha Lake and their young son of Pacific Junction and kidnapping the family's six-month-old daughter.

According to handwritten reports and faded press clippings in the old 1936



Alfred G. Bailey, in his younger years, photographed by George Freeland of Toronto, courtesy Dr. & Mrs. Bailey.

minute book, the York-Sunbury Historical Society was beginning its fifth busy year, as the following excerpts will show:

8 January 1936 — Executive Meeting. Mrs. J. B. Maxwell read a letter to Dr. George Bailey from Dr. Alfred Bailey, Assistant Director of the New Brunswick Museum, in which the latter offered his services in presenting a lantern slide lecture. Moved & seconded that W. M. Burns, corresponding secretary, write Alfred Bailey, accepting to present his lantern slide lecture before the February meeting. Moved & Seconded that this Society procure a copy of Miss Muriel

Miller's book on Bliss Carman. Carried. The Report of the Nominating Committee on the slate of officers for the ensuing year was received. Moved and seconded that a committee be named to approach Premier A. A. Dysart and ask that a grant of \$300 be given this Society for year 1936. Carried.

15 January 1936 — Annual General Meeting. Reports presented showed some of the activities of the year 1995. Mrs. Nathan Squires gave a most interesting and carefully prepared paper on her reminiscences of St. Mary's and Gibson, now Devon. The officers for 1936 were elected and the directors were named. It was noted that some very interesting items have been recently presented to the Museum: a bottle of hand-made shot found in the ruins of Fort Nashwaak (1696); a colored picture-plate of the late Dr. L. W. Bailey of UNB; a bull's-eye dark lantern; the diary of I. Allen Jack, a student at UNB in 1860 who wrote about the college professors, the dances at Government House, and "Elmcroft Place," the home of barrister Neville Parker. The meeting adjourned by singing "God Save the King."

5 February 1936 — Executive Meeting. Arrangements of the coming lecture of Dr. Alfred Bailey were discussed. The students of UNB and PNS to be invited to attend. Silver collection at the door. Moved and Seconded that the Society pay the Incorporation Fee of \$10 to the Provincial Government. Carried. Moved and seconded that Mrs. A. E. Mathewson give a report of this meeting to *The Daily Gleaner* and *The Daily Mail*. Carried. A portrait of Miss Hannah Ingraham, the daughter of a Loyalist settler, was presented to the Society. A resolution that one-minute silence be observed in memory of the death of our beloved sovereign, the late King George V.

19 February 1936 — Regular Monthly Meeting. Dr. Alfred G. Bailey was the lecturer in the auditorium of the Provincial Normal School, the subject being "The French Regime in Acadia." Dr. Bailey is a son of L. W. Bailey of Quebec City (a former resident of Fredericton) and a grandson of the late Dr. Loring Woart

(continued on page 27)



Arvin Stuart Gibson (a first cousin, twice removed, of Alexander "Boss" Gibson) was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but was raised in Northern California. After graduating with a BSc in Engineering from the University of California, he took a number of postgraduate courses before working and doing research in the field of nuclear engineering. He joined the Utah Power & Light Company, eventually becoming an Executive Vice-President. Upon retirement, he began research of a different nature when he interviewed more than 100 persons who had near-death experiences, the results being recorded in four published books. He now resides in Kaysville, Utah 84037 (103 East 300 South) and welcomes information or inquiries about his research for *The Gibsons of New Brunswick*.



Mary McKay-Masterson (a first cousin, third removed, of Alexander "Boss" Gibson) was born in McAdam, York County, but grew up in St. Andrews, Charlotte County. A successful small-business woman in New Brunswick, she has also performed on stage and produced shows for community television. With the full resources of the Family History Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah, she has pursued genealogy and has helped in the identifying and linking of literally thousands of her relatives, her ancestors, and their descendants. She now lives in Calgary, Alberta T2K 2R9 (527 Thornhill Drive North-West) and welcomes information or inquiries about her research for *The Gibsons of New Brunswick*.

Books from the Barracks ...

by Arvin S. Gibson

Fascinating Research on the Gibsons of New Brunswick: A First-Person Narrative

It was a quiet evening at home in Bountiful, Utah — my wife, Carol, had gone out — and I was enjoying television when the phone rang. I was annoyed at the interruption, since I assumed it was some salesperson. Picking up the phone, I answered with a bit of pique:

"Yes, hello."

"Are you Arvin Gibson?" a man's voice asked. I was sure it was a salesman.

Yes."

"My wife would like to speak with you."

That's a new approach, I thought, as I waited for his wife to try and sell me something.

"Hello. Are you Arvin Gibson?" she asked.

"Yes," I responded, somewhat exasperated at the repeated question but curious as to what would come next.

"My name is Mary Masterson, and I'm a relative of yours."

I had few living relatives that I knew of, none named Mary Masterson, but I decided to go along with the gag.

"For goodness sakes. Are you calling from Salt Lake City?"

"No, Canada. My great-grandmother was Margaret King Gibson."

I almost fell off my chair because Margaret King Gibson was my great-aunt and the previous day my wife and I had performed a religious ordinance for her in a Mormon Temple. Doing my best to sound calm, I asked, "How did you come to call me?"

"For a long time I've felt that I should commence genealogy work on the Gibson line. Recently, I wrote the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and asked if they knew of any research on the Gibson line. They sent me some material that identified Arvin Gibson as having done some research. I had no idea that anyone else was working to find my ancestors. I just got the material today and I could hardly wait to call you."

That phone call changed my life!

Until I talked with Mary Masterson, I had little or no interest in genealogy. My mother and others had urged me to get involved in searching out my Canadian ancestors, but I had successfully dodged such encouragement. In my secret thoughts, I was convinced that genealogy work was beneath my intellectual capacity. It was more suited to the efforts of widows and little old ladies.

We had hired a professional genealogist, who was successful in finding Margaret King Gibson for us, subsequently placating my conscience for not following my mother's advice. At the time of Mary's phone call, we had, perhaps, twenty names identified as associated with my father's line. Mary suggested that we trade information and I agreed.

The initial package of information I received from Mary contained several family histories of the Gibsons and related lines (Andersons, Robinsons, Shermans, Kaines, etc.). Numerous names and their family ties were included. A principal problem with the data was that very few dates or places were included. Often the names were given as nicknames, or they couldn't be rigorously tied into our family lines.

I decided to sacrifice myself and spend some time in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I no longer had the excuse that I was too busy since I had now retired from work.

As expected, my initial effort wasn't too promising. I stumbled through the Canadian indexes, and managed to find some old census reports. The lists on the microfilm were hard to read, and they had no order to them. They just appeared as the census-taker happened to come upon a house or farm. They were organized by Province and County, but there was no index of names. I spent two or three days straining my eyes to find a familiar name, but with little luck. Ultimately, I found a Gibson who had previously been identified by the professional genealogist, and I was elated. After this initial find,

though, I lapsed back into the drudgery of scanning line after line of meaningless names.

Returning home, discouraged, after a particularly bad day, I told Carol that I would give it one more day and if that didn't work I would quit looking. The next day I decided to look, one more time, in the 1871 census in the county of Charlotte.

All of a sudden, I saw them. Located as a group of farms in the same area were the following names: Alexander Gibson, Stewart Gibson, Robert Robinson, James Robinson, Howard Douglas, John Blair, William King, Robert King, and their families. Located a short distance away, but in the same general area were Joseph Robinson and James Evans. All were names I was now familiar with from the material which Mary Masterson had sent me, and from earlier research by the professional genealogist.

Over the next several weeks, I scanned other census and marriage records, uncovering ties to numerous others who had been previously identified by Mary, this new information helping to complete our record. There were also new names of which we had not known.

Amazement, astonishment, delight, impatience, wonder, excitement, joy. Those are words which describe how I felt at the time. Instead of letters on a sheet of paper, the names had become people — my relatives and my friends. I could hardly wait to get to the library each day to find more. Then I would rush home to input the new data into the computer program, having previously purchased *Personal Ancestral File* (published by the Mormon Church). This computer program greatly facilitated the storage and management of the data. Our list of names on the computer data base grew from about two hundred to six hundred and then to eight hundred.

As our data base grew, so did interest in it. Many folks with roots in New Brunswick contacted Mary and provided new insight into our ancestors. Donald Andrew Sherman, living in McAdam, had extensive data on the Sherman and Blair lines, both of whom intermarried into the Gibson lines. When asked why he had spent so much time gathering material on his ancestors, Don responded, "Because

my mother told me to."

Ultimately, many others contributed to the data. This included Elsie Geldart of Parry Sound, Ontario; David George Blair of Vanceboro, Maine; Heath David Weeks of Stanley, New Brunswick; Karen L. Blair of Toronto, Ontario; Rod and Monica Gibson of Ripples, New Brunswick; William Gibson Hansen of Westfield, New Brunswick; Eugene Estabrooks of Calgary, Alberta; and David and Dawn Little of Fredericton, New Brunswick.

As the data base expanded we were able to trace various portions of the genealogy lines to other geographic areas. The Gibsons were strongly influenced by Alexander "Boss" Gibson, who founded an industrial empire and the town of Marysville in York County. Many of the Boss's relatives settled in York County in order to work in his industries.

Others were attracted to distant areas. Three Gibson brothers (Stewart Moore Gibson, John Evans Gibson and Robert King Gibson) were attracted to California in search of gold — which they found. John Evans Gibson was my grandfather and was the cause of my growing up in California. Odie Harmon Robinson, of the Robinson clan in Charlotte County, left New Brunswick for the Southern United States. He was the grandfather of Cynthia Ann Raines Jarrard, who also contributed significantly to this data base.

Because of the interest in our data base, Mary and I decided to put together a book entitled: *The Gibsons of New Brunswick — Also the Blairs, the Shermans, the Robinsons, and the Andersons, the McKays, the Kings, and the Kaines, the McElroys, the McBrides and the Douglasses, the Gardners, the Marshalls, and . . .* The book is about two-thirds completed, the publication date to be later this year (1996).

The book is, first of all, about my ancestors. It is also about their living descendants. To the extent possible, it describes where they lived, why they went there, how they lived, and, most importantly, who they were. Where detailed information on individuals is not provided in the book, because of practical limitations on size, references are given which direct the reader to specific computer data bases that have more detailed informa-

tion. Currently, the main data base includes about 3000 names; a related data base includes another 2000 names!

As I have reviewed the raw statistical data from the source records, individual dramas of joy and tragedy have become apparent. I have come to an understanding that my ancestors, like each of us who are still living in this life, had ambitions, hopes, anxieties, successes and failures. They lived life to the fullest, many taking large personal risks to find a better life in a harsh new land. I have learned to love them.

Because of the excitement generated by this research, several of my Canadian relatives have visited Carol and me in Utah, among them Eugene Estabrooks from Calgary, and Sydney and Rachel Townsend (the Blair line) from New Brunswick. In 1991, Mary McKay Masterson, her husband Jeremy, Mary's sister Dawn McKay Little and her husband David travelled from New Brunswick to Utah to meet with Carol and me, and to visit the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. What a happy day — when different branches of the family were reunited after many years of separation.

As a result of this work, Mary and I and others of my extended family have become more than close friends. Our known family now consists of approximately 5000 names. I am convinced that these people — who once lived a full life and helped settle a wild land — want to be found. The research is a labour of love, and it is never-ending.

Depending upon some final material, *The Gibsons of New Brunswick* will probably have twelve or thirteen chapters, plus a series of appendices, the latter containing a list of all names in the book, with dates, birthplaces, and other supporting data. An extensive bibliography will also be included. There will be a few pedigree charts, clarifying particular family lines, but readers will be encouraged to obtain a copy of the computer program *Personal Ancestral File* and request a diskette of the 5000 names from the authors. In that way, they can do research on the entire data base. There are references behind most of the names in the data base; thus, sources and credits will also be a major section of the book, since it is so extensive.

The book is coming along nicely, the following chapters having been completed: About This Book; Historical Background; Early Gibsons; The Gibsons of Charlotte; An Entrepreneur and His Descendants; California Gibsons; The Blairs; The Shermans, Kaines and Marshalls; The Robinsons and Andersons. I am currently working on the Estabrooks line — a major chapter, because they were a substantive family that settled in New Brunswick, mostly in York County, and they married into some of the Gibson lines. Eugene Milton Estabrooks, who was born in McAdam, New Brunswick and who now lives in Calgary, Alberta, has been a major contributor.

Besides making contact with numerous descendants, I was fortunate to have a copy of "A Record of the Gibsons," an unpublished collection of notes and data supplied by various relatives and compiled by Jeremy Masterson. I also used published data, such as books, census reports, marriage records, obituaries, and cemetery records. From all these sources, I took the rudiments and created the story and the dialogue of what might have been. *

* * *

With the kind permission of Arvin Stuart Gibson and Mary Leanna McKay-Masterson, *The Officers' Quarterly* is proud to present excerpts from two chapters (published here for the first time) from the forthcoming book *The Gibsons of New Brunswick*:

Chapter 3

EARLY GIBSONS

The Beginning — As It Is Remembered

How did it start? Who was first, and why did they come? Was it difficult? Were they afraid?

Much is lost in antiquity, but we know a fair amount from the history of the period. We know, for instance, that circumstances in Scotland and Ireland were difficult and getting worse in the early 1800s. We know, also, that cheap passage to New Brunswick was possible by means of the returning lumber ships. All of these factors favoured emigration.

There is usually some other factor, though, which causes someone from a family to leave the rest of their family and start a new life. It is difficult to cut family ties and to reach for the unknown. Our story begins with two individuals who decided that they had sufficient reasons for leaving the old

world. It started, naturally enough, with a romance.

Family legend tells us that there was an Englishman by the name of Sir John Moore who married the daughter of a titled Scotch family and lived on an estate in the Highlands of Scotland. There he raised a family of mostly girls.

One of the girls was a lovely lass named Janet. She was a dutiful daughter and tried to do as her parents taught her. She went to good schools and studied hard. She was especially fond of studying the stories in the Bible. Her parents believed that Janet, and her sisters, would marry properly into some respected, and wealthy, family.

Working for the Moores as a coachman was a handsome, ruddy faced, young man named Alexander Gibson. He often took the family on outings. As he let the girls into the coach, he stole glances at Janet — and she smiled back . . .

A Secret Plan — An Elopement

Unknown to both sets of parents, Alexander and Janet had arranged to meet secretly and decide what to do. Alexander had some friends who had left Scotland for Ireland, and they had written urging him to join them. They were working as tenant farmers on a large potato farm and were able to save some money.

Janet met Alexander in a grove of trees next to the Moore estate. Alexander explained his plan.

"So you see, lass, we could leave Scotland and join the McBrides on the farm in Ireland. We could settle there, and save money."

"But how would we get married?"

"We can marry in the city; then go to Ireland. That's what Jim McBride did. Besides, Jim said they like married farmers best 'cause they stay around longer."

"What about money to get there?"

"I've got a little saved. Enough for the boat passage. If we love each other enough, we'll find a way."

"You know that I love you, Alexander. Otherwise we wouldn't be meeting now."

"It's set then. I'll meet you tomorrow night at the barn. Bring what you can carry."

Janet and Alexander married and settled in Ireland. It was hard working as tenant farmers on the potato farm, and money wasn't saved as easily as they had thought. Nevertheless, they saved some, and they had children. First, in 1795, they had John. Then two children were born dead. In 1800 they had James, then Margaret in 1804, and Stewart in 1812. Most of the teaching of the children was done by Janet, especially from the Bible. She taught all of the children to read and write.

By the time Stewart was born, John was able to help with the chores, and Alexander and Janet had a small potato farm of their own. It was much improved from the tenant farm which they had previously worked, but the work was still hard. It seemed that no matter how much they produced, farm prices

in Ireland kept dropping so that they couldn't get ahead — or, at best, very slowly.

A Desperate Hope

After a particularly difficult day Alexander said to Janet: "The price of potatoes dropped again today. I'm fashed. Maybe we should sell the farm and leave."

"But Alexander, where would we go?"

"To New Brunswick, in North America."

"What would we do in New Brunswick?"

"We could farm, like here. We could raise other crops, and cattle and pigs. And we could have horses. There's a good market for most crops there. They even have to bring food in from other countries."

"What makes you think we'd be better off there than here?"

"Others write and say so. The McBrides told me..."

"The McBrides again. Do you always do what they say?"

"Nae Dearlying. But I *do* know how to farm. And if the prices stay up, like they say, then we could get ahead."

"What about the children, and our friends? Then there's John's girl friend, Mary Johnston, and then there's . . ."

"Aye, there's Mary Johnston. But I've talked to John and he wants to go. He knows we work all the time and cannna make anything. He says we should go and put whatever money we get from the farm on a new place. Then he'd come back and marry the Johnston girl. He'd bring her to New Brunswick."

"Doesn't it cost a lot to cross the ocean?"

"Nae on the lumber ships. They're always looking for passengers. Land is cheap too — almost free. I know it would be hard, Lass, but . . ."

Janet blinked back some tears. "You know I'll go wherever you think best, Alexander. I do love you."

A New Land

Alexander and Janet sold their farm and left with their family for New Brunswick in about 1818. There, they bought a farm in Oak Bay, approximately four miles from St. Stephen. They lived most of the rest of their lives in and around St. Stephen.

John returned to Ireland, married Mary Johnston, and brought her back to Oak Bay, where he had a home prepared for her. Later, he bought a farm in St. David, a few miles north of St. Stephen. John and Mary had seven children, one of whom, Alexander, became a lumber baron and founded the town of Marysville.

James married Mary Smith from Ireland, and he studied architecture. He lived much of his life in St. Stephen and St. David in New Brunswick. In later years he designed and built several homes in Calais, Maine, one of which he and his wife lived in. There is no record of any children.

Margaret worked as a school teacher in the Baillie School for some years. She met John James McConnell in the Baillie Settlement. He had previously emigrated from

Ireland. They married in 1819 and settled on a farm in the Baillie Settlement. They had eight children.

Stewart met and married Rebecca Jane Evans, the daughter of James Evans and Margaret King, who had emigrated from Ireland about 1821. Stewart and Rebecca married in 1837 and settled on a farm near the Baillie Settlement. They had thirteen children. After Rebecca died in 1873, Stewart remarried a widow lady, Rachel Russel, in 1874. Stewart died in 1891.

Just as Stewart met Rebecca Evans, who, with her family had emigrated from Ireland, so too did the other children and grandchildren of Alexander and Janet Gibson. They met and grew up with the children of other families who had emigrated from Scotland and Ireland in the period 1815 to 1860. They became friends — and they married each other. Many of the families lived in and around the Baillie Settlement. Most were farmers.

Living near the Gibsons in that period were: James and Margaret Evans, who emigrated from Ireland in 1831; Robert and Alice King, who left Ireland in 1829; and Thomas and Catharine Kaine, who came in 1821. Unlike most of the others, who were farmers, Thomas Kaine was a shoemaker. There were numerous Andersons living on adjacent farms in the Anderson Settlement. Most entered the Colony from Ireland in the 1831 to 1833 period

Chapter 5

AN ENTREPRENEUR AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Alexander "Boss" Gibson's Early Life

From the previous chapter we saw that Alexander "Boss" Gibson was the oldest child of John Gibson and Mary Jane Johnston. When he was a small child, and living with his parents in a log cabin in Oak Bay, Alexander remembered selling shingles that he had made in order that he could help his mother buy a cow. From that inauspicious beginning, Alexander grew to be a human dynamo responsible for creating a lumber empire and varied other industrial enterprises which changed the face of the new land that his family had settled in.

As with his Aunt Margaret, who became a school teacher largely based upon the tutelage of her mother, Alexander learned his lessons well — probably also based upon lessons taught him by Janet Moore [Gibson], his grandmother. By the time he was a young man, he showed the entrepreneurial and organizational talents that led to his subsequent career. He was a striking man, tall, and with reddish-blond hair and beard. In later years his beard turned white.

From his earliest years, Alexander had a strong sense of family. Throughout his life he recognized the roots of his beginning, and he retained ties to those roots. True to those roots, in 1843 he married an Irish lass, Mary Ann Robinson, when she was sixteen years of age and he was twenty-four.

The Beginning of a Lumber Empire

Unlike his father and many other Gibsons who became farmers, Alexander was attracted to the lumber industry. In his early adult years, he served as a lath sawyer in Milltown (just south of St. Stephen). He learned his trade well and, in 1854, when he was 35 years old, he formed a partnership with Samuel T. King (a relative through marriage) in which they leased a sawmill driven by water power on the Lepreau River (near the eastern border of Charlotte County). The mill prospered but, due to differences of opinion between the partners, Alexander sold his interests in the mill for \$10,000.

With the cash from the sale of his interests, at age 43, Alexander risked all by purchasing mills and 7,000 acres of prime spruce land in the Nashwaak River area. In the first season log-cut, Alexander hired Elias White as supervisor. Elias built 14 camps along the Nashwaak and in 1863 he had a log drive of about 25,000,000 feet for mills that the Boss had refitted with double gang saws. By efficiently operating his properties, Alexander was able to pay off promissory notes within one year. Within ten years he had expanded his property to include a total of about 170,000 acres along the Nashwaak. In 1884 Alexander was employing 800 men cutting, 500 on steam drive and the rest on water drives at Marysville and Blackville. From 1862 to 1900 it is estimated that Alexander's mills cut more than 600,000,000 board-feet of logs.

The logs were sawed by water- and steam-powered mills into "deals," typically 7, 9, and 11 inches wide, 3 inches thick, and 15 feet long. The deals were stacked into rectangular shaped piles 10 feet wide, 50 feet long and 2 to 4 feet high, then bound together and floated as rafts on the Nashwaak. Two men manned the rafts with pick poles and a sweep. The crews directed the rafts down the river to the mouth of the Nashwaak where they were loaded on ships or scows for the trip to St. John. A village grew up at the transfer point named Gibson (later Devon). The lumber ultimately found markets in England, the United States, and elsewhere, even Australia

The Families

In the previous chapter we showed Alexander "Boss" Gibson as one of the children of John Gibson and Mary Jane Johnston. At age twenty-four, before he had established his many enterprises, Alexander married another Mary. The sixteen-year-old Irish lass Mary Ann Robinson, lived with her parents and siblings on a farm located in the St. James Parish near the Baillie Settlement. Alexander, being a restless young man, probably met Mary Jane in his travels around the territory as he sought his fortune.

Alexander and Mary Ann were married on 31 December 1843 in the St. James Parish of Charlotte County. Their first three children were born in the Oak Bay region of Charlotte County, probably on or near Alexander's parents' farm. The first child, John Thomas, shared many of his father's aggressive

traits. The next two children were girls (Jane and Mary Ann) who died at relatively young ages. Jane died at age eleven and Mary Ann succumbed to typhoid fever just short of age seventeen.

After Mary Ann, three boys and a girl were born in the St. Stephen area — close to the Boss's lumber holdings on the Lepreau River that he could travel back and forth intermittently between his mills and his family. The four children born during this period included Alexander, Jr., known as "Sandy," later to become the first mayor of Marysville; James; William, who died as an infant; Jennie, who married her cousin.

In 1862 the Boss and his family moved to the region near the junction of the Nashwaak and St. John Rivers to be near the properties he had just purchased. By 1863 he had started a town in this area, which later became Marysville, and in 1866 he built The Mansion where he lived for the rest of his life. (He also built a cotton mill and launched two railroads.) Four children were born in Marysville: Anne; William, who died at age seven; Mary Sophia; and Jane, who also probably died as an infant.

Boss Gibson was very solicitous of the needs of his family, and he used his wealth to help them. About 1875, for example, with three servants living in the Mansion, the Boss's cousin, Tom McConnell, died, leaving two children and a wife without means of support. Jane Robinson [McConnell] and her two children, John and Kerdealy, moved in with the Boss and his family. As a result of that move, the Boss's seventh child, Jennie, fell in love with John McConnell, her cousin. John and Jennie were married in 1880 when Jennie was twenty and John was twenty-four.

Another example of the Boss's generosity occurred after Ann, the Boss's eighth child, was married to Charles Hatt. For a time, Ann, Charles, and their child, John, also lived in the Mansion with Alexander, Mary Ann and family. Charles, who became the principal bookkeeper of the cotton mill, later moved, with his family, into a beautiful home built by the Boss.

As an example of how the families in New Brunswick during this period had common roots, intermarried and helped each other, Alexander married Mary Ann Robinson in 1843 in the St. James Parish. Alexander's parents, John Gibson and Mary Jane Johnston, had emigrated from Ireland about 1818. The Robinsons, who emigrated from Ireland in 1829, settled on a farm near Alexander's parents farm in Oak Bay. Mary Ann had a brother, Thomas Robinson, who was ten years younger than she was. Alexander also had a sister, Dorothy, who was ten years younger than he was. Thomas Robinson and Dorothy Gibson fell in love and were married in 1856 in St. Stephen. After Alexander's lumber enterprises began to succeed, Thomas and Dorothy followed Alexander to the St. John valley where Thomas also became a lumberman, ultimately acquiring his own mill at Lower St. Marys 3

Gibson Genealogy Descendant Chart

- 1 — Alexander GIBSON (1770)
sp Janet MOORE (1775)
- 2 — John GIBSON (1795-1880)
sp Mary Jane JOHNSTON (1801)
md About 1816
- 3 — Alexander "Boss" GIBSON (1819-1913)
sp Mary Ann ROBINSON (1827-1898)
md 1843
- 4 — John Thomas GIBSON (1844-1880)
sp Josephine CAMPBELL (1844)
md About 1870
- 5 — Alice Mary GIBSON (1871)
sp Charles Logan CHISHOLM
- 6 — John Thomas Gibson CHISHOLM
- 5 — Alma May GIBSON (1873)
sp Ashburnham Pierce CROCKET
- 5 — Florence GIBSON (1877-1881)
- 5 — Frederick Alexander GIBSON (1879-1881)
- 4 — Jane GIBSON (1847-1859)
- 4 — Mary Ann GIBSON (1850-1867)
- 4 — Alexander GIBSON, Jr. (1854-1920)
sp Minerva CHASE (1850-1882)
md About 1870
- 5 — Willie GIBSON (1871-1872)
- 5 — Millie GIBSON (1875-1880)
- 5 — Harry GIBSON (1878)
- sp Charlotte Jane REID (1860-1946)
md About 1887
- 5 — John T. GIBSON (1889-1916)
- 5 — Mary L. GIBSON (1890-1925)
sp J. Bacon DICKSON
- 6 — Marjorie DICKSON
- 6 — David DICKSON
- 4 — James GIBSON (1856-1931)
sp M. Elizabeth KIRKPATRICK (1858)
md About 1879
- 5 — Bessie GIBSON (1880)
- 5 — Edith GIBSON (1882)
- 5 — Alex GIBSON (1890)
- 4 — William GIBSON (1858)
- 4 — Jennie GIBSON (1861)
sp John R. McCONNELL (1855)
md About 1880
- 5 — Mary A. McCONNELL (1882)
- 5 — Edith A. McCONNELL (1884)
- 5 — Jennie G. McCONNELL (1886)
- 5 — Annie H. McCONNELL (1887)
- 5 — Frederick N. McCONNELL (1891)
- 5 — Alexander M. McCONNELL (1894)
- 5 — Doris W. McCONNELL (1897)
- 4 — Annie GIBSON (1863)
sp Charles HATT (1859)
md About 1880
- 5 — John HATT (1884)
- 4 — William GIBSON (1865-1872)
- 4 — Mary Sophia GIBSON (1867)
sp Frank M. MERRITT
md About 1889
- 5 — F. Gibson MERRITT
sp Edith Valerie CLARKE
- 6 — Edith Barbara MERRITT
sp George JAMER
- 4 — Jane GIBSON (1869)
- 3 — Jane GIBSON (1826-1903)
sp Thomas G. ROBINSON (1824-1901)
md 1852
- 4 — Annie ROBINSON (1854)
- 4 — Jane ROBINSON (1855)
- 4 — Thomas G. ROBINSON (1866)
sp Maggie ?
- 5 — Mary E. ROBINSON (1894)
- 5 — James E. ROBINSON (1898)
- 3 — Dorothy GIBSON (1829)
sp Thomas ROBINSON (1837)
md 1856
- 4 — Jennie ROBINSON (1867)
sp William QUINN
- 3 — Mary E. GIBSON (1833-1869)
sp Thomas BOYD
- 3 — John GIBSON (1836-1911)
sp Clarissa Grace MacDIARMID (1845-1879)
md 1864
- 4 — Mary Jane GIBSON (1866)
sp George BLISS
- 5 — Grace BLISS
- 5 — Alice BLISS
- 5 — Agnes BLISS
- 4 — William A. GIBSON (1867)
sp Ida ?
- 5 — Grace GIBSON (1894)
sp C. C. ATKINSON
- 6 — Peter ATKINSON
- 6 — Myles ATKINSON
- 5 — John Miles GIBSON (1896)
sp M. Lillian CORBETT
- 5 — William GIBSON (1898)
sp Georgie LOVE
- 6 — Malcolm GIBSON
- 5 — Marion Ida GIBSON (1899)
sp E. R. BLACKMER
- 6 — John BLACKMER
- 4 — Arthur Morton GIBSON (1870-1944)
sp Kathleen Georgina BECKWITH
- 5 — Harry GIBSON
sp Lillian LOGAN
- 6 — John A. GIBSON
- 6 — Helen GIBSON
- 6 — Charles GIBSON
- 5 — Robert GIBSON
sp Helen GIBSON
- 6 — Arthur GIBSON
- 6 — Robert GIBSON
- 5 — Kathleen Grace GIBSON
- 4 — Florence M. GIBSON (1875-1877)
- 4 — John GIBSON (1878-1880)
sp Alice CLATEN (1869-1935)
md 1883
- 4 — Frederick GIBSON (1885)
- 4 — Florence Alice GIBSON (1892)
- 3 — Sophie GIBSON (1838)
sp William James LIPSET
- 3 — Charlotte GIBSON (1840)
sp James CLENDENNING (1836)
- 4 — William CLENDENNING (1865)
- 4 — John CLENDENNING (1868)
- 4 — Alexander CLENDENNING (1871-1945)
- 4 — Jennie CLENDENNING (1881)
- 4 — Sandy CLENDENNING (1883)
- 2 — James GIBSON (1800)
sp Mary SMITH
md 1825 (no children)
- 2 — Margaret GIBSON (1804-1867)
sp John James McCONNELL (1795-1864)
md 1819 (eight children)
- 2 — Stewart GIBSON (1812-1891)
sp Rebecca Jane EVANS (1820-1873)
md 1837 (thirteen children)

NOTE: This is a simplified genealogy and does not include all the Gibson descendants. (A single year in brackets indicates birthdate.)

CREDIT: Arvin Gibson & Ted Jones



Four generations (above): Mrs. John Thomas Gibson (left) & her daughter Alice Mary Chisholm (right); Mrs. Alexander Gibson, Sr. (seated) holding great-grandson John Thomas Gibson Chisholm. Mary Ann Robinson (below), the Irish lass who became the wife of Alexander Gibson, Sr.



John Thomas Gibson (above), the first child of "Boss" Gibson; Alexander "Sandy" Gibson, Jr. (below), the successful politician.



These photographs are from the Gibson Family Album, courtesy Eugene Morris.



The Last Word ... by Dr. James Chapman

Maritime Union

Only in 1864 did Maritime Union come close to realization. Arthur Gordon, the young Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, who arrived in Fredericton in the autumn of 1861, can be said to have been the father and chief promoter of that union although not its originator. Politicians had talked about union periodically and governors in their dispatches had discussed the merits of various forms of union: a legislative or federal union of all the British North American colonies; a legislative union of the Maritime colonies perhaps to be followed by a federal union of the two Canadas after dissolution of the 1841 union.

Gordon believed federal union would be folly and at first considered Maritime Union nearly as difficult to accomplish as a legislative union of all British North America, the result less brilliant and far less useful (Gordon to Duke of Newcastle, 23 December 1861). After he had gained some experience of the petty, personal and corrupt nature of New Brunswick politics, he began to believe that Maritime Union might, by creating a larger political community, attract a better class of politician and thus lead to higher public morality and better government. Yet the larger legislative union was never far from his mind.

Vital to that larger union was the construction of the Intercolonial Railway or at least a hard and fast commitment to build it. Gordon bullied his executive council into accepting a fair share of financial responsibility for the Intercolonial. The Quebec and London conferences of 1862 followed and, after the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia delegations returned, their legislatures passed the measures giving effect to the agreements reached at the conferences. Canada failed to follow suit and that lack of positive action engendered suspicion concerning the trustworthiness of the Canadians and set the stage for a movement for Maritime Union.

Throughout the summer and autumn of 1863 and the first half of 1864, Gordon worked hard for Maritime Union. He found all members of the Nova Scotia government and all but one member of his own executive council agreed that union with Canada was now impracticable. The Charlottetown Conference of 1864 to bring about Maritime Union had barely assembled when a strong unin-

in persuading the conference to set aside union of the Maritime colonies and to take part in a further conference at Quebec, out of which came the Quebec Resolutions which formed the basis of Confederation.

Although Maritime Union has been talked about occasionally in the long interval since Confederation, only in the 1960s has the concept been seriously examined. The governments of the three Maritime provinces established a commission on Maritime Union. The commission published its report in October 1970. It found a good majority of Maritimers in favour of political union and it recommended that course of action:

"Obviously, full political union would provide the most effective machinery for the fullest possible attainment of the common objectives of the region. By this means the large common interest of all the people of the region could be worked for without the complexities, delays, frustrations, and costly overheads inevitably associated with other forms of co-operative effort. p. 63 ...

"It can be expected that various influential groups, the holders of franchises and concessions, the bureaucratic apparatus, and many who have vested interests in the existing arrangements would be apprehensive of changes that might bring uncertainties In the Maritimes many of these factors weigh heavily in the direction of the status quo." p. 67

Maritime vested interests over the last quarter century have chosen to follow a piece-meal approach to co-operation rather than political union. But, now in the mid-90s, Maritime Union is again being discussed, by the premier of Nova Scotia, amongst others. The impetus probably arises first from fear of the ultimate separation of Quebec, with consequent isolation geographically, and second from realization that federal financial woes and growing reluctance on the part of the richer provinces to subsidize the eastern provinces will result in continuing reduc-



Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon, afterwards Baron Stanmore, was born in 1829, the youngest son of the fourth Earl of Aberdeen. He was private secretary to his father when the latter was prime minister of Great Britain (1852-1855), and was for a time private secretary to British statesman William Ewart Gladstone in 1858. In 1861, he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, leaving this office in 1866, subsequently becoming Governor of Trinidad, of Mauritius, of Fiji, of New Zealand, and of Ceylon. The author of several books, including Wilderness Journeys in New Brunswick (Saint John, 1864), he died at Ascot, England, 30 January 1912. This photograph, circa 1870, is courtesy of J.K. Chapman.

vited Canadian delegation arrived, requesting permission to discuss the union of all British North America. It succeeded

tion in transfer payments.

Should the Maritimes become geographically separated from the rest of Canada and should we be the victims of massive reductions in transfer payments, we shall be effectively thrown upon our own resources. Some see Maritime Union as a way of mitigating these disadvantages. They argue that union could and should result in a marked reduction in the present number of politicians and bureaucrats with consequent considerable savings. They also argue that the abolition of provincial boundaries would make for a more dynamic and efficient Maritime economy with the disappearance of provincial barriers to trade and commerce. Furthermore, speaking with one voice instead of three would give us greater influence in Ottawa.

Opponents hold that the advantages of union would be considerably fewer than proponents believe, and any movement towards political union would likely delay the progress being made in the direction of economic co-operation. They note that the difficulties in the way of political union are probably insurmountable. They point to the opposition to be expected from New Brunswick's Acadians; to that of the members of Maritime cabinet ministers, legislatures and civil servants, more than half of whom would face loss of their jobs; the controversy which would ensue over location of the capital of the united province; to the parochialism and cultural differences of the Maritimes which would be threatened; and, finally, a reduced Maritime political clout in Ottawa.

In this observer's opinion, talk of

Maritime legislative union is, at present mostly talk. Union won't happen unless we are absolutely forced into it by future circumstances and strong pressure from the federal government. The time for Maritime Union was 1864. Why didn't it happen then? Because the Canadians scuttled it. As George Brown, then the leading opposition politician of Upper Canada, put it when asked by Gordon why Canada could not have allowed it to take place before proceeding to federal union: "Because we can't wait. We are not going to be tied to Lower Canada for twelve months more" (Gordon to Edward Cardwell, postscript, 30 January 1865). ¶

(An interview with Society member *James Chapman* appeared in the Winter 1995 issue of *The Officers' Quarterly*)

Garrison Ghosts . . . continued from page 19

Bailey of Fredericton (for many years a member of the UNB faculty). And now, Alfred Bailey was revisiting Fredericton for the first time in some eight years. He had graduated from UNB in 1927 with a BA degree and then completed an MA and a PhD in history at the University of Toronto. His interesting remarks before the Society were illustrated by 41 slides, showing portraits, maps & plans, caricatures & drawings, all having connection with the French Regime in this portion of the Dominion. [Today, Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Bailey reside in Fredericton and are life members of the York-Sunbury Historical Society. Dr. Bailey was the 1985 recipient of the Martha J. Harvey Award of Distinction; two of his poems appeared in the Winter 1994 issue of *The Quarterly*.]

27 February 1936 — MARYSVILLE HAS GOLDEN JUBILEE AS ORGANIZED TOWN. The town of Marysville is this year celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its incorporation. It was during the New Brunswick Legislature in 1886, fifty years ago, that the town of Marysville's Act of Incorporation was passed. The community on the banks of the Nashwaak River, a few miles from its junction with the St. John River, has grown during the half-century to be an important industrial

centre, particularly for the textile industry. During the period of fifty years since incorporation, Marysville has had ten mayors, the first being the late Alexander "Sandy" Gibson, Jr., a son of the late Alexander "Boss" Gibson, Sr. "Sandy" held the office for an unbroken period of 21 years, and was finally defeated by his brother-in-law Charles Hatt, who headed a reform ticket which carried the civic election in 1909. —*The Daily Gleaner*

11 March 1936 — Executive Meeting. Director F. A. Good reported on his interview with W. J. West, barrister of this city, with regard to the status of this Society. Mr. West expressed opinion that we are a legal body and that our election of officers in January was quite legal, but that we needed by-laws. He agreed to finish the business incidental to those by-laws without remuneration. At a later date, Messrs Good and West read and discussed several proposed by-laws which were to be submitted to the Executive.

18 March 1936 — Regular Monthly Meeting. It was moved and seconded that the grant of \$300 from the Provincial Government be sought without delay, and a committee for that purpose was formed. William J. West, barrister, spoke on the

matter of the incorporation of the Society. The date was 20 July 1934, and the five incorporators were Rev. Dr. F. A. Wightman, W. W. Hubbard, F. A. Good, J. L. Neville, and Sterling Brannen. Mr. West read by-laws which he had prepared and recommended for the Society. It was decided to hold a tea in the Society's rooms at the Post Office Building, March 31st at 5 p.m., and to invite His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Murray MacLaren, the Premier and Mrs. A. A. Dysart, and all members of the Provincial Legislature! The Curator's Report laid emphasis, quite rightly, on the important work the Society is doing in relation to the educational life of the City of Fredericton. Recently, 30 student-teachers from the Provincial Normal School visited the Museum and had lessons in history subjects. Also, hundreds of students from the High School and graded schools have been visiting, many seeking data for their essays. An important feature of this meeting was a paper by Fred H. Phillips on "Old Railroads," dealing with the early days of railroading in this part of New Brunswick, with great emphasis on "Boss" Gibson's involvement. [This lecture was published in *The Daily Gleaner* as a four-part series on March 19, 20, 21 & 23 of 1936.] ¶

