

The Officers' Quarters

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Remembering Miss Hill



The Officers' Quarters

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Front Cover

Louise Hill (courtesy of Keith Minchin)

Back Cover

The Hill Family at Summer Villa (courtesy of Katherine Le Butt)

Editorial Committee's Message . . .

In this issue we feature the life and work of Louise Hill. A longtime and faithful member of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, Miss Hill was a keen observer of the city's life and heritage. We begin with a wonderful essay in which Steve Patterson reveals the woman and her causes. This is followed by thirteen vignettes drawn from Miss Hill's writings. They tell the stories of thirteen houses and the people and families who occupied them over the course of a century or more. They are more than accounts of some old buildings in Fredericton: taken together they provide us with a narrative social history of nineteenth century Fredericton. While Miss Hill had a particular interest in the lives of the

"great families" of the province, the characters found in her writings cover a wide social spectrum. We learn much of what constituted influence and social standing in Fredericton and we also learn a good deal about family relationships. Interesting questions abound. How many of these thirteen houses and lots were given to daughters as bequests or as wedding gifts? How many of the owners were connected to the disgraced Receiver-General George Pidgeon Bliss? What happened to outsiders when the local establishment closed ranks against them? From the perspective of another generation it's time to revisit Miss Hill and the society which she reveals.



Summer Villa: Home of a Chief Justice, of a Father of Confederation, and of Louise Hill.

Remembering Miss Hill

By Stephen Patterson

When she died seven years ago this fall (October 14, 1996), Louise Hill was 95, five years short of her ambition to receive 100th birthday greetings from Queen Elizabeth. It was, of course, but one ambition among many, most of them achieved, that had driven this diminutive yet sprightly grand old lady from project to project until the very end. Along the way, she wore out a good many of her friends, and others who might have been her friends, while never seeming to tire of her passions: the monarchy, heritage, and history, especially the history of the Loyalists and of her adopted city, Fredericton.

To those closest to her, she was "Louise." To the rest of us, she was "Miss Hill." The phone book even listed her as "Miss," an anachronism that deeply worried the telephone company in an age when the safety of single women living alone seemed more important than Edwardian proprieties. Yet Miss Hill insisted, and as those of us who knew her recall all too well, what Miss Hill demanded she usually got. She might have been tiny, but she had the fighting spirit of a British bulldog. She rarely retreated from a good argument and, as several city fathers discovered to their great discomfort, she could be, by turn, demanding, single-minded and tenacious.

Miss Hill was a pillar of the York-Sunbury Historical Society for more than fifty years. She was a founder of Fredericton Heritage Trust, a member of the Monarchist League of Canada, the founder of the local chapter of the United Empire Loyalists' Association, and a generous financial supporter of numerous local causes, notably in heritage preservation and animal welfare. She was among the most

insistent that the City assume full responsibility for preserving and protecting the Old Burying Ground in the centre of the Old Town Plat, and she helped spearhead the campaign to repair headstones and construct an iron fence to reduce vandalism and loitering.



Miss Hill

But surely the most remarkable of her accomplishments were her published books. Beginning with *Maugerville, 1763-1963* (1963), she was the author of six volumes, and at her death was hard at work on the seventh, volume four of her walking tour of *The Old Burying Ground*, as she entitled it, perhaps the most complete collection in print of biographical sketches of Fredericton's founders. In between, she wrote *Fredericton, New Brunswick, British North America* (1968) and *Some Loyalists and Others* (1977). Her work is that of an amateur historian, and, yes, we all know that there are occasional mistakes. On the other hand, her books are an indispensable starting

point for anyone interested in local genealogy, Fredericton's early history, and its built heritage. They bear the imprint of Miss Hill's world view and her sometimes unique syntax, but they are also, without question, works of love and admiration for the builders of our civic culture.

For Miss Hill, history was vital. And if she sometimes spoke of long-gone founders of the city as if they were still with us, it was because, to her, there was no clear dividing line between past and present. The past lived in her mind and in her books.

She was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on March 7, 1901, the daughter of Frederic William Hill and Henrietta (Johnston) Hill. Christened Isabel

Louise, she was the pampered daughter of a family of means. Her grandfather, Andrew Gregory Hill, was a magistrate; her father, a lawyer and, for a time, mayor of Niagara Falls. Family history mattered: they were Pennsylvania Loyalists on her father's side, helped in their escape from the Revolution by loyal Iroquois on their way to Canada. Her mother was descended from an aristocratic Irish family from County Cork. Among them was one *Gallant* who fought under Wellington at Waterloo. For the young Louise, these were romantic and adventurous stories, proof that the past mattered.

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 dramatically changed the comfortable life of attorney Hill and his little family. A long-serving militiaman, he enlisted in the Canadian Army, trained at Valcartier, Quebec, and rose rapidly in the officer corps. He went overseas as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, and in 1916 until the end of the war, he commanded the 9th Infantry Brigade of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. While he served in France, his wife and daughter lived in southern England. Louise entered St. Hilda's School, Folkstone, which cultivated her Edwardian manners and permanently shaped her speech, giving her not quite an English accent, but a definite British crispness, and a style that some people took as English. If ever it was needed, her experience cast her for life as a dedicated and unrepentant Anglophile.

She was educated, too, by the military life that surrounded her, both during and after the war. "Daddy," as she called him to her dying day, became a Brigadier-General, one of the CEF's highest ranking officers. Medals and honours came his way. The pomp and circumstance of the parade square and the company of the officer class, old and young, left a deep impression on a malleable young girl. Louise came of age surrounded by gentlemen, and she loved them.

Asked much later why she had never married, she could only say, after some reflection: "But there were so many!"

The young Louise loved fine clothes – silks, satins, and velvets – and she stocked up on enough

of them to last a lifetime. And she loved slippers – dancing slippers – because she loved dancing. There was never a shortage of dashing cadets eager to escort her to the dance floor, intent on impressing both her and Daddy. Louise, for her part, perfected the art of flirting, not easily described but in her case mostly achieved with the eyes and the angle she chose to look at you. Any man who ever met her will know what I mean; she never lost it, even when her sight failed.

After the war, General Hill became part of the Permanent Staff of the Canadian Army and eventually he was placed in command of Military District No. 7 (New Brunswick) which brought him and his family to Fredericton. When he retired from the military in 1930, he was appointed first chief commissioner of the New Brunswick Provincial Police. He retired fully in 1933. For several years, the family lived at 435 Waterloo Row in what is now known as Somerville House. The name is a misnomer, according to Miss Hill. It was properly "Summer Villa," the summer home at one time of a wealthy and largely absentee family. (Perhaps it has come full circle.) The Hills also lived briefly on upper Charlotte Street and University Avenue before acquiring the house on Waterloo Row that we so much associate with Louise.

Life here, however, was not easy. Louise spent her first years here caring for an ailing mother, who died when Louise was still in her mid thirties. And with her mother gone, she felt the obligation to keep house for Daddy, an obligation born of a deep devotion and loyalty. Here was the better explanation of why she never married.

The socially conscious Louise also had trouble with Fredericton itself, or at least with the social set that mattered to her. She remarked years later that she doubted she would ever be accepted here. You have to be born here, she said; it doesn't matter how long you live here if you come from somewhere else. Yet, of course, she ironically became almost an icon of Fredericton and one of its most prolific historians, perhaps as her way of overcoming whatever resistance there might first have been to accepting her.

While she kept house for Daddy, and helped him entertain the stream of visitors who regularly called to chat or play cribbage, she took employment. She became chief librarian at the Legislative Library which, until the 1950s when the John Thurston Clark Memorial Library was established, served as a library not only for legislators but also for the reading public in and around Fredericton. It was here that I first met Miss Hill. She was impressive even to a child of five and her surroundings were, I thought, palatial. Miss Hill's dark polished desk sat centered at the far end of the great room, flanked on either side by the gorgeous red plush chairs on which George VI and Queen Elizabeth had sat during their state visit of 1939. I had to try them both.

Miss Hill was now a woman in her forties, her hair swept up on her head in the same fashion she retained until her death, her glasses dangling on a black cord about her neck. She glided about the carpeted floor as if on wheels, quick in everything she did, brisk in her public manner, helpful to readers (my grandmother, whose hand I clutched on our frequent visits, was an avid bibliophile). In later days, I would see Miss Hill on her way to or from work, typically attired in a proper grey wool suit, laced black shoes, and hat, pedaling her bicycle with its woven wooden basket on the handlebars, like as not carrying several books. They say that she never learned to brake properly, and every arrival was a crash landing, supposedly an explanation for later problems of lameness and an inability to stand upright. More than likely it was osteoporosis that contributed to her eventual condition.

In most respects, Miss Hill was not a feminist, except in one. She believed in employment equity long before anyone had coined the phrase. She was grateful to Premier John B. McNair for her job, but she blamed him for never giving her a proper raise, and for eventually hiring her a male assistant who was paid more than she. Years later, it remained a sore point, and a source of her strong belief in the rights of working women.

General Hill died in 1954 and his funeral was the grandest occasion of the year. A military brass band with crepe-covered muffled drums headed the procession. The flag-draped casket was carried atop a gun carriage from his Waterloo Row home to the

Cathedral while a soldier followed behind with the General's medals on a handsome velvet cushion. An honour guard did the slow march, shuffling to the Cathedral along Brunswick Street while an 11-gun salute pounded from the Green. He was buried in the family plot in Niagara Falls, and Louise was now alone. Alone in the house at 24 Waterloo Row that was to remain her home until her own death some 42 years later.

It was a handsome house, one that suited her well, with its high ceilings, dark woodwork, and Victorian bay window. The dim light seemed to go with the place, and the great glass-fronted china cabinets held her treasures, silver and glassware that evoked memories for her of family and intimate social occasions with polite company – old port, coffee, cigars for the men. Miss Hill continued to entertain friends at tea or sherry, and, especially as the years went by, the number of her friends and acquaintances expanded. They were more than social acquaintances; they became accomplices in her late-life career as a writer, historian, monarchist, civic activist, and supreme individualist. She recruited people to her causes, and it was hard to say No.

Her cousin, John Fraser, said at her funeral that Louise was an eccentric. Whether she was always so, we can perhaps only guess, but in her senior years, she certainly was. Her reputation grew with the passing of time. In the 1950s, she regularly phoned CNR whenever a freight train shunted across the old railway bridge by way of the overpass less than 100 yards from her house. It rattled her dishes, she complained. You must do something about this, she once told me and a teen-aged friend of mine, anticipating, it seems, that perhaps one day we would have political clout. (How ironic.) Two decades later, she had shifted to complaining about low-flying aircraft that disturbed her peace as she sat in her garden. City Hall got the brunt of these criticisms, probably because she discovered (as we all do) that you cannot phone the airport and actually talk to a human being.

For many years, her enthusiasms centered on the York-Sunbury Historical Society. Tourists who came into the Legislative Library with questions about Fredericton and its surroundings prompted her

early interest in local history, and she translated this into visits to the museum and regular attendance at meetings of the society. When she wrote her first book on the occasion of the bicentennial of Maugerville, she followed in the footsteps of local historian Lilian Maxwell, the volume of whose work she eventually surpassed.

By the 1970s, Miss Hill got about with a cane, and in a way, it served as a symbol of the feisty civic environmentalist she became. She was among those who, while attending a meeting of the York-Sunbury, gradually became inflamed by word of the province's plans to build a highway on the riverfront and deal away much of the military compound for a shopping mall. The inimitable Stuart Smith was the speaker and, as he has explained, before he was finished, the assembled membership was shouting and throwing money at him to hire a lawyer. It was out of this meeting that Fredericton Heritage Trust was born, a union of history lovers and environmentalists, and the great battles to stop CPR's Marathon Realty, the would-be mall developers, and later the Westmorland Street Bridge, began.

Miss Hill attended every public meeting. She invariably sat at the front, two hands placed firmly on the top of her cane in front of her, her jaw clenched, her lips pursed, ready to interject a comment whenever opportunity presented. She was uncompromising. Worked into fever pitch, she would go home, phone then Mayor J.W. (Bud) Bird, and rip strips off him. She turned furiously against Premier Richard Hatfield and told him so to his face. Some think she simply tired of the Hatfield government because it stayed on too long. In fact, her fury developed in the heated civic battles of the seventies while Mr. Hatfield was still in his first term.

John Fraser called her "The Immutable Miss Hill," noted for her constancy, courage, grit, and loyalty. "When she was on the attack," he wrote after her death, "it was truly amazing to see the explosion of passion such a tiny, feather-light, handicapped body could express."

Yet she was more than conscience and bundled energy. Miss Hill was a brilliant conversationalist with wide interests. She was as the occasion

required witty, charming, and enormously good humoured. She loved to laugh and to make others laugh. And she loved being the centre of attention. She had numerous friends, as the great piles of Christmas goodies ranked annually on the stairs inside her front door attested. But she could also be hard on her friends, and it took a particular steadfastness to carry the most devoted along. Katherine LeButt was a pillar of strength in this respect.

Miss Hill was nearly 80 when she turned to her last great project. For years, she had collected epitaphs in the Old Burying Ground (incorrectly identified by most people as the old graveyard or old burial ground, she complained). She had also done research on some of the sleepers, and wanted to expand on this to permit full biographical sketches which she proposed to publish in a book. She could not do it alone, she knew, and thus she recruited a small army of her friends to help. We met in her living room for tea and ended up signing an application to the federal government's New Horizon Program for funds to complete the project. The application was successful, and the funding for an eventual four volumes was forthcoming.

It was a labour of love for Miss Hill. Almost completely blind, she used broad black felt pens to write notes. Faithful friends typed and retyped the manuscript while others read for her. On some days, not surprisingly given her age and physical condition, she was cranky and difficult to please. I discovered the hard way that one did not suggest editorial improvements in her writing. "But that would not be me," was her terse reply. And so they appeared, a volume at a time, warts and all, but in so many ways a treasure trove of useful information, and a fitting monument to a woman for whom Fredericton had always been both a challenge and an inspiration.

It is easy to think of Miss Hill as an anachronism. Her cousin, John Fraser, called her an Old Tory, as if perhaps an aging political ideology best described her. Others wrote of her Victorian or Edwardian ways. There is, of course, the kernel of truth in all such characterizations. She was, on the other hand, a most modern woman. She believed fervently in equality in the workplace. She either

never learned about, or never accepted, the notion of "a woman's place." As devoted as she was to her father and mother, and as self-sacrificing her service to them, she emerged as a strongly independent woman who lived alone until her death, and was never cowed by corporate giants, mayors, premiers, or others "set in authority over us."

She was, the notion of Old Tory to the contrary, perhaps more properly, a civic humanist. If she had come from Boston, we would call her a Boston Brahmin, for whom inherited privilege brought obligations. She had a powerful sense of responsibility to the community, and she defined community first in purely local terms. She believed that society is shaped by the citizenry, by the builders, shopkeepers, teachers, preachers, artisans, and laborers such as populated her Fredericton of years gone by, and now lie together in the centre of it all.

Yet her sense of community did not end there. Just as in her book title – *Fredericton, New*

Brunswick, British North America – she saw concentric rings of community, and a powerful glue fastened the one to the other, epitomized for her in the monarchy. On the surface an old-fashioned idea, indeed anathema for the post-colonialists, her world view dealt directly with the world she lived in, a world of international corporations and distant, seemingly unreachable, policy-makers. As a counterweight, Miss Hill offered tradition, both symbolic and tangible, a conviction that towns and cities are the source of civilized values, and a firm belief that even the tiniest person has a right to be heard.

Cincinnatus and Machiavelli, voices from the ancient world and from the Renaissance, may have invented the concept of civic consciousness, but in our time and place, it was Louise Hill, a mere wisp of a woman, who found a unique way of showing us how such a notion might work.

Louise Hill's Fredericton:

By Louise Hill

74 Shore Street



74 Shore Street from the Front

It is thought that the north wing (or kitchen ell) of the house in Shore Street, owned and occupied for many years by Sterling Edwards and now by Norma and Gordon Ferguson, was a pre-Loyalist dwelling. Perhaps it had been abandoned by a settler who departed with Olivier Thibodeau, senior, who, along with other Acadians, received a grant up river at the mouth of the Madam Keswick (now Mouth of Keswick). In 1786 the house and lot was reserved by Lieutenant Monson Hayt, the agent for Benedict Arnold, who was acquiring property in the area. As a trustee of the town, Hayt was in a position to choose what he wanted, and he chose the most desirable property. Hayt sold the property with one acre of land to William Anderson a merchant. Unfortunately, Anderson was obliged to relinquish it to Colonel Jacob Ellegood, a prominent Loyalist landowner in the area a few years later for just five shillings.

In 1818 Ellegood's son, John Saunders Ellegood, Captain, 55th Regiment of Foot "at present stationed in the Isle of Jersey" sold the lot to Captain George Shore who also acquired all the Waterloo Row acreage once owned by Colonel Ellegood. John Ellegood was the second son of the Colonel and had been a merchant in Fredericton for several

years before entering the army. Shore, late of the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment, was a man of such capabilities and distinguished service that in May 1821 he was appointed Adjutant General of Militia in New Brunswick, and also a member of His Majesty's Council. In 1823 he was appointed Clerk of the Pleas. He held all three positions until his death in 1851. His wife, Margetta, was a daughter of Chief Justice John Saunders, and a cousin of Captain Ellegood.

In 1818, within a year of Shore's purchase of this valuable acre, his new neighbour, Thomas Barker, established a tannery to the north west, just over his fence. Shore responded by leasing the front of the land as two lots. In 1819, Henry Carvell, a ferryman, built a two story house 30 feet long and 24 broad next to the Barker property and fronting the river, and Aaron Mareau, a blacksmith, leased the corner lot measuring sixty feet front next below Carvell along the public road. As part of the lease he was not to have there "any trade such as tannery, melting or other tallow Chandler, soap boiler, tavern dyer, brazier, pipe burner, or who shall burn charcoal in or upon said premises...hazardous...noisy or offensive to the neighbours without the consent of the owner or owners."

John Peter Block, an Irishman, leased the original house on this divided acre and lived there with his family. The path to his house from the public road, which was doubtless made later into "Shore Street", was part of a short cut to the road which led to King's College. A master mason, Block was employed at the College during the construction. He died in this house in this 1860s.

A long lease to the property was given to Block's son, Alexander N. Block, in 1851 by George Shore, in which it was again stipulated that "no trade such as tannery, melting or other tallow Chandler, soap boiler, dyer, brazier, pipe burner, or who shall burn charcoal in or upon said premises". Alexander Block was married and had property of his own on the cor-

ner of Charlotte and University Avenue by 1854. When his father died, the Shore Street home was rented to Jane, widow of Richard Whelpley. She and her son, George, a carpenter, occupied the house for a time, but by 1871 Alexander Block was living there according to the Dominion Directory of that date. Alexander's son, Hugh, lived here after his father's death. The last of the Block family died in the house in 1933. For the next twenty years it was occupied by the family of the late C. R. Hawkins, Esq., Barrister.



74 Shore Street Showing the Kitchen Ell

Erected on a massive stone foundation which projects inward one and a half feet, the original rear part of this house consists of a hall-kitchen. A chimney in the north wall serves a large fireplace built of stone. The oven has an iron door. A narrow stair behind as steep as a ladder leads up to a sleeping apartment. This was a complete dwelling and its history almost certainly goes further back than the coming of the Loyalists. There are many indications that the present front part of this house was built later perhaps by William Anderson or Jacob Ellegood or Peter Block. Vertical four-inch deals pegged together extend from the stone foundation, giving a solid wall of timber between the outside clapboards and the interior lath and plaster. There is a fire place in both front rooms with brick chimneys. The back of the house may be the oldest standing structure in the city.

92 Waterloo Row



92 Waterloo Row Front View

Aaron Mereau, a blacksmith, leased this lot with appurtenances from George Shore, Esq., from 25 March 1819 for a term of 21 years. In 1851 this house was occupied by paymaster Griffin, a gentleman who was a steward at the races with the Surveyor-General, Thomas Baillie. The latter was an Irishman and lover of horses who was constantly prominent in social events in Fredericton from 1824 until his departure with his wife in 1851. Dr. Harrison, who bought this house in 1874 is probably responsible for its "Maugerville trim". Born in Sheffield in 1839, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Coburn) Harrison, he was educated in Sheffield and was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. He had been teaching at the famous Sheffield Academy when appointed, in 1870, Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Harrison and his wife resided here until his appointment as President of the University in 1885.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS

Thomas Harrison, LL.D., President of the University of New Brunswick, in the room of W. Brydone Jack, D.C.L., resigned.

The Royal Gazette, Fredericton
14 August 1885

Between this property on the corner and that of Stephen Whittekir was a lot measuring fifty feet

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front, upon which, in 1880, there was apparently no building, perhaps due to a fire. Stephen Whittekir bought twenty five feet and Dr. Harrison bought twenty five feet and added to each of their properties. The large elm tree near the pavement, which marked the present line, was probably planted at that time. When he became President of the University, Dr. Harrison sold this cottage to his cousin, or rather, to his cousin's husband, Mr. Allan F. Randolph, son of a very successful merchant and bank president and member of the Legislative Council. They resided here until their new home further down Waterloo Row was completed.

Byron W. Coulthard, Esq., manager of the Royal Bank in Fredericton, bought this house in 1899. He

died thirteen years later, and the next owners were ladies again by the name of Harrison, cousins of Dr. Harrison. Except for the thirteen years it was in the occupation of M.r Coulthard, it was in the Harrison connection from 1874 until bought by Mr. McNair.

The Honourable John Babbitt McNair, Q.C., was Attorney General of this province for seventeen consecutive years, beginning in 1935, during which he was Premier for thirteen years. He later served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick for ten years and finished his career as Lieutenant Governor of the Province. This was his residence throughout the period. His son, John McNair, and his wife now occupy this house.



92 Waterloo Row Side View

The Bliss Carman House

Shore Street



Early View of the Bliss Carman House

The middle or original part of what is called "the Bliss Carman house" is thought to have been built for Colonel Shore to front a proposed road begun in 1842 or 1843, and built possibly by Peter Block the mason and John Kendall, a carpenter who lived at the corner. Its front door faces the garden; had Shore Street been built as first intended the house would have fronted the new road.¹ The walls are of deal, pegged together. At two different periods the house has been enlarged, and in 1965 it was renovated.

There are several theories as to the age of the original part of this house. One says that it was the dwelling marked "B" on the plan of 1791, and therefore of Loyalist or perhaps even pre-Loyalist construction. It remains for an architectural expert to discern whether the dwelling marked "B" was the Bliss Carman house, or the original part of the house on the corner now owned by Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson.

It is not known who occupied this house before the death of Colonel Shore in 1851 when the ownership changed to his daughter. She received it as part of her marriage settlement when she became Mrs Pennefather. She sold it almost immediately to Henry Robinson, Esq., a barrister, and the eldest son of John Robinson the seventh son of Beverley Robinson of Nashwaaksis.² This young man was a grandson of Captain Anthony Allaire, a Loyalist whose diary is valuable to historians.

Henry Robinson made many improvements to the house creating a pleasant home with accommodations for servants. He bought an extra fifteen feet of land adjoining the western boundary of this property, added the west wing, and probably raised the east wing when the west wing was built. The attic rooms with peaked ceilings were plastered, as were the walls and ceilings in two rooms in the cellar.

In 1856, Henry B. Robinson was one of five unsuccessful applicants for the position of Clerk of the Executive Council. His wife, whom he married in Jamaica, Long Island, was his cousin. In 1862 or so they departed from this house and perhaps from Fredericton.

HOUSE FOR SALE

For Sale - That pleasantly situated House and premises belonging to Henry B. Robinson Esq., situated on Shore Street in the City of Fredericton. Possession given immediately. The premises can be inspected at any time.

Henry B. Rainsford
Barrister-at-Law

Fredericton, July 16, 1862.

William Carman bought this house and brought his second wife and infant son here to reside. Carman had arrived in Fredericton in 1851 having received the appointment as Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, succeeding Colonel Shore. At first he and his family resided in an Odell cottage on the corner of George and Church streets where he lived with his first wife, his mother, and his three sons and two daughters.

The mother of William Carman, his wife, and his son, Joseph, all died within two years of their coming to Fredericton. His daughter Harriet, who had a beautiful singing voice, married George Wolhaupter, the organist at the Cathedral in 1859. Wolhaupter was the gifted youngest son of the late High Sheriff of York County. William Carman's other daughter, Ann, married her cousin Clowes Carman, and went to Saint John to live. William Carman then married Sophia Bliss, the youngest and only unmarried daughter of Sarah Bliss, widow of the late Receiver-General of New Brunswick, George Pidgeon Bliss.³

Harriet Wolhaupter was widowed soon after her marriage, and came with her child to live with her father and her stepmother. Both ladies were young, and both were mothers of infant children. No roof would have been large enough to shelter amicably this stepmother and daughter. The departure of Harriet Wolhaupter with her little son and her two young brothers for Saint John probably coincided with the move of William Carman, his wife, Sophia, and their infant son, Bliss, to their new Shore Street home.

William Carman died in this house in 1885, and his widow died not many months afterwards. Until then, this was the home of their son Bliss Carman the poet. The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire have had a plaque placed on his building with words to that effect. Ownership passed in 1912 from Bliss Carman's sister to Mrs. Frederick St. John Bliss whose husband was a cousin of the poet and his sister.

The two daughters of the late Frederick St. John Bliss sold this house in 1965 to Colonel G.D. Dailey. At once restorations and various alterations were made. The new owner arranged that in an upper room a panel be left without plaster on an outer wall, exposing three of the four-inch deals, six inches wide, which are pegged together to stand vertically and which must reach from the foundation to the roof.



Bliss Carman House: Southern Exposure c. 1965

¹This was, perhaps, one of three houses built in this area by Colonel Shore. It was purchased in 1862 by William Carman and remained in the Carman and Bliss families until 1965. Colonel and Mrs. G. D. Dailey purchased the house in 1965. (ed.)

²The first Beverley Robinson was one of the wealthiest and most distinguished Loyalists in the American colonies. He owned vast estates in the Hudson River valley of New York, personally raised and commanded the Loyal American Regiment, and later served as a member of His Majesty's Council for New Brunswick. His son, Lieutenant-Colonel Beverley Robinson, also a member of Council, owned an estate in Nashwaaksis. (ed.)

³G. P. Bliss was appointed Receiver-General of New Brunswick by his father in 1823. At his death the public accounts which he handled were found to be £7,000 short. (ed.)

Summer Villa

(Sommerville House)
238 Waterloo Row



Summer Villa

The original grantee of Lot No. 2 on Waterloo Row was George Lambert who sold part of this lot to Gain Bartlett a blacksmith. In 1815, Richard Bartlett sold that acre and a half to John Murray Bliss who acquired adjoining properties and built a town house to complement his country home at 'Bellemonte' eight miles down the St. John River. 'Summer Villa' was a two story structure with a long wing extending to the rear on the north side. It was built upon a slight rise, and was unaffected by usual spring freshets. Below stairs was a ten-foot-high ceiling, and the ceilings on the main floor were twelve feet high. Mahogany woodwork graced the spacious front rooms on either side of the twelve-foot-wide hall which extended through the building, and there were heavy mahogany frames on the fitted storm windows for the four French windows in the front of the house.

From 'Summer Villa' was a view of the Post Road upon which all horse drawn vehicles passed, and of the common or interval beyond where hay was cut twice each season. A wide bend in the river afforded a panorama of steamers and smaller craft outing or returning from St. John and points nearer, a traffic which did not diminish until the railway was built many years later.

For seven or eight months in 1824, pending the arrival from England of the Lieutenant- Governor Sir Howard Douglas, John Murray Bliss was styled "president and Commander in Chief" of the province.

MESSAGE TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
23rd February, 1824.

J.M. Bliss.

The business of the Legislature having been suspended by the death of the Honorable WARD CHIPMAN the late President, the House of Assembly are informed, that the Honorable JOHN MURRAY BLISS has taken upon himself the Administration of the government, and that they are at liberty to resume business.

J.M.B.

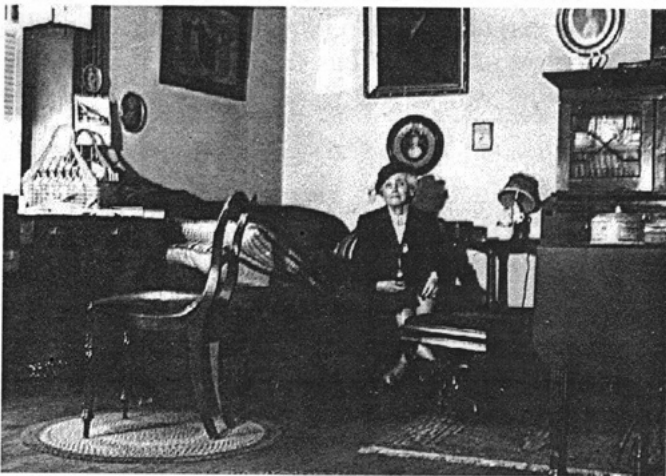
It is said that the Hon. John Murray Bliss was renowned for his charm and for his courtly manners. He was Solicitor General, and also was appointed Clerk of the House of Assembly in 1811, which office he held a short time only. In 1813 a vacancy occurred in the representation of York County, and Mr. Bliss was elected to the vacant seat. Besides the emoluments of his several appointments, Bliss was in receipt of an income from his large private law practice. He had been Solicitor General for seven years when, in 1816, he bought this property. In that same year he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, a distinction he accepted with reluctance as it meant a very great reduction in income. In 1834 he was made Chief Justice of New Brunswick but the appointment had not reached Fredericton when he died at 'Bellemonte'. He is buried in the Old Burying Ground in Fredericton. 'Summer Villa' was bought in 1846 by Charles Fisher.

The Honourable Charles Fisher had a long political career in this province. He was elected nine times, and defeated twice. He was premier of New Brunswick, holding the office of Attorney General three times, from 1854 to 1856, from 1857 to 1861, and from 1866 to 1867. During his important third tenure of this office he played an important part in bringing about the confederation of the provinces.

About 1867, the west wing and part of this house burned. A spectator, then a boy of seven years, recalled being awakened, dressed, and taken to see the fire. He saw the dark building lighted within, and men, two at a time, running out carrying doors and windows. The efforts of the many active figures silhouetted in that light saved much of this house. The outside walls and woodwork, the French windows, and nine of the tall doors of the interior including one handsome pair of sliding doors which reached the ceiling, are to this day original.

When 'Summer Villa' was renovated, the roof was re-designed. A furnace was installed. The handsome plaster cornices may date from this time, and brass chandeliers and wall brackets for gaslight, several of which, wired for electricity, remained in use for years.

The Honourable Charles Fisher died at "Summer Villa" in 1880. His widow and daughters continued to make this their home until the close of the Victorian era.



Interior View of the Drawing Room (1939) where much of fashionable Fredericton Society once met.

When Mr. Charles Thomas, a prosperous merchant, bought this place, he divided the interior of the house for himself and for his married son. He was mayor of Fredericton in 1910, and during his lifetime the grounds continued to be very beautiful, and well tended. Cement steps descended in three places into the ravine in the rear, and when the water receded in the spring it was a bower of loveliness.

The freshet of 1936 carried away the summer house and small cook house which were there. Winslow Street was built through this property in 1925. Twenty years afterwards lots on either side of that street were sold by the heirs of Charles Thomas and the ravine filled in.

This house during recent years has been occupied by various tenants, including Brigadier General Frederic William Hill, C.B., CMG, DSO, VD, Canadian Army (Rtd), whose hospitable home it was from 1930 until 1949.¹ General Hill died in Fredericton on the 12th day of March, 1954, aged 87.



The Hill Family at Summer Villa: Henrietta, Frederic, Louise, and their dog, Byng

Lord Beaverbrook purchased this property, and it was hoped that he would establish a residence in Fredericton. After extensive alterations and renovations, however, he presented it to the University of New Brunswick.

In 1974 it was renovated and became the official residence of the lieutenant-governors of the Province, the Honourable Hedard Robichaud being the first.

'Summer Villa' was once one of the finest residences in Fredericton. In the new Government House, erected in 1826, the doors of the interior, handles and hinges, were the same design and materials as in 'Summer Villa'. Because of other similarities such as the height of ceilings, it may be that J. E. Woolford the Barrack Master designed both.

The other beautiful home of the Honourable John Murray Bliss, 'Bellemonte' or 'Belmont', eight miles down the river, today is shorn of its trees and outbuildings and is but the barest reminder of days of splendour when the home was a symbol of dignity of office and an adjunct to rank and positions.² Both 'Summer Villa' and 'Belmont' were home to a Father of Confederation.

¹His family at the time included his wife, Henrietta, and his daughter, Isobel Louise. (ed.)

²Bellemonte was the home of John Murray Bliss's father, Daniel Bliss.

The Ketchum Place

(Elmcroft)

7 Elmcroft Place



Ketchum Place in 1875 showing the conservatory built by Henry Ketchum

The present house, situated on slightly rising ground selected in Loyalist times, was probably built by Henry Smith between the years 1797 and 1806. The original kitchen, with its large chimney piece, is below stairs, and has not been used as such since the ownership of Mr. Henry Ketchum.

Philip Weade came from Ireland to the River St. John in 1767. In 1771 he was put in possession of Lot # 2 in the grant to Rev. Currell Smith, Township of Sunbury. This embraced much of the present down town Fredericton. After the coming of the Loyalists the trustees of the new town planned to evict Philip Weade and instead give him Lot 26 below the town. In 1789 Weade protested that although he had lived on the same site sixteen years, his land had been appropriated for the use of the town and his buildings, barns and fences pulled down by order of the Trustees of Fredericton. Lot 26 (which contained the present day Elmcroft Place area) was Weade's, and it was assumed that he would live there. At a meeting of the Trustees held in May, 1786, Weade was granted a lease on College land below the town at the low rate of 4 shillings 10 pence per acre per annum.

Philip Weade and his wife, Phoebe, sold Lot 26, three acres with houses barns on the 10th day of March 1792 to Isaac Hedden. In 1797 Hedden sold

the same lot "with messuage or tenement" to Henry Smith.

Henry Smith was a prominent business man. He bought and sold houses, borrowed and lent money, and on the whole was considered well off. Several houses built by Henry Smith are landmarks in Fredericton today. He and his wife, a daughter of Colonel Stephen Miller, may have lived here until 1806. He and his wife were occupying a large house with four lots of land extending along Brunswick Street as far as the corner of Church Street in 1809 when it was bought by Chief Justice Jonathan Bliss.

In 1806 Smith mortgaged this ten acre piece then known as the Hedden property. It was redeemed from the College in 1836 by John Robinson of Douglas who purchased the house from Henry Smith's son-in-law, Daniel Ludlow Robinson.

In 1839, this property with its spacious two-story house, designed with a low roof, was bought by the Honourable Neville Parker, newly appointed Master of the Rolls. There might not have been a clear title, as a new Deed dated 4 March, 1839 was drawn up, immediately, and was not registered until 21 January, 1842.

In the meantime, an advertisement appeared describing ELMCROFT, as it was in 1840:

FOR SALE and payments made easy. Possession given on the 1st of May. That pleasantly situated two story House in Waterloo Row occupied by Lt. Col. Robinson, having four good Rooms on the first flat, six Bed Rooms on the second flat, five good Rooms in the Garret, and four Rooms in the Cellar, lathed and plastered.

Also a good Kitchen and Wood House, a new Barn stalled for four Horses and two Cows, and abundance of room for Sleights, Carriages, etc. etc. and will also contain a number of tons of Hay.

If the above property is not disposed of by the first of April, it will be leased for a term of years.

Fredericton, Feb. 1, 1840.

The position of Master of the Rolls was abolished in 1852, and Mr. Parker appointed instead a Judge of the Supreme Court with rank next to the

Chief Justice. His brother, the Honourable Robert Parker, was also a Supreme Court judge and in 1865 was appointed Chief Justice of New Brunswick. Unfortunately, Robert Parker died that same year. The Parkers began life under favourable circumstances and both were men of strong character. In 1817 the young Neville Parker had challenged General Coffin, the latter a man of sixty-seven years.

Neville Parker retired from the Bench in 1865, and moved to St. Andrews. He had resided at ELMCROFT for twenty-six years. His daughters were brought up here, and were married from this house.

The Elmcroft property was brought by Mr Henry George Clopper Ketchum in 1865.

In 1862 Mr Ketchum was the first graduate of the new engineering programme at the University of New Brunswick. He soon became a noted engineer and was well off. He was one of the chief engineers at the building of the Sao Paulo Railway in Brazil. He was chief engineer of the railway built from Dorchester to Saint John, and also for the New Brunswick railway from Fredericton to Edmundston.

Mr. Ketchum spent many years studying the feasibility of and promoting the Chignecto Ship Railway, and for this purpose he studied at first hand other engineering projects such as the Naval base at Malta and the bridge over the Firth of Forth. When his last great engineering undertaking, the Chignecto Ship Railway, was nearly completed in the 1890s, the Dominion Government withdrew its support. Ketchum died soon afterwards, and was buried at his own request near the site of the abandoned project.

Ketchum made many improvements in his Elmcroft property after 1865. He enlarged the house by adding a third floor and a mansard roof and a conservatory.¹ He paid for the planting of trees along Waterloo Row, probably when George E. Fenety the Mayor, was planting trees at his own expense along several streets of Fredericton. Mr. Ketchum planted the oak trees in front of his own house.

This was always the dignified home of a prominent family. Mr. Ketchum and his wife had no children of their own, but they entertained on a large

scale, and for a second time this was the scene of several wedding parties as Mrs. Ketchum brought up her three nieces.



Elmcroft in 2003

In 1930 Mrs. Ketchum gave the house to her niece, Nora Stephens, wife of Dr. John Stephens, the Dean of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick. They lived in this house until 1947 when they sold it to Professor C. W. Argue and his wife, Jean. The house today is a stunning bed and breakfast reflecting much of the charm of the past. (ed.)

¹A well and a conservatory was located in the lovely garden in the rear during Henry Ketchum's time. The greenhouse which led off the kitchen has been demolished but the well remains lined with stones and now covered with a slab of concrete. The high ceilinged drawing room and adjoining dining room overlook the garden, the river and the hills. The white marble of the drawing room fireplace was brought from England by the original builder, Henry Smith. As in all houses of this period the kitchen, pantry and laundry were in the basement. The entire third floor was once the billiard room. To the left of the entrance is a small drawing room or library. (ed.)

²Professor Argue had in his possession the 1839 parchment deed of this property.

Oxford Cottage

**(Corner University Avenue and
Alexandria Street)**



Oxford Cottage in 1961

In this old cottage the sleeping apartment was a loft, reached by a steep narrow stair rising against the south wall. The north wall, pictured above, contains the large fireplace.

The dwelling which was later to be called "Oxford Cottage" is thought to have been built by Philip Hanselacker. He, with his wife Catharine, sold it to his son-in-law, Gabriel van Horne in June, 1787, when it was described as being "upon the common of Fredericton about fi mile below the present Town Plat between the improvements of Mr. Cooper, Earle and Rattan 2 acres or such quantity as may be given granted or allowed by His Excellency or persons authorized to distribute with all houses or buildings fences ways springs belonging." ¹

The property in those days seems to have been bounded on the West, North, and South by the winding brook. No road was near the house. After a road was laid the property amounted to one acre, more or less.

Philip Hanselacker went to Sunbury County and settled on a grant at Ripples. Gabriel van Horne married Mary Hanselacker and they purchased and resided in the house of Justus Earle who also moved to a grant of land at Ripples.

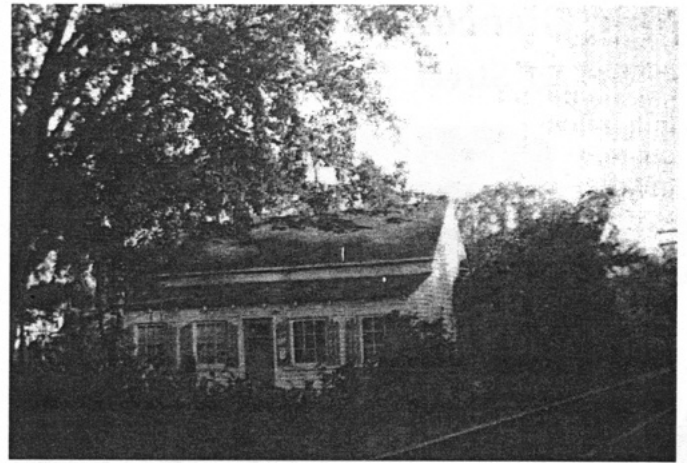
This snug cottage beside the winding brook at the foot of the hill Gabriel van Horne, inn holder, bequeathed to his youngest son James, in 1818; and in 1829 James van Horne of Westfield and Hannah his wife sold this property, "one acre", to the Honourable C. J. Peters who had recently been appointed His Majesty's Attorney General and was buying considerable property in and around Fredericton.

During the erection of King's College this cottage is said to have been occupied by Cross, the contractor from Saint John.

Because Dr. Edwin Jacob lived in this cottage, it is called to this day "Oxford Cottage". He came in 1829 as the first Vice President of King's College. He was a distinguished Oxford scholar and divine, and professor of classical literature, history and moral philosophy at the College. Dr. Jacob resided here until the arrival of his family in 1833.

In 1844, Peters gave this cottage "at the bottom of the Hill leading to King's College called by me 'Oxford Cottage' and now under rent to and in the occupation of Henry Wanlace until the first of May next" to his daughter upon the eve of her marriage to Dr. William Brydone-Jack. He had come from Scotland in 1840 to become professor of mathematics, natural philosophy and astronomy in King's College. His first abode in Fredericton was "Oxford Cottage".

Although this property in 1818 and 1829 evidently consisted of one acre, "Oxford Cottage" has not been able to boast of an acre of land for a long time. The railway track, the re-routed brook, and the building of Alexandra street have each in turn diminished the size of the property; and since the occupancy of Mrs. Francis land has been sold from the rear of the lot for building. After the building of the railway beside it the cottage became a less desirable location. For over fifty years Mrs. Francis lived here in this quaint cottage which consists almost entirely of one main room with a chimney place the size of the entire north wall.



Oxford Cottage from the Front

Mrs. Francis knew well the old families of Fredericton, and everyone was kindly disposed toward her. She invariably moved with dignity from her low porch to pass the time of day and chat over her front gate. After her death in 1946, Professor de Merten bought 'Oxford Cottage' from beneficiaries, and made some 'improvements'. The porch was enclosed. Since that time the cottage has been rented, mostly to married students.

Few buildings in Fredericton are older, and none a more distinctive landmark of early loyalist days than "Oxford Cottage" as it is in 1961.²

¹Gabriel van Horne built the Royal Oak Inn on what is now Waterloo Row in 1787 and ran it until his death in 1818(ed.) .

²Oxford Cottage was demolished in the 1990s.

Little Glencoe

745 George Street



Little Glencoe

Mary McQueen, daughter of Mr. Justice John Murray Bliss and wife of Captain Donald John McQueen of the 74th Regiment, whom she married in 1819, inherited as part of her share of her father's estate lots 194, 196, 198, 200, 202 in George St., in Block No. 12. The house above was built in 1847 by Daniel McCurdy, a Presbyterian minister. In December, 1850, he sold this house and lot, 46 x 110 feet, as he was then living in Hamilton in the Province of Canada. It was sold to Mary Jane Grosvenor, wife of William Grosvenor, a well-to-do Fredericton merchant. In the late 1850s Sisters Ann Emerson and Elizabeth Bailey, daughters of Captain William Bailey of the Loyal American Regiment, moved to this pretty cottage, now numbered 745. They lived here until their deaths in 1873 and 1876.

They were described by the author, Juliana Ewing, as "the Loyalist ladies", as indeed they were. Their father, Captain Bailey, was a half pay officer whose home, "Bellevue", near Mill Creek below Fredericton, was a landmark for well over a hundred years. His younger daughter, Mrs. Emerson, was the second wife and widow of Dr. Thomas Emerson who was Assistant Surgeon of The New Brunswick Regiment, and later of the 104th Regiment. He was for a long time a busy and popular family physician in Fredericton. When Miss Bailey died, the ladies of the Cathedral Women's Auxiliary followed her cas-

ket to the grave. The casket was carried, and they proceeded on foot. The epitaph on the tombstone in the old burying ground reads:-

"In Memory of Ann Emerson, born 1786, entered into rest 1873 aged 87 years. Elizabeth Bailey, born 1770, entered into rest 1876, aged 106 years. Make them to be numbered among Thy saints in glory everlasting."

In April 1872 this small and attractive house in George street on a lot 94 feet wide sitting opposite the Rectory was bought by George Roberts, Doctor of Philosophy, who had retired as headmaster of the Collegiate School after forty years' teaching¹. His son, Canon Goodridge Roberts, was rector of Fredericton. In 1896, Jane Elizabeth Costwicke, daughter of Canon Roberts and granddaughter of George Roberts, married her cousin, Samuel Archibald Roberts Macdonald, a native of Fredericton, and they resided in this little house which they called "Little Glencoe". Mr. Macdonald was a druggist, a partner in the firm of Hunt and Macdonald. The small east wing of this house containing one room called "the library" was where Mrs. Macdonald did her writing. She was educated in Fredericton and prior to her marriage produced many poems, as well as stories and essays. In 1899 she published, in collaboration with her brothers William Carman Roberts and Theodore Goodridge Roberts, a book of poems entitled, *Northland Lyrics*, with a prologue by her brother Charles G. D. Roberts and an epilogue by her cousin Bliss Carman. In 1906 she also published another volume of poems entitled *Dream Verses and Others*. So this quaint little house for sixteen years was the home of a Fredericton authoress, one who contributed to the literature of Canada.

In 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald and their two sons, her mother (the widow of Canon Roberts), and her adopted sister, departed for Nelson, B.C. Mrs. Macdonald died in Ottawa, in 1922.

The name "Little Glencoe" gradually fell into disuse. Before Sheriff Goodspeed lived here and divided the property it was the home of A. Duncan Thomas of the Department of Education, a man who took pride in his house and his horse. Of later years number 745 George Street is remembered as the

address of the highly respected V O N nurse, Miss Pond.



"Little Glencoe" in 2003

The Rectory 734 George Street



*The Rectory - "A Georgian house of brick with basements and attics and a timbered garden."
Theodore Goodridge Roberts*

'His son and grandchildren lived in the rectory across the street.(ed.)

Built on the two lots of land given to the Church in 1829 by the Odell family, this home was constructed in 1833 to serve as a rectory for the Ven. Archdeacon George Coster who had been burned out not once but three times. It was constructed of bricks brought from England and all four or five rooms in the large cellar were paved with brick, and the largest room 'below stairs' was the kitchen. Coster had come to Fredericton from Newfoundland to fill the place of Archdeacon George Best who sailed for England in 1828 for the benefit of his health, and who died in Bath the following year.

The Venerable Archdeacon Coster and his family of eight children were the first to occupy this house, and his seven daughters married from here. He was Rector of Fredericton, an Archdeacon of the Diocese, Chaplain of the Legislative Council, and Chaplain to the Forces in Fredericton. He died, in this house, in 1859. His successor was the Rev. Charles Lee, Ph.D. who had been Rector of St. Paul's in Saint John, and who married there a daughter of William Bowyer Smith.

The Rev. Charles Lee was drowned, in the St. John River, in 1873. He is buried in the churchyard at Springhill. The family estate, a grant to Joseph Lee, Captain, New Brunswick Regiment, was at Springhill. Joseph Lee was his grandfather. The Honourable Thomas Wetmore was his maternal grandfather.¹

The third occupant of the rectory was the Rev. Canon Roberts, another scholarly gentleman. He was a son of George Roberts the Head Master of the Collegiate School in Fredericton. His wife was Emma, daughter of the late George Pidgeon Bliss.²

Canon Roberts came to Fredericton from Westcock, New Brunswick, where all but his eldest child were born. His daughter, Jane Elizabeth (Gostwicke), and three sons - Charles G.D.; Theodore Goodridge; and William Carman Roberts - were poets and writers who made a remarkable contribution to literature. This was the home of the Roberts family from 1873 until the death of Canon Roberts in 1905.

In 1914 this property was purchased by Walter Limerick, Esq., Q.C. the police magistrate in Fredericton, now retired.³ Since then the house has been carefully preserved and the grounds and trees constantly tended. Of all Fredericton, this property is perhaps most pleasing to the eye, owing chiefly to the good taste of Mr. Limerick and his sons.

The Biggs House

Corner of Regent and George Streets



The Biggs House Built Before 1805

This house, on the north-east corner of George and Regent streets was built prior to the marriage in 1805 of James Biggs, a Loyalist, to Mercy Segee. She was the daughter of John Segee who came with his father, Jacob, and three young brothers at the close of the Revolutionary War.

The eldest son of James and Mercy Biggs, John, was born in this rented house in 1806.

In 1809 James Biggs, 'innkeeper', bought the house and two lots from Henry Smith Esquire. James Biggs and his wife had eleven children. Several generations of this family have resided here. The house was surrounded by barns, stables, and outbuildings. In 1850 John Biggs was a master teamster. His son, James, was chief messenger of the legislative assembly for fifty-two years, captain of Hose Company No. 4, and caretaker of the graveyard. He also was grave-digger. An undertaker business was conducted in the barn at the rear of this property, on George Street. Black horses drew the big black hearse with black plumes on top. The livery stable was on Regent Street.

'Biggs Barn', in George Street, a center of activity for a hundred years or more, was demolished in May, 1962. The large buildings on the property

¹Thomas Wetmore was the Attorney-General of New Brunswick through most of the early nineteenth century. (ed.)

G. P. Bliss was the son and grandson of members of His Majesty's Council for New Brunswick. His father was John Murray Bliss. While a judge of the Supreme Court, J. M. Bliss served as Administrator of the Province during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor in 1823. He dismissed George Shore from the office of Receiver-General of New Brunswick and appointed his son, G. P. Bliss, to that office. He held the office until his death. (ed.)

³This purchase was made possible through an act of the Provincial Legislature. (ed.)

along Regent Street in which the livery stable was housed were demolished some years ago.

Occupied by James Biggs in 1805, and purchased by him in 1809, this property is owned today (1963) by Mr. James Biggs of Amherst, Nova Scotia, and has been in the family for over a hundred and fifty years.

At his death about 1980 Mr Biggs left most of his fortune to two Fredericton churches. The house has since been destroyed. (ed.)

Evelyn Grove

Regent Street at Aberdeen Street



Evelyn Grove in the days of the Governor

In 1846 Lemuel Allan Wilmot purchased eleven acres south of the Barlow estate and north of 'Frogmore' which had been occupied by William Grosvenor. This lot was the last of the George Sproule estate to be sold. A fine house, called 'Evelyn Grove' was built here on the Maryland Road [now Regent Street just north of the new Sobey's development]. It was surrounded by trees, and there was a curved driveway at the entrance. An added feature was a rustic summer house. Evelyn Grove became a show place. The owner was an horticulturist of great enthusiasm and wide reputation and had a conservatory adjoining his house. When the house was built is a matter of conjecture. It may have been the home of Lemuel Allan Wilmot as early as 1833.

Wilmot was the brilliant son of William Wilmot and his wife Hannah Bliss. He read law in the office of the Honourable George Frederick Street. Besides his interest in law he was a keen militia officer, especially active during that bloodless Aroostook War when he gained the admiration of everyone for miles up the river. He was first elected to the Legislature in June, 1834, in the room of William Taylor, deceased, and was subsequently re-elected five times in York County. He was a member of the Legislature

for seventeen years and served three or four years as Attorney General. He was an organizer of testimonials, and a very popular man.

From 1833 until 1878, Wilmot was a leader in the work of the Methodist Sunday School, and he sang in the choir. He was indeed a pillar of his church. He lent money for the new edifice built after 1850 following the fire which devastated so much of Fredericton, and he raised a great deal of money to pay off the mortgage. It is related that most enjoyable garden parties were given at Evelyn Grove and a small entrance fee charged in aid of the Methodist Church. At one garden party the carved hand which was to be placed at the top of the new steeple stood on display in his garden. Following church union in 1925 the church was renamed Wilmot Church. A portrait in oils of the Honourable Lemuel Allan Wilmot hangs in the vestibule of the church to this day.

Wilmot was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 1851, and he was a very much praised commander of the 1st York Regiment, succeeding Colonel Minchin in 1863 at a time when the militia of New Brunswick was reorganized. He retired from the bench in July, 1868, with a pension.

Wilmot was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick in 1868. He was the first native of the province to be appointed.

Extract from a letter from Miss Katherine Lynch

The house 'Evelyn Grove' was built by Governor Wilmot, the first Governor of New Brunswick after confederation. The black marble mantel pieces were brought from Italy and the two beautiful chandeliers from England. All the book cases and old furniture also came from England. There was a very nice flower conservatory. It seems the Governor (Wilmot) always went to Maugerville to buy poultry for his entertaining, and the last time, when he wanted more bargains, he was arguing with the woman who sold the poultry when finally she said, "You may be the Governor, but you have no right to dispute my price - - and I think you

will die with your shoes on." It was the spring of the year when he was taken ill while out driving, so a sofa was pulled out on the veranda by the French window and there he passed away with his shoes on.

Then the story went the rounds the house was haunted and strange noises were heard in the house... The house was empty again for three years when my father Timothy Lynch bought it, because it had large grounds. He was lumbering in the woods up river back from Bristol and at the mill at Nelson. He thought Fredericton was central and a good educational centre for his family. My mother told me, when they returned from New York after their honeymoon October 1st, they drove in with leaves well over the hub of the wheels. She had quite a time keeping servants. If the wind howled through the trees and there was any noise in the house or windows shook, they felt certain it was the ghost of the late Governor going his rounds. There was a great brass fixture on the front door with a huge key. This lock always had to be pushed back to open the door.

The stone lions that sat either side of the steps, were brought over from England and were placed there. They were of Caen stone and imported by Governor Wilmot. After my mother's death I gave them to St. Dunstan's school as my mother was a school trustee and instrumental in getting the school built. They are on the steps of the school now.

Evelyn Grove was bought by Timothy Lynch. He was born in Ireland, and brought to New Brunswick by his parents who settled at Taxis River. Of superior physique and intelligence, he was employed at an early age in lumber operations. He brought his three children and his second wife to Fredericton, occupied this house, and raised a second family.

The teas and garden parties of the former Lieutenant-Governor were replaced by tobogganing on a high wooden slide built near the house, and by tennis. The railway was built through the property in

the time of Timothy Lynch, but the immediate grounds with lawns, flower beds, trees, and summer house were adequate for his happy household. When the high wooden toboggan slide fell into disuse it was replaced by a tennis court. Also, the house was enlarged by adding a third story. Mr. Lynch, one of the lumber barons in his day, died, in 1908.

The Honourable William Pugsley, while Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, occupied this house during the sessions of the legislature. It then became the home of Colonel Henry Montgomery-Campbell and his family. Happy are those who recall the shade of the trees, the ceiling of the oval drawing room, the curious warming oven in the dining room radiator, and the French windows leading to the verandas.¹

After 1946 this house was used as a medical clinic. The great brass lock on the front door was removed and the house itself greatly altered.

Eventually the house was demolished and the land sold. Where the house once was now stands Evelyn Grove, an apartment building.

¹The Hill family were frequent guests at the beautiful old house and until Louise Hill died a descendant of the Montgomery-Campbells maintained a correspondence with her and visited her each summer. In 2003 the lions remain, now guarding Lion's Gate, the apartment house located in the former St. Dunstan's school.

Frogmore Dundonald Street



Frogmore in 1882

The first Surveyor-General of New Brunswick, George Sproule, purchased seventy-two acres of land from the college along College Hill. After his death eleven acres of this land together "with houses barns fences erections", were sold by his executors to James Holbrook. The house situated on the hill overlooking the town was most likely the home of George Sproule who died in November, 1817. It is now the old part of the house called Frogmore.

James Holbrook, the English Master in the Collegiate School in Fredericton, married the youngest daughter of Colonel Harris William Hailes, an officer stationed in Fredericton with the New Brunswick Regiment. Hailes held various staff appointments, and was given power of Attorney by Governor Carleton when the latter departed from New Brunswick in 1803. Colonel Hailes was Administrator of the Province for a time. He died, leaving considerable estate, and his widow assisted in buying this property for James Holbrook and her daughter.

James Holbrook and his wife enlarged the house by building the west wing. It was sold, with its acreage, in 1846, for nine hundred pounds, to the Honourable James Carter, who settled here with his wife and young family. The judge's extensive library was housed in the original part of the house. For a few short years all went well, but soon after Carter was appointed Chief Justice, his little son Robert

died, and within a year Mary Elizabeth his wife died, leaving two small boys, James, and Edward. James Carter then married Margaret, daughter of the Venerable Archdeacon Coster. It was said of the Chief Justice that he was very handsome, a golden voiced orator, and well versed in the law. He was the last judge to be appointed in England to the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, (1834), and the first resident of New Brunswick upon whom the honour of knighthood was conferred, (1859). Sir James Carter retired from the bench and sold his home in 1865 and took his family to Europe.

Archibald Drummond FitzRandolph, who purchased this property in 1865, called it 'Frogmore'. He had come from Nova Scotia in 1852, and in 1855 had opened a store in the name of "A. F. Randolph" for the retail sale of hardware, dry goods and groceries. In 1865 he established a wholesale grocery business. The year before, he had been one of the founders of The People's Bank, and served as its President. In 1870, this prosperous merchant established a saw mill and lime kilns at Randolph. Very soon sixty men were employed there. Frogmore was the estate of a wealthy man and the grounds were well tended. In 1871 its owner purchased an adjoining eight acres pasture from the widow of his distinguished neighbour, the former Attorney-General, John Ambrose Street.

In 1878, Archibald Drummond FitzRandolph built the Randolph Building, now the Gleaner Building [in Phoenix Square (ed.)]. A private telephone, contrived by FitzRandolph's brother-in-law, John Babbitt, was erected from his office there to his office in The People's Bank. In 1875, Mr. Randolph was elected President of The Fredericton Boom Company, a corporation of nearly twenty-five years' standing, and he remained its President. This was an immense business in 1898, employing five hundred men, and the receipts for that year, up to August 1, were one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

In 1882, A. F. Randolph was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick, a life appointment. He had an interest in New Brunswick schools, and that matter settled, he resigned from the Council in 1884.

Mr. Randolph served as chairman of the local school board from 1872 until 1896, when he departed for California. Fredericton lost a valuable citizen. His eldest son, Alan, continued to live at Frogmore for some years, and during his occupancy he had the centre chimney removed from the original or old part of the house and modern heating installed. This necessitated the removal of many of the bell-pulls which were a convenience when service was required. Mr. Alan FitzRandolph sold Frogmore to Mr. Ashley Colter.¹

A distinguished New Brunswick entrepreneur with wide ranging business interests, Mr Colter remained at Frogmore until his death in the 1970s. The house is presently owned by Mr. James Ross.

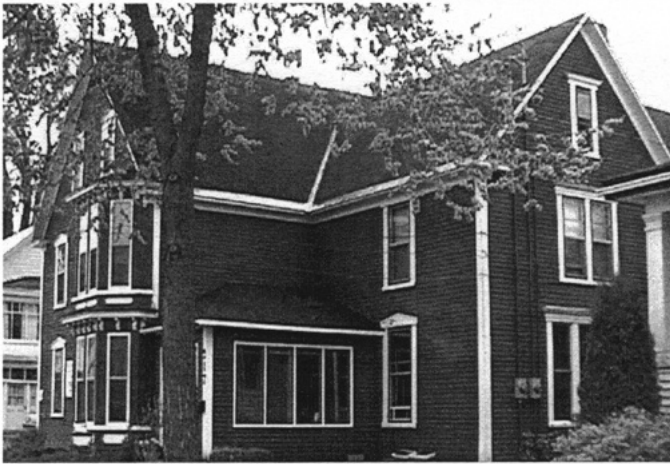


Frogmore in 2003

'The coach house, was moved some 20 feet behind Frogmore to 559 Albert Street in 1932 by Bill Gough, a carpenter, and his son Karl where it became their home. In 1958, Jerome Sullivan purchased this house from Ashley Colter and his son Burton Colter.

Mr. Sullivan is now a resident at Saint Ann's Court, his wife Helen having died in 1994. James Ross, the present owner of Frogmore has recently purchased the former coach house. His intention to make Frogmore into an inn will also incorporate this building.(ed.)

217 George Street



217 George Street in 2003

This house is on glebe land.¹ It is thought it was built by Dr. Joseph R. Hea when he came to Fredericton in 1859, although the two lots on which it sits, 276 and 278, were not leased from the Church by "Dr. Joseph Hea of Wolfville" until 1865. His lease of the land expired in 1881.

A King's College graduate of 1849, Dr. Hea had the honour of being named the first president of the University of New Brunswick during the transition period in the late 1850s when King's College received a new name and a new charter. He possessed the necessary qualifications in that he was neither ordained nor Church of England. The *Morning News of Saint John*, in October, 1860, quotes The *Halifax Sun*, "Dr. Hea, the Principal of the Fredericton University, has contributed the handsome sum of 100 pounds toward the Charles Allison professorship in the Wesleyan Academy."² Dr. Jacob, who had for so long directed the old King's College, remained with Dr. Hea as professor of classics, moral philosophy and metaphysics, and at the close of the 1859-60 session, retired. Dr. Hea departed from Fredericton in the summer of 1861. Dr. Brydone-Jack, who had taught at the college since 1840, succeeded to the position of president and the living quarters.

In 1877, Leonard Johnston, with his English wife and two daughters, visited the Misses Beverly at "Grape Cottage" for a short time before making his home in Number 217 George Street. Johnson was

born in Queensborough, N.B. in 1840, a son of Nathan Johnston and his wife Margaret, daughter of Robert Chestnut of Fredericton. He was educated in Fredericton, and traveled extensively before returning to the city. In 1878 he established the headquarters of his business, Johnston & Co., exclusive agents in New Brunswick of farm machinery and carriages, representing the firms of G.M. Cossitt of Brockville and The Gananoque Carriage Company. He had branches in Woodstock, Newcastle, Petitcodiac and Moncton, and at New Carlisle in Quebec, and there were seventy local and traveling agents. In 1879, two thousand farmers had become purchasers of at least one of the implements - ploughs, mowers, harrows, hay forks, etc. Catalogues of 1880 and 1886 contained testimonials from gentlemen in diverse walks of life - clergymen, farmers, and others as to the durability and value of their purchases. In 1885, the sales nearly doubled those of the previous year. In 1886, Johnston & Co. was considered one of the outstanding business enterprises in the Maritimes.

Mr. Johnson was an elder in the Presbyterian church; he was, for three or four years, the first manager of *The Maritime Farmer*, a newspaper begun in 1879 with Andrew Archer as editor; and he was Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the founding of the Victoria Cottage Hospital, erected in 1887 through the efforts of that Board headed by Lady Tilley.

In 1882, Mr. Johnston's household included W. G. Clark, the young son of an agent up-river and member of the firm, who was treated as a son. He earned a small salary in the business after school hours, and was allowed full access to Mr. Johnston's library which was considered at that time second only to that of Bishop Medley's. Later W. G. Clark was taken into the business as a partner.

Johnston & Co. over-extended credit to thousands of New Brunswick farmers in the 1890s and was forced to make an assignment. W.G. Clark bought out the business in Fredericton. [Clark lived to become mayor of Fredericton and Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. His firm later became J. Clark and Son.]



The Parlour at 217 George Street

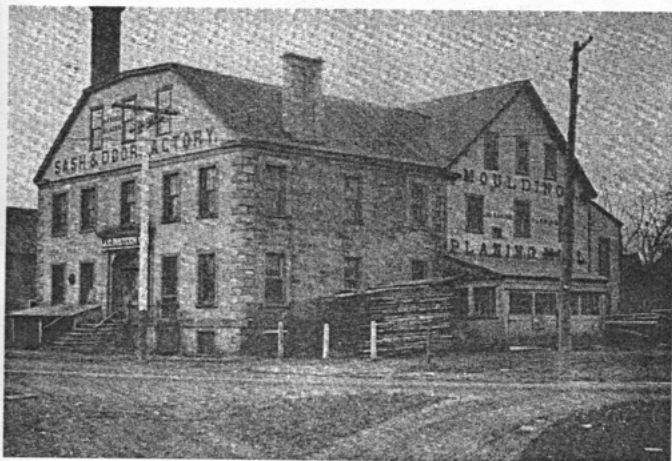
Leonard W. Johnston, who was held in high regard in the business world, performed an almost unheard-of feat a few years later. He re-paid his creditors in full. Next, he held the position of city auditor, an unpopular position at a time when taxes in arrears were being collected. In 1907, he and his family departed for British Columbia. His house in George Street was bought by Dr. C. A. McVey who lived there through most of the twentieth century.

¹The glebe was crown land given to Church of England parishes throughout New Brunswick to be used for the support of their clergy. The Fredericton glebe was given to the Christ Church Parish Church and contained several blocks of land in the city's west end. The glebe was normally farmed or rented.

²The reference is to Mount Allison, the Methodist college at Sackville.

Risteen's Factory

Corner Queen and Smythe Streets



Risteen's Factory

The lot on the corner of Queen and Smythe streets was granted to the Honourable Anthony Lockwood, Surveyor-General of New Brunswick, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Province on the 23rd day of May, 1820. Here Lockwood erected the first house of cut stone in Fredericton. No expense was spared. Lockwood intended it to be a finer residence than the mansion house of the late Governor Carleton or of the houses of any of the judges or other dignitaries. To ensure his privacy, Lockwood leased the adjoining vacant lot from the parish church. No near neighbour crowded this site, and boats which landed nearby brought passengers rather than freight. In 1820 this was the choice residential district of Fredericton.

Lockwood had come from Nova Scotia to succeed the Honourable George Sproule New Brunswick's first Surveyor-General who died in November 1817. Soon after his arrival here his report of a survey for a canal across the Isthmus of Chignecto was presented to the House of Assembly. This matter was laid before His Majesty's Council several times. Lockwood was a brilliant man, ahead of his time, but he was outsider who apparently despised his colleagues in the government of New Brunswick. None of the older members of His Majesty's Council became his friend. The Lieutenant-Governor, Major-General George Stacey

Smyth, became so ill that he resided for months at a time with his doctor in Saint John in a house provided for him there. The senior members of His Majesty's Council were so old by this time that for them to make the journey to the capital for Council meetings was inadvisable.

When the Lieutenant-Governor died in 1823, Lockwood, who already had assumed more than his share of the reins of government, considered himself the senior councillor and, therefore, the Administrator of the Province until a new governor was appointed by London. Without authority, he went to Saint John and occupied the residence furnished by the late Governor.¹ Requested to leave the house, he became so infuriated he "Flourished a pistol in a public square in Saint John." No one accepted this challenge, if one were intended. Instead medical opinion was sought and the Honourable Anthony Lockwood was conveniently adjudged insane. Accompanied by his wife, Lockwood immediately embarked from Saint John for England. There he complained, and there he remained.

Anthony Lockwood junior remained in Fredericton and was a cartographer of note. Anthony Lockwood senior resided in England, in receipt of an annual allowance for the rest of his days. At his death in 1855 the New Brunswick Royal Gazette reported:

DIED, at Stepney, London, on the 25th day of January last, Anthony Lockwood Esquire, aged 77, formerly Surveyor General of this Province.

It may be that Lockwood's indisputable talent and industry was a loss to New Brunswick. A Report of his, published in London in 1818, containing several charts of harbours, is entitled "A Brief Description of Nova Scotia including Particular Accounts of the Island of Grand Manan".

Lockwood's fine Fredericton home was sold soon after his departure. The following advertisement appeared in the New Brunswick Royal Gazette in 1824:

TO LET - The House next the wind mill at the upper end of Town with a large Garden and Stables. Furniture may be had and an excellent Piano forte with immediate possession if required.

All persons indebted to the subscriber are requested to call at the office of George Dibblee Esquire whose receipt for payment is sufficient, otherwise the Accounts will be put in Suit without discrimination.

James Wood

George J. Dibblee, Esquire, bought this stone built house from Anthony Lockwood and his wife of London in March 1826.

Dibblee was a young barrister who had recently married his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Major Ketchum of Woodstock. His second wife was a daughter of the Attorney General, the Honourable Thomas Wetmore. This lady died in 1848, and in November, 1850, Dibblee married a third time to Jane, daughter of a former Attorney General, the Honourable. Charles J. Peters.

When their fine stone house was gutted by fire about 1872, Dibblee and his third wife moved to a house on the south-easterly corner of George and St. John Streets. Their stone house was sold in 1873 to become the centre of Risteen's factory.

J. C. Risteen Company Limited continued to produce sashes and doors, and mouldings at the corner of Smyth and Queen streets until after the



The Lockwood House in 2003

Second World War.

In recent years Anthony Lockwood's house has served as Margolian's, a men's clothing store.

¹Stewart MacNutt notes that Lockwood also occupied the Old Government House in Fredericton.(ed.)

Our Contributors . . .

The Editorial Committee gratefully acknowledges the work of **Katherine LeButt** in preparing this issue. A close friend of Louise Hill, she served for many years as director of the Fredericton public library system.

Stephen Patterson is a retired professor of history at UNB. He is a Fredericton native, a founder of the Fredericton Heritage Trust, and a friend and associate of Louise Hill in the struggle to preserve the city's built heritage.

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Marian Hoyt for the pictures of Frances Hoyt and the Old Hoyt Homestead.

All of the illustrative materials in the Spring & Summer issue and in this issue were scanned and prepared by Susan Acheson. She has also provided the modern photographs of the buildings used in both issues. Photographs of the Hill family are courtesy of Katherine LeButt.