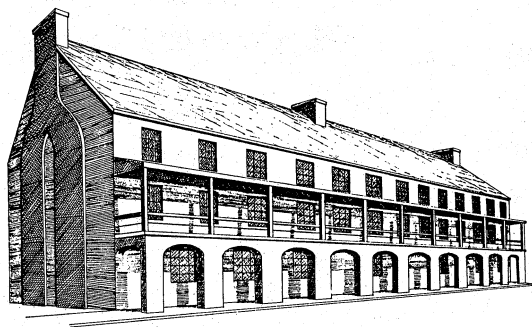




The Officers' Quarters

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

Volume 15, Number 3 and 4

Fall and Winter 1999



*Fredericton's
"Rye" Anderson
Becomes
The Countess
Ashburnham:
A Love Story*

The Officers' Quarters

Volume 15, Number 3 and 4

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

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

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SUMMER HOURS

(Third Saturday in June to Labour Day)
Open seven days a week 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FALL HOURS

(Labour Day to third Saturday in December)
Tuesday to Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Front Cover

The photo on the front cover is of The Countess of Ashburnham. See Feature Article, "The Story of Lord and Lady Ashburnham," by Ted Jones, p. 8.

President's Message... *by Elizabeth Earl*

The opening of the Summer Exhibit is always a wonderful occasion for the Society members, friends and guests to meet, chat and be proud of the work of the Society. The Exhibit Committee, led by Tanya Davis and Patsy Hale, took 'Treasures from the Attic' and presented a microcosm of nineteenth century Fredericton York-Sunbury Society through art and artifact. Of particular interest are three oils by George T. Taylor, the well-known 19th century photographer and artist who frequently joined Governor Carleton on canoeing trips. The pair shared a common affection for the ruggedness and gentle beauty of New Brunswick. Mrs. Mary Hashey (herself a prominent local artist) opened both the exhibit and the Museum's new gift shop. The gift shop features art and objects crafted by New Brunswick artisans.

Our Board and Past-President, Helen Hutchison, have put a five-year strategic plan into place. The plan establishes guidelines to ensure; the conservation of our collections, the production of a credible historical journal (*Officers' Quarters*), programs and needs of the museum. Through the tremendous efforts of all those involved with the Museum and Historical Society, the Museum has remained remarkably self-sufficient. In order to ensure the future of everyone's efforts in the face of higher costs and dwindling government grants, a number of basic goals were formulated into the strategic plan. They address the direction of the organization

and our need to update and refine our operational procedures.

The operation of a museum is a complex task. Fortunately our task is made easier by the enthusiastic participation of all those involved. In order to simplify matters, as recommended in the strategic plan, the affairs of the Society and Museum have been separated. Dr. Bill Acheson has agreed to guide the Society in the areas of membership, programs, publications and the *Officers' Quarters*. Kate Mossman, the Museum's Administrative Director, and Elizabeth Earl will undertake the tasks germane to the needs of the collections, exhibits and museum. In addition they will continue to review and update museum policies and operational procedures.

In the past six months an enormous amount has been achieved. Due to the splendid efforts of Katrina DeWitt, Carolyn Atkinson and Fred White, the final edition of the *Officers' Quarterly*, as we knew it, was published. Katrina and her new committees have the next edition of the new biannual *Officers' Quarters* well in hand. Carolyn Atkinson and the Program Committee have put together a schedule for the next year's events including guest speakers for the Society and Museum. Since February, members and friends have participated in a variety of events, including an anecdotal history of Barker's Point, by Andy Scott, our local member of Parliament. Kate Mossman has

produced two newsletters, keeping Society members abreast of Museum and Society happenings.

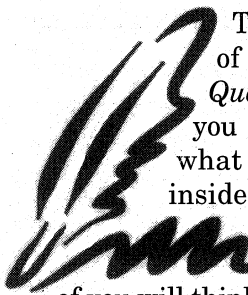
A new collection management policy is now under consideration, as are the results of a market survey conducted by canvassing the local community and visiting tourists. Our collection records are in the process of being transferred to computer media. Leary Hebert, our computer *guru*, is constantly amazed by the scope and depth of New Brunswick history our collection encompasses. Tanya Davis, Patsy Hale, Gary Campbell and Mel McMahon are busy formulating plans to update the Museum's permanent exhibits, which have been in place many years.

The Society and the Museum are on the move! We invite any members and friends who feel they have expertise or time to join us in our push forward into the twenty-first century. Of particular importance is the establishment of the Millennium Foundation Fund-Raising Committee to raise the monies necessary to protect the Society and Museum from the squalls and shoals of an unknown financial future.

Adversity has made us strong! Despite all that has been thrown in our path we have emerged stronger, leaner and tempered to meet the challenges of the new millennium. We will accomplish the goal of the founders of the York-Sunbury Historical Society by preserving and disseminating the history of central New Brunswick to future generations.

From the Executive Director's Desk...

by Kate Mossman



This little corner of the *Officers' Quarters* will give you the news about what is happening inside the York-Sunbury Museum. I hope that all of you will think about stopping in from time to time to check on the changes that we are making and giving us your comments and suggestions about how we are doing.

Change is in the air here, as Elizabeth Earl our President, has mentioned. The York-Sunbury Historical Society Board produced a Strategic Master Plan in 1998 and it was a great roadmap to make plans for this year and work on what we could do for the future. It has given me plenty to work with and I look forward to working with the Board of Directors in the new millennium so we can become "the very model of a modern major attraction."

Our first big change was to move the main entrance of the museum to the Officers' Kitchen area for the summer tourist season. This enabled us to open a brand new gift shop with a large display space. If you haven't visited, you may be in for a surprise. All the stock in the store is New Brunswick made or manufactured and we have everything from lolipops to pottery. We hope to keep the shop open as long as possible in the cooler months. Our three students have staffed it during the summer.

Our fall planning involves completing the change with a "Society Hall" in the old entrance. Here we hope to tell the story of the York-

Sunbury Historical Society. We would like to honour our life members with a suitable plaque with their names inscribed. The Martha J. Harvey award winners will also be commemorated in some way. This entrance will become the fall and winter entrance when we are unable to staff the gift shop.

Our new exhibit "Treasures from the Attic" is a hit; we have had lots of compliments on it. It will remain up until Christmas so if you haven't seen it, drop by.

The Collection has a "keeper." Leary Hebert has been hired on a six-month contract to computerize the collection. At long last someone is able to devote a full day to this important task. With the computerization of the records we will be able to search for artifacts in many and various ways for researchers,

the general public and ourselves. I am enjoying Leary's tales of what this marvelous collection holds.

All these changes are what modern museum work is all about. Reduced funding forces us to talk "revenue streams" and "bottom lines" just like any other business. We have become consumer oriented by planning and receiving marketing surveys and asking ourselves why certain members of the public are coming to the door (or not coming) and what they expect when they get here. We are a part of the provinces "Cultural Tourism" push. Long gone is the lone curator who toils with the collection with little or no regard for the world around him seeing only his collection and it's stories. Maybe as the old platitude says, "change is as good as a rest." We shall see.

Books, Books, Books:

We have a wide selection of books in our Gift Shop. Here are just a few of the more interesting titles:

<i>Cooking North America's Finest Gourmet Fiddleheads</i>	J. Melvin Nash
<i>The History of Central New Brunswick</i>	Lillian B. Maxwell
<i>Ups and Downs:</i>	
<i>The Life Story of Nellie Winifred Clatt</i>	Michael Anthony Staples
<i>The Early Steamboats of the Saint John River</i>	Captain Donald F. Taylor
<i>New Brunswick's Old Government House:</i>	
<i>A Pictorial History</i>	George MacBeath
<i>Maggie Muggins and Mr. McGarrity</i>	Mary E. Grannan
<i>Woods, Streams, Ghosts and Hangin's</i>	Peter D. Clark
<i>Taste of New Brunswick</i>	N.B. Home Ec. Assoc.
<i>Both Sides of the Wire: Fredericton Internment Camp, Vols. 1&2</i>	Ted Jones

The Fredericton Military Establishment... *by C.W. Clark*

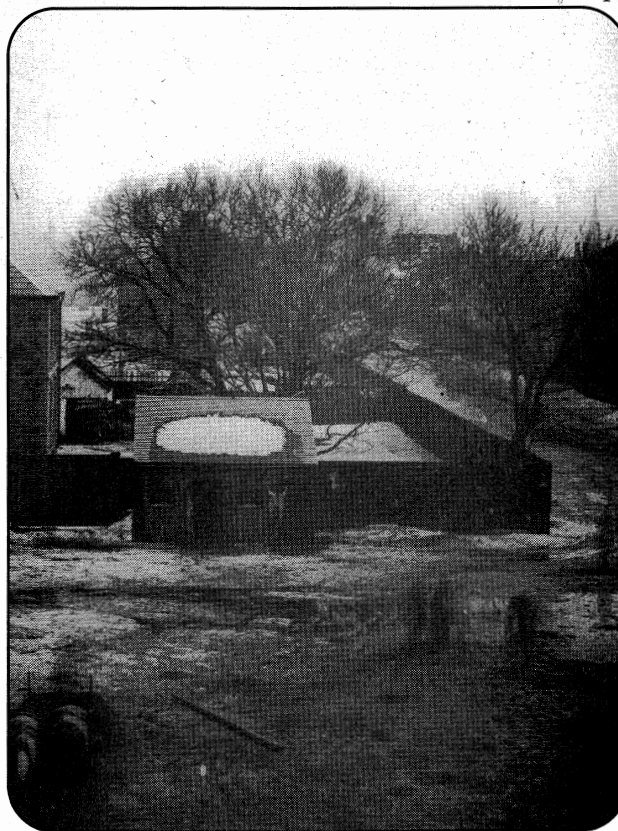
[Ed. This article is from C.W. Clark, "Military History of Fredericton," Number 5, pages 1-6, December 18, 1932, York-Sunbury Historical Society Collection, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Prepared from the author's original typed script, grammar and terminology have been maintained.]

Introduction:

For eighty-five years Fredericton was a station of the British Army. It was in that wonderful chain of armed posts which made even an Anglophobe like Webster say of Great Britain's power, "her drumbeat follows the sun." Fredericton at first was a back-woods post of log huts, later an unimpressive colonial capital and eventually a small-scale reproduction of the official, social, military and educational life to be found in numerous centres throughout the Colonial territories.

From the summer of 1784 until that of 1869 Fredericton, it might be said, was never without the sound of the drum and fife, the bugle call, the skirl of the Scottish pipes or the inspiring music of military bands. In that period of eighty-five years some of the most distinguished of the line regiments of the army were located in Fredericton for shorter or longer periods, and the duties were not always those of peace. Officers who were distinguished or who later made their names known were with them. Alliances by marriages were made in the community by all military ranks and many of the soldiers, commissioned or otherwise, upon ending military service were absorbed into civilian life in this city or in the surrounding country. The element of population received in this way is

considerably larger than is supposed, and succeeding generations of military ancestors took positions of prominence in the life of the community and province. The link between this city and the British Army is one well worth preservation.



*Military Hospital and Military Compound,
Queen Street, Fredericton,
circa 1867-1869, Courtesy YSHS Museum.*

The Fredericton Establishment:

The date of the establishment of the first military post at Fredericton is given as August 25, 1784. That was the year when the Loyalist regiments after a harsh experience of winter, were being placed on their land-grants, and the 42nd Highlanders were receiving like treatment. The regiment sent to occupy the post was the 54th Foot. This unit now is the

2nd Battalion, Dorset Regiment, and has had a long and honorable record in the Army. Like many other Imperial units it was divided between the military stations at Saint John and Fredericton. The latter place was St. Anne's when the 54th first appeared but received its present name shortly afterward.

Two of its members in the Fredericton garrison have given the 54th, in addition to the fame of being the first regiment on the station, added prominence. One was in the commissioned ranks, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, for some time, it is believed senior officer here, and the other was in the non-commissioned ranks, William Cobbett. In Fredericton, Fitzgerald was a lion in society, a guest at Government House, a prolific writer, and a ready correspondent. He ended his days dying in prison as the result of his part in the unfortunate Irish Rebellion of 1798, some fourteen years after his first appearance in Fredericton.

Cobbett was a sergeant and regimental sergeant-major during his stay here, previously being at Saint John. Cobbett lived to be a member of the British House of Commons and to make a name for himself as a writer. Both have left letters and other personal documents in which reference is made to Fredericton. This paper however must cover so much ground that but brief reference can be made to either. Fitzgerald has left excellent accounts of journeys in both summer and winter between Quebec and Fredericton, also of hunting excursions. Cobbett has left accounts of his experiences here in working on the erection of the barracks, also of his visits to the home of a Loyalist farmer who had an attrac-

tive daughter. This farm by some is claimed to have been located at Blissville, Sunbury County. If that were the case Cobbett must have had to paddle a canoe some thirty miles in each direction as water was the only means of communication.

Cobbett however married a girl in Saint John, Anne or "Peggy" Reid the daughter of a sergeant in the garrison. Cobbett, because of possessing some education at a time when the majority of enlisted men were illiterate, was a regimental sergeant-major at the age of twenty-five. He took his discharge shortly after finishing service in the colonies and spent some time in Paris where he advanced his education by studying French. He then proceeded to the United States and resided there for some time in Philadelphia where he wrote a book for publication and also figured as a teacher of French and English. In 1800 there is reference to his being in Halifax en route to England and being the guest of the Duke of Kent at that time.

In his native land he proceeded to write for publication and also to engage in politics. He was well along in years, however, before he was able to reach the House of Commons, the Reform Bill of 1832 giving him the opportunity. Cobbett was a prolific writer, chiefly on political subjects, but some times on other subjects. Included among his works are "Rural Rides," "Cottage Economy" and "The History of the Protestant Reformation."

Military Property:

With the survey of the Town Plat of Fredericton, provision evidently was made for the site of military buildings. The water-front from York to Regent Streets and as far from the shore as Queen Street, was military property, as was also the land at the intersection of George and Regent Streets known as the "Park." This latter term was military and pertained to the artillery. Vehicles at rest in military sense are parked, and guns and limbers located in a garrison would be in a "park." The term is used

in the same sense in speaking of "parking" a car nowadays. Buildings seem to have been erected on both sites at an early date. The Park Barracks were reached by a corduroy road on what now is Regent Street which just south of Brunswick Street crossed a low piece of swamp by a small bridge.

In Queen Street the first barracks, whether of logs or of prepared lumber is not stated, were erected on the site of the present Custom House and Post Office. A bake-house and store-house were erected on or near the site of the former military hospital in Carleton Street. In addition there were huts for troops along the bank of the river. As time went on quarters were changed. The barracks now used by the N.B. Liquor Board were erected in 1829 and the first barracks were converted into "she barracks" or married quarters. This building is said to have been demolished in 1838, and buildings at the artillery park used for soldiers and their families.

There also is a tradition that "she" barracks stood at one time on the site of the present Arctic Rink or thereabouts and also that at one [time] huts for families stood there. A half battalion usually took up available quarters pretty well, the other half being in Saint John, at Fort Howe until 1821 and at Lower Cove Barracks after that year. When a battalion at full strength was sent to Fredericton extra housing had to be obtained.

The Officers Quarters now occupied by the Canadian Legion were erected in 1841. Prior to that officers were accommodated in rented private houses and even after that date many officers did the same, the quarters not being adequate for all the families. Some of the structures which were standing at the Park as late as 1892 were erected in 1789 and probably some were those which were pulled down to clear the site for the present [George Street] High School. The barrack-services usually found it necessary to rent accommodations for many married soldiers and non-com-

missioned officers.

In addition to the infantry located usually in Queen Street, artillery detachments frequently were stationed here although not continuously. Members of the Royal Engineers and Ordnance Corps also were here at times.

The Park Barracks:

The Park Barracks, a wooden structure demolished at the time the present High School was built and the entire Park site taken, were erected at a date later than the others. They were intended for occupation by artillery but James Biggs, a resident of the locality since childhood, is the authority for stating that artillery never occupied the building, a change being made in the original plan. The original artillery barracks according to Mr. Biggs was a low one-storied structure which stood near George Street.

Some lists of the regiments stationed at Fredericton name the 6th Foot as succeeding the 54th. The 6th now is the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The regimental history of that corps, however, makes no reference to being stationed at Fredericton, but states that at that period the Regiment was in Nova Scotia, leaving in 1793 to take part in military operations against the French West Indies.

Provincial Troops:

At this period, the Province of New Brunswick assumed the burden of her own defenses to quite an extent, and raised and maintained permanent forces. This unit at various times in its history was known as the New Brunswick Regiment, New Brunswick Fencibles, King's New Brunswick Regiment and occasionally the prefix "Royal" appeared. The authorized strength originally was six hundred organized in six companies, and both Fredericton and Saint John were garrisoned. A French attack on Saint John was feared in 1795 but did not materialize. Governor Thomas Carleton was named Colonel of this

regiment but Lt. Col. Beverley Robinson probably was the actual Commanding Officer.

In 1798 a public subscription for purposes connected with the war was organized and the various units gave generously. It is noticeable that a unit of Royal Artillery was in Fredericton at that date. From 1803 to 1808 there are records of militia quotas being called out by Hon. Gabriel Ludlow in addition to the Fencible Regiment, in fear of the United States declaring war. The increase in troops placed quarters in Fredericton at a premium and there were many makeshifts including the use of a small theater as temporary barracks. Hon. Edward Winslow succeeding to the command, permitted the militia to return to their homes. The New Brunswick Fencibles performed garrison duty at

Sydney, Cape Breton in June 1808, Capt. Shore taking two companies from Fredericton to that place, and in June 1809, a detachment went to Saint John to relieve the 101st Foot. If the number held good throughout its history, this regiment of the line appeared in the modern British Army as the 1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The 104th N.B. Regiment:

The efficiency reached by the King's New Brunswick Regiment, originally the Fencibles, was so marked that February 8th, 1811, they were taken into the British Army as the 104th New Brunswick Regiment, and the distinction is claimed of being the first Colonial corps so honored,

with appointment to the line. Service in Europe was proposed for the Regiment but the attitude assumed by the United States was growing so threatening that the 104th stayed in the Province. Lt. Col. Alexander Halkett was Commanding Officer and Major Drummond was in command of the wing stationed in Saint John. The scope of this paper is so limited that much space cannot be given to the 104th, but it can be said that it was a full strength battalion with ten companies, roughly one thousand of all ranks.

A curious feature of the unit was the selection of colored men as pioneers and drummers. George Lawrence was bass-drummer and is reputed to have been little short of seven feet in height. His descendants are in Fredericton today.

MEMBERS' NOTICES:

Congratulations:

To Dr. Ellen McGillivray, who on Heritage Day was presented the prestigious "Women In Agriculture" award. The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme-Counsell, Lieutenant Governor of N. B. made the presentation, which recognizes Dr. McGillivray's long list of contributions to agriculture research in Canada and to the science of Entomology. She was also recognized by the N. B. Scottish Highland Games as Chieftain. We are proud to state that Dr. McGillivray is a long time supporter of the Society as a former Board Member, Lecturer and contributor of many hours volunteer service.

Best Wishes and All the Best:

To Mr. & Mrs. Hently Turley, long standing members and supporters of the Society, on their improved health.

Condolences to the following members:

Katrina DeWitt, current Editor of the *Officers' Quarters* and Board Member of the Society, on the death of her sister, Wilhemina Higgins of Toronto.

Carol Dilworth, Member and long time supporter of the Society, on the death of her father, Byron Ryan.

Donald Coburn, Member and long-time supporter of the Society, on the death of his wife, Isabell.

To Mrs. Marjorie Atkinson and Family of Edward F. (Ted) Atkinson, who was a long time supporter of the Historical Society. He most recently provided photographs for an Internment Camp exhibit. Also, to his sister-in-law Carolyn Atkinson, current Board Member of the Society.

(Should you have information for this regular column, please call Donna Wallace at 450-2114.)



Little Known Documents or Articles are an Excellent Way to Share Information

THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS welcomes the receipt of previously printed articles or little known documents on the history of central New Brunswick that could interest the members. Please let us know of items in your possession which you think would be suitable. We do not promise to publish all items submitted, but we will treat all of them with care and, if requested, return them to you.



The Story of Lord and Lady Ashburnham... *by Ted Jones*

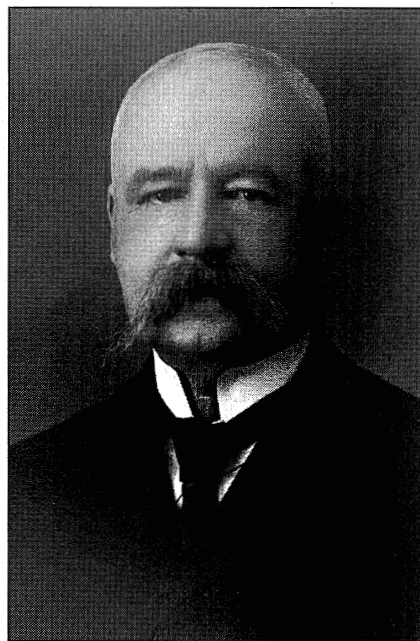
Their individual lives were as far apart as the ocean that had separated them during their early years, he having been born and raised on a large aristocratic estate in Sussex County England, she having grown up on a quiet street in the older part of Fredericton, New Brunswick. That they were to meet and fall in love led to one of the most unbelievable marriages in the history of Anglo-Canadian relationships, a marriage which has never been forgotten through the years, but the details of which have never been formally recorded.

Maria ("Rye")

Anderson was born November 25, 1858, the daughter of Alderman William H. Anderson, junior, and his Irish wife Lucy Ann, the granddaughter of Captain William H. Anderson, senior, and his Scottish wife Elizabeth. Her father, who died in 1904 at the age of eighty-one, served on the Fredericton Council, representing Wellington Ward for four terms; he was also a cordwainer, a road master and the chief engineer for the fire department. Her grandfather, who died in 1853 at the age of sixty-six, served as a soldier in the illustrious 104th Regiment which he led three times on marches from Fredericton through the wilderness of New Brunswick. Both father and grandfather had been vestrymen at St. Anne's Anglican Church, and it was in this quaint little parish structure of aging stone, which still stands on the corner of Westmorland and George streets, that "Rye" was baptized April 6, 1859, her

name appearing in the register as Maria Elizabeth Anderson.

The York County census records for 1871 listed Maria as a twelve-year-old student who, with her sister Lucy, seven at the time, and her two brothers, Henry, ten and Hamilton, fourteen, attended a local elementary school. Three other brothers stayed at home: six-year-old William, who was too young for school; John, twenty-one, and James,



*Lord and Lady Ashburnham
Courtesy of YSHS
Museum.*

sixteen, who were employed as carpentry moulders. That same year another sister, Rebecca Jane, twenty-two, married Alexander Thompson, a house painter from Harvey Station. The newlyweds shared the spacious Anderson home on the 100 block of Brunswick Street. It was a large and happy family, although there had been tragedy when the first Hamilton died of illness in 1855 and the first William had died in a fire in 1865.

"Rye" Anderson was petite, attractive and, above all, vivacious. However, marriage was not a priority in her life; she was definitely not interested in staying home and performing domestic chores. A forerunner of the liberated woman, she wanted to seek employment outside her father's house, a rare desire for a young lady in the ultraconservative Fredericton of the 1880's and the 1890's. She wanted to be in contact with the public because she liked people and because she got along well with them.

Her first position was that of a tailoress in James R. Howie's tailor shop at 150 Queen Street but, when the New Brunswick Telephone Company came into being in 1888 and set up its central exchange office on Carleton Street, Maria took a job as a night operator. In

1889 there were 123 subscribers: by the turn of the century there were many more. They all got to know "Rye" Anderson, the telephone operator with the pleasant voice and soft laughter. As a result, her charming personality made her a favorite acquaintance among all the social classes in the capital city.

Thomas (Tom) Ashburnham was born April 8, 1855, the fifth son of the fourth Earl of Ashburnham (Bertram) and his



wife Katherine Charlotte Baillie. The eldest son, who was next in line for the title, was also called Bertram. There were five others: John, who became second secretary in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service; William, who became a barrister-at-law; Richard, who

became a clergyman; Edward, who died two years after his birth; and George, who stayed at home and never married. And there were four sisters: Katherine, Margaret, Anne and Mary. Home consisted of the family seats at Ashburnham Place (24,000 acres in the village of Battle, Sussex County), Barking Hall (3,400 acres at Needham, Suffolk County) and Pembrey (5,700 acres in Carmarthen County, Wales). Their town house, known as Ashburnham House, was at 30 Dover Street, London; it was one of the few old patrician mansions that remained in the metropolis at the turn of the century.

Ashburnham derived its name from a hamlet on the Ashburn, a small stream in Sussex County. The family, which historians claim had "stupendous antiquity," was one of the most ancient in England, Tom's ancestors dating back 800 years and being noted for their traditions in royalism. The Barony of Ashburnham was created in 1689, the Viscounty and the Earldom in 1730. Tom's great-great-grandfather, John, was the first Earl of Ashburnham in the peerage of Great Britain. He was also the first Viscount of St. Asaph in the Principality of Wales, the third Baron Ashburnham, the Colonel of the first Troop of Horse Guards and the Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard. The great-grandfather, also John, was Master of the Royal Wardrobe, Groom of the Stole to George III and Keeper of Hyde Park and St. James's Park. The grandfather, George, was a trustee of the British Museum, his daughter by his second wife being the mother of the poet Algernon Charles Swinburne. The fourth Earl, Tom's father, was a collector of an extensive library which was valued at approximately £160,000.

With four brothers ahead of him, there seemed to be very little chance that Thomas Ashburnham would ever inherit the earldom; thus, he went his own way in life. His early education took place in a private school, but later he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and after graduating, he immediately joined the army - the Queen's Own Seventh Hussars, one of the crack regiments. Through hard work he earned a

lieutenant's commission at the age of twenty-six, at which time he accompanied his regiment to South Africa. Upon returning to England, he was made a captain in the Expeditionary Force which was sent to suppress the



Lady Ashburnham standing in front of residence on Brunswick Street. Courtesy of Don Roberts Collection.

Egyptian Rebellion in 1882. As a result of his heroics, the young Thomas was decorated by Queen Victoria, by the Khedive of Egypt and by the Sultan of Turkey.

During 1885-86, Captain Ashburnham was in Ireland, first as the *aide de camp* to the Viceroy, the Earl of Caernarvon and then to the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Aberdeen, the latter being a first cousin to the Ashburnham family. From 1886 to 1890 Thomas was in India, most of his time being spent as a member of big game hunting expeditions. Back in England, just before the turn of the century, he retired from the army after a successful career of twenty-six years. However, it was not a military pension that would support him, his future life of leisure to be financed by a large annuity from the

family fortunes. Because there was nothing constructive for him to do, drinking and gambling became a way of life, the result being that Tom was called the "black sheep" of the family.

It was decided that he should be sent to one of the colonies and Canada was chosen. Two other brothers, Bertram and John, had already visited Canada in 1861, and cousin John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Lord Aberdeen, had been Governor-General of Canada from 1893 to 1898. Thus, in 1900, Captain Thomas Ashburnham, a forty-five-year-old eligible bachelor, sailed for Canadian shores. With him went the label of "remittance man" - a "ne'er-do-well" living outside his home country on money sent by relatives.

Unlike his two brothers and cousin before him, Tom Ashburnham traveled aimlessly about the Canadian countryside. Eventually, he settled in Fredericton, which was more to his liking, probably because it had been a garrison town with various military symbols and buildings having been preserved over the years. He found lodgings at Windsor Hall, which had been built on the corner of Brunswick and Westmorland streets in 1897, the last large hotel in Fredericton for the next half century. It was a good spot for a country gentleman to stay overnight, but Tom Ashburnham stayed longer than that, becoming a familiar figure to be seen on the verandah each afternoon just before he picked up his walking stick for a routine excursion to the Fredericton City Club.

He was a fine, distinguished-looking gentleman who sported a walrus mustache and who spoke impeccable English. His evenings were spent in the various taverns, but, instead of walking back to his rooms, he began to make regular telephone calls to Camp's Livery Stable on King Street, speaking in a very heavy British accent as he summoned a horse and carriage to transport him to Windsor Hall. The voice at the telephone exchange connecting the calls belonged to "Rye" Anderson, and it was a voice with which Tom Ashburnham became quite infatuated. Each time he called, they chatted, they laughed and, in time, they fell in love, long before he

requested a meeting. A courtship followed and, in the spring of 1903, Tom made a hurried trip back to England to announce his intentions to his family at Ashburnham Place and to purchase gifts for his future bride. On June 10 of that year, *The Boston Herald* carried this headline: "CAPTAIN THE HONORABLE THOMAS ASHBURNHAM MARRIES A TELEPHONE GIRL AT FREDERICTON."

The event was very quietly mentioned in *The Battle Chronicle* and *East Sussex Guardian* and *The Sussex Express and County Herald*, British newspapers which had been in existence since 1837 and had always presented detailed coverage of the Ashburnham family. Thus, it was left to *The Daily Gleaner* of Fredericton to report on this unique wedding, including an extensive gift list with the names of those who gave. Maria's magnificent wedding gown was created by herself and a local dressmaker. It was made of *crepe de chene*, with three satin ruffles on the trailing underskirt showing beneath the hem of an embroidered skirt. The full and heavily-decorated blouse was also in two layers, as were the sleeves, the detachable collar of lace, stiffened with covered wires, topping a high round neckline. She wore a long bridal veil which was enhanced with orange blossoms, and she carried a shower of white roses. From all accounts she looked radiantly youthful - much younger than her forty-five years. The wedding was held at St. Anne's Parish Church at two o'clock in the afternoon, the ceremony being conducted by the Rev. Canon George Roberts (father of the famous author). Both the bride and groom were unattended as they stood upon a cuirass robe, a beautiful and valuable piece of work made from the fur of silver jackals. It was the property of the fifth Earl of Ashburnham and it was loaned especially for the occasion, Queen Victoria having already stood upon the robe during four state occasions in London.

After a "*recherche* luncheon" at the home of the bride's father on Brunswick Street (the mother had passed away in 1898), Maria and Thomas left on the six o'clock train for a honeymoon trip along

the upper St. John River Valley. When they returned, they took up residence on Brunswick Street, Captain Ashburnham having purchased earlier two large houses that touched the sidewalk at numbers 163 and 165. One of these buildings had been a popular inn during the last century; the other had been the Anderson family homestead. Because they were so close to each other, Thomas had them joined at the second floor by a glassed-in conservatory, the result being that a *portecochere* was formed at the ground level, the driveway running through toward a magnificent country garden, a well-groomed lawn and a year-round greenhouse. An English gardener, Harry Hebblewhite and a handyman, Andy O'Hara were employed full-time to work at the miniature estate at 163-165 Brunswick Street, which is still known to this day as Ashburnham House, although the stained-glass windows of the double front doors have been replaced and the hitching posts along the sidewalk have disappeared.

According to Frank I. Morrison, "Captain Ashburnham spent a terrific amount of money making the two houses over and improving the landscape. It did not look like much in front, but it was quite elegant in back. Moses Mitchell, a builder who lived at 116 Brunswick Street, was contracted to do the work, although Mitchell had encouraged Ashburnham to buy a piece of property on Waterloo Row and build a new house, because that's what other wealthy people were doing at the time and because it would be much cheaper." But Thomas liked the west end, where Ashburnham House was to become the center of an elite social life in the Fredericton community.



With more money sent from England, he and Maria lavishly furnished each room, especially the parlors and the drawing rooms. Everything was mahogany, from the petite pedestal tables to the massive hand-carved settees and sleigh beds. Maria's personal quarters were in the lower house at 165 and it was here that she began to host her famous luncheons and afternoon teas. Thomas occupied the upper house at 163, which contained a huge roll-top desk, small library, and a collection of military memorabilia and hunting trophies making his study comfortable for solitude and for writing letters to his family and to his solicitors. He often joked about the living arrangement that he and Maria had, saying: "Whenever I want to see my wife, I have to go next door."

Maria no longer worked nights at the telephone exchange and, because she strongly disapproved of tavern visitations, her husband remained at home with her. The evenings they were not

entertaining company or the Captain was not performing his duties as an officer of the 28th New Brunswick Dragoons, Maria and Thomas were together in the little conservatory, surrounded by exotic flowers, caged parakeets and Japanese decorations. They became the patrons of several organizations, including the A & B Club (Automobile and Boat Club located on the Green), and their names often appeared in the social column of *The Daily Gleaner*: "Captain and Mrs. Ashburnham were listed among those who attended a reception and musical by The Daughters of the Empire at the Parliament Buildings, only the elite of Fredericton being present." (March 19, 1904).

A decade passed and the ties with England

became more and more distant. Then, on January 15, 1913, the least of Thomas's expectations came true when a telegram was received from England announcing the death of the fifth Earl. He had died in Paris where he had spent many of his later years practicing Roman Catholicism and raising his only child, a daughter. The four other Ashburnham brothers had also died, all having succumbed to a hereditary bronchial illness. There was one brother left: Captain The Honorable Thomas Ashburnham of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, who became the sixth Earl and, because he and Maria had no children, the last in the famous Ashburnham line. His wife became The Right Honorable The Countess of Ashburnham, The Viscountess of St. Asaph, and The Baroness Ashburnham. From that winter day onward, her life was never to be quite the same again. Would a former telephone operator from one of Canada's colonial provinces be accepted into the hallowed ranks of the British aristocracy? And, would the former "Rye" Anderson be able to meet the challenge?

On the morning of January 17, 1913, a reporter from *The Daily Gleaner* asked the new Earl about his future plans. The unexpected answer was given rather heatedly: "I am highly indignant that the newspapers should be inquiring into what I declare as my private business. I don't consider that the newspapers should trouble themselves over when I am going away, where I am going or on what steamer I am going to sail." But the reporter did not give up; he discovered that Thomas was to leave that evening for Halifax, from where he would sail on the *SS Grampian* for England. After assuming his title and riches and after settling the affairs of his late brother, Thomas would return to New Brunswick in the early spring for his wife, taking her back with him across the Atlantic to the old country, where she would become the mistress of the vast Ashburnham estates, including the 100-room mansion in Sussex County. With its kennels, huge stables, out buildings and residences for retainers, all situated on a hillside five miles from the town of Battle,

Ashburnham Place was known as one of the loveliest in England. Yet, the new Lord and Lady Ashburnham were to stay there for only one year.

They left Canada on May 15, 1913, the front page of the June 14 edition of *The Battle Chronicle* announcing their arrival at Ashburnham Place. The following item appeared in the August 9 edition: "The first appearance of the Earl and Countess of Ashburnham at a public function in the district, since they succeeded to the ancient and honorable title which has such long associations with Battle, was on a most auspicious, happy and successful occasion, for the Red Lion Fete has resulted in another red-letter day being added to the historic town." A vote of thanks was proposed to Maria and she was encouraged to be present on future occasions. Her response was one of willingness to be of assistance at any time. Her husband had already taught her the proper protocol; one of his explicit instructions for dining was not to change knife and fork from hand to hand as was the North American custom.

On November 22, Lady Ashburnham, accompanied by her husband, opened a sale of work at Eastbourne in aid of the Church of England Homes for Waifs and Strays. *The Chronicle* reported that she made "a sprightly speech," saying that, although she was a Canadian by birth, she had now adopted her husband's country as her home. On January 10, 1914, *The Bexhill-on-Sea Observer* announced that the Earl and Countess of Ashburnham had attended the Hunt Ball at the Drill Hall in Battle and that they were among last week's visitors to the Grosvenor Hotel in London. On January 17, *The Observer* carried this item: "Among the peeresses who have not yet been presented at Court is the Countess of Ashburnham and it is anticipated that she will attend at one of the first Courts held by Their Majesties during the approaching season."

But the "Court Circular" in *The London Times* never mentioned Maria's name in the several presentation lists for the 1914 season during the reign of King George V and Queen Mary. Rumor has it that Maria was struck from one of the lists at the last minute, a gesture

that tends to accentuate the fact that she had never really been accepted by the Ashburnham family, a similar situation having occurred when the fifth Earl brought a grocer's daughter, Emily Chaplin, home to Ashburnham Place as his wife. Thus, the last two Earls lived abroad with their wives most of the time; they played no part in the administrative duties of the estates, probably because they knew very little about such matters. If Maria and Emily had been accepted in any way, it was by the local people of Battle and the tenant farmers of Ashburnham Place. Yet, when Emily predeceased her husband in 1900, she was buried in the family vault on the Sussex estate. This was not to be the case with Maria. As the war clouds gathered, Thomas and Maria realized that Sussex County was closest to the Continent and thus in a most vulnerable position should England be invaded. They made plans to return to Canada, *The Observer* and *The Chronicle* carrying similar reports of the farewell garden party which was held at Ashburnham Place on Saturday, June 13, 1914, with a large number of invited nobility being in attendance.

On Saturday, June 20, 1914, Thomas and Maria were among the passengers who left Liverpool on the White Star Steamer *Megantic*. Their entourage included three servants who were coming to work at Ashburnham House in Fredericton; their luggage included elaborate wardrobes, art treasures and family heirlooms, all of which were to become a part of the Brunswick Street residence. Arrival time at the capital city train station was at noon on Dominion Day, Wednesday, July 1, Mayor Moses Mitchell meeting the Earl and Countess with a landau drawn by a pair of splendid black horses. Interestingly enough, Lord Ashburnham talked with a reporter from *The Daily Mail*, indicating that he wished to thank friends in Fredericton for the cordial reception given to him and his wife upon their return home.

[Ed. Reprinted from the *Atlantic Advocate*, April 1986, with the kind permission of author Ted Jones. The story concludes next issue.]

The Moores of the Moore House...

by Katherine DeWitt, Norma Alexander and Fredrica Givan

The Moore House, built just before the turn of the century, sits on a spacious lot at the corner of Westmorland and Saunders Streets in Fredericton, NB. Now remodeled, it houses the tenants of several apartments. Successive owners and lease holders have preserved many of the original fixtures and built-in features in the high ceilinged rooms on the three floors of the residence.

A brief description of the ground floor apartment, which overlooks Saunders Street, provides a glimpse of the building's original elegance. Beautiful three tiered brass and crystal chandeliers hang from the ceilings in the double parlours. The triple bay windows at either end have wooden louvered shutters that can be pulled down and up, and in the window sills are more shutters, six in all, which can be adjusted to completely cover the windows. These six pieces fit together as perfectly as when the builder installed them. The walls, floors and beautiful woodwork are in almost perfect condition. There is a fireplace with a hearth built of ornate tiles decorated with animal replicas, such as a pig and a wolf, and above it is a high mantel with built-in oval mirror. One very interesting feature is the lack of a chimney or any evidence there ever was one. Could the purpose have been simply decorative?

Miss Martha DeWitt, who was a tenant in the 1960's - 1980's, began

researching the history of the property. She discovered that the house was known as the Edward Moore Place and that he had been from Fredericton Junction. Others continued the quest for information and the following fascinating story of the Moore Family is the result of their efforts.

Edward (Ed) Moore was actually Edward Moore Jr., a son of Edward

where they lingered a short time before going upriver to Burton. There they remained for a number of years before making several successive moves – all of them within Sunbury County. One of these moves took them, with their family, to Three Tree Creek, a small community about 18 miles south of Fredericton and within easy walking distance of Fredericton Junction. It is possible that the family lived there briefly. Certainly Junction citizens usually associate the Moore family with "the Creek" where they farmed and resided in the house currently the home of Edna Doyle.

Nine children, five boys and four girls, were born to Edward and Cherry. The two oldest sons, John and Ed, and daughter Christianna remained in close proximity

to their parents while the others scattered to Boston, Saint John and Fredericton. John, the oldest son, was never physically strong although for some years he worked winters as a lumber camp cook. He remained a bachelor and when not employed lived at the family home. Ed was said to have been "tall, well-built with red hair and blues eyes and real handsome." He was also reported to have been illiterate but possessed of good business sense and an excellent memory for the details of transactions in which he was involved. In July 1873, Rev. William Brown married Ed and Mary Jane Mott at Three Tree Creek. Christianna Moore married Joseph



Moore House, corner of Westmorland and Saunders Street, courtesy of Fredrica Givan.

Moore and Charity (Cherry) Carlan, natives of County Derry, Ireland. Soon after Edward and Cherry's marriage, her brother, James Carlan, returned to Ireland after a sojourn in New Brunswick. He would have been happy to stay here and was very enthusiastic when describing life in New Brunswick. However, he had developed a health problem attributed to climactic conditions so decided to return to his homeland. His reports were so glowing that the newlyweds decided to see for themselves if New Brunswick was as attractive as described.

It was about the mid-1830's when the Moore couple landed in Saint John

Moore who was otherwise unrelated to her family. In the future, Joseph would be employed by Christianna's brother Ed and the couples would develop a close relationship.

Until the 1880's the Moore Family's story differed little from that of many other families in similar circumstances. A farmer's work in rural New Brunswick at that time consisted of heavy manual labour. With the increasing number of children, Cherry must have known her share of hard work and both parents must have known many concerns as they tried to supply the necessities of life. Then, a most unexpected turn of events dramatically changed the life style of Cherry (Carlan) Moore and family.

Back in Ireland Cherry's brother James Carlan moved to Belfast because of better employment opportunities. Believing the name Carlisle to be more acceptable than Carlan, he adopted the former and lived for many years as James Carlisle. He became a master builder and prospered such that he was able to purchase two flax mills. With the outbreak of the American Civil War in the early 1860's, the products of his mills were in great demand and James Carlisle became a very rich man.

James Carlisle had married and fathered a son and a daughter. The son died at an early age while the daughter married and had two children who were named James' heirs. A problem arose when he died on November 25, 1882 for all members of the immediate family save his wife predeceased him – apparently without heirs. James' wife was left a fixed monthly sum but the executors, namely Alexander Jones and William Edward, were left to instigate a search for legitimate heirs. Two names were discovered. A brother John had sailed

for Australia many years before and was unheard from afterwards. He was considered lost. A sister Charity (Cherry), however, had married Edward Moore and had accompanied him to New Brunswick. In due course a letter was sent to Mrs. Moore at Burton where

went to Ireland to pursue the matter of settling his uncle's estate. This story probably refers to a later voyage as Ed visited Ireland more than once.

Events proceeded slowly and just when it seemed Cherry's claim was on the verge of acceptance, a real problem arose in the person of another claimant, Ross Carlan, a half-uncle of Cherry. He came to Saint John, identified himself as Samuel Stephenson and engaged lawyer George Seely to accompany him on a visit to the Moore home. Mr. Seely, being totally innocent of Carlan's purpose and believing him to be Stephenson, went along though rather puzzled. They reached the Moore home where they met Mrs. Edward Moore, visited for a short time, and returned to Saint John. Seely was never otherwise involved.

Later, back in Ireland,

Ross Carlan claimed to have seen Mrs. Edward Moore in New Brunswick but claimed she was not Charity who, he said, had died some years before. He claimed the Mrs. Moore he had met was Edward's second wife whom Edward had persuaded to claim the James Carlisle estate. Under pressure of a legal investigation, Ross Carlan recanted and admitted the woman he met in New Brunswick was really Charity (Carlan) Moore.

Due to complications the settlement was not finalized at the time Edward Moore, Sr. died. He was buried in Gladstone Cemetery, Fredericton Junction where the inscription on his gravestone reads:

In
Memory of
EDWARD MOORE
Died
30 June 1887
aged 83 years
NATIVE OF COUNTY DERRY
IRELAND

By early 1888, settlement must have been near at hand, for The Saint



Tombstone of Edward Moore (1845-1919). He was buried in the cemetery on Woodstock Road, Fredericton. Courtesy of Fredrica Given.

she had first settled and from Burton the letter was forwarded to Fredericton Junction from where it eventually reached Cherry.

Mrs. Moore, according to one account, at once took the letter to a prominent citizen of Fredericton Junction, David W. Hartt. He was the owner of a flourishing business in dry goods and groceries and a man interested in local politics. Mr. Hartt gathered personal information from Cherry; including her birth date, address of her parent's home, and the church where she was christened and married. He also located one Daniel Donnelly living in Burton, who had known her in Ireland, had attended her wedding and had met her again in Burton. Mr. Hartt forwarded all the information, including Mr. Donnelly's statement, to the lawyers employed by the executors.

The above story varies somewhat from the one that is part of local tradition. According to that version the Moore's son Ed hired a Fredericton lawyer, or at least reached an agreement with one, whereby Ed and the lawyer

John *Daily Telegraph* published a news item on April 22 of that year stating that Mrs. Cherry Moore, heiress of the Carlisle estate in Ireland, had received a telegram telling of the safe arrival in Ireland of her sons John and Edward, who had gone there to take care of the family fortune.

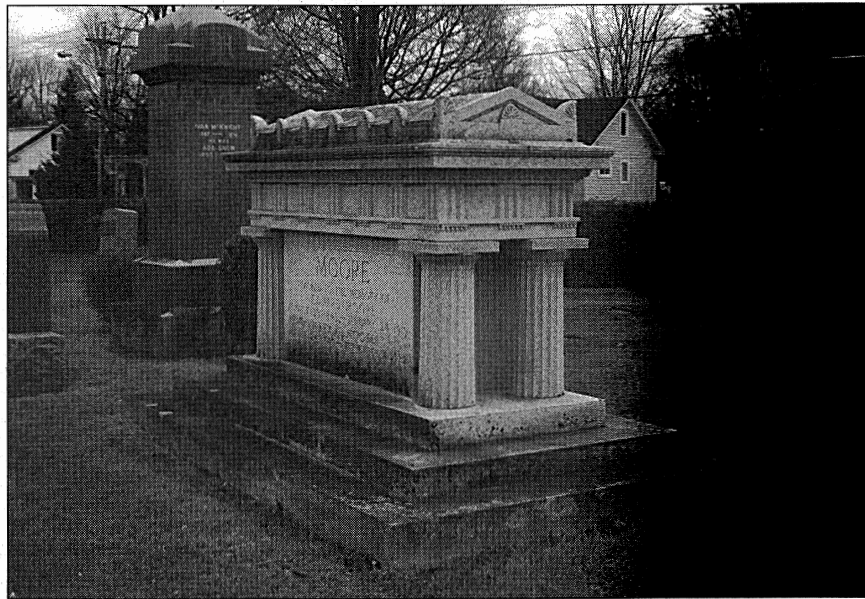
At one time Mr. D.W. Hartt had stated that the lawyers in Ireland had valued the estate at not lower than £150,000. Considering that the British pound of that time was pegged at about \$4.87, this was indeed a valuable asset with a buying power many times that of an equal modern sum.

The Moore family soon began building a home suitable to their new station in life. The result was the Saunders Street residence. The carpenter in charge was Sherman Nason, born 1850, a son of John and Elizabeth (Sinclair) Nason from the Nasonworth area. The name of one member of the crew survives – O. Smith Mersereau, a brother-in-law of Sherman Nason. A combination barn and storage shed, designed to house a driving horse with all the necessary trappings and a section to house firewood, tools and other materials was built behind the house. A later owner removed this building and he is said to have converted it to a family dwelling elsewhere.

The new premises were not ready for occupation in 1890 when John Moore died at the age of 55 at the home of his mother. It was reported that he died of "La Grippe". He was buried in Gladstone Cemetery next to his father's grave. When the house was ready for occupancy, Cherry, Edward and Mary moved in. The household required a handy man for outside chores and heavier work and maids for inside care and housework. The only handyman mentioned was Joe Moore the husband of Ed's sister Christianna.

One of Joe's duties was to care for the horse and carriage or sleigh, as the season required, and to have all prepared when Ed wished to make a trip downtown. Ed had learned while visiting the Old Country that businessmen wore formal morning dress when calling at banks and offices. So attired, Ed had Joe, sitting "up front", driving him on his rounds. It is said that Ed, riding in the rear seat, greeted ladies by removing his long cigar with his left hand, doffing his bowler hat with his right and bowing. On meeting gentlemen he simply touched the brim of his hat with his right index finger and nodded.

Maids employed by the Moores "lived in" and were often from the Tracy-Fredericton Junction area. Some of them were in their mid-teens and away from home for the first time. The kindness and consideration shown by the Moores must have been greatly appreciated.



Tombstone of Mary Jane Moore (1849-1922). She was buried in the cemetery on the Woodstock Road, Fredericton. Courtesy of Fredrica Givan.

One of the girls, while making wedding plans and having no family to help, was invited to have the ceremony under the potted palm in the Moore living room, followed by a bit of a social time.

Riches never changed the real characters of the Moores, who were noted for their kindness, warm heartedness and generosity. Cherry seems to have remembered past occurrences, which she deemed akin to slights. Once, when ladies collecting for a worthy cause came

to the door in town, she allowed them to explain the reason for calling. Then she replied, "When I had no money you paid me no heed. Now that I have money, I'll pay you no heed. Good day." Cherry's time in the Fredericton house was limited for she died October 12, 1893 at the age of 83. She is buried beside her husband in Gladstone Cemetery where a tall red granite stone marks the grave of "Cherry Carlisle wife of Edward Moore."

Childless, Ed and Mary with her niece, whom they accepted as their own when she was left motherless at a young age, remained in the home. Ed made more than one trip to Ireland and had many interests in New Brunswick. He appears as mortgagee on registered legal documents and he was one of the backers of the Oromocto Coal Company. He was also a contributor to community endeavours as shown by a plaque on a wall of the Victoria Public Hospital not-

ing that he had donated the hospital's first X-ray machine. His death occurred January 24, 1919 at 74 years of age. Mary managed the household and outlived Ed by nearly four years, dying September 4, 1922 at the age of 71. Both are buried in the cemetery on Woodstock Road in Fredericton.

What became of the Moore fortune? Apparently it was divided and distributed among relatives after Mary's death.

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Fredericton Junction...

by Harold Nason

[Ed. The following article was written by Harold Nason in about 1926. He was the son of Parker Nason and Grace Merserau. The author was born and grew up in Fredericton Junction. After attending the old Sunbury Grammar School, he attended Normal School in Fredericton and graduated in 1928. His first year of teaching was in Tracy and he then moved to Lawrencetown, in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Later, he visited England on a Rhodes Scholarship. He became a Superintendent of Schools in Nova Scotia and wrote several textbooks for use in schools. This was an essay he wrote while in High School, which only went to Grade Eleven. His original spelling and punctuation have been retained in the article.]

After Christmas vacation our Principal, H.H. Stuart, asked the pupils of the Advance Department of the Sunbury County Grammar School to write an essay on all we knew and what we could find out about the history of Fredericton Junction and advancements made up to the present time.

The Junction is situated on both banks of the North Branch of the Oromocto River, and was known to our forefathers as Hartt's Mills. This was probably due to the fact that in the year 1763, a number of families by the name of Hartt came to Maugerville from Massachusetts, remaining in Maugerville until the year 1784, when they came up the Oromocto River and settled, living in log houses, and taking "Milling" and "Lumbering" for their occupation, building two mills below the present highway bridge, one being a "Grist Mill" and the other a "Saw Mill". A log dam being built across the river, the mills were run by the old method of water power. They also erected a large dwelling house near the mill site. Some of the names of the early settlers are: Phillips, Kelly, Smith, Alexander, Sheahan, Scott, Davis, Coleman, Mott, McQuestion, Nason, McLaughlin, Simpson, Stuart, Pride, Kammett,

Peterson, Meagher, McClusky, Sambles, Artes, Allen and McGowan.

The Hartt's Mills were run for a time by Flemming and McGibbon, until about the year 1868. The property was taken over by Charles Todd of Milltown, and he continued to do business in lumbering until 1882. The "Grist Mill" was owned by David H. Smith, and he continued to do business until about the year 1902, when the "Scott Lumber Company" purchased it for a "Lath Mill". Afterwards the building and machinery being taken down, Mr. S.L. Currie then erected a mill for sawing lumber further up the stream being the first mill that we had which was run by steam.

Our first church was built in the year 1839, on the North Branch of the Oromocto, opposite the residence now owned by Mr. John Day, on the back road leading to Tracy. This church being removed is now the property of a farmer, serving the purpose of a wood shed. The present Baptist Church was built in 1875, the only charter members now living being Mrs. Richard Ball of the Junction and Mrs. Clark of Oregon.

The first school house was built about the year 1860 and was known as the "Little Blue Schoolhouse". This building stood near the end of the highway bridge on the left side of the little brook between the railroad and the river. The first teacher was Miss Mary Anne Hartt. At the same time Miss Hannah M. Kelly taught school in a house near her father's home, which is now occupied by Mr. Longmore. The "Old Blue Schoolhouse" stood until the year 1900 when it was burned by some boys on Halloween, who enjoyed a joke more than memories of the past. In 1862 a new school house was built on the hill. It soon got the name of "Mount Bleak Academy" and is now the residence of Mr. W.D. Nary. Seven years later this became a superior school with George E. Foster, now Sir George E. Foster, as its first principal. This school up to the year 1906 had 31 principals: J.B. Black (1862), Miss Annie J. Hart, Sir George E. Foster (1869), D.P. Harris,

D.W. Hartt, Josiah Murphy, C.M. Stevens, Dr. Harry Stickney, Dr. Simpson, Miss Phoebe A. Hartt, Mr. C.T. Kendry, Joseph Cahill (1873), Peter Campbell, Miss Olive M. Smith, Miss Jenny Kenny, H. Strongberg, S.D. Alexander (1889), Holly McGill, N.E. McIntyre, Edward Coleman, John Clindon, E.F. Miller (1877), H.H. Stuart, Charles Richards, (now M.P.P.), Harry Towne, Archibald Barker, W. Anderson, Timothy E. Coleman, Harry Bridges and Clarence Sansom. Our present school house, built in 1906, was known as the "Sunbury County Grammar School."

The principals up to the present time [1926] being: Norman Fraser, J.F. Alexander, Miss Louise Scott, Beverly McLeod, J.H. Barnett, M. McFarlane, Walter Clarke, Fred Manning, John Rogers, William Shea, Dyson Wallace, M. Brewer, Robert Fraser, Hugh Titus, F.G. Lawson, A.J. Brooks (MPP), J. McMonegale and H.H. Stewart. About 122 pupils have graduated from these schools and been trained for teachers, while 17 have taken courses in different colleges. Some of these men have gone to the "West" holding responsible positions. A number of these stayed in the homeland. We can boast that one of our Junction Scholars has filled the position of "Minister of Agriculture".

Until the year 1869, these people labored under a great disadvantage by bringing their food and taking their produce including furs, which were caught by the old way of hand-made traps known then as "Dead Falls", by water in canoes. Leaving Hartt's Mills for Saint John it took three days if not more to complete the trip. But at this date the first railroad was finished and was called the Western Extension. It was also in 1869 that Hartt's Mills was changed to Fredericton Junction, it was thus called because a branch was built from Fredericton to join the "Mainline". The engine making the first trip was called the William Park.

Some of the events which left deep memories in the lives of our Forefathers and one of the most remarkable was the

Miramichi Fire. This fire swept over this part of the country, laying waste lumber lands and dwellings, and leaving the country what seemed to be the people of these times most desolate. Many stories are told of the most striking instances which happened, and left memories never to be forgotten. It has been said that several small children in cradles were hidden under the Mill Dam for safety. As the evening drew

near and the fire swept on, leaving only one house standing in Hartts' Mills, the neighbours flocked there for safety, and it has been said that sleep was unthought of and the last hours of the night were spent in merry making. This house still stands today, being the first house that was built by the Hartts' after coming (1815).

In 1881 a cloud burst, doing much damage to the highways and railroad

bridges, and there was another even of greater power in 1900. On February 8th, 1861 our ancestors endured the coldest day, which is commonly called "Cold Friday". Then on October 4, 1869 a gale swept the country, called the "Saxby Gale" doing great damage to building and forest areas. We think as we have reviewed the past that we can truly say, that "Time hath done great things for us".

Today, Fredericton Junction might be called a busy railroad center, travellers can get railroad connections daily. Telephone and telegraph communications are at our hand at a small fee. We have our Grammar School, where a boy or girl can be fitted to enter college, accommodating not only our own pupils, but the pupils entering high school from any part of the country, two hotels and several boarding houses, a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, four general stores, two ice-cream parlors and two public halls. The railroad supplies employment to a large number of our men, and those who make a life work of this are engineers, firemen and brakemen, at an early age, while a large number are employed at construction work, telegraph operating or railroad work. Two of our boys are train dispatchers at the present time. In the Fall of 1925, the Fraser Lumber Company bought what was known as the old Samuel Pride property, building a Lath and Saw Mill, obtaining right-of-way through the farm of D.W. Mersereau, to make connections with the C.P.R. on the Fredericton Branch. They are installing a narrow gauge railway, to bring the sawed lumber to be shipped away.

We have also had this winter a portable mill about five miles from the station, sawing lumber on the land owned by the Simpson Estate in Diamond Square, and are having the sawed lumber loaded at the Junction. These mills have employed many of our men during the winter months. Besides work, when we rest from our labours, a walk of a mile or two from the Junction Depot, where you can spend a days vacation, bringing home a string of trout, with the best of scenery and our forests invite sportsmen who hardly ever go back disappointed.



*A Happy Holiday Season
and
Best Wishes for the New Year
from Everyone at the Officers' Quarters*



Drawing from *Truth*, Christmas Number, Dec. 25, 1899

Mr. Enoch Lunt, An Old Resident, Passes Away At Crock's Point

Reprinted from the *Fredericton Daily Mail*, November 6, 1926, reported by James Neville.

One of York County's oldest, best known and most highly esteemed citizens in the person of Mr. Enoch Lunt, passed away at his home at Lunt's Ferry on Saturday afternoon. His death was due to the infirmities of age he having turned the eighty-seventh milestone, and occurred after a lingering illness. Since the death of his wife some years ago, Mr. Lunt has resided with his son-in-law, Mr. Goodridge Sloat, at the old homestead at Crock's Point, better known as Lunt's Ferry.

NATIVE OF KINGSCLEAR

The late Mr. Lunt was a native of Hammondville, Parish of Kingsclear. He was a nephew and namesake of the late Mr. Enoch Lunt, who in the old days practically controlled the steamboat service on the lower Saint John River. He removed to the Parish of Bright when quite a young man and engaged in farming. He also took over the ferry service between Lower French Village and Crock's Point, operating it for a number of years in a manner highly satisfactory to the public. Ferry boats driven by horse power were quite common on the Saint John River in the old days and Mr. Lunt was the last man on the River

to use one of these craft for the transportation of passengers. His boat was a sidewheeler and a horse stationed on either side did the treadmill stunt which set the craft in motion after it had been shoved from shore and kept it going until the opposite shore was reached. Some twenty-five years ago Mr. Lunt abandoned the horse ferry and purchased a small steam tug, which towed the ferry back and forth and subsequently he installed a wire ferry. He abandoned the ferry service soon after the advent of the automobile.

KEPT SUMMER HOTEL

In addition to his ferry business Mr. Lunt for many years conducted a summer hotel which enjoyed a very large patronage, especially during weekends. On fine Sundays during the summer months scores of people would drive up from the city on the Kingsclear side, cross the ferry, have dinner and tea at Lunt's and return home by way of Mouth of Keswick. Mr. Lunt proved himself a genial host, and his hotel enjoyed a high reputation for its splendid service and cuisine.

Mr. Lunt was a strong Liberal in politics and in his younger days was an active worker at the polls for his party. A man of powerful physique and great strength he never allowed the "bone and sinew" which used to be much in evi-

dence at some of the country polling booths on election day, to put one over on him. He was a staunch supporter of the late Hon. A.G. Blair during the whole of his political life and enjoyed that gentleman's personal friendship. A link between the past and the present has certainly been severed by the death of Mr. Enoch Lunt.

The late Mr. Lunt is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Goodridge Sloat of Crock's Point, and five grandchildren. He also leaves four sisters, Mrs. Jarvis Tracey and Mrs. William Harris of Bath, Carleton County, Mrs. William McCain of Florenceville and Mrs. George Strange of Kingsclear. Messrs. Havelock Wheeler of Kingsclear and Charles Wheeler of this city are brothers-in-law. The deceased had for a number of years held membership in the Loyal Orange Association.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon and was largely attended. Services were conducted at the house and also at the Kingsclear Baptist Church by Rev. Mr. Corey, and interment was made in the Dunphy burying ground. The pallbearers were Joshua McNabb, Coun. John McIntosh, Harry Strange, Franklin Dunphy, Allen Hallet and Havelock Wheeler. The text was Isaiah XXXVIII, 12.

Enoch Lunt's Obituary: A Commentary... by Carolyn Atkinson

Coming across the obituary of Enoch Lunt who passed away in 1926 led to an afternoon visit with his grand-daughters, Edith Reed and Mildred Dunphy, who live comfortably in the old home which was built as a hotel, a back portion of which came from the Lunt's original house. It is thought that this present structure dates back to the 1890's, Mr. Lunt having purchased that

piece of property years earlier.

Nearby Lunt's grandson, Robert, lives on part of the original Sloat farm and the blood line of the Lunts is very much a presence at Crock's Point with great grandchildren and great great grandchildren living there. The McKinley Ferry, one time known as Lunt's Ferry, now is a thing of the past but remembering it makes a pleasant

pastime.

On the way to Crock's Point, one has the good fortune to see a quaint white church at McKeen's Corner. All Saints Anglican Church was built in 1861 and now is a Provincial Historic Site. According to the plaque, it is "an early work of designer the Reverend Edward Medley, son of Bishop John Medley" and is "a noteworthy example of Gothic

Revival in wood."

It was in the 1860's that a close relationship developed between the Sloats and the family of the Rector of All Saints Church, George Goodridge Roberts (Enoch Lunt's daughter was to marry Goodridge Sloat, a namesake of the good Rector who later became Canon at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton). Photographs of Canon Roberts and Mrs. Roberts hang proudly in the Lunt home.

Edith recalls one day she saw a visitor approaching the house. He assumed that she didn't know who he was but she quickly assured him that she did, and that he was Charles G.D. Roberts! He was looking for her father, Goodridge Sloat. Sadly, she told him that he had passed away.

The Lunt's summer hotel, now a home for Edith and Mildred, is a sanctuary where they can sit on their veranda and look across the St. John River with its overgrown banks to the hills beyond. They treasure the mementoes which they have around them. Photographs and paintings of friends and relatives, some long departed, watch over some of the same furniture and family possessions which welcomed visitors a long time ago.

Pitchers which daily were filled with cold milk and oversized creams and sugars keep company with a few

remaining pieces of a delicate china set said to have come from Ireland with the McCarthys to Bartibogue, New Brunswick. Later, following the Miramichi Fire, these were carried by great grandmother Smith in side-saddle baskets as she rode horseback from Bartibogue to settle at Crock's Point.

A Church of Ireland Prayer Book dated 1778, carrying Elizabeth Stone's name, is another connection to the Irish background of the Sloat family into which Enoch Lunt's daughter married. A letter from Ireland dated 1840 from the Smith side of the family is a touching account of a brother planning to move his large family to be near his brother. He wrote:

I am lonesome in this country since my dear and honored father departed this life. He very much grieved on his sick bed in respect of all his children being so far from him.

This man planned to leave his wife and children with the brother who lived nearest to their point of arrival in New Brunswick as his wife was "a little puny." Clearly the shorter distance for her to travel, the better for her.

Edith and Mildred recalled many stories of the happy times and hard work which revolved around the ferry service, farm work, and catering to hotel

guests. When Enoch Lunt passed away, his son-in-law took over but he died suddenly and it was left to Edith to run the ferry which crossed the river near their home. It was pointed out that Mr. Lunt built his own ferries and scows, his family having been boat builders. Summers would see families coming from Fredericton and area to have lunch or dinner at the hotel. They traveled by horse and carriage and later by car, going up one side, crossing on the ferry and returning home on the opposite side of the river. Boy Scouts pitched tents in a nearby field, students came on weekends to study for exams, teachers used it as a private spot to prepare exams and, happily, on hot summer days, family and visitors alike took advantage of the nearby river for cooling off.

As our visit ended, we walked through the lush green grass bordering their bountiful garden, the river beside us sporting its finest blue. We left with gifts of fresh vegetables and an armful of old-fashioned Golden Glow which had probably waved in the winds of many summers past and just maybe, caught the occasional admiring glance of Enoch Lunt.

Thanks to:
Edith Reed
Mildred Dunphy
Bruce Atkinson



The Lunt Horse powered ferry at Crock's Point. Courtesy of Mildred Dunphy and Edith Reed

POETRY PAVILLION

Martin Butler 1857-1915:

Peddler, Poet and Patriot...

by Patsy Hale

In 1889 a volume of verse was printed in the office of *The Daily Gleaner* in Fredericton, entitled, "Maple Leaves and Hemlock Branches": the Maple Leaves stood for New Brunswick and the Hemlock Branches for the state of Maine. Martin Butler, the author, was born in Norton, Kings County, New Brunswick, on September 1st, 1857. While Martin was still a boy the family moved across the border into Washington County, Maine where they went to work in a tannery. When seventeen years old Martin got caught in the machinery of the mill and an arm was amputated. Looking for lighter work after his recovery, he crossed into St. Stephen and procured a peddler's pack, which he carried all through his life. He tramped through New Brunswick in the counties of Charlotte, York and Sunbury, selling his wares and his writings.

His verses, though containing many imperfections, have vigor and freshness, and the lines are strongly accented as though composed in time to his marching feet. In 1890 he began publishing *Butler's Journal*, a monthly paper containing principally his own writings. A second volume of poems by Butler, *Patriotic and Other Poems*, was printed in 1896 at the Journal Offices, Fredericton.

In his two volumes there are verses of rough humor, verses in honor of friends whom he named, verses derogatory to named prominent people, verses about the localities he patronized, and verses about nature.

One of Butler's best string of verses is "The Peddler's Story". These are told as chats between the peddler and a farmer's wife, and begins,

Good Day sir! Walk into the kitchen
There sit down and take a rest;
A stranger is always welcome
Though my house is not the best,
And I ain't got it tidied up or fixed
For strangers or company,
And Saturday is a busy day
And there's no one to work but me.

Within this poem he also tells the story of how he lost his arm.

I was working in the tannery
Up at the Grand Lake Stream,
A-grinding bark on a winter's night,
They hauled in with a team.

The night was cold and frosty
And the belting wouldn't work,
But kept slipping around the pulley,
And I went to give it a jerk.
To set it again in motion,
When I found that my arm was wound
In a cog-wheel, up to the shoulder,
And terribly crushed and ground.

And I was left there hanging
About six feet from the floor,
Alone in those jaws of iron
For half an hour or more;

His love of this land and it's people is reflected in the poem "Charlotte, York and Sunbury". The last five verses of the poem read;

Suffice to say, the land is blest,
In my esteem o'er all the rest,
The people, God's nobility,
In Charlotte, York and Sunbury.

When weary wondering far and wide,
And buffeted by wind and tide,
I'll seek peace and obscurity
In Charlotte, York or Sunbury.

Upon some little patch of land,
Which I shall till with my own hand,
I think I'll gain a competency
In Charlotte, York or Sunbury.
And if there's one will share my lot
And occupy my humble cot,
We'll live from strife and sorrow free
In Charlotte, York or Sunbury.

And when this life with me is past,
And I am called away at last,
I hope a grave they'll dig for me
In Charlotte, York or Sunbury

His appreciation of nature is evident in these first two verses from "The Coming of the Fall":

A haze is o'er the landscape,
The nights are colder grown:
The wind is howling round the house
With low and sullen moan.
In short a sense of weariness
Is stealing over all -
And everything seems to portend
The coming of the fall.
The maples's Crimson banners
Are flaunting in the sun,
And downward in the eddying gusts
Are dropping one by one;
We hear the birds from every tree
Their songs of farewell call -

The years departing minstrelsey,
The coming of the fall.

And now to close with a fine example of the type of humorous poem Butler enjoyed writing. For your entertainment, "The Frog's Chorus":

The ground is bare, the ice has gone,
The frogs are singing in the ponds:
I passed a pond the other day
And this is what I heard them say:-

Chorus.

Look out for Tommy Cl-yt-n, he'll stab you with a fork -
He'll pack you up inside a box and send you to New York;
Lay low and do not make a noise, down deep within the mud,
I see him coming with his boys, I know they're on for blood.

For years we've lived a happy life unheeding of alarm,
We've twanged out flageolet and fife by forest field and farm,
Till Tommy Cl-yt-n came along and so disturbed our joys,
Intent on doing grievous wrong, with George and Gus., his boys.

(Chorus)

It's sad we can't enjoy ourselves as we were wont to do
Before the swell New Yorkers got so fond of a frog stew,
And while McKinley's putting up a duty on the logs,
I hope he won't forget to put a tariff on the frogs.

Peddler's Story and *Charlotte, York and Sunbury* from:

Maple Leaves and Hemlock Branches
A collection of poems by Martin Butler
Fredericton, NB; Gleaner Job Offices; 1889

The Coming of Fall and *The Frog's Chorus* from:

Patriotic and Personal Poems
Fredericton, NB; Journal Offices; 1896

Biographical information from:
The River St. John and Its Poets by L.B.M. Maxwell
2nd printing enlarged Sackville, NB; 1947

Recipes From The Pioneer Kitchen...

by Pat Flemming

It is very possible that our ancestors ate more nutritiously and wisely in days past than we do today. When we come to think of it, most of their food came directly fresh from their gardens and fruit from trees. Processed foods were unheard of. My Grandfather Murray who was a farmer buried turnip in the ground so it would last the winter. Carrots, potatoes and apples were kept in a cool basement throughout the winter months. The following recipes are nutritious old fashioned recipes - A Taste of New Brunswick:

Rutabaga (Turnip) and Potato Surprise

- 1 cup mashed rutabaga (turnip)
- 1/2 cup mashed potatoes
- 1 tbsp. real butter
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs

Mix rutabaga and potatoes together. Blend in the butter and egg. Beat lightly and stir in flour, baking powder, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Spoon mixture into a greased 2 cup baking dish. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake in a 375 degree F. oven until top is lightly browned (about 25 minutes). Makes 2 - 3 servings.

Whole Wheat Muffins

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1-1/2 cups natural bran
- 1/2 cup raisins (optional)
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1-1/2 tsps. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt

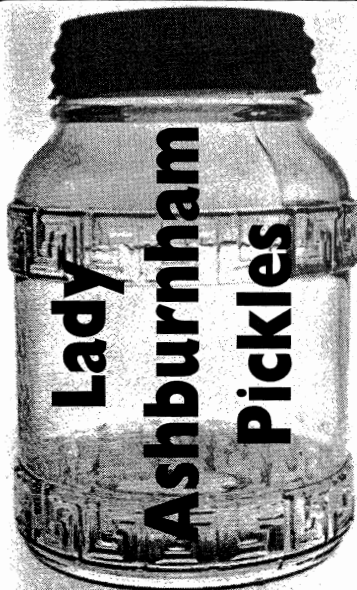
Beat together the vegetable oil, brown sugar, molasses, eggs and milk. Add bran and raisins. Mix well. Combine whole wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add to liquid ingredients. Stir just until moistened. Do not over mix. Spoon mixture into prepared

muffin cups. Bake at 400 degrees F. for 15 minutes.

Cranberry and Apple Salad

- 2 cups cranberries
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 envelope gelatin
- 2 tbsp. extra cold water
- 1/4 cup chopped roasted peanuts
- 1/2 cup diced apples
- 1/2 cup diced celery

Cook the two cups cranberries in the 1 cup of water and cook gently until the skins break. Rub through sieve. To strained liquid add 1 cup sugar. Boil gently 5 minutes. Take off heat. Soften one envelope unflavoured gelatin in 2 tsps. cold water and blend into the hot cranberry mixture. Let cool until the mixture begins to thicken. Add 1/4 cup chopped roasted peanuts, 1/2 cup diced apples and 1/2 cup diced celery. Pour into oiled molds to chill. When stiff, unmold and serve on salad greens with mayonnaise or cooked salad dressing mixed with whipped cream. Serves 8.



Nearly all New Brunswick recipe books seem to include "Lady Ashburnham Pickles." These mustard pickles, although time-consuming to make, are so very tasty! Here is Pat Flemming's family favourite:

LADY ASHBURNHAM PICKLES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 6 large cucumbers | 3 tbsp. flour |
| 1/4 cup pickling salt | 1 tbsp. mustard |
| 1 quart onions (chopped fine) | 1 tbsp. turmeric |
| 1 pint vinegar | 1 tsp. mustard seed |
| 2 cups sugar | 1 tsp. celery seed |

Peel and remove seeds from the cucumbers and then cut very fine as for relish. Add the pickling salt and let stand overnight. Drain in the morning and add the onions. Place on the stove and bring to a boil with the vinegar and the sugar. Simmer gently until the pickles are clear (about one hour). Mix a little cold vinegar with the flour and then add the mustard, the turmeric, the mustard seed, and the celery seed. Pour some of the hot pickles into the cold vinegar mixture and then put all back into the kettle. Boil gently until pickles thicken. Remove from heat and seal in sterilized jars. (In later years, chopped red and green peppers have been added for colour.)

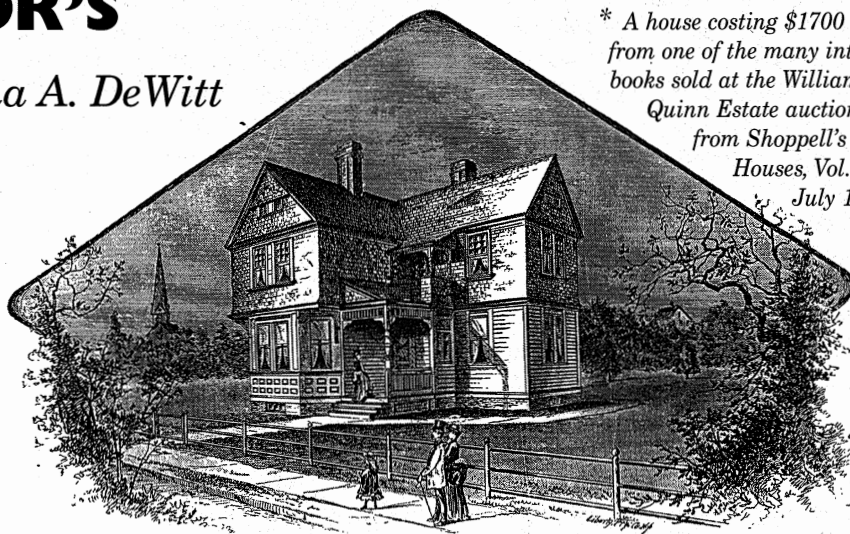
THE COLLECTOR'S ROOM... by Katrina A. DeWitt

Going once, going twice, are there any more bids? Sold!" That is the mantra at both humble country auctions and at the perhaps more posh displays of sophisticated and prestigious auction houses. But what is the peculiar chemistry that makes auctions so typically fascinating?

Are contemporary auctions so well attended because people are seeking that one treasure, that one remnant from their past, which now would complete their collections? Perhaps there is a simpler answer. Could the vogue of auctions be due to the satisfaction, at least in the buyers' views, of getting something for a bargain? Many would argue that participating in an auction offers thrills and excitement which are unattainable by purchasing items at a local mall. Some people, of course, go to prestigious auctions because these are also social affairs. But auctions do offer an unstructured and uncharted increment to most of our everyday experiences.

I suggest that auctions can be a most effective means for buying quality antiques. The popularity of antique shops seems to have declined over the past twenty-five years but most would agree that auction firms and auction sales have increased significantly in North America. This especially seems true in the Maritimes. Local auction "barns" are common in small rural communities and regular auctions seem entrenched in our towns and cities. The largest regional company in this area, A-1 Auctioneers, travels the Atlantic Provinces throughout the year holding two to three auctions each week.

No one knows exactly when auctions first began but they were common in the Roman Era. Both Caligula and Marcus Aurelius auctioned household effects to help solve their financial difficulties. (Cassidy, 1980:28). Two of the world's most famous auction houses, Sothebys' and Christies', were established in England by the eighteenth century. Auctions also were common in



* A house costing \$1700 complete, from one of the many interesting books sold at the William (Billy) Quinn Estate auction. Taken from Shoppell's Modern Houses, Vol. 1, No. 3, July 1886; 159.

the British Colonies. A nearby reminder was the huge auction at Old Government House in Fredericton on August 18, 1897. The auctioneer was E.H. Allen. The Government House, due to economic problems, had been closed in 1894 as the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor. An 1897 printed catalogue listed 697 larger items such as furniture made by Thomas Nisbet. As with any household of this size, there were hundreds of smaller items including books and the kitchen contents. That auction ran for two days and netted about \$2000 (Fredericton Daily Gleaner, 1997). This was a considerable sum considering that the furniture would have been looked upon as second hand. And you could build a five-bedroom Victorian home with a kitchen and pantry, dining room, sitting room, parlor, balcony and alcove for \$1700 complete.* The Provincial Government for the past several years has been reacquiring many of those catalogue items from 1897. How things have changed! Old Government House was restored to its former glory and was reopened on June 6, 1999.

The Old Government House auction, according to the Daily Gleaner of the day, was a "much talked about" and exciting affair. I can recall similar anticipation and interest in a Fredericton auction some twenty years ago. The auctioneer was Charles Palk and the auction was held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. At the William (Billy) Quinn Estate auction, some 1800

lots were listed and sold over three days. The hours on the first day were from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; on the second and third days the hours were from 10 am to 8 pm. The homestead dated back several generations and the items made up the finest estate auction seen for many years.

The Quinn house was filled from basement to attic with enticing items. The family apparently never discarded anything. Everything seemed in excellent condition and, in my view, many items were of museum quality. Victorian furniture particularly was abundant and interesting. There was special appeal in the more than 200 antique toys including a Victorian wax bridal doll in its original box. There were many boxes of the London Illustrated News dating back to the 1800's, artistically arranged dried flowers and stuffed birds covered with glass domes, cranberry pitchers and glass sets, school bells patented in 1842, and a library of precious and informative books. For those who cared, there also were 'Gone With the Wind' lamps and beautifully lithographed "Old Chum" tobacco calendars from the 1930's on the auction block.

Rarely do such large estates come for sale today. It is fortunate that not everyone likes antiques. If a large estate of a deceased person comes up for sale, it usually is handled by lawyers or trust companies and everything is sold. The trend is for older couples to down-size to an apartment or condominium

and to dispose of numerous possessions first. Similarly, many of the old Victorian homes in New Brunswick have been converted from one to six or more units because taxes and maintenance are just too expensive and time consuming.

What do we find at auctions today? A hodge-podge of new and used items such as household furniture, electrical appliances, lamps, curtains, linens, tools, decorative items and, yes, if we are fortunate, a Handel Lamp or an authentic eighteenth century sampler. The typical auction consists of mixed lots from two or more estates, items from liquidations or bankruptcies, and it may well include articles on consignment from dealers and collectors. There is an increasing trend as well for foreign imports from abroad and the United States to be offered up for sale. The regional and local auction houses in the Atlantic Provinces are similar to what is found elsewhere in North America. The same jargon, rules and regulations, practices and auction dynamics apply here.

What one finds at the auction markets varies, depending upon the auctioneers and the communities in which they take place. One month one may be viewing the fruits of a discerning collector and another month might only offer low quality household castaways. The "good" only can be separated from the "bad" by attending the various sales.

Auctioneering firms occasionally group sales of specific items such as art or primitives. Special sales sometimes also are organized with higher quality "important" items for special events such as Thanksgiving or Ground Hog Day. Listings of items often are printed. There usually are reserves placed on the better articles for obvious reasons. The "reserve" is the amount below which the consignor will not sell. It is "... a price below which the piece will be withdrawn or 'bought back' from the house. In most cases the bidder will never know this has happened, since the auctioneer will make it appear that the piece has been sold to an absentee bidder." (Ketchum, 1980:100). All of the finer auction houses place reserves on their merchandise. Most of the local

auction houses prefer not to take too many reserve bids. If the reserve lot is not sold, a percentage still is charged by the auction house. Items advertised at the high end of the scale clearly are calculated to attract the socially conscious who like to be seen at such affairs and who feel compelled to buy at inflated prices.

Still, you must always be positive. There always are a few good quality pieces of antique furniture or a few exceptional pieces of glass or china at local auctions. Regional houses usually carry higher quality items. These await discerning and careful buyers. Theoretically, one might at any time spot a "sleeper", i.e. something of good quality that gets knocked down for a reasonable price. There usually are a few curious items, the purposes for which defy the imagination, and they become the focal point for speculation. Attending several different auctions and being informed about auctions can result in better buying power.

Most auctions are advertised in your local papers. By studying the auctioneer's puffery and by attending a few auctions it soon becomes easy to determine the type of merchandise being offered by a particular auction firm. You should take special note of the viewing times advertised. The norm is one hour before the auction begins. Viewing, in the case of a larger estate, may be the night before the auction.

Previewing an auction sale is important. Always be informed about what you are buying because most items are sold "as is, where is." You should remember that the auctioneer and staff are there to sell and they always are prepared to answer any questions. Cassidy, for example, describes the auction as "... a business process into which both parties enter with eyes open." It is the buyer's responsibility to carefully examine the items on which they intend to bid.

Even the seat which you select has significance. Seats sometimes may be reserved with the auction firm but, with most auctions, placing a sweater, coat or card on the seat with your name upon it will do the job. The strategy of where you are seated plays an interest-

ing part in auction dynamics. Sitting at the front may give you a good view if you decide to bid on an item which you have not previewed. But sitting "at the front of the bus" does have its disadvantages. For one thing, you can't see who is bidding against you. Many buyers, particularly dealers, like to stand or sit near the back of the crowd. This not only affords them a good view but it maintains elements of anonymity and surprise. Other buyers prefer to move about nonchalantly. Some even lurk mysteriously behind posts or corners. Serious collectors try to hide their bids from the crowd because they probably wish only one or two items and they don't want these items to be bid up.

Dealers, as a result, often send representatives or agents to bid for them or they simply may choose to leave "absentee" bids at the desk. Such absentee bids represents maximums which bidders are willing to pay for items. In a perfect world, the auctioneer is unaware of the amounts of absentee bids and he or she would not begin the bidding with such bids. "Telescoping" the amount you are willing to pay, quite clearly, will result in your paying exactly that amount. I recall one auction where the government agent announced before the sale exactly how much he could spend. Curiously, he got the furniture item for that amount.

Paper and pen also are necessities at any auction. Mark or check on the printed inventory the number of the items you wish to buy. If a printed list is not available, and this often is the case, write the lot numbers and a description of the articles, and note the maximum amounts you wish to pay. This extra work probably will save you money later.

Sometimes, auctions take on lives of their own. A rhythm, much like that of a tropical beat, becomes established and people pay extraordinary prices for quite ordinary things. This "auction fever" makes people lose control of their usual senses. This is wonderful for the auctioneer but bodes poorly for the innocent buyer. That is when it is helpful to have predetermined maximum bidding amounts.

Registering your name and obtain-

ing a bidding card also are important. You will find the terms and conditions of the sale on the back of the bidding card. These terms usually are straight forward (but read the fine print) and contain such conditions as the terms of payment, and the firm's statement that there are no representations or warranties as to age, condition and authenticity. You also are told that the methods and the advancements on the bids are solely at the discretion of the auctioneer. The card also emphasizes that all sales are final. It usually is explained that, in the case of disputed sales, the auctioneer decides the matter. By the way, it is your responsibility to pay for and to remove that which you have purchased before leaving the auction.

Auctioneers in most Canadian jurisdictions, drawing upon British Common Law, claim the right to pass or withdraw items for which no sufficient bids have been received. From looking at these terms and conditions, we may fairly conclude that the auctioneer is one of the most important components of an auction. That is why it makes sense for you to go to several auctions and to study the auctioneer's style. Are there fast knockdowns? Certainly such rapid selling focuses the crowd's attention. Does the auctioneer tell anecdotes? Is the general pace moderate or fast? Does he or she tell you details about each item or does the auctioneer puff up only the more important arti-

cles? Does the auctioneer have an area of expertise? Does he or she begin the bidding at the price he or she thinks the piece is worth?

Some auctioneers use "fillers". He or she may ask, "Will you make it," "Quickly bid," "Will you go?" or "Who will go?" (Hewitt, 1975: 50-51). The call can become so garbled that it may be difficult to distinguish between opening bids, asking bids and bidding increments. The usual practice is for the auctioneer to ask for a reasonable opening bid. For example, on a commode he may ask \$200; on a piece of pressed glass, he may ask \$20. If the auctioneer receives no bid, he may pass the item or drop down "in Dutch style" until someone bids. Then he will start back upwards. Knowing the values of items, of course, is an asset.

Auctions take a great deal of time and organization. A large auction firm, for example, must have extensive contacts throughout the larger community. Such firms can never depend exclusively upon people bringing consignments. Household estates typically involve preliminary evaluations or appraisals, if requested, and these form the basis for the advertising. Careful and accurate advertising makes both buyers and sellers more comfortable. All of the collected items must then be packed and unpacked, dusted and shone, and thus made more attractive for buyers. A detailed inventory is then prepared. The auctioneer's expertise is in knowing

the values of items in the open market and in recognizing which items sell well in particular areas. For example, the estate of a deceased person often sells for much more if it is sold in that person's home community. The estates of well-known persons, politicians and academics alike, typically sell for higher than average market prices.

So there is a great deal more to auctions than meets the eye. Go, watch, listen and buy. But, above all, enjoy yourself and leave with your recently acquired treasures.

Those who are interested in sources may consult: Ralph Cassidy, Jr., *Auctions and Auctioneering*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1980; L.G.Hewitt, *All About Auctions*, Ghelton Book Co., Pennsylvania, 1975; William C. Ketchum, Jr., *Auction*, Sterling Publishing Co., New York, N.Y., 1980; Hyla Wulfs Fox, *Antiques*, Dundurn Press, Toronto and Oxford, 1990; The (Fredericton) *Daily Gleaner*, "Today Section," August 16, 1997; Shoppell's, *Modern Houses*, Vol. 1 No. 3, New York, July 1886.

Katrina DeWitt is a Charter Member of the Sunbury-West Historical Society, a Life Member of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, a past Chairperson of the Docents at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and present Editor of the Officers' Quarters. Katrina also is an Estate Consultant and Appraiser with A-1 Auctioneers, Saint John, NB.

WATCH OUR NEXT ISSUE...

...for *Reminiscences of a General Store Seventy Years Ago*, by the late Susan Katherine Squires. Written in the 1930's, Susan Squires recounts her childhood in the 1800's at her father's general store. The business was located at 73 St. Mary's Street, Fredericton. She describes the types of food and merchandise that her father sold in his store as well as his difficulty in obtaining many items during various times of the year. But of particular interest is the social life that surrounded the general store. It remained open every night until eleven and was a meeting place for many. This insight into life in the late 1800's provides both informative and interesting reading.

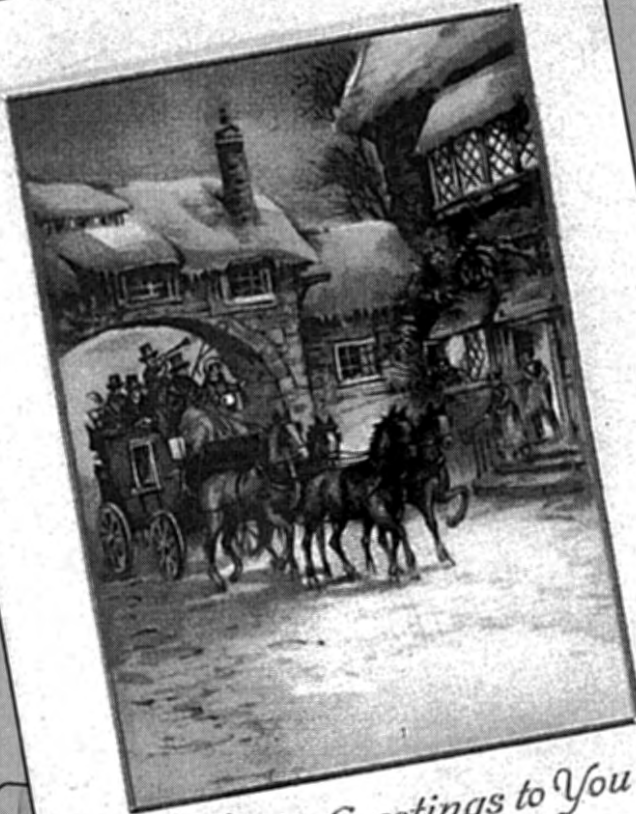


For that unique gift for those one of a kind people

The Gift Shop at the York-Sunbury Museum

Open Tuesday to Saturday 12 to 5





Hearty Greetings to You

*The card sent to
Dr. Frank F. Ramey
by The Countess
Asburnham in 1937.*



*Happy
Memories*

*Christmastime
is a jolly time,
a mistletoe and holly time
With good will all around;
May this one be
the best you've had,
with everything
to make you glad,
And happiness abound.*

*The
Countess of Asburnham*