



THE OFFICERS' QUARTERLY

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

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

SPRING 1988

SLABTOWN

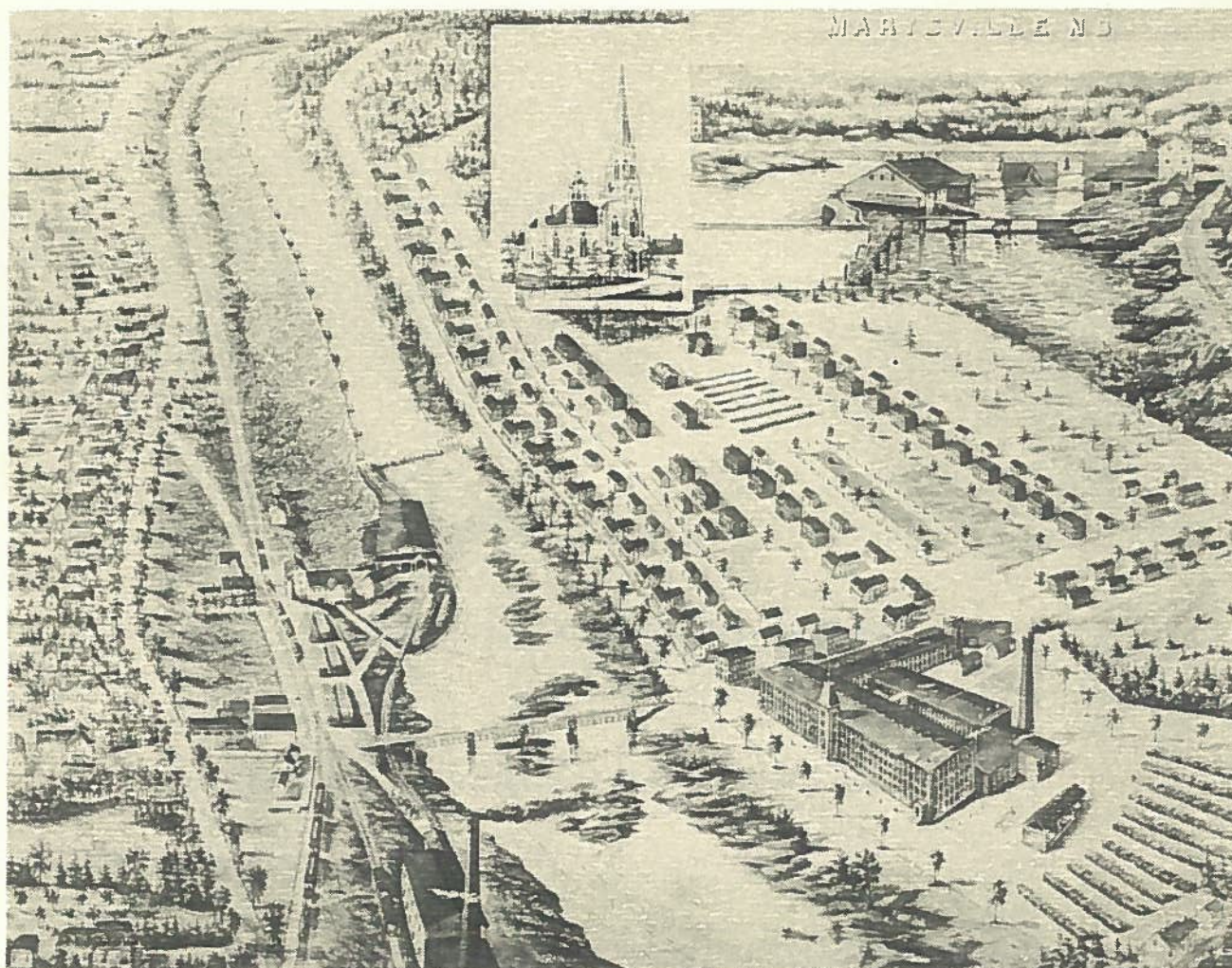


Photo Courtesy of Provincial Archives

The story of place names in and around Marysville,
by Dr. D. Murray Young, page 3.

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

May 9 (after Mother's Day)

Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Volume 4, Number 1 Spring 1988



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.

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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.

Corporations, individuals or organizations may also become sustaining members.

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



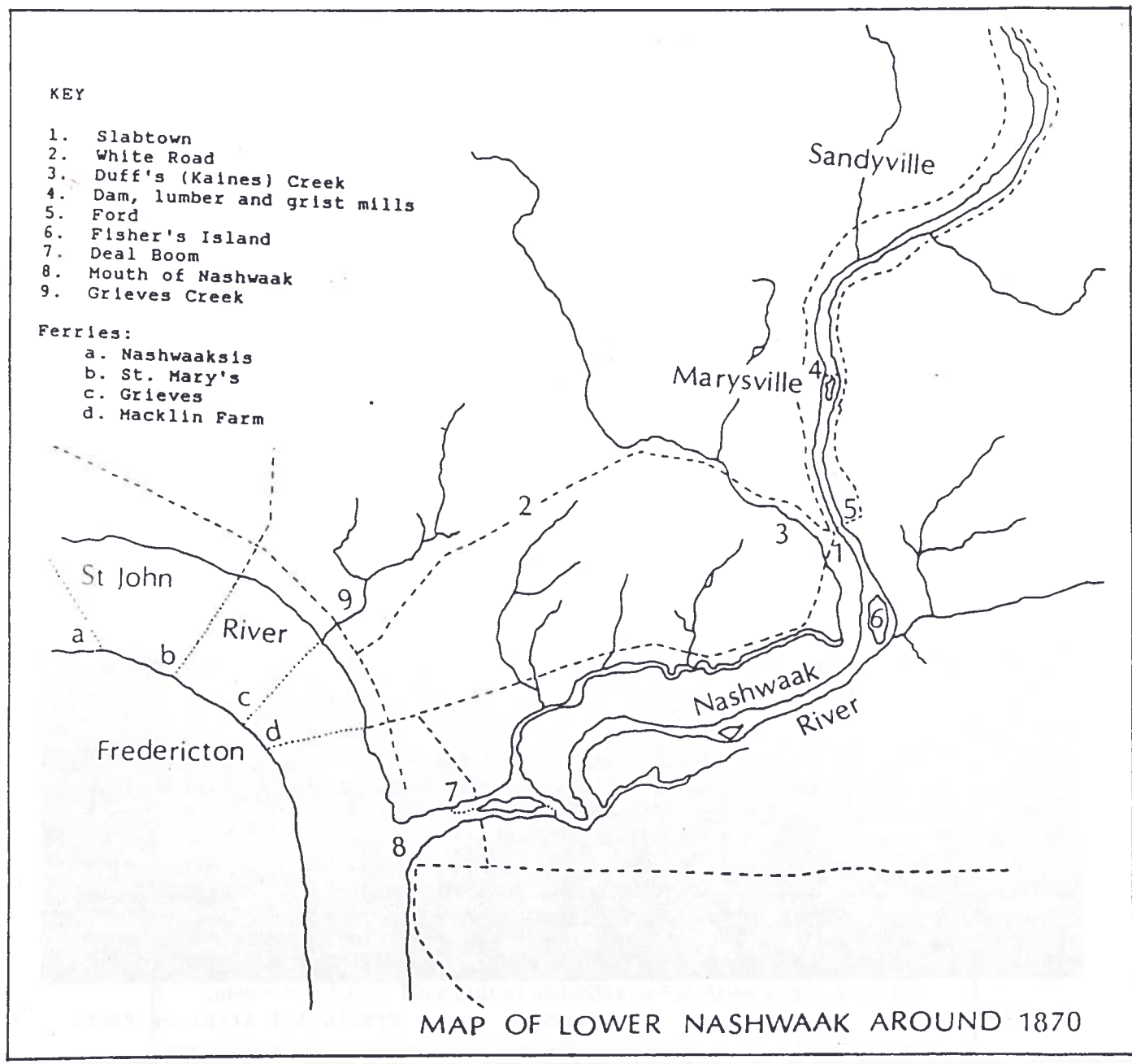
THE OFFICERS & QUARTERLY

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Large "slabs" - long, thick pieces of wood and bark - were removed from every log when planks, boards, and squared lumber were produced in oldtime mills. In the lumber trade, to "slab off" something was to throw it aside as useless. There was an enormous amount of waste to be disposed of. Much of it was dumped into the river, where rotting mill refuse lodged along the banks and on the the intervals. Sawdust, clouding the water, led to the virtual disappearance of salmon from the

Nashwaak by the 1850's. (The Canadian government began to restock the river with salmon in 1912).

Piles of slabs accumulated in the fields and every lumber milling town came to have an adjacent "slab town." Later, as the system became more efficient, the slabs that came off the great gangsaws were sawn into laths (thin narrow strips of wood nailed to walls and ceilings to hold the plaster) and almost all mill residue, that is everything



that could not be milled, was burned to heat boilers for steam-driven machinery. When Alexander "Boss" Gibson built his large cotton mill near the Great Rapids in the mid-eighties, he integrated it into the existing lumbering complex. The sawmills were still run by water power but the cotton mill and new lath mill used steam power.

There are now very few oldtimers whose memories go back to the days before World War I when Boss Gibson's integrated mills were in operation. A few years ago one of them recalled a man named Frank Mitchell who drove a white horse hauling slabs along a trackway that led from the sawmill to the lath mill. That trackway ran along the river bank on the west side of the Nashwaak between the railroad and the river, passing underneath the road bridge.

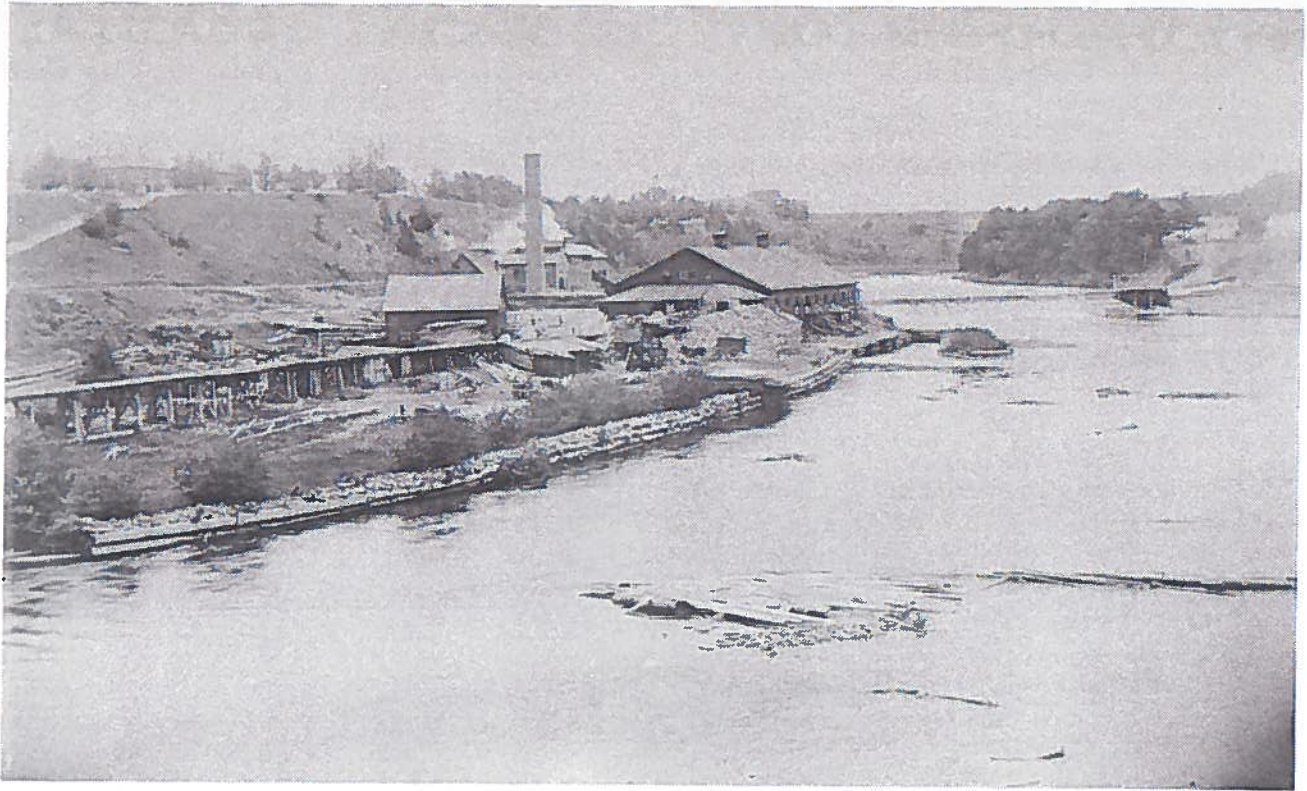
Mr. Mitchell himself - he died in 1932 - recalled a time, before the building of the lath mill, when slabs lined the fields in great piles extending for a quarter of a mile, from the sawmill area down nearly to Duff's or, in our terms, from just below the Alexander Gibson memorial School to the north bank of Kaines Brook, where All Saints Church now stands. Those piles of slabs gave Slabtown its name sometime in the mid-nineteenth century.

According to local tradition, both the first school and the first church in Marysville were in or near Slabtown. The first church, or meeting house, was downriver from the slab-piling area, on the top of the hill at what is now Gregory Avenue. John A. Young recalled going to a funeral there in the 1860's. The meeting house

was forgotten by the 1920's when workmen digging the cellar for a house rediscovered the graveyard. (Needless to say, local school children always called the house built on the spot "the haunted house"; it was frequently vacant, for families were hesitant to move into it). A reference by William T. Baird appears to refer to a visit to this church in the 1830's: "Our walks on Sabbath afternoons", he wrote "extended to the churches at 'Maryland Settlement', 'Springhill' and 'Blake's Mills' (now Gibson's at Marysville)." (Seventy Years of New Brunswick Life, p.40).

The first schoolhouse was at the intersection of the Nashwaak Road with the White Road, which at that point crossed the Nashwaak by a ford. That spot, now the corner of Canada Street and Kaine Street, was still the centre of Slabtown sixty years ago. The Reid Brothers kept a store there which was later taken over by Herbert and Willy Saunders. Slabtown's leading citizen, Mrs. Alexander (Young Sandy) Gibson, a sister of the Reid Brothers, lived nearby, next to All Saints Church. Workers in the Cotton mill occupied most of the houses from there to the upper end of Slabtown, at Pickard's Crossing, where there was another store. Many of the families living below and behind Reid Brothers followed other occupations, with several being part time farmers.

Favourite gathering places in summer were on the bank of the Nashwaak at "The Landing" and "The Point", respectively at the upper and lower ends of Fisher's Island. "The Landing" was a safe place for beginning swimmers and young children. Swimming at "The Point" was more of an adventure. Often



P.18-192

Provincial Archives Photo

there was a boom strung across the river where one could learn the river driver's skill of running on logs, with a splash in the water and barked shins when one slipped. One could also jump directly off the bank into deep water. Since the outlet pipe from the dye house of the cotton mill emptied into the Nashwaak only a short distance upriver, swimming at "The Point" presented a hazard on certain, fortunately rare, days. On such days swimmers came out of the water slightly tinged with red, or blue (the colour of good old British woad). Occasionally they emerged in more exotic colours, leading a Slabtownner who is now a learned judge to say that: "one knew the colour of one's friends when they entered the water, but didn't know what colour they would be when they came out."

The softball diamond was another gathering place. It was in a cow pasture near Fletcher's, on Kaines Brook. Both of Slabtown's teams, schoolboys and adults, played their home games there and spectators enjoyed the sights usually witnessed when ball players and cows share the same facility.

All the best place names - says W. F. Ganong in one of his brilliant essays - have the three qualities of "Melody, Dignity and Individuality." The clipped inelegant syllables of "Slabtown" certainly lack "Melody", but time, which has banished other "slab towns" into the limbo of forgotten places, has left Marysville's Slabtown with a name that has distinctiveness and individuality - and also a touch of the dignity that comes from shared lives and comradeship.

Frognotes

If the world had doubts before, let them be dispelled once and for all that York County, New Brunswick, is the giant frog capital of the world. The following authentic article appeared in September, 1903 edition of "The Amateur Sportsman". Although this giant is just one pound shy of our own Coleman Frog, you must now agree after reading this article and viewing the enclosed original picture that our waters contain some special chromosomal catalyst.

Mr. Rupert Morehouse, son of the legendary Dr. Morehouse, kindly provided us with the treasured article and photo.

A LARGE FROG by Avery Morehouse

Dr. Morehouse, of Upper Keswick, N. B. is the proud

possessor of the remains of the largest known frog. A peculiar thing about this amphibian monster is that he is minus his right hind leg from the knee down, which can be seen by the photo I am sending you. How his frogship lost the lower half of this important member is a question not easily answered. The doctor thinks he was caught in a jam of logs, or he might have ventured too near the railway. However, he managed to live and thrive. Dr. Morehouse only succeeded in his capture by spending a good deal of time patiently waiting by the edge of a very deep pond. He tried to capture the monster alive, and would have done so only for his powerful mastiff, who rushed in and seized him by the throat regardless of the doctor's efforts. The doctor had him mounted and a miniature crutch made, and he prizes this specimen above all others, although he has a vast

collection of birds and animals. He says his pet stands 28 inches in height and at the time of capture tipped the scale at 41 pounds.





Owing to the absence of Fredericton's Famous Coleman Frog, which will be at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa until approximately July, Mr. Rupert Morehouse has graciously agreed to loan the York-Sunbury Museum the Famous Frog Orchestra of Upper Keswick. This mounted collection of musical frogs is equally fascinating to the Coleman Frog, and is a legend in its own right. It represents the taxidermy work of the Late Dr. O. E. Morehouse, Sr., M.D., and will be on display in the Museum throughout this spring and summer.



Not to be outdone, the State of Texas also has a special frog. It is known as the Houston Toad and is restricted to three counties in the southeastern part of that state. This secretive toad possesses a mating call which sounds like the tinkling of a small bell. It is found in a variety of wetland types, from the temporary pools in open fields to small ponds in forested areas, however habitat loss and drought pose threats to this toad. Ask not for whom the bell tolls....



"The Economist" reports that the African clawed frog, *Xenopus Laevis*, may prove to be a boon to mankind. It is popular among scientists mostly because of its robust health and its large eggs, for which many experimental procedures have been designed. *Xenopus* frogs are easy to use. Just cut one open, take out the eggs, seal it up and pop it back into its tank.

Apparently a Dr. Zasloff from Washington, D.C., asked himself how frogs so treated, managed to avoid developing infections when they returned to their tanks teeming with microbes.

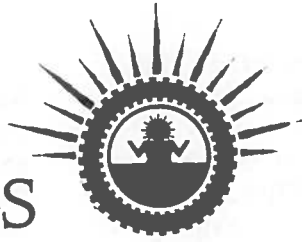
His curiosity paid off and he discovered that this Coleman cousin produced an anti-bacterial substance he called magainins.

Dr. Zasloff admits the use of magainins may not be new. His discovery has made him "completely revise" his opinion of folk medicines. Frogs and newts are popular ingredients of traditional remedies all around the world. A good example is the custom of strapping a live frog to a wound to help it heal. Since adrenalin causes the glands in the frog's skin to secrete magainins, and being strapped to an invalid must cause a frog plenty of stress, the frog must be pumping out magainins like mad, straight onto the wound. A short time ago, a cure by frog would have looked like magic - now it looks like magainins.

Curator's Corner

Cynthia Wallace-Casey

THE SPIRIT SINGS



Artistic Traditions of
Canada's First Peoples

GLENBOW MUSEUM, Calgary: January 15 - May 1, 1988
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION, Ottawa: July 1 - November 6, 1988

All eyes have been upon Calgary this winter as Canada's host city for the 1988 Winter Olympics. One of the many added benefits of this international sporting event has been the Olympic Arts Festival. For its part, the Glenbow Museum has mounted a major exhibition of native art, titled "The Spirit Sings: Artistic Traditions of Canada's First Peoples." In keeping with the world wide spirit of cooperation, over 600 rare Indian and Inuit art objects from collections around the world have been brought together - involving the participation of more than 90 museums and private lenders, throughout 20 nations. Indeed this is an Olympic event! Glenbow's Director, Mr. Duncan Cameron, has stated: "it is the most ambitious and complex museum exhibition project undertaken in Canada in recent decades."

The York-Sunbury Historical Society is proud to be a contributor to "The Spirit Sings." Ruth Holmes Whitehead of the Nova Scotia Museum was the Curator for the East Coast section of the exhibition. In the company of David Myles and Dr. Peter Paul, she visited the York-Sunbury Museum in the fall of 1986, and chose from our collection four artifacts representing the Maliseet tradition. Then, last summer these art objects were carefully packed (with the

assistance of the trained Conservators) and sent off to Calgary.



Chief Photographer, Ron Marsh and Chief Conserver, Fred Greene of The Glenbow Museum, examine the Maliseet beaded belt at our Museum, in the Spring of 1987.

Perhaps the most impressive of the four objects loaned is a finely incised ceremonial paddle made at Kingsclear and presented to Colonel John Saunders (1830-1870). A miniature birchbark canoe, measuring no more than 15 inches in length, came to the York-Sunbury Museum from the Ganong family of St. Stephen. Also loaned is a European style lady's beaded belt, comprised of black velvet over birchbark, and made by Sally Sacobie for Sophronia Balmain of Grand Lake, c. 1860. The fourth item, a crooked knife, has a caringly carved wooden handle bearing the initials "J.B.M." and a reworked blade made from a steel file.

After Calgary, "The Spirit Sings" will be moved to Ottawa, to be one of the feature opening exhibitions on July 1 in the new National Museum of Civilization building. Accompanying the exhibition is a 264 page colour publication just released by McClelland and Stewart. The Glenbow has also informed us that a one hour television special is planned to be broadcast nationally, and an education film will be produced for international distribution.

We in the York-Sunbury Historical Society are more than pleased to be part of such a memorable event!

SPRING CLEANING? MOVING?
THE YORK-SUNBURY MUSEUM IS ALWAYS IN
NEED OF A FEW THINGS:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - small refrigerator (camper size) | - work desks and tables |
| - card tables | - antique cash register |
| - sandwich trays | - candlestick holders |
| - utensils | - Christmas tree stand |
| - dishes (plates, bowls, cups) | - slide projector |
| - vacuum cleaner | - coffee urn |
| - rugs | - filing cabinets |
| - typewriter | - decorative flower pots |
| - toaster oven | |
| - artifact reference books | |
| - potted plants | |
| - cardboard wrapping paper tubes | |
| - portable sewing machine | |
| - ironing board | |
| - hand iron | |

...these items are needed for use rather than exhibit....but the Museum is always looking for artifacts as well!



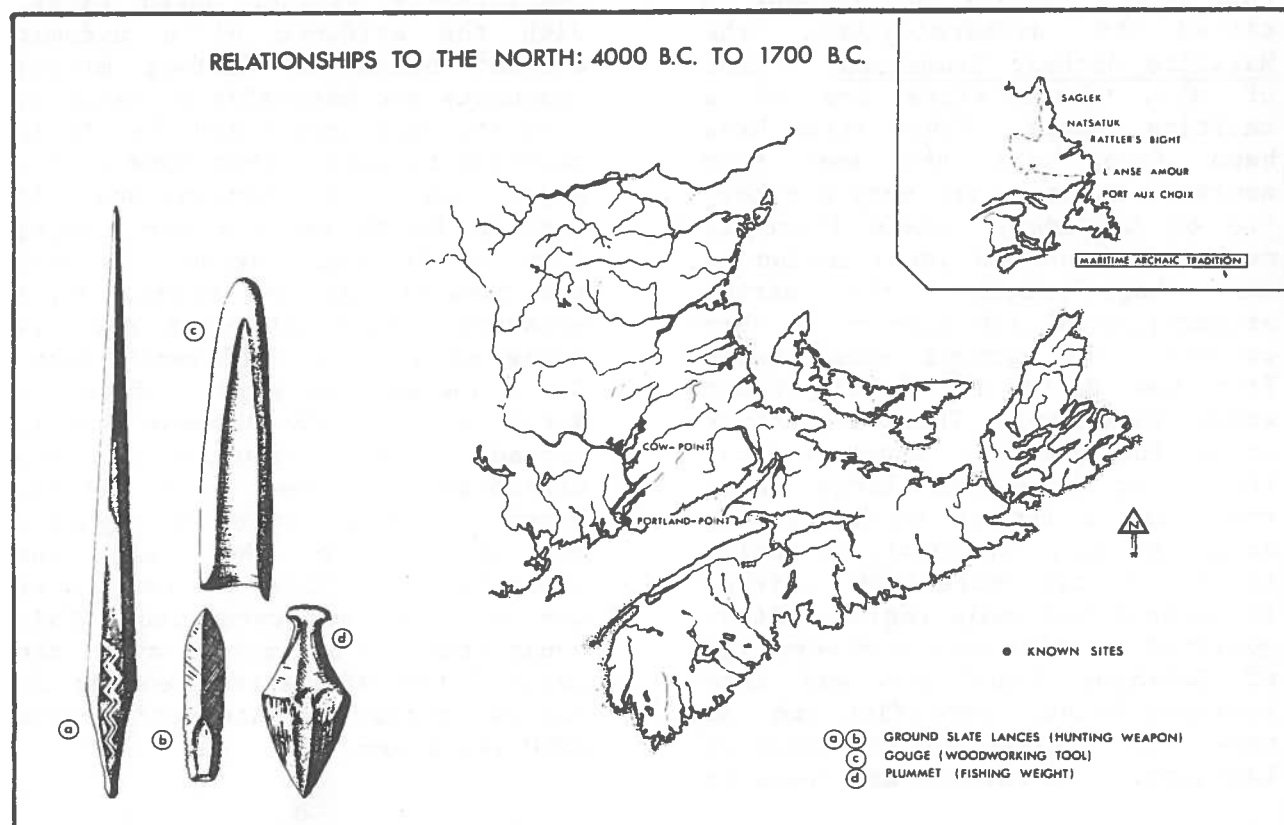
Relationships to the North

Chris Turnbull

The most prominently known site in the Maritimes during the period from 1700 to 4000 B.C. is in central New Brunswick, on the Thoroughfare between Grand and Maquapit Lakes. This is the Cow Point cemetery. It is a small site, only 40 m long and 10 m wide, laid out along a small ridge parallel to the Thoroughfare. About 60 grave plots were laid down over what is likely a period of few hundred years. The site's last use was radio-carbon dated to about 1700 B.C. Upon excavation, the only items to be found in the graves were made of stone. The rest had been dissolved by our very acidic forest soils. Other sites in Atlantic Canada and Maine demonstrate that many organic pieces such as animal and bird remains and bone tools were likely interred as well. These have been lost at Cow Point. Each grave had a selection of artifacts, some of

which archaeologists think were especially prepared for the burial ceremony.

The illustration shows the most spectacular of these. The long slender slate bayonets were painstakingly ground and then polished from slate. They are too delicate for actual use as hunting weapons. One throw would shatter them. The quarry source of this material is unknown. A few of the bayonets were very intricately engraved with geometric designs. Included in the graves were a range of adze blades, gouges, abrading stones, and plummets. The distribution of material between the graves suggests that the goods were equally available to those being interred. Other cemeteries from the Atlantic region and Maine show this same pattern of egalitarianism in society.



The only other site of these people that has been excavated in New Brunswick is at the mouth of the St. John River at Portland Point, where a few graves were found underneath the fort of Charles de la Tour, built in 1631. However, artifacts from private collections have been found all over the Province. A large gouge comes from the mouth of the Nashwaak. More material comes from the river flats at Marysville. There are likely camp sites to be found in these areas. Other material has been found all along the St. John and Miramichi Rivers. One slate bayonet was even found in the mud from the Bay of Fundy in front of Fort Beauséjour.

The art work and the artifacts of these people are spectacular in themselves, but even more interesting are the relationships to the cultural traditions of the Atlantic region and Maine evident from these tools and grave goods. This larger cultural development is called by archaeologists, the Maritime Archaic Tradition. First of all, these sites are of a maritime people. Their sites have been found all the way from southern Maine to the very northern tip of Labrador. While there is much variation and localization in this huge region, the marine orientation of the economy is very evident. The ground stone tools from Cow Point are likely heavy woodworking tools. Their dependence on marine products suggests that they must have had large water craft and a lot of sophistication about the sea. Certainly an active trade of raw materials existed throughout the whole region. Stone quarried at the very northern tip of Labrador found its way into southern Maine. Swordfish and cod were very important on the coast of Labrador. A harpoon was found in

one site on the coast of Labrador; it dates to 7500 years ago.

One of the most interesting facets the archaeological research on these people is our changing understanding of Native life in eastern North America. The earliest archaeology was done in New York state where an understanding evolved about the people of this 2000 to 4000 B.C. period. As more archaeology was done the new information was integrated into this initial framework.

Then archaeologists started working in the Atlantic region. First discoveries were again integrated into this New York framework. However, the discoveries started to pile up in Atlantic Canada to such an extent that a major re-interpretation is beginning of who is influencing whom.

Atlantic Canada now has consistently earlier dated sites. With the evidence of a dynamic economy based on various marine resources and extensive evidence of long distance inter- actions, it is starting to appear that some of the major cultural innovations in eastern North America are coming from our Atlantic region. As such the cemetery at Cow Point, while excavated about 20 years ago, is being seen in a different light. It is now seen as a part of native Native cultural development that is spreading its influence in the direction of New York state. Hopefully, some of the settlements of the people who left the spectacular burials at Cow Point can be found and excavated. This would start to add detail about the daily lives of Native peoples in our own region in this period over 4000 years ago.



SOCIETY ACQUISITIONS

1987

Collection, lumbering and agricultural tools	W. Wyton	Taymouth
Collection, N.B. Bicentennial pins, coins, and emblems	D. Richford	Fredericton
Clothes Wringer and glass novelty	H. Whitehead	Fredericton
Collection, ceremonial banners	C. Campbell	Fredericton
W.W.I C.E.F. Bible	V. Miles	Fredericton
Collection, Carriage maker plates and print	I. Crowell	Fredericton
Collection, wooden nickels	G. Rodgers	Fredericton
Edwardian Lady's Dress	A. Ingram	Fredericton
Fredericton Fireman's shirt	Dept. Tourism, Recreation and Heritage	Fredericton
Collection, T. C. Barker family	M. Barker est.	Fredericton
Collection, Victorian Bible markers	L. McNiell	Fredericton
Collection, 19th c. Lady's dresses	J. Wilson	Oromocto
Mourning Hat, c. 1900	P. Clark	Fredericton
Commercial Meat Slicer, 1924	K. Hong	Fredericton
Barker House chair	C. Sabat	Fredericton
Chipman House nail	L. McNiell	Fredericton
D. R. Bishop uniform	Dept. Tourism, Recreation and Heritage	Fredericton
Collection, MacGillivray/ MacLaggan textiles	E. MacGillivray	Fredericton
Collection, Canadian currency	W. Wyton	Taymouth
Prayer Book	O. Woodbury	Fredericton
N.B. Provincial Crest, pre-1984	E. Allen	Fredericton
Book, "The Story of the Fighting 26th"	R. Smith	Barrie, Ont.
Collection, Lady's Undergarments, c. 1900	A. Johnston	Fredericton

Manuscripts

Collection, 19th Century education items	R. Lewis	Hampstead
Fredericton postcard, 1908	L. Kelly for Kinette Club, Nashwaaksis	Fredericton
Fredericton Civic Orchestra Scrapbook, 1952-1961	W. Knowles	Hensall, Ont.
W.W. I and W.W. II photo collection	Royal Canadian Legion	Fredericton
W.W. II map, Western Front	T. Joordens	Fredericton
P. MacLaggan W.W. I personal items	M. Pugh	Fredericton
Pte. R. Reed, W.W. I personal items	R. Lewis	Hampstead
N.B. Motor Vehicle Record Books (1918, 1921)	J. Lovett	Fredericton
Collection, W.W. II ration booklets	W. Wyton	Taymouth
Coleman Frog postcards, c. 1930	H. Whitehead	Fredericton
P. MacLaggan W.W. I personal items	D. MacLaggan	Fredericton
4 Volume collection, Old Time Songs	W. Wyton	Taymouth
York-Sunbury Historical Society and related papers	F. Phillips	Fredericton

For Education Program

Egg Beater	J. Bailey	Fredericton
Wooden Dancing Man (repro)	H. Hunter	Boiestown
Miniature model, woodcutting tools	W. Wyton	Taymouth
19th c. costume (repro)	V. Kelly	Stanley
Clothespin Doll (repro)	V. Kelly	Stanley
Lady's petticoats (for costumes)	A. Johnston	Fredericton

Society News



☐ Information has been received concerning a newly organized TEXTILE SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in costumes, dyeing, weaving, quilting, rugs, needlework, or any other aspect of the use and/or production of textiles in New Brunswick. Anyone interested should contact:

Valerie Evans
303 Douglas Avenue
Saint John, N.B.
E2K 1E5

Tel: 652-7239

☐ April 25-26, the Association Museums New Brunswick will be holding a seminar at the York-Sunbury Museum on the Care and Handling of Historic Textiles and Costumes. The resource person will be Eva Burnham, Conservator, Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa. There is a limited enrollment, so anyone interested in attending should register in advance with Wendy Robb (office located in the National Exhibition building):

Mrs. Wendy Robb
Training Officer
Association Museums New
Brunswick
P. O. Box 4503
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 1B8

Tel: 452-2908

☐ March is Red Cross Month!

Did you know that along with the vital blood work, we also work extensively with Seniors? Our mandate is to assist them to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

You probably know someone within your own neighbourhood or even your own family who is elderly.

As you are aware, they have needs -- assistance with grocery shopping, yard work and somebody to drop in for a short chat.

There are a number of seniors in the Fredericton Community who don't have family or friends. We at the Red Cross try to help these Seniors by referring Volunteers to them, through our various programs.

As members of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, we feel we can offer you a first-hand opportunity of meeting living history by volunteering with one of our Seniors.

We need volunteers in these areas:

- Friendly Visiting
- Grocery Shopping
- Transportation
- Writing and Reading Letters
- Regular Phone Calls
- Handy Man Work
- Delivering Library Books

Without Volunteers, none of these services would be available. If you can help us help them, please call the Red Cross at 458-8445.

Louisa Rice

Seniors' Service
Coordinator

☐ The Society Auxilliary, a group of volunteers operating with assistance from a New Horizons grant, is actively involved with projects to assist the Society. In order to undertake a project of assisting the Curator in recording artifacts, a number of its members undertook a photography course last year, under the direction of Peter Gross, New Brunswick Craft School.

This past winter, the actual project of photographing artifacts was begun in a special accessioning room in the Museum. Society members interested in helping with this project are asked to contact the Auxilliary.

P. Ferris

☐ We have received the first newsletter of the Sunbury-West Historical Society. This Society was formed in 1982 and its headquarters are located in the Currie House, Fredericton Junction. They have already collected an extensive collection of geneological records and artifacts from the region. Congratulations to the SWHS and best wishes to our "kin" Society.

☐ The 41st Annual Conference of the Canadian Museum Association will take place in Saint John, June 15-19, 1988. The program appears to be very interesting so you should consider attending. The conference fee is \$175.00 if registered before 15 May 1988. For further details contact the Association of N.B. Museums at 452-2908.

☐ The York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum is pleased to announce its summer schedule of exhibits.

June 1 - September 30 :

"PEWTER-THEN AND NOW"

Fredericton is often referred to as "The Pewter Capital of Canada". This exhibit, Guest Curated by the New Brunswick Craft Council, illustrates past and present trends in the craft of pewter.

June 1 - September 30 :

"ALL ABOUT WINDSORS"

A selection of 18th and 19th century Windsor Chairs from the Museum's permanent collection.

☐ The York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum is pleased to announce its fall schedule of new exhibits.

November 1 - May 1 :

"VICTORIAN ELEGANCE"

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

November 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 that aid in explaining this process are selected from the many artifacts that have been donated to the Museum during the past year.

President's Last Word

President's Report

Annual General Meeting

January 28, 1988

I had a boss one time who advised me that I should never apologize....it was a bad policy!

I apologize to the membership and Board of Directors of the York Sunbury Historical Society. This past year my work and personal life have seemingly not allowed the time and energy which have been required to fulfill all the commitments made during my term as president. I have found this frustrating at times, as I am sure some of my fellow Board Members have...my apologies.

Despite this, we have achieved record attendance, increased educational activities, record numbers of volunteers, substantial levels of funding from all three levels of government, a revised collections management policy, continue cooperation with the University of New Brunswick, a fascinating lecture series, a year end on budget...etc.

How has this all been accomplished?...Through long term commitment to the organization by a number of very competent people. The new safety doors installed this year, which I am most proud of, had their origins in a report written years ago by Brent Wilson - a former curator. It has been over 3 years since Brent has worked for the Society. Yet he has been a source of advice and information for me ever since. That is commitment. Dr. E. McGahan (past president 1981, 82, 83, 84) has laid the immediate foundation for my term in office and I thank her for that and all she has done for the Society. It is noteworthy that D. Wallace, F. White, G. Mersereau, E. Earle, who represent to a large degree the heart of this organization, were all part of the McGahan years; have been instrumental during my term; and will continue to work on behalf of the Society for years to come. For this type of long term commitment, Society Members interested in historical education, should be thankful. I certainly am.

I might note here that Paul Theriault who completes his term of office tonight has made a substantial contributions particularly with regard to increasing our bilingual capacity in the Museum. Merci bien Paul.

Aside from the McGahanites or Pre-Quinlanites if you prefer, there are two distinct groups: the rising stars, and the pillars of the organization. The rising stars are all board members not previously mentioned - all have contributed significantly. The pillars of the organization include Lucy McNeil, Sen. M. Ferguson, Alden Clark, Abner Belyea, and Miss Louise Hill. There of course are others too numerous to mention here. For years their interest in this organization has been genuine.

All these people combine to make the York Sunbury Historical Society Inc. a very vibrant organization indeed.

The organization absolutely requires the ongoing management of a full time Curator/ Administrator. In this regard I can attest that the work of Cynthia Wallace-Casey has been central to the success of the organization during the past year, and since her hiring. It has been a pleasure to work with Cynthia. She is a very capable and hard working individual, as her performance record indicates. Education officers Katie Boyer and Leona White deserve congratulations for their fine work as well. School tours are extremely important to us.

To assess my term I have checked back to the Goals and Objectives published in the Fall 1985 Newsletter.

Goals and Objectives

1. Ensure a return to base principles, operating within Revised By-laws (this has been accomplished)
2. Double attendance at the Museum (1988 - record high - 16,088 - 426 short of goal)
3. Increase Society awareness - Internally and Externally (Board members, staff, media and our newsletter have all accomplished this)
4. Continue to Honour Achievements of Historically significant endeavors both past and present - Membership Award of Distinction (Recognition of Fred Phillips' contributions an example)
5. Increase Voluntary Involvement in the Historical Society, which includes the Museum and any other operation the Society administers (Guest Curators Program, Education Officer, Society Auxiliary - more volunteers than ever)
6. To continue Fund raising activities - Internally and Externally (Particularly important is the confidence expressed in us by City Hall, the Province, and the Federal Government)
7. To increase liaison with other associations and like minded organizations (Glenbow Museum, A.S.M.B., National Exhibition Center, TNB, etc.)
8. To produce and distribute a credible Newsletter utilizing both current Historical information, and that of the Society's collection (it is an incredible Newsletter!)

9. To endeavour to fully develop a professional staff (Association Museums N.B., Banff School of Fine Arts, C.M.A., courses)
10. To continue to promote New Brunswick and particularly Central New Brunswick HISTORICAL AUTHORS (This has been done)

A Burglar Alarm now protects the collection, fire safety doors and other features protect our clientele. It is hoped that further work can be done improving safety features of the building - we have been working steadily on this for a long time.

Did you see yesterday's paper?

What do the Special Bicentennial Christmas Tree and The Military Compound national/provincial historical site have in common? The York Sunbury Historical Society was crucial to the establishment of both. Our influence is beyond the walls of this Museum. Within the walls of the Museum, we participated in First Night, the New Years celebration. We were not 'crucial to the establishment' of First Night, however we did lend encouragement from the start. We are glad to have participated. That night we set an all time one day attendance record of 715 persons. Many of these persons had never been inside the Museum before. I will paraphrase a conversation which I had with a woman at 11:30 New Year's Eve on the third floor...

'Never seen the like of it, lived here all my life, never knew that there was such a fabulous collection in here, I'll have to come back, bring my friends and family...'

We have made great strides to promote the Museum facility, particularly to those who have not been here before. It is working.

All who have assisted this organization, particularly during this last year, thank you. Our success will be continuing in the future. All the best to the incoming president and board. I am very proud to be joining the ranks of such people as W. G. Clark, Dr. A. G. Bailey, Lt. Gen. E. W. Sansom, Dr. Stewart Smith and Dr. Elizabeth McGahan - to name just a few, as a past president of the York-Sunbury Historical Society.



Thank you all,
Respectfully Submitted

H. G. Quinlan

