

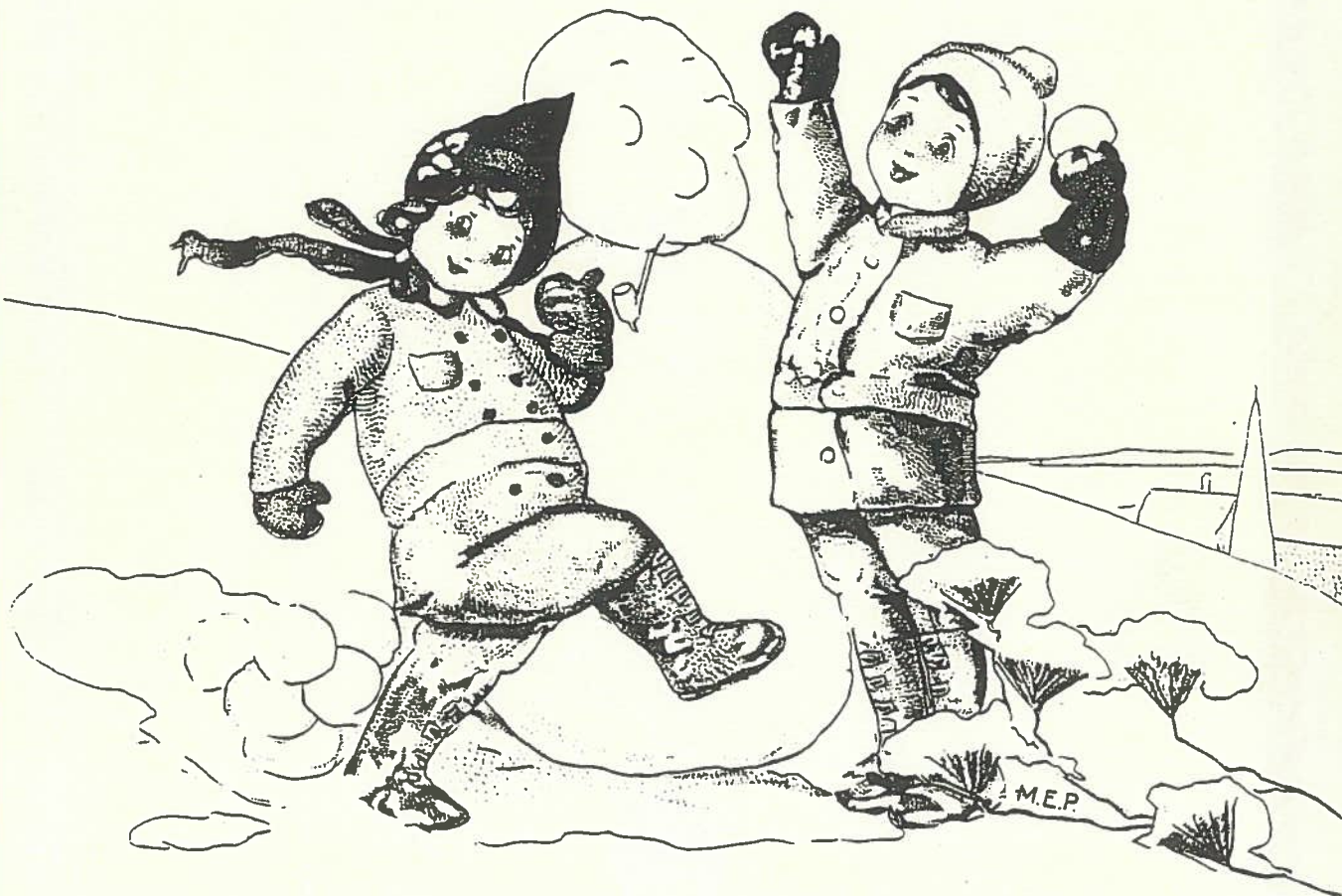


THE OFFICERS' QUARTERLY

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

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

LATE FALL 1987



H eaps of fun on CHRISTMAS!

Christmas postcard from the Society collection
Addressed to Willard Armstrong, Lawfield, Queens Co., N.B.
Postmarked: Gagetown, N.B., Dec 20, 1919

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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VOL.3, NUMBER 3, LATE FALL'87



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

Publication dates are quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Submissions are to be addressed to the Editor and received at the Society Office by the first day of March, June, September and December for that quarterly publication date.

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

Individual memberships are \$15.00 per year and \$150.00 for life.

Editor.....Paul M. O'Connell



THE OFFICERS' QUARTERLY

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President's Perspective

History is continually in the making. This year seems to have had more than its share of historic events. Such issues as Meech Lake, the Free Trade Debate, and the potential of a U.S. Soviet Arms Agreement comes immediately to mind. This year's provincial election will be the subject of historical analysis by scholars for years to come.

Fredericton, seemingly has jumped the development hurdle through compromise, and ended for the time being the divisive development battle between Downtown Development and The Westcliff Regional Mall proposal. Passers through the City last year included Rick Hanson, the Canadian Wheelchair athlete who has wheeled around the World raising money for spinal research. This year the Olympic Torch runners on their way to the Winter Olympics in Calgary drew our admiration.

What are some of the historic events which have occurred in our own organization?

- Alarm systems now protect the building and its contents.
- Doors, equipped with panic bars, now ensure the safe exit from our Museum by visitors in case of fire.
- Artifacts from our collection are included in an exhibit at the Glenbow Museum being held in conjunction with the Calgary Winter Olympics.

The Board of Directors is sending the Coleman Frog to Ottawa for special conservation measures. (Only National treasures receive this treatment).

The organization is completing its first year under a new set of by-laws.

Lucy McNeil, at our September meeting, makes a special motion thanking the volunteers for their assistance..."there have never been so many."

To make positive history requires a lot of effort from a lot of people. In our own case, the gains we have made as an organization have been the result of a lot of peoples' talent and efforts. Merry Christmas all you talented people, if you haven't made an effort yet, there is history to be made in the future!

All the Best in the
Holiday Season,

Harry Quinlan



Society Events



The following Society exhibits are now being presented at the Museum at Officer's Square.

Nov. 1 - May 1 : "VICTORIAN ELEGANCE"

The return of romance, femininity, and grace through a tribute to women's fashions of the 1800's.

Nov. 1 - May 1 : "RECENT ACQUISITIONS"

A behind-the-scenes look at the necessary and important process of cataloguing and accessioning artifacts donated to the York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum. Items on display to aid in explaining this process are selected from the many artifacts that have been donated to the Museum during the past year.

Dec. 1 - Feb. 1 : "CHRISTMAS IN THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS"

Come celebrate the Yuletide Season in the original Officers' Quarters! The Museum will be decorated in an authentic fashion suitable to the Officers who would have occupied the building in the 1800's.



Annual Society Christmas Party and Authors' Night

December 17, 1987 - Thursday, 8:00 P.M.

Location: Officer's Square

7:00 P.M.

This event will be preceded by a short Board meeting, starting at



Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

January 28, 1987 - Thursday, 8:00 P.M.

Location: Officers' Square



Framing

THE ART OF PROPER FRAMING by Nancy Reid

This summer the Museum received a call from a lady who wanted to know how to preserve an old newspaper section she had found backing a mirror. While she wanted to do her best to preserve the newspaper, she also wanted to be able to look at it frequently. This is a common dilemma for collectors of fibre-based artworks -- newspapers, documents, prints, watercolours, photographs and textiles: how does one ensure its preservation and display it at the same time? Often the very methods we innocently use to mount and frame works of art contribute to their deterioration. Even so-called professional framers are not without blame in this area. For example, a needlework sampler is often stretched over a board and tacked in place with closely placed nails. Over the years, the fabric will become dry, brittle or rust-stained from the nails. The wood used in the mount and in the frame can release chemicals and resins that will deteriorate the fabric. Even the glass placed over the piece can cause damage.

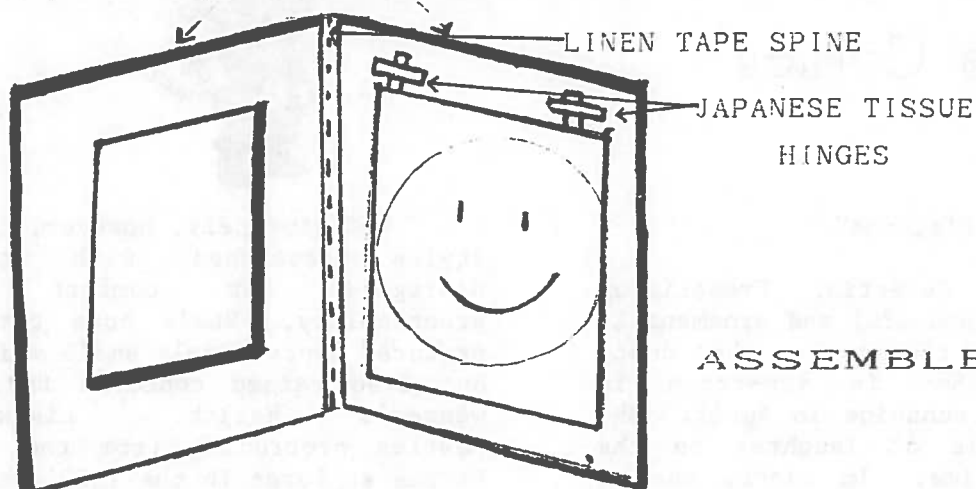
My personal pet peeve is the use of adhesive tapes (masking tape, scotch tape, etc.) to mount a print or similar artwork. Last year I acquired a lovely piece of hand-lettered parchment. Normally, I mat and frame pieces myself, but this time I thought I'd go the extra mile, hang the expense and take it to a local framing business. I carefully chose the

framing materials, insisted on acid-free matting and parted with a considerable amount of money. When I picked up the finished product, I was appalled (read outraged) to see that my precious parchment was attached to the mat with MASKING TAPE!!! Oh, visually, it looked fine, but within a year the chemicals in the tape's adhesive would have permanently stained the parchment. It was an expensive lesson on the ethics of local framers.

All fibre-based objects are susceptible to damage from the environment (light, humidity, insects) and from prolonged contact with wood, cardboard, and glues or other adhesives. The only way to slow or prevent this deterioration is to surround the object with acid-free materials. Although this is slightly more expensive, it will add years to the object. Care must be taken to properly seal the work of art between the frame molding and backboard so dirt, dust and insects can't enter.

The work should be hinged to an acid-free backboard with Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste and "window-matted" also with acid-free material. This way neither the glass nor the frame will directly touch the artwork. The object should hang freely from its hinges, so it won't buckle. Another piece of acid-free board should be placed behind the backboard, if additional support is

ACID-FREE MAT & BACKBOARD



ASSEMBLED MAT

needed. Glazing a fibre-based work of art also raises some questions. Glass has been the traditional material used, however some of the new sheet plastics are also used in some instances. Both materials have their good and bad points. Plexiglass is lightweight, which is useful when glazing large works of art. It can also be made to filter out harmful ultra violet rays. Its disadvantage is that it picks up and holds an electrostatic charge which can attract dust to the outside surface and, on the inside, attract flakes of paint, charcoal, pastel, chalk or other loosely bonded material. Therefore, the Canadian Conservation Institute recommends that plastic not be used in "... glazing works with friable images or those with cracked or flaking paint." (CCI NOTES 11/3 Glazing Materials for Framing Works of Art on Paper). Other disadvantages of plastic glazing include its susceptibility to surface scratches, its reduced rigidity because of its light weight and its tendency to cause glare. On the other hand, glass has none of these disadvantages. Its main drawback is its weight, especially when used over large works of art.

Glass used for glazing cannot filter ultra violet light -- if it

is used over light-sensitive objects, other methods of reducing UV must be considered. Glass, of course, is breakable and when it does break, its sharp edges can puncture or tear the work of art it is protecting. Therefore, extra care must be taken for shipping or moving a glass-glazed object (apply masking tape across the surface of the glass in a grid pattern so that, if breakage occurs, the shards are less likely to fall onto the work of art).

As you can see, there is a lot to consider when framing your prints, watercolours or photographs. There are few properly trained paper conservators in the region whose services are available to the public. I suggest, if you wish to preserve the fibre-based art, that you mount and frame them properly from the beginning. If you don't wish to tackle the project yourself (the materials needed are locally available), then you must choose an ethical framer who understands conservation methods and is capable of handling valuable, delicate artworks. The cost of proper framing now is easily one-tenth of what the cost of restoration can be later.



Curator's Corner



"Victorian Elegance"

"The Celestial Fredericton Girl is both useful and ornamental. She is a flower by the dusty wayside. She is ice-cream in August and sunshine in April. She is a ripple of laughter on the river of Time. In short, she is the frosting which heaven has spread o'er the dreary plain cake of earth."

Frank H. Risteen, 1897

The Fredericton Tourist Committee

A winter exhibition of late Victorian women's clothing recently opened at the York-Sunbury Museum. Guest Curated by Patrick Clark, costume designer for T.N.B., this exhibit is intended as an introduction to post 1860 fashion trends. On display are four dresses ranging in style from 1874 to c. 1898, as well as gear and accessories ranging from hat pins to fans, and from mourning jewellery to bustles and bloomers. All, except one dress, are from the Museum's permanent collection.

As presented, these items are indicative of an ornamental attitude toward women's attire. Post 1860 fashions were lavish, sometimes garish, with yards upon yards of layered and draped fabric laden with all manner of trim. For designers and dressmakers, such styles were a means for elaborate creative expression. In terms of construction, they demonstrated great technical ability and flair for ornamentation.

Unfortunately, however, these styles developed with total disregard for comfort and practicality. Whale bone corsets produced impressively small waists; but also raised concerns for the wearer's health. Likewise, bustles protruding from the rear became so large in the 1880's as to nearly equal another half woman from the waist down: severely restricting the wearer's ability to sit comfortably.

The earliest dress on display is a lavender wedding dress (1874), loaned especially for this exhibit by one of our Society members, Mrs. Mary DeWolfe. In terms of styling, it is an excellent example of the transition from the huge round skirts of the 1860's, to the trailing bustle skirts of the 1880's. Introducing a new line, the skirt of this dress falls straight in the front, hangs wide at the sides, with fullness at the back and slightly trailing. The effect is a hemline shape no longer round, but ovoid.

The reign of Queen Victoria began in 1837 and continued until 1901. The years of her reign following 1861 were marked by lonely widowhood as a result of the death of her husband, Albert, the Prince Consort. In reaction to her loss, Queen Victoria entered a deep state of mourning which did not end until her own death. It was during this same period of her reign that the ritual of mourning in Victorian society became highly eulogized. Included in the exhibit is a very elegant mourning dress of black satin and lace. It is labelled

"Mrs. Blanchard, Costumer and Milliner, 78 Germain St., Saint John." This dress was donated to the Museum, especially for this exhibit, by Miss Jennie Wilson of Oromocto.

Together, the items on display provide insight into high Victorian pleasures for detail and ornamentation. They represent an ideal...appropriate apparel for Fredericton's fashion conscious social set.

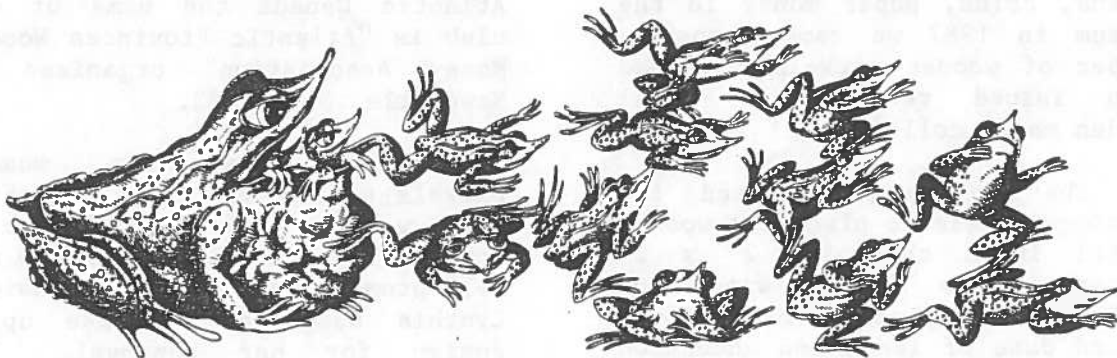
In closing, a special thank-you is extended to all the volunteer staff members who worked so hard over the last two months to prepare this exhibit. Without their assistance, such an extensive display could not have been possible.

Cynthia Wallace-Casey

Frognotes



A Frog in Your Throat? A recent article drew my attention to this expression and would lead one to think twice about uttering it again. The Darwin frogs from South America have a peculiar way of taking care of its young. The male keeps the tadpoles in his throat until they've grown legs and are ready to hop away. Boy what a neat trick to teach our own Coleman colossal!



New American Imposter. In a continuing attempt to discredit our Coleman Frog, the Des Moines Zoo unveiled what they describe as the world's heaviest marine toad. The toad, entitled 'Toab B', weighed in at 4 obs. 7 oz. and purportedly eclipses that set in the Guinness Book of World Records. Someone should tell Des Moines that 'Toad B' would prove to be a light snack for our champ.

Wooden Nickels

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM WOODEN NICKELS by Glenn B. Rodger

The building that contains the York-Sunbury Historical Museum stands beside Officers' Square on Queen Street in downtown Fredericton, N.B., on military compound, a national historic site: On May 15, 1815 it was destroyed by fire, rebuilt and destroyed by fire on April 16, 1834. The building we see to-day was rebuilt of stone from the Rainsford Quarry.

When you visit the museum you are welcomed by the Curator, Cynthia Wallace-Casey who takes pride in the place and likes to show through and talk about the history and artifacts of the period.

In cataloguing the medals, tokens, coins, paper money in the museum in 1987 we came across a number of wooden nickels that had been issued recently by local wooden money collectors.

The procedure we used for cataloguing was to place the wooden nickel in a cardboard 2" x 2" holder with a plastic window on each side, stapled on four sides, record date of issue and accession number on the 2" x 2", place in 20 pocket plastic sheets, which are then inserted in a three ring binder.

The history of wooden money can be traced to the time of the Roman Empire, which is often referred to as the Byzantine Period. This dates back from

395 A.D. to 1435 A.D. The phrase, "Don't take wooden nickels", is believed to have originated with the early Greek Businessmen, who would not accept wooden nickels as payment for goods and services.

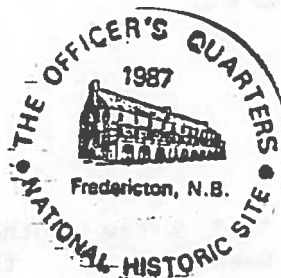
Today wooden nickels are sought after by collectors throughout Atlantic Canada and elsewhere throughout the world. Probably the oldest wooden nickel in New Brunswick was issued by Ross Drug Stores, Fredericton, N.B. in the early 1940's.

Wooden nickels are classified as follows: Official issues, semi-official issues, coin clubs, wooden money clubs, private issues and those issued by stores, etc. In Atlantic Canada the name of our club is "Atlantic Provinces Wooden Money Association" organized at Newcastle, N.B. 1982.

While cataloguing wooden nickels at the Museum we suggested that wooden nickels could be a source of income for the museum and help promote the museum nationwide. Cynthia suggested we make up a design for her approval. The design was made up and submitted for approval. Changes were made and approval was given to prepare the artwork for each side of the wood. The artwork was prepared and returned to Cynthia to be forwarded to the company which manufactures wooden nickels. The rubber stamp method was chosen for the woods, printed red on both sides.

The obverse has the legend:

The Officers' Quarters
National Historic Site
1987
Photo of the Building
Fredericton, N.B.



Reverse side:

Monogram
York-Sunbury Museum
Officers' Square
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5C8



The wooden nickel will be recorded in the second edition of "Wooden Money of Atlantic Canada."

The York-Sunbury Museum is the first in New Brunswick to use this method of promoting the museum in Atlantic Canada and throughout our nation.



Frognotes



A news story emanating from Peking, China confirms what every Society Member already knows - don't swallow a frog (especially not ours!). The story relates that a Chinese peasant died after swallowing three toads for a bet. Our hero, named Zhang, managed the feat (feet?) and won three packets of cigarettes. He then developed acute stomach pain and died the next day on the way to the hospital.



Your Board of Directors has authorized an extended holiday for our Coleman Frog. At its December meeting it approved a much deserved rest for our green giant. Actually he will be going for a much needed facelift - to remove wrinkles, which have been showing as of late. Wrinkles are not surprising, after all, on a 102 year old frog. This work will be done by museum experts in Ottawa at no charge to the Society.

Society News



✿ August 7 'til 9 saw another Froggy Weekend at the Society's Museum in honour of Fredericton's famous Coleman Frog. The event was given wide coverage by the media, Radio and TV, and the Gleaner and Telegraph - Good work by the Publicity Committee. Attendance during the week and weekend totalled over 200 daily. The Calithumpians performed their Coleman Frog skit and Mayor Woodside was officially inducted into the Froggy Fan Club.

Our thanks to those who assisted in the Froggy Weekend:

Scoop and Save
McDonalds
Coca Cola
Hostess Potato Chips
Mazucca's
Burger King
The Decorator Shop
Bar-B-Q Barn
CIHI
CFNB
Covey's
Do It Centre
The Calithumpians
Tracey Dobbelsteyn
Miss Fredericton: Tracey
Cheevers
Councillor Wayne Lockhart
Kate Rogers
Hal and Debi Williams
Town Crier Thom Joordans
The Constatine Brothers
City Hall
David Burt
David Dilworth
Velma Kelly
Susan Upshall

✿ The first fall monthly meeting was held at Officers' Square on September 17th and featured somewhat of a working session. The evening was led off by Cynthia Wallace-Casey with a slide presentation of the 1987 Museum summer season. The wealth of activities and Cynthia's excellent colour commentary provided for an informative and entertaining session.

The wrap up for the evening was provided by the Newsletter Editor, Paul O'Connell, outlining the progress of the Newsletter to date and soliciting material and ideas for the future.



✿ Following this Province's historic election, Society Members were treated to an entertaining portrait of politics in bygone years. "New Brunswick Election History: A Celebration of our Democratic Heritage" was the theme on October 15th for our two speakers, Society Member Dr. Murray Young and Mr. Arthur Doyle. Members were brought back to the days when 'dollar polls', booze and patronage guided the democratic process in New Brunswick. A discussion period followed and thoughtful insight was provided by our two speakers into the last election, particularly on the role of public polls on the election results.

 Mr. Mark MacDonald, whose paintings were exhibited in the Museum this past summer, has had one of his works chosen for the '87 New Brunswick Art Competition (Professional Div.). The collection of juried works by N.B. artists opened at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery on October 30.



 Winner of the Froggy Weekend draw for a frogs leg dinner for two at the Bar-B-Q Barn, was Mrs. Doreen Kirkland.



 A Christmas gift suggestion - the Museum has a good supply of Froggy T-shirts (adult and youth sizes) which would be a fun Christmas gift for any frog enthusiast. In addition, membership certificates in the Froggy Fan Club are also available at the Museum.



 On November 1st, Linda Squires Hanson provided us with an insight into the Fredericton social life of the latter half of the 18th century. This presentation coincided with the opening of the exhibit "Victorian Elegance", featuring the return of romance, femininity and grace through women's fashions of the 1800's. The presentation indicated that life during that period was certainly not dull, with lots of elaborate parties and balls. Dress at these affairs was in high fashion, emulating the European styles then in vogue.

 The Board held their monthly meeting on October 19, 1987 at Officers' Quarters. A major item on the agenda included the auxilliary group and its New Horizon funding, as well as the utilization of building space for different Society purposes. Discussion centered on the report submitted by a committee composed of Members Ross, MacLennan and O'Connell. With some modifications the recommendations of the report were accepted, which includes renaming the auxilliary group as "Society Auxilliary". The recommendation relating to a permanent Society meeting room was referred to the Executive for implementation.

The Board also approved for the Curator/Administrator, Cynthia Wallace-Casey, an intensive 10 day training program at the Banff School of Management. This program covers Museum and Art Gallery Management and will be held during the month of November.



 The Society contributed to Fredericton's Remembrance Day activities by hosting an open house at the Museum on November 11, from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M. Activities included the showing of a film, entitled "Bravery in the Field", which offered viewers a better appreciation of veterans and their contribution and sacrifice for their country. As well, our excellent Military collection and World War I trench replica were open for viewing.

 November 19 saw a heavy turnout of Society members for the monthly lecture series on the Legislative Assembly building. The speaker for the evening was the Clerk of the Assembly, David Peterson, and the setting was, in fact, the Assembly building itself. Mr. Peterson gave an excellent, personal and descriptive account of the major renovations undertaken during his tenure, and conducted an extensive tour of the Assembly Building. A surprise visitor was the new Speaker designate of the Assembly, Frank Branch. Refreshments, courtesy of the Speaker, was provided in the Assembly's cafeteria.



 Christmas time is near when the Museum schedules its Annual Tree Trimming Party, and this year this event occurred on November 29th, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The theme for this years yuletide is "Christmas in the Officers' Quarters", portraying the period when military officers actually occupied the museum building in the 19th century. Members, staff and volunteers, their children and grandchildren, turned out in full force to "do the job". An added feature was the opportunity for all to learn how to make a Victorian centerpiece.

The Society is indeed fortunate in having the Loyalist Room professionally decorated in keeping with this year's theme. Mr. Norman Merseur, professional designer, accepted our invitation to decorate this particular room, and members and public alike will be suitably impressed.

 The Society's Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting at Officers' Quarters, December 1st at 5:00 P.M. Besides regular business, preparations were made for the coming annual meeting in January, including the naming of the Nominating Committee. It will be Chaired by Dr. McGahan and include Brent Wilson.

Permission was granted for the Museum to participate in the downtown 'First Night' celebrations on New Years Eve. This concept provides for entire families to celebrate the advent of a new year as an alternative to the traditional party mode. Many other downtown facilities will be included, and Members should refer to public announcements on the activities if they wish to participate.

As well, the Annual Meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, January 28th in order to allow for the preparation of the annual financial statement.



 Old time Christmas made way for the Santa Claus Parade Open House on December 5th. The public was invited to stop by, either before or after the parade, to enjoy a cup of hot drink and to view the Museum in its Christmas finery. A Heritage Bake Sale was held during this period, offering favorite old Christmas baking to the public.



The Association New Brunswick Museums Inc. has provided us with a copy of a letter received from a participant of their recent study tour in this region. He states, "I was most (of all) impressed with the York-Sunbury Museum. Although they have obviously less budget than say,

the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, they at (York) Sunbury, were most of all professional and I felt their enthusiasm was contagious."



The New Brunswick Museum Controversy

A news story December 3, 1987 carried by The Telegraph-Journal and other Media reported that the Save Our Museum Committee has alleged that the New Brunswick Museum improperly disposed of collection items. News reports implicated the York-Sunbury Historical Society by asserting that we, along with 12 other Historical and Cultural organizations have 'banded together', and provided 'delegates' to the Save our Museum Committee.

On December 4, 1987 a letter was written to Hon. Joseph-Roland Beaulieu, Minister, Department Tourism, Recreation and Heritage by H. Quinlan, Society President in order that our non-involvement be made clear. Excerpted from that letter:

"Our organization has not been approached in any formal fashion regarding the controversy. The Board of Directors has not discussed, nor been

asked for comment regarding New Brunswick Museum practices. We meet monthly. Further, the organization has not 'banded together' with others, nor provided 'delegates' as has been publicly announced by News Media.

I trust this serves to define our non-role in this controversy. The accusations of the 'Save our Museum Committee' are serious and require accuracy in their review. I hope this letter adds to that process, and alleviates some confusion created by news reports."



It's membership renewal time again! Memberships this year are again \$15 per individual or family, and \$150 for a life membership. It would be appreciated if members renewed their membership promptly.

Our Treasurer, Fred White, listed a short time ago, the different benefits of membership in the Society. On the cost of the Newsletter, postage, notices and income tax receipts alone he calculated a value of \$15.84 per year. That does not include free admission to the best little museum around, discounts on Society publications, plus all other functions and accompanying refreshments. It's definitely a bargain!

Old Belty Murphy



In every town there are citizens that somehow stand out, not because of their achievements but because they provide colour to a community. They provide colour in the sense that they are irrepressible in character, and stand out when the majority somehow seek to conform.

While they participate in the drama of life, quite often in wretched conditions, they somehow are accorded special status, something akin to the court jester of old. When they depart this earth their memory lingers on ever so briefly, and then they are forgotten. Subsequent generations then produce their own court jesters, for some, to laugh at, but for many to remind them of the frailty of the human species.

Victorian Fredericton had one such person, 'Old Belty Murphy'. She too would have vanished from the pages of history but for the thoughtful hand of this Society's unidentified curator, writing in the 1933 pages of our Accession Book.

"Mrs. Murphy migrated to this country from Ireland. When she was a young woman she worked here as domestic and cook.

She was left alone in the world while quite young with her little boy "Patsy" and evidently had quite a hard time. She lost her reason.

It was probably the worries of an extremely poverty stricken life that drove her insane for she always raved about money. Sometimes it was a dust of money, sometimes a barrelful she was coming into; sometimes the size or shape of the container wasn't mentioned at all, but always it was a vast fortune.

After becoming insane she sold apples on the street and her announcement to all customers that she would buy new clothes for them, showed that she had a good supply of that generous heartedness for which the Irish race is famous. She became a very, very familiar sight on Queen Street and her mad ravings about money became a by word to everybody. Like the heroic optimists of today who tell us prosperity is just around the corner (we are at present in the midst of a great economic depression), so did Old Belty rave about the money that would be hers in a few days. The earnestness of her speech as she raved and the earnest-look on her face showed plainly enough how firmly madness had her in its grip. When she got too old to sell apples she led a wretched existence for some time, and often lived at "Smokey Hollow", a cluster of

delapidated houses on Smythe Street (the site of Smokey Hollow is now part of the Argyle Street road allowance), somewhat isolated from the rest of the city as it then was, and occupied by some poor coloured families. There, for a few coppers that people had given her, she could obtain shelter and perhaps a place to sleep on a floor or on some poor couch. She was later taken to the home for the poor on York Street. At times she would get tired of it there and come down into town. People would see her going along the street and laugh and say "there goes old 'Bilty Murphy'". There was no friendship in the laugh (for) she had not the mentality that could gather real friends. People laughed because she had been a very familiar sight on the street that it amused them to see her again. She died at the home for the poor when she was very old (about the year 1904).

How Mrs. Murphy got the name of 'Bilty' was told to the Curator by Mr. Isaac J. Stewart, an aged gentleman who visited the museum a few days ago after an absence from the city of 55 years. Mrs. Murphy's husband was a prize fighter and was in possession of one of those champion belts which remain the custody of a fighter just so long as he can hold it against all comers. Mr. Murphy took ill and died while in possession of the belt. Those who managed the fight circuit or whatever it was called gave Mrs. Murphy

the belt for a keepsake. Her loud exclamations about the belt nick-named her.

'Bilty' Murphy was the only person who ever hit Col. Harding of the 22nd Regiment and lived to tell the tale. Col. Harding advertised for a cook and 'Bilty' answered the ad. The Col. asked her if she could cook pies, cakes, meats, etc. Then he asked her if she could cook some dish of which she had never heard the name. She thought he was making a remark that was unbecoming of a gentleman to make to a lady and she walloped him a good one. She said "he got up brushing his clothes, saying "My good woman what have I done? What have I done?"

There were mutual apologies and Col. Harding showed himself to be a good sport and a real gentleman by hiring Mrs. Murphy in spite of the hard usage he had received at her hand. She paid tribute to him many years afterwards.

'I stayed in his house two years and he was a foine, foine man' she said.
'Be gorra Be gobbs and Be dad.'

Bilty Murphy, the Society members of old, remembered you through their preservation of oral history. Through their work, we also remember.



The Editor



"... The British soldier everywhere proverbially enjoys his Christmas , and the 22nd, depend upon it, is no exception to the rule. The whole interior of the Exhibition was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens and pretty devices of colored paper and ribbons. The names of the several captains were displayed over the doors of their respective companies in letters wrought of roses and evergreens, while the interior of the room also displayed appropriate mottoes, such as "God Save the Queen", "A Merry Christmas", and the like. At 2 o'clock the officers and men sat down to a grand Christmas dinner, the roast-beef and plum-pudding seasoned with merry song and jest. At 4 o'clock the mirth and fun became "fast" though not "furious",-- the flowing bowl, supplied from a copious fountain which stood conspicuous in staves and hoops in the far corner. We are not going to "peach" as to the potency or influence of this same fountain, other than to say it had a most genial effect, without(strange puzzle to philosophers) any of the striking effects which so frequently manifest themselves at the instance of jolly Bacchus. In company with a friend, and ready escort from No. 2, we had the pleasure of "doing" the entire building; visited the various rooms; admired their decorations, watched the dances, heard the songs, laughed at the jests, joined in the cheers, and finally took our departure, not a little amused with our first visit to a soldiers' barracks at Christmas time."

From the New Brunswick Reporter,
December 27, 1867.

The Last Word

In case your haven't noticed, our 'fall edition' has become a 'late fall edition'. One keeps coming up with excuses why the work falls behind and there are a lot of them. But come to think of it, summer was awfully busy....and then so was spring. Boy, remember the rush getting the newsletter out last Christmas? I guess in the end, there is no substitute like getting right down to it.

The last two years have produced quite a few newsletters, with their articles, Society news, and individual perspectives. All of these have helped to flesh out the 'Quarterly'. It is a statement of who we are as a Society in 1987; a statement that will remain long into the future. My wish for the coming year is that more of you contribute to this statement. Set a goal to contribute one article for the 'Quarterly', so it will more fully represent the membership.

The Christmas season is a very special time of year. In New Brunswick it coincides with the coming of winter and the shortest days of the year. It is a time when we naturally draw closer to Family and friends, our comfortable fire, and sample the jams and preserves we squirreled away last summer. As we enjoy the bounty and beauty of our valley this Christmas, we should as Society Members reflect and remember those who came before us, and provided this bequeathal.

To each and everyone of you a very special Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

The Editor



