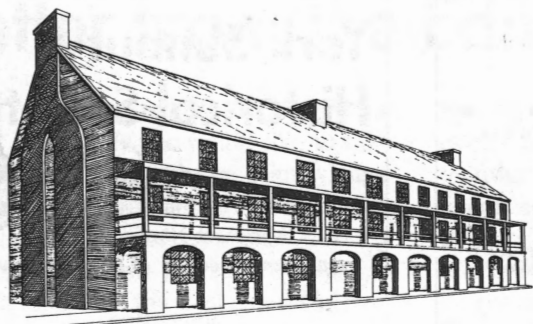


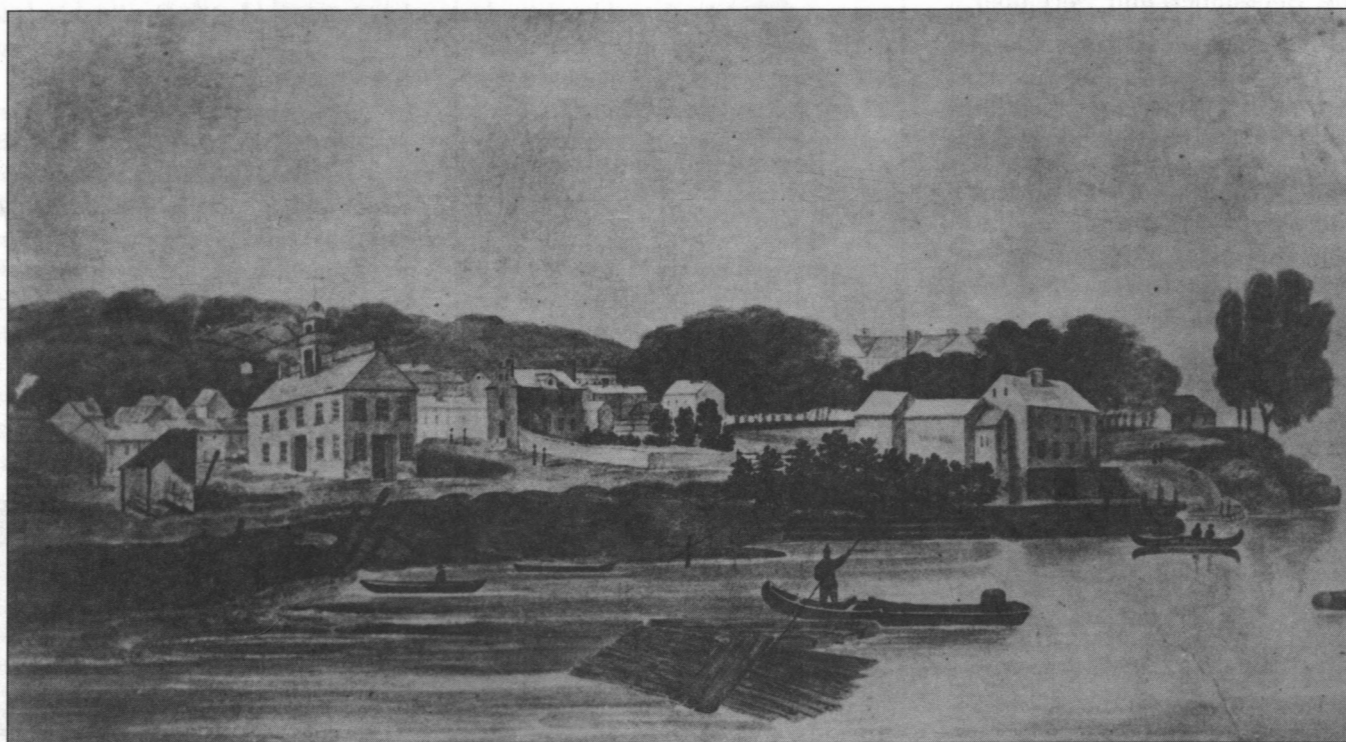


The Officers' Quarterly

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

Volume 13, Number 1

Winter 1997



IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Canada's Stamps: The New Brunswick Connection*
- *The Great Fires of 1825*
- *Remembering Louise Hill*
- *Museum Breaks New Ground*



The Officers'
Quarterly

Volume 13, Number 1 Winter 1997

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.

Publication dates are quarterly: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall. Submissions are to be addressed to the Editor and received at the Society Office (address above) by the first day of March, June, September, and December for that quarterly issue.

Annual subscription rate for *The Officers' Quarterly* for non-members is \$15. Individual copies are \$3.

The York-Sunbury Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1932 and incorporated in 1934, with the aim "to gather and preserve objects and traditions of historical interest in the region of central New Brunswick, and to read and publish papers dealing with the same."

Individual memberships are \$30 per year and \$50 for two years (which includes *The Officers' Quarterly*). Student membership is \$10. A life membership is \$250. Corporations, individuals, and organizations may also become sustaining members.

Editors:
E.A. MacDougall
and
Brent Wilson

Copyright 1997 by the York-Sunbury Historical Society, Inc. Contents may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the Editors.

ISSN-0845-4868

Canada Post Canadian Publications Mail
Product Sales Agreement No. 677469

Contents

Letter from **3** the Editors

Letter from **4** the President

Curator **5** Corner

Letter to **6** the Editors

Feature **7** Article

Beyond **12** the Sunbury

Reminiscing **16**

Past President's **18** Report

Garrison **19** hosts



FRONT COVER

Photograph of a painting showing Fredericton's lower waterfront in 1825. These buildings survived the devastating fire of 7 October, which stopped short of Phoenix Square and the upper Military Compound (PANB P5-436)

York-Sunbury Historical Society

Patroness

The Honourable
Margaret Norrie McCain
Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick

Executive

President **Helen Hutchison**
Past President **Doris Norman**
1st Vice-President **Elizabeth Earl**
2nd Vice-President **Carolyn Atkinson**
Secretary **George Richardson**
Treasurer **Roger Farr**

Directors

Mel McMahon
Graeme Ross
Doug Wright
Ruth Scott
Lloyd Smith
Patsy Hale
Don Fitzgerald
Dr. T.W. Acheson

Assistant Curator

Bruce Lynch

Administrator & Program Officer

Jean Macdonald

Museum Winter Hours

(MID-OCTOBER - APRIL 30)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

or by appointment

...

Museum Spring Hours

(1 MAY - 1 JULY)

Monday - Saturday

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Letter from the Editors... *E.A. MacDougall and Brent Wilson*

As the new editors of *The Officers' Quarterly*, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our predecessor, Ted Jones. His hard work and dedication as editor of the *Quarterly* over the last three years have helped to turn it into one of the most successful publications of its kind in the province. As our readers will discover in this issue, Ted received the Association Museums New Brunswick's Recognition of Achievement Award for 1996 for his contribution to the *Quarterly*. We also thank him for his able assistance in getting us started in a way that we hope will continue to reflect the high standards of excellence he has established for the *Quarterly*. Congratulations on a job well done, Ted.

This year marks an important anniversary for the York-Sunbury Historical Society. It is the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society, which took place in Fredericton in 1932. Since then the Historical Society has continued to thrive as the collector and disseminator of the history of these two counties of central New Brunswick through its various programs. As the reports of the Past President and Museum Curator found in this issue indicate, 1996 was a very busy and productive year for the Historical

Society, and 1997 promises to be equally challenging. Over the next several months, the Society's anniversary will be observed through a series of special projects, including publications, lectures and museum exhibits. These events will be recounted in upcoming issues of the *Quarterly*.

We hope that *The Officers' Quarterly* will continue to act as chronicler of the history of York and Sunbury Counties, as well as a voice for the Historical Society and its Museum. We heartily invite members of the Society as well as interested citizens of the community at large to participate in this ongoing endeavour by submitting ideas for future projects as well as letters, photos and manuscripts for publication. With your support we will continue the important work of the Historical Society into the twenty-first century.

In his book, *History of Fredericton: The Last 200 Years*, historian Austin Squires (one of the Society's earliest members) describes the devastating effects that fire brought to Fredericton periodically throughout the nineteenth century, which earned it the unenviable distinction of be-

ing described as the "City of Fires." In this issue's feature article on the Great Fires of 1825 another Society member, Murray Young, illustrates in frightening detail how vulnerable early communities which were constructed largely from wood and which lacked adequate fire protection were to fire.

As the article mentions, this time the fire stopped short of the Military Compound and the Officers' Quarters. However, it did not escape for long. On 16 April 1834, the east or river end of the wooden Officers' Quarters, which had been built in 1816 after the original was destroyed by fire, was again struck by a blaze that burned for several hours. It was only the presence of a thick brick partition and the staunch efforts of the town's garrison and citizens that prevented the entire building from being consumed.

It would be several years before the building was again reconstructed, this time using stone. In 1840, a new east wing housing the kitchen and mess was finished and in 1853, after yet another fire swept through the interior, the centre section was opened, completing the present-day Officers' Quarters, which now houses the Society's Museum. ❧



*The wooden Officer's Quarters in Winter 1834, shortly before the east or river end was destroyed by fire, on 16 April 1834.
(PANB P37-345)*

Letter from the President ... *Helen Hutchison*

As we begin this anniversary year as an organization, I first want to express my sincere thanks to all those who have given their time and energy in the past to promote the history of the York-Sunbury Historical Society. In 1932, a group of individuals saw the benefit in establishing a society that cared about the preservation of history and wanted to share in this interest. For many years now, people, young and old, have followed and carried on the tradition with a tremendous amount of conviction.

I would also like to thank our many supporters in these tough economic times: the City of Fredericton, the Province of New Brunswick, the

Government of Canada, generous donors, and members who not only support *The Officers' Quarterly*, but also contribute to the operation of our Museum, changing exhibits, educational programs and lectures.

I welcome any interested person to join in the pursuits of the Historical Society and to participate in whatever capacity to help continue the preservation of our local history. We could use your support! There are a variety of interesting activities to be done by volunteers and members, many of which are extremely rewarding and informative. Many volunteers are now involved in setting exhibits, selecting historical programs and lectures, completing oral histo-

ries with individuals in local communities, participating in historical research and preparing articles for publications. Others are involved as Directors, helping to set future directions for the Society. In this regard, I would like to express particular thanks to Doris Norman, past president, and the Board members who have completed their terms.

So please, if you have any interest in history and have any amount of time and energy, contact the Museum. The staff would be delighted to show you around the facility and speak with you about any aspect of the Historical Society that may interest you. You won't be disappointed.

Sincerely, HH.

Association Museums New Brunswick Award to Ted Jones

At the Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre in Saint John, on 18 October 1996, the Association Museums New Brunswick presented to "The Officers' Quarterly," Ted Jones editor, a Recognition of Achievement Award for 1996.

This award, established in 1989, and first awarded in 1990, is meant "to honor those who have completed a project which exhibits high standards and makes a contribution to heritage efforts and understanding in New Brunswick".

The citation for the award reads: Over the past three years this quarterly publication has developed into an effective communications tool, a promotional document and a revenue generating initiative.

The Society extends warm congratulations and sincere appreciation to Ted.

Curator's Corner ... by Bruce Lynch

I've made a habit of focusing this column on particular artifacts in the Museum's collection. This issue—as the Historical Society enters its milestone 65th year—I'm turning my attention to the organization itself. Not enough people know what goes on within the Society and within its Museum and this anniversary is the perfect opportunity for a little blowing of our own horn.

The York-Sunbury Historical Society emerged in 1932 with 49 members and a Directorship that included the Honourable W.G. Clark and Dr. Lillian Maxwell. The Society's Patroness was the Right Honourable Lady Ashburnham, the former Fredericton telephone operator. 1997's membership hovers around 200. It grows constantly, boosted by a growing number of young-adult members. The Society's Museum boasts the largest privately-held collection in the province, with artifacts ranging from textiles to First Nations items to archival materials to furniture and household accessories. The Society and Museum promote New Brunswick history through education, exhibits and preservation. Promotion of the Museum includes a healthy inter-institutional loan exchange. Museum artifacts have been as far afield as Pilgrim Hall Museum, Massachusetts.

Exhibits are spread over three floors of the former Officers' Quarters in downtown Fredericton. The Museum has four seasonal galleries and seven static exhibits. Visitors are exposed to a simulated officer's room, c. 1860; a military room, depicting military history from the French-English struggle through the two world wars; a recreation World War One trench, c. 1918; a Loyalist display; an Acadian/ pre-Loyalist dis-

play; Victorian parlour and First Nations Rooms. Seasonal exhibits have included the recent smash Mary Grannan (1996), Earth and Sky: Spirits of Our Ancestors (1995) and Olde Frederick's Towne (1994). The exhibits are one of the keys to our success, drawing an average 14,000 visitors each year.

Our education packages (and our crack Education Officer, Jean Macdonald) account for student interest in our Museum. Jean's programs attract approximately 3,000 students each year. We offer everything from

Perhaps our greatest pride lies in our association with the Fredericton Literacy Council. . . . Our Museum was one of only six in the country to receive the opportunity.

the typical guided tour to classes in First Nations Culture, lumbering, pioneer living, fashion, war. The list goes on. We're proud of our developing outreach program, allowing us to go to schools and other interest groups. The best example of our partnerships with students is the recent series of exhibits staged by the grade six, seven and eight students of Harold Peterson Middle School, Oromocto.

Other programs include those administered by our Program Committee. Chair, Carolyn Atkinson has consistently offered an engaging series of guest-speakers and entertainers.

Those who have taken advantage of these free events have learned about such things as collectible books, N.B.'s ancient past and early gardening in Fredericton. 1997's programs promise to be better than ever.

In fact, if 1996 sets the example, 1997 promises to be a better year than ever for the entire organization. In the past 12 months, we've seen our building interior painted. Our storage areas were moved about to allow more exhibits and better accessibility to storage. We initiated our brand-new summer daycamp series. Perhaps our

greatest pride lies in our association with the Fredericton Literacy Council. We joined them in the autumn of 1996 to enact the Reading The Museum program, funded by the National Literacy Secretariat through the Canadian Museums Association. Our Museum was one of only six in the country to receive the opportunity. I can't begin to describe the results of this program. The focus has been accessibility and a user-friendly Museum achieved through community awareness and involvement. Our new hands-on

activities are a fine example, but if you want to know everything that's been done, see Betty Roberston, our powerhouse coordinator of the program. She and her volunteers have created an 80-page booklet detailing their activities. *That booklet will serve as a national model for other Museums.*

That said, a picture is still worth a thousand words. If you want more proof of these achievements, why not drop by? You're always welcome. And with memberships so affordable, you might just decide to stay. *

Letter to the Editors

110 Beach Hill Road
New Castle
New Hampshire 03854
October 14, 1996

York-Sunbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 1312, Fredericton
New Brunswick E3B 5C8

Dear Historical Friends:

Everyone should have the thrill I received upon reading your summer issue of "The Officers' Quarterly." It could not have been a more exciting issue if it had been written for me personally.

My mother's family are from Fredericton Junction (Fred Pheasant's family) and our early forebears were Loyalists from Maryland.

My great-grand uncle, Otis Small, was a partner in Small and Hatheway (Union Line) who owned the Forest Queen upon which the Prince Wales came to Fredericton in 1860.

My Dad (from Nova Scotia) was in the P.P.C.L.I., was wounded at Vimy Ridge and spent eleven months at Victoria Hospital in Fredericton recovering from his wounds.

My great-grand uncle, Otis Small, even built part of the very barracks buildings in which your association resides!

And, finally, a friend of ours from Halifax calls our little dog "Maggie Muggins" and will be delighted with the copy of the article on the Mary Grannan Exhibit which I will send her!

I doubt anyone can top that excitement from one small issue.

Please send me a two year subscription to Officers' Quarterly. I am enclosing my check for \$35.00. I would appreciate it if you could start the subscription with your first issue of this year, skip the Summer 1996 (Vol. 12, No. 3) issue which I have and continue in 1997.

And thank you for your wonderful work in preserving New Brunswick's past.

Sincerely,
Jean E. Sawtelle

Remembering World War II

Ruth Scott, a member of the Society's Board of Directors, has recently published a book entitled, *Keeping the Home Fires Burning: A Story of Fredericton, New Brunswick in World War II*, (134 pages, \$12.95).

It is a largely autobiographical account of Ruth's wartime experiences on the homefront during the Second World War. It is widely available at local bookstores.



Feature Article . . .

The Great Fires of 1825 . . . by Murray Young

For the younger children of Lieutenant Governor Sir Howard Douglas the great Fredericton fire of 1825 was a vivid personal experience. Nearly 40 years later, shortly after their father's death, they helped S.W. Fullom prepare a narrative describing what it felt like to be in Fredericton that day. It is printed here for the first time, so far as is known, since it was published in 1863 as a chapter in Fullom's *Life of Sir Howard Douglas*. Fullom had been their father's private secretary. He had often talked to Sir Howard and Lady Douglas and had access to private papers, including an account of the Fredericton fire published in a Saint John newspaper on 10 October 1825. No copy of that day's paper is known to survive in New Brunswick.

Eighteen days before the great fire, the Douglas family has been driven from their own home when Govern-

ment House burned. In the succeeding months, they were to live immediately behind Province Hall, in the house now occupied by the offices of the present lieutenant governor.

Early in the afternoon of 7 October, a forest fire began to threaten the house of the commissioner of crown lands at the mouth of the Phyllis Creek, near the present Pine Grove nursing home. His name was Thomas Baillie, not John as the text says. The first building to catch fire belonged to Jarvis Ring on Upper Brunswick and King streets. He was a tanner and leather merchant, and a very prosperous member of the town's small Baptist community. From there the fire advanced down King Street until turned aside at a brick building belonging to Ring's sometime partner, George Whitfield Hartt.

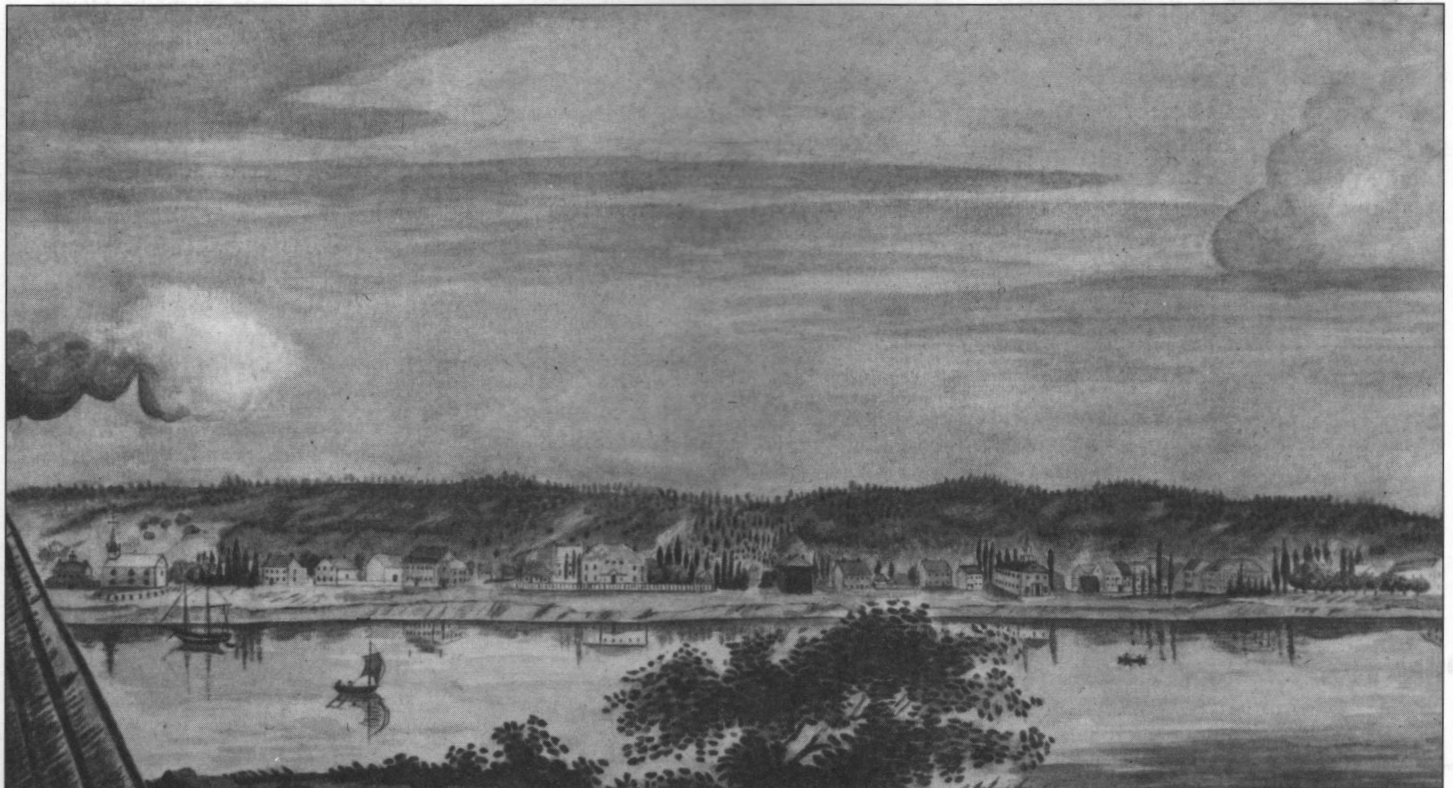
A later newspaper account quoted by Louise Hill in *Fredericton New*

Brunswick British North America (page 339) charts its subsequent path:

It then took a different direction, towards the river through York Street, and extended up Queen Street to the "post office, then to the opposite side of the street, destroying all, from the military hospital to Phoenix Square; also all that square with the houses on the bank of the river adjoining. It then raged down both sides of Queen Street until within a few houses of the Barracks where its devouring career was finally checked."

The next day word filtered into Fredericton that the settlements along the Gornish (Rusagonis) and Oromocto Rivers also had been ravaged by fire. Then, nearly a week later, a messenger arrived bringing news of the tragedy on the lower Miramichi.

There a firestorm that began on the Northeast Branch had advanced



Fredericton in 1818, as seen from the north side. In 1825, fire swept down Queen Street as far as the upper end of the Military Compound. (PANB P4-3-91)

towards the mouth of the Miramichi on a twenty-mile front. On the evening of 7 October, 108 people died in the parish of Newcastle; among thirteen families in Moorfields there was only one survivor.

Around eight o'clock, a high wind carried the fire into Newcastle itself. Within three minutes, according to an eyewitness, the whole town was ablaze. At the end of an hour only twelve out of the 260 buildings were left standing. In all, according to the official report, at least 160 people died in the fires in New Brunswick that day. Thousands were left homeless. Animals had perished in untold numbers. Winter food, fodder and fuel supplies had been destroyed.

In the interest of historical accuracy, it should be noted that Fullom's account of the lieutenant governor's trip to the Miramichi is a piece of romantic fiction, for Douglas did not arrive at Newcastle until at least a dozen days after the fire. By that time, a competent local committee had already improvised supplies and accommodation, and informed the outside world of their plight. Sir Howard did act vigorously to support the committee's efforts. He also wrote personally to influential people in Britain and the United States, and pushed the provincial committee in its efforts to raise relief funds. Fullom is no doubt right in saying that his very presence on the Miramichi reassured the survivors. Like the dedicated military commander that he was, he made an exhausting journey, mostly on horseback or on foot, in order to see the situation for himself.

But he didn't start out galloping through dense smoke in a wagon. The north side of the St. John River opposite Fredericton, where the Miramichi Road began, was almost untouched by the fires. In any event, there was no wagon road for most of the way to the lower Miramichi in 1825. Yet the incident of "the rough country wagon" at the lieutenant governor's door is a convincing image, like a memory so imprinted on a person's mind that it

is never forgotten.

It almost certainly refers to an episode that Fullom overlooked. On the day after the Fredericton fire (or possibly the day after that) Douglas set out for the settlements along the Gornish and Oromocto, back of Fredericton. It was very likely on this expedition that he walked forward after his wagon was stopped by a fallen tree. There too, he would have met and given heart to people still dazed by the loss of all their personal possessions. In a letter he wrote ten days after the fire, he reported that there was loss of life in these places. Later, about five percent of the money raised for the relief of the victims of the fires in the province was paid to the people in these settlements to compensate them for their losses. People in Fredericton received around ten percent, while the remaining eight-five percent went for losses on the Miramichi.

These figures provide a rough guide to the scale of the damage to private property in each of the three areas most affected. But, of course, damage to property is not by itself a satisfactory indication of the scale of a disaster. Nobody in Fredericton was burned to death and much of the town remained intact. Fullom may have been right in believing that the efforts of Sir Howard Douglas and the soldiers kept Fredericton from suffering Newcastle's fate.

* * *

CHAPTER XXV.

AT THAT GREAT FIRE.

THE impulse Sir Howard had given the province met a sudden check in 1825. The season was advancing, and no rain had fallen for two months, which excited uneasiness for the harvest, and he visited some of the settlements to ascertain their prospects. An urgent letter recalled him to Fredericton, and he returned to find himself houseless, a fire having broken out at Government House on the 19th of September, and almost burnt it to the ground

before it could be arrested. Happily it occurred in the daytime, and the courage and devotion of Lady Douglas nerved her to supply his place, which led to the preservation of the most valuable part of the effects; and the author is the more bound to mention this, as it secured him the materials for the present work; for nothing, seemed more precious to Lady Douglas than the memorials of her husband's services.¹

But his own misfortune was forgotten by Sir Howard in a calamity which fell on the community. The long drought continued, and October came in with midsummer sultriness, keeping the thermometer at 86° in the shade, and 126° in the sun. On the morning of the 7th he expressed his belief that a large fire prevailed in the woods, as a breeze had risen, and blew warm and parched, bringing in clouds of smoke; but this was ascribed to the burning of the brushwood by the lumberers. The explanation did not allay his apprehensions, and he directed the engines to be in readiness, and the military prepared to assist, fearing that brands might be blown into Fredericton. The wisdom of his precautions too soon appeared; for the afternoon brought an alarm that fire had broken out in the wood round the house of the Hon. John Baillie, about a mile from the town; and he ordered out the engines and troops, and galloped off at their head, followed by nearly the whole population.

The air brought an odour of burning as they advanced, but they saw nothing of the fire except a cloud of smoke, till a gust blew it aside and showed the flaming trees. The house rose behind, and appeared uninjured; nor had the trees caught beyond a few yards, where a gap imposed a boundary. Sir Howard directed the engines to play here and on the house, though this presently seemed doomed, as the trees began to fall and covered it with flakes of fire. Indeed, it excited less interest than the wood, for there the fate of the province was at stake, as a spark winged across the gap might

spread the fire to the interior. Sir Howard watched both points, and so posted the firemen that they got the mastery of the flames, and less than an hour found the house preserved, and the fire extinguished.

All were rejoicing at the result, when danger presented itself in a new quarter, a messenger spurting up to report a fire in Fredericton. Sir Howard pushed on the engines to the spot, and ordered up the troops at the double, while he hastened to be first himself; for the breeze had increased to a gale, and blew in a direction to imperil the town. The flames burst on his view as he galloped up, rising from the house and barn of Mr. Ring, which they had half consumed, and they now threatened a range of wooden houses beyond. The engines played on the nearest; but the gale blew about burning flakes, which rendered precaution futile; and smoke rose from two or three houses at once – then from a dozen; and a whole street was in flames. They spread like lightning, not from building to building, but in forks; and roofs lit up a dozen houses off as if they kindled spontaneously. A large area was one flame, crackling and crashing, as it shot over rafters, split walls, and brought down floors and beams,

whirling smoke through the town till the whole seemed on fire. The torrents of water poured in had no effect; for the smoke and flame thickened where they fell, as if they supplied fuel, and house after house caught like tinder. But the engines worked on, the soldiers and population manning the pumps, and relieving each other, while parties kept back the crowd

of women and children who watched their burning homes with frantic emotion. Nothing could be saved; for buildings caught at a distance where they appeared secure, and blazed in an instant, throwing out flames like arms, and dragging the next houses into the vortex. Night added its shad-

wind, and here he concentrated a large force, and so saturated the adjacent houses with water, that flakes fell on them without igniting. How long this might have continued is doubtful; but the wind gradually veered further round and blew in the opposite direction, which turned the fire in

upon itself, and a third of the town was a burning mass while the rest stood clear.

The deliverance was not understood at first, but the report spread, and families returned to their homes, carrying back their furniture which they had brought into the streets. Sir Howard remained at the angle, and urged the firemen to renewed exertion; for the wind grew more and more boisterous, and might shift any moment, when the flames would again be driven forward if not extinguished. The continuous stream of water began to abate their fury, or nothing remained to consume, for they now vanished in smoke, which rolled away from the town, and showed the sky above. Yet the air was so hot that it became difficult to breathe; a suffocating odour pervaded every quarter; and a belief arose

that the fire smouldered somewhere, and would break out again. But imagination never dreamt of the conflagration at hand, the most stupendous ever witnessed by man.

A roar of thunder came from the forest, and a column of smoke shot up, followed by blaze on blaze, and then a burst of fire, like the eruption of a volcano. The flames fell



Sir Howard Douglas as a young British army officer. His military training and experience helped the future lieutenant governor to deal effectively with the devastation left by the Great Fires of 1825.

(PANB P 4-3-112)

ows to this scene; and some of the most respectable families of the town crouched destitute in the streets, reduced to beggary in a moment. All seemed lost; and all had been lost indeed, but for one man.

Sir Howard marked a point where he thought the fire might be arrested, as it was occupied by a brick building less in front of the

in a shower, which the gale blew wide, hurling them about like darts; and here they might be seen on the tops of trees – there flaring in the branches – there running up or down the trunks, or from base and summit at once. The smoke blew back on the unkindled woods, making them darker than before – blacker than the blackest night; and the fire raged in the middle, imaging the mouth of hell. But this was only for a moment. Blazes gleamed at the sides, behind, in the depths of the woods, on the river's brink; trees of centuries' growth lit up in the midst of the darkness; fire rained from above, soared up from below, spread from the centre, and closed in from the distance. It burst in a hundred eruptions, mounting, declining, and mounting again, throwing up spouts, falling in showers or sheets, or glaring in mid-air. A thousand miles of forest had caught!² The river was crimson with the reflection; the clouds took the form of flames; the very heavens seemed on fire.

The intense heat deranged the strata of the atmosphere; and the gale burst into a hurricane, tore through the town, wrenched up trees, and carried strong men off their feet. Horses broke from the fields, and galloped about in troops, snorting and neighing, their eyes starting from their heads and their manes on end, while the wind swelled the clatter of their hoofs to the rush of hosts. All occurred in an instant, and inspired a religious people with an impression akin to the spectacle – that it was the Day of Judgment. They threw themselves on their knees in the streets, or buried their faces to shut out the scene, as if they made the appeal foretold to the mountains and hills. And it did seem a burning world, with the fire raging like a sea, in mountainous waves; the sky glowing like a furnace; the hurricane breaking in peals and crashes; and the scorched air flapping as with a million wings.

Sir Howard kept moving through the town, or paused only in the centre, where he had posted

a reserve of the 62nd Regiment under Colonel M'Nair, and a body of firemen; while the remainder were stationed at different points, ready to operate on the first alarm. Only the greatest vigilance could preserve the remaining houses, and he went from post to post, giving directions and overlooking all. He was nobly supported by Colonel M'Nair and the other officers, as well as the gentlemen of the town, who formed parties to drive back the horses and patrol the streets.³ This reassured the crowd, whose terrors calmed as they felt the presence of authority, and more as they saw the light of another day.

But now they began to realise their destitution, which horror had made them forget; and hundreds cried for bread. Sir Howard organised a system of temporary relief, and formed a committee to carry it out, but charity could do little in a case so desperate. Thriving men of yesterday had lost all they possessed; honoured families were beggars; and delicate women and children stood unsheltered before their ruined homes. It terrified him to think that they reflected a distress as wide as the province; for it could not be doubted that the fire had ravaged the interior, and left thousands without a roof. He considered that it must have destroyed the harvest, and that the navigation might close before they obtained supplies – so far did he look forward in a moment, and with courage to act on his forethought. He sent for an active merchant of the town, and ordered him to proceed to Quebec, and buy up food and clothing, furnishing him with bills on the Treasury, which he drew at his own risk. He then took measures for the relief of the misery in the town, calling a meeting of the inhabitants by proclamation; and this brought up the whole community – the rich and destitute together. He presided himself, and made a touching appeal to the more fortunate, while he set an example of liberality by subscribing 20£ from his own purse, and 200£ in the name of the King, appropri-

ated from the casual revenue on his own responsibility. "Such conduct as his speaks volumes in his praise," says the *New Brunswick Courier*. "It endears him to our hearts, and throws a moral splendour around his character, that the adventitious distinctions of birth, rank, and fortune cannot confer; and much as we admire his bravery as a soldier, his indefatigable endeavours to make himself acquainted with the real state of the province, and his profound political sagacity, we admire still more the distinguished efforts he has made in the cause of suffering humanity on this occasion."⁴

He did not confine his solicitations to the colonists, but addressed letters to the Governor-General of Canada, his friends in England, and the Colonial Secretary, claiming their succour; and his official despatch stated the need so forcibly that the Government inserted it in the *'Gazette'* to stimulate the public bounty.⁵ The result was a subscription of 40,000£ collected in England and the colonies, and the presentation of large supplies of food and clothing.

Several days elapsed before the fire subsided, and then it became masked by smoke which darkened the whole country. But night proved that it had not burnt out: for showers of flame shot up at intervals, and trees stood glaring in the dark, while the mingled black and red of the sky seemed its embers overhead. Thus a week passed, when Sir Howard determined to penetrate the forest, and visit the different settlements. A friend has described his parting with Lady Douglas and his daughters, whose pale faces betrayed their emotion, though they forbore to oppose his design, knowing that nothing would keep him from his duty. But this was not understood by others, and the gentlemen of the town gathered round his rough country waggon at the door, and entreated him to wait a few days, pointing to the mountains of smoke, and declaring that he must be suffocated, if he escaped being burnt. He thanked them for their

good feeling, grasped their hands, and mounted the waggon. It dashed off at a gallop, and wondering eyes followed it to the woods, where it disappeared in the smoke.

The devastation he met exceeded his worst fears; for the settlements he went to visit no longer existed. The fire seems to have burst in every quarter at once, for it broke out at Miramichi the same moment as at Fredericton, though a hundred and fifty miles lay between. But here its aspect was even more dreadful, and its ravages more appalling, as Miramichi stood in the forest, completely girt round, except where escape was shut off by the river. Many were in bed when they heard the alarm; many were first startled by the flames, or were suffocated in their sleep, leaving no vestige but charred bones. Others leaped from roof or window, and rushed into the forest, not knowing where they went, or took fire in the street, and blazed up like torches. A number succeeded in gaining the river, and threw themselves in boats or on planks, and pushed off from the bank, which the fire had almost reached, and where it presently raged as fiercely as in the town. One woman was aroused from sleep by the screams of her children whom she found in flames, and caught fire herself as she snatched up an infant and ran into the river, where mother and child perished together. Then came the hurricane, tearing up burning trees and whirling them aloft; lashing the river and channel into fury, and snapping the anchors of the ships, which flew before it like chaff, dashing on the rocks, and covering the waves with wreck. Blazing trees lighted on two large vessels, and they fired like mines, consuming on the water, which became so hot in the shallows that large salmon and other fish leaped on shore, and were afterwards found dead in heaps along the branches of the river. What can be said of such horrors, combining a conflagration of a thousand miles with storm and shipwreck, and surprising a

solitary community at midnight? Happily, the greater number contrived to reach Chatham by the river; but floating corpses showed how many perished in the attempt, and nearly three hundred lost their lives by fire or drowning.

A harrowing spectacle presented itself on the subsidence of the flames. Scarcely a house remained standing; not one uninjured; and the road was strewn with black heaps, which proved to be the ashes of men and women. One of these claims mention as the remains of a woman who had so disposed herself as to cover her infant while she burnt to a cinder above, and the child was taken from beneath alive – a witness to the sublimest instance of maternal devotion ever recorded.⁶ The devastation struck the survivors with despair, and they made no effort at retrieval, but wandered about the ruins bewildered, or crouched down wherever they found shelter. Suddenly there was a general movement; everybody hurried out – some without knowing why – and they hardly believed their eyes as they looked up the forest, and saw Sir Howard walking down, his wagon being blocked by a fallen tree. He had come a hundred and fifty miles through the woods where the fire still burnt, and received no injury, though he was often in danger, and once all but suffocated. Simultaneously the whole crowd went forward, and every one uncovered as they met, receiving him with a silence more eloquent than cheers. But he spoke out; for he knew what to say, and raised courage and hope in their breasts, if he brought tears to no few eyes. Soon the axe and the hammer were at work; spades were throwing up the ground; men bustled about with loads on their backs; a vessel came round from St. John's with supplies; and the cloud began to pass from Miramichi, like the smoke from the forest. He remained through their trial, and shared its privations, while his presence alleviated its bitterness; and they followed him with bless-

ings on his departure. He had distributed amongst them 1000 barrels of flour, 500 barrels of pork, and 1700£ worth of clothing, which he purchased on his own responsibility, though he was afterwards indemnified by the Government. Well and truly did Lord Sidmouth write to him: "Happy was it for the province that such a person as yourself was on the spot. All its hopes of protection, relief, and redemption depended on the resources and energies of your judgment, fortitude, activity, and benevolence." He refers to the account Sir Howard had sent him of the fire in the following words: "I was at a large dinner-party at Lord Stowell's, and your detailed communication had the effect of exciting all present to contribute and to promote the means of relief to the utmost of their power. In reflecting upon the ruin which surrounds you, I rejoice that it has been your lot to be the instrument of performing such duties as, I truly think, you, of all the men I have ever known, are the best calculated to discharge. The affectionate solicitude of every member of my family constantly attends you."

ENDNOTES

1. "By means of the fortitude, calm composure, and ready presence of mind of Lady Douglas, who remained until the last, his Excellency's papers, books, and most of the furniture were saved." – *New Brunswick Courier*.
2. The conflagration extended over six thousand square miles.
3. "The exertions at this critical period by all parties cannot be sufficiently applauded, aided and encouraged (as they were) by our active and indefatigable Governor, who throughout the melancholy scenes displayed the most anxious concern, and through whom wonders absolutely were effected." *New Brunswick Courier*, October 10, 1825.
4. *New Brunswick Courier*, October 10, 1825.
5. *London Gazette*, December 17, 1825.
6. This incident was communicated to the author by a lady of Sir Howard's family, who was present at the fire.

Murray Young is a retired professor of history at the University of New Brunswick. He has written extensively about the early history of Canada and New Brunswick.

Beyond York-Sunbury

New Brunswick's Postal History . . . by Michael O. Nowlan

Part Four: Canadian Stamps – The New Brunswick Connection

Part Four of this series looks at all the Canadian stamps (about 40) that have a New Brunswick theme or connection. The narrative will not be chronological; rather it will group similar themes or topics. It will also be useful for readers to know that "definitives" are common stamps like Queens and Flags, and "commemoratives" are stamps issued for special occasions or anniversaries.

After New Brunswick's Sesquicentennial in 1934, this province had to

tween New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The success of the Northumberland Strait underwater cable led Gisborne to get funding for the Cape Breton - Newfoundland cable in 1856 and the Atlantic cable in 1858. There are now plans for a special stamp on 31 May 1997 to commemorate the erection of the fixed link between New Brunswick and the island province.

When the Trans-Canada Highway opened at Glacier National Park, British Columbia, (1962) the post office celebrated the completion of a highway link from coast to coast with a stamp displaying the Coats of Arms of each province nicely arranged in two rows with a strip of highway running between them.

Coats of Arms were again the topic in 1964 when the post office announced a fourteen-stamp series over a three-year period, which would also include provincial flowers. The New Brunswick stamp, issued 3 February 1965 depicted the Purple Violet and the provincial Coat of Arms. It was a colourful stamp that remains popular among collectors today.

The definitives issued for Canada's Centennial in 1967 had regional themes instead of provincial subjects. The five-cent, domestic postage rate of the day, has a Queen Elizabeth II profile, and in the background, a generic Atlantic Provinces fishing village.

One of the very unusual stories relating to Canadian stamps was the 1970 Christmas issue, which feature twelve stamps designed by school children, one from each province and two overall winners, both of whom



Figure 2: Child stamp designers Janet (McKinney) Howe and Marc Fournier got attention for "the Christ Child" and "Boy Scouts".

were from Manitoba. The young New Brunswick artist was eight-year-old Janet McKinney of St. Joseph's School in Saint John whose Christ Child painting (Figure 2) was the design for one of the six-cent values.

Janet McKinney, who is now Janet Howe (Figure 3), still lives in Saint John, and she has vivid memories of the day she learned she had the winning design. "It was May when I was in grade three," she said, "and I remember how surprised I was. They brought all the grade threes into the school library for the announcement." Looking back, she found it "pretty overwhelming." It was probably only when the "stamps came out that it hit me and we started getting letters in the mail with my stamp on them. I got letters from everywhere. I was even sent an article from the *Washington Post*."

She proudly shows her scrapbooks and photo albums of the many events surrounding the issue of the stamp. Janet became a stamp designer as a result of a school project, and she recalls "I didn't finish my design by the deadline. I was upset because I didn't get the yellow paper for the way I wanted it." The teacher assured her "it was alright," so it was sent forward. Her "painting" included pastels and tissue paper. "We were allowed," considerable freedom in "what we wanted to use" for the illustration.



Figure 1: New Brunswick has a natural 'link' to Prince Edward Island, and the \$1 Train Ferry Abequeit and the 36-cent F. N. Gisborne (North America's first undersea cable (1852) between NB and PEI) stamps support the link. A new Confederation Bridge stamp will be issued this year.

wait over 30 years before the post office issued another stamp with a New Brunswick designation. Two post-war stamps, however, had a New Brunswick connection. In 1946, \$1.00 Train Ferry Abequeit (Figure 1), which plied Northumberland Strait between Cape Tormentine and Borden, Prince Edward Island, was one of the Peace Issue definitives released after the war. Although it was the first stamp to link New Brunswick with Prince Edward Island, it would not be the last. In 1987, the Canada Day stamps featured four pioneers in Science and Technology. One depicts Frederick Newton Gisborne (Figure 1), who was responsible for North America's first undersea cable (1852) be-



Figure 3: Janet (McKinney) Howe proudly displays scrapbooks which record events of the 1970 "Christ Child" stamp, "something that isn't commonly done."

The letter from Eric Kierans, Minister of Communications with responsibility for the post office; press clippings on the announcement; the Ottawa trip for "Christmas in August" when all the youthful stamp designers got together; and the actual release of the stamp are items she treasures today. And she is thankful to her parents for preserving them until she was old enough to appreciate their significance. For Janet Howe "it is kind of neat to know you've done something that isn't commonly done." She is "no artist" even though she has "creative talent." She is a part of history, and "it is interesting that your name will always be there."

Janet (McKinney) Howe was not the only New Brunswick child who designed a Canadian stamp. In 1983, Canada Post conducted a "What Scouting Means to Me" poster contest to mark the 75th anniversary of the Scouting movement. The winning design was by twelve-year-old scout Marc Fournier of Edmundston. (Attempts to locate Marc Fournier were not successful.) His attractive stamp design (Fig-

ure 2) features a scout running the Canadian flag up a pole near his tent and the rising sun coming over the mountains.

Between 1972 and 1976, there was a series of 20 stamps to honour Canada's native peoples and their artifacts. One of the stamps (1973) is an anonymous painting of Micmacs, which has a connection to New Brunswick. Micmacs are not restricted to New Brunswick, but they have had a major influence among this province's aboriginal peoples. The Micmacs also got on the 1989 Native Canadian Small Craft series of four stamps with an historic Micmac canoe.

New Brunswick was featured on a high value definitive on 24 January 1979 when a National Parks se-

citing stamp.

Another 1979 "New Brunswick" stamp was in the very colourful sheetlet of Provincial and Territorial flags. The New Brunswick flag is very prominently displayed in what remains one of Canada's very beautiful miniature sheets.

During the 1980s, New Brunswick received regular recognition from the post office, which was now officially Canada Post Corporation (CPC). Canada Day 1981 was celebrated with four 17-cent "map" stamps illustrating Canada's growth through Confederation. The first stamp in the strip shows Canada in 1867 with New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec appropriately displayed. The second is an 1873 Canada while the



Figure 4: New Brunswick's history and natural features stand out on the McAdam Railway Station, Hartland Covered Bridge and The Rocks Provincial Park stamps.



Figure 5: Fredericton's Molly Lamb and Bruno Bobak's paintings gave New Brunswick emphasis to these three stamps.

third is the 1905 map when nine provinces formed the Dominion. The last stamp completes Confederation with Newfoundland in 1949. These stamps were in miniature sheets of sixteen stamps.

The Canada Day issues for 1982 and 1984 were sheetlets of twelve stamps by Canadian artists. The 1982 issue featured scenes of the provinces and territories by twelve different contributors while the 1984 sheetlet had twelve scenes by Jean-Paul Lemieux.

Fredericton's renowned Bobaks (Figure 5) were featured in the 1982 paintings. Molly Lamb Bobak's Prince Edward Island's *Tea Hill* scene and Bruno Bobak's *Campus Gates* were among the twelve stamps. The Lemieux New Brunswick painting is a generic coastal scene with children playing on a beach.

Molly Lamb Bobak returned with a painting in 1992 when CPC again sought artists' interpretations of Canada's beauty, geography, and diversity for the Canada Day issue. The New Brunswick stamp was Mrs. Bobak's rendition of *City Hall*, Fredericton. She says "Bruno and I were very fortunate" to have work accepted for postage stamps. At the time, she felt it was "terrific" and "refreshing." She was particularly pleased with *Tea Hill*. "It looked good on a stamp" because it lent itself well "to reduction."

Forts Across Canada was the Canada Day 1983 theme. Each province was not represented, but New Brunswick's Fort Beausejour was in a booklet of ten stamps. It was also the year for two stamps depicting

Canadian Army uniforms. One of these included the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR), which has had a long historical connection to New Brunswick, and today that regiment plays a prominent role at CFB Gagetown.

When New Brunswick celebrated its Bicentennial in 1984, CPC provided a special commemorative stamp for 18 June. It does not match the Sesquicentennial stamp of 1934 in beauty or history, but it gave prominence to the anniversary. The year also marked the 200th anniversary of the coming of the United Empire Loyalists, and a special stamp was issued. Although Loyalists were not unique to New Brunswick, thousands did settle here, so the stamp has a New Brunswick connection.

For CAPEX '87, Canada's Third International Philatelic Exhibition, CPC released a special souvenir sheet of four stamps illustrating historic post offices. One was the post office at Nelson-Miramichi. The stamps were also available in regular sheet form. Since the souvenir sheet had green inscription as opposed to black on the regular sheet stamps, there are really two varieties of the Nelson-Miramichi stamp.

A rather beautiful set of four stamps displaying Canadian Forests came along in August 1990. One of these — Acadian Forest — featured a striking photograph of a Freeman Patterson winter scene. These stamps were available in setenant sheets as well as in blocks of four of each stamp.

The first in a six-year series of stamps (four stamps each year) to "re-

member" Canada's role in World War II came out in 1989. This series looked at highlights of the war, such as the declaration of war, the home front, and battle-field scenes. After the 1992 stamps commemorating events of 1942 were issued, a surprise revelation was reported concerning a stamp honouring reporters/journalists. That stamp (Figure

6) had a picture of noted Canadian journalist Charles Lynch who was born in Saint John. Since CPC has a policy not to place living people on its stamps, the occasion was big news when it was discovered just as the stamps were about to be issued.

Ian Robertson writing in *Canadian Stamp News* says the central design (War Reporters stamp) traces a photo taken by a military photographer. It shows a 24-year-old Lynch interviewing a wounded Winnipeg soldier, A. Jesson, with Lynch's guide Capt. Bill Cornforth near Caens, Normandy in 1944. Lynch, Canada's youngest World War II correspondent, wrote for Reuters news agency about Canadian troops in Europe.



Figure 6: Few living Canadians make it to the stamp program, but Saint John-born Charles Lynch (with notebook) sneaked into this 1992 to make history.

New Brunswick received great attention in new stamps in 1993, with no fewer than four having a New Brunswick theme. The parade started on 30 April with the release of five stamps in the Handcrafted Textiles commemoratives.

One of the five featured a Bed Rugg housed at the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John, which dates to circa 1800. The term "bed rugg" with two "g's" was used to differentiate it from a floor rug. The bed rugg

was meant to cover bed furnishings during the daytime, and unlike early settlers' quilts, bed rugs were not made from the leftovers, but were carefully conceived in advance. The technique employed in making bed rugs was needlework in double-stitched pile.

On 14 June, CPC joined forces with Canadian Pacific Hotels to feature five historic Canadian hotels in a special commemorative booklet. One of the hotels was the Algonquin at St. Andrew's. The launch of the stamp was celebrated at the hotel with pomp and circumstance as collectors and souvenir hunters got the stamps and special cancellations. The Algonquin, which opened in 1889, was one of the "glory" hotels in the great days of the railroad.

Two weeks later on 30 June, the Canada Day issue had Provincial and Territorial Parks, and this province was well represented with the famed Rocks Provincial Park (Figure 4) in Albert County. It was a very beautiful pane of twelve stamps with exquisite colour and finely crafted scenes.

The Rocks stamp shows the curiously shaped "flowerpot" rocks with their huge vegetation-topped formations which are truly wonders of nature. Shaped by a combination of vertical glacial forces and the horizontal tidal movement of Shepody Bay and the Bay of Fundy, many of them are fifteen metres high.

In August, many celebrated the arrival of a new stamp in the Canadian Heritage Rivers commemorative series. The theme of that 1993 issue focused on "Routes of Settlement and Growth," and the St. John was appropriately chosen because it was a river along which many Loyalists settled. The foreground of the stamp depicts white lilies, an endangered flower still found beside the river.

The Riverside Country Club just outside Saint John and the Hartland Covered Bridge (Figure 4) made the

CPC 1995 stamp program. The former were in booklet format while the Hartland Bridge joined three other famous Canadian bridges in a miniature pane. A commemorative for the 25th anniversary of La Francophonie completed the New Brunswick connections for 1995. New Brunswick is one of four provinces that regularly sends representatives to La Francophonie conferences.

The first in a four-year series of Historic Vehicles was launched in 1993. There would be a New Brunswick connection to two vehicles in that series. An 88-cent 1994 stamp shows the Saint John Railway Co. Car No. 40, which was built by the Ottawa Car Company. Car No. 40, which served Saint John for 25 years, had an upholstered mahogany interior with bevelled plate glass windows, a veneered ceiling, and brass trimmings.

CPC issued 24 stamps in the Historic Vehicles, and for CAPEX '96, the International Stamp Exhibition in Toronto, one additional stamp, the Bricklin (Figure 7), was added to the series. As a stamp, it will probably



Figure 7: The infamous Bricklin car will be as prized on a stamp (CAPEX '96 issue) as the few cars which still survive New Brunswick's last foray into the car industry.

get more attention from collectors than most stamps with a New Brunswick connection.

To celebrate the Transportation theme at CAPEX '96, CPC issued a special souvenir sheet of all the vehicles in the Historic Vehicles Series. The original 24 stamps were redenominated values (the Saint

John Railway Car Co. Car No. 40 is a 10-cent value), but the Bricklin was the only 45-cent value on the sheet. In fact, it was the only place the Bricklin was issued. Since there were only 1,000,000 sheets printed, it will make the Bricklin one of the most prized stamps among recent Canadian issues, especially in used condition because most collectors will save the complete sheet.

This has been an overview of Canadian stamps with a New Brunswick connection. There are not any great finds or rare Canadian stamps with a New Brunswick connection, but those that exist relate the province's history in a dimension not found elsewhere. *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hansen, Glenn F., *The Guidebook and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. Winnipeg, 1973.

Robertson, Ian, "War Reporter," *Canadian Stamp News*, Vol. 17, No. 15, 1 December 1992, pages 1-2.

Rousseau, Lyse and Emanuel Darnell, *Darnell Stamps of Canada 1997 Edition*. Montreal, 1996.

The author also acknowledges the kind help of Tim McGurrian and staff, Canada Post Media Relations, Ottawa; Janet (McKinney) Howe for interview and information; and Canada Post Corporation *New Releases*.

All illustrations accompanying this article are from the author's collection.

Michael Nowlan is an educator, author and philatelist who lives in Oromocto, Sunbury County. This is the fourth in his five-part, illustrated series concerning New Brunswick history as it relates to postage stamps.

Remembering Isabel Louise Hill... *John Fraser*

The passing of Isabel Louise Hill on 14 October 1996, at the age of 95, was marked not by a funeral, but by a celebration of her ninety-five years of triumphant living. Her much loved cousin, John Fraser, movingly and eloquently paid tribute to a remarkable personage.

* * *

Louise Hill would be very happy to see everyone here today. She loved this Cathedral, so close to the home she never roamed very far from, so close to the Old Burying Grounds, so near to all the places of her young womanhood, her middle age, her old age, and her triumphant final years.

I'm not so sure I should be talking about my venerable cousin in the past tense. She had a very strong faith and a firm conviction in the reunion of all souls and I think of her as very much with us right now, hovering over my shoulder actually and more than ready to set me straight if I get some historical point wrong here or there.

If I had to come up with one

word which best described what my cousin Louise represented throughout her life – from her girlhood in Niagara Falls, On-

He who would true valour see,
let him come hither,
Here's one who'll constant be,
come wind, come weather



Isabel Louise Hill, 1901-1996

tario, and throughout all the years in this city which she loved so much – that word would have to be constancy. When I think of Louise, I think of the words from John Bunyan's wonderful poem in *Pilgrim's Progress*, which we will sing shortly:

The thing about constancy is that it requires courage and grit, and no one who knew my cousin Louise could deny she had both in great measure. The grit supported a notion of loyalty and loyalty was what Louise Hill was all about; loyalty to her God, loyalty to her Queen, loyalty to her church (provided it did not utterly abandon the Book of Common Prayer), loyalty to her family and friends, loyalty to the land and the nation, loyalty to all things bright and beautiful, to all creatures great and small.

My cousin Louise lived so long that there are not many people who will remember how loyally

she stood by her mother and father, and – after her mother's death – how she nursed and protected her father, General Frederic William Hill, feeling that his service to his country merited all the personal sacrifices she herself quietly made.

Constancy did not necessarily make Louise Hill an easy person to be around at times. When she was on the attack, it was truly amazing to see the explosion of passion such a tiny, feather-light, handicapped body could express.

After she took a skunner to my friend Richard Hatfield, it was always my nightmare on my trips to Fredericton that the three of us would somehow, somewhere get stuck in an elevator that broke down for several hours and Louise would rehearse for the premier the infinite errors of his way.

This was an unworthy nightmare, as my cousin had scrupulous Victorian manners but she did have her views and usually it was those views – so colourfully expressed and deployed – that made so many people delight in her conversation. She was an original.

A few years ago I gave the author of Maple Leaf Rag two phone numbers when he was about the visit Fredericton, that of Premier Hatfield, and that of my cousin. The writer somehow confused the two numbers and phoned Louise. Her reply was, "no this is not the residence of Mr. Hatfield. Whatever made you suppose it would be? You will find his number in the directory." Then when he phoned her again and asked to speak to Mrs. Hill, he was told that it was not the number of Mrs. Hill and "I can't

imagine where you'll find her."

Her constancy was also the mighty symbol of her life's work as a local historian. Few things meant more to her in life than ensuring that people around her understood the sacrifices and

grace for her final years. Caring begets caring. My cousin's final triumphant years could not have been managed with the spirit and independence that made her such a wonder to all who encountered her had it not been for the

caring and constancy of her friend Katherine LeButt.

It will embarrass Kate if I make too much of a fuss about her, but I believe we learn from example and emulation and Kate LeButt's love for Louise Hill is one of the inspirational checkpoints of my own experience. At the end of Louise's remarkable life, she was rocked across her great age by a friend who was also constantly there "through wind and

weather". It is my great honour in this place and at this time to thank Kate LeButt for this conspicuous act of loyalty and love. Louise would have been pleased that Kate had been thus mentioned "in dispatches."

And in the end, you can tell everything about my Cousin Louise from the affection and respect she was surrounded with from everyone at her end. It was just as she was during the earliest years of this century: She was a young girl longing to be loved. And she was loved. ❧

John Fraser is Master of Massey College in Toronto and the author of *Stolen China*, his latest book.

After she took a skunner to my friend Richard Hatfield, it was always my nightmare on my trips to Fredericton that the three of us would somehow, somewhere get stuck in an elevator that broke down for several hours and Louise would rehearse for the premier the infinite errors of his way.

courage of their own ancestors. Her books on Fredericton and the Old Burying Grounds are her love letters to her neighbourhood and her community. She believed that the intertwining of our own lives with those which preceded them, was the truest possible definition of what we actually are, and pointed the surest direction of where we must go.

To be sure, my Cousin Louise was a fantasist, a romantic Tory. She was also incredibly wise. She understood better than most that before you can understand the world, you must first understand how the thatch lies on your own roof.

In her caring and constancy, Louise also stored up her own

Past President's Report... *Doris Norman*

The York-Sunbury Historical Society has had a busy and productive year. The membership has increased to 161, the Board of Directors has met monthly, and the executive has met as required. The committees have been very active and enthusiastic, and we have been fortunate to have many volunteers willing to help the Board carry out its vision. Bruce Lynch and Jean Macdonald, our staff members, have provided a pleasant atmosphere of co-operation in which we have all worked this past year.

In a time of fiscal restraint in all areas, it is important that York-Sunbury Historical Society's Board show fiscal responsibility in carrying out its mission. This year we have managed to control spending and costs by making some cuts, including the Society's mailing, which has been restricted to the AGM notice and letters to prospective members. The new telephone committee has been informing members about our programs, exhibits, and meetings. We are most grateful to Katherine LeButt, Faye Medjuck, Ida Orenbach, Agnes Turner, Margaret Walls, and Sandra Wright for helping us cut costs by several hundred dollars by making those important phone calls.

To help meet our costs the membership fee has increased to \$30 and the life membership fee to \$250. We had a yard sale this year as a special project to raise funds. This was highly successful and a lot of fun.

The programs and exhibits

have been notably interesting and informative. The Society has been well served by Carolyn Atkinson and Elizabeth Earl for their tireless work in these areas.

Special note should be made of the Mary Grannan Exhibit, which was coordinated by Ted Jones and Don Roberts. The exhibit received a lot of newspaper and radio coverage including National CBC Radio. A very special thank you to Ted and Don, not only for the exhibit, but for raising public awareness regarding the existence of the Museum. We had a beautiful June opening in front of this building with our Patroness, the Lieutenant-Governor Margaret McCain. Over two hundred people were present to enjoy the speeches, special presentations, and lunch.

The Officers' Quarterly continued to be a major publication with the format and content relevant to the Society's purpose. It is with regret that we receive Ted Jones' resignation as editor in order to pursue other Society concerns. We are indebted to Ted for improving the quality of the publication and raising it to such a high standard.

The Society was fortunate this year to be able to hire several temporary staff who conducted tours and a summer day camp, promoted the Museum, conducted research, established a new exhibit, and provided maintenance services. These staff members were hired with the help of six different funding programs.

The Society's Board has reinstituted as part of its monthly

meeting a short talk on an historical event or artifact. So far, we have had a short History of the College of Craft and Design Building, an antique handgun which is possibly 300 years old, and an arc lamp which was possibly a Fredericton Street Light made by the Swan Electric Company.

The staff, their spouses, and volunteers gave the gift shop a face lift by painting and decorating. Thank you to them, and to the donor of \$3,000 for the gift shop project.

The Museum has undergone some much needed changes. We now have a Pre-Loyalist/Acadian Room, and the storage areas have been rearranged. Carolyn Atkinson has agreed to chair a committee that will consult a professional to evaluate the storage and exhibition of the many photographs and paintings in our collection. The mandate and job description of this committee has yet to be worked out.

The York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum received a Reading the Museum Grant through the Canadian Museums Association. This is a Literary Program which provides funding for staff to make the Museum more accessible to those with a lower level of literacy. We were one of only six organizations in the country to receive this grant.

As I leave the position of President of the Society, I wish the new Board success in carrying out the Mission, and I thank Board Members and volunteers for a very interesting year. ❀

Garrison Ghosts



If the daily headlines for the winter of 1937 are any indication, the citizens of York-Sunbury were much concerned with international affairs. Almost every page one story reported some event in the Spanish Civil War, or coverage of the situation in Germany, the strength of National Socialism in that country, and its relations with Great Britain, and the countries of Europe. The only local page one headline concerned the failure of an attempt to have control of the police force in Fredericton given over to a committee of City Council. People were reading of Amelia Earhart's proposed attempt to fly around the world; of floods in Mississippi; the state of the Pope's health; of the Duke of Windsor's new title, and coat of arms; of Canada's improved economic conditions in 1936; of Canada's continued war against communism; of an honour bestowed by the King of Italy on John Clarence Webster of Shediac; that in 1936, the population of Fredericton had for the first time exceeded 10,000; that teachers were to be paid a per diem of one dollar for attendance at the Teachers Institute; and among the movies playing at The Gaiety were "Love on the Run" with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford and "Three Smart Girls" with Deanna Durbin.

And the business of the Society continued.

4 January 1937: The executive met at the Post Office Building, with the president, the Rev. Dr. A. F. Wightman in the chair. It was suggested that an effort be made to secure from Ottawa a copy of "a treaty on the Indian reserves which it would be to our advantage to secure." A suggestion was made that a copy of the first time-table of Capital bus, the first ever such service in Fredericton, be secured. Also that stones from old Fort St. Joseph which now form a wharf at the Devon end of the railway bridge be secured when the new

bridge is being built. The Society is to unite with the University of New Brunswick Dramatic Club to sponsor a performance at the Opera House on 21 January. The Society is to receive 40% of the house, and the UNB Dramatic Club, 60%. Society members are to sell 400 tickets. Major Good had secured room in the Sterling Building for articles. It was suggested that these be inventoried and a record kept by the Chair of the Museum Committee. The rooms were free, but a lease or agreement was deemed advisable: "so as to keep everything straight." It was noted that the Victoria Museum at Ottawa had no record of "Melacete" objects. The Corresponding Secretary was asked to write to the Victoria Museum and point out this omission, as all provinces pay towards the Museum, and should be treated alike.

20 January 1937: Annual General Meeting, chaired by the Rev. Dr. F. A. Wightman, with 21 members present, about half of the membership. Dr. Wightman was re-elected president. It was noted that scant attention is paid in provincial school books to the March of the 104th Regiment, and it was resolved to draw this to the attention of the educational authorities. A committee consisting of F. A. Good, W. J. West and Austin Squires was appointed to contact the Historical Sites and Monuments Board with respect to a marker for the grave of Benjamin Tibbetts, inventor of the compound engine.

28 January 1937: A special executive meeting was chaired by Dr. Wightman, who moved that Major Good assume the chair, as he had been informed by J. L. Neville that he had not been duly elected. This motion was defeated, as Dr. Wightman had been elected at the annual meeting, with the Society solicitor, Mr. Gorham present. Mr. Gorham reviewed the events of the annual meeting, and Dr. Wightman

retained the chair, with the question of the election to be considered at the next general meeting.

10 February 1937: Executive meeting held at which it was noted that Mr. Taylor had suggested that an Indian dictionary be compiled, but W. G. Clark felt that with money needed for relief, it would not be possible to get a grant. [A copy of Resolution #17 of the Museum Committee regarding the employment of Mr. C. A. Taylor as curator at a salary of \$100 per year is included in the minute book]. It was suggested that a pageant of the history of Fredericton be prepared, with each member of the executive to write a story.

17 February 1937: Mr. Austin Squires presented a paper entitled "George A. Boardman, Naturalist."*

18 March 1937: The regular monthly meeting was held on the Thursday, as St. Patrick's Day had fallen on Wednesday. The Rev. Dr. J. H. Milligan presented the program: "Ancient Ireland and Saint Patrick."* A committee was appointed to consider the Society's participation in the observance of King George VI's Coronation by the City of Fredericton. An autographed copy of a book of poems by Charles Frederick Boyle, of the staff of the Queen Hotel to be purchased by the Society.

4 April 1937: The executive discussed the anonymous gift of \$50,000 to provide a building for the Society, upon certain conditions being met. This matter was referred to the Building Committee. Mr. West and Mr. Taylor were to see to the building of a float, at a cost of no more than \$25.00, to be entered in the Coronation parade.

21 April 1937: At the monthly meeting, a paper relating to Col. Hewlett's Orderly Book was presented by Mr. C. Clark.

* A copy of this paper is deposited in the Provincial Archives.



The original Government House, built as the residence of Thomas Carleton, First Governor of New Brunswick, in Fredericton. It was partly destroyed by fire on 19 September 1825, just eighteen days before the Great Fire of 7 October 1825.