

**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**Board of Trustees of the Public**  
**Archives of Nova Scotia**

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**For the Year 1950**



**HALIFAX, N. S.**  
**KING'S PRINTER**

**1951**

# Report of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia

For the Year 1950

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To His Honour

The Honourable J. A. D. McCurdy, M.B.E.,  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

May it please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Provincial Archivist to the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia for the year 1950, together with a statement of receipts and disbursements for the period November 30th., 1949, to March 31st. 1951.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGUS L. MACDONALD,  
Premier.



# Board of Trustees

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

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His Honour, The Honourable J. A. D. McCurdy, M.B.E.,  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilesley, P.C., K.C.,  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

The Honourable Angus L. Macdonald, P.C., K.C., S.J.D., LL.D.  
Premier of Nova Scotia.

Robert L. Stanfield, B.A., LL.B.,  
Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly.

Alexander E. Kerr, B.A., B.D., D.D., LL.D.,  
President of Dalhousie University.

Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C.,  
President of the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

MISS WINIFRED McFATRIDGE,  
Secretary.

## Report of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia

Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present my twentieth report as Archivist of Nova Scotia.

In presenting this report I wish first to express my deep sense of loss in the death, since our last meeting, of Sir Joseph Chisholm and Dr. J. C. Webster, both of whom were members of this Board when I took over my duties in August 1931, and both of whom maintained a deep interest in the work of the Archives until their death, on January 22nd. and March 16th. respectively.

As six Lieutenant Governors, five Premiers and three Presidents of Dalhousie have held office since the Archives was projected and Chief Justice Harris had died before my arrival, it is true to say that Dr. Webster and Chief Justice Chisholm alone of all members of this Board were able to give continual counsel and encouragement in the development of the Archives; and to see it grow from a comparatively empty, unfurnished building, in which few people were interested or willing to deposit their family papers, to the present institution, which is almost filled to overflowing, widely regarded as a source of information for the historian and the literary or radio artist, and recognized as the only safe depository for the rich historical contents of Nova Scotian libraries and attics, in addition to its primary function of preserving the public records. They alone knew, as later members of this Board could not know, the problem with which the Archivist was faced in organizing and cleaning the original material placed in this building, a problem which, by the way, arises constantly as new material is obtained from attic or basement and which I mention at



this time only to show how much I needed and valued the encouragement of those two members of this Board who were in continual touch with me for nearly nineteen years.

Writing to Dr. Webster on October 31, 1930, the late President MacKenzie said, "A large number of boxes have already come out. . . and I was shocked at the state of dirt and disorder which they showed. They show the grime and exposure and dust and soot for generations, and they seem to be thrown helter skelter without order into old boxes and trunks. Many of them indeed are in loose piles on the floor along with what seem to be torn maps, charts, etc".

While this description did not apply to all the material that came to the Archives in the earlier years, it has applied in a lesser degree to all of the material that we have received in any quantity from whatever source: for even under the most careful storage in attics or basements dust and dampness tend to play havoc with books and manuscripts. Even in this building, we have to wage constant war against these elements; and in some instances to photostat or recopy manuscripts that are beyond repair. Thus it may be seen that the reception, cleaning or keeping clean, repairing and preserving, organizing and cataloguing archival material consumes no small part of their time and, in one capacity or another, involves all members of the Archives staff.

An alphabetical list of those who have presented material to the Archives during the past year will be found in Appendix A. From this it may be seen that the number of donors has been well maintained and actually increased. Moreover, all of them have given their gifts outright, and in some instances they have revealed that they were their most treasured possessions. For example, Mrs. John E. Woodworth of Yarmouth gave three rare volumes of Nova Scotian poetry, two of which had been presented to her by the authors themselves: the first edition of Wm. E. Marshall's "A Book of Verse", and a volume of poems by Arthur J. Lockhart, "Pastor Felix", with explanatory notes in his own hand. Miss Jessie L. Macdougall of Winnipeg filled a gap in our Novascotiana by presenting W. Roy MacKenzie's "Ballads and Sea Songs from Nova Scotia", in memory of her sister, the late E. Mary Macdougall, who had been a classmate of the author in Dalhousie. Mrs. John Carson, accompanied by her son, made a special trip from Boston to see deposited safely in the



Archives the bagpipes, which had been presented to her late husband, Pipe Major "Jock" Carson, in France by the Prince of Wales, in behalf of the Commanding Officer and Officers of the 25th. Battalion, Canadian Infantry, in the first World War; Major General H. W. Foster, C.B.E., D.S.O., before leaving for Europe, deposited in the Archives the much prized muniments of his campaign in Belgium during the last war, including a miniature in bronze of the buffaloes, which had been placed at both approaches of a bridge built in Bruges by the Canadians under his command; and Miss L. M. Hubley, matron of the Dalhousie Medical Unit in the First World War, presented the original pencil drawings of the headquarters of the unit in Arques, France, which had been made at her request by Kurt Eric Hache, a German medical student, prisoner of war and patient in the hospital.

In the same category, though of a different nature, the contribution of Rev. C. H. Johnson should be mentioned. During the past year he has been making an index or calendar of historical material in *The Presbyterian Witness*, which was published in Nova Scotia for three quarters of a century, and he has given us many pages of specific references to historical sketches of churches and communities, to reviews or notices of books or periodicals which appeared from time to time, and to many other items of historical or antiquarian interest. These references have already proved useful in fixing the natal day of a community or a periodical.

The most notable and voluminous addition to our family collections this year was made by Lady Borden of Canning, from the library of the late Sir Frederick Borden (1847-1917), who represented Kings County in the Canadian House of Commons for more than 30 years, and was Minister of Militia and Defence, 1896-1911. This collection comprises 75 letter-books, 100 folders of correspondence, 100 volumes of the Debates of the House of Commons, minutes of the Militia Council, 25 volumes of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, and more than 100 volumes of history and biography, including *The Makers of Canada*, the Works of Francis Parkman, and the Reports of the Canadian Archives.

Special mention should be made of Miss J. Iris Howard of Bath, England, who carried on the work of her father as Agent-General of Nova Scotia in London, and visited the Archives two years ago. She presented the pictures, maps and books relating to the Province



which they had in their office. This collection includes, in addition to the pictures and printed material, a file of correspondence on the Arms of Nova Scotia, and the original letter book of Governor Hopson from October 16, 1752, to October 18, 1753, which he had taken with him on his return to England in November 1753. Special mention should be made also of Mr. E. R. Nickerson of Halifax, who presented a file, from 1894 to 1925, of the newspaper, "Forward", the official organ of the Sons of Temperance of Nova Scotia; and a number of coins of the Maritime Provinces.

This steady accumulation of archival material has made heavy demands upon our wall space and filing equipment. During the year we have installed four new filing cabinets and a long newspaper rack, and ordered two double-faced library stacks for which we are still awaiting delivery. In the meantime considerable progress has been made in cataloguing, indexing and assimilating the new material, although other demands upon members of the staff have been unusually heavy.

During the year, 1939 visitors have done more or less research in the building, using 6373 books and 2166 volumes of manuscripts. Of these 313 have consulted the map collection and 285 the photograph collection, while the newspapers have been in constant use. In addition to the assistance given those who visited the Archives, many inquiries have been answered by telephone and correspondence.

Apart from the routine work of the Archives, Mr. Fergusson has given two courses of lectures on Nova Scotian and Canadian History to the Summer School of the Department of Education, served on a curriculum committee of the Department, and also on the Historic Sites Advisory Council of the Province.

I have given the usual seminar on Nova Scotian history throughout the academic year and directed the preparation of two M.A. theses in that field. I have also served on the Historic Sites Advisory Council of Nova Scotia and represented the Province on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The latter in particular has involved considerable correspondence in preparing memoranda and inscriptions, choosing sites, and arranging for unveiling ceremonies. Six tablets were prepared for erection this year and as many more have been projected for next year.

Though not an official publication of the Archives, "The Story of Nova Scotia", by Miss Phyllis Blakeley, Research Assistant in the Archives, published by J. M. Dent and Sons in the "Story of Canada" series, has appeared this year, and given further evidence of her skill in research and of the uses that can be made of our archival collections. A complete list of publications of the Archives to date will be found in Appendix C.

Appendix B contains a number of documents obtained this year, which tell the tragic story of a shipload of convicts from Ireland destined for the back settlements of Canada, who were literally dumped upon the shores of Cape Breton in mid-December 1788, without provisions or adequate clothing; and of the problem thereby created for the government and few inhabitants of the new capital, Sydney, who had barely sufficient food and clothing to last them until the opening of navigation and spent the winter in dread of famine, disease and crime.

A statement of the receipts and disbursements for sixteen months ending March 31, 1951, will be found below.

Respectfully submitted,

D. C. HARVEY,  
Archivist.



## Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

Sixteen months ended March 31, 1951

### RECEIPTS

Balance on hand November 30, 1949.....	\$ 232.94
Government of Nova Scotia.....	33,333.33
City of Halifax.....	625.00
Interest Savings Bank.....	1.71
Sales of publications and miscellaneous items.....	320.06

### DISBURSEMENTS

Maintenance and Expenses of Building.....	\$ 1,519.38
Furnishings and Equipment.....	1,887.60
Salaries.....	26,770.40
Temporary Salaries.....	1,099.50
Office Sundries.....	253.78
Transfer and Express.....	39.02
Library and Manuscript Room.....	393.89
Bindery Materials.....	129.95
Purchases, Archival Material.....	1,405.00
Printing Publications.....	
Sundry Expenses.....	82.00
	<hr/>
	\$33,580.52
Balance on hand March 31, 1951.....	932.52
	<hr/>
	\$34,513.04    \$34,513.04

For and on behalf of

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF  
NOVA SCOTIA

D. C. HARVEY, Archivist

WINIFRED McFATRIDGE, Secretary

I have audited the records of receipts and disbursements of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia for the sixteen months ended March 31, 1951, and certify that the within statement is true and correct, and that the balance shown as on hand and in the bank has been verified.

G. WALLACE DICKSON,

Halifax, N. S., April 6, 1951.

Chartered Accountant.



## APPENDIX A

Gifts of Books, Pamphlets, Periodicals or Pictures were received from the following individuals and public bodies:

- American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.  
Archibald, W. S., Esq., Antigonish, N. S.  
Archives Board of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.  
Archives of the Province of Quebec, Quebec.  
Barraclough, J. Reg., Esq., Westmount, Que.  
Bauld, Wm. C., Esq., Halifax.  
Bell, Miss Constance, Halifax.  
Blakeley, Miss Phyllis, Halifax.  
Blanchard, C. L., Esq., Brookfield, Col. Co., N. S.  
Board of School Commissioners, Halifax, N. S.  
Borden, Lady, Canning, N. S.  
Borrett, Major William Coates, Halifax.  
Bourne, Mrs. Bruce E., Billings Bridge (Ottawa), Ont.  
Bowman, Miss Caroline M., Halifax.  
Brinton, Roy G., Esq., Halifax.  
British Columbia Historical Association, Victoria, B.C.  
Brome County Historical Society, Knowlton, Que.  
Burchell, Miss H. Louise, Windsor.  
Bureau of Statistics, Quebec.  
Campbell, Arthur T., Esq., Truro, N. S.  
Canadian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, Toronto.  
Carney, Miss Joyce, Halifax.  
Carson, Mrs. John, Boston, Mass.  
City of Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester, England.  
Clark, C. S., Esq., Halifax.  
Committee on Archives of the United Church of Canada, Toronto, Ont.  
Crawley, Mrs. Robert, Sydney, N. S.  
Dawson, Mrs. K. L., Halifax.  
Department of Education, Halifax.  
Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.  
Drysdale, Mrs. A. G., Halifax.  
Duffus, Mrs. J. Norwood, Halifax.  
Dunbabin, Thomas, Esq., Ottawa.  
Dunlop, W. C., K.C., Halifax.  
Dwyer, Capt. J. P., Halifax.  
Ells, Mrs. J. E., Halifax.



Ferguson, J. B., Esq., Pictou, N. S.  
Fort Ticonderoga Museum, Ticonderoga, N. Y.  
Foster, Major General H. W., Halifax.  
Gibson, Mrs. S. L., Halifax.  
Government of Nova Scotia, Halifax.  
Hagell, R. C., Esq., Halifax.  
Halifax Mail, Halifax.  
Hamilton, Mrs. Cora M., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Harris, Rev. C. R., Parrsboro, N. S.  
Harvey, Prof. D. C., Halifax.  
Hattie, R. M., Esq., Halifax.  
Howard, Miss Iris, Bath, England.  
Hubley, Miss L. M., Halifax.  
Huronian Historic Sites and Tourist Association, Barrie, Ont.  
Institute of Historical Research, London, England.  
Isherwood, Canon T. W., Halifax.  
Johnson, Rev. C. H., Spryfield, Halifax Co., N. S.  
Johnston, Mrs. H. W., Halifax.  
John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R. I.  
Jones, Dr. C. M., Halifax.  
Kyte, E. C., Esq., Toronto, Ont.  
Lawson Memorial Library, London, Ont.  
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.  
Lohnes, Mrs. Harold, Halifax.  
McClare, C. H., Esq., Rye, N. Y.  
MacDougall, Miss Jessie L., Winnipeg, Man.  
MacDougall, John W., Esq., Halifax.  
McInnes, Miss Carol, Halifax.  
MacKay, Donald C., Esq., Halifax.  
MacKay, G. W., Esq., New Glasgow, N. S.  
McKenzie, Capt. D. M., Pictou, N. S.  
Macleod, J. E. A., K.C., Calgary, Alberta.  
Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company, Limited, Halifax.  
Meagher, J. N., Esq., Halifax.  
Medinus, Mrs. Carl, Chicago, Ill.  
Minard, Mrs. O. H., Dartmouth, N. S.  
Moses, A. L., Esq., Yarmouth, N. S.  
Murray, Hon. Judge R. H., Dartmouth, N. S.  
Museum of the City of New York, New York.  
National Archives, Washington, D. C.  
New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N. B.



New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.  
Nickerson, E. R., Esq., Halifax.  
Nova Scotia Savings Loan and Building Society, Halifax.  
Officer in Charge, Photographic Section, H.M.C. Dockyard, Halifax.  
Ontario Historical Society, Toronto.  
Parker Gallery, London, England.  
Patt, Edwin A., Esq., W. Barrington, R.I.  
Patterson, Judge George, New Glasgow, N. S.  
Peters, D. G., Esq., Halifax.  
Power, Estate of the late Senator L. G., Halifax.  
Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.  
Riley, Mrs. Roland, Halifax.  
Risser, J. J., Esq., Riverport, N. S.  
Ritchie, Dr. R. G., Pugwash, N. S.  
Roy, Dr. Antoine, Quebec.  
Saunders, E. A., Esq., Halifax.  
Session of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax.  
Stairs, Miss A. P., Halifax.  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.  
Stayner, C. St. C., Esq., Halifax.  
Swain, N. M., Esq., Halifax.  
Theakston, R. S., Esq., Halifax.  
Thompson, Mrs. H. E. S., Sydney, N. S.  
Thomson, Miss Una, Halifax.  
Turner, Sydney R., Esq., Cheam, Surrey, England.  
University of Maine, Orono, Me.  
University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.  
Vroom, Miss M. G., Halifax.  
Wainwright, E. P., Esq., Halifax.  
Wallace, Reginald R., Esq., Hamilton, Ont.  
Waller, Prof. G. M., Amherst, Mass.  
Ware, William, Esq., Halifax.  
Weingart, Mrs. J. A., Shelburne, N. S.  
Wiswell, A. B., Esq., Halifax.  
Woodworth, Mrs. Carrie F., Berwick, N. S.  
Woodworth, Mrs. John E., Yarmouth, N. S.  
Zwicker, Mrs. Marguerite, Halifax.



## APPENDIX B

It is a comparatively well-known fact that for more than half a century after the founding of Sydney, until light-houses had been erected on Scatari and St. Paul's Islands, the inhabitants of Cape Breton endured much vicarious suffering in rescuing and caring for shipwrecked immigrants en route to Canada. The following documents illustrate an exceptional instance of this vicarious suffering, inflicted upon them, not by the violence of the waves, but by man's inhumanity to man.

On the afternoon of December 11, 1788, Captain Devonham of the ship "Providence", who had left Cork with some eighty convicts for Quebec, being unable or unwilling to risk the voyage up the St. Lawrence, had returned through the Strait of Canso and, anchoring between Port Nova and Scatari, had knocked the irons off his ragged freight and cast them, without provisions, upon the rocky shore, three miles from any habitation. As the landing was not completed until after dark, one man was dashed against a rock and killed, seven got lost in the woods and all but one of these died during the night, but the others found their way to Mainadieu from where they were dispatched by sea to Sydney, to be disposed of by Lieutenant Governor Macarmick and his factious Council.

In order to realize the panic which this incident created and the note of timidity in Macarmick's correspondence with the Secretary of State, it is necessary to recall that Sydney, the new capital of Cape Breton, was only three years old, that the streets were not yet cleared of stumps, that many of the few buildings which had been erected were only partly finished, that the total population, men, women and children, apart from the garrison, was scarcely twice the number of their unbidden and unwelcome guests, and that the merchants had on hand barely enough food and clothing to last the inhabitants until the opening of navigation. Moreover, as Governor Macarmick was without funds, having already exhausted his contingent allowance in preparation for the visit of Prince William Henry in September, and several of the merchants were still unpaid for supplies advanced to his predecessor, Desbarres, it is obvious that the arrival of so many ragged and hungry newcomers relative to the existing population would have given grounds for concern, even if there had been nothing to fear from them but their indigence. Fortunately the garrison was



large enough to protect the lives of the inhabitants and to enforce the regulations of the Governor and Council.

When the convicts arrived in Sydney, December 15th., the Governor gave orders to supply them with provisions for the night, on board the shallop; and called a meeting of Council to discuss the problem. The Council sat from eight o'clock until midnight, heard the report of the magistrate from Mainadieu, examined the master of the shallop, and adjourned to the following day (Document I). On the 16th, the Council called all the merchants of the town before them to report what provisions were available; and decided to send all of the convicts who were not badly frostbitten to Halifax, in the brig "Relief" (Document II). On the 19th, the Council met again and, on hearing that no vessel could be induced to risk the voyage to Halifax at that time (Documents IV and V), advised the Governor to issue a proclamation to ascertain what supplies of potatoes and other vegetables could be procured from Sydney and adjacent settlements, and to take such steps as were necessary to support the convicts, until he could get instructions from the Secretary of State or Lord Dorchester as to their disposal.

Though the Governor wrote to the Secretary of State immediately (Document III), enclosing the minutes of Council and asking for instructions, and to Governor Parr, asking for provisions, neither of these letters arrived until spring, as the "Relief" was carried by storm to the West Indies and remained there throughout the winter. Consequently, the Governor had to support the convicts entirely from the meagre resources of the Island.

On March 18, 1789, (Document VI) he reported that all had been given shelter, clothing and food, although to do this he had to call upon the garrison for beef and send to Arichat for flour—the latter necessitating the purchase of a schooner to bring it to Sydney; that those who were ill or frostbitten had been given hospital and medical care, through the cooperation of Dr. Robertson of the 42nd. Regiment; but that he was much worried about the expense, and hoped that an application would be made to Parliament for that purpose.

On May 20th, (Document VII) he reported that the convicts were still a heavy burden on the community, and that he would take the first opportunity to get rid of them. He also enclosed twelve



vouchers (Nos. 1-12) and an aggregate of expenses to date (Document VIII), which amounted to the specific sum of £631 16s currency, plus an unspecified amount as remuneration for Dr. Robertson, the commissary of provisions and the transportation of flour from Arichat. Nothing further appears in our records until October 10, 1789, when the Governor reported that the convicts were all gone, except two who remained in gaol on a charge of murder; and that he had drawn upon the Treasury for £786 19s 6½d. To this should be added £97 11s, the cost of the schooner which had brought the flour from Arichat, as the total cost to the British government for the inhumanity of Captain Devonham.

For the vicarious suffering of Governor Macarmick and the inhabitants of Cape Breton the only recompense was their knowledge of the fact that the Secretary of State wrote a sharp letter to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (Document IX), instructing him to punish the captain, and to see that henceforth all convicts should be sent to New South Wales, adequately supplied with clothing and provisions.

What finally became of the convicts is not clear from the records. Some of them must have been absorbed in the population, as servants or squatters; but most of them must have made their way to Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. According to Beamish Murdoch, they were suspected of lurking about Halifax in the summer of 1789.

## DOCUMENT I

COPY

15 Dec. 1788

At a Council held in the Council Chamber in the Government House, at Sydney Cape Breton the 15th. Decemr. 1788, 8 o'clock in the Evening.

Present

His Excellency The Lieut. Governor.

The Honble.

David Mathews

Willm. Smith

Lieut. Colo. Graham

Abraham Cuyler

His Excy was pleased to lay the following Paper before the Board which was ordered to be read, vizt.

The circumstances attending the landing of a number of convicts or distressed men and women at Main a Dieu, Island of Cape Breton vizt.



Thursday the 11th. day of Decemr. 1788 a snow called the Providence, of Yarmouth, in England, Capt. Devonham, came to an Anchor between Port Nova and the Island of Scateri; having no signal for a Pilot, no boat went off to them; after making up their sails, they hoisted out their Yawl, & began to land the abovementioned distressed people, by seven o'clock in the evening the news came to Main a Dieu, and the snow got under way, bound to the westward. The distressed mortals came by night, one after the other, to the number of seventy or eighty men women & Boys; next morning we found seven that strayed away in the woods and died; more, in all probability are dead, but not yet found. At the general desire of the Inhabitants of Main a Dieu, Mr. Luke Keegan takes on board his Shallop all the surviving ones that were cripples, and all the women sick & well, & is bound to Sydney, the capital of the Island of Cape Breton, there to make application to His Excellency Lieut. Gov. Macarmick, for his will & Pleasure on the subject—The Inhabitants of Main a Dieu having advanced them provisions, and given what assistance they could without injuring their own Families, about Twenty then remained behind, that the said Keegan's Shallop could not carry, being too small to stow them.

Signed in behalf of the Inhabitants of Main a Dieu.

CHAS. MARTELL J.P.

His Excellency further informed the Board, that the said Keegan was arrived in this Harbour with the Persons afore mentioned, in consequence of which he had directed Mr. Stout, principal Merchant of this place, to supply whatever Refreshments were necessary for those people during this night, & had also directed the Justices of the peace to employ the Constables & other Peace Officers to prevent any of these people landing & the vessel to be anchored near the military wharf; that the commg Officer of the Troops had been so obliging at his request to encrease the Guard, and be aiding towards carrying those measures into execution—That an inspection into the state of health of these people may take place, and an Investigation be made into the cause of their having been landed on this Island, and His Excy required the opinion of His Majesty's Council, prior to his proceeding any further or taking any other Steps in this business.



The Board taking the same into consideration, highly approved of what his Excellency had done, & resolved that the Captain of the Shallop should be called before the Board, in order to his being examined upon oath relative to what he knew of the landing of these People at Main a Dieu

Francis Dixon, a chief Pilot at Main a Dieu, master for this present voyage of the Shilaly Shallop, having on board the Persons as afore mentioned, being sworn on the Evangelist of Almighty God, to declare the truth the whole truth & nothing but the truth, deposes as follows vizt.

That on Thursday last in the afternoon he discovered a Snow coming to anchor off the South Point of the Bar of Main a Dieu Harbour, that about sunset the same afternoon Charles Martell, one of H. Majesty's Justices of the Peace, residing at Main a Dieu, who had been cutting Logs near the seashore of the Harbour aforesaid, returned home, & this Deponent being sent for by him was informed, that he the said Justice had found a number of distressed persons on the seashore who had been landed from the said Snow—that there were a number still remaining in the woods, that he wished the Deponent would, together with the Inhabitants in general, go in search of them, that the Deponent in consequence thereof, with the chief of the other Inhabitants divided themselves into different Parties in order to search for the remainder of the Persons so landed: That in their different routs, they collected, as the Deponent believes, between Thirty & Forty Persons straggling about, without knowing which way to go, as none of them were landed nearer than at least Three miles to any Inhabitants & some of them were landed at a greater distance; That the said Snow weighed anchor about six o'Clock the same Evening, and stood to Sea. That the Deponent did not see any provisions whatever with the said Persons that were landed as aforesaid, and was informed by some of them that they had been landed without a morsel of any kind, That their Irons were knocked off on board the Snow, previous to their being put into the Boat in order to their being landed. That the Seamen were armed with Pistols, cutlasses and swords & when the Boat reached the shore, they tumbled these people headlong from the Boat into the surf among the Rocks and one man was killed by being thrown against a Rock. That the Deponent, in his search for the said People, met with seven of them who were in such a situation (having neither shoes nor stockings) as to render them



incapable of walking, it being so excessively cold, and the ground covered with Snow, and, on that account, were left by the Deponent in order that a Boat might be sent for them, and the Deponent was afterwards informed by the Persons who went in a Boat in order to bring them to Maina Dieu, that they found six of the said seven Persons dead, who had perished from the inclemency of the weather, & this Deponent farther says that on his passage from Mainadieu hither, he has learnt from these people that they are convicts from several parts in Ireland bound to the back Settlements in Canada, and that the last Port they sailed from in Ireland was Cork.

Questions asked by His Excy the Lieut. Governor.

- Q. How many of these people on board the shallop do you think are sick?
- R. Sixteen or seventeen are frost-bitten, but believes there are none of them otherwise diseased.
- Q. When did Keegan arrive at Mainadieu with the Shelaly Shallop?
- R. He arrived the same day the Snow did, soon after she anchored.
- Q. Did you see the Shallop arrive?
- R. Yes.
- Q. Did she pass near to the Snow?
- R. She passed within hail, and he was informed by Keegan that the Snow hailed him as he passed her, but he did not understand them.
- Q. Have you not heard that Keegan saw a Snow coming through the Gut of Canso, which he supposed to be the same Vessel that anchored off Mainadieu?
- R. Yes.
- Q. Is it not a very difficult navigation from the Gut of Canso to the Harbour of Mainadieu? and particularly so at this season, and to strangers?
- R. Yes, it is.
- Q. Must they not pass by the Harbour of Louisbourg, and is not that a better harbour, and easier made by a stranger than Mainadieu?
- R. Yes.
- Q. Was the place where the Snow anchored a situation you have ever seen a stranger anchor in before?
- R. No. I was very much surprised at seeing her anchor there.
- Q. Did not you say that Keegan had taken a Boy, one of these people, to be his servant?



R. Yes, he has.

Q. Do you know whether Mr. Keegan, the owner of the Shallop, who came round with you from Mainadieu is a Roman Catholic or a Protestant?

R. Believes him to be a Roman Catholic.

Q. How are those people cloathed?

R. The greatest part of them are little better than naked.

The Board having no more Questions to ask the Deponent, he was ordered to withdraw, it being then twelve o'Clock, the Board adjourned 'till tomorrow at Eight o'Clock in the morning.

## DOCUMENT II

At a Council held in the Council Chamber in the Government House, at Sydney Cape Breton, the 16 Decr. 1788.

Present

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor

The Honble.

David Mathews

Lt. Colo. Graham

Willm Smith

Abraham Cuyler

The Board having met agreeable to their adjournment of last night, proceeded to further consideration of the business of yesterday. Several examinations of the aforementioned unfortunate People, taken before His Majesty's Attorney General, & other Members of His Majesty's Council were then read, wick corroborated the narrative of Justice Martel and the Deposition of Chas. Dickson, relative to the landing and situation of these miserable people. The whole of the merchants & Traders of Sydney were then called before the Board, and gave an account of the Quantity of Provisions in their respective Stores from which it appeared, that the Quantity of Provisions now on hand in this place is a very scanty allowance for the Inhabitants, & by no means more than a bare subsistence for them until the Spring.

That receiving the said Persons who have arrived from Mainadieu, or the suffering them to remain on this Island, would not only be increasing their distress, & be the means of many, if not the whole of them perishing, but must also tend to bring on the greatest distress amongst the Inhabitants in general, who depend on the said stores for their daily subsistence, very few of them being in circumstances to lay in any Stock, but depend on their daily labour for their daily



supplies, and it appears to the Board that a regard for the Lives of His Majesty's Subjects calls loudly on them to advise and recommend that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will be pleased to take every step in his power to forward these Persons (except nine of them who appear to be very much injured by the Frost) to the Province of Nova Scotia, as the only probable means of saving them, as well as the Inhabitants of this place from perishing through hunger; that he will be pleased to give orders that a sufficient quantity of provision be supplied them for the voyage, with some necessary clothing, as many of them are almost naked, & give orders that the said nine Persons, who are frost bitten, be taken proper care of until their recovery—That as His Majesty's Brig Relief is now under his Excy's orders for the Port of Halifax, the Board advise His Excy that he will be pleased to give orders that as many of the said People as conveniently can with safety, be put on board of her, and that he hires such other vessels as can be procured to carry the remainder.

His Excy then stated that the very distressing circumstances of these People being landed on this Island, under such a Combination of aggravating Incidents of misery & misfortune, was to him a matter of the greatest concern & anxiety. That while his Humanity shuddered at the Idea of sending them again to Sea at this inclement Season of the year, His compassion for the Inhabitants of this Settlement, & his wish to reject every matter which has an apparent tendency to poison their morals, or disturb their present quiet & happiness, prevailed over every other consideration: From this motive, & the representations of H. M. Council, His Excy was pleased to say, he would take every possible means to carry into effect the advice of the Board, & that so many of these people as could, with safety to the King's Vessel, be put on board the Brig Relief, he would give orders to the Captain to receive, & that every possible endeavour should be made to engage other vessels to carry the remainder to Halifax.

His Excy was then pleased to send for, & give immediate directions to the principal merchants in this place, to engage two Shallops which lay in the Harbour for the said purpose, & also to supply every necessary of Provisions & clothing for their accomodation during their intended passage to Halifax.



The Council then adjourned.

A true Copy faithfully )

compared with the original )

A. Cuyler C.C. )

In Lt. Gov. Macarmick's of the 18th. Decemr. 1788

### DOCUMENT III

Government House Sydney

Cape Breton 18th December 1788.

My Lord,

I had completed my Dispatches for this year and ordered the Brig Relief to sail to Halifax; but I am compelled most unexpectedly to trouble your Lordship with an additional Copy of a Minute of His Majesty's Council for this Island. The unfortunate Persons who are the Subject thereof, and who from their number and description are terrifying and alarming to the Inhabitants of this Infant Colony, appear to be Convicts from Ireland bound to the back Settlements of Canada; and I am induced to give some Credit to this Opinion having observed in the News Papers that something of this kind was in Contemplation, & as the Vessel was seen coming back thro' the Gut of Canso, it seems clear she attempted to get up the River St Lawrence, and was I suspected conducted by Keegan to the entrance of the Harbour of Main a Dieu, where this inhuman Act was perpetrated: but altho' I cannot find proof to convict Keegan of being an accomplice, I hope the Law will overtake the unfeeling Author of such Barbarity. But to wherever their Destination was, or whatever their Crimes and Misfortunes may have been, they come to me in so miserable a State and by an Act so cruel, that were they not H. M's Subjects I could not resist the pressing Inducements to give them protection: But being such they have a Claim upon me which my Duty and Situation command me to obey—I shall therefore endeavor to surmount the chief difficulty (the scarcity of Provisions) by issuing a Proclamation for purchasing the Surplus of every little store to be appropriated to their Support until I shall be honored with your Lordship's Directions how to dispose of them.

I used every Endeavor to carry the advice of H. M's Council into Execution but the Brig Relief cannot with any degree of Safety



take more than Twelve Persons as the annexed Affidavit (N I) will shew, and the Winter is set in so very severe that no Inducement could prevail on the Masters of the Coasting Vessels to undertake the Voyage as the accompanying Copy of a Letter (N 2) will shew.

I have addressed Lieut: Govr: Parr on the Subject and have requested him to find some Method if possible to convey a Supply of Provisions to us, but my firmest hope and chief reliance are that your Lordships Wisdom & Humanity will suggest some effectual expedient for our Relief very early in the Spring.

I have the Honor to be &c

WM. MACARMICK

Copy of a Letter from  
Lieut:t Gov:r Macarmick  
to The Rt Honble Lord  
Sydney, dated Sydney  
18th Decr: 1788  
(Two enclosures)

No. 1.  
(Copy)

DOCUMENT IV

18 Dec. 88.

Sydney to Wit.

William Campbell Master of His Majesty's Treasury Brig Relief and Adam Reid, mate of the said Vessel, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God do depose and say, and first the Deponent William Campbell for himself deposes & saith, That having been directed by His Excy Lt. Govr. Macarmick to prepare the said Brig Relief for the reception of as many Persons as she could conveniently and with safety stow & carry to Halifax, did examine very minutely into the Situation of the said Brig, that the Deponent came to Sydney, to report to the said Lieut: Govr: that it was his Opinion from the construction of the Vessel, the Season of the year, & the description of Persons he was ordered to carry, he could not with safety to H M's Vessel take more than Ten or Twelve Persons; and if so they must from the Vessels depth of Waist lay upon the Ballast, That the only place to stow a sufficient quantity of Water for such a number of Persons was upon Deck, which would make it almost impossible for the vessel to be worked in case of blowing weather. That on making this report to the said Lieut: Govr: He directed the Deponents to



make Oath to the same, as He (the Lieut: Govr:) conceived the said Brig was capable of stowing a greater number of Persons.

That the above named Deponent Adam Reid having heard the aforesaid Deposition read doth in every respect & circumstance depose & assent to the same from his own opinion & personal knowledge, & further these Deponents say not.

(sign'd) W. CAMPBELL  
ADAM REID

Sworn before me one of H. M's  
Justices of the Peace for the County  
of Sydney, Island of Cape Breton  
18th Day of December 1788  
(sign'd) Geo: Moore, J. P.

#### DOCUMENT V

No. 2

Sydney 18th December 1788.

Sir,

Agreeable to Your Excy's Desire, I have endeavor'd to hire Captn Ley's Schooner & the Shallop to carry part of the Convicts to Halifax, but have not succeeded, as they assure me that their Vessels are in so bad Condition, that they dare not venture to Sea with them at this boisterous Season of the Year, and I do not know of any other Vessel that can be chartered at present.

I have the Honor to be &c

(sign'd) RICH:D STOUT

#### DOCUMENT VI

Copy  
Duplicate

Sydney, Cape Breton 18th March 1789.

My Lord,

In my dispatches of the 20th of December last, I had the honor to inform Your Lordship of the arrival and miserable situation of a



number of People, Convicts from Ireland, and of the means I had taken to preserve their lives, when I found it impracticable to send them from this Island. Also of the measures which I intended to adopt for their subsistence during the winter.

I have now to inform Your Lordship that every thing which humanity and deliberate consideration could suggest, has been done for their preservation. But such is and has been the severity of the season, their abject state, and our small depot of necessaries and comforts that there has never been fewer than fifteen or sixteen of them continually in the Hospital very severely frost bitten, of whom three have died, and several become lame. Doctor Robertson of the 42d Regiment in Garrison here very generously took these people under his Care on their landing and has paid unremitting attention to them ever since, and it is to his skill and humanity solely, that many of their lives have been preserved; some recompense, my Lord, for so arduous and disagreeable a service, ought to be tendered to this Gentleman, and I think less cannot be offered to him by His Majesty's Council than fifty pounds, especially when it is considered that he has for the two past years attended on and dispensed medicines to all the Inhabitants of this Place and for Ten Miles round without fee or reward. The Surgeon of the Garrison having placed himself on the opposite side of the Harbour with the Attorney General and public Secretary, by which it is often impracticable and always inconvenient to call upon him for immediate aid: and the Commanding Officer of the Troops has therefore seldom required his Services.

Some of the soldiers, who were Sentinels over these people, were suddenly taken ill, and the Commanding Officer and Surgeon reported to me their fears that some infectious disorder might have been brought among their rags. Alarmed for the safety of the Inhabitants as well as for His Majesty's Troops, I ordered the convicts to be instantly removed about seven miles from Sydney, and their rags to be destroyed, and immediately issued a Proclamation warning all persons of the apprehended danger. The Severity of the Weather rendered the removal of these miserable people a measure of much difficulty: one Woman died, and one Man has since been frozen to death in the act of carrying provisions for the others. The Alarm ceased almost as suddenly as it had been raised, the disorder appearing to have originated from a different cause, and it's effects to be no way dangerous, nor has any thing of the kind ever appeared among the Convicts.



In regard to Provisions, we shall with the strictest Oeconomy have much difficulty to reach the opening of the Spring, but I hope no danger, although the Merchants have promulgated a scarcity which has induced the Inhabitants to petition me on the subject. Though I do not give full credit to the truth of this report, yet I have taken every step in my power to avert the Evil such a Circumstance would create, and have dispatched a Person to Arechat, where I understand there is a Depot of Flour, the only Article we can possibly fail in, to purchase and bring round on the first opening of the Coast what may be necessary to secure us against a bare possibility of a famine. The Commanding officer of the Troops has already spared us four Barrels of Beef, part of a quantity which was sent for the supply of the Inhabitants the winter before my Arrival, and has promised a further supply if required, so that I am in hopes we shall not experience any great Inconvenience.

I have been necessarily obliged to appoint a Person to act as a Commissary in the care and distribution of the Provisions to these Convicts, and to whom it will be incumbent on me to pay five Shillings per day, the wages only of a common labourer here, which I hope will not be disapproved of.

Indeed, my Lord, the unfortunate circumstance of these people having been thrown upon my care, has been productive of very great anxiety and much trouble to me. It was however an Incident which no human Wisdom could prevent. I had therefore to act, only, in such a manner as I conceived the most honorable to my King and Country, and the most consistent with the Duty and Feelings of an English Governor, in which I hope I have not in any respect failed.

I am further to observe to Your Lordship the evident necessity of an application to Parliament for a Provision to reimburse the Expence already incurred, as well as what may be further necessary in feeding and cloathing these People; the latter having been very heavy, owing, as well to the severe season as to the advances made in price by the merchants. I have used in the present instance as well as in every other, the most scrupulous and strict Oeconomy, and I hope it will appear to Your Lordship that I have invariably adhered to this principle in every expenditure made in this Government since my Arrival.



I have the honor Etc.

(signed) WM. MACARMICK.

The Right Honble. Lord Sydney

&c &c &c

Copy of a Letter from Lt. Govr. Macarmick to Lord Sydney, dated  
18th March 1789.

Dup: Orig. not recd.

copy

#### DOCUMENT VII

Copy

Sydney, Cape Breton, 20th May  
1789

My Lord,

I have just now the Mortification to learn that my Dispatches of the 20th of December last could not have reached your Lordship in the time I expected, owing to the Brig Relief, which was directed to carry them, if possible, to Halifax, and eventually to England, having been obliged to bear away for the West Indies, directly contrary to my positive orders, where she has wintered, and from whence she is just returned.

This accident having so long delayed my Dispatches, as well those to Your Lordship as to Lord Dorchester and Lieutenant Governor Parr, from whom I expected, and on whom I relied for immediate aid and assistance, that I was obliged to have recourse to measures which from the lateness of the Spring and the exhausted Stock of Provisions of the barely provident Inhabitants, appeared to me the best and most effectual to avert the dreadful Evil of an apprehended famine: and although those measures were executed with the most persevering Oeconomy: Yet an increase of Expense has been incurred which otherwise could not have happened.

I have herewith inclosed an Aggregate of all the Provisions and necessaries supplied the commissary for the support of those people, with the vouchers for the same, in order that no time may be lost in craving the aid of Parliament to answer this unexpected and unpleasant Expence.



The failure of my dispatches having debarred me from receiving any directions how to dispose of those Convicts, they still remain a heavy burthen upon Government, and the poverty and fewness of the Inhabitants prevent their being employed to any advantage. I have determined to take hold of the first and best opportunity to get rid of them.

I have the honor to be Etc.

(signed) WM. MACARMICK

The Right Honorable

Lord Sydney &c &c &c

His Excellency Governor Macarmick  
To Tremain Stout & White, Dr.  
For the use of the Convicts

No. 1		£	s	d
	To 16 Barrels Flour @ 40/	32		
	" 12..2..0 Biscuit at 26/	16	5	
	" 10 Barrels Indian meal 22/	11		
	" 8 Do Cod Fish 20/	8		
	" 3 Do Pork 90/	13	10	
	" 6 Cwt. Moose meat 18/	5	8	
	" 5 Gallons Rum 4/	1		
	" 20 Rugs 5/	5		
	" 12 pr. Stockings 2/	1	4	
	" 15 pr. Do 2/6	1	17	6
	" 9 pr. Shoes 5/	2	5	
	" 10 pr. Do 5/6	2	15	
	" 4 bl. Thread 6/	1	4	
	" 6 Ys. Linen 2/		12	
	" 12 Ys. Do 1/9	1	1	
	" 20 Ys. Flannel 2/4	2	6	8
	" 23 Ys. Do 2/6	2	17	6
	" 16 Axes 7/6	6		
	" 42. . Soap 8	1	8	
	30 Check Shirts 5/6	8	5	
	12 Ys. Check 1/10	1	2	
	20 pr. Mogozins 2/	2		
	40 pr. Ditto 1/6	3		
	28 lb Candles 1/3	1	15	



8 Gallons Port Wine	8/	3	4
8 Gallons Sherry Do	10/	4	
2 Large Kettles	12/	1	4
2 Small Do	10/	1	
2 Sentry Boxes	35/	3	10
1 Lanthorn			12
3 Coffins	15/	2	5
2 Bottles Sweet Oil	2/6		5
50 Bushells Potatoes	2/6	6	5
		£154	0 8

Sydney May 18th 1789

Errors excepted

(signed) Tremain Stout & White

We the Subscribers, merchants at Sydney Island of Cape Breton have examined the foregoing account and found the charges therein made are agreeable to the Prices such articles sell for in this place

(signed) John Smith

C. Cope

His Excy Governor Macarmick

To Ingouville & Co. Dr.

For the use of the Convicts

No. 2

Sydney 1789	To 40 Gallons Molasses	4/	8	
	" 1 Cask for Do			5
	" 8 Barrells of Herring	22/	8	16
	" 1 Do Peas		1	4
	" 1 Iron Pot		1	
	" 1 Wip Saw		1	15
	" 4 Axes	7/6	1	10
	" 4 Glls. Rum	4/		16
	" 20 pr. Stockings	2/	2	
	" 20 Do Do	2/6	2	10
	" 2 lb. Thread	6/		12
	" 12 Dutch Caps			12
	" 1 Piece Shrouding			
	21 yds at	5/6	5	15 6
	" 14 Blankets	7/	4	18
	" 12 Do	6/6	3	18



To 6 yds. Linen	2/		12	
" 40 check shirts	6/	12		
" 7 pr. Trowsers	9/	3	3	
" 16 Do Drawers	5	4		
" 12 Jackets	6/	3	12	
12 Knit Waistcoats	7/	4	4	
10 lb. Candles	1/3		12	6
20 Gllns. Vinegar	4/	4		
the Rent of a House to				
lodge the Convicts		5		

---

£ 80    15

Sydney 14 May 1789

Errors excepted

For Ingouville & Co. Geo. Gaudin

We the subscribers merchants at Sydney Island of Cape Breton have examined the foregoing Account & find the charges therein made are agreeable to the prices such articles sell for in this place.

(signed) John Smith

C. Cope

His Excy Governor Macarmick

To John Wilson Dr.

For the use of the Convicts

No. 3

Sydney	To 4 Barrells of Herrings	22/	4	8
1789	" 4 Do Indian Meal	22/	4	8
	" 10 Check Shirts	6/	3	
	" 24 prs. Mogocons	1/6	1	16
	" 20 Gllns. Molasses	3/	3	
	" 21 lbs. Soap	/8d		14

---

£ 17    6

---

Sydney 15 May 1789

Errors excepted

(signed) John Wilson

We the Subscribers Merchts at Sydney Island of Cape Breton have examined the above Account & find the charges



therein made are agreeable to the Prices such articles sell for in this Place.

(Signed) John Smith  
C. Cope

His Excellency Governor Macarmick  
To Geo: Hall Dr.  
For the use of the Convicts

No. 4							
Sydney		Cwt	qr.	lb			
1789	To	21	2	24 Biscuit	26/	28	15
	"	17		Loaves	10/		14
	"	Baking	1750 lb	Biscuit			
		5 P	Cwt			4	7 6
					<hr/>		
					£ 33	16	8
					<hr/>		

Sydney 18 May 1789

Errors Excepted

Geo: Hall

We the subscribers Merchants at Sydney in the Island of Cape Breton have examined the above account & find the charges therein made are agreeable to the Prices such articles sell for in this place

John Smith  
C. Cope

His Excellency Governor Macarmick  
To Ranna Cossit Dr.  
For the use of the Convicts

No. 5							
Sydney							
1789	To	40		Chords of Firewood	12/	24	
	"			Carriage of Provisions		1	15
					<hr/>		
					£ 25	15	
					<hr/>		

Sydney 15 May 1789

Errors excepted

Ranna Cossit



We the Subscribers merchants. at Sydney in the Island of Cape Breton have examined the above Account & find the charges therein made are agreeable to the Prices such Articles sell for at this place

Signed John Smith  
C. Cope

His Excy Governor Macarmick  
To Thomas Lewinton Dr.  
For the use of Convicts

No. 6

Sydney

1789 To 290 Gallons of Spruce

	Beer	/8	9	13	4
20	Porter	2/6	2	10	
		£	12	3	4

Sydney 12 May 1789

Errors excepted  
his

Thomas x Lewinton  
mark

We the Subscribers merchants at Sydney in the Island of Cape Breton have examined the above account & find the charges therein made are agreeable to the Prices such Articles sell for in this place

John Smith  
C. Cope

Sydney 20 Jany. 1789

No. 7

Received of Mr. G. Gaudin the sum of four Pounds  
Currency for attendance on the Convicts

Wm. Day

£4.0.0.

Sydney Jany 2d. 1789

No. 8

Received of Mr. Geo. Gaudin Eight Shillings currency  
for repairing the Chimney where the Convicts are  
confined

Charles Grant

£0.8.-



Sydney 20 Jany 1789

No. 9      Received of Mr. Geo: Gaudin the sum of Ten Shillings  
for carrying Supplies to Five Convicts at Miray  
Geo: Petroy

£0-10

Sydney 3d January 1789

No. 10      Received of Mr. Geo: Gaudin the sum of one Pound  
sixteen Shillings & Tenpence for sundrys supplied the  
Convicts on their Landing  
Frances Graham

£1.16-10

No.11      Invoice of Forty Barrells Mess Pork & Forty Tierces  
Flour shipped by John Butler Dight on board the  
Schooner Betsey Alexr. Bremner master for Sydney  
Island Cape Breton for account & Risk of His Excy  
Lieut. Governor Macarmick consigned to himself be-  
ing marked & numbered as pr margin

ld 40 Barrls. Pork	40 Barrells Mess Pork @	80/	160
ldp 40 Tierces Flour	40 Tierces Flour ea.		
	3 Cwt. wh. is 120 Cwt	@ 15/	90
	Charges		
	Trucking Shipping )		
	) 1 10 0		
	Charges )		
	Freight of		
	80 Packages ) 7 10 0		
	Eq. to 100 Barrls )		
	@ 1/6		9
			<u>£ 259</u>

Halifax 30 April 1789  
Errors Excepted  
J. B. Dight



No. 12

His Excy William Macarmick

To P. R. Nugent Dr.

1789

Apr. 10th. To	7 Barrls. fine Flour	@ 40/	£14		
"	4 Do coarse Do	@ 32/6	6		
"	10½ Cwt. Bread	@ 25/	13	2	6
"	10 Barrels to hold the				
	Bread	@ 5/	2	10	
"	6 Do. Flour	22/	6	12	
			<hr/>		
			£42	14	6
			<hr/>		

Patk. Ry Nugent.

NB. At your Excellency's request I went to Arichat during the last inclement winter to bring Provisions for the Inhabitants of Sydney from thence; on my arrival there, I found the purchase of a Schooner indispensably requisite. On account of the season of the year in which this service was performed I have been at more than ordinary expence, fatigue, & trouble—I rely on Your Excellency's directing me to add the value of the Schooner and the Expence of the Crew to the above Sum, or an adequate Charge for Freight and risque, this service being done at a time when other vessels perished in the Ice.

The above prices are the prime Cost paid at Arichat for the above Articles

Patk. Ry. Nugent







NB. A proposed Donation to the Surgeon )  
and Assistances Fifty Guineas )

Five Shillings Pr Day to the Commissary

Freight, Insurance and risk from Perish  
of Provisions by P. R. Nugent

I do hereby certify that the Articles mentioned in the  
several Vouchers above specified have been receiv'd by me  
agreeable to the orders of His Excy Lieut: Govr: Macarmick  
for the use of the abovementioned Convicts

Geo: e Gaudin Comssry

16th May 1789

Aggregate Account of Provisions & Expences  
in Support of the Convicts

In Lt. Govr. Macarmick's  
of the 20 May 1789



## DOCUMENT IX

Whitehall 27 July 1789

My Lord

I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency herewith, Copies of Dispatches and other papers therein referred to, which have, within these few days been received from the Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Cape Breton, relative to some Convicts, who were, in the course of the last Autumn, put on board a snow called the Providence at Cork, in order, as appears by the information received from the said Convicts, to be Transported to the Interior part of the Province of Quebec; The Vessel, either from the lateness of the Season, or from some other cause, was not able to effect a passage up the River St. Lawrence, and the Convicts were put on shore destitute of Provisions or Clothing upon the Island of Cape Breton, in which situation many of them perished, and others suffered extreme distress before they could receive assistance from the Inhabitants of that Island, and the Lieutenant Governor found himself under the necessity of maintaining them at the public Expence during the whole of the following winter.

This transaction appears to have been attended with circumstances of so atrocious a nature that it is highly proper that the most speedy and effectual measures should be taken to recover from the Master of the Vessel the Penalties of the Bonds which he is required by Law to give, and which I conclude were legally executed previously to his being intrusted with the custody of the Convicts in question.

The Transportation of Convicts to His Majesty's Colonies in North America is in many respects so objectionable, and particularly on account of the extreme dislike expressed by the Inhabitants of those Colonies to the introduction of Persons of that description amongst them, that it has constantly been avoided here, and a new Settlement has been formed for that purpose on the Coast of New South Wales. As the same considerations apply with equal force to the Transportation of Convicts from Ireland, I am to signify to Your Excellency His Majesty's Commands that in the exercise of the powers vested in you by the Act of the 26th of His present Majesty, Cap: 24, You are not to direct or authorize the Transportation of Offenders



to the Colonies abovementioned, or to any other part of His Majesty's Dominions than the Coast of New South Wales, or the Islands adjacent thereto.

If on the consideration of the Transportation Laws at present in force in Ireland, it should be found necessary that a Bill should be introduced in the Irish Parliament for that purpose, it appears to me to be desirable that Your Excellency should recommend the following as nearly as possible, the Acts which have passed in the British Parliament in the 19th, 24th and 28th years of His present Majesty.

From the unimproved state of the Country contiguous to the Settlement formed at New South Wales, it has been found to be indispensably necessary, that such Convicts as have hitherto been sent thither should be furnished with Provisions and Clothing from hence, and it is probable that the Expence of those Supplies must also, in some degree continue for perhaps two or three Years to come; I mention this circumstance to Your Excellency, with a view that you may consider what measures it may be necessary to take in Ireland for defraying the Expences to be incurred for the Clothing and Maintenance of such Convicts, as may be Transported to New South Wales from that Kingdom. Your Excellency in considering this point will also advert to the means of defraying from Ireland a proportionable share of the general Expence of guarding, protecting and employing the Convicts, The best rule which can be adopted on this head appears to be, that the amount should be regulated by the Proportion of British and Irish Convicts in the Settlement at different periods.

I have the honor to be with the greatest truth and respect,

My Lord

Your Excellency's

Most obedient & most humble servant

W. W. GRENVILLE

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland



## APPENDIX C

Publications and Bulletins of the  
Public Archives of Nova Scotia, prepared  
under direction of D. C. Harvey, Archivist

## BULLETINS

1. A Documentary Study of Early Educational Policy, by  
D. C. Harvey, 1937 .75
2. A Study of Early Provincial Taxation by Margaret Ells,  
1937 .25
3. A Catalogue of Maps, Plans and Charts in the Public  
Archives of Nova Scotia, by Marion Gilroy, 1938 .75
4. Government House by J. S. Martell, 1939 .25
5. Letters of Rev. Norman McLeod, 1835-51, by D. C.  
Harvey, 1939 .50
6. The Achievements of Agricola and the Agricultural  
Societies, 1818-25, by J. S. Martell, 1940 .50
7. From Central Board to Secretary of Agriculture, 1826-  
1885, by J. S. Martell, 1941 .50
8. A Documentary Study of Provincial Finance and Curr-  
ency, 1812-36, by J. S. Martell, 194 1.00
9. A Documentary Study of the Origin and Distribution of  
the Arms Fund by D. C. Harvey, 1947 .50



## PUBLICATIONS

- |        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| No. 1. | A Catalogue of the Akins Collection of Books and Pamphlets, by Sheila I. Stewart, 1933  | 1.50 |
| No. 2. | Holland's Description of Cape Breton Island and Other Documents by D. C. Harvey, 1935   | 1.50 |
| No. 3. | A Calendar of Official Correspondence and Legislative Papers, Nova Scotia, 1802-15, by Margaret Ells, 1936                                      | 2.50 |
| No. 4. | Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia by Marion Gilroy, 1937   | 1.50 |
| No. 5. | A Calendar of the White Collection of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia by Margaret Ells, 1940                                  | 1.00 |
| No. 6. | Immigration to and Emigration from Nova Scotia, 1815-1838, by J. S. Martell, 1942   | 1.00 |
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