

# The Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly

Volume 9 Number 1, March 1979



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# *Francis Green - "A Suffering Loyalist and Friend to the British Government"*

PHYLLIS R. BLAKELEY

Francis Green, one of the pioneers of education for the deaf in America, lived in Halifax, Cole Harbour and Preston from 1784 to 1797. He wrote a pamphlet *VOX OCULA SUBJECTA* about the education of the deaf which was reprinted in 1897 by the Boston Parents Association, and his biography is included in the **Dictionary of American Biography** because of his work in the education of the deaf.

Francis belonged to the well known Green family of New England and Nova Scotia for he was the second son of Benjamin and Mary (Pierce) Green, being born at Boston on 21 August 1742. His father served at the capture of Louisbourg under Sir William Pepperell, and remained there as secretary of Cape Breton Island. But in 1749, when Halifax was founded by Governor Edward Cornwallis, Green removed there with the British troops from Louisbourg and was appointed secretary to the Council and Provincial Treasurer. Soon he brought his wife and family from Boston to Halifax.

Young Francis was educated in Nova Scotia and at Mr. John Lovell's Latin School at Boston, from which he

was admitted into Harvard College in July 1756. There he boarded with the family of President Holyoke for his freshman year. However, the year before his matriculation his father had obtained for him an ensign's commission in the 40th Regiment with the understanding that he should have leave of absence until he completed his studies. The Seven Years' War between Great Britain and France spoiled these plans, and Lord Loudon arrived as commander-in-chief of all the Kings' Forces in North America and ordered all officers to join their regiments. Fifteen year old Francis sailed to Halifax in 1757 expecting his leave of absence to be renewed but this was refused.

Captain John Knox wrote in his journal that "The town of Halifax is large: the streets (which are not paved) are tolerably regular, and of good breadth; but their houses, upon a nearer view, are mean, and do not display any great knowledge of architecture, much less of taste, in those who erected them; which in general, together with a capacious church, are of wood, and covered with the same materials . . . Chebucto or Halifax harbour is one of the finest in the whole world, for depth of water, good anchorage and safety . . ."

In his autobiography Green wrote that after he had the smallpox by inoculation by the old fashioned sweating method, he embarked for the siege of Louisbourg in May 1758. During the siege his only wound was from a stone striking his leg. His regiment remained there in garrison for two years. He wrote that the "chief occupations at Louisbourg, beside the usual round of Garrison Duties, were the amusements of *shooting, fishing, & hunting*, together with those of *Assemblies* and plays. There was a very pretty Theatre there & the officers were the actors, *at their own expense* ." Seventeen year old Francis took parts in several tragedies and comedies.

On 1 June 1760 the 40th Regiment was ordered to Quebec to reinforce General Murray, and a year later sent

to Crown Point, ("both sides of Lake Champlain then being a perfect wilderness"), and on to New York, where the regiment sailed with the fleet to Barbados, then on to attack Martinique and Cuba. Lieutenant Green accompanied Lt. Col. Grant to Antigua and St. Christophers, where they purchased and hired 400 negroes, whom they took to help with the siege of Havana against the Spanish. He had been promoted to lieutenant on 30th September 1761, but was dissatisfied with slow promotion after serving in four campaigns and after the war ended when the 40th went to England, he retired from the army and returned to Boston to become a merchant.

On 18 October 1769 he married at Boston his double cousin Susannah, the daughter of Joseph and Ann (Pierce) Green, by whom he had five children, three of whom died young. Francis had received 2000 acres of land in New Hampshire for his army services, and owned land in Salisbury which he had inherited from his uncle. He became a property developer as he speculated and invested in land and also seized property for debt.

The American Revolution was approaching and Green was one of the Tories who remained loyal to King George III. He was one of the addressors to Governor Thomas Hutchinson on 30 May 1774 protesting the shutting up of the port of Boston by the British government and offering to pay for damage done to the tea of the East India Company if the port were left open. With Francis Green we consider the plight of business men who were on the other side of the Boston Tea Party. We are apt to forget that the British punished perpetrators of the Boston Tea Party by closing the port of Boston to all trade, bringing ruin to all. Green said that he exerted himself publicly in several Town Meetings to discourage and abolish the committees of correspondence, which were bringing about the American Revolution.

Among the papers which Francis Green submitted to the British Commissioners for examining Loyalist



Losses, to prove his Loyalty to the British Crown he included clippings from the *Norwich Packet* of 7 July 1774 and the *Massachusetts Gazette* of 14 July 1774. These described how Francis Green travelled from his home in Boston to collect some debts in Connecticut. He arrived at Windham on Monday afternoon the 4th of July towards sunset. About two hours later four men asked him to go into a house so that they could settle some business with him. He told them to come to Carey's Tavern where he had put up. At the tavern they demanded whether he had signed the address to Governor Hutchinson. Green replied: "He was the very man".

"They acquainted him that he was considered by that town as an Enemy to his Country, & they insisted on his immediate Departure". Green refused. In the meantime a mob surrounded the building and some of them put their heads into the windows to find out what was going on, and some came into the tavern and acted very insolently. The committee went outside. At length another Committee of Liberty informed Green "they gave him leave to tarry until 6 o'clock the next morning." He again assured them he would *not go*.

At 6 o'clock the next morning, the bell was rung, a cannon fired which they had mounted before the tavern door, the people reassembled and again ordered Green's immediate departure. He refused. Then they ordered him to leave at four o'clock that afternoon, and again he said "No." A number of the mob went upstairs into the chamber where Mr. Green was transacting business and "entering at different Doors threaten'd to seize his Bundles, Papers &c, & to carry him off. He remained obstinate". There was a warm argument and the mob left.

Bravely Green ate his breakfast, sent out for various people in the town with whom he had business, and only then continued his journey to Norwich. Upon his arrival there the next morning the gravedigger rang the meeting house bell as a signal, cannon were fired, drums beat and

the mob assembled. A committee of Liberty was sent to Mr. Green with the same Demand as at Windham while he was in the house of Samuel Huntington, a magistrate and judge. Green answered that "their Demand was very insolent, illegal and presumptuous to the highest Degree, & he would not Comply with it". When he asked by what authority they were acting, they replied "the Authority of the People."

Green demanded from the magistrate "that Protection which every Subject employed in his lawful & necessary Business is entitled to "but no protection was promised or given by Huntington. Green then went over to Lothrop's Tavern and ordered breakfast. Immediately the mob burst into the room shouting "The time is up, Out with him" and violently forced him out of the house to a cart—perhaps to be tarred and feathered? Green struggled and fought. Some of the mob violently shoved him into his carriage and "*set his Horses going*, then with Shouts & Hazzas followed him near half a mile, *pelting him with Stones, Sticks, Mud & thereby frightening his Horses & putting his life in Danger.*"

This is an example of the break down of law and order at the beginning of the American Revolution, for the mob were not punished. When the local magistrate failed to take action Green himself advertized in the *Massachusetts Gazette* offering \$100 reward for the apprehension of the offenders. Perhaps it is not surprising that the magistrate did not punish the ruffians as Samuel Huntington became one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a delegate to the Continental Congress!

The Green family remained in Boston when it was besieged by the rebels. On 1 November 1775 Francis Green was appointed Captain of the third company of Loyal Associated Volunteers of Boston and was ordered to employ part of his soldiers in pulling down wooden buildings to burn for fuel during the Blockade of Boston.

He was also entrusted by Sir William Howe with the care of the arms of the inhabitants deposited in the Town Hall and verbally ordered at the evacuation of Boston to embark and carry off as many arms as he could. His wife died of puerperal fever after childbirth just before the evacuation and Francis was "impell'd to make a hasty Retreat, *with His Family* consisting at that Time of *Three* (Motherless) *Infants* & three *Servants* & to accompany the Army to Halifax in March 1776."

The civilians desperately tried to find shelter in Halifax while the soldiers camped in tents on that part of the Commons ever afterwards called Camp Hill. The Greens were fortunate because two of Francis' sisters Charlotte (Mrs. Henry Newton) and Margaret (Mrs. John Newton) lived in Halifax and made them welcome. The Hon. Henry Newton, Collector of Customs, had a fine mansion and a notable garden, famous for its strawberries. Francis had managed to bring some of his goods and furniture with him to Halifax and supported himself and his family on the proceeds until next spring. Like most of the Boston refugees of 1776, he soon left Halifax and followed the British Army to New York.

Although Francis tried to aid the British cause and retrieve his fortune by equipping several privateers, in the long run he seems to have lost money. In the spring of 1778, Green and "other Loyal Refugees" at New York equipped a private vessel of war, *Tryon*, of 16 guns and 72 men, and this vessel sank and captured a number of rebel ships in the next two years. On Christmas Day 1779 *Tryon* endeavoured to retake *Thorn*, formerly of the Royal Navy, in a severe and bloody battle in which Commander Sibbles and many of the officers and men were killed and the ship was so badly damaged that she had to be sold at a heavy loss. In December 1779 he also lost the *Oliver Cromwell*, named *Restoration*, which was captured on her way to Lisbon; the *Carleton* (which convoyed supplies to the garrison at Rhode Island and wood fleets from Long



Island to the garrison at New York) was wrecked on the way with an expedition to Charleston, South Carolina; the sloop *Jackall* cast away on island near New York; and Brig *Windsor packet* frozen up with a load of fuel in ice at Oyster Bay and so damaged by ice as to be useless.

Having lost five ships in which he had shares, and having exhausted the means of supporting his family in New York he went to England in the fall of 1780. In New York his four year old son Francis Erasmus was burned to death by his clothes catching fire, which may have influenced the move. In July 1781 the Lords of Treasury granted him a temporary assistance of £100 per annum for himself and family and in the spring of 1783 this was increased to £150.

In his petition dated 1st December 1783 from Hackney, London to the Commissioners appointed by the British Parliament to enquire into the "Losses and Services of the American Loyalists he stated that the allowance was not "adequate to his Expences, having two Children (Susannah and Charles) of 12 & 11 years of Age, one of which is so circumstanced as to be *uncommonly* expensive". This was his son Charles who had been discovered to be deaf when he was six months old. Was this affliction due to Francis Green's marriage with his double cousin? Francis Green refused to subscribe to the popular belief that children were dumb because of a flaw in their vocal organs, but believed that they did not learn to speak because they were deaf. When Charles was eight years old his father sent him to Edinburgh to Braidwoods Academy for the Deaf and Dumb. Although some children had been instructed by private tutors, this was the first school in the British Empire.

Thomas Braidwood, a graduate of Edinburgh University, had started with one pupil, the son of a merchant in Leith, and after 1760 became famous as a teacher of the Deaf and Dumb. His school became a model, and was featured by Sir Walter Scott in the *Heart of*



*Midlothian* as “Dumbiedykes”. The School was visited in 1773 by Dr. Samuel Johnson and his biographer Boswell and described in the *Journey to the Western Islands*. In 1783 Braidwood left Edinburgh and opened a school at Hackney, near London.

Green said that Charles remained at Braidwoods’ Academy for eight years where he “acquired the faculty of speech and *almost* perfect knowledge of language both oral and written, as well as *arithmetic, Geography &c* and was preeminent in the art of painting at 16”. Included in the papers submitted to the Loyalist Commission is a letter from “Mr. Francis Green’s son who is Deaf & Dumb” dated Edinburgh 15th June 1781 written in beautiful large handwriting to “My Dear Sister” at Kensington House. This letter begins: “I thank you for your Letter by Papa I could read it, I love to learn. I can read and speak pretty well. I was very happy to see my Papa. I love him very much. I hope you are very well my Papa tells me that you are grown tall, and learn to dance.—Do you remember *Molly* at New York? and *Birch Brinley*, & Mrs. Bean the School Mistress, and Mr. McAlpine . . .”

Francis was so impressed by his son’s progress at Braidwoods that while in London he wrote and published a pamphlet in 1783 entitled VOX OCULIS SUBJECTA or a “Dissertation on the curious, & important art of imparting Speech & the Knowledge of *Language* to the Deaf & Dumb, with a proposal for extending, and perpetuating the benefits thereof” by a Parent. This was reviewed in the *Gentleman’s Magazine* of September 1783. Green’s VOX OCULIS SUBJECTA was reprinted by the Boston Parents Education Association for Deaf Children in 1897 and there is a copy of this at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Green took credit for helping to establish and encourage a public institution at Bermondsey near London under the patronage of the Duke of Buckingham. London Asylum, the first *public*

school for deaf and dumb, was founded in 1792 at Bermondsey, and its first principal Dr. Joseph Watson, was a nephew of Braidwood. VOX OCULIS SUBJECTA was the motto of Braidwoods' School.

After the peace treaty which acknowledged the independence of the American colonies, Francis Green returned in June 1784 to Halifax from Great Britain, leaving his son Charles at Braidwoods. In November he was offered the vacant office of High Sheriff of Halifax County by Chief Justice Finucane. At that date Halifax was still crowded with soldiers and sailors and refugee Loyalists were desperately seeking shelter while waiting for their land grants and tools and compensation from the British for their losses. Thousands were crowded into sheds, warehouses and tents on the Commons and at Point Pleasant and ate at cook-houses set up in the streets. The provincial secretary, Richard Bulkeley and Sheriff Green had for months to superintend the streets for the safety and protection of the people and squads of two hundred militia men patrolled the streets each night. But those with money could enjoy themselves.

On April 2nd, 1785 Penelope Winslow wrote from Halifax to Ward Chipman that "Feasting, card playing & dancing is the great business of Life at Halifax . . . The new Imported Ladies continue to be the Belles. The Princes, Taylors & Halliburtons are totally eclipsed and the Millers, Betsy and Hatty Matthews, are the admiration of all the Beaus. The High sheriff [Francis Green] has been sighing at the feet of Miss Miller. The world take the liberty to condemn her as romantic for rejecting his hand. The Newtonian race, who you know are connected with Mr. Green, are mortified & have advised & it is said have prevailed with him to transfer his affections to Harriet Matthews. With this he readily complied & found her not reluctant. The High Sheriff enjoys all the pomp of this pompous Town and you would, by the style & state he takes upon himself, swear he was

born a Halifaxian—gives dinners two or three times a week & tomorrow evening all the Noblesse are to be entertained at his house, a Ball and supper superb.”

On 19 May 1785 Francis Green Esq., widower, married Harriet Mathews Spinster, at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax. She was the daughter of Hon. David Mathews, formerly Mayor of New York, and president of the council of Cape Breton Island. They were to have six children.

After three years Francis Green lost his position as High Sheriff although he had influential relatives and friends and the judges gave him a certificate that “his conduct, and demeanor, towards the Court has been unexceptionable”. He had allowed a man named Lovisay (who had been confined to jail for debt by John Stairs), to escape from jail and Stairs recovered judgement against Green for £31.17.10 plus costs. Green had to sell one hundred acres of land in Dartmouth to satisfy this. The Sheriff sued various people for not paying the fees he earned for serving writs including Richard John Uniacke for £22.

In 1787 Nathaniel Cary of Sherborn in Nantucket County, merchant, had sued Francis Green, High Sheriff of Halifax County for £49.15 due on a bill of exchange which Francis Green had endorsed twelve years earlier on 10th March 1775. The original bill was from Walter Patterson, Governor of Prince Edward Island, dated Pictou 28th Nov, 1774. Green's attorney was S. S. Blowers and R. J. Uniacke acted for Cary. Green claimed that he thought the bill had been paid—if not, Cary could collect on some of Green's property left in the States “no part of which has been realized by me since 1775”.

Besides the blow of the loss of his position as High Sheriff of Halifax County in 1789, the British Government reduced his pension from £150 to £100. He protested that he had no support for his family but this small allowance and that he “found it absolutely neces-



ary to retire from Town to his new uncultivated Lands in the Wilderness of this Province where he hath since with the utmost Parsimony labor'd to subsist on that small inadequate Sum the Lands not being as yet productive, and yielding little more Benefit than those of House room & Fuel." This was at Cole Harbour where he had inherited some land from his father Benjamin Green Sr. He wrote "That from a former State of prosperity, & chearfull Prospects of Provision for his Family, He, by his atachment to the British Government was reduced to a State of Proverty" and asked for "his Relief as a suffering Loyalist, & Friend to the British Government."

The problem about the value of property owned by Francis Green is difficult because he gave different amounts at different times. On 28th October 1782 he estimated that houses and land he owned in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, were valued at nearly £14,000. Some of this he had purchased, some seized for debt, and some he had inherited from his grandparents Benjamin Green and Joshua Pierce and from his mother Margaret Green. There was a long list of notes and bonds which were owed him when he left Boston, and when he added the interest he had lost up to date this amounted to nearly £9,000. He had taken over a ship built at Wells for a debt at a loss of £688, and valued his furniture left at Boston at £350 and £850 on heavy goods left behind there. This came to £24,709.1. Losses on the various ships he had owned while in New York came to £4300 and his expences removing his family of three children and three servants from Boston to Halifax, New York and England were £300. But he also charged the profits he would have made in his business at Boston if there had been peace—a sum of £7,300 so that he claimed losses of £36,309.

The commissioners insisted that "he must provide authentic Proofs of Confiscation & final Loss of his estate before Commission can pay compensation" but

Green had moved around so much that he did not have the necessary deeds and account books and promissory notes. He had provided claims and whatever proof he could obtain and letters from such people as Sir William Pepperell, General Gage and General Howe, and Governor Sir John Wentworth. When Green appeared before the commissioners on 2nd March 1784 he said that he owed £1000 currency to different persons in America and produced a bond to show that he owed £2000 to Lane & Fraser in London and about £1400 to the widow of Mr. Hayley, agents with whom he did business. It seems incredible that his claim allowed was £1149, later reduced to £912, and then reduced again to £300—from this £5 deducted on account of pension.

In the Public Archives of Nova Scotia is a report dated December 1784 signed by Francis Green and Theophilus Chamberlain on the "State of the New Settlements of Dartmouth/near Coal Harbour/and Lawrencetown" which declared "The Loyalist in general are an Industrious people & very spirited in their endeavours to improve the Lands assigned them." There were three sawmills in operation, but "the Fishery business" had been neglected because the settlers were employed "in Erecting Habitations". They asked to have the British law repealed which forbade the use of a "*Tilt Hammer* in America" because it was sorely needed in the Iron Works at Dartmouth to "Plate Iron for Mill Saws, Plow Shares &c &c".

After he ceased to be High Sheriff of Halifax County, Green retired to his farm at Cole Harbour. His 17 year old son Charles was drowned while shooting at Cole Harbour 29th August 1787. Later the Greens moved to another farm at Preston, four miles from Dartmouth. Mrs. Lawson in her *History of the Townships of Dartmouth, Preston and Lawrencetown* commented on the beautiful view of countryside and ocean from the house Francis Green built at Preston in 1792. There his daughter Susannah was

married to Stephen Hall Binney on 22 September 1794. For eight months after the death of his elder brother Benjamin, Francis acted as "Joint Treasurer of the province of Nova Scotia" with George Thesiger until Governor Sir John Wentworth appointed his own brother-in-law Benning Wentworth to the position on 8 August 1794.

When Preston was chosen as a settlement for the Maroons from Jamaica, Green's property, with the rest of the district, was purchased in 1796 by the government for their accommodation, and the house was enlarged for the residence of the superintendents and as a community centre, and named Maroon Hall.

Having sold his property to the Maroons, and being assured that the strong feelings against "Tories" had died down in the United States, Francis Green removed with his family to his native state and took up his residence at Medford, near Boston in June 1797, "now finding himself without any *adequate* employment . . . and also having always had a predilection for the *Lands of his ancestors & his native country* . . ." There he carried on the business of insurance underwriter at Boston, but in 1798 and 1799 he lost \$25,000 because of ships wrecked or captured, and had to give it up.

Until his death at Medford on 21 April 1809, Francis Green devoted himself to charitable works. In 1798 he was presented with a certificate from the "humane society" at Boston. He wrote articles in journals and newspapers, particularly the New England *Palladium*, the importance of teaching the deaf and dumb to speak, and endeavouring to enlist public sympathy on their behalf. Although there were no immediate results, he was eventually recognized as one of the pioneers of work among the deaf and for this contribution is included in various American encyclopaedias.

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# *The Surettes of Eel Brook and their Descendants*

NEIL BOUCHER

The history of the Surette family in Nova Scotia begins around 1705 with the arrival of Pierre Surette at Port Royal. It is difficult to determine the exact date he set foot on Nova Scotian soil, however, the record of his marriage to Jeanne Pellerin at Port Royal on February 4, 1709 enables us to have an approximate idea of the date he reached his destination. The son of Noel and Francoise (Couloude), he had been born at La Rochelle, province of Aunis in 1679. The reason he left France for the New World is also difficult to ascertain. As it was the case for many French eighteenth-century emigrants, personal ruin, social and/or religious persecution, the call to a life of adventure could all have been motives for his departure.

Pierre Surette was to live out the remaining days of his life in the parish of Saint Laurent near Port Royal where he was buried on October 31, 1749.<sup>1</sup>

Pierre Surette was the ancestor of all those who were to bear that name in Acadia; the purpose of this article is to follow one line of his "family" whose descendants can today be found in the small Acadian village of Surette's Island in Yarmouth County.



The union between Pierre Surette and Jeanne Pellerin produced nine children:

- 1) Pierre 2nd, 1709
- 2) Joseph, 1712
- 3) Anne, 1715
- 4) Marie-Josephe, 1718
- 5, 6) Madeleine and Paul, 1721
- 7) Marie-Josephe, 1723 (not an error;  
her older sister had probably died)
- 8) Francoise, 1726
- 9) Theopitre, 1728<sup>2</sup>

It is the eldest son that concerns us here.

Pierre 2nd and his brother Joseph moved to the parish of Saint Charles des Mines at Grand-Pre where the former began to take a direction in community affairs, for as Campbell states:

Long before the expulsion of 1755, he was prominent among the Acadians of the northern shores. As chief and governor, not by appointment of any government but by choice and consent of the people, he presided over 150 families at the settlement of Pigiguat . . . What was sent from France for this Acadian settlement passed for distribution through the hands of Pierre Surette.<sup>3</sup>

Like most Acadian families in Nova Scotia in the mid-eighteenth century, Pierre 2nd, his wife and children were to face hardships, cruelties, and privations that accompanied the deportation of 1755. He had married Catherine Breau who would bear him eight children: Pierre 3rd, Paul, Oliver, Amand, Joseph, Anne, Marie Rose, and Madeleine.<sup>4</sup>

The Surette family, along with others of the same fate, escaped deportation per se by hiding in the woods of the isthmus, but the constant fear of Ranger patrols that searched the woods of Nova Scotia all through the Seven Years' War, plus the daily struggles against starvation and the elements, did not make their lives as refugees any

more pleasant than those of their compatriots whose destiny had been the English Protestant colonies to the south. Pierre 2nd was one of the recognized leaders of the group and he along with his family and friends turned themselves in to Colonel Frye, commander at Fort Cumberland (formerly Beausejour) preferring surrender to starvation. The four year fugitive life had come to an end; this was the month of November 1759. The Acadians were made prisoners and later transported to Halifax where they were held in captivity until the end of Franco-English hostilities in 1763.

The Surette family, as well as the returning victims of exile, found themselves in a most destitute situation in the immediate post deportation period. They were a minority group living on the fringes of society, their religious affiliation denied them both political and social rights, and they could not show legal title to land anywhere in the province. It is at this point that an officer of the British army, Captain Ranald MacKinnon, appeared as a kind of savior.

Ranald MacKinnon was born about 1737 on the island of Skye, Scotland. In 1757 he joined the "Montgomery Highlanders" as ensign. The Highlanders embarked at Greenock, Scotland and in June 1757 the young soldier caught his first glimpses of Nova Scotia when the regiment landed in Halifax. His first years in America were filled with the harsh life that accompanied war, fighting the French at Fort Duquesne and Saint John's, Newfoundland. Even though Ranald MacKinnon had seen nothing but the horrors of war since his arrival, he decided to stay in America at the termination of hostilities. Surveying parties were dispatched by the government to the southwestern coasts of the province at the end of the Seven Years' War and the British officer accompanied these parties. He had become familiar with the islands and inlets of Argyle in present-day Yarmouth

County which reminded him "of the romantic scenery of his native island."<sup>5</sup>

At that time it was the custom to grant government land to soldiers who had served with distinction. Such was the case with Ranald MacKinnon who was granted two thousand acres of land at what is now Argyle in recognition of his services. The fact that the grant was at Argyle seems to be more than coincidental as MacKinnon probably requested that the grant be in that section of the province for the reason previously stated. The grant read:

A point of land he then lived on, lying between the Island Non-Parison (today Robert's Island) and Eel Bay aforesaid and the River Abuptic containing five hundred acres, also the Islands commonly called La Tour Islands, lying between the said Island Non-Parison and an Island called Long Island containing one thousand acres, also another tract of land lying to the South East of a lake called Eel Lake containing five hundred acres making together the said two thousand acres.<sup>6</sup>

MacKinnon received this land in 1766 and shortly afterwards we find him leasing it to the Acadians and one can only speculate as to why a British officer would lease land to these people. Was he sympathetic towards these Acadians as Francklin was and out of generosity he leased his lands to them? It is possible; however, another hypothesis can be given here. Could not the necessity of having the land cleared play a part in the reasons for leasing it to people who were "at hand" was much cheaper and altogether more practical than bringing his fellow countrymen from Scotland to settle the land. Unfortunately, it has been impossible for this author to find the original MacKinnon grant either at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, or at the Municipal offices of Argyle and Yarmouth. The only primary source of information that was discovered concerning the MacKinnon grant was the petition of Letitia, widow of Captain MacKinnon. However, there are two reasons why



it is possible to believe that the terms of the grant called for land to be cleared and settled. First of all, the terms of other grants at this time stated that land had to be settled or it would revert to the Crown. This was the case with the German land grants<sup>7</sup> and the grant made to the Reverend John Breynton, Rector of Saint Pauls' which was in the same area as the MacKinnon grant. Secondly, in her petition to the government to have the grant confirmed, Letitia MacKinnon stated that her husband had "bestowed great labor and expense in cultivating them",<sup>8</sup> implying that he had fulfilled the obligations of the grant. He could not cultivate two thousand acres by himself nor with the help of his family, but the Acadians who were in need of land could certainly help and thereby prevent his grant from returning to the government.

Regardless of which reason may be valid, on August 16, 1775 Ranald MacKinnon

leased for eight Spanish dollars yearly, and by deed executed April 7, 1795, for the sum of one hundred pounds he sold to Dominique Pothier, Jean Bourque, Paul Surette, Pierre Surette, and Joseph Babin, 236 acres of land.<sup>9</sup>

It has been impossible to find the original deed as a fire in the Yarmouth Town Hall destroyed the records of late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century deeds. Brown goes on to give the particulars of the MacKinnon deed as

beginning at Goose Bay at the 'carrying place' so called, thence running easterly to the lake, thence Northerly by Eel Lake to Eel Brook, thence Westerly by Eel Brook to Goose Bay, thence Southerly by Goose Bay to the first mentioned bounds.<sup>10</sup>

With these new prospects being offered, the Surette family moved to Eel Brook in Yarmouth County. One of these hopeful emigrants was Joseph Surette, son of Pierre 2nd. From the marriage of Joseph and Marguerite (Pellerin) would result four children, namely, Jean Louis, Charles Barrome, Frederic, and Marguerite.<sup>11</sup>

The settlement of Eel Brook, (today Sainte Anne-du-Ruisseau), with its population of Surette, Babin, Pothier, Bourque, Muise, and LeBlanc, grew in the calm of near total isolation. Concerned primarily with the well-being of the family, these Acadians lived with one basic desire which they saw fulfilled in 1779. In that year they witnessed the arrival of the first resident priest since the deportation in the person of the Abbe Jean Mande Sigogne,<sup>12</sup> an exile of the French Revolution.

It was from among these people at Eel Brook that the first settlers at Surette's Island came. A governmental grant was made to twenty-seven Acadians in 1801. The land granted stretched from the present day village of Tusket, southward until it reached the sea. It was

a tract of land containing four thousand eight hundred and seventy-four acres and a half acre exclusive of fifty acres on the south end of Sheep Island which is marked off and reserved out of this grant for Andrew Wilson . . .<sup>13</sup>

The grant encompassed three thousand, five hundred acres of mainland, and the remainder to make the total of four thousand, eight hundred seventy-four and a half acres would be ten islands, one of which was Surette's Island. By the terms of the grant

the said grantees their heirs or assigns shall do, within three years after the date thereof, for every fifty acres of plantable land thereby granted, clear and work three acres at least in that part thereof which the said grantees, their heirs or assigns shall judge the most convenient and advantageous.<sup>14</sup>

Two of the grantees were brothers living at Sainte Anne-du-Ruisseau, Frederick and Charles-Barrôme Surette.

The "lure of the land" seems to have been the primary motive for moving to the Island. Both brothers had families and they also had an older brother (Jean-Louis)<sup>15</sup> which may indicate that the paternal lands would not be

handed down to them. Even if this was not the case, it appears that at the beginning of the nineteenth century the amount of available land was steadily declining. Sigogne petitioned the government to grant more land to the Acadians at Eel Brook. Writing to the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, he stated:

they (the Acadians) find themselves now distressed as being excluded from any outlet or range for their cattle, and from room to settle their sons, from a resource for future supply of such timber fit for building, or fencing stuff for their dear bought farms, even of fuel.<sup>16</sup>

Although this was seven years after the Surette's Island grant was made, the situation was undoubtedly being felt before 1800, thus accounting for the grant of 1801 which included Surette's Island. There the supply of wood for fuel and for building was sufficient to satisfy the needs of the two settlers, there was room for cattle and also room to permit their sons to build. The Surette brothers could still depend on the sea as a source of their livelihood as it surrounded them; it would also provide an easy means of visiting their friends and relatives in Eel Brook.

The settling of Surette's Island must have taken place between 1801 and 1804 since the grant specified that within three years land had to be cleared and worked or it would revert to the crown. Since it did not, the terms must have been met, thereby making 1804 the latest possible date of settlement. Other islands close to Eel Brook were also settled at this time and the move to Surette's Island was only a part of a larger movement outwards from Eel Brook.

The two Surette brothers who first colonized Surette's Island each had families of their own. The elder of the two, Charles-Barrome, had married Marie Babin, daughter of Michel. The grave that presently stands alongside the Surette's Island parish church is presumably her burial place, and the engravings on her tombstone indicate that

she died in 1862 at the age of 110 with the honor of being the last survivor of the deported Acadians.<sup>17</sup> It is interesting to note that she has a great grandson of 94 still living on Surette's Island. Charles-Barrome and Marie would have seven children: Jean, Hippolyte, Michel, Frederick, Marie, Marguerite and Adelaide.<sup>18</sup> The younger brother, Frederick, had married Sophique Babin, daughter of Victor Babin. (It is possible that Michel and Victor were brothers, making the wives of the first colonizers on Surette's Island first cousins). Five children would be born as a result of this union: Joseph, Eusebe, Prospere, Marceline, and Marie.<sup>19</sup>

As a result of there being two brothers, the Surette family will also at this point begin to split into two branches, one being the Hippolyte and Jean line on the side of Charles-Barrome, the other being the Eusebe and Prospere line on the side of Frederick Surette. All the Surettes of Surette's Island today can trace their ancestry to one of these two "camps".



## FOOTNOTES

1. Bona Arsenault, **Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens**, Tome I (Quebec: Le Conseil de la Vie francaise en Amerique, 1965), p. 515.
2. Bona Arsenault, **Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens**, Tome I, p. 515.
3. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History** (Boston: Rand Avery Company, 1888), P. 399.
4. **Ibid.**
5. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History**, p. 268.
6. Petition of Letitia MacKinnon, Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS), Vol. 226, Document 6.
7. Governor Wilmot to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners for trade and Plantations, PANS, Record Group (RG) 1, Vol. 37, Doc. 44.
8. Petition of Letitia MacKinnon, PANS.
9. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History**, p. 398.
10. **Ibid.**
11. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History**, p. 400.
12. See P. M. Dagnaud, **Les Francais du Sud-Ouest de la Nouvelle-Ecosse** (Becanson: Libraririe Centrale, 1905), pp. 57-104.
13. Nova Scotia Land Grants, PANS, Reel 107, Old Book 20, pp. 83-148.
14. Nova Scotia Land Grants, PANS, Reel 107, Old Book 20, pp. 83-148.
15. The Surettes of Wedgeport, Yarmouth County are the descendants of Jean-Louis Surette, son of Joseph Surette. Prosper Surette, son of Jean-Louis would begin the Surette line in Pinkney's Point of the same county.
16. "Sigogne to Sir George Prevost," September 1, 1808, unpublished manuscript in Archives of the Diocese of Yarmouth.
17. For more information see Father Clarence d'Entremont, "Marie Babin de l'Ile Surette ne fut pas la derniere des Deportes" in **La Societe Historique Acadienne**, Vol. II, No. 2, July 1966, pp. 61-67.
18. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History**, p. 402.
19. George S. Brown, **Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History**, p. 402.



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# *A Political Scholarship*

E. L. EATON

The announcement by the Amalgamated School Board for Kings County that the Sir Frederick Borden Scholarship, to be offered again in 1979, will be increased to \$100.00 has aroused some curiosity as to the origin of this noteworthy award.

## CHAPTER 121

### An Act to Establish the Sir Frederick W. Borden Scholarship

(Passed the 30th day of March, A. D., 1910)

#### SECTION.

1. Scholarship established
2. Scholarship, to whom open.
3. Scholarship, to whom awarded.
4. Order of merit on failure to matriculate.

#### SECTION.

5. Failure of successful competitor.
6. Value of scholarship.
7. Name of scholarship and investment.
8. Mortgage of security.
9. Trustees of funds.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly,  
as follows:

1. It shall be lawful to establish a Scholarship as hereinafter set forth in connection with the Common School System of Nova Scotia for the benefit of pupils attending common schools in the County of Kings, in the said province, on the terms and subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.

2. The Scholarship shall be open to all pupils, male or female, who shall matriculate in the Arts Course at any university in the Province of Nova Scotia, or at Mt. Allison University, in the Province of New Brunswick, and who shall

(a) have passed in Grade XI at the annual provincial examination in connection with the public school system in Nova Scotia, and

(b) who shall have attended during the school year next previous to the passing of such examination at the public school at Canning, in the said County of Kings; provided that if during any year there should be no claimant eligible from the Canning school, then the Scholarship may be awarded a pupil attending any public school in the said County during the school year next previous to any such annual examination.

3. The said Scholarship shall be awarded to the pupil otherwise eligible under this Act who shall make the highest aggregate at the required examination in Grade XI applicable to such pupil provided for by this Act.

4. If the pupil, in other respects eligible, making the highest aggregate at the examination in Grade XI, is unable to matriculate as aforesaid at any of the said universities, or having matriculated is unable to attend as a student the then current college year, the Scholarship

shall be awarded and go to the next competitor in order of merit otherwise eligible under the conditions of this Act.

5. If subsequently to the first award of the said Scholarship there shall be no successful competitor for any individual year, the Scholarship for that year shall be awarded to the senior winner pursuing a college course at any of the universities aforesaid.

6. The Scholarship shall be of the annual value of seventy-five dollars, and shall be payable to the holder thereof in two equal instalments, one at the beginning of the college year and after the winner has entered upon his studies at the university, and the other instalment at the close of such college year and before the holder shall have left the university, to the end that the said Scholarship shall be available by the winner thereof only on attendance according to the requirements of the university for the taking of university examinations during the college year for which the same is awarded.

7. The name of the Scholarship shall be the Sir Frederick W. Borden Scholarship, and may be established by the investment in the name of the School Inspector for the time being of the school district in which Canning aforesaid is situate, in real estate, in the said county, of the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, provided by Sir Frederick W. Borden, the donor of the said Scholarship, upon mortgage-bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable at a time or times which will permit the provisions of this Act to be complied with, and which shall refer to this Act and purport to be made under its provisions.

8. The said mortgage shall be upon security of undoubted sufficiency, regard being had both to present conditions and to all future conditions reasonably

capable of being foreseen, and shall not be paid off or the principal thereof called in, but the same shall remain a charge upon the lands therein described in perpetuity for the purpose of the said Scholarship, and for securing the payment therefor annually of the sum of seventy-five dollars.

9. The Inspector of Schools in whose name the said moneys are invested, and his successors in office, shall be trusted under the said mortgage of the moneys thereunder invested, and of the interest payable thereunder, and of the said Scholarship, and shall award the said Scholarship and pay over the moneys arising from the said investment according to the provisions of this Act.

The amount, \$75.00, was enough then to cover the usual tuition fees and, over the years, encouraged many deserving students to continue their formal schooling.

The form of investment may seem a bit strange today, when such a wide choice of bonds, debentures and guaranteed loans is so readily available. At the time this scholarship was being set up such opportunities to invest were practically unknown, and it was only with the sale of Victory Bonds during World War I that the general public was introduced to this form of investment. Back in 1910 a first mortgage on good real estate was regarded as the best possible security. Thus when Sir Frederick executed a perpetual mortgage for \$1250.00 on a part of his own residential property in Canning, with the interest paid to the Inspector of Schools who then made the award, he was undoubtedly following the best legal procedure of the day. However, when the family finally decided to sell the property, another act of the legislature became necessary to clear the title.



## CHAPTER 130

### An Act to Amend Chapter 121 of the Acts of 1910, an Act to Establish the Sir Frederick W. Borden Scholarship

(Assented to the 24th day of April, A. D., 1970)

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1. (1) Subsection (a) of Section 2 of Chapter 121 of the Acts of 1910, An Act to Establish the Sir Frederick W. Borden Scholarship, is amended by striking out the numeral "XI" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor the numeral "XII".

(2) Subsection (b) of said Section 2 is amended

(a) by striking out the words "the public school at Canning" in the third line thereof and substituting therefor the words "Cornwallis District High School"; and

(b) by striking out the words "Canning school" in the fifth and sixth lines thereof and substituting therefor the words "Cornwallis District High School".

2. Section 3 of said Chapter 121 is amended by striking out the numeral "XI" in the fourth line thereof and substituting therefor the numeral "XII".

3 Section 4 of said Chapter 121 is amended by striking out the numeral "XI" in the second line thereof and substituting therefor the numeral "XII".

4 Section 5 of said Chapter 121 is replaced and the following substituted therefor:

5 If subsequently to the first award of the said Scholarship there shall be no successful competitor for any individual year, the sum of money representing the Scholarship for that year shall be added to the amount of twelve hundred and fifty dollars invested in accordance with the terms of Section 7 of this Act.

5 Section 7 of said Chapter 121 is replaced and the following substituted therefor:

7 The name of the Scholarship shall be the Sir Frederick W. Borden Scholarship, and the Scholarship shall be continued by the investment in the name of the Kings County Amalgamated School Board in investments in which Trustees are authorized by law to invest trust funds, of the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, provided by Sir Frederick W. Borden, the donor of the Scholarship.

6 Section 8 of Chapter 121 is repealed.

7 Section 9 of Chapter 121 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

9 The Kings County Amalgamated School Board in whose name the moneys is invested, and its successors, shall be Trustees of the money so invested, and of the interest payable thereunder, and of the Scholarship, and shall award the Scholarship and pay over the moneys arising from the investment according to the provisions of this Act.

8 Chapter 121 is further amended by adding thereto the following Section:

10 C. E. Eaton of Kentville, in the County of Kings, Province of Nova Scotia, Inspector of Schools for the County of Kings, shall have the capacity to execute and deliver a release of a mortgage dated October 1, 1910, of certain lands and premises at Canning in the said County, made between the Honourable Sir Frederick W. Borden and Bessie Borden, of the one part, and Ernest W. Robinson, of the other part, which Mortgage is registered in the Registry of Deeds for the County of Kings, aforesaid, in Book 101 at page 291.

The release of the mortgage was duly executed and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Kings County. Since then the funds have been invested at a higher rate of interest, and the extra money, along with the entire interest in years when the scholarship has not been awarded, has been added to the principal. The fund now exceeds \$2,000.00.

But behind this unique award is a story which reflects a bit of the rough and tumble politics of the era. The first decade of this century saw great railway expansion, the major settlement of the prairies, the shedding of an earlier colonial status, all accompanied by vigorous political debate.

In this stormy period, no where were the issues more hotly debated than in Kings County, a constituency directly involved through its then member of parliament, Frederick W. Borden, M.D., the recipient of a knighthood and several honorary university degrees. Elected first to parliament in 1874, he was already a senior member of the party when he became one of the famous "Cabinet of the Talents" of Laurier in 1896. Never a brilliant orator, his mark was quickly made as a solid, hard working, able administrator. His wide grasp of business affairs and personal charm made him a logical government spokesman on many occasions when other ministers were absent from the house.



Overshadowed in later years, largely through the pressures of the world war, by his younger, more stolid and far less colorful cousin, Robert Laird Borden, Canada's Prime Minister during the war, much less has been written about the older man. An attempt has been made recently to rectify this<sup>1</sup>. Yet, against the background of his times, his was, perhaps the greater contribution to national development. The only son of an early graduate of Harvard Medical School and highly regarded country physician, Dr. Jonathan Borden, he was educated first at Kings College, Windsor, later graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1868. He returned to open his own medical practice in the village of Canning, then the mercantile and shipping centre of the county. An entry was made into politics soon after, his major activity until the defeat of the Laurier government in 1911.

Frederick Borden became Minister of Militia and Defence in 1896 and immediately took steps to reorganize what had been a notably weak department. During the next few years he whipped the scattered and unco-ordinated volunteer units into a well equipped force that could be assembled on short notice. It was he, against strong opposition within the cabinet and party, who fitted out and dispatched six contingents of some 7,000 men and 5,000 horses to South Africa in the 1898-1902 war. And it was he who, shortly after, persuaded the Mother Country to withdraw the imperial troops from Canada, replacing them with his own veterans. The knighthood was recognition as an Empire statesman.

National fame, however, is never achieved without a price, and, in our democracy, one of the costs we impose on our public personages is criticism. No one of Sir Frederick's prominence could escape a full share, and, as he won election after election, the intensity of the opposition efforts to unseat him steadily grew.

After the election of 1904, when it became apparent that the aged and failing Lord Strathcona might retire as Canadian High Commissioner in England, the name of Sir Frederick was prominently mentioned as a successor. He seemed a logical choice. Middle aged, capable, well informed, popular in England because of his part in the South African war, an attractive social figure, who could better fill the post, and what finer conclusion could there be to so distinguished a career? Then came an attack from an unexpected quarter. A single sheet, weekly newspaper, published in Calgary, carrying the name "The Eye Opener" on its mast head, chose him as a special target. At that time Alberta was not even a province; Calgary was a small, rough, pioneer town. Why, of all places, Robert Chambers Edwards, a member of a prominent Scottish publishing family, chose this as a spot to start his fledgling paper, has never been explained. Probably it was the same sort of challenge that brought so many other capable young Scots into the rough employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, including Strathcona himself, as a young man. But start the paper he did, often not knowing from one issue to the next where money would be found to pay for the ink and paper. For twenty years until his death in 1922, he wrote, edited and published one of the most critical and critized, but widely read weekly papers. When he died the name of Bob Edwards had become legendary among news men, and Colombo's "Canadian Quotations" devoted two whole pages to him, recognition given to but few writers.

When "The Eye Opener" decided Borden was not the right person to represent Canada in England, issue after issue came out with stories, arguments and innuendo. For months these were ignored. Then one particularly offensive article was copied in the English periodical "Nineteenth Century and After" edited by Sir James Knowles. This shaft landed where it really hurt and Sir Frederick immediately launched a libel action in the

English courts. About the same time copies of the Eye Opener were circulated by political opponents in Kings County and quoted by the Kentville "Advertiser". Legal action was taken there also. The English case was finally settled, apparently out of court, for £300. The Eye Opener sniffed, "The amount which the character of the Minister of Militia is valued." But, with consummate skill, all of this was turned to political capital, and at his nomination meeting in the election of 1908 Sir Frederick announced that the money would be used to start a scholarship, the details of which would be prepared by a committee made up of Rev. Joseph Seller, the Methodist minister, Rev. Dr. E. C. Crowell, the Baptist minister, and Dr. A. M. Covert, local doctor and member of the Municipal Council, all of Canning. It is said that the actual drafting was done by Dr. Crowell.

The offending copy of "The Eye Opener", passed around in Kings County, was dated October 3, 1908 and the election date was scarcely a fortnight away. The courts rarely move quickly in such matters and the libel hearing was set for the following June. Meanwhile the election had come and gone and Sir Frederick had again won, this time by the second highest majority of any person elected in the province. In June the case was set over to the fall session of 1909, and both sides had lots of time to prepare. Sir Frederick's case was handled by two of the most astute and able lawyers in eastern Canada; W. E. Roscoe, who had recently completed an assignment as one of three commissioners to revise the Canadian Criminal Code, then at the peak of his distinguished career; and a young lawyer, H. H. Wickwire, later to gain prominence as the first Minister of Highways for Nova Scotia. The Conservatives dug in to prove the Allegations were true and in doing so brought in two women of doubtful character, mother and daughter. The appearance of the mother was not unexpected as her letters to the Eye Opener had featured largely in that paper, but when the



daughter was called to the stand, it was a complete surprise. Her evidence was devastating, and she was still on the stand when the court adjourned for the day. Over the night something evidently happened, and when the young lady returned to the witness stand the next morning she completely contradicted herself. At that point the case was practically laughed out of court, and Sir Frederick was awarded \$100.00.

Strangely, the Prothonotary books, usually kept with great exactitude, contain no mention of the case, although much more trivial ones, just before and after, are entered in great detail. The court officer, whose duty it was to make the records, chanced to be a nephew by marriage of the man who passed out the offending copies of "The Eye Opener." Could that have been a reason?

In the general election of 1911 the Laurier government was defeated and Borden suffered personal defeat at the hands of a third-year Acadia University student, a member of the Acadia debating team, Arthur Dewitt Foster. He retired to Canning where he continued many business interests until his death on January 6, 1917, at the age of sixty-nine.

#### FOOTNOTE

1. **The Public Life of Sir Frederick Borden (1847-1917)**A thesis submitted by Carmen Miller in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Master of Arts at Dalhousie University. May 1964.





## *Trials and Torment:*

### *The Story of Two Stalwarts*

CAROL McLEOD

Fate is often a cruel and perfidious master. Nowhere in the annals of Nova Scotian history does this fact become more apparent than in the interrelated stories of St. Peter's and Nicholas Denys.

Born in Toursin, France in 1598, Denys was determined to make his fortune in the New World. As a member of the de Razilly expedition to Acadia in 1632, he established a wood working plant near present day Riverport. Encouraged by the success of this venture, he joined with his brother, Simon, and developed an inshore fishery further down the coast at Port Rossignol.

The first years were highly profitable for the two brothers. Granted permission by de Razilly to transport their goods on ships owned by the Company of New France, the future seemed assured.

Then, in 1635, de Razilly died and Charles d'Aulany de Charnisy, another member of the expedition of 1632, succeeded him as Lieutenant Governor of the colony. He immediately abandoned the settlement de Razilly had founded on the La Have River and reestablished the expedition at Port Royal.

Power quickly overcame reason as d'Aulany withdrew permission for the Denys to use Company ships. The two brothers were incensed by such shoddy treatment. Under the terms of the act which had created it, the Company of New France was obliged to assist in the development of trade and industry in the French colonies.

This was a fact d'Aulany understood only too well. However, his major concern was in establishing his own monopoly on trade in Acadia. To achieve this objective he was determined to force all opposition out of business. As Lieutenant Governor of the colony, he had the power to decide who could benefit from the assistance of the Company of New France and who could not. Realizing the futility of appealing d'Aulany's decision, Nicholas and Simon Denys returned to France.

A few years later, however, Nicholas acquired a tract of land on the Island of Miscou in Chaleur Bay. Accompanied by his brother, he once again sailed to Acadia.

The two wasted no time in carving a home out of the wilderness and devoted their efforts to gaining a foothold in the fur and fishing industries. For a time, all was well.

Then, Charles d'Aulany learned of the competition once again being created by the Denys. Infuriated, he dispatched an expedition which successfully ousted the so-called intruders from Miscou.

Jealous of the accomplishment of anyone who prospered in Acadia, d'Aulany had resolved to stymie any and all would be competitors. The Denys were not his only targets. Charles la Tour, another member of the expedition of 1632, received constant reminders of d'Aulany's treachery.

For years d'Aulany had led unsuccessful raids on la Tour's fortress, situated on the Saint John River. Finally, during the absence of la Tour in 1650, d'Aulany managed to capture the stronghold.

The victory proved to be of little consequence, however, for later that same year d'Aulany died. Upon learning of his death, Nicholas and Simon Denys sailed to Cape Breton where they immediately began construction of two forts. One was located at Saint Pierre on a narrow strip of land between what is now St. Peter's Bay and St. Peter's Inlet, while the other was established further north at Sainte Ann.

When Mme. d'Aulany learned of the Denys' latest exploits she decided to follow in her husband's footsteps. A party of armed men was dispatched to seize the fortresses and capture the Denys. The expedition was successful and the two brothers were taken to Port Royal and imprisoned.

The pair was soon released and sailed to Quebec, where Simon felt it wisest to remain. Nicholas, however, was undaunted by the constant hardships which had befallen him, and decided to return to Cape Breton.

His property, both at Saint Pierre and Miscou, was soon returned to him and for two years life proceeded at a fairly even pace.

With a large number of workers at his disposal, Denys soon had approximately 80 acres under cultivation. He also managed to establish profitable trade relations with local Indians.

Fate, however, was about to deal this resilient Frenchman another heavy blow. In 1653 Emmanuel Le Borgne, a money lender, learned of d'Aulany's death. He decided to take steps to collect the large sum of money d'Aulany had owed him.

Le Borgne applied for and was granted a deed which in effect gave him full claim to d'Aulany's property at Port Royal. As power hungry as d'Aulany had been, Le Borgne looked covetously at la Tour's fort on the Saint John River.

The presence of a British contingent at the fortress, however, caused Le Borgne to defer his attack. In the



meantime he decided to concentrate his efforts on curtailing all trading activities with the Indians of Acadia. To this end, he felt it advisable to take control of Saint Pierre and end the growing influence and friendship Denys had been cultivating with the natives.

In 1653, while Denys was visiting at Sainte Ann, Le Borgne's forces captured Saint Pierre. Not satisfied with taking the fort, Le Borgne had also given orders to plunder Denys' ship which lay at anchor in the bay.

Completely unaware of the disaster awaiting him, Denys and three of his men began their journey back to Saint Pierre. Travelling along the portage Denys constructed to convey boats from the bay to the Bras d'Or lakes, the four were ambushed and Denys taken prisoner.

Once again he was taken to Port Royal. In 1654, however, English forces under the command of Robert Sedgewick overpowered Le Borgne and took control of Port Royal. Denys was freed, but after tallying the losses incurred by Le Borgne's raid on Saint Pierre, he decided to return to France.

Dispirited by the vicissitudes of life in the wilderness, but nevertheless determined to receive redress for his latest loss, Denys arranged an audience with King Louis XIV. The King sympathized with Denys and agreed to grant him letters patent. Notice was also sent to the heirs and creditors of Charles d'Aulany not to interfere with Denys in any way.

Under the terms of his new grant, Saint Pierre was restored to Denys. He then purchased a large tract of land which extended from Canso to Cape Roziers and included Cape Breton and Ile St. Jean.

As a further token of his favor, Louis XIV conferred the governorship of this new domain upon Denys. In return, Denys pledged to establish a settlement of eighty families within six years of his return to Acadia.

When he returned to Saint Pierre later in 1654, he took with him a force of 120 men. Disgruntled by the mercurial

course his earlier years had followed, Denys was determined to avoid future conflict and harassment.

Meanwhile, back at Port Royal, controversy had arisen over the future of d'Aulany's eight surviving children. The English were prepared to let them remain in Acadia and live their lives in peace. Certain relatives, however, thought it wiser for them to return to France. This was partly due, no doubt, to the fact that Mme. d'Aulany had married Charles la Tour in February 1653.

Finally, late in the fall of 1654, the eight left for Canso, from which point they intended to sail for France. The season was far advanced and by the time they reached Canso the last of the ships had gone.

Stranded until spring and with no one else to turn to, the little band headed for Saint Pierre and their father's old enemy, Nicholas Denys. A humane and kindly man, Denys readily took the orphans in.

Years later he was to write, "After all the disorder which d'Aulany caused in the land, his children were very fortunate in finding an asylum with me."

The little group remained at Saint Pierre until the following spring, at which time they finally succeeded in booking passage to France.

Time passed and eventually Denys felt the urge to extend his boundaries. He led a large contingent of his men on an expedition to Chedabucto (now Guysborough) where he built and fortified a trading post.

Not far to the south another Frenchman by the name of La Giraudiere looked on greedily at the prosperous fur trade Denys was developing. Anxious to win the trading post for himself, La Giraudiere claimed Denys was trespassing and led an armed party against the intruders.

Unprepared for the strong system of defense established at the post, La Guarayduere ordered Denys to leave, hoping to bluff him into believing the attackers were stronger than they actually were. His ruse failed when Denys ignored the command.

Realizing the futility of combat, La Giraudiere dispatched a force to Saint Pierre. He had correctly assumed that the defences at Saint Pierre were weaker than those at Chedabucto. The defenders of the fort offered what resistance they could, but soon conceded defeat.

Using his victory at Saint Pierre as a bargaining tool, La Giraudiere offered to return the fort in exchange for the trading post. Denys accepted the offer, but demanded that La Giraudiere accompany him to France where the governors of the Company of New France could mediate their dispute.

Foolishly, La Giraudiere agreed and the two sailed for France. When the board of governors finally concluded their hearing, Chedabucto was restored to Denys.

The victory had been an expensive one, however, for the cost of the voyage and the expenditures necessary to defend his fortresses had taken their toll. Then on his return to Saint Pierre the situation seemed to reverse itself. A bountiful harvest of pelts had seemingly assured that Denys could recoup his losses.

Unfortunately, such was not to be. Fate still had one more blow to level against this doughty Frenchman. On a winter night in 1668 a fire of mysterious origin broke out in the storehouse at Saint Pierre. It quickly spread, destroying not only the entire stock of pelts, but also every building in the fort.

In describing the fire Denys wrote, "All my people were obliged like myself to flee its violence entirely naked in shirt only."

He estimated his personal loss to be in the vicinity of 25,000 francs and was forced to declare himself bankrupt. With nothing left to reestablish his beloved Saint Pierre, Denys moved to what is now Bathurst. Starting from scratch, he once again carved a home out of the wilderness.



An assiduous man who would not truckle to adversity, Denys summed up his life in Acadia in this way: "Except for my misfortunes I should have made in short time a considerable establishment as a result of my care and labor and should have derived from that country all the advantages it offered me."

Once settled in Bathurst, Denys wrote the first book to deal at any length with the history and geography of Cape Breton. Entitled "*Description géographique et historique d'Acadie*", the work was published in Paris in 1672.

Denys lived out his final years in peace. Misfortune, which for years had taken a perverse delight in plaguing him, finally relented.

Unfortunately for Cape Breton, the departure of Nicholas Denys in 1669 had marked the beginning of a mass exodus by European settlers. A census of Acadia conducted in 1686 revealed that no families of European descent remained on the island.

Further attempts to colonize Cape Breton were abandoned until the Treaty of Utrecht was signed in 1713. Under terms of the Treaty, France ceded her rights to Acadia and Newfoundland and retained only Ile St. Jean (Prince Edward Island) and Ile Royale (Cape Breton Island).

It therefore became imperative for the French to reassert their influence in Cape Breton. A spate of immigration began and Denys' old settlement at Saint Pierre attracted many newcomers, mostly fishermen and lumbermen.

To honor the Comte de Toulouse, an illegitimate son of King Louis XIV, the community was renamed Port Toulouse. For sometime the French government debated whether to establish the new capital here or at Louisburg. In the end Louisburg, due perhaps to its more strategic location, won out.



For several years all was well. Fortifications were erected at Port Toulouse on the site of Denys' old stronghold and the community prospered. Then, in 1745, New England forces captured and destroyed the settlement. Under terms of the Treaty of Aix la Chappelle in 1748, however, Louisburg and its environs were returned to the French.

Ever determined to overcome hardship, the citizens of Port Toulouse began to rebuild. They were joined by more colonists and in 1751 the community was linked to Louisburg by a road, constructed by Count de Raymond.

This new period of prosperity was relatively short lived. By 1756 France and England were once again at war, and hostilities quickly spread to the New World. Forces at Louisburg were soon embroiled in a bitter and futile battle with superior English troops.

In 1758 the mighty fortress finally fell and citizens of French communities such as Port Toulouse were summarily evacuated. By the time peace was declared in 1763, Port Toulouse was once more a ghost town.

Then, following the end of the American Revolutionary War, an influx of Loyalists began to settle throughout Cape Breton. A small contingent colonized at Saint Pierre and renamed it St. Peter's.

As the population of the island grew, it was considered advisable to establish fortifications. In 1793 Lieutenant Colonel George Moore began construction of a new fortress at St. Peter's. A serious lack of funds, however curtailed work in 1794 and by 1797 the idea was dropped.

At last life was free to return to its normal ebb and flow in the beleaguered village of St. Peter's. The years passed until in the early 1820's a move was launched to construct a canal linking St. Peter's Bay with the Bras d'Or Lakes.

It was felt that creation of such a canal would facilitate the shipment of lumber from the interior of Cape

Breton and also grant improved market access.

In 1825 the government commissioned Francis Hall to conduct a survey and determine the feasibility of such an undertaking. Upon completion of his study, however, plans were mysteriously dropped and for a quarter of a century the project was forgotten.

Then in the early 1850's a new series of estimates and surveys was conducted and construction finally began in 1854.

Work was halted in 1856 and the project remained at a standstill until 1865. Finally, in 1869 the canal was officially opened.

Over the years the project has been expanded and improved, but essentially the canal follows the old portage used in the early seventeenth century by Nicholas Denys.

So it is that the history of St. Peter's has been as turbulent and tempestuous as that of its founder, Nicholas Denys. But, like Denys, the community has hung on in the face of adversity and has tenaciously confronted and confounded all obstacles in its path.

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# *The History of the Nova Scotia Apple Industry — Part 8*

KEITH A. HATCHARD

## THE APPLE KING OF NOVA SCOTIA—APPLES AND THE CHASE FAMILY FORTUNE

In the July 24th 1872 edition of the *Acadian Recorder* there appeared the following report. "The Chase family have fallen, as they believe, heirs to property in the United Kingdom valued at \$250 million. This throws the Carpenter estate into the shade. Members of the family in America, descendants of William, Thomas, and Aquilla Chase, who came to the country in 1629, met in Pittsfield, Maine, on the twenty-sixth and appointed a committee for the purpose of establishing the wanting links in the chain of heirship, also to look after the property and to report of their doings to the convention to be held next September, of which due notice will be given. In the meantime, all the members of the Chase family are hereby urgently requested to trace their ancestry as far back as possible and send a statement of the same to John F. Chase. Esq., chairman of the committee, address Woodford's Corner, Deering, Maine, so that the record of said family may be completed at the time of the next meeting of the convention. The following gentlemen compose the committee:



John F. Chase, Woodford's Corner.  
Alfred Chase, Pittsfield, Maine.  
Hiram Chase, Paris, Maine.  
Edwin C. Foster, St. John, New Brunswick.  
Peter Powers, Deer Lake, Maine.  
John B. Chase. M.D., Taunton, Mass.

The most noteworthy of the Nova Scotian descendants of Aquila Chase was William Henry Chase (1851-1932), an enterprising business man and, later, philanthropist who came to be known as 'the apple king of Nova Scotia'.

The Halifax Herald in its obituary notice for William Henry Chase on the twenty-third November 1933 gave the following comprehensive account of his career:

"Wolfville, 22nd November. William Henry Chase, a man of enterprise, who, always living within sight of his birthplace, through his courage, tenacity, and faith in his native province, became one of the leading figures in Canada's commercial world, died early today at his home here at the age of eighty-one. Mr. Chase had been in poor health for some years, and, on a number of previous occasions, his condition had been critical. He last visited Port Williams, his birthplace, on the third of September, on the occasion of the arrival of the first ship to arrive this season at the port which he was largely instrumental in developing.

"The success that countless native born Nova Scotians have attained throughout Canada, U.S.A., and the world has been told many times, but of those who have made national reputations while remaining in their own province not much has been heard. William Henry Chase of Wolfville who, residing his entire life of eighty-one years in King's County, has clearly demonstrated that it is not necessary to go to other lands to find success. Born at Port Williams, Mr. Chase always lived within sight of his birthplace and the nucleus of his fortune<sup>1</sup> was accumulated early in his sixty-two years of business life as a Port Williams merchant.

"At an early age he became associated with his father in operating a general store in that village. Later, on his father's retirement, he took control of the business, and continued and increased it to a marked extent. It was a vision of a great fruit garden in Nova Scotia which brought independence, prosperity, power and success to William Henry Chase.

"After a life devoted to fruit-growing as a paramount industry, he lived to see his vision of a great fruit ranch in the Annapolis Valley fulfilled, and, for himself, the creation of an outstanding reputation as an authority on fruit culture and marketing.

"Descended from an Empire Loyalist family, whose ancestors came from the North of England, William Henry Chase, at the age of fifteen started business. The Dominion Atlantic Railway had not then been constructed, few apples were being grown in the valley and transport was by water. Early in his career he evidenced the pioneer spirit. In 1870 he undertook to develop the potato trade by an experimental schooner shipment to the West Indies. It proved successful and encouraged him to extend his operations.

"Five years later he was shipping apples to the United Kingdom, and having bought up all the apples within the district he found it necessary to store them. He accordingly built the first apple warehouse in Nova Scotia. Ten years later William Henry Chase entered into a contract with a New York dealer to supply all apples grown in King's County sending forward 30,000 barrels. Shipments to the United Kingdom grew until by 1911 he was exporting 500,000 barrels per annum. In later years his operations as an exporter were extended far beyond this figure.

"One of the highlights in his career was his creation of the port of Port Williams, where he began business as a boy, into a terminus for the direct shipment of apples to the United Kingdom market. It was back in October 1929 that William Henry Chase moved to meet the increased rate challenge of the North Atlantic shipping conference by the development of Port Williams. Chartering a fleet of

fruit steamers, Chase brought them to a wharf practically under the very trees on which the apples were grown. It was a novel sight to see the first steamer loading barrels at Port Williams dock while on the nearby hillside stood the orchards which supplied the cargo.

"The pioneer action of William Henry Chase opened up the possibility of important future development for the fruit industry. It was the way of avoiding the top wharfage charge as instituted at that time by the Halifax Harbour Commissioners and a way also of avoiding increased railway charges. By this achievement alone, William Henry Chase was responsible for saving thousands of dollars for the apple shippers who chose Port Williams route. Extending his business after becoming established in fruit, Chase became interested in hydro-power and some nineteen years ago, with R.A. Joudrey, and the late C. A. Wright of Wolfville, organized the Gaspereau Light, Heat and Power Co., on the Gaspereau River. Out of all this development came the Avon River Power Company, located nine miles from Windsor: the Gaspereau Co., and the Windsor Electric Co., being merged to start the project. This company has meant much to the Annapolis Valley for it serves practically all the town and country districts as well as extending to the Midland district and to Halifax. The progress of the company founded through the foresight of Mr. Chase and his associates has been closely linked with the development of the valley.

"Mr. Chase continued to extend his operations to a wider field and, in addition, up until a few years ago, to being President of the Avon River Power Company, he was a director of the Eastern Trust Company, of the Mersey Power Co., which he helped to form, the Trinidad Electric Co., The Puerto Rico Railway Co., and more than a source of other business organizations. He was one of the prime movers in a scheme that resulted in the Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital, the cornerstone of which he laid four years ago. He was a large contributor to Victory loans and to educational and charitable organizations. He was a member of the United Church and, for many years, a teacher in



the Sunday School. He was a good friend of Acadia University and of all educational institutions. William Henry Chase was the son of Albert Chase, he was predeceased by his wife, the former Fanny Webster, sister of the late Judge Barclay Webster of Kentville. He is survived by one son, Dr. William Henry Chase, Montreal, one daughter, Dr. Lalia Chase, at home, and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Bedford Chase, Port Williams.

This admirable obituary notice on William Henry Chase fails to make mention of his greatest contribution to the people of Nova Scotia and the reason is simply that, at the time of the contribution and for some years afterwards, it was known to very few people. To the public at large William Henry Chase's most magnanimous gesture was hidden behind the mysterious title of 'The anonymous Archives benefactor'.

In 1928 the then Premier of Nova Scotia, Edgar N. Rhodes, happened to be the guest of William Henry Chase at a fishing lodge on the Restigouche River. It was in this informal setting that Premier Rhodes chose to bring to his host's attention the pressing need for an Archives building to house the records of their Province. In his matriculation essay from Horton Academy, sixty years before this meeting, Chase had elaborated on the theme that the strength of a nation lies not so much in the size of its mineral wealth or natural resources, but in the strength of character of its people. Thus, Premier Rhodes suggestion rekindled an old enthusiasm in the mind of Chase for the task of preserving the records and achievements of his native province. William Henry Chase informed Premier Rhodes that under certain conditions he would undertake the responsibility of erecting a suitable Archives. One significant condition was that the name of the benefactor should not be disclosed. This condition was rigorously observed from the time of the announcement in 1929 up to the opening ceremony which took place on the 14th January 1931. In



the meantime the fine edifice which has served as the depository of the records of the Nova Scotian people for forty-seven years had sprung from the nobility of Mr. Chase's foresight.

The financial fortune that William Henry Chase accumulated in the process of building the Port Williams apple exporting business into a major industry was not subsidised by the supposed wealth of Chase estates in England. Many of the descendants of William, Thomas and Aquilla Chase achieved fame and distinction in the United States. The foremost of these was Salmon Portland Chase (1808-1873), President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury and, later, Chief Justice of the United States. In Salmon Chase's biography<sup>2</sup> it is recorded that shortly after he was elected Governor of Ohio in 1856, a gentleman claiming to be his relative wrote to him from England concerning the great 'Chase estate' that was awaiting claimants from the American branch of the Chase family. Salmon Chase replied to the effect that we are all related by our common descendancy from Adam and that he was not interested in obtaining acquisitions except by honest labour. The author of the biography does state that the stories of a great estate in England awaiting the descendants of Aquilla Chase appear to rest upon the flimsiest foundations. However, there is no doubting about the financial acumen of Salmon Portland Chase as with many other of the Chase family. He is generally regarded as one of the most capable men ever to hold the Treasury office, largely because of his work during the civil war when he maintained national credit while managing to finance the war. As Chief Justice, Salmon Chase presided at the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson and is reported to have presided most capably. Chase and Lincoln did not have a very warm personal regard for each other but they shared a mutual detestation of slavery and Chase defended many runaway slaves. Salmon

Portland Chase was ninth in descent from Thomas Chase of Chesham, England, and sixth from Aquila Chase, the shipmaster who had settled in the town of Newbury, Massachusetts about 1640.

William Henry Chase of Port Williams was descended from William, brother of Aquila, who came to Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1630 but later settled in Yarmouth, Barnstable County. When Stephen Chase, greatgrandson of William, came to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia with the New England settlers in 1760, the family was still Quaker in its religion.<sup>3</sup> It is this fact that the following rather curious marriage ceremony is recorded in the Cornwallis Town Book bearing the date August 2nd., 1764.

“Whereas Stephen Chase of Cornwallis, in the county of King’s County, and in the Province of Nova Scotia, yeoman, and Abigail Porter, daughter of Samuel Porter, late of Cornwallis, deceased, and Remember, his wife; they, the said Stephen Chase and Abigail Porter having declared their intention of Marriage and nothing appeared to obstruct — Therefore these may Certify to all whom it may Concern that for their full accomplishing of their said intentions of Marriage, they the said Stephen Chase and Abigail Porter appeared at the home of the said Stephen Chase in said Cornwallis, before a number of people met together for that purpose, and then and there the said Stephen Chase took the said Abigail Porter by the hand and declared that he took her to be his wife and promised to be a true and loving husband until Death should separate them, and then and there the said Abigail Porter took the said Stephen Chase to be her husband and in Like Manner to be a true and Loving Wife unto him until death should separate them, and furthermore as a further Confirmation thereof she the said Abigail assumed the name of her husband, and we whose names are hereunto written being present at said solemnization, have hereunto set our hands as witness thereof on the second day of August 1764.

Isaac Bigelow  
Samuel Starr  
Branch Blackmore  
Ethan Pratt  
Ezra Cogswell  
Elisha Porter

Moses Gore Jr.  
Stephen Herenton  
Abigail Bigelow  
Sarah Blackmore  
Ruth West  
Meriam Porter  
William Newcomb."

Stephen Chase repeated the performance in Cornwallis, January 28, 1778, when he went through an identical 'Civil Ceremony' with Mrs Nancy (White) Bushell of Halifax. But it was not until 1793 that an act was passed making valid such marriages. It was then recognized that it was not possible for many couples living in remote areas to receive the benefit of clergy to perform their marriages and that these could be performed by 'Justices of the Peace and other Laymen'. These Laymen were appointed by the Governor and numerous marriage ceremonies were performed, in Nova Scotia, by these gentlemen over the course of the next sixty or more years.

Stephen Chase's marriage to Nancy Bushnell was his fourth and last and, shortly after the ceremony he moved to the Hall's Harbour area, where two sons of his old age, William and Job, were born. In 1827, William, who had married Sarah Jess in 1802, moved, with his family of eight children, into Port Williams. After a while the family moved to New Brunswick but Stephen Albert Chase and his sister Sarah, who never married, stayed in the family homestead, near Church St. corner in Port Williams. Stephen Albert married Rebecca Kinsman and together they raised eight children in Port Williams, including William Henry who was born there in 1851. The family started to build up the largest acreage of apple orchards in King's County and William's older brothers, Edwin and Oscar, received recognition for their produce at the Halifax exhibition of 1862, which prompted the London World's Fair showing by the Nova Scotia Fruit



Growers Association in 1863. Stephen Albert Chase retained interests in shipbuilding at Long Creek, near Hall's Harbour on the Bay of Fundy, and, together with his younger sons, William Henry and Bedford, he was the first to initiate shipments of apples from Port Williams. As we have seen, it was the organisational genius of William Henry Chase that turned this into a multi-million dollar industry.

William Henry moved from the family homestead in 1890 when he bought the Capt. Lorenzo Curry house on Main St., for his new bride, Frances Webster. Their two children, Lalia and William, who later both became medical doctors, were born there, but in 1896, William Henry moved his family to Wolfville, where he built the large, impressive house now known as 'The Historic Inn'. Dr. Lalia Chase retained an affection for Port Williams which led her to return in later years to build a house for her retirement there.<sup>4</sup>

It was George A. Chase, son of Bedford and nephew of William Henry, who, unfettered by any contracts with the major shipping conferences or shipping lines, was able to take over the Port Williams shipping operations in the 1930s and, by 1938, increase shipments to over half-a-million barrels, primarily for the United Kingdom and European markets. This was assisted by the Federal Government and resulted in the 230' long wharf with 310' by 43' steamer berthing bed that were constructed at the port. But operations were always tricky. A pilot had to be taken at West Bay, near Parrsboro, to navigate the fruit ships through the narrow channels of the Minas Basin and Cornwallis River. A quick turn around at the wharf was also necessary and, at times when heavy snowfall rendered the trucks inoperative, the local farmers were recruited along with their teams of horses to help with the loading of the ships. One of the star performers of this period was the *MV Almena*, built in Copenhagen in 1933,



and named after George A. Chase's wife. With her excellent accommodations she was much in demand for passenger accommodation to England. She became a war-victim being torpedoed by an enemy submarine in the Caribbean during World War II.

The war brought a virtual halt to activities at the Port and, due to changing market conditions after the war, there was little recovery made, to the point where apple shipments ceased completely in 1957 and the facilities fell into a state of disrepair. In 1972 the Government appropriated \$100,000 to refurbish the port facilities and the first shipment of apples in fifteen years was loaded for Glasgow, in 1972.

George A. Chase continued to develop his operations. He developed a fruit-processing operation which he sold to Avon Foods Ltd. in 1950 and which now employs 150 people at peak season. After the death of George A. Chase the family sold the farm business along with the shipping agency to Archibald Farms Ltd. His fertilizer and feed-grain businesses had been bought up by Canada Packers Ltd., in 1947.<sup>5</sup>

The family of William Henry Chase with their operations, that were the foundation of the Scotian Gold and Avon Foods organisations, were by far the biggest influence in converting the Nova Scotia apple industry from a domestic farming activity into a multi-million dollar international business. In doing so they brought, not only significant material prosperity to themselves but a much-needed awareness to the Valley community that a viable and successful industry could be made to flourish in one of the most picturesque and unspoiled areas of Canada.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 Varyingly estimated at from 1 to 15 Million Dollars.
- 2 **The Life and Public Services of Salmon Portland Chase**, by J. W. Schuckers, published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1874. Page 2.
- 3 **History of Kings County**, by Arthur Wentworth Hamilton Eaton, Mika Studio, Belleville, Ontario, 1972 (Reprint), Page 226.
- 4 **The Port Remembers**, by the Port Williams Womens Institute, published by Kentville Publishing Co., Kentville, N. S., 1976. Page 34.
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# *Jonathan Prescott, M.D. - Vincit Qui Patitur*

TERRENCE M. PUNCH

Few families have had the opportunities and the abilities of the descendants of Jonathan Prescott of Halifax, Lunenburg, and Chester. A talented man in his own right, this pioneering doctor founded a family which gave the province an outstanding horticulturist, a founder of the Society of Cincinnati, as well as manufacturers and good citizens. Through female lines we came to a diarist of interest, an authoress of local history, a man known as "the blind knight", and a Solicitor-General of Nova Scotia. If much was given to this family, much more was returned in service, dedication and achievement.

"Vincit qui patitur" was Dr. Prescott's family motto, and pointed the moral that endurance brings victory. The struggles of Dr. Prescott physically to keep a home in Nova Scotia required endurance and the will to try again. In the end he did succeed, and his posterity shared in their ancestor's rewards. The Prescotts manifested a sense of *noblesse oblige*, and their talents and wealth were not used selfishly, but generously. Charles Ramage Prescott gave encouragement and example in the production of fruit and flowers, not grudgingly, but with the hope that the province and its people would benefit.



In a later day, when "family compacts" and "councils of twelve" are disparaged as bastions of privilege, we need to redress the balance occasionally. Many of the members of the leading families were carrying their weight in the world; all advantages were not unmerited; and all service was not self-service. The Prescotts, like the Uniackes and the Cunards, won their spurs and wore them well.

In the genealogical account which follows, the children of Prescott daughters, where their names are known, have been listed, but not carried into the next generation. All the male lines have been traced as far as information was available. A brief appendix deals with the name Hammill, which was the maiden name of the second Mrs. Charles Ramage Prescott.

Major Jonathan Prescott, M.D., of Concord, Mass., b. 5 Apr. 1677, d. 28 Oct. 1729; m. 9 July 1701, Rebecca, only dau. of Col. the Hon. Peter Buckeley. Their eldest son was Jonathan Prescott, b. 3 June 1702 at Concord, Mass., and died while still a young man. Shortly after marrying Mary ———, he moved to Littleton, Mass., where his only recorded child was born. That child would become a Nova Scotian and the founder of one of the province's leading families.

Dr. Jonathan Prescott, M.D., was born at Littleton, Mass., 24 May 1725, and died at Chester, Nova Scotia, 11 Jan. 1807 of cancer of the lip. As a young man he served at the first siege of Louisbourg in 1745 in a dual capacity: surgeon and captain of engineers. This early experience of Nova Scotia left its impress upon his memory and he did not delay long settling here once English colonization began in 1749. Dr. Prescott returned home after the fall of Louisbourg and married 10 Mar. 1746, Mary, dau. of Hon. William Vassel of Cambridge, Mass. Their two children were both born in Halifax in the 1750's.

Having obtained land in Halifax and later in Lunenburg and Chester, Dr. Prescott remained a Nova Scotian for the rest of his life. Although he was a medical man, his income was primarily derived from his business interests, to which he devoted an increasingly large share of his time. A minute of the Nova Scotia Council on 14 Feb. and another on 12 Mar. 1760 mentions that he had vessels in the fishery and then had 2033 quintals of cod ready for market.

He built mills at Chester and Lunenburg, and brought millwrights into the province to operate them. Twice he had his house, mill, and furniture burned by the Indians, who were not friendly to the first English, whom they regarded as intruders. For safety, Dr. Prescott was obliged to live in town at Halifax for the winters, and to spend only the summer and autumn months at Chester for which he felt an affection that many would share in later years. Dr. Prescott (familiarily known in Chester as Captain Prescott) owned a schooner and travelled the coast on business and in his medical role did much to encourage people to remain in their settlements. He probably felt more secure himself when he was given the old blockhouse at Chester in which to live.

It is commonly said that the only memorial to this enterprising doctor is Prescott Rock, on the shore at East River, Chester, but that is a grave understatement. There is a far more important memorial—Chester itself! It is told that during the American Revolution, three privateers descended upon Chester and fired on the village. Capt. Prescott returned their fire, and the privateers withdrew behind a point of land. When the Americans landed armed men nearby, the inhabitants of the village were very frightened, as nearly all of the men were away on boats, in the woods or at Lunenburg or Halifax.

Capt. Prescott decided to keep a cool head and to brazen through. He invited the three privateer captains to take tea with him at his house, so that they could discuss the situation. He kept the conversation on non-committal topics while his son waited the moment to carry out his father's instructions. Young Sam Prescott stuck his head in and asked his father where he should put the one hundred soldiers who had arrived. It was after dark and the doctor said to put them up in Houghton's barn. Resuming his conversation, he assured the privateers he would be "ready for them in the morning."

Early next morning, the privateers saw large numbers of redcoats on patrol on Blockhouse Hill above the village. They appeared to be well-armed and out in quite large numbers. The privateers weighed anchor and moved along to find an easier prey. Lunenburg town was sacked by these same privateers a few days afterwards, on 1 July 1782.

When the Americans had gone, Captain Prescott's "soldiers" experienced relief and merriment at their successful hoax which had saved the village. The women of Chester had turned their grey cloaks inside out to show their scarlet linings. With men's hats on and carrying broomsticks or old rifles, they had marched about, just over the brow of the hill. From the ships out in the harbour, they had looked for all the world like British redcoats. Captain Prescott's ruse had saved Chester! That is why I claim that his best memorial is not a rock, but a thriving community which today offers hospitality to thousands of Americans every summer. A written memorial from the last century says that Dr. Prescott was "energetic and enterprising, kind and benevolent, and took great pains to help and relieve the poor soldiers who had served with and under him at the siege of Louisbourg.

Dr. Prescott's first wife, Mary Vassel, died in Halifax in 1757. She had had two children:

1. Jonathan Prescott, b. in Halifax, but d. in infancy.
2. Mary Prescott, b. Mar. 1755 at Halifax; m. John **HOSMER** of Concord, Mass.

Dr. Prescott married (2nd) 12 Oct. 1759, Anne Blagden, dau. of Samuel and Anne Blagden of London, England, who had settled in Boston, Mass., before the outbreak of the Revolution. Anne was born in London, 21 Mar. 1742, and died in Halifax, N. S., Feb. 1810, having had ten children:

3. John Prescott of "Maroon Hall", Preston, b. 20 Nov. 1760 at Halifax, and d. 23 Aug. 1820. He seems to have been a respected and respectable gentleman who led a relatively retired life. He m. 21 Aug. 1785, Catherine (1760-12 Feb. 1851), dau. of Rev. Cleverley. They had six children:

- (1) Anne Prescott, b. 29 Sep. 1786, d. 18 Apr. 1854; m. 6 Nov. 1816, Hon. John Eleazer **FAIRBANKS** (27 June 1793-27 Dec. 1860), and had three children:
  - (1a) Katherine Prescott Fairbanks, b. 4 Dec. 1820, d. 28 Oct. 1906; m. 26 Aug. 1846, James **JOHNSTON**, Jr., a judge (10 Jan. 1842-20 Nov. 1900). They had eight children.
  - (2a) Anne Blagden Fairbanks, b. 23 Feb. 1822, d. in the 1890's, unm.



- (3a) **Jane Elizabeth Fairbanks**, b. 1823, d. 1856; m. Jan. 1847, **Rev. William DUFF**, b. near Perth, Scotland, 1808, and d. 5 May 1880 at Lunenburg, N. S. They had seven children.
- (2) **Charlotte Prescott**, b. 22 Nov. 1788, d. 25 Sep. 1850, unm.
- (3) **Martha Prescott**, b. 26 Apr. 1791, d. 17 Nov. 1871; m. 6. Apr. 1822, Lt. **Christian Conrad Casper KATZMAN**, a German officer in the British service, b. 18 Aug. 1780, d. 15 Dec. 1843, having had three daughters:
  - (1a) **Martha Elizabeth Katzman**, b. 2 Apr. 1823, d. 6 Apr. 1899; m. 26 May 1849, Major **George Elkanah MORTON** (25 Mar. 1811-12 Mar. 1892), and had two children.
  - (2a) **Mary Jane Katzmann**, b. 15 Jan. 1828, d. 24 Mar. 1890; m. 31 Dec. 1868, **William LAWSON** (1838-1897), and had one daughter, **Frances Mary Lawson**. This is the Mrs. Lawson who wrote the history of the townships of Dartmouth, Preston, and Lawrencetown, N. S.
  - (3a) **Anna Prescott Katzmann**, b. 25 Sep. 1832, d. 31 May 1876, unm.
- (4) **Jonathan Prescott**, b. 5 Sep. 1793, drowned, 19 Mar. 1848, when he plunged through rotten ice while crossing Porters Lake on foot. The author's great-grandfather, **Charles H. Crowell**, was one of those who attempted to rescue Mr. Prescott. Unfortunately, he succumbed from exposure and cold before ropes or planks could be brought from the distant shore. He married 26 Sep. 1816, **Sarah** (1777-27 Feb. 1869), second dau. of **Robert Collins** of Dartmouth, N. S. They had one child:
  - (1a) **Robert John Prescott**, b. 1 Feb. 1820, d. in early infancy.
- (5) **Elizabeth Prescott**, b. 27 Oct. 1795, d. 30 Aug. 1882; m. 25 Nov. 1819, **Henry Yeomans MOTT**, M.L.A., bapt. 4 Sep. 1796, d. 31 Jan. 1866. Mr. Mott was among the first in the province to manufacture chocolate and cocoa. They had ten children:
  - (1a) **John Prescott Mott**, b. 8 Oct. 1820, d. 12 Feb. 1890; m. 13 Jan. 1848, **Isabel Lawson**



- Creighton (5 Feb. 1820-25 Apr. 1896), but had no issue.
- (2a) Catherine Ann Mott, b. 23 Dec. 1822, d. 23 Nov. 1913, unm.
  - (3a) William Mott, b. 22 Sep. 1824, d. 11 May 1841.
  - (4a) Henry Yeomans Mott, b. 1826, d. 4 Apr. 1896; married Elizabeth ——— and had four children.
  - (5a) Thomas Mott, b. 1828, d. 16 Oct. 1918; m. 26 Sep. 1854, Rebecca Walker, and had six children.
  - (6a) Elizabeth Jane Mott, b. 1830, d. 15 Oct. 1902, unm.
  - (7a) Charles E. Mott, b. 1832, d. 12 Apr. 1915; m. (1st) Eliza M. ——— (1831-19 Sep. 1864) and had two children. He m. (2nd) 25 July 1871, Isabel (1843-4 May 1920), dau. of James **BAYER**. They had five children.
  - (8a) Charlotte Lydia Mott, b. 1835, d. 21 Oct. 18—; m. 24 June 1857, Rev. George **SUTHERLAND** of Charlottetown, P.E.I., and had issue.
  - (9a) Sarah Elizabeth Mott, b. 1837, d. 16 Dec. 1921; m. 27 Oct. 1870, Rockwood C. **HOWE**, born 1824 at Richmond Virginia, died at Dartmouth, N.S., 31 Dec. 1885, without issue.
  - (10a) Deborah Baker Mott, b. 10 May 1839, d. 27 May 1844.
- (6) Lydia Prescott, b. 8 Oct. 1797, d. 1879-1891; m. 13 Nov. 1841, as his third wife, William **DE WOLFE** (5 Dec. 1781-10 Apr. 1849). No issue.
4. Dr. Joseph Prescott, M.D., b. 6 Jan. 1762 at Halifax, N. S., and d. 23 June 1852 at Halifax, having lived most of his adult life in the United States. As a youngster he had been sent to Massachusetts by his father to be given a good education. When the American Revolution broke out, he volunteered to serve as a hospital assistant at Ticonderoga when only fourteen. He was soon a hospital mate and at sixteen was at White Plains with the Grand Army. In 1779 he was fighting Indians with General Sullivan and the next year he was promoted to junior surgeon. At twenty he ranked as assistant surgeon to the Maryland Regiment of

Cavalry. He finished his war service at the General Hospital.

As an officer, he was eligible to belong to the patriotic and military body known as the Society of Cincinnati which was formed 13 May 1783 by the officers in the Revolutionary Army to promote friendship and to perpetuate the rights they had fought for and to aid needy members and their families. Named for the legendary Roman patrician hero, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, the Society's membership was to be hereditary through eldest sons of the members, with thirteen chapters, one for each state. Its first president (1783-1799) was George Washington. The Society would later be criticized by Thomas Jefferson as an aristocratic body out of keeping with the spirit of an egalitarian America.

Dr. Joseph Prescott was a founding member of the Massachusetts chapter of the Order of Cincinnati, and at the time of his death he was the vice-president and only surviving original member, as well as the final living surgeon from the American Revolutionary Army.

He m. 25 July 1793, Abigail (b. 25 Feb. 1772 at Gorham, Mass., d. in 1842 while visiting Great Barrington, Mass.) dau. of John Whidden. They had one child.

(1) Charles William Eustice Prescott, b. 10 Feb. 1795 at Cornwallis, N. S., d. 12 Apr. 1849 at Shelbyville, Kentucky. As a youth he had studied medicine, but a bout of typhus left him in delicate health, and he became a merchant, first in New York and later at New Orleans. He set out to visit his elderly father at Halifax and was taken ill at Memphis, Tennessee, with cholera. Feeling better, he went to visit his daughter in Kentucky and died there. He married 13 Feb. 1816 at Liverpool, N. S., Mary Arabella (b. 10 June 1796, living 1881), dau. of Elisha Calkin. They had five children.

(1a) Maria Arabella Prescott, b. 23 Jan. 1818, d. 5 Dec. 1833.

(2a) Frederick Thomas Prescott, b. 2 Nov. 1820, d. 21 Mar. 1843.

- (3a) Anne Elizabeth Prescott, b. 25 Apr. 1825, d. 8 Jan. 1865; m. 3 July 1848, Hon. James M. **BULLOCK** of Kentucky, b. 6 Aug. 1806. Issue:
  - (1b) Frederick Prescott Bullock, b. 11 Apr. 1849, the only great-grandchild of Dr. Joseph Prescott.
- (4a) Joseph Prescott, b. 27 June 1828, d. Jan. 1831.
- (5a) Charles R. Prescott, b. 22 Feb. 1836, d. 16 Aug. 1861 at Richmond, Virginia, from wounds received while serving in the 14th Regiment (Union) at Manassas, during the first Battle of Bull Run, unmarried.
- 5. Charlotte Prescott, b. 15 Oct. 1764 at Halifax, d. —; m. 6 Jan. 1791, George **BOYLE**, schoolmaster, b. ca. 1758/9 at Limerick, Ireland, d. at Liverpool, N.S., 12 Feb. 1817. They had three children:
  - (1) Joseph Prescott Boyle, b. ca. 1792; m. 28 Aug. 1815, Eliza (b. 1793 at Liverpool, d. 3 Mar. 1882 at Greenwich, N.B.), dau. of George Collins. They had four children.
  - (2) Anne Eliza Boyle, b. 1796, d. 24 Sep. 1866; m. 25 Feb. 1826, John **SANDERS**, b. 1792 at Annapolis, d. at Chester. They had issue.
  - (3) Charlotte Boyle, b. 1800, d. 21 July 1863; m. Thomas Parker **CALKIN**, postmaster of Liverpool, living 1870.
- 6. Anne Prescott, b. 12 Oct. 1766 at Halifax, d. 1 Sep. 1850; m. 17 Nov. 1785, Rufus **FAIRBANKS**, b. 20 Oct. 1759 at Killingly, Conn., d. 7 July 1842 at Halifax. They had ten children:
  - (1) Joseph Fairbanks, b. 8 Feb. 1787 at Chester, drowned 10 Oct. 1788.
  - (2) Joseph Fairbanks, b. 15 Oct. 1788 at Halifax, d. 11 Sep. 1789.
  - (3) Hon. Charles Rufus Fairbanks, b. 25 Mar. 1790, d. 15 Apr. 1841. He was a leading spirit in trying to develop a Shubenacadie Canal in Nova Scotia, as well as a prominent lawyer and politician. He was Solicitor-General of Nova Scotia (1831-34) and Master in Chancery (1834-41). He m. 25 Mar. 1815, Sarah Elizabeth (29 Aug. 1797-23 Aug. 1880), dau. of William Lawson. They had thirteen children.

- (4) Hon. John Eleazer Fairbanks, b. 27 June 1793, d. 27 Dec. 1860; m. 6 Nov. 1816, his cousin, Anne, dau. of John Prescott of "Maroon Hall" (**supra**).
- (5) Samuel Prescott Fairbanks, M.L.A., b. 31 Jan. 1795, d. 7 Dec. 1882; m. 28 Sep. 1820, Charlotte Ann (d. 1878/79), only child of Joshua Newton of Liverpool, N. S. They had nine children.
- (6) William Blagden Fairbanks, b. 17 Apr. 1796, d. 30 May 1873; m. 24 June 1823, Letitia (1803-June 1884), dau. of Hallett Collins of Liverpool. They had ten children.
- (7) Dr. George Edward Fairbanks, M.D., b. 18 Feb. 1798, d. at sea, Aug. 1859; m. (1st) 1822, Jeanette Rutherford of Scotland, and had one son. He m. (2nd) Joaquina Silvana DaMaia of Brazil, and had six further children.
- (8) Mary Ann Fairbanks, b. 23 Mar. 1800, d. 2 Apr. 1896; m. David **ALLISON** (12 July 1802-5 July), and had six children.
- (9) Frances Elizabeth Fairbanks, b. 22 Feb. 1803, d. 22 Dec. 1854; m. ca. 1835, Rev. John **SCOTT**, b. Scotland 1796, d. Halifax, 18 Feb. 1864. No issue.
- (10) Joseph Fairbanks, b. 19 Aug. 1805, d. 12 Apr. 1862; m. 12 Sep. 1832, Sarah Matilda (bapt. 27 Dec. 1814, d. 1884), dau. of Benjamin Knaut. They had four children.
7. Elizabeth Prescott, b. 12 Apr. 1769 at Chester, d. 3 June 1800 at Upper Canard, N. S.; m. 12 Apr. 1792, Asael (b. 20 Aug. 1764), son of Judah **WELLS**. They had issue:
  - (1) Charlotte Wells, b. 5 Aug. 1794 at Cornwallis, N. S., living 1849.
  - (2) Ann Eliza "Nancy" Wells, b. 24 Dec. 1795 at Amherst, N. S.; m. her cousin, James Simpson **WELLS** (b. 23 Sep. 1789 at Cornwallis, d. 10 May 1846 at Chester), and had six children.
  - (3) Asael Wells, b. 7 June 1797 at Halifax; m. 15 Feb. 1823 at Bermuda, Sarah, sixth dau. of Dr. Dalzell.
  - (4) Eliza Wells, b. 24 July 1799 at Halifax, living 1849.
8. Samuel Thomas Prescott, b. 7 Apr. 1770 at Chester, d. 1 Dec. 1816 at Dartmouth; m. 18 June 1801, Mary Ann (bapt. 16 Jan. 1775, d. 3 June 1858), dau. of John Hos-  
terman of Halifax, but had no issue.



This gentleman was a businessman with interests in Halifax, Dartmouth and Chester, N. S. His main interest was brickmaking at Dartmouth. Some idea of the size of his business may be gained from an inventory of assets made in 1817. There were an estimated 320,000 bricks in his yard, 105 tons of limestone, 60 hogsheads of lime, 13 cords of wood for the kiln, etc. This would represent a sizeable local manufacturing industry for its day.

9. Charles Ramage Prescott, b. 6 Jan. 1772 at Halifax, d. 11 June 1859 at Cornwallis, of whom presently.
10. Lydia Prescott, b. 12 May 1774 at Lunenburg, d. 29 Aug. 1826 at Saint John, N. B.; m. 19 Oct. 1797, Rev. Robert **NORRIS**. b. 24 May 1764 at Bath, England, d. 16 Oct. 1834 at Cornwallis, N. S. They had three daughters:
  - (1) Mary Ann Norris, b. 16 May 1801, d. 13 June 1880, unm. As a young woman she kept a diary of some interest. Susan Flewwelling wrote two articles on the subject for the **Dalhousie Review** in 1950.
  - (2) Susanna Byles Norris, b. 4 June 1804, d. 26 Sep. 1812.
  - (3) Katherine E. Norris, b. 25 Oct. 1806, living 1870 at Saint John, a widow; m. 12 Nov. 1825, Thomas **MERRITT** of Saint John, N. B. They had seven children.
11. Susanna Prescott, b. 11 Dec. 1775 at Lunenburg, d. 23 May 1776.
12. Benjamin Prescott, b. 6 Oct. 1778 at Chester, d. in infancy at Chester.

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9. Charles Prescott, b. 6 Jan. 1772 at Halifax, d. 11 June 1859 at Cornwallis; the only one of the family whose male line has endured into this century. This gentleman as a young man had made a fortune by the standards of his time. He was able, when still a young man, to retire to the estate he had built at Starr's Point, N. S., and to devote most of the rest of his long life to his favourite pursuit—horticulture. He had green and hot-houses where he produced Italian purple and amber grapes. He successfully raised the Isabella grape in the open air against walls. Peaches, melons and some varieties of plums that he grew had not previously been successful in Nova Scotia; indeed,

many may not have been attempted. Prescott experimented with apple varieties and pears, and had renowned dahlias. He was a member of Horticultural Societies of New York and Boston, as well as that of London, England. He was generous with his produce and seldom refused a request for scions from his successful varieties. Both by example and precept, Prescott was one of the outstanding early horticulturists of Nova Scotia.

The peaceful gentility and liberal hospitality of Charles Ramage Prescott were well known in his lifetime. One visitor to the vicinity wrote of the elderly gentleman that he was "happy in the decline of a life which has been useful without ostentation, and patriotic without ambition." Hon. Charles Ramage Prescott did more than develop pippins and Blenheims, of course. He served a term as a member of the Nova Scotian Assembly, and was a member of the Legislative Council from 1825 until 1838. It was mostly in the last twenty years of his life, at "Acacia Grove", Starr's Point, that he was able to enjoy the ease of retirement. Many visitors to Nova Scotia have been able to share some sense of those days, since the house and grounds now form part of the Nova Scotia Museum complex. Hon. Charles Ramage Prescott married (1st) 6 Feb. 1796, Hannah (b. 29 Sep. 1774 at Gorham, Mass., d. 15 Jan. 1813 at Cornwallis, N.S.), dau. of John and Elizabeth (Longfellow) Whidden, a sister of Abigail Whidden, wife of his elder brother, Dr. Joseph Prescott. They had seven children:

- (1) Ann Elizabeth Prescott, b. 10 Mar. 1797, d. 23 Oct. 1884; m. (1st) 4 June 1816, Michael Richard O'BRIEN, surgeon, R.N., who d. 18 Dec. 1821 at Caen, France. Their son born 20 Mar. 1819, died at the age of three months. She m. (2nd) 22 Jan. 1824, Hon. Joseph ALLISON (26 Dec. 1783-7 Oct. 1839), and had six children:
  - (1a) Elizabeth Allison, b. 25 Jan. 1826, d. 25 Mar. 1876; m. 20 Sep. 1843, Dr. Benjamin DeWolf FRASER (4 Mar. 1812-4 July 1888), and had fifteen children, one of whom was Sir Charles Frederick Fraser, the "blind knight".

- (2a) John Allison, b. 8 Jan. 1828, d. 14 Feb. 1837.
- (3a) Mary Allison, b. 20 Feb. 1830, d. 11 Feb. 1848.
- (4a) Charles R. Allison, b. 3 June 1832, d. 25 Oct. 1853 at sea.
- (5a) Frederick Day Allison, b. 1 May 1834, d. 29 Apr. 1879; m. 16 Aug. 1860, Sarah Blowers (b. 1837, living 1884), dau. of Harry King. No issue.
- (6a) Anna Emma Allison, b. 18 Mar. 1836, d. 1 Oct. 1860; m. 20 Sep. 1859, Rev. James Johnston **HILL** (b. 1829), but had no issue.
- (2) Charles Prescott, b. 31 Dec. 1798, d. 24 Oct. 1818 at sea enroute to Bordeaux, France.
- (3) John Prescott, b. 7 Sep. 1800, d. 7 Sep. 1801.
- (4) John Prescott, b. 6 May 1802, d. 12 Oct. 1837, unm. Invalid.
- (5) Mary Prescott, b. 12 Apr. 1804, d. 8 May 1822.
- (6) Mariah Prescott, b. 19 July 1806, d. 3 Jan. 1831; m. 14 June 1828, Thomas Ritchie **GRASSIE** (bapt. 14 Feb. 1805), but had no issue.
- (7) Catherine Prescott, b. 24 Feb. 1811, d. 1847; m. 1 May 1839, James DeWolf **FRASER**, M.L.A. (23 Feb. 1805-26 July 1852), and had issue, three children:
  - (1a) Major James Fraser, b. 15 Apr. 1840, served in the British Army in New Zealand.
  - (2a) Ann Elizabeth Fraser, b. 25 June 1842; m. 19 Nov. 1864, Maurice **BOWMAN** of Windsor and Halifax, N. S. They had three children.
  - (3a) Charles Ramage Fraser, b. 1 Dec. 1844, lived in Illinois. One child.

Hon. Charles R. Prescott m. (2nd) 9 Feb. 1814, Mariah Hammill (b. Nov./Dec. 1777 in what became the United States, d. 12 Oct. 1867 at Halifax). Although it has not been possible to establish her parentage, there was a family of the name at Windsor in the 1790's. In the event they may be related, they have been treated briefly in an appendix to this article. Charles R. and Mariah Prescott had five children:

- (8) James Robert Prescott, barrister (30 Apr. 1839) at Kentville, b. 2 Dec. 1814, died 1893/95, unm.
- (9) Martha Margaret Prescott, b. 3 Aug. 1816, d. 1 July 1974; m. 24 May 1842, George Augustus



**ALLISON**, b. 27 Apr. 1811, dropped dead suddenly in his garden at Halifax, 8 June 1893. They had eight children:

- (1a) Maria A. Allison, b. 1843/44, d. 30 July 1920 at St. Croix, N.S.; m. 12 Sep. 1865, William Henry **CLARKE**, accountant, b. 26 June 1835 at Halifax, d. 5 Dec. 1920 at Bedford, N. S. They had three children.
  - (2a) Mary Allison, d. 17 Apr. 1922 at Ottawa.
  - (3a) a daughter.
  - (4a) Augustus Allison, b. 1849, d. 29 June 1874; m. 4 Nov. 1873, Sarah H. Simson, and left issue, one daughter.
  - (5a) Agnes Matilda Allison, bapt. 9 May 1852, d. 11 Oct. 1847.
  - (6a) Laura Elizabeth Allison, bapt. 12 Mar. 1854, living 1891.
  - (7a) Gertrude Amelia Allison, bapt. 19 Oct. 1856, living 1891.
  - (8a) Elizabeth Robie Allison, bapt. 1 Aug. 1858, living 1891.
  - (10) Charles Prescott, b. 9 Mar. 1819, d. 11 Mar. 1819.
  - (11) Charles Thomas Prescott, to whom we return in a moment.
  - (12) Maria Prescott, b. 15 Apr. 1822, d. 11 Feb. 1837.
- The eleventh child was
- (11) Charles Thomas Prescott, Esq., of "Maplecote", Baie Verte, N. B., Customs Collector, b. 21 Oct. 1820 at Cornwallis, d. 18 Aug. 1864 at Baie Verte; m. 30 Apr. 1844, Matilda Elizabeth (12 June 1823-2 Mar. 1890), dau. of John William Madden of Halifax. Matilda was considered a great beauty and belle, and was the mother of eleven children:
    - (1a) Capt. Charles Prescott, b. 16 Feb. 1845, d. 18 Apr. 1922 at Beverley, Mass.; m. Lucy A. Patterson of Georgetown, P.E.I. (19 Mar. 1853-11 Feb. 1917), and had issue:
      - (1b) Annie Maude Prescott, b. 26 Jan. 1873, d. 6 Apr. 1932, unm.
      - (2b) Charles Hammill Prescott, b. 19 May 1875 at Georgetown, P.E.I., d. 20 Mar. 1900, unm.
      - (3b) Myrtle Jean Prescott, b. 21 June 1881 Beverley, Mass.; m. Dr. Raymond



**JENKINS**, who later lived at Pachuco, Mexico. They had two daughters:

(1c) Elizabeth Jenkins. d. young.

(2c) Catherine Jenkins, b. 2 Sep. 19—; m. English diplomat.

(2a) William Prescott, Customs Officer, b. 24 Feb. 1846, d. 3 Mar. 1916; m. 4 Mar. 1873, Mary Agnes (26 Dec. 1843-24 Mar. 1912), dau. of Thompson and Mary Trueman. They had six children:

(1b) Charles Albert Prescott, b. 1874, d. 17 Mar. 1931; Secretary-Treasurer of the N. S. Savings Loan and Building Society; m. in 1928, Hildred E. M., b. 11 May —, living 1953 at Bath, England), dau. of Andrew MacKinlay of Halifax, N.S. No issue.

(2b) William Henry "Harry" Prescott, b. 3 July 1875, d. 13 Feb. 1940; m. 18 Nov. 1912, Emma (b. 22 July 1887, living at Ottawa), dau. of Arthur Glennie of Fort Lawrence, N.S. They had two children:

(1c) William Arthur Prescott of Baie Verte and Sackville, N.B., b. 10 Feb. 1915; m. 2 Sep. 1939, Marion Gertrude Steeves of Petitcodiac, b. 30 Nov. 1916. They have three children:

(1d) William Henry Prescott of Sackville, N.B., b. 28 May 1941; m. 12 Sep. 1964, Marilyn Paynter of P.E.I. Issue:

(1e) Christopher William Prescott, b. 11 Dec. 1966.

(2e) Susan Elizabeth Prescott, b. 17 June 1969.

(2d) Robert Charles Prescott of North Vancouver, B.C., b. 26 Aug. 1944; m. 25 Mar.

- 1967, Diane Goodbrand of Vancouver. Issue:
- (1e) Jenny Lee Prescott, b. 28 July 1971.
  - (2e) Robert William Prescott, b. 5 June 1973.
- (3d) Barbara Ann Prescott, b. 20 Dec. 1945; m. 26 Aug. 1967, James **WILSON** of Falmouth, N.S. They have issue:
- (1e) Daniel James Wilson, b. 18 Mar. 1970.
  - (2e) Steven Robert Wilson, b. 15 July.
- (2c) Mary Agnes Prescott, b. 15 Jan. 1920, living at Ottawa; m. Leo **CURRY**, late of Arnprior, Ont. They have issue:
- (1d) John Curry of Ontario, unm.
  - (2d) James Curry of State of Washington, U.S.A. married.
  - (3d) Jane Curry; married.
- (3b) Mary Allison Prescott, b. 31 July 1879, d. 8 Feb. 1969, unm.
- (4b) Agnes Matilda Prescott, b. 24 July 1881, d. 8 Jan. 1966, unm. This lady, with her sisters, Mary A. Prescott and Beatrice Billington, were the first of the family to live in the "Acacia Grove" property at Starr's Point in this century. The property and buildings had been put to many uses during the long interval when the Prescotts did not live there. It was rescued from neglect and unconscious vandalism by this trio of women, and was cleaned up and repaired to the extent that private means would allow. Their names, and in particular that of Agnes Matilda Prescott, should be revered by those who value our Bluenose heritage.

- (5b) Beatrice G. Louise "Louie" P. Prescott, b. 9 Feb. 1883, d. 18 Apr. 1970; m. Philip **BILLINGTON** of Duluth, Minnesota. They had issue:
  - (1c) Barbara Billington, b. 20 Apr. 1918; m. June 1940. Dr. John **FELTNER** of Rochester, New York, b. 14 Aug. 19—. Issue
  - (2c) Terrence Billington, b. 22 Jan. 1920; married; lives at Gloversville, N. Y.
  - (3c) Mary Billington; m. John **WHEATCROFT** of Victoria, B. C. Issue.
- (6b) Lt. Joseph Hammill Prescott, 4th. Canadian Mounted Rifles (formerly the 83rd Battalion), b. 2 June 1888, killed in action at the noted Regina Trench, 1 Oct. 1916, unm.
- (3a) Thomas Prescott, b. 8 Jan. 1848, d. 14 Feb. 1848.
- (4a) Robert Prescott, b. 20 Feb. 1849, d. 20 Apr. 1923; m. Helena Lucinda (b. 1866, d. 3 Nov. 1928 at Conrose, Alberta), dau. of Patrick Jordan Gray. They had (probably) ten children:
  - (b) Robert Gray Prescott; m. Alice Ayre, and had issue:
    - (1c) Robert Prescott, of Sackville, N. B.
    - (2c) Mary Jane Prescott; m. — **MAC DONALD**, of Nashwaaksis, N.B.
  - (2b) Clarence George Prescott, b. 1888, d. 1966; m. (1st) Daphnea Eliza Taylor (1905-6 Apr. 1934), and had three children:
    - (1c) Robert Prescott, of Calgary, Alberta.
    - (2c) Emily Pauline Prescott, b. 22 Mar. 1928, d. 10 Jan. 1929.
    - (3c) Daphnea Prescott, of Port Elgin, N. B., unm. Used the surname "Grant".
- Clarence George Prescott m. (2nd)

- Irene Muir (21 July 1988-1973), and had one daughter:
- (4c) Margaret Prescott; married, living in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- (3b) Charles Reginald Courtney Prescott, b. 27 Nov. 1889, lived at St. Paul, Minnesota.
- (4b) Ann Matilda Prescott, b. 1891; m. — **PEARSON**, of Calgary, Alberta.
- (5b) Thomas Prescott.
- (6b) Herbert Prescott, lived at St. Paul, Minnesota.
- (7b) Donald Prescott.
- (8b) Kate Allison Prescott, b. Aug. 1897, d. 29 June 1906.
- (9b) Louise Prescott — may be identical with (10b).
- (10b) a daughter; m. Dr. **HESKETT** of Vancouver, B. C.
- (5a) Mary Prescott, b. 15 May 1851, d. 7 Jan. 1933; m. 10 Oct. 1876, James Walter **ALLISON**, b. 31 Mar. 1850 at Newcastle, N.B., d. 2 Oct. 1927 at Halifax, N.S. They had no issue.
- (6a) Joseph Prescott, b. 19 Mar. 1853, d. 15 Apr. 1916; m. 5 Dec. 1903, Esther Ward of Northumberland, N. B., b. 8 Sep. 1865, d. 24 Dec. 1941. No issue.
- (7a) Maria Prescott, b. 11 Dec. 1854, d. 20 June 1916, unm.
- (8a) Thomas Hammill Prescott, b. 15 Apr. 1856, d. 18 Jan. 1911. As a young man he was a telegrapher, then studied law. After serious illness, he was able to work less strenuously and had some skill as a journalist. In 1882 he was married to Laura Gertrude (d. 30 July 1950), dau. of Capt. Elisha Stiles Towse of Sackville, N. B., and of his wife, Maria Bennett of Belfast, Ireland. They were the parents of seven children:
- (1b) Walter Reginald Hammill Prescott, b. 6 June 1883, d. Dec. 1977 in British Columbia, following a long and



- successful variety of careers; m. Ethel Grange Raymond of Vernon, B. C. (d. ca. 1953). They had issue:
- (1c) Mary Prescott, d. July 1970; m. Dr. Arthur **HAKSTIAN** of Vancouver. They had two sons:
    - (1d) Robert Hakstian, M.D.
    - (2d) Ralph Hakstian, Ph.D.
  - (2c) Elizabeth Prescott; m. H. B. **FORSE** of Victoria, B. C. They have issue:
    - (1d) Barbara Forse; m. Robert **PIETERS** of Vancouver, B. C.
  - (3c) John Standish Prescott, engineer; m. 30 May 1942 at Corvallis, Ore., Elizabeth Abbott, dau. of Dr. Leslie Hall Redelings of Baltimore, Md. They have two children:
    - (1d) Jean Prescott, B.Sc.
    - (2d) William Prescott, a geologist.
  - (2b) Frederick Elisha Prescott, b. 1885, d. 19 July 1900 in Massachusetts.
  - (3b) Ethel Maria Prescott, b. 1887, d. 19 Apr. 1907 in Rhode Island.
  - (4b) Major Thomas Hammill Prescott, banker, D.S.O., M.C., b. 31 July 1888, d. 21 Jan. 1942. He was wounded and gassed in World War I, but he had an active business career as an executive officer of what later became the Chase Manhattan Bank, New York City. He married Aletha Servoss of Chicago, and had two sons:
    - (1c) Thomas Hammill Prescott, Atlantic Regional Administrator of the Canadian Air Transportation Administration, Riverside, N.B. He married Brenda Coleman of Bourne-mouth, England. As a flying officer he served in World War II,

- and received the French Croix-de-Guerre. He has two sons:
- (1d) Dr. Walter Allison Prescott, Moncton, N.B.
  - (2d) Peter Prescott.
- (2c) Walter Allison Prescott, b. 1926, killed over Germany while serving with the U.S.A.F., May 1945.
  - (5b) Roland Towse Prescott, engineer, b. 1891, d. 7 Feb. 1970; m. Lillian Lovatt of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, but had no issue.
  - (6b) Grace Harriet Hammill Prescott, R.N., P.H., of Toronto, Ont., unm. She has had an interesting career as a teacher, nurse and organizer for the Canadian Red Cross. She has provided much assistance with the research on her family.
  - (7b) Kathleen Fraser Prescott of Toronto; m. Hume A. **DAYKIN**, retired executive of the Toronto-Dominion Bank. Mrs. Daykin had a brilliant academic record, being a gold medallist as well as having graduating honours in two fields.
  - (9a) Catherine Prescott, b. 20 Nov. 1857, d. 24 May 1858.
  - (10a) George Allison Prescott, b. 11 July 1859, living 1890; married; no issue.
  - (11a) Katherine Fraser Prescott, b. 11 Feb. 1861, d. 5 Sep. 1939; m. 25 July 1900, Dr. Montague Albert Blowers (10 Aug. 1861-13 Nov. 1935), son of Rev. John Shaw **SMITH** of Milton, P.E.I. They lived at Dartmouth, N. S. No issue. Dr. Mont Smith was a vice-president of the Nova Scotia Historical Society in 1910, and from 1923 to 1934. He was acting mayor of Dartmouth, N.S., 1894-96, and was very concerned with the preservation of the historic Prince's Lodge property at Bedford Basin.

## Heraldry:

Shield: A chevron between three owls (two in chief, one in base)

Crest: a cubit arm, couped, erect, vested.

Motto: Vincit qui patitur. (He conquers who endures)

The colours used cannot be stated, as more than one description exists, and the versions do not agree on colours.

## APPENDIX — THE HAMMILL FAMILY

Hon. Charles Ramage Prescott married 9 Feb. 1814, Mariah Hammill, but little is known of her parentage. From letters which are in the hands of the Nova Scotia Museum and of descendants, some idea of Mariah's siblings can be obtained. There were certainly three brothers and a sister, as follows:

1. Thomas Cochran Hammill, marshall and adjutant-general at Demerara in 1836, of London, England, in 1864. He m. 1824, Francisca — of Georgetown, Demerara, and had five children. He was a Lt.-Col.
2. Joseph Hammill, Lt. and Adjutant of the 18th. Regt. of Foot, served in various parts of the world, was living in England, 1842, unm.
3. Robert Hammill, d. 7 Feb. 1841 at Chusan, China; m. Helen —, and had five children.
4. Margaret Hammill, lived with the Prescotts at "Acacia Grove", and was living, unmarried in Nova Scotia in 1864.

The difficulty arises in the parentage of these brothers and sisters Hammill. Family tradition asserts that the family were English and that their parents did not live in Nova Scotia. If they did, there is but one possibility, and that is Daniel Hammill, Esq., of Windsor, N.S. A Loyalist of that name was granted 1,000 acres on the south side of Minas Basin in 1785. In 1788, Daniel Hammill was a trustee for erecting the Anglican church building in Windsor, and a son, Thomas Hammill, was baptised on 19 Dec. 1788 at Windsor. In 1794, he was assessed 4 sh. 8 d. in the poll tax of the district of eastern Hants. By 1798, he was disposing of property, and finally in 1801 Daniel sold his pew in the church and disappears

from the records of Windsor. Five students named Hammill attended Kings between 1788 and 1802, namely, I., J., T. C., D., and R. Hammill. Three of these initials suit Joseph, Thomas Cochran, and Robert Hammill of Mariah Prescott's brothers. It may be mere coincidence, and it may be that the family did live in Nova Scotia for a number of years and then left to reside in England. Several of the children later returned to the province either in their military capacities, or otherwise. I do not consider the matter settled, but offer these pieces of evidence for what they may be worth to anyone interested in the matter.

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

### **Personal**

Rev. Oliver Osmond, formerly of St. Paul's Church, Sackville, N. B.

Miss Grace Hammill Prescott, Toronto, Ontario.

Mr. & Mrs. William Prescott, Sackville and Baie Verte, N. B.

Staff, History Section, Nova Scotia Museum, halifax, N.

### **Primary**

Cemeteries: Camp Hill, Halifax, N.S.; Anglican, Baie Verte, N. B.

Churches: St. John's Anglican, Lunenburg, 1770-1790

St. John's Anglican, Baie Verte, passim

St. Matthew's, Halifax, 1790-1820

St. Paul's, Halifax, 1755-1845.

Census: Halifax County, 1827 and 1838.

Marriage License Bonds, 1758-1820.

Poll Taxes: Chester Township, 1791.

Eastern Hants, 1794.

Private Papers: Hammill-Prescott Correspondence,

N. S. Museum.

S. B. Robie Papers, P.A.N.S., M.G.1, Vol. 793.

T. B. Smith Collection, P.A.N.S., M.G. 1, Vol. 851.



Probate: Halifax County, Vols, 3, 4, 6, 7, 18, 19 (Wills)  
Original Estate Papers, B-71 (Samuel Blagden).  
Hants County, Vol. 5, p. 106 (Wills)  
Kings County, Vol. 4, p. 261 (Wills)

### Newspapers

**Acadian Recorder:** 1816 to 1925, various dates.  
**British Colonist:** 26 Oct. 1867.  
**Halifax Chronicle:** 18 Mar. 1931.  
**Halifax Herald:** 7 Sep. 1939, 17 Feb. 1940.  
**Halifax Journal:** 1 Feb. 1819.  
**Halifax Times:** 8 Sep. 1846.  
**Halifax Weekly Chronicle:** 23 Feb. 1816.  
**Kentville Advertiser,** 13 Feb. 1969, 23 Apr. 1970.  
**Morning Chronicle:** 10 May 1888.  
**Morning Herald:** 24 Oct. 1884.  
**Nova Scotia Royal Gazette** ; 13 Feb. 1810.  
**Novascotian:** 1834 to 1869, various dates.  
**Presbyterian Witness:** 27 June 1857, 20 Feb. 1864.

### Secondary

**Acadiensis,** IV (1904), pp. 6-9 V (1905). pp. 95-101.  
**Dalhousie Review:** XXIX, 4 (Jan. 1950), pp. 439-450;  
XXX, 1 (Apr. 1950), pp. 90-103.  
**History of Chester, 1759-1967,** pp. 46-47.  
William Prescott, **The Prescott Memorial . . .** Boston,  
1870.

## *Contributors*

PHYLLIS RUTH BLAKELEY was born in Halifax, and she attended the Halifax County Academy before entering Dalhousie University, where she was awarded the degree of Bachelor and Masters in Arts. She joined the staff of the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia as research assistant in 1945 and became Assistant Archivist in 1959. She was appointed to the newly created position of Associate Archivist of the Province of Nova Scotia in 1977.

Dr. Blakeley has given invaluable assistance to researchers and made significant contributions to local history in her position at the Provincial Archives. She has also greatly contributed to our knowledge and appreciation of our heritage through her extensive studies and her writing career which has produced numerous articles and biographies which have appeared in leading periodicals, as well as her book **Nova Scotia — A Brief History**, 1955, a provincial history textbook for Grade 6 students.

Dr. Blakeley received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Dalhousie University and became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1978.

NEIL JOSEPH BOUCHER of Church Point, Digby County, Nova Scotia, was born on Surette's Island, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. He attended Université Sainte-Anne, where he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He received a Fellowship from Acadia University and was awarded the degree of Master of Arts. He was also the recipient of the Governor General's Medal.

His writings have appeared in *La Revue de L'Université Sainte-Anne*.

Mr. Boucher is a member of the Atlantic Association of Historians and is Assistant Professor of History at Université Sainte-Anne.

ERNEST LOWDEN EATON was born at Upper Canard, Kings County in 1896. He is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, the Ontario Agricultural College, and holds a Masters Degree from Macdonald College of McGill University, where he was awarded the Macdonald Scholarship of Nova Scotia for 1924.

Mr. Eaton served in World War I. He held a position for several years in extension and teaching under the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and was a Senior Research Officer, Canada Department of Agriculture at his retirement in 1961.

He has been active in many community and professional organizations and has found time to write research papers on agricultural subjects and local history ("Two Early Churches at Chipman Corner, N. S." previously published in *Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly*).

He is Historian of the Wolfville Historical Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Eaton live in Upper Canard, have five children, eighteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

CAROL JOAN McLEOD was born in Halifax. She attended Amherst Regional High School where she was awarded the Governor General's Medal and the Lieutenant Governor's Medal. She also received a scholarship to Mount Allison University where she furthered her education.

Mrs. McLeod is a part-time bank teller and free lance writer. Her articles have appeared in the Amherst Daily News, The Halifax Mail-Star, Dartmouth Free Press and the Fourth Estate. Several articles have been accepted by the Atlantic Advocate.

KEITH ALFRED HATCHARD was born in Poole, Dorset, England and received his early education there. He attended Sir George Williams University and Saint Mary's University where he was granted the degree of Bachelor of Commerce and Masters of Business Administration.

He has written numerous University papers and is interested in local history and genealogy.

Mr. Hatchard is Senior Contracts Administrator at Hermes Electronics Ltd. of Canadian Marconi Company and resides in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

TERRENCE MICHAEL PUNCH was born in Halifax and received his early education in Halifax public schools. He continued his education at St. Mary's and Dalhousie Universities and holds graduate degrees from both.

He is the author of numerous articles on local history and genealogy which have appeared in publications in Canada, United States and Ireland. Two of his works have received prizes in Canadian Authors' Association contests. He is the editor of the Genealogical Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, the Genealogical Editor of Bluenose Magazine and he co-edits the genealogies which appear in the Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly. His extensive compilation, **Vital Statistics from Nova Scotia Newspapers—1813-1822**, has been published by the Genealogical Committee of the Nova Scotia Historical Society. He is also the author of the recent best seller, **Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia**.

Mr. Punch is a member of many historical and genealogical societies and associations and is a diligent and respected historical researcher. He teaches history at Fairview High School and lives in Armdale.





## *Book Reviews*

LORNA INNESS

**PLANTERS AND PIONEERS: Nova Scotia, 1749 to 1775 by Esther Clark Wright.**

Paperback, 300 pages, published 1978 by Lancelot Press, Hantsport, N. S.

\$8.95 from the author, P. O. Box 710, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, B0P 1X0.

Few understand the term Planters or Pre-Loyalists as applied to Nova Scotia. Dr. Esther Clark Wright has endeavoured to explain that the Planters were those who planted colonies, and in Nova Scotia were the settlers of the farmlands in the Annapolis Valley (Annapolis and Granville, Cornwallis and Horton, Falmouth and Newport) and at Truro and Cumberland, and also the fishermen of Yarmouth, Barrington, Liverpool and Chester on the South Shore, while the Pioneers were the others who came to Nova Scotia from the founding of Halifax to the beginning of the American Revolution. In that period New Brunswick was part of Nova Scotia so Sackville, Moncton, Hillsborough, the St. John River, Passamaquoddy and Maramichi are also included.

The author decided to omit the Acadians because this is a specialized study being undertaken at the Centre d'Etudes Acadiennes at the University of Moncton. For the Germans she has relied on Dr. Winthrop Bell's register of settlers prepared for his book **The Foreign Protestants and the Settlement of Nova Scotia.**

Originally planned as a Genealogical Dictionary similar to James Savage's famous **Genealogical Dictionary of The First Settlers of New England**, limitations for research and publishing funds made such a detailed project impossible, and the list has been reduced by not giving separate listing to sons who married after the removal to Nova Scotia. The monumental task of preparing the alphabetical list has been compounded by the erratic spelling of the eighteenth century and some important people have been left out such as Michael Francklin and Richard John Uniacke. However, it is the first attempt to list those who stayed in Nova Scotia, but the reader must remember names of grantees who never came or who left in a year or two are eliminated, and also those who died shortly after arrival.

For more than thirty years Dr. Wright has been working on the demographic history of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and has become convinced that "The Settlers who came to Nova Scotia before the influx of the Loyalists have been relatively ignored." Her introduction sketches the waves of immigration to the province in the pre-Loyalist period, analyzing population figures. She concludes there were 3100 heads of families of Planters and Pioneers, the largest groups being from Massachusetts (1,111), England (500), Germany (404), and only 103 Irish settlers and 54 Scots.

(Reviewed by Dr. Phyllis Blakeley, Associate Archivist for Nova Scotia)

**Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia,  
By Terrence M. Punch  
132 pages, paperback, published December 1978  
Petheric Press \$5.50**

Readers of this Quarterly will be familiar with the series of genealogies of Nova Scotian families which appear regularly in each issue. Many of these studies have been the work of Terrence M. Punch, a Nova Scotian who teaches history in Halifax at the high school level.

In addition to writing about history and genealogy, Punch is a member of the Nova Scotia Historical Society's genealogical committee and edits a regular Genealogical Newsletter for the committee. He compiled Vital Statistics from Nova Scotian Newspapers, 1813-1822, for the Nova Scotia Historical Society and has spent some 20 years actively involved with genealogical research in this province.

As amateur genealogists well know, finding ones way through the maze of records, documents and sources of information can be frustratingly difficult, the number and variety of the sources overwhelming. For the benefit of both casual and serious researchers, Punch has put it all together in this book which lists the primary and secondary sources of information, miscellaneous items of interest and relates them one to the others where they overlap.

Punch describes genealogy as "a kaleidoscope of our human past . . ." To keep some kind of order in this kaleidoscope of data, Punch advises the beginner to pick a method and stick to it in keeping track of progress. He explains some ways in which this may be done.

The author explains many of the idiosyncrasies of family tracing which can be headaches for the professional and totally confusing for the beginner. The vagaries of descriptions of family relationships, the changes in handwriting, name changes and the problems of phonetic spelling, the problems of identification caused by the ancient fondness on the part of record keepers for abbreviations and the confusion caused by just plain bad writing, are major problems.

Having guided his readers through the readily available family records and the memories of relatives and friends, Punch turns to such printed sources as county

histories. One of the useful things about Punch's book is that he doesn't just explain the source and references and tell you where they can be found and leave it at that, he lists them in some considerable detail. Local county and area histories, and related articles and pamphlets are listed for each county, for example, along with authors and publication dates.

He includes in this book two lists of families for which there are already printed genealogies—in the one case, published volumes and in the other, smaller pamphlets and papers. Checking first to see if some of the work has already been done can save a lot of time and effort, as Punch points out.

A section of the book of major importance to anyone researching Nova Scotian families is that which deals with the various reference sources at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Punch, who has a long-standing familiarity with what is available in the Archival material, has done readers a favor in giving this printed guided tour, with explanations of the overlapping and cross-references of some records.

There are detailed lists of the contents of manuscripts groups, and lists of church and municipal records, areas covered and dates.

The balance of the book is largely devoted to basic instruction on how to put it all together once you get the information. He has added an index of surnames for quick reference.

The book is intended to encourage and help those who wish to know something of their family history and need help in getting started. As Punch points out, "An expert could do it better and faster, but why should you not have the challenge and the fun and the frustrations, if you want them?" Most people who start such a course will find themselves hopelessly enslaved.



**Life How Short, Eternity How Long,**  
**By Deborah Trask**  
**100 pages, cloth and paperback, illustrated,**  
**published 1978**  
**Nova Scotia Museum \$9.95    \$5.95**

One of the important sources of genealogical material referred to in Terrence Punch's book, *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia*, is cemetery records. Of these, the most striking are those carved on tombstones and monuments.

This book is a look at some of the gravestone carving to be found in Nova Scotia and carvers who did the work. As Deborah Trask notes, gravestones served a dual purpose, marking the location of a grave and commemorating the deceased.

The names, dates and occasional personal notes to be found on such tombstones round out the picture of communities and the people who lived in them.

Genealogically such monuments and their legends have enormous value. Personally, there is no way to describe adequately the feelings of the individual who, endeavoring to trace his or her family, finally stands before the faded worn tombstone of some great-great ancestor, possibly one whose existence was unknown before the genealogical research was begun.

Moreover, in the 18th and 19th centuries in this province, as elsewhere, there were certain trends and fashions in gravestone carving that make an interesting study on their own.

Among the black and white photographs in this book are included examples of such once popular designs as angel heads, weeping willows, clasped hands and hands pointing to the heavens where it is to be hoped the deceased went, which raises some questions about the tombstones on which the hands pointed downward.

The author has also taken a look at some of the carvers of tombstones, with examples of their work, and the materials used. There is a list of the carvers and marble works throughout the province, with the dates during which they were in operation; not a complete list, as the author points out, but certainly a valuable guide. There is also a list of some foreign carvers examples of whose work can be found throughout the province.

Deborah Trask, a graduate of Acadia University, is assistant curator in the Nova Scotia Museum's history section.

### **Nova Scotia Down-Home Cooking**

**By Janice Murray Gill**

**208 pages, hardcover, published November 1978**

**McGraw-Hill Ryerson \$14.95**

It wasn't all that bad living in a small Nova Scotia village sufficiently set apart to have left it behind the times. It provided young Janice Murray with the opportunity to grow up in the kind of existence that was long gone in more cosmopolitan parts of the province.

Now Janice Murray Gill, the mother of two sons, a woman who has lived in Europe and the United States, who now operates her own cooking school in Montreal, has found that many of the old-type ways and methods, the lore she absorbed from her mother and other women in the village have stood her in good stead.

It was partly to preserve some of that atmosphere, to set down not only something of the life in such a village in the mid-thirties and forties, and partly to preserve some of the old recipes which she feared might become neglected with the advent or general use of metric measurements in Canada that prompted Janice Murray Gill to produce her book about what it was like to live and cook down home in River John.

Mrs. Gill states in the introduction to her book that while she has "updated" her recipes and procedures to take advantage of, for example, some modern appliances, she has not taken such short cuts as prescribing convenience or instant foods.

Mrs Gill is enthusiastic about the switch to metric as it applies to the kitchen and she hopes that her book will make the changeover easier for other cooks.

The book is in two parts; the second containing the recipes, under the customary headings. It is the first part of the book, Dining Down Home, a culinary calendar of cooking and eating habits throughout the year, that gives the book its particular charm.

In these sections, Mrs. Gill describes growing up in the village where her father was the local doctor and ran the local drugstore into the bargain. The availability of handy supplies of Pablum accounts for the many recipes using it as an ingredient, for puddings, muffins and breads.

The special customs and qualities of each month, the fruits or vegetables peculiar to the time of year, are described and each section contains a separate list of recipes — the Easter bread and Hot Cross Buns of April, the dandelion greens, fiddleheads and rhubarb of May, the berries and new potatoes, fresh vegetables and jams of the summer months and the early fall.

The book is a charming addition to the shelf of kitchen favorites for cooks in Nova Scotia—and elsewhere.

### **Rural Delivery**

**Approx. 38 pages, periodical, published monthly  
Box 8, Port Joli, Nova Scotia, B0T 1S0  
50 cents**

This publication concerned generally with rural life is in its third year. From the small community of Port Joli, Dirk van Loon, with the help of a small staff, produces on newsprint a lively periodical filled with articles on everything from stargazing to weather broadcasting to the role of the family farm.

The ads cover a wide range of services and supplies from wood burning stoves to self feeders for livestock.

There are articles on how to harness teams of horses and how to cut and store ice.

Nor is it all nostalgic looks at yesteryear. One article deals with the problems of country living and the isolation it can entail.

There's a column of hints on such things as sprouting seeds and preventing taps from freezing in winter. There are book reviews, a spirited letters to the editor section in which readers share ideas and hints, and a small section of classified ads.

Single copies of the newspaper cost 50 cents, but Rural Delivery is available on subscription, \$7 for two years; \$10 for three.

**Bluenose Magazine**  
**39 pages, periodical, illustrated, published**  
**quarterly**  
**Bluenose Magazine, Box 580, Port Maitland, Nova**  
**Scotia B0W 2V0**

Bluenose Magazine is a quarterly devoted to Downeast Canada, and "those who are interested in this area." William Crowell is editor and Frances Crowell is managing editor.

It is published in Port Maitland, printed in Yarmouth and distributed throughout the Maritimes by H. H. Marshall Ltd.

Volume 3, number 3, contains a mixture of stories, articles, nostalgic writings and some poetry

Veronica Ross has contributed a short story and Clement W. Crowell writes about the Yarmouth stone with its inscriptions which, it has been claimed, substantiate visits of the Norsemen to this province as early as 1000 A.D.

Elmer Pitman, who makes snowshoes, talks about life in the community of Carleton in the old days and M.V. Marshall writes about Growing Up by the Sea (I'd be happier if it had some dates in it), and C. R. K. Allen, for many years superintendent of the School for the Blind, Halifax, writes about fishing for smelts through the ice.

Other articles of interest in this particular issue include one by Phyllis Dobson on feeding the birds in winter and another on the cod fishery, and recipes, Neptune's Garden, By Mary Eliza Franklyn.

A current theme forms the subject of an article by Kelly Spring, Down to Earth with Carl Firth, a young Cape Breton musician.

This issue also contains one of a series of Bluenose Genealogies by Terrence M. Punch, the one in this copy concerning the Irish in Nova Scotia.

Single copies of Bluenose Magazine are \$1 at newstands, while a year's subscription is \$4; \$5 outside Canada.



**Greetings from Canada,  
By Allan Anderson & Betty Tomlinson  
188 pages, paperback, illustrated, published 1978  
Macmillan of Canada \$14.95**

This book is sub-titled "An Album of Unique Canadian Postcards from the Edwardian Era 1900-1916" and through the post cards in this collection and the messages on some of them, provides a unique view of Canadian life during that period.

While the time frame goes beyond the Edwardian era into World War I, Anderson describes the period as one of Canadian innocence, a "fat and 'sassy'" time when Canadians enjoyed relative prosperity with comparatively few crises as a nation. It was, says Anderson, a time of relative unsophistication, a quality apparent from the variety of messages on the cards.

Many of the scenes depict small towns and rural areas where the pulse of life was much slower than we know it today. Work was long and hard, as shown in the sections devoted to cards featuring aspects of lumbering, mining, fishing, working on railroads or on farms.

Pleasures and entertainments were simple—fairs and exhibitions, parades, visits to resorts and the beach, canoeing and regattas.

The cards were gathered from all over Canada, some found in long neglected albums culled from attics or in collections tied up in shoeboxes. Some of the best collections were found by Anderson during travels in the Maritimes.

The Maritimes are represented in this collection with such items as a card showing firefighters at a blaze in Halifax in January, 1912, fighting not only a fire but the weather as well.

A card from Berwick, dated 1911, bears the message: "They are having a bad time with diptheria around Berwick. They must be getting alarmed having closed the schools and churches."

As Anderson notes, "It was a halcyon period, but it is no contradiction to say that it inflicted its share of hardships. Illness plagued Canadians; it is almost impossible to imagine the range and extent of diseases until one browses through these old cards. . . ."

Much of the historical interest in this book comes from the contrast provided by these old cards when one looks at the same spot today. For example, a card, reproduced in black and white, shows a photograph of the Old Red Bridge, a covered bridge at Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, "torn down this fall for a new iron one . . ."

Greetings from Canada not only provides a useful guide to anyone interested in collecting Canadian post cards (and note that since collection fever has struck, post cards have become very collectible and expensive), but a charming look back at a period Anderson describes as "a brief golden summer before the catastrophe of the First World War, an age of naivete that will never come again."

Postcards are reproduced in color or in black and white.

**The Lumberjacks, by Donald MacKay**  
**319 pages, hardcover, illustrated, published**  
**November 1978**  
**McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd. \$19.95**

Anyone interested in the old days of lumbering will find this book a delight. It was, after all, the vast stocks of timber in Canada which helped to build the New World.

Officers of the Royal Navy surveyed the uncut forests and put their marks on trees suitable for masts. Settlers cut trees to clear land for farms and used the wood to build houses. Among the first plants built in new settlements were mills which turned out lumber for houses and ships.

The countless small shipyards which lined the coasts of Nova Scotia drew upon the forests for their supplies.

Indeed, throughout the country it was timber which helped sustain the economy. The mind shudders at the wholesale laying waste of tracts of forests, slashed for the huge timbers which were used at home or sent off to foreign markets for fat prices.

Forests fell to make room for towns and then cities, to clear the way for farms and, even in seemingly inaccessible areas, to make way for the iron rails which were to link both sides of the country and open up huge tracts of land for settlement.

Even today, it is to Canadian woods that American companies turn for the raw material for pulp and paper.

The newsprint which is converted into the New York Times, as well as other newspapers, comes from forests in Nova Scotia.

Throughout Canada's history, lumbering has been a vital industry which has spawned, as did mining and railroad building, a tough breed of men to whom hardship was a normal way of life.

It is the story of this industry and these men, of the animals and equipment, camps and rafts, of the frozen world of hauling logs on ice with horse and wagon to the rush of the river drives of spring with the accompanying excitement and risk which is told in this book.

Lumberers, shantymen, timberbeasts, lumberjacks, loggers, forestiers and bucherons — whatever name they were called throughout this country's history, their role in that history is a fascinating one.

In telling the story of lumbering, MacKay takes his readers through the seasons—with the choppers, sawyers and skidders in the fall to the teamsters in winter and the river drivers in spring.

He has filled out his picture of the history of lumbering with tales of camp life, of some of the larger than life personalities of the lumber woods. The book is profusely illustrated in black and white photographs along with diagrams of logging gear and methods.

Donald MacKay is a Nova Scotian whose career in journalism has spanned three decades. He served in the merchant navy during World War II and then worked as a reporter for the Canadian Press and United Press International. With London, England, as a headquarters, MacKay served as Chief European correspondent for UPI, and later as that agency's general manager in Canada.

His interest in lumbering dates from his teens when he spent a summer working in the woods in the Maritimes and was strengthened to the point of writing this book by hearing stories of the lumber trade in northern Ontario, a business with which his wife's family had a close involvement.

While the subject might seem dry to non-lumbering enthusiasts, another book about an industry, MacKay has filled it with life. The story moves as swiftly as the swollen rivers in springtime carrying their cargoes of logs to a mill.



**Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern,**  
**By Charles Taylor**  
**254 pages, hardcover and paperback, published**  
**1977**  
**House of Anansi Press**

The stories of five men and one woman make up this unusual collection of mini-biographies by Charles Taylor, a journalist who has found some unifying threads where one would not have suspected they existed.

The subjects live, for the most part, in different spheres in different times and one would say there was little to connect Brigadier James Sutherland Brown, charged with military planning, with Scott Symons, a writer and social rebel. One might be tempted automatically to link Emily Carr and James Houston, both of them deeply moved by the art of the native peoples of Canada, but surely not with Bishop White, an Anglican missionary, and the diplomat and scholar, Herbert Norman who committed suicide during the 1950s.

Yet here they are and the thing makes sense.

Faced with the lack of common denominators in any political, philosophical or religious sense, Taylor soon found similarities. "Each of my characters was in some manner a Victorian," writes Taylor. "Like the most exemplary of the Victorians, the subjects of this book felt a need to serve a larger cause. In their different ways, they appear as missionaries for something that is greater than themselves, something that transcends the narrow secularity of their time. Each was seeking a nobler and more spiritual way of being than their Canadian society encouraged or even tolerated. They were believers and even visionaries; their lives were directed by an impulse which was basically religious . . . This religious impulse also made them conservative . . . in the deeper sense of trying to enact traditions which are rooted in faith, and which rebuke the corroding cynicism of recent decades. Each was opposed to modernity, to what George Grant has called 'the central fact of the North American dream—progress through technology' . . ."

Like others before them—and since—they were not honored as prophets in their own country. While Taylor documents some instances of active opposition, he notes that for the most part the reaction the six evoked from



Canadian society was one of "bland acceptance which rarely hid a fundamental indifference . . ."

We need, writes Taylor, "to be more than contemporary Canadians." Technology he sees as a suffocating, all-encompassing presence which, while touting its achievements, will channel us into a profit motivated, computer directed society—"good technocrats and complacent taxpayers, more victims or survivors."

The stories of the six make one thing clear. They carried consuming torches which they endeavored at the last to cast into other hands. If they were indeed caught, the torches have not been held high.

**Founders & Canadians, by Irma Council**  
**160 pages, hardcover, illustrated, published**  
**November 1978**  
**John Wiley & Sons, \$9.95**

This is a collection of 72 pencil portraits by Irma Council depicting the founders and guardians of Canada.

The portraits are grouped under three sections: Fathers of Confederation, Governors General and Prime Ministers. One page is devoted to the portrait and the facing page contains a brief biographical note of the subject.

Inevitably one can draw a comparison with George Woodcock's *Faces From History*, published last fall by Hurtig. For all that Woodcock's study of prominent Canadians contained photographs, Irma Council's sketches have an uncanny human quality to them, especially in the eyes. In some cases, to look at the portrait is almost to look into the face of the person depicted.

Space necessitated limiting the collection to post-Confederation leaders and governors, so that earlier nation builders are omitted. But then Woodcock's collection was limited to those people who had been photographed, a distinction which made his own collection of great Canadians unique.

Mrs. Council's portraits of the Fathers of Confederation are well-known. Mrs. Council drew wartime leaders and was commissioned in 1973 to produce portraits of members of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. She has also drawn portraits of the members of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

**Common Weeds of Canada,**  
**By Gerald A. Mulligan**  
**140 pages, paperback, illustrated, published 1976**  
**McClelland & Stewart Ltd.— \$4.95**

This little publication came to my attention recently and, although it was published in 1976, it is included here because of its merit.

Gerald Mulligan is chief of the noxious and native plants section of the federal department of agriculture, which, in association with Information Canada and McClelland & Stewart Ltd., co-operated in the publication of the book.

Mulligan has travelled extensively about Canada and is the author of *Weeds of Canada*, published in 1972 by the Queen's Printer, and the *Flora of the Queen Charlotte Islands*, a two-volume work published in 1968, also by the Queen's Printer as it was known in those days.

*Common Weeds of Canada* contains color photographs (Mulligan's work) of 117 of the weeds most likely to be found on your lawn or in your garden.

Grouped by botanical classification, the pictures of the weeds are accompanied by brief (50-100 words) notes giving the pertinent facts, description and behavior.

Noting that weeds by definition tend to grow where man does not want them, Mulligan adds that "Weed control is a never-ending battle."

Having had some problems with them, I was intrigued to find that the first weed described in the book is the Field Horsetail, a common weed found in all provinces and in a wide range of habitats. It appears in April and is poisonous to ponies and horses. One of the horse books which deals with the problem advises horseowners who find the stems appearing in their lawns or fields to have family weed pulling sessions before the stalks have a chance to spread.

Many of the other weeds are known to us for the beauty of their flowers and are familiar sights along country roads where they do not seem out of place.

This book is a useful guide to put in a pocket before trekking off to the countryside.

Aside from the brief descriptive notes, there is an equally brief introduction; both are given in English and French.

**A Picture History of Ontario,  
By Roger Hall & Gordon Dodds  
224 pages, hardcover, illustrated, published 1978  
Hurtig Publishers \$15.95**

In this album of historic pictures, Gordon Dodds, a former president of the Association of Canadian Archivists, and Roger Hall, a history teacher at the University of Western Ontario, have assembled a collection of historic pictures showing various aspects of life in Ontario.

Ontario, as they point out, is "the vital centre", the "heart of the country", as well as "the firmest bulwark in the definition of English Canada."

"So far as A Picture History of Ontario has a theme," note the authors, "it is that Ontario flourished from its eighteenth century beginning until shortly after the Second World War. During that century and a half a singular society found its roots in the province and fashioned a correspondingly unique outlook on the world. After 1945 Ontario both fell and was pushed into the mainstream of North American society . . ."

Noting the impossibility of adequately compressing the collective history of "eight million people and their predecessors over two centuries in a book of this size," the authors have chosen three main headings—Upper Canada, from 1791 with the formation of Upper and Lower Canada to 1841; Canada West, from 1841 to 1867 and Ontario, Confederation to today.

Brief portions of text look at changing attitudes and trends in Ontario and some of the photos, praises be, have extensive and informative cutlines. Few things are so frustrating to the reader with an interest in history as collections of old photographs with only brief lines when the subjects of the photos cry out that hidden somewhere is an absorbing story.

In conclusion, the authors note that "Ontario is most frequently loyal to its collective past, to its own history and experience . . ." And, despite the effects of the New York bond market on Ontario in the political and economic sense, despite the "automobile-service centres and fast-food outlets," the old Ontario, according to Hall and Dodds, is still there. Much of it will be found in this book.

