

OUR PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE:

Hi folks! My 2 years as President of the Queen's County Historical Society are over this month.

It has been a most enjoyable experience for me and an eventful 2 years for our Society. Our organization is now 8 years old and we have grown in membership from 70 in our first year to a current membership of 109. More importantly, it is more active than ever in promoting and preserving our Queen's County heritage.

I am indeed proud to have been President during a period when our Newsletter was started, and the quality of our programs has been excellent. Also, we actively assisted in the successful publication of Marion Reicker's book, "Those Days Are Gone Away", with 2070 books in print. I am also proud to have the honour at our April meeting of making Marion the first Honourary Life Member of the Queen's County Historical Society. These are only a few of many notable events that I can recall during the past 2 years. We can all be proud of our success in these endeavours. It made my job so enjoyable to have members who were continually thinking of new ways to promote our heritage and would go ahead and see that our endeavours were brought to successful conclusions.

I have made special mention of Marion Reicker and I would be remiss in not thanking our retiring Newsletter Editor, George Secord, for his efforts over the past 2 years. I also could mention the special efforts that every club member has made at one time or another but it would take too much space. I can only say thank you. I also ask that we all support our new President as I have been supported and look forward to even better things in the future.

**Dorothy V. Wilson

QUEEN'S COUNTY BIOGRAPHY: NELLIE McDONALD PURDY 1894-1981

This is a tribute to Nellie McDonald Purdy, philanthropist and entrepreneur.

She was born at McDonald's Corner, Parish of Cambridge, Queen's County, in 1894 and received her early education there. After business college she began work at the Simms Brush Factory in Saint John as a stenographer in 1914. When she left there in 1922 she was purchasing agent. In the interim she had met and married Desmond Purdy and together they moved to Portland, Oregon, where they bought a small brush factory. This grew to be one of the largest in the United States.

After her husband's death in 1960 Mrs. Purdy ran the business alone for awhile but retired from it completely in 1965. That was when she came "home" and began her second, third, and even fourth careers here.

She was best known for her famous "Country Kitchen" bakery and restaurant which began at Cambridge-Narrows in 1966 and was later relocated in larger quarters on the Trans-Canada Highway near Robertson's Point. These places were noted for their plain, old-fashioned, country-fresh food where one of the favourite items was said to be potatoes and turnips mashed together with gravy overtop.

Besides these restaurant and bakery enterprises she was owner of the Pine Tree Furniture Company at Norton, and more recently of a truck stop at Jemseg called "Pronto". Also, very much to her credit, she was the founder of the Cub and Scout Packs at Cambridge-Narrows.

Another project dear to her heart was the McDonald-Purdy Foundation, a trust fund for the benefit of young people. Always somewhat reluctant to speak about this endeavour, Mrs. Purdy admitted that it was, (and still is) an educational fund to help those who might not otherwise be able to afford higher education. Certainly through her generosity many Queen's County young people have been able to further their schooling.

To the end of her life, Mrs. Purdy maintained that her beliefs had stood by her over the years, and were just as valid near the end of her life as they had been at the beginnings of it. These included a faith in the grace of God, the values of thrift and hard work, and the power of the human personality.

Mrs. Purdy "crossed to the other side" in June 1981, and her ashes are interred in the McDonald's Corner Churchyard where many generations of her

family also sleep. She will be remembered here for many years to come for her imagination, her ambition to create economically viable small businesses, and her continuing and ever appreciated help to young people.

The Waterville School

A 1935 article by the late Luther R. Hetherington begins "Waterville School District is in a region originally settled by United Empire Loyalists. It was organized into a school district in 1872, soon after the passing of the New Brunswick Free School Act. It comprises 13 farms on the left bank of the Washademoak River in Queen's County, New Brunswick. The entire population has never been more than 75".

Further research shows that the building itself was built in the early 1870's on land deeded to the school district by Obediah Starkey. For quite some time it was designated as a Superior School. This meant that it had somewhat more-qualified teachers than other schools, and pupils often came from adjacent districts for advanced education. After attending a Superior School, students were frequently able to go to the city for further education, and the records show that many from the Waterville School went on to make names for themselves.

Up until 1935 this school had produced 10 medical doctors, namely:- Drs. Robert Armstrong, G.A. Hetherington, B.H. Somerville, Richard Starkey, E.M. Hetherington, J.E. Hetherington, G.W. Chamberlain, Peter Cody, A.F. Armstrong and S.J. Jenkins. There were 5 clergymen, that is:- Reverends David Patterson, I. Newton Thorne, Isaiah Wallace Corey, Wellington H. Jenkins, and Edmund C. Jenkins. The 3 dentists were Drs. C.A. Murray, Harley Murray and R.H. Starkey. The 2 Lawyers were Samuel J. Jenkins and H.B. Hetherington. There was a College Professor, Dr. Aaron J. Perry; a Member of the Provincial Legislature, Hon. Judson E. Hetherington; and an author, Alfreda (Noddin) Patterson.

As well there were 39 school teachers, 7 registered nurses, and 3 women (the Jenkins sisters) who became mothers to 4 college professors. And we cannot overlook 2 men who were officers in the First World War, Lieut. Col. G.A. Gamblin, and Major Harold S. Gamblin. At this point perhaps one can indicate where some of these people came from and add some bits of genealogical information. Dr. J.E. Hetherington for example would have come from the Thornetown school district, and the Murrays very possibly were residents of Long Creek. Also the Rev. Isaiah Wallace Corey would have been a boy from Canaan who was a relative of the Starkeys. The Lawyer, Samuel J. Jenkins, was the son of Joel Jenkins and lived on the opposite side of the Washademoak Lake from Waterville. The other Jenkins men mentioned would be descendants of Dr. William Bell Little of Cambridge, being the sons of Aaron and Maria (Little) Jenkins, and they did live in the Waterville school district.

We did not research the school returns from 1935 to 1951-52 when this school ceased to operate but no doubt one or two more illustrious names could be added to this list of former pupils.

It is interesting to note that the old Waterville School is currently being converted into a residence. "It was substantially built and has survived well the wear and tear of over a century." And although it may miss the generations of children who passed through its doors we wish it love and prosperity in its new life. **A.P.H.

New Brunswick's Bicentennial

1984 will be the province of New Brunswick's two hundredth birthday. It will have been 200 years since the process was begun whereby the province of New Brunswick, more or less as we know it now, was set apart from Nova Scotia with its own political identity and government. Plans to celebrate this birthday have been underway for some time now.

Interdepartmental committees grew into a Bicentennial Task Force appointed in 1979, and then in 1981 a Bicentennial Commission was appointed. The enabling legislation was passed in 1980, an office has been set up, and all sorts of projects have been proposed and even initiated.

This will not be a celebration that is marked by the spending of a lot of money or by many construction projects. Rather this will be a "people's celebration", a celebration of what it means to us to be New Brunswickers, a

celebration of our rich cultural heritage, and of our hopes and expectations for the future in this beautiful province by the sea.

Research undertaken by the historian, C. Alex Pincombe, former director of the Moncton Museum, has pinpointed two significant dates. June 18th will be designated as Natal Day, the date on which the Province of New Brunswick was actually created by an Order-in-Council. The second important date is November 22, 1984, the 200th anniversary of the day on which the Governor's Commission was read, Oaths were taken, the Council met, and two Proclamations were read; in other words the date on which "the business of governing the new province got underway".

It is expected that each of these dates will be celebrated provincially with all the appropriate observances. But the whole year will be Bicentennial year, and no doubt the time between these two dates will see many regional, local, and even personal Bicentennial celebrations. This will be a "come home year" for many expatriate New Brunswick people and should hold something exciting for all of us.

The Bicentennial Office is there, its telephone number is 472-1984, within the Department of Historical Resources, and they will give any school, village, county or society group as much help and advice as possible. But the impetus must come from us. Many Bicentennial Committees have been formed already, and now we have the opportunity to decide what direction, what form and what enthusiasm our Queen's County Bicentennial Celebration will have.

GENEALOGIST'S SECTION: School Returns

Once again the year is 1844, the district is Parish of Chipman, No.5, and the name is given as "Christy Brown". The teacher is William Donald, a married man, 45 years old who was first licensed to teach in 1836. The usual texts are used and the subjects taught were "Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, the Church of England Catechism". The pupils and their ages were:

Sherman Rankin	12	Elizabeth Martin	13	James Pratt	4
John Rankin	10	James Fleming	9	William Taylor	5
Jacob Rankin	8	Catharine Fleming	7	Charles Clarke	16
George Rankin	7	George Langen	6	Andrew Clarke	12
Sarah Jane Rankin	5	Sarah Jane Langen	4	William Clarke	10
Amelia Manzer	13	John Pratt	6		

Another in our series of School Returns is from the Upper Range School, Parish of Waterborough. The teacher here is a married man named William Milroy. He is 46, was first licensed to teach in 1820, and the "books and apparatus used in the School" include Thomson, Walkingame, Willcolke's "and Frier's Arithmeticks", Murray and Fenning's Spelling Books, and Lennie's English Grammar. The students and their ages follow:

Elizabeth A. Branscombe	4	William Barton	5	George Snell	8
George P.(?) Barton	7	William Branscombe	9	Sarah Snell	7
John Barton	9	Elizabeth A. Carmichael	6	William Snell	4
John M. Barton	10	Arthur Miller	9	Stephen Stratton	8
Joseph Barton	6	Conrade Miller	7	Mary A. Stratton	5
Nathaniel Branscombe	8	Hannah Miller	5	Vicear* Daniel Mc	9
Rebecca Burk	7	Mary M. Miller	9	Vicear* Samuel Mc	6
Rebecca J. Branscombe	4	William Reece	(?)26	Welton Cephe	9

*Note the interesting spelling of what probably is "McVicar"

Mrs. Amanda Dykeman's Ginger Snaps

Butter, lard and brown sugar, of each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.; molasses 1 pt.; ginger 2 table-spoons; flour 1 qt.; saleratus 2 teaspoons; sour milk 1 cup. Melt the butter and lard, and whip in the sugar, molasses and ginger; dissolve the saleratus in the milk and put in, then the flour, and if needed a little more flour, to enable you to roll out very thin; cut into small cakes and bake in a slow oven until snappish. (This is a recipe from ca. 1867. Saleratus is baking soda.)

We were very saddened to learn of the recent death of one of our active members, Lloyd Machum. He contributed a great deal to our Society and his interest was life long in the history of Queen's County. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Remember Bob McDonald's "litany" called "The Down East of Yesterday" in Volume I, #5 of this Newsletter? This is the remainder of Bob's Memorial to his childhood on the Washademoak:

- To run along the piles of rough sawn lumber stacked between the road and the back fields,
- To smell that new sawn lumber and the cedars,
- To play on the old Fordson Tractor used for power at the mill-site,
- To walk out to the end of the mill shed and look down on the sawdust pile,
- To follow up the brook and find pools with trout and crayfish,
- To hear the blast of a steam whistle and rush to catch a glimpse of the black smoke on the Lake,
- To be at the wharf when the steamer docks,
- To watch the line with the heavy hook be thrown on the wharf,
- To watch the boat lurch to a halt as the tightening line loses slack,
- To hear the crash of the steel plate gang plank thrown down on the concrete approach,
- To watch the freight hand-carted onto the wharf,
- To hear the rattle of the steel rimmed wheels of the slovens and buggies rolling on to the wharf to pick up the freight,
- To see the country folk in their best get-ups returning from the city,
- To watch the massive churning and boiling of the water as the steamer backs of
- To watch the steam-boat pass on to other wharves and disappear from sight,
- To contemplate what it must be like to ride on this "Wonder" the whole of its way,
- To play on the shores of the Lake-
- To sail clam shell boats, laden with catnip or insect passengers,
- To make the boats move with the current from the point of the small cove to the side of the big wharf,
- To scoop up red clay and make pottery and things on the flat rocks,
- To build a little village along the shore using the abundant stones with clay as mortar,
- To pick berries - Blueberries in the Church yard,
Raspberries in the back field,
Blackberries along the shore,
- To eat - Strawberry preserves in little glass dishes,
Soggy soda crackers,
Sourdough bread,
Rich hot juicy blueberry dumplings,
Warm skim milk,
Cold-so very cold water,
Candy in strange wrappers-very mysterious-but very satisfying,
Pink pop-corn in boxes, with celluloid cupie dolls,
- To visit the City,
 - To hear the sounds of-
Grinding, rollicking trolly cars,
The cry of newsboys early in the morning,
Steam railroad whistles, many different pitches and tones,
Deep throated sound of the steam boat whistle,
Rattle-clank of slovens on the paved streets,
To see the public Market with its open stands, passing through a building from one street to another,

"Down East" was more than all of this-a lot more. It was people-many wonderful people-now mostly gone.

May they have as nice a place now as the one they left behind.

The building dedication was passed in 1980. The building dedication was passed in 1980. The building dedication was passed in 1980.

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