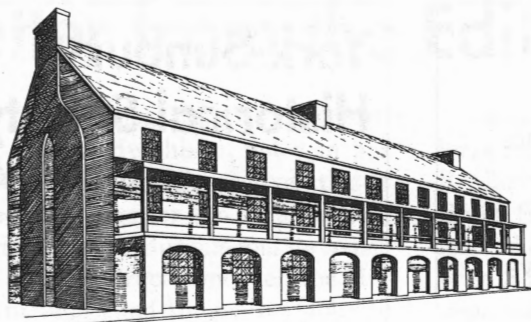




The Officers' Quarterly

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

Volume 13, Number 3

Summer 1997

65th Anniversary 1932-1997



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Chestnut Canoe Company
- Remembering Senator Muriel Fergusson
- Loyalist Anthony Allaire



The Officers' Quarterly

Volume 13, Number 3 Summer 1997

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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**

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Contents

Letter from the Editors **3**

President's Perspective **4**

Curator's Corner **5**

Feature Article **6**

Beyond York-Sunbury **10**

Anniversary Celebration **12**

Museum World **13**

Remembering **14**

Officers' Bookcase **16**

From the Archives **18**

Garrison Ghosts **19**

FRONT COVER

Outdoorsmen at Camp Comfort on Hartt's Island on the St. John River, about 1888. Among the group are Harry (in white shirt) and Will Chestnut (white trousers). The camp was destroyed in the flood of 1888. (PANB P5-339)

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

As Historical Society President, Helen Hutchison, notes in her "President's Perspective," this is a time of change for the organization, especially for the Museum and its senior staff. Curator Bruce Lynch left the Museum in August and Antoinette Duplessis joined as the new Director in September. Bruce was a faithful supporter of the *Quarterly*, providing us with his thoughtful "Curator's Corner" columns, and assisting in many other ways behind the scenes. Thanks for your help Bruce, and good luck in the future. We also welcome Antoinette to our ranks and we look forward to working closely with her in the days ahead.

* * * * *

With this issue of the *Quarterly*, we continue to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Historical Society. If you missed the opening of the Museum's Anniversary Exhibit on 14 June, you can read the President's opening remarks in this issue and see the tree-planting ceremony that took place as part of the celebrations commemorating the Anniversary.

In this issue we also learn more about the early years of the Society and its members with the profile of founding member Lilian Maxwell in "Garrison Ghosts." Her extensive correspondence and prolific writings are preserved in the Society's archival collection at the Provincial Archives, and continue to provide a wealth of information about the early history of the area. However, surprisingly little about Mrs. Maxwell, the person, emerges from the record. If you knew Mrs. Maxwell and have memories to share we would like to hear from you.

Included among Mrs. Maxwell's papers is a short history of Fredericton's Chestnut Family and their famous Canoe Company written by Kenneth Chestnut. It is reprinted in "From the Archives," and provides the centre-piece of the profile of the Chestnuts that emerges from the issue. The Chestnuts first arrived in Fredericton in the 1830s, and for the next 100 years played an important role in the business, social, civic and educational life of the community.

Robert Chestnut first established a large hardware store in the city in 1836. R. Chestnut and Sons was located on Queen St. across from City Hall and remained at the centre of the family enterprise until James S. Neill and Sons bought them out in 1924. They also had interests in a lumber mill, and a window and door factory. About 1899, the Chestnuts started building canoes and in 1905 Robert's son Henry set up the Chestnut Canoe Company. Eventually, they built the large factory on York Street and also began making snowshoes and toboggans. The Company remained in business in the Fredericton area until 1978.

Not surprisingly, the Chestnuts were also avid outdoorsmen, fishermen and hunters. Henry's sons Will and Harry were members of various sportsmen's clubs, including the Fredericton Snowshoe Club, and both can be seen relaxing at Camp Comfort on Hartt's Island in the St. John River in the cover photo of this issue. They also vigorously promoted New Brunswick as a tourist and sporting centre. They belonged to the Association of New Brunswick Guides, which arranged hunting and fishing trips for Americans, and in 1901 Will helped to organize a sportsman's booth at the

Chicago Sportsman's Show.

The Chestnuts also became involved in Fredericton's civic life. Robert helped with the upkeep of the Old Burying Ground, and Henry participated in various city projects, including the installation of the town clock in the city hall tower. They also had strong connections with the University of New Brunswick. Harry's wife Annie Tibbetts and their daughter Maggie Jean both served as presidents of the University Alumnae Association and Maggie Jean was a member of the University Senate. Their connection can still be seen today through Tibbetts Hall and Maggie Jean Chestnut Residence.

The Society is planning a programme based on Kenneth Solway's book *The Story of the Chestnut Canoe - 150 Years of Canadian Canoe Building*, which is reviewed in "The Officers' Bookcase." It is hoped that this Anniversary initiative will enable the Historical Society to gather artifacts and oral histories on the Chestnuts and their activities within the community that may form the basis for a Museum exhibit at some point in the future. Please plan to attend and hear more about the fascinating story of the Chestnuts and their world-famous canoes. ❧



The Chestnut Hardware Store on Queen St. across from City Hall, about 1900. Established in 1836, the hardware business remained in the family until it was bought out by James S. Neill and Sons in 1924. (PANB P37-345)

President's Perspective ... by Helen Hutchison

This summer, the Society featured many of the pieces of its collection in the exhibit entitled "Curios and Collectibles," which opened 14 June with Mayor Brad Woodside officiating. Also featured throughout the summer was the private collection of Ross Drug, which is of particular interest to many people who have grown up in Fredericton and remember back to the days of the soda fountain. We are very pleased to provide the space and opportunity for members of the community to share their private collections with the public. So if you haven't had the opportunity to see many of the artifacts that are normally in storage and the Ross Drug exhibit, these exhibits will continue to be shown until the end of October.

Throughout the summer, we were also fortunate to have acquired provincial and federal funding for a number of students who held a series of children's day camps, provided bilingual tours, worked with the collection, developed publicity, and provided administrative support to Museum staff. Thank you to Terry Parker, Mike Smith, Lisa Maher, Sophie Theriault, Jennifer Weaver, Susan Flewelling, Andre Theriault, and Andre Robichaud.

This year is definitely a time of change for the York-Sunbury Historical Society with many changes in staff. We will miss Jean Macdonald, the previous Administrator and Education Officer, and Bruce Lynch, our previous Curator, whose farewell can be read in this issue's "Curator's Corner." I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Bruce, his wife, Patricia, Jean, and her husband, Doug, for their support of and interest in the Museum. I know that on many occasions the entire family was an integral part of many of the Society's and Museum's activities. I wish all every success in the future and extend a sincere thank you to all on behalf of Society members.

Needless to say, over the past months, it has been the focus of the Society to replace our fine employees with other fine employees. The position of Director for the YSHS was advertised in early August and there was a tremendous response to the advertisement with over sixty applicants and many excellent candidates. Thank you to the other members of the Selection Committee: George Richardson, Lynda Savoie, Richard Bagley and Carolyn Atkinson

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who gave a great deal of time and energy to the process.

We are very pleased to announce that Antoinette Duplessis has accepted the position of Director for the York-Sunbury Historical Society Inc. Antoinette will be very involved in the operation of the Museum, managing the collection, and the co-ordination and organization of the many activities of the Society.

Antoinette comes with a strong academic background with a Masters in Canadian History from the University of New Brunswick and a Masters in Museums Studies from the University of Toronto. While at the University of Toronto, Antoinette studied collections management, museum education, exhibit design, material history and conservation. Throughout her studies and working career, Antoinette has worked at a number of museums and historic sites, including the Royal Ontario Museum, Kings Landing Historical Set-

tlement, and the Admiral Digby Museum as well as our own York-Sunbury Museum. I believe that her experience will be very beneficial to our Society and already Antoinette has many ideas and recommendations for us to consider. If you have some time, please drop in and visit the Museum and say hello to our newest staff members.

Jennifer Weaver who participated in many aspects of the Museum's operations throughout the summer has also agreed to continue to work with us for as long as she is needed. Jennifer will be booking tours, welcoming visitors and helping with Museum and Society activities. Maureen Hood has also joined the staff as the Administrative Officer. Maureen has a strong background in administration and has also previously worked at the Museum with Jean last year.

There are many administrative and procedural details that require our attention at this time and everyone is working diligently to catch up after the changeover in staff. Therefore, I would ask for the members' patience as we work through this time of transition.

As we fast approach 1998, our primary focus will be the planning for next year — exhibits, programs, publications, volunteer development, membership and the longer range plans to the year 2000. I believe it is time to look at our current situation and assess our needs for the future. I feel the Society has an important role to play in our community now and in the future.

So, don't be a stranger. Drop into the Museum and meet the newest members of the staff, share ideas, tell us of any concerns you may have, help us plan for the future. The present exhibit will be shown until late fall, the autumn lecture series has begun. Hope to see you this fall at the Society events. Have a good fall! ☺

Curator's Corner ... by Bruce Lynch

Writing this, my final "Curator's Corner," I find that I'm thinking more of what the next Curator will do than of what I have done. That's because the possibilities of this small Museum still excite me. The things that remain to be done still frustrate me. I'm proud of what we've achieved in the past few years, but I hope that those achievements become the inspiration, not the standard.

I don't think that the next Curator can go wrong if he or she follows the path toward increased accessibility. As I have stressed in the past, museums have to adapt to increasingly demanding audiences faced with increasing ways to fill leisure time. If museums are to compete, they have to open themselves up, redefine themselves and examine change as a positive – and inevitable – element of survival. Museum collections can be old, not the ideas.

How do new ideas develop and how is their relevance and effectiveness determined? *Give it a shot.* No idea or project is guaranteed successful and no project is a guaranteed money-maker or crowd-pleaser. Staff and boards of directors have to take qualified risks with programming and exhibits. Budgets often limit new projects, but they needn't deny them entirely. Some of the best things in life actually are free. We've done some great things by inviting school groups to stage exhibits. We've opened our doors to literacy students, seniors, new Canadians, preschoolers, day campers. We've gained some excellent exhibits, oral histories, artifacts and friends simply by opening the door.

In the end, the new Curator will forge and follow his/her own path. I hope that it still leads from the front door.

I have been with the Museum, in one capacity or another, since 1992. I'm leaving now to pursue a new challenge as an Official-Language Monitor in Campbellton. It's an opportunity that could not have come about but for the knowledge and experience gained at the York-Sunbury. Above and beyond that are the people that I have met here and who have helped to temper and propel my goals for the Museum. I have worked under three Society presidents: Fred White, Doris

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Norman and Helen Hutchison. Their position demands great dedication, time and talent. I thank them for their confidence and their support of staff initiatives. I'm grateful to the Exhibits Committee. I've asked them for a lot of changes over the past few years and they've been extremely cooperative and understanding. My thanks go to Elizabeth Earl, Carolyn Atkinson, Patsy Hale, Betty Greenfield and all the others who serve that committee. I thank my Collections Management Committee – Harry Quinlan, Mel McMahon, Paul O'Connell, Richard Bagley – for allowing mistakes and the time to learn.

Thanks go to the *Quarterly* editors (past and present) for their tireless, often frustrating work: Ted Jones, Brent Wilson and Eleanor MacDougall. Thanks to the Board members for their confidence and interest. Thanks to fellow staff and volunteers. They've made the work possible. They've made it effective. They've made it fun: Lynn Frizzell, Jean Macdonald, Betty Roberston (*Reading the Museum* remains a highlight), Tim O'Kane, Yvonne Westall, Sharon Watson, Ross Cleghorn, Samia

Elhawary, Terry Parker, Amanda White, Jennifer Weaver, Lisa Maher, Sophie Theriault. Special thanks to Velma Kelly for her humour, her flexibility, action and – most especially – the muffins! It's a pity that these people will remain only names to most of you. For the moment, you'll see them in the work and in the example that remains behind.

A lot needs to be said at a time like this. My most urgent message is to stay involved. Show your support with a visit. Send a donation. Become a member. Drop by and discover

the ways to volunteer. To those already active – do more. Get to know the Museum and the people who work there. Awareness breeds cooperation and understanding. Our door is open. Take advantage of it.

A friend of mine is notorious for his abrupt farewells. Nothing sentimental. Nothing maudlin. Just the essentials. I've done the most that I could do as Curator. I leave a lot to be done. I wish the Society, the Board and the Museum good luck. That's all. As my friend would say ... Well, good night. ☺

Feature Article . . .

Loyalist Anthony Allaire . . . by Ruth Scott

He couldn't believe it. King's Mountain was supposed to be impregnable. But the rebels were everywhere, crawling up the wooded slopes of the mountain, swarming over the top, mountain men all with their coonskin caps and long rifles, scattering the King's men like sands before a gust of wind. As fast as they were pushed down the mountainside, more took their places, screaming and whistling their strange rebel cry. It was rumored that Major Ferguson had been killed.

Anthony Allaire woke with a start and looked around him. He was sitting in his own chair on the lawn at Pine Grove in the British province of New Brunswick far away from the battle front in South Carolina. Some fifty years had passed since that fateful day, but this particular dream often recurred to haunt him with its tragedy and futility. He supposed it would until the day he died.

On a side table where his wife Mary had placed a dish of tea, he saw the diary he had written about that important battle which was to have been a triumph for the King's men, but instead turned the tide for the rebels making Anthony Allaire a traitor to his own country.

Anthony riffled through the pages of the diary. He could almost smell the sweet scent of the magnolias as the King's army pursued rebels through the Carolinas. As always, he wondered about the two Tory young ladies he had rescued from the assaults of the ruffians. Did they also have to leave their home and become wanderers like himself? Was the fort called Ninety-Six still standing? If so, it was now in the hands of the new nation, The United States of America. Anthony sighed; he had enjoyed his brief sojourn there, and liked the people of the village. He hoped the rebels had been kind to them.

Putting down his diary, Allaire leaned back in his chair savoring the pungent odor of the sun-washed pines, and contemplating the endless wilderness of trees which

surrounded his estate, the estate of a self-styled "gentleman farmer." Although, he thought wryly, the word "gentleman" could be left out when said gentleman had to work in the fields along with his own slaves.

Anthony closed his eyes again. More memories came flooding back. A prisoner-of-war, he watched the Carolina militia officers being hanged before his very eyes for the crime of remaining loyal to their king. "They died like Romans," he wrote in his diary. He could see the chaos of



Loyalist Anthony Allaire
(reprinted from original portrait in the New Brunswick Museum)

Charleston harbour as he boarded ship for New York and rejoined his regiment. On arrival, he found that the war was nearly over, and his own beautiful city would soon be in the hands of an enemy who had no use for people like himself. There was no chance to say good-bye to the gentle Dutch mother and the stern Huguenot father who stood up for the Republic. He never saw them again.

* * * * *

Who was Anthony Allaire and where did he come from? Anthony Allaire was a New York loyalist who settled in the Douglas area after the American Revolution. The York Manor property of today is on the site of the land where Allaire built the house he called Pine Grove. Allaire lived quietly at Pine Grove with his wife Mary Simonds and daughter Eliza Maria until his death in 1838. Except for a brief stint with the Royal New Brunswick Regiment in the early 1800s, he had little to do with any other military establishment in the Fredericton or Saint John areas. In spite of this, Anthony Allaire is known among scholars of the American Revolution for his descriptive and important diary of the Battle of King's Mountain, which contributed to the loss of the American Revolution for Britain.

Allaire was twenty-one when the American Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. He was the youngest son of Alexandre Allaire and Maria Lisenard who lived in the town of New Rochelle near New York City. Most of his well-to-do family were on the side of the rebels or patriots as they were called, but Anthony and his older brother Peter chose to follow the King and joined the Loyal American Regiment, serving under Colonel Beverley Robinson. A miniature on ivory in the possession of one of Allaire's descendants shows the young Anthony in the uniform of his regiment, scarlet with green facings. He appears to be very attractive, fair skinned with light brown hair.

Over the next three years, the war seemed to progress well for the British who, with the provincial or loyalist regiments, worked hard to keep the northeastern section of the new republic in British hands. New York, the most important of the northern cities, remained loyal until the end of the war.

But by late 1779, it was apparent that more and more of the plantation owners in the South were declaring allegiance to the new state. Indeed Philadelphia, originally

held by the British, was now in the hands of the rebels and the King's army had to retreat to New York. With them went Major Patrick Ferguson who had his own ideas on how to win the war for Britain.

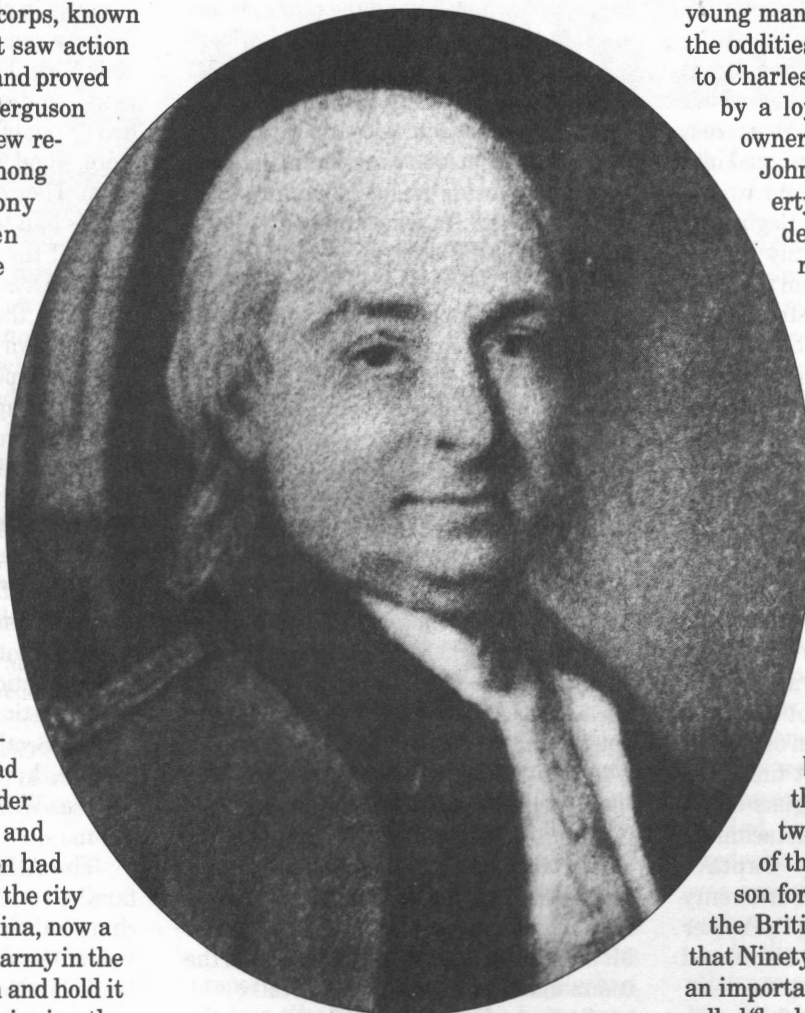
Ferguson was a Scottish engineer who had seen action in the Seven Years War and was at one time stationed at Halifax. He had invented and patented a new type of rifle, a breech-loading gun which could be loaded with greater celerity and fired with greater precision than any rifle then in use. By 1777, Ferguson was in America heading a corps of riflemen picked from various loyalist units. This corps, known as Ferguson's Riflemen, first saw action at the Battle of Brandywine and proved very effective. Afterwards, Ferguson came to New York to seek new recruits for another unit. Among those selected was Anthony Allaire who had just been gazetted a lieutenant in the Loyal American Regiment.

Ferguson's unit was known as the American Volunteers and when complete was to number about 1,500 officers and men. It consisted of personnel from local militia, light infantry and dragoons. The famous De Lancey's Brigade was well represented as well as other loyalist units. The men were chosen for their intelligence, courage and, above all, their good marksmanship. By 1780, the unit had joined the British Army under General Sir Henry Clinton and had seen some action. Clinton had one objective in mind: to take the city of Charleston in South Carolina, now a rebel stronghold. If Clinton's army in the South could take Charleston and hold it as a base, the first piece in winning the war against the rebels would fall in place. In this way, Major Ferguson and his American Volunteers became part of a larger army which already numbered around 14,000 men. Some units from various provincial regiments from the northeastern region were already in position. As the rest of the army traveled south, loyalist militia units from Georgia and the two Carolinas were picked up.

It was about this time that Lieuten-

ant Anthony Allaire started his diary. Why he did this has never been explained. Was it for his own purposes? Did Ferguson, anticipating a great victory, ask him to do it? Whatever the reason his diary, now in the National Archives of Canada, proved to be a very important document.

Anthony Allaire's diary is the account of the problems and discomforts a soldier faces in war. Allaire writes that they either followed rebels or had brief encounters with them but to his great disappointment there were few skirmishes. Most of



*Colonel Beverley Robinson (1722-1792)
Commanding Officer of the
Loyal American Regiment,
the unit Allaire served in before and after
his sojourn in the Southern campaign.
(PANB P4/3/0121)*

the plantation owners were away fighting for the new republic. In the absence of the master of the house, the army was well fed on every rebel plantation they "visited" and at times they "lived off the fat of the land."

Allaire proudly boasts of the "great civility and tenderness" with which the women and children were treated by the invaders. Indeed, any deviation from this conduct was severely punished.

The spring nights were cold and when there was no barn or rebel household to sleep in, the men often slept on the ground "wrapped in their greatcoats." There were a few pleasant moments along the way: afternoon tea with two young ladies who lived on one of the Tory plantations; receiving letters from his "fair one" whom Anthony does not name. An observant young man, he also writes about some of the oddities of nature seen on the march to Charleston. At one plantation owned by a loyalist named Campbell, the owner showed him and his friend Dr. Johnston, a large cave on his property. The cave was about "100 feet deep," inside was a good-sized room with "famous grand arches formed by nature." The two young men were very impressed with this wonder of nature.

The army reached Charleston in March 1780 and made camp in the surrounding area, but the American Volunteers did not stay for the taking of the city. In late May, they withdrew and marched west. On 7 June they arrived at the fort called Ninety-Six, a Tory stronghold at present, but one which had once been the centre of a bloody war between the rebels and the Tories of that area. There was a good reason for this posting. Lord Cornwallis, the British field commander, believed that Ninety-Six, by its special position was an important base of operations in the so called "back country" and crucial to the success of the Southern Campaign.

Allaire describes Ninety-Six as "a fine fort located on a rise of land. There is a good water supply," he writes approvingly, "the land is fertile and there seems to be a steadily increasing population." Allaire counted "twelve dwelling houses," a blacksmith's shop, a courthouse and a jail with "about forty rebel prisoners all peeping through the bars as we all rode by."

The young man enjoyed the stay at

Ninety-Six and was sorry to have to leave, but there was a war on and early in July there came the order to move farther south. The weather was hot and humid by now and they all suffered as they marched along in their heavy uniforms. "A very dull time," says the diary. Sometimes they were chasing rebels; sometimes the rebels were chasing them. An occasional skirmish livened up both sides. Ferguson was not with them during this period. August passed, hot and sizzling, but still nothing significant happened.

On the first day of September, Ferguson rejoined the unit with startling news. The American Volunteers were to be separated from the main army. Reinforced by the local loyalist militia, they would head north and work on their own against the rebels. Five hundred men crossed into North Carolina and were joined by the newly formed North Carolina Regiment.

Unfortunately, the little army was inadvertently distancing itself from the main army and their intelligence system failed. What they didn't know was that a rebel army of 2,500 drably clad mountain men had been quietly following them, watching every move, knowing every bivouac. These were men trained in fighting Indians, and they had little difficulty in keeping themselves concealed.

On 6 October 1780, Ferguson's force reached little (Allaire's words) King's Mountain and took up positions on a narrow stony ridge seventy feet above the surrounding countryside. It was an invitation to disaster for the bright uniforms of the Volunteers made them an outstanding target. Within a very short time they were easily picked off by the guns of the wily mountain men. Allaire's detachment of seventy men headed by Captain Abraham DePeyster lost all but twenty men. With no way of regrouping DePeyster was forced to surrender. It was discovered that Major Ferguson was among the dead.

Allaire and those members of the other units who were still alive were taken prisoner by the rebels who were hard put to know what to do with them. There were no jails near at hand and the hapless prisoners were kept marching from point to point. As an officer Allaire was not badly treated but, as he wrote in his diary, there was little lodging or food to be found in the chiefly unpopulated Carolina countryside. When food was available, they had to pay for it out of their own pockets. To make matters worse, the officers had the horror

of being forced to watch officers of the North Carolina Regiment hanged after a travesty of a trial — a grim warning to any Tory who wanted to take up arms against the new republic.

During the time he was a prisoner of the rebels, Anthony wrote about some of the places where he was held. In a small town called Salem, which he said was mainly inhabited by Moravians who pursued a "mechanics" trade, he was impressed by the decency of these people, and their music. But he didn't have the same sense of well-being in a place named Betharaba where he and the other prisoners had to listen to a "Presbyterian" sermon on a mountaintop. "Horse thieves all," he describes the congregation. It was in Betharaba that a tragicomic event took place. A rebel soldier walking by a group of prisoners said, "Ah, d—n you, you'll all be hanged yet." To which one of the prisoners spiritedly retorted, "Never mind that. It'll be your turn next." Only the intervention of the camp commander kept this bold fellow from being hanged out of hand.

On the fifth of November, Allaire and two fellow prisoners escaped from the camp at Betharaba. They traveled for hours keeping to the woods until they came to the home of a loyalist named Miller who let them spend the night. At daybreak, after a "dish of coffee" they were on their way again with a supply of food and instructions on where to go next, and the safest way to get there. In this way, traveling warily by day, sleeping by night outside the house of any Tory homeowner who was willing to feed and shelter them, the little party made its way through the Carolina back country. On 23 November, after a trek of 300 miles and eighteen days on the road they finally reached Ninety-Six. The bad news of the defeat at King's Mountain had just reached the fort and the commander was anxious for details.

Anthony Allaire set out for Charleston two days later. The war in the South was over for him and he was anxious to return to New York and rejoin his regiment. He arrived in Charleston on 29 November. In his diary, he reports that "there was nothing worth noticing on the way." This ends the diary, but the odyssey of Anthony Allaire was just beginning.

* * * * *

It must be assumed that Allaire took ship from Charleston eventually arriving

in New York where he rejoined the Loyal American Regiment. With communications so primitive in the late eighteenth century, it is likely that the terrible news of the defeat at King's Mountain had not reached New York. Anthony may have had the unpleasant task of describing the events to his superiors. This is pure speculation, of course. He wrote long letters to the Loyalist magazines, *Scott's Magazine* and *Rivington's Gazette*, describing the hanging of the militia officers in North Carolina.

When Allaire left Charleston the whole city was in chaos and disorder. But it was nothing compared with what he found in New York. The streets swarmed with citizens, soldiers and refugees — people driven out of their homes by the rebels; all were wondering what was to become of them. They could not go back home, their homes had been confiscated, and punishment of the most miserable kind — tarring and feathering was not uncommon — would be their portion. When the defeat at Yorktown became known (four months after it happened) matters became desperate. It now appeared that the rebels would soon take over New York City. What would be the fate of loyalists to their King?

The exodus of the loyalists was put into the hands of Sir Guy Carleton, the new commander-in-chief. Tens of thousands of refugees left the newly formed United States of America preferring to brave the unknown rather than give their loyalty to the new nation. Some were placed on ships whose destination was the British province of Nova Scotia. Among them were Anthony Allaire, his brother Peter, Peter's wife Frances Wilmot and their two small children.

The Allaires were a fairly wealthy family, so it is likely they were able to charter their own ship. There is no indication of the date they sailed or when they landed in Nova Scotia, but family records state that Peter and his family settled in Annapolis Royal for a few years; long enough to bring more children into the world. The last birth was in 1791. In the middle 1790s, the Peter Allaire family went back to New Rochelle to live.

But Anthony, although a frequent visitor to his brother's home, did not stay in Nova Scotia. He came to Saint John and the newly established province of New Brunswick instead. Named a grantee of that future city, in 1794 he married Mary Simonds, daughter of James Simonds of

the famous trading company of Simonds, Hazen and White. Where the couple lived in Saint John is not known, but they may have taken up residence in Portland Point, the thriving little village where the trading company was located. Their only known child, Eliza Maria, was born in 1795. In his book *Fit to Print*, author B.J. Grant writes that Anthony Allaire was Coroner for the city of Saint John from 1797 to 1798. The Allaires apparently lived in Saint John until 1803 when they sold "lots 63-84 (with buildings and fences) in King's Ward" and presumably moved to the Fredericton area.

In *Land Claims of New Brunswick*, it is stated that Anthony Allaire bought land in or around Oromocto, but it was never developed and later reverted to the Crown. Allaire is also recorded buying lot 123AC in Douglas from the Acadian Augustine White. At a later date, he acquired the adjoining lot which had been granted to the Reverend Samuel Cooke, first rector of Fredericton, who with his son had tragically drowned in the St. John River in 1797. It was on this land that Anthony Allaire built his lovely Pine Grove.

There are no pictures of Pine Grove existing today but a notice inserted in *The Royal Gazette* of 18 May 1839 (after Allaire's death in 1838) reads as follows:

To lease from the 1st of May Pine Grove - 2-1/2 miles above Fredericton, on the opposite side of the river. The house is in good repair and has a frost proof cellar and a good well of water in the house, also a commodious wood-house, coach house, a large barn, out-houses, smoke house and several other out-buildings. There is also a good garden attached, and about 5 or 6 acres of land including a pine grove.

Saint Mary's, 17 April 1839
Lt-Col John Robinson

John Robinson, son of Beverley Robinson who had built his home, *The Nashwaaksis*, not too far from the Allaire property, was the husband of Eliza Allaire, the Allaire's only child. At the time of Allaire's death the young Robinsons were living in Fredericton at Elmcroft and did not want to move out of the city. But no one seemed interested in leasing or buying Pine Grove, so they moved across the river to live there themselves.



Uniforms of the Loyalist Provincial Regiments that fought in the American Revolutionary War. An officer from Allaire's Loyal American Regiment is seen fifth from the left in the bottom row. (PANB P 37/388)

The Robinsons had nine children. Following is a partial family tree:

Eliza Maria Allaire	m	John Robinson
Henry	m	Caroline Betts
William Beverley	m	Sophie Bliss Dibblee
Morris	m	Grace Dibblee
Jack DeLancy	m	Susan Hubbard
Maria	m	Samuel Scovil

In the next few years, the descendants of Eliza Maria Allaire and John Robinson spread across the Maritimes and Ontario. But one member of their immediate family, Jack DeLancey, lived in the family home all his life. After a disastrous fire which almost leveled Pine Grove to the ground, he built it up again.

Jack died in the middle 1860s, and the property was eventually sold to Herbert Morgan who also lived in the house for a while. Later in his ownership the building was used as a tavern and became a staging area for the coach to Woodstock. In the early 1900s property to the west of the house was sold as a summer resort for people who wanted to get out of Fredericton's summer heat and enjoy a country life. Known as the Pines, that area is now Claremont Drive, one of the streets of the Village of Nashwaaksis which the City of Fredericton took over in 1973.

In 1925 what remained of the Allaire

property was sold to the County of York, which proceeded to build a Municipal Home to serve the poor of the county. The house was still standing at that time and became the residence of the Matron of the Home. In 1967, the York Manor complex was built. Later years saw the demise of the older buildings, including the Matron's home.

I first became interested in loyalist Anthony Allaire about ten years ago when I was researching for a book on the history of Nashwaaksis. During my research I found that the house he built in the early 1800s was on the site of the present York Manor complex; that his daughter married into the well-known Robinson family; and that he and his wife, Mary Simonds, were buried in the Loyalist Cemetery in Fredericton. That was all, but my interest was aroused and I began to dig into the past.

As the years went by, I discovered that others were interested in Anthony Allaire too. His name was mentioned in a genealogical search by Bruce Ezell of the University of Maine. I wrote to Dr. Ezell with what little information I had and learned that Anthony Allaire's diary about loyalist defeat at King's Mountain was well known to scholars of the American Revolution. That Allaire took part in the loyalist occupation of Fort Ninety-Six in South Carolina is also well known. What Dr. Ezell wanted to know was what happened to Anthony Allaire when he had to leave the

(continued on page 17)

Beyond York-Sunbury

New Brunswick's Decimal Coinage . . . by Robert Hirsch

Most New Brunswickers would be surprised to learn that at one time we had our own provincial decimal coinage. It is all the more curious when you realize that provinces like Ontario and Quebec cannot make that boast.

"Coinage" In New Brunswick Prior to 1860

In the early part of the last century in North America, money in circulation was mostly a mixture of Spanish-American "dollars," U.S. and British coins. The Spanish-American "dollar" was not a dollar at all, but a Spanish coin of eight *reales* (the old pieces of eight). The Americans adopted a decimal system of dollars and cents in the 1790s, with that dollar being the same size and containing the same amount of silver as the Spanish eight *reales*. At the same time the British North American colonies' system of accounting was in pounds, shillings and pence.

The Move To Decimal Coinage

In 1850, the Colonial administrator of the day, Sir Edmund Head, began petitioning for a decimal system by writing

Earl Gray of the British Colonial Office. Head proposed that a decimal system and a uniform currency ought to prevail between the provinces. Following this, commissioners were appointed by the provinces and in 1851 they met in Toronto. New Brunswick's representative, E.B. Chandler, recommended the decimal system for New Brunswick in a memorandum of 21 June 1851. Not until late 1859

did the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. J.H.T. Manners-Sutton, receive a proposal from his executive council proposing a law to change the currency. In 1860, a bill was passed, which meant that henceforth the public accounts would be kept in dollars and cents. British coinage, however, would still be considered legal tender and defined in terms of cents. A shilling, for example, would now be worth 24.33 cents.

Figure 1

THE PATTERN HALF-CENTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Mayflowers
1861



Small Bust

SPECIFICATIONS

Diameter: 20.65 mm, Weight: 43.75 grains.

Composition: 95% copper, 4% tin, 1% zinc.

Plain Edge

Figure 2

THE PATTERN CENTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Mayflowers
1861 & 1864



Mayflowers
1862



Accepted
Design



Large Bust



Small Bust

SPECIFICATIONS

Diameter: 25.53 mm, Weight: 87.50 grains.

Composition: 95% copper, 4% tin, 1% zinc.

Plain Edge

The Decimal Coinage

New Brunswick has coins dated 1861 in the case of the 1/2 cent, 1861 and 1864 for the 1 cent, and 1862 and 1864 for the 5, 10, and 20 cent pieces. The 1 cent and 1/2 cent pieces are not unique inasmuch as Nova Scotia also had a 1 cent and 1/2 cent piece. Prince Edward Island also had a 1 cent piece. However, we are the only province to have ever had our own 5, 10, and 20 cent pieces. "Ah," you say, "I've seen Newfoundland dimes and quarters!" The explanation is simple of course, Newfoundland was a British colony and not a Province of Canada before 1949.

The singular nature of the New Brunswick decimal coins is significant in Canadian numismatic history for another reason. The dies used for the New Brunswick coins were used later for the first Canadian coins. The only real difference is that they say Canada instead of New Brunswick. (See figures 3, 4, and 5). There are coins dated 1858 and 1859 which say Canada on the obverse, just as they do today, but those were produced for the

Figure 3

THE FIVE CENT SILVER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Canadian Die
1875

New Brunswick
Accepted Design
1862, 1864



Accepted Obverse

SPECIFICATIONS
Diameter: 15.49 mm, Weight: 17.93 grains.
Composition: 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper
Reeded Edge

Figure 4

THE TEN CENT SILVER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick
Accepted Design
1862, 1864

Canadian
Reverse
1870



Accepted Obverse

SPECIFICATIONS
Diameter: 17.91 mm, Weight: 35.86 grains.
Composition: 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper
Reeded Edge

Province of Canada. The first issue of coins by the country of Canada (i.e., the Dominion of Canada) are dated 1870.

One might have thought as I first did, that an issue of Canadian coins would have been issued shortly after Confederation and be dated 1867, but it was not to be. The reader should know that the coins of New Brunswick, as well as the coins of Canada were produced in England until 1908, when the Royal Canadian Mint opened. Many New Brunswick coins were designed by a British master engraver named Wyon. He died at a young age, but not before producing a prodigious number of coin designs.

Collecting New Brunswick Coins

Don't look to find any New Brunswick coins in your loose change. All are scarce and the 1/2 cent is rare (figure 1). The 1/2 cent was not authorized and was circulated by mistake. You'd stand a better chance of being struck by

lightening in a house you won from Ed McMahon than finding one. Because of the limited number of New Brunswick coin collectors, a New Brunswick 1/2 cent in top condition would be valued at several hundred dollars. However, an American coin of similar scarcity would be val-

ued in the tens of thousands of dollars.

If you come across an old coin of any description, do not clean it. Cleaning old coins can seriously diminish their value.

For anyone interested in a more thorough history of New Brunswick coins, I would recommend Richard W. Bird's book,

Coins of New Brunswick, published by New Ireland Press. It is available from the Society's gift shop. *

Figure 5

THE TWENTY CENT SILVER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Accepted Obverse

Accepted
Design



Accepted Reverse
1862, 1864
(New Brunswick)



Reverse Dated
1871
(Canada)

SPECIFICATIONS
Diameter: 22.99 mm, Weight: 71.73 grains.
Composition: 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper
Reeded Edge

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank and acknowledge author, J. Richard Becker and Beacon Publishing of Acton, Mass. for permission to reproduce the illustrations from the book, *The Decimal Coinage of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island*.

Robert Hirsch is a member of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, and has been an avid coin collector for many years.

Anniversary Exhibit Opening ... by Helen Hutchison

Good afternoon and welcome to the opening of the 1997 summer season of the York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum. Mayor Woodside, distinguished guests, Society members and friends. A special thank you to Mayor Woodside for being here today to celebrate our 65th Anniversary. His presence today has particular significance as it was the Mayor of the City of Fredericton, the late Hon. W.G. Clark, who in 1932 served as the founding President of this Society. The City of Fredericton has been supportive of our work since the beginning. Our thanks to the Province of New Brunswick for their ongoing support, and for the various contributions made over time by the Government of Canada.

Today, I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers and members who have supported the York-Sunbury Historical Society over the years. Many of our current volunteers are here today. We have been fortunate to have volunteers both young and old, community members and community leaders who have distinguished themselves and this organization provincially and nationally.

It has been the contribution of valued members over the past 65 years, donating literally thousands upon thousands of hours of their time and expertise, that allows us to be here today. Each member's contribution cannot be summed into a single line but as we look around today we will appreciate that the community has donated to our Society the largest privately held collection of

historical artifacts in the Province of New Brunswick. We must remember the many who have been here before us and take care to preserve their legacy.

Much of our success each year is attributable to our tremendous staff ... Bruce Lynch, Curator and Jean Macdonald, Administrator, currently ensure that the 12,000 to 16,000 visitors, annually, are welcomed to our Museum. We are also pleased to have Terry Parker back again this year to coordinate the summer activities for the little ones. The childrens' day camps are a welcome addition to our educational initiatives -

year. Throughout the fall and winter, students of the Harold Peterson Middle School, Oromocto, guest curated wonderful exhibits that sparked the interest of many other schools. I hope that we can continue to share the Museum with students in this way.

Of course, we can't forget the "Reading the Museum" joint program with the Literacy Council of Fredericton that brought much life to the Museum and heightened our awareness of signage in various literacy friendly formats. I believe that some of those who worked on that project are here, and have contributed to the exhibit today.

In early April, the Ross Drug exhibit opened with many customers and friends attending, offering an opportunity for this long-standing Fredericton business to share its history and the owners' private collection with the community. I really want to thank Ron and Betty Greenfield who guest curated this exhibit.

In closing, I would like to express our sadness in the loss, since last summer, of such valuable leaders, members and friends of the Society as Mrs. Lucy McNeill, Miss Louise Hill, Senator Muriel

McQueen Fergusson, and most recently Dr. Alfred Bailey.

My thanks to the current Board of Directors, and Committee members for the work you have done to make this day and this year part of a continuing success story spanning 65 years, and still counting! Enjoy the exhibit which Mel will tell you about and please come again throughout the year to a lecture or another exhibit. Thank you very much. ❧



Tree-planting ceremony held on 14 June 1997 at Officers' Square to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the York-Sunbury Historical Society. From left to right are Mrs. Margery Acheson, daughter of Austin Squires, an early member of the Society, Mayor Brad Woodside and Society President Helen Hutchison.

this year they will run from 1 July to 14 August. Children will have the opportunity to learn about First Nations, the loyalists, Acadians, military life, archeology, sports and nature, and arts and drama. I understand there will be fencing demonstrations, a boa constrictor, tours, native storytellers and drummers. There is an age restriction ... 5 to 13, which counts some of us out.

We were very pleased to have presented a number of exhibits since last

Museum World . . .

Scale Model of the New Brunswick Internment Camp: A Realistic View of Life Behind Barbed Wire . . . by Wesley Clarke

A dream was realized on Sunday, 22 June 1997, when the New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum officially opened its doors. The New Brunswick Internment Camp Heritage Committee had been working hard to find a permanent home for the 400 donated or loaned artifacts from the Internment Camp. The crowning jewel of the Museum's collection is the scale model of the New Brunswick Internment Camp.

The scale model measures 4' by 8'. It was completed in the Spring of 1994 by junior high students at Minto Elementary and Junior High School. The model accurately depicts what the Camp looked like when it was in operation at Ripples during the first half of the 1940s. The model includes the 15 acre fenced-in prison compound, the then-Richibucto Road (Highway #10), the surrounding forests and the guards' quarters on the opposite side of the road from the prison compound.

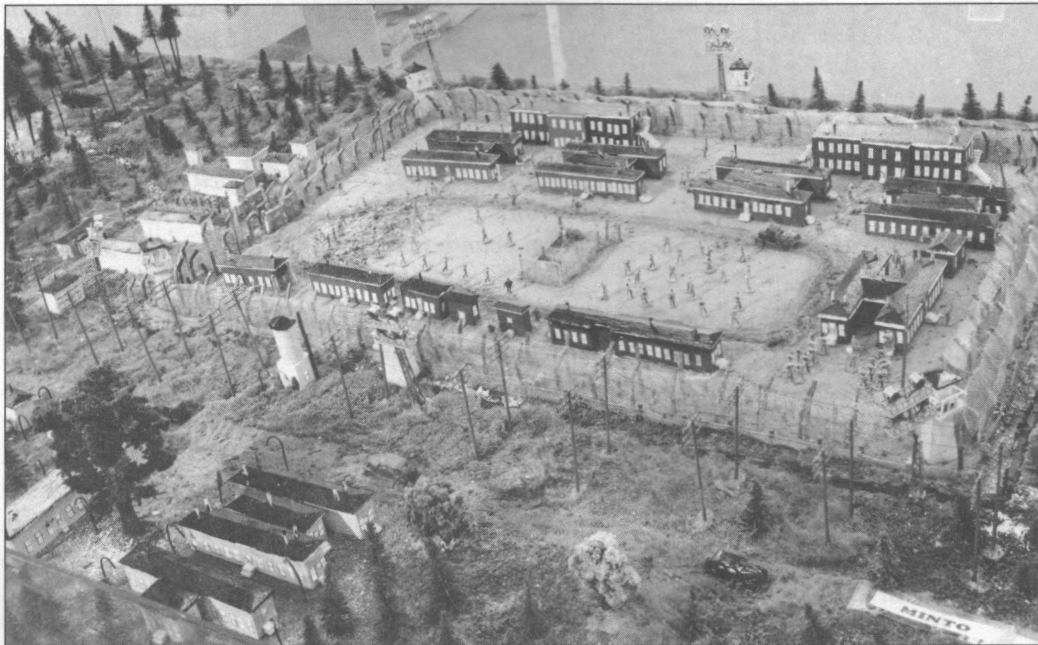
All of the buildings that formed the Internment Camp are depicted on the

model. The prisoners' barracks, hospital, mess hall, library, and recreational areas, like the soccer field, are shown as they would have looked during the Internment Camp's operation. The guards' mess hall, barracks, canteen, hospital, etc., are also shown as they would have looked during the era.

When the site for the Internment Camp was chosen, 58 acres were allotted for the Camp. The close to 40 acres of forest are depicted on the model. Moose, deer and prisoners of war (POWs), cutting their firewood, all share the available forest space on the model. The POWs on the model are shown in their uniforms. The prisoners wore a blue denim outfit with a red stripe down the outside of the right leg which formed an arrow just before the pocket. A large red circle on the POWs' backs made them an easy target had they ever tried to escape. To complete their uniform, the POWs wore a blue denim hat with a large red stripe through the middle of it.

The scale model of the Internment Camp may be the crowning jewel of the Museum, however, it is not the only fascinating part of our collection. The Museum's collection is comprised of items that were either found on digs by junior high students, loaned or donated. For the most part, the loaned and donated items were made by POWs while interned at the Camp. The York-Sunbury Historical Society has kindly loaned, among other items, five of the six replicas of the solid oak crosses that once marked the graves of German internees. A re-creation of part of a prisoner's hut is set up in the Museum to give visitors a better idea of how the POWs lived. For younger visitors, there is a "discovery box" in which children can dig for actual artifacts from the Internment Camp. We are grateful to everyone who has assisted with the acquisition of artifacts for the Museum. Without everyone's generosity, our Museum would not be the interesting spot it now is.

The New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum is located on the lower level of the Minto Municipal Building, 420 Pleasant Drive (Highway #10). The Museum is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and is closed on Sundays and Mondays. The Museum is pleased to offer guided tours to groups and classes of all ages. Tours and visits during hours other than those listed are welcomed. Please call the Museum to reserve a time and to discuss how they can best meet your wishes (506-327-3573). *



Scale replica of the Internment Camp: constructed by students of the Minto Elementary and Junior High School during the 1993-94 school year under the direction of Ed Cassie. (Photo courtesy of NB Internment Camp Museum)

Wesley Clarke is a political science major at Saint Thomas University, and was a guide at the Museum this past summer.

Remembering The Hon. Muriel McQueen Fergusson, O.C., P.C., Q.C. ... by C. Anne Crocker

Muriel McQueen Fergusson, lawyer, wife, loving aunt, public servant, Speaker of the Senate, seeker after social justice, was born 26 May 1899, and died of pneumonia on 11 April 1997.

Muriel McQueen Fergusson was a Canadian for the twentieth century. Born to James and Julia Fergusson of Shediac, New Brunswick, she was educated in local schools and then sent to Mount Allison Ladies College in Sackville, New Brunswick. She was determined to pursue her education and graduated with a B.A. from Mount Allison University in 1921. Muriel returned to Shediac and read law in the office of her father. While her father was quite gratified that his daughter had chosen to follow in his footsteps, her mother was less enthusiastic. However, Muriel's will prevailed and in 1925 she passed the Bar of New Brunswick. The following year, she married Aubrey S. Fergusson of Moncton and the newlyweds moved to Grand Falls, New Brunswick where Aubrey established a law practice. During the first years of their marriage, Muriel did not pursue the practice of law, but became involved with a variety of causes, encour-

aging women and young girls in particular to become involved in the life of their community. She founded local groups of Girl Guides and Canadian Girls in Training, ran a tearoom called the Malabean Tearoom, named after the young native heroine of legend who had saved her people by leading their enemies over the falls.

sel for the War Prices and Trade Board in New Brunswick. Muriel had always believed that women had as much right to contribute in the public sphere as did men, and when the position of Regional Director of the new Federal Family Allowance Plan was advertised, she applied. Her application was disallowed on the basis of her sex. Muriel fought

to have the competition re-opened and made available to both women and men. She was successful, the position was re-advertised, and Muriel was hired.

In 1951, Muriel Fergusson, with the support of the local Business and Professional Women's Club ran for Fredericton City Council. She won a seat and became the first woman city councillor and the first woman Deputy Mayor, in which capacity she



Muriel McQueen Fergusson, 1899-1997

(Photo courtesy of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation)

When her husband's health began to fail, she took over his law practice and was eventually appointed Judge of the Probate Court, Solicitor for the Town of Grand Falls and Clerk of the County District Court. This was just the beginning of a long and distinguished career in public service.

In 1943, after the death of her husband, Muriel moved to Saint John where she became first the Assistant and then the Chief Enforcement Coun-

served until 1953. In that year she was summoned to the Senate of Canada, where she served with distinction. In 1974, she was asked by then Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau to be the first woman Speaker of the Senate. She served as Speaker until her retirement at age 75, managing the business of the Senate in her own quiet but determined way, as she had tackled every other task presented to her by life. The issues which attracted her most, and de-

manded the bulk of her time and energies were those related to poverty, prison conditions, human rights and the welfare of women and children. Muriel received every honour that Canada and a grateful Province and community could bestow upon her, but she was always quite surprised that anyone knew who she was and what she had done. She had just lived her life and worked hard, and wasn't that what everybody did?

All of this is part of the public record, but what is perhaps not as well known is that Muriel was devoted to her family and her community. When her own health was beginning to fail, she still undertook the care of her brother Tom who needed daily care and family support. She was tireless in her striving to improve the status of women, in her efforts to eradicate poverty, in her struggle to establish basic human and legal rights for all Canadians and those around the world. Muriel truly cared about social justice, and until very recently, she was intellectually, if not physically active in pursuing that goal. In 1985, she agreed with great enthusiasm to the establishment of a Foundation bearing her name which was dedicated to public education and research in the field of family violence and woman abuse. Shortly before her death, I visited with her and told her how successful our efforts had been to endow the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research. She was both amazed and thrilled. Perhaps she was relieved that this last really important thing in her life was now accomplished and she could say good-bye. Muriel was and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have known and worked with her. Her grace, wit, and warmth will be with us as long as we have memory. ❧

C. Anne Crocker, friend and Chair of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Endowment Campaign.

Remembering Richard J. Bagley

Members of the Historical Society suffered a very unexpected loss with the death of Richard Bagley, 30 October 1997, at age 50.

In 1978, the government of Canada invested \$22,500 in an employment project designed to catalogue the artifact collections of our Museum. Bob Guthrie, Richard Phillips, Lucy McNeill and Brent Wilson, at that time, had the wisdom to hire Richard Bagley as project leader. So began for Richard a personal association with the Society which continued to the time of his death. His acceptance of this position directly and indirectly affected the further development of the Society. Arguably, if it were not for Richard, H. Quinlan, P. O'Connell, T. (Dove) Davis, D. Norman, and H. Hutchison would not have served as Presidents of the Society, as it was he who served as the initial catalyst for those involvements.

As a volunteer, Richard served on the Board of Directors for a number of years in a number of capacities, including Secretary. Mr. Bagley also served as the first modern-day Editor of the Society Newsletter which later evolved into *The Officers' Quarterly* under the direction of Paul O'Connell. As Chair of the Collections Management Committee, for an extended number of years, Richard provided guidance to the process of accessioning, cataloguing, and all other aspects of collections management. His knowledge of the artifact collection and related policies and

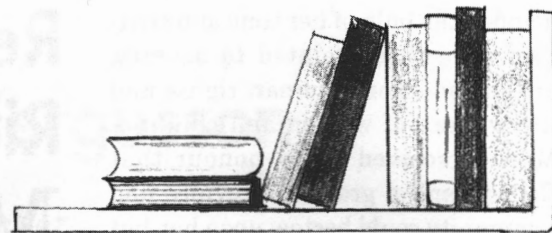
processes, initially developed during the original cataloguing project, has served the Society particularly well for nearly twenty years. In the current year Mr. Bagley has served as a member of the Finance Committee. This past summer, because of his extensive experience with the Society and it's Museum, Richard was asked to participate in the screening and hiring process of the current Director. He played a valuable role in this undertaking, as with all others he so willingly and effectively participated in. Richard's sense of humour and interest in the social aspects of the Society were perfectly blended with his good sense and commitment to the job at hand.

Consecutive Boards of Directors of the Society have always been aware of the important informal and always professional role Mr. Bagley played in ongoing liaison between the Society and City Hall, where Richard was employed.

Richard Bagley who died at age 50, gave to this Society nearly 20 years of voluntary service, a considerable investment of his time which has ended so abruptly. His memory is physically etched on literally thousands of artifacts which he painstakingly numbered, his views are recorded in the minute book, and his influence remains with many of us who have had the good fortune to have worked with and known him over the years. Thank you Richard Bagley for the time you spent with us.



The Officers' Bookcase ... by Harry Quinlan



The Story of the Chestnut Canoe: 150 Years of Canadian Canoe Building.

by Kenneth Solway
Halifax, NS: Nimbus Publishing, 1997.

In my Walter Mitty life, I was to write the definitive history of the Chestnut Canoe. This was an element of our heritage that deserved preservation and required publication. This dream lead me, in 1984, to the library at Mount Allison University in Sackville, which then housed the corporate records of the Chestnut Canoe Company. There, to my delight and chagrin, I happened upon a paper written by Ken Solway entitled "The Story of the Chestnut Canoe," copyright 1984. He had beaten me to the Holy Grail. Further evidence of Solway's progress appeared later with a feature article titled "The Chestnut Canoe Story, The Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of Canada's Most Famous Canoe," in the April/

May 1986 issue of *Canadian Geographic* magazine. The original six-page paper now, some thirteen years later, after substantial research, has blossomed into the 256 page book being released this November by Nimbus Publishing. Mr. Solway's continuing dedication to the subject and depiction of the Chestnut Canoe story is cause for celebration here in Fredericton, throughout New Brunswick, Canada, and indeed among all canoe enthusiasts in North America and beyond. His book combines history, culture, corporate culture and technical expertise in a very affectionate and readable manner. In the book the author provides a heartfelt depiction of the people, materials, and events involved with Chestnut, and the relationship between and among this canoe company and others in both Canada and the United States.

There is something for everyone in *The Story of the Chestnut Canoe*. As

Fredericton was the birthplace and principal home of this company, and the people who worked there, the history of the Chestnut family and the photos illustrating corporate development will be of great interest here. This was a "family business" from its start in 1897 until 1954. The story, however, goes well beyond Fredericton, and is put into its larger context when one reads the following excerpts from its introduction:

The canoe helped develop Canada's east-west axis. An invention of the aboriginals, it appeared an invention ready and waiting for westerly exploration and exploitation of the New World. If not for the canoe, Canada would not exist as we know it today, for without the canoe there could have been no fur trade. Without a fur trade, there would have been no rationale for the climate-defying western trek; settlement of Canada would likely have headed south to less adversarial agricultural lands.

The Chestnut Canoe Company survives as the most important canoe company in the history of craft. Yet, the story of the Chestnut canoe lies not in the invention of a radical new construction technique, or of the advent of a single new style. Rather, it is a story of people who have used and still use those canoes as a means to their livelihood or as a recreational vehicle. Either way, Chestnut canoes helped develop the character of the Canadian people today.

... only one company took on the international mandate, building canoes from eleven-foot Featherweights to massive motorized Freighters, building canoes for all needs and all people. That company was Chestnut, which was the culmination of developments made by dozens of other canoe builders for 150 years or more.

Solway's story-telling links the likes of E. Tappan Adney (see *The Officers'*



The early home of the Chestnut Canoe Company on the south side of King Street, just below Northumberland Street. (PANB P5/422)

Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 3, Fall 1986) Rushton, Bill Mason, White, Morris, various guides such as Ogilvy, and a multitude of canoe companies including Peterborough, Canadian, Rice Lake, and Old Town, among many others. From aboriginal times to today's builders and enthusiasts, Ken Solway weaves the Chestnut tale.

The Story of the Chestnut Canoe is indeed multifaceted, making use of sources ranging from construction drawings to personal remembrances. It is also a business case-history. Solway tells of the importance of intellectual property protection in the form of patents, the influence of customs tariffs, corporate restructuring, elements of craftsmanship, quality control, production techniques, seasonality, and resource availability. Each of these is a component of the Chestnut story.

Today, we are familiar with success stories of product diversification, and market segmentation. Nike Corporation, for example, has changed the simple running shoe into a myriad of models for tennis, squash, basketball, sprinting, distance running, and the like. In *The Story of the*

Chestnut Canoe, Solway pays particular tribute to the fact that "not all Chestnuts are alike." The author indicates, with precision, that over sixty different models were produced to address very diverse customer needs. If you wanted to fly your canoe into the wilds of the Canadian North, or portage from puddle to puddle, Chestnut had the canoe for you. The good news is that many models are still being built today by author Solway, himself; and Fredericton residents Karl Jones and Don Fraser.

The work of Mrs. Lilian Maxwell, LLD, author, founding member, and the first Corresponding Secretary of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, is referenced in Solway's book when describing Kenneth R. Chestnut. (Chestnut's letter to Maxwell of 3 January 1952 regarding the history of the Chestnut Canoe Company is reprinted in this issue's "From the Archives.") Many other Fredericton residents, both past and present, including George Birch, play a role in Solway's *The Story of the Chestnut Canoe*. In the Fredericton phone book now, the only Chestnut listed is the Chestnut

pub. However, when one walks the streets of Fredericton today, Solway's *The Story of the Chestnut Canoe*, brings renewed meaning to the legacy of the Chestnut family and corporation. From its start in a hardware store on Queen Street in 1897, its first factory on King Street, its expansion on York Street, to the Maggie Jean Chestnut residence on Church Street and beyond, Fredericton residents and visitors alike will be more cognizant of this proud heritage. Mr. Solway's work is a major step forward in the recorded history of the Chestnut Canoe. I am awfully glad he has written it, and you will be too once you've read it. My guess is that the book will create newfound interest in the extended community, which built this piece of Canadian history. Congratulations to Ken Solway, his perseverance has resulted in a fine piece of craftsmanship. *

Harry Quinlan served as president of the York-Sunbury Historical Society from 1985 to 1988.

Loyalist Anthony Allaire . . . continued from page 9

United States. Dr. Ezell had grown up in South Carolina not far from Ninety-Six and was interested in its relationship to the Revolutionary War, and the loyalists who had been stationed there.

I was able to supply some of this information. But what I always hoped was to get in touch with at least one of Allaire's descendants. One day such an opportunity came up: at another genealogy session I came across the name of an Allaire descendant. Dorothy Bliss Payne of Halifax, a great-great-great-granddaughter of Anthony Allaire has been my correspondent for over three years.

Bliss, as she is called, traces her ancestry from William Beverley Robinson (see table). She told me many interesting things about the Allaire family whose descendants are still living in New York. She also sent me the Allaire family tree and the surprising information that Anthony Allaire was not the only member of his family who embraced the loyalist cause. As we have seen his older brother Peter was among those who left the American States, and Peter and his young family lived in Annapolis Royal for a short time before

moving back to New Rochelle. Peter's son James, who was born in Annapolis Royal, was the founder of a community in New Jersey called Allaire Village. Self-sufficient, it had its own school, church, and store, and the village's 500 residents worked in Allaire's brass foundry and machine shop making machine parts for leading industrialists like Robert Fulton, the founder of marine steam engines.

Changing times, money losses, and finally the death of James Allaire, brought an end to Allaire Village, although James's son lived there until his death in 1901. As the years went by, Allaire Village became known as the "Deserted Village at Allaire." This sad fact aroused the interest of a group of people who hated to see the past slip away. Due to their influence and money-raising skills Allaire Village has been restored to the state it was in during the period of its hey-day in 1825-1840. As a further tribute to its past, Allaire State Park in Monmouth County, New Jersey "was named in honor of James Peter Allaire, grandson of Alexandre Allaire, the Huguenot, of New Rochelle, New York." *

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7. Louise Hill, *Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada*.
8. Documents regarding the Allaire Family, Bliss Payne.
9. Leaflets and pamphlets regarding Ninety-Six, South Carolina National Park.
10. Letters from Dr. Bruce Ezell and Bliss Payne.

Ruth Scott is a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society and a local writer and historian. She recently published *Keeping the Home Fires Burning: A Story of Fredericton New Brunswick in World War II*.

From the Archives...

Kenneth R. Chestnut

Among the lengthy correspondence files of historian Lilian Maxwell found in the Historical Society's archival collection held at the Provincial Archives, is the following account of the early history of the Chestnut Canoe Company. It is written by Kenneth R. Chestnut, the fourth son of Henry, the founder of the Canoe Company. Author Kenneth Solway makes reference to the letter in his book, *The Story of the Chestnut Canoe*, describing it as "a short but accurate account of the company's first fifty years."

3941 Cumberland Road
Victoria, B.C.
January 3rd, 1952

Mrs. Lillian Maxwell, LLD,
Fredericton, N.B.

Madam:

My sister-in-law, Annie Chestnut, mentioned to me some time ago that you had requested that some member of our family would write up the history of the Chestnut Canoe Co. for publication.

Personally, I'm all in favour of keeping the record clear and since she has "passed the buck" to me, I will be glad to do everything I can to assist. As I am not competent to write an interesting article the best I can do is to set down the salient facts and dates, etc., mostly from memory, and leave the rest to your master hand.

During the closing years of the last century, good canoe bark, the supply of which had hitherto been equal to the limited demand, gradually became more difficult to get in New Brunswick.

About the same time canvas covered canoes made in Maine began to make their appearance along the Saint John River.

They were mostly, if not all, run down the river by Americans taking camping and canoeing trips and were sold, second hand, to native New Brunswickers, while the original owners returned home by rail. (The first canvas canoe I ever owned was obtained in this manner.)

At that time, I was going to school and spending my holidays in summer, camping and canoeing all over the country and giving not the slightest thought to business of any kind.

It is therefore to my elder brothers, Will

and Harry that the credit should go for first realizing these facts, namely -

- (1) good canoe bark was getting scarce.
- (2) the canvas covered canoe has many advantages over the birch bark canoe.
- (3) there were no canvas canoes made in Canada.
- (4) duties on U.S. made products were high.

The obvious answer was to get started making them right there. Accordingly, about 1899 a small start was made under the name of R. Chestnut & Sons, an old established firm, of which my father, Henry Chestnut, was President.

The first few canoes were built in the front portion of the ground floor of the Phoenix Apartment Building recently acquired by "The Gleaner Ltd."

The work was done by one man with few, if any machines (all hand tools). That man was Jack Moore of Scotch Lake, N.B., a boat builder, and brother of the well known guide Adam Moore. He had one carpenter as assistant named Al Meads.

Naturally, there were some problems to be met and solved, but from the first a ready sale was formed for all that could be produced by this slow method.

It was soon obvious that larger quantities and more help would be in order.

There was at that time (exact date unknown) a vacant building on King Street, on the site of the Reformed Baptist Church, formerly operated by Fabor & O'Neill as a wood-working factory and this being suitable was taken over and the shop on Phoenix Square vacated.

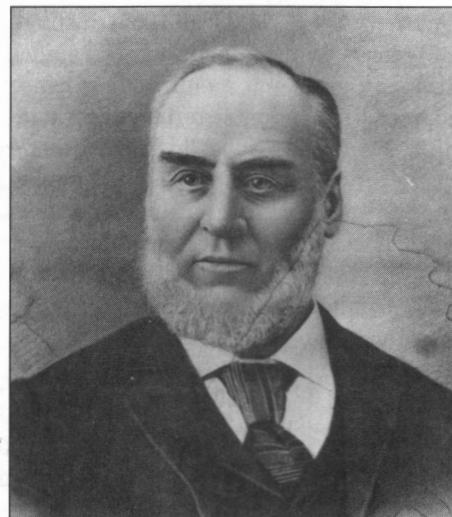
In 1905 the Chestnut Canoe Company was cut loose from R. Chestnut & Sons and set on its own feet with my father, Henry Chestnut still President and at this time a new factory was built on the site now occupied.

In 1907 a charter was obtained and the officers were as follows:

Henry Chestnut - President
Willard Kitchen - Vice-President
Harry G. Chestnut - Secretary-
Treasurer & Managing Director

This building was completely destroyed by fire in December, 1921 and was replaced by the present building the following year at which time H.G. Chestnut dropped the office management of R. Chestnut & Sons and gave his full time to the Canoe Co.

There were "ups and downs" as in most business and in 1929 the warehouse completely filled with canoes was destroyed by fire, a total loss.



Henry Chestnut, the Founder of the
Chestnut Canoe Company.
(PANB P37/355)

This was re-built as soon as possible and still stands and serves as storage for 2,500 canoes.

Canoe construction is mostly winter work so about 1922 in order to make the factory work less seasonal, the making of snowshoes and toboggans was started and still continues. Both products have been, and are widely distributed. During both world wars thousands of pairs of snowshoes were supplied the armed forces.

Many canoes have been sold in foreign countries - U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand, England, Germany, Africa, etc. and a few are still sent abroad.

My brother, H.G. Chestnut, continued to manage the company business until his death in 1941 at which time the management fell to his daughter who had been her father's active assistant for some years. As you no doubt are aware, she carried on as Manager until her death.

There is one other item which should perhaps be mentioned in connection with this history, but I personally have not the facts in mind. However, this information, I am informed, is to be sent to me and if and when it is, I will forward it to you.

I refer the fact that in 1923 a company called "Canadian Watercraft Ltd", with head office in Peterborough, Ontario was formed which amalgamated, embraced, merged or whatever the proper term may be, The Chestnut Canoe Co., The Peterborough Canoe Co. and The Canadian Canoe Co., and perhaps others (my memory fails me here).

This seems to be the end unless further information re above is sent to me, and I trust will be useful to you for an interesting article.

If and when it is ever published I would appreciate being advised so that I may obtain a few copies.

Sincerely,
K.R. Chestnut
(sgd.) 3

Garrison Ghosts

Although everybody is a participant in history, most of us are far enough removed from the leaders and makers of history, that our awareness is limited. But Lilian Mary Beckwith was descended from people who had been prominent on both the provincial and the national level in politics and commerce. She was the grand-daughter of John Glasier, "Main John" of lumbering fame, and the grand-niece of Julia Catherine Beckwith Hart, Canada's first native born novelist. With such near relatives, it is understandable that she took a keen interest in genealogy, and she willingly shared her knowledge and research with many, as her extensive correspondence with many others seeking clues to their ancestors shows. This correspondence, which includes the letter from Kenneth R. Chestnut found in this issue's "From the Archives," can be found among the papers of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, held in the Provincial Archives.

She was born at Woolforde Cottage on Regent Street in Fredericton in March 1877, and was educated in Fredericton schools and the University of New Brunswick, from which she graduated in 1898. She also attended Wellington Teachers' Training School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Provincial Normal School in Fredericton. She taught for a brief period in Ludlow, and then in Saint John for several years. Upon her marriage to James Brown Maxwell, an engineer, she moved to the United States, and did not return to Fredericton until the eldest of her three children reached school age.

While her historical and genealogical researches and writings were of great importance in her life, she was active in other activities in the community. As well as being a charter member of the Histori-

cal Society and one of its first Recording Secretaries, she was a charter member of the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Governor Carleton Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. She was interested in art and sculpture as well as being very knowledgeable about antiques. Her alma mater benefited from her enthusiasm, and she served on the University Senate. She wrote biographical sketches of all those who had donated



Lilian M.B. Maxwell (YSHS Collection)

scholarships to the University from its beginnings in 1785, and wrote articles about the University for magazines, as well as papers prepared for the Historical Society.

Her first book, *An Outline of the History of Central New Brunswick to the Time of Confederation*, was published in 1937 with the assistance of the Historical Society, and she undertook the promotion and marketing of it herself, con-

tacting libraries throughout Canada and the Eastern United States. The review carried in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June of 1938 reads in part: "This book is definitely a contribution to New Brunswick history", while John Clarence Webster in the *Sackville Tribune Post* calls it "a most valuable addition to the historical records of this province." (As part of its bicentennial celebrations, the Historical Society reprinted *The History of Central New Brunswick* in 1984.)

It was followed by *How New Brunswick Grew*, *The River Saint John and Its Poets* and *Around the Roads of New Brunswick*. In addition, she edited *Israel Kenny and His Descendants* and *The Old Graveyard*.

A partial bibliography of Mrs. Maxwell's writings contains four articles relating to UNB, eighteen prepared for the Historical Society about such diverse subjects as Benedict Arnold, City Hall, pirates of Acadia, the Queen Hotel, school books of the Loyalists, various burial sites, including Indian and Loyalist burying places, the journal of Martin Hunter and the scrap-book of Bessie White. It is obvious that many topics piqued the curiosity of this remarkable woman and she then did the research and reported her findings, thus leaving us with a fund of knowledge on matters both large and small.

She died at her residence in Fredericton, the Isaac Allen Cottage at 868 George Street on 13 June 1956 at the age of 79. Her obituaries tell us that she was a "charming, talented woman...a scholar and a gentlewoman, she made many important contributions to the community and her presence will be much regretted by those who knew her as friend and associate." ❧



The first railway bridge at Fredericton, about 1888. The photo is taken from the Gibson or north end. The cars in the foreground bear the name "Northern and Western," the original name of the rail line. In the background, the steamboat Acadia approaches the swing span. The bridge was destroyed by ice in 1936. The present bridge has remained unused for the past several years after rail traffic ceased. However, this August the rail bridge once again opened, this time to pedestrian traffic with the completion of a new walkway. (PANB P5/425)