



THE OFFICERS QUARTERLY

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

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

LATE FALL 1988

BARKER HOUSE HOME OF
THE COLEMAN FROG



SOCIETY COLLECTION

PRINT COURTESY OF PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

Our Coleman Frog in its former home, in the lobby of the Barker House Hotel, Queen Street, Fredericton. Can anyone identify the date of the photograph and people in it?

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

(Until May 1989)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

or by appointment

Tel: 455-6041

Admission:

Society Members	Free
Seniors & students	\$ 0.50
Adults	\$ 1.00
Families	\$ 2.50
Bus Tour Groups	\$20.00



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.

Corporations, individuals or organizations may also become sustaining members.

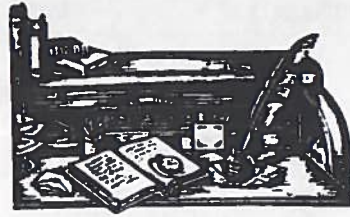
Editor.....Paul M. O'Connell
Committee Member.. Chris Turnbull



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INDEX	1
PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE	2
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, LOWER ST. MARY'S	3
SOCIETY NEWS	4
FOUR FOOT FROGS VISIONED	6
CHANCE FINDS	8
THE SAINT JOHN RIVER LOG DRIVING CO.	10
SOCIETY EVENTS	13
CURATOR'S CORNER	13
SOCIETY EVENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR	14
THE LAST WORD	15

President's Perspective



As the year draws to a close it is traditional for the President to have a few words to reflect upon the happenings of the past year.

With the seasonal feelings of Christmas beginning to make their effect upon one's consciousness and watching the first real snow of the winter fall, the task becomes all that much easier.

Again, this year has been a busy one for all at the Museum and in the Society. Our yearly attendance figures surpass that of last year, and our programming has involved seven part time staff as well as our regular full-time staff, and our ever so important volunteers.

We have been able to successfully pursue a number of goals. The installation of a sophisticated fire-safety system has been negotiated with the assistance of the National Museums of Canada and the Military Compound Board. The actual installation will be completed before February 1, 1989.

The Board has developed a systematic program of refurbishing the interior of the museum after an ad hoc committee was established to determine the long-term goals and usage of the Museum. These changes have already begun and visitors to the Museum should soon be able to witness these new and exciting changes.

The year has been one of change for the staff as well. Cynthia Wallace-Casey is no longer

with us as she is currently a full time student at U.N.B. working on her Master's Degree in History, and also expects to be a first time mother sometime late February or early March. Congratulations Cynthia! We just were informed that our new curator-administrator, Ms. Leona White, will be leaving us also. Her husband has been offered a position in Africa for a three year term with the U.N. We all wish you the very best on your adventure Leona.

On a broader outlook the N.B. Museum's Association and Heritage Canada are currently carrying out negotiations to combine memberships so as to give Heritage Canada a meaningful and real representation in New Brunswick, and to also give the New Brunswick historical community a true national voice.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard this past year to make the operation of the Museum a continuing success. Special thanks to those Board members who so ably supported me in my term as president.

Remember you are all invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Museum on January 19, 1989.

A Holiday Greeting to you all.

J. G. Mersereau

Holy Trinity Church, Lower St. Mary's



By JULIA WALKER

Treadwell, Walker, Watters and Wisely.

Since it is several years since services were held in Holy Trinity, the question arose as to the fate of the church, which by 1987 needed a new roof, painting and other repairs. Residents of the area became concerned that the church might be torn down, and a committee was formed to meet with the Bishop to discuss the preservation of this historic church, the oldest Anglican church on the north side of the river in the Fredericton area. Money was given by an anonymous donor and was used to buy paint, and volunteer helpers appeared who scraped the old paint and applied a fresh coat so that the church is improved in appearance. However, the structural repairs will be costly, and the committee is appealing to interested people and those with relatives or ancestors buried there to make donations to restore and preserve the building so that it can be opened and used for special services from time to time. Cheques should be made out

to The Diocese of Fredericton marked "For Holy Trinity, Lower St. Mary's" and mailed to: The Diocese of Fredericton, 115 Church Street, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4C8.

On the road from Fredericton to Mougerville, about four miles below the Nashwaak River, in the area known as Lower St. Mary's stands a small church built in the form of a cross, sometimes referred to as "The Little Cross Church". This is Holy Trinity Anglican, now about 140 years old. The first bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton, Most Reverend John Medley, came to New Brunswick in 1845. In the fall of that year he appointed Mr. William Jaffrey as layreader in the Parish of St. Mary's, and in June 1846 the building of the church was begun on land given by George H. Sterling and Thomas Peppers. It was designed by Bishop Medley and built under the direction of Mr. Jaffrey, with local residents supplying the labor. The frame was raised August 6, 1846, and the church was consecrated on St. Luke's Day, October 18, 1848, as Holy Trinity Chapel. Mr. Jaffrey was ordained as Deacon by Bishop Medley on February 26, 1847, and as priest June 15, 1851. He continued as rector until 1890, but remained in the parish until his

death August 6, 1901. He is buried, along with other members of his family, in the churchyard of Holy Trinity.

The design of the church is an interesting one, with the congregation seated in two of the arms of the cross, the choir and vestry in the third, and the fourth is the chancel. At the time of building, the road was nearer to the shore of the St. John River, on the other side of the church from the present road, so the large main doors are now facing the river, and a more recent door faces the present road. The original furnishings are still in the church and

in excellent condition considering the periods when the church was closed, and that some break-ins have occurred.

In the graveyard adjoining the church are more than two hundred recorded burials. These include well-known family names such as Armstrong, Barker, Biden, Carman, Coombs, Flewelling, Gill, Good, Goodspeed, Harding, Holland, Johnston, Logan, Long, McCoy, Miles, Peppers, Rice, Shields, Smith, Sterling,

This worthwhile restoration was supported by the Society, and the above article by Society Member, Julia Walker, first appeared in "The New Brunswick Anglican", June/July 1988 issue.

Society News



☐ Since our last issue our Curator, Cynthia Wallace-Casey has taken a one year's leave of absence as an extended maternity leave. Cynthia, we wish you all the best!

Leona White, who had worked for the Society in the past was selected as acting Curator in Cynthia's absence.

☐ Attendance for August 1988 totalled 4,789, exceeding the previous year's attendance of 3,346. Visitors comments for the summer season indicated that City tourist information led 51% of the visitors to our Museum. Visitors rated the WWI trench as the leading attraction (21%) followed by our Coleman Frog (14%). Perhaps the best news is visitors rating of our staff - 98% rated them excellent to good.

☐ On September 13th, Board Members and spouses were hosted by Kings Landing staff, Greg Findlay and Darrel Butler, to an excellent evening. The visit included a tour of their new climate controlled artifact storage facility, the monthly board meeting and a delicious dinner at King's Head Inn. This will certainly rate as this year's most memorable board meeting, thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Earle.

☐ Society Member Alden Clark writes that he most enjoyed the Quarterly's spring issue and the article on the Society's first outing. The cover picture included his parents, his father being the first Society President and then Mayor of Fredericton.

☐ What can we say about Dr. Wallace Brown's September lecture, if you missed it? He traced the history of whiskey making for Society Members, including an all important whiskey tasting session. So if you missed it your education, (and palate) will be sadly lacking. Those who didn't, want him back real soon on the same subject.

☐ The New Brunswick Museum in Saint John is exhibiting "The Art of the Japanese Print" from 16 October 1988 - 29 January 1989. The Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

☐ The October board meeting was held on the 11th at Officers' Quarters. On this occasion the Board extended congratulations, on behalf of the Society, to Dr. Murray Young on the occasion of his being conferred Professor Emeritus by the University of New Brunswick.

☐ Board Member Dr. Chris Turnbull presented the October 20th lecture at Officers' Quarters on 'Archaeology and the Bay of Fundy'. As historians we have observed the Maritimes' decline since confederation and Chris furnished us with visual proof that our land mass is, in fact, literally in decline. This real decline has obliterated many archeological sites and will continue to do so in the future.

☐ The Board held its regular monthly meeting on November 8th at Officers' Quarters. The Acting Curator advised that one casual employee had been hired through the Job Access 2000 program.

The Board voted to accept the donation of a historic piano donated by the Young's of Madawaska, Maine. It was a wedding gift to Eliza Jane Sommerville of Kingston, Ontario in the mid 1800's and subsequently moved with her daughter to Stanley, N.B. in 1886, when she wed John Alexander Young. This historic piece will be temporarily stored in the Kings Landing storage facility.

The Budget is being prepared for the new year and all Members and Committee Chairs are advised to submit their requests to Finance Committee Chairman, Fred White.

The Board also approved the recommendations of the Space Committee to begin the cleanup of the ground floor storage room for the eventual use as an Administrative/Curator's office.

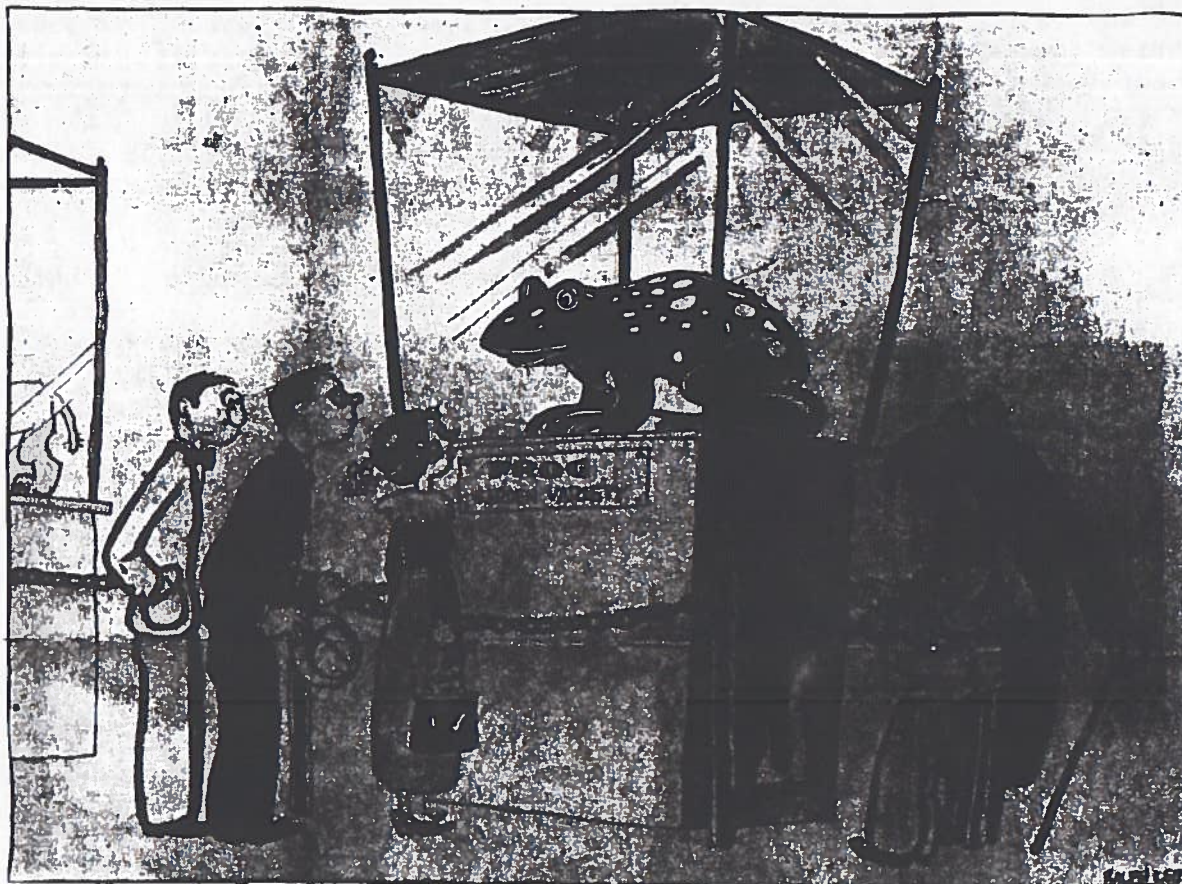
☐ The Society's Museum held a Remembrance Day Open House on November 11. Admission was free and the activities included the showing of the film "From the Ashes of War", produced by the National Film Board. Attendance was high with many of this area's veterans taking an opportunity to remember and reflect with the many items in our excellent military collection.

☐ Our President, Gideon Mersereau, regretfully announced his retirement at the end of this year's term, due to pressures of other commitments. He stated that he enjoyed his tenure as President, and expressed that he would better be able to contribute to other areas of the Society in the future.

☐ Well known antiquarian book dealer, P. J. Fitzpatrick came across a paper presented to the Society in January 1952, by Harold G. Kimball of Oromocto. The paper traces the development of the shipbuilding industry in that community, and includes an impressive list of ships built there in the 19th century. Fitz has kindly donated the paper to the Society.

☐ At the August meeting the Board approved the new policy for Society Awards of Distinction. The award will be named the "Martha J. Harvey Award of Distinction" in honour of the somewhat unknown founder of this Society. The award will be considered once yearly for either outstanding contribution in the field of central New Brunswick history or for long and meritorious service or contribution to the Society.

Four Foot Frogs Visioned



The famous frog is snugly stuffed with some sort of upholstery and is on exhibit in a museum at Fredericks, N. B. The owner of the frog seemingly died with him.

Your society has just received an article that has been preserved by the heirs to the Barker House collection and adds further proof (as if we needed some) of the international fame of our Coleman Frog.

The article appeared in the August 21st, 1932 edition of the Portland "Sunday Oregonian", from that west coast state. The lengthy article by Leverett G. Richards details the attempts by the Behm brothers of Washington State to become the world's leading frog farmers.

They were well on their way to accomplishing this feat when.... I'll let Mr. Richards take the story from here:

"The Behm brothers were quite content to let nature take her normal course in this manner -- until one day they read about a frog four feet in length owned and raised by one Mr. Coleman in the state of New York. Immediately they became interested, wrote for

details and began to speculate.

Obviously if an eight-inch frog brings \$2, a four-foot frog means a small fortune. Why not, then, raise small fortunes? It is all a question of rations, the Behm boys explain. The Coleman Frog was hand fed every evening at a regular hour on the banks of a small game lake in New York. Here enters mystery, What did Mr. Coleman feed his batrachian behemoth? Therein lies the secret of his size, Behm believes. Inquiry disclosed that Coleman is dead, the frog is dead and no one knows what mysterious delicacy he fed his fabulous frog.

The big batrachian met his demise at the hands of a poacher on the game reserve, who shot the big beast apparently in a fit of fright and then ran. He may still be running. Meantime the famous frog is smugly stuffed with some sort of upholstery and is on exhibit in a museum at Fredericton, N.B. The secret of his size seemingly dies with him."

Well try they did to duplicate our bumper batrachian, but all to no avail. The secret of Mr. Coleman (not of New York as indicated) apparently passed away with him. But the proof of the pudding still resides in a place of honour in our museum.

The Editor



Society Collection Circa 1916
Addressed to Miss Annie McKeen, Mouth of Keswick

Chance Finds

Chris Turnbull

Each year at the Archaeology Lab, we look forward to people who have found artifacts and bring them into the office for identification. There is real excitement in the potential importance of the new finds and the pleasure of a new facet of our heritage unfolding. Most important sites in the Maritimes have been found by "amateurs" who have had a high regard for our archaeological history or as accidental discoveries during construction activities. The oldest Native site in the Maritimes at Debert, N.S., was found by blueberry pickers. For many years now, this early site -- used about 8,600 B.C. -- has been a key site in the archaeology of North America.

More recently, Joe Augustine, a resident of the Red Bank Indian Reserve, Northumberland Co., has discovered two crucial sites near his home -- the Augustine Mound and Oxbow campsite, both now National Historic Sites. These sites have contributed more knowledge about Native heritage than any other sites in the Province. They amply demonstrate that the present village of Red Bank has its roots in the prehistory of the region over 3000 years ago. In fact, Red Bank must be the oldest, continuously settled community in New Brunswick.

Finds continue to come in from people who have questions about what they have found. Recently, Andrea and Darrel Nicholas brought in a large surface collection of

Native artifacts from a new site found on the Tobique Reserve, in an area being considered for a sewage lagoon. The materials seem to belong to a period about 3000 years ago. There is almost no information on this fascinating period in our Province's history which Maritime archaeologists referred to as the Little Gap: a period of about 500 years on either side of 1000 B.C. Clearly defined cultural traditions are known for the time before: the Susquehanna Tradition, for instance, as discussed in the last newsletter. After this Little Gap, there is no doubt that we are on the direct track to the historic Native peoples of the region, but in between, there is some doubt, mainly because of simple scarcity of dated sites. We really don't know what the local Maritime Indian People(s) were doing.

Part of the problem is the well developed sequences of cultures in regions surrounding the Maritimes. It is easy to identify objects in our collections that relate to these other cultural developments. But that does not answer the questions about what New Brunswick peoples were doing? The Nicholas collection from Tobique is also related to another archaeological enigma. A site dug in 1968 on the Tobique River above Plaster Rock by Dave Sanger (now of the University of Maine, then with the Canadian Museum of Civilization) suggested that the many large scrapers, knives and stemmed spear points were a part of

a cultural tradition new to the region. Relationships to the northern Algonkian speakers across the St. Lawrence River in the Canadian Shield country -- appropriately named the Shield Archaic Tradition -- were suggested. It would date the site to about 4000 years ago.

However, not many archaeologists were really happy with the interpretation (even lately, Dave Sanger, himself). Another interpretation for the material which does not have to move peoples across the St. Lawrence is currently being investigated. A student from Memorial University of Newfoundland -- Doug Rutherford -- is investigating this material for his M.A. thesis. He is exploring the possibility that the Tobique artifacts (both the material excavated 15 years ago and the new finds) actually date to the period of the Little Gap and are the missing material that we have wondered about for so long.

If our ideas turn out to have some merit, they will go a long way to making this Little Gap disappear and allow us to directly ponder the fate of the Susquehanna and their connection to the historic peoples of the region. This new site on the Tobique has not even been excavated yet. These chance discoveries have certainly sparked a re-examination of a puzzling time in our past.

There is still more to the prehistory puzzle to be pieced together and much of it will

continue to come from exactly this kind of situation: from people who have found something. At any time we would be more than pleased to look at what you have found. Your Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Heritage, through the Archaeology Branch, has a programme of registration for private collections. This programme is simply intended to provide a public record of the finds. We borrow the material, catalogue and photograph it, and return it to the owner. The information is kept as a part of the public record. It has now become a major research tool with over 40 collections registered from around the Province. So many of our sites have disappeared through natural causes (and some as a by-product of all the "development" going on). We have catalogued several larger older collections of Native material from the Fredericton area: one made by the Todd's in the Russagonis area and that made by late Dr. Raymond Gorham in the 1920's.

Real information is lost when people attempt to excavate sites by themselves. It is like letting someone into an archives to read the records only once before they are destroyed. We do encourage people to share what they may have collected. Beach finds can be truly instructive for all of us and there really is no reason to dig because more can be found on the edges of our rivers, lakes and coasts due to the considerable amount of erosion in the Maritimes just by looking.

Dr. Turnbull is Provincial Archaeologist, with the
Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage.

St. John River Log Driving Company

In the 'Last Word' of the Summer' 88 issue of Officers' Quarterly, I had suggested as a summer project that Society Members record some local history from some senior in our community. Well on June 6, I took my own advice, and with Society Member and good friend, Keith Pugh, visited C.N.R. Scott, otherwise known as Nelson, at his home in Devon.

Nelson Scott was 87 years old in March of this year, and recounted to us, some memories of his years working for the Saint John River Log Driving Co., just before it ceased operation, he believes, in 1919. Let us listen to Nelson's own story about one facet of this industry that was and still is the heart of New Brunswick's economy:

"First operation in the spring was to get the shear booms ready. Repairs had to be made as soon as the ice went out. The boom was made of 12" x 12" square hemlock timbers, 24 feet long and 2 feet wide. Each section was 96 feet long. The average boom was 4 sections or approximately 400 feet. They had 3 inch planks, 14 feet long, hinged to the boom with a wire cable running from the end of the boom to every second section where a winch was stationed. When they wanted the logs to float in a certain direction, the attendant, who lived in a small shanty on the

head section, turned the crank on the winch and it automatically hauled the wings or planks out. This shifted the direction of the boom and pushed the logs where they wanted them to go, most times to another channel of the River. The boom was anchored to a pier in the middle of the river.

These booms were stored in winter in the Oromocto River above the Railway Bridge, in the Nashwaak River, and just above the mouth in the dead water, in Frank's Perdue near Keswick.

To get the booms to their destination and properly hung, this was done with Tug Boats. One was called the Latona, the Randolph and others, and one the Fanshion, a Paddle Boat.

When the booms were all in place, the river closed off where the piers were, approximately 100 feet apart across the river, they awaited the arrival of the timber.

The cutting of the timber was an all winter operation, done by Lumber companies like Stetson and Cutler, Randolph & Baker, the main John Glasier from Lincoln,

N.B. (his home still stands and is being occupied).

Spring Drives:

The drivers took over, rolled the landings into the stream and with the help of splash dams, got the logs into the main Saint John River. After that it was the responsibility of the Saint John River Log Driving Corp. to get them to the mills, most of them near Indian Town and Saint John, N.B.

The logs came from as far up as Glazier Lake on the Border line between Quebec, Maine and N.B. Drives came out of Black Brook, Caron Brook, Madawaska River at Edmundston, N.B., Green River, etc., a lot of timber from the Tobique and its tributaries, and other feeder streams all the way down to Fredericton, N.B. When the logs were all in the holding booms, there would be over 600 million feet.



Sugar Island Boom
Douglas
New Brunswick

G.T. Taylor Collection
P. 5-18

Courtesy, Provincial Archives
of New Brunswick

I can't tell you what year the Saint John River Log Driving Co. was incorporated, but it was long before the 19th Century. If my memory serves me correctly the last year of operation was 1919.

Rafting, Sorting & Towing The Sugar Island Boom:

This was a holding boom only and employed about 50 men from the time the booms were hung until late fall. Their duties were to clean the stray logs from the Islands and keep feeding the logs down to the Douglas boom 6 miles down river.

The Douglas boom employed up to 250 men at times. This is where they sorted the logs as they went through a gap. Four men with caulk boats stood on the logs between two poles and turned the logs until they saw whose mark it was. If it was for the main John Glazier, it was marked for his holding pond where a raft was made. It was later dropped down to where a man and horse were stationed with a cable and loaded a second tier. The horse and boy on his back went around and around all day on this invention, a very monotonous job! The boy was called a 'hair pounder' because if the horse stopped he had a little switch to urge him on.

Lincoln Boom:

After several rafts were made ready they were towed to the Lincoln Boom where the rafts were breached together, making a tow of several 100,000 feet for a side wheeler or large tug to tow to the mills at or near Saint John; this was processed into boards, planks, etc. for shipment to Great Britain, etc.

During this period the lumber operations was the mainstay for the area and gave year round employment for a lot of men."

Nelson recounts that he journeyed down the St. John River by canoe some four years ago, and entered the mouth of the Oromocto. There, he and friends boiled the kettle, just above the railway bridge. To their surprise, they found the remains of a shear boom, "still in fair shape" and used it to position their Coleman stove.

The Editor



Society Events

☐ October 8 - June 23, 1989 "School Days". An exhibition of artifacts of past school days, guest curated by the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. Officers' Quarters.

☐ December 15th "Christmas Party and Author Recognition". Perhaps the most popular event of the year! A time to recognize those who have contributed by writing books or articles of historical significance, as well as a time to share in some fellowship and spirit of the season with fellow members. Officers' Quarters.

☐ December 1 - January 30, 1989 "Christmas in the Museum". This year's theme will be "Christmas in the Old School House", a fitting subject to compliment our School Days exhibit. Officers' Quarters.

☐ December 3rd "Santa Claus Parade Open House". Always a popular event at the Officers' Quarters! Come sample our hot apple cider while viewing our latest exhibits. To coincide with our "SCHOOL DAYS" exhibit, children and adults alike can participate in making Christmas decorations for the Museum on the theme of Christmas in the Old School House.

Curator's Corner

Leona White

On September 1, 1988, Cynthia Wallace-Casey was granted a one year leave of absence to further continue a Masters Thesis in History, and look forward to the birth of her first child sometime in January 1989. The staff at the museum would like to extend warm wishes and best of luck to both Cynthia and husband Tom.

From October 8th to June 23: "School Days, Oh! how times have changed," guest curated by the N.B. Society of Retired Teachers, this new exhibit brings the school days of N.B. past into the present through an exhibition of artifacts actually used in the early classrooms of New Brunswick.

Saturday, December 3. the York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum, held its annual Santa Clause parade Openhouse, a very popular event at the Officers' Quarters. Staff and volunteers busily decorated the museum with

pine boughs, cones, ribbons and bows. The Loyalist Room, was beautifully decorated by Lana Corey, graduate of the N.B. Craft School. Lana was also involved in the Challenge 88 Summer Project as Graphics Interpreter.

This year's decorations are on the theme of "Christmas in the Olde School", to coincide with our current 'School Days' exhibit. Cookies, cake and hot apple cider were served. The children worked hard in the pioneer kitchen, making paper chains, snowflakes, and stringing cranberries and popcorn. A good time was had by all.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Addressed to Miss Annie McKeen, Mouth of Keswick

The Last Word

Again this year we have compressed the last two issues into a "late fall" edition. This time of year is a very busy one for everyone including your editor, so it is nice to be able to take editorial license and combine the two issues.

In the last, Last Word I had suggested a summer project for Society Members - that of recording some community history from our seniors. I have not heard of anyone taking up the suggestion, but if you did, do send it in, in article form, for the next edition of the Quarterly. If you did not take it on as a summer project, well how about a winter project? It really is worthwhile and will involve "you" in the direct preservation of this area's history.

This really is my last word! With this issue I will turn over editorial license to another Society Member. It really has been a fun and gratifying three years, and ten issues. Since I first set out to "help" the then President, Harry Quinlan, with the Spring '86 issue, I have tried with your help, to bring a certain structure, and style to our newsletter. The articles and advice received from many Members, contributed to what I believe is an effort worth continuing. My thanks to my "typesetter", Janet Joslin, for her many hours of time and patience throughout the entire ten issues. As she is not a Society Member, her contribution was all the more appreciated. I also wish

to single out Vaughn Bosma of the U.N.B. Graphic Services Department. His advice and care in printing all ten issues, certainly contributed to an improved and economical publication.

The Society has just acquired an Apple MacIntosh computer for a multitude of tasks including word processing, museum inventory, and newsletter publishing. The system is being purchased with the help of a significant \$2,000 grant from the Fredericton Foundation. This support by the Foundation is greatly appreciated by the Society and indicates the degree of broad support we have in the community. Once the system is operational it should prove to be useful in producing future issues of the Quarterly.

I want to take this final opportunity to wish all of you, Society Members, readers, and our major benefactors, the City of Fredericton and the Government of New Brunswick, a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 1989.



The Editor

Bm'Donnell

