

EDITORIAL: One year ago this month we started toward our Newsletter. Our aim was to find and record history of Queen's County.

The interest of the people of the County has made our objective more possible than expected. It is my hope that soon more local history will be available to our schools. Perhaps no better line can be found to a child's love of history than the history of his own community. That story is part of him. We all want a history. But no one will find it for us. However, let's be careful to call folklore that and to document the facts. We may be sure they of the next generations will want to check the accuracy of our findings.

**G.W.S.

During "JEROME", The Man Without Legs

During a casual conversation with an elderly gentleman some 4 years ago, he asked me if I had ever heard of "The Man Without Legs". I had not. The gentleman went on to tell of a legless man who appeared on the beach at Sandy Cove, Digby County, N.S., it was a long time ago. Who the man was, where he came from, and why in that state or condition, was a mystery to my friend and is still a mystery to most Nova Scotia people to the present time.

This is the story of "Jerome", the legless man. One might say that it is a "Tale of two Counties". Queens in New Brunswick and Digby of Nova Scotia.

A paper written by Judge A. W. Savery of Annapolis Royal, to the Editor of the New York Herald and published by the Saint John Telegraph, April 1st, 1909, sheds much light on the story. Senator (Dr.) McGrand in his book, "Backward Glances on Sunbury and Queen's Counties" tells of the origin of the story on both sides of the Bay of Fundy; the Archives of Admiral Digby Museum, the Archives of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have given such a large volume of material that only the important events will serve the purpose of this paper.

In August, 1863, Mr. Robert Bishop with William E. Eldridge, who moved to Portsmouth N. H. later, were working on a hill at Sandy Cove, N.S. In the afternoon they saw two small schooners, fishing boats, moving in towards shore from the North East. The sterns of the ships were later seen to be painted pink. The leading schooner headed in toward shore where a natural spring of water was located. Boats often filled their water casks there. The leading boat put out a tender, but the men on shore could not see if anything was put on shore because of the trees lining the bank. Soon both boats were seen bearing away toward the northwest.

Later, most likely the next morning, the legless man was found. He had been placed near the spring with a pitcher of water and some biscuit. When found, the man had crawled forward toward the waters' edge, and as the tide was on the way in, rising, he soon would have saved the community his care and the long board bill. He was attempting suicide.

The stranger was rescued and taken to a new unoccupied house in the village. The man who first told me the story, and the reports of the letters and newspaper articles agree that the legs of the man were dressed by an expert, the dressings had been recently applied, and his clothes not those of an out-of-doors man. The amputations were above the knee. Also, the ship had made no contact with anyone on shore. The stranger appeared to be in his early twenties, of dark complexion, physically strong and didn't speak English. What he did say seemed to be in Italian. He would not use pencils and paper and gave the impression that he was illiterate. His hands were soft, not hardened as those of a person accustomed to outdoor work. When asked who he was, he mumbled something like "Jerome", and Jerome became his name, but he remained almost speechless as long as he lived.

Jerome was soon moved to the home of an Acadian family. After some time, maybe a year or two, he was taken in by the family of a former Corsican, John Nicola, who it was thought might be able to communicate with Jerome. Jerome stayed with this family some seven years, then with the family of William Comeau until his death, April 19th, 1912. Without doubt, Jerome thrived under the care he was given, although unhappy. He was fortunate being placed with such kindly people.

eating, according to another visitor, were very good. Jerome was fond of soup and clear water, but never tea, coffee, or liquor. When a doctor tried to loosen his tongue with whiskey, Jerome would not touch it.

Other writers say that Jerome had an ungovernable temper which he showed when frustrated by questioning or being startled. One writer also interviewed a Mrs. Doucet, who was a step-daughter of John Nicola. She was 13 years old when Jerome came to live with them. Now, in 1906, she recalled that Jerome would not talk with Mr. Nicola but when questioned by Mr. Nicola when Jerome was not on his guard, Jerome unintentionally answered "Colombo" when asked what ship he came on, and answered "Trieste" when asked "where from". Both times after answering, Jerome showed extreme fright. Mr. Mecchi, an educated Italian merchant visited Jerome and gathered that Jerome came from somewhere along the Adriatic Sea, on the north coast of Italy. After becoming better acquainted, Jerome seemed to respond to young children, and would try to talk with them, when alone. He also seemed to pray at times.

The years went by until April 19th, 1912, when the Halifax Morning Chronicle announced, "JEROME" DEAD AND HIS SECRET DIES WITH HIM. His age was estimated to be 75 to 80 years. By this time he was partially bald and completely gray and still a well-built man. The newspaper concludes that the people living in this vicinity have given up the solving of the great mystery that closed today in death, thus sealing one of the greatest secrets that has ever occurred on this continent. The remains of Jerome were buried at Meteghan, Nova Scotia.

Now to turn to Queen's County where the Records of the Queen's County Council provide us with some items, although they do not answer all the questions about the story of "JEROME". The first entry reads as follows:
Queens County

To John Brown
For Keeping a foreigner, who was
insane and indigent and frozen
for 5 days and for taking him
to the overseers of
the Poor in the year 1859. £ 2 " 0 " 0

The back page records that the bill was "Ordered to be paid" 23rd January, 1861.

Who else could this be, but "Jerome"? The 3 words "foreigner", "insane", and "indigent" pretty well describe the character of the man as long as he lived.

The next entry reads:

Parish of Chipman
To George Benison. 1860.
To one weeks board and care towards Keeping a
Frozen Man ----- £ 1 " 4 " 6
a Shirt and Drawers ----- £ 0 " 10 " 0

It seems that John Brown left "the frozen man" with George Benison, who kept him a week, and provided him with a change of underwear. I found no other references to "The Frozen Man" till the year 1861. Let us see what they tell us:

Parish of Chipman.
1861. To Sundries, ---
Viz. To John Hutchinson's Bill for Keeping and tending a Frozen Man ----- £ 24 " 9 " 10
" Samuel White a/c ----- £ 19 " 6 " 3
2 Dr. Peter's Bill against Parish --- £ 30 " 15 " 0
£ 74 " 11 " 1

To the Honourable Sirs,
Judges and Trustees.
In the General Session of the Peace of Gagetown
Convened. Greeting.

Whereas the above bill has been Incurred by Putting Up, and bringing into the Said Parish of Chipman, a Poor Frozen Strange Man, found in the wilderness near Cane's River, in the County of Northumberland, by a Lumbering Party, and thrown on the Parish of Chipman aforesaid. The Overseers of the Poor in the Said Parish, in Humanity to their

Apparently, Jerome had no money when found, and as a provision for his maintenance, the Overseers of the Poor at Sandy Cove made an application to the Members of the County in the Provincial Parliament at the time, and secured a pension of two dollars per week from a fund provided for the "Relief of Transient Paupers". This was voted by the Legislature of Nova Scotia each year. Every year following, as long as Jerome lived, when the estimates were passed, they contained an item reading, "Jerome-- \$104.00".

Two days after he was found, Jerome was visited by Mr. Angus Gidney, a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. Mr. Gidney thought that he appeared to have a feeble intelligence, but made an effort to answer questions. When asked how he lost his legs would answer, "fretto, fretto", meaning "cold" or his legs had become frozen. He would answer "Si", (se) meaning "yes". When asked his name, all that could be understood was a sound resembling, "Jerome", where came from, "Colombo". Apparently the shock of his experiences had robbed Jerome of the ability to think clearly and he seemed determined not to speak in any language willingly.

Judge A.W. Savery wrote, concerning the story of "Jerome", "On my first visit to Meteghan after hearing about him, probably in 1864 or 1865, I called to see him, and from his appearance I concluded he was a sailor not more than thirty years old, who had become demented by the shock to his constitution from what he had undergone. He seemed the victim of acute melancholia, and cast a pitiful reproachful look at me and crawled out of the room when he noticed me talking about him to his hostess. I thought he had not as dark a complexion as is usual with Italians I had seen in this country".

The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Samuel Gidney by Judge A.W. Savery:

Mink Cove.

Oct. 12/08

Judge A.W. Savery,
Annapolis.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 15th. ult. at hand. On account of being away from home unable to reply sooner.

In reference to the man "Jerome", I think it was in the year 1879 I was on my way to Boston in a schr. We harbored one night in Little River, Maine. In the evening two men came on board. They asked us where we were from. We told them from Sandy Cove. They asked if we remembered a man being landed there with no legs, several years ago. We told them we did, and he replied he was the man that landed him there. He said he brought him from New Brunswick. Parties there hired him to land him (Jerome) on this shore to save town charges. He told me his name but I really have forgotten it. This is all the man told me concerning him.

Hoping this will be satisfactory, I am
Yours respectfully,
(Sgd.) Samuel Gidney.

Further to the letter of Mr. Samuel Gidney.

Now we have New Brunswick brought into the picture. It appears in another report of the transaction between the people of New Brunswick and the Maine Captain, that the price of landing Jerome in Nova Scotia was ten dollars. We will discover later why it must have been a relief to the Overseers of the Poor at Chipman to see the last of "Jerome".

Jerome became a celebrity. During the tourist season many came to see the subject of this mystery, "The Legless Man" and speculate where he came from and why. This was the opportunity for the writers to make up all sorts of stories, that became a legend. An American writer who visited Jerome in later years describes him as one whose face was severe and could have denoted helpless dejection or determined resolution. To the three visitors in the party he was so impressive that it was impossible to talk about him freely in his presence. Jerome had a large head and well formed, with a small mustache and pointed beard. The contour of his face was described as handsome, the fingers long and slender and very powerful. His manners, when

My fellow Creature, took cognizance of the Stranger's case in Truth, in Justice, and in Judgment, to discharge said debts, they, the Overseers of the Poor, and Parishoners of Chipman do Solicit your Honours to make a County Debt thereof, as the Party is a Foreigner and has no residence in the province.

Signed by the Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Chipman in behalf of the People.

John O'Leary
George Benison Overseers of the Poor.
Samuel White

Cover title. a/c
General against Chipman.
1861.

1861.

Resolved that there be an order of Assessment on the County of Queens to the Amount of Seventy Pounds for the purpose of defraying the Expenses of a Frozen Stranger found in the Parish of Chipman. The said Assessment to be made when the next Assessment's made for the different Parishes.

Signature thought to be ---Robert Orchard

Drafted by the Chairman.

No date. Signatures indefinite.

1861.

Parish of Chipman.
The Overseers of the Poor for the Parish of Chipman.
Dr. Harry Peters, MD.

For Professional attendance and medications for an Italian calling himself, "Ellerimo", in March, April, and May, 1861, including fee for amputating both of his legs. £ 25 " 0 " 0

The foregoing statements lead one to conclude that the man found in the Chipman area and "Jerome" of Nova Scotia were the same man. Found in 1859 and operated on in 1861. Whose wounds were just healed and still painful in 1863, show the long period of terrible suffering endured by Jerome. The records do not mention Jerome requiring more medical attention after his arrival at Sandy Point, so the people of Queens County contributed greatly to the benefit of the unfortunate man. The financial cost to the Queens County taxpayer was some 500 dollars in a period from 1859 to March 4th, 1861. Not much wonder they began to plan a way out of the situation, 2 years later.

It was noted by those who found Jerome at Sandy Cove that his hands showed that he had not been accustomed to manual work. From the year 1859 till found in 1863, Jerome had been an invalid. His hands would become soft.

Records state that Jerome had a violent temper when startled or teased. He showed fear on carelessly saying "Colombo" and "Trieste". It could be that Jerome had committed some crime of violence and was "On the Run", to use an expression meaning avoiding justice. This is common, even today. It would be simple for a man who had "Jumped Ship", in Saint John, to be taken on for work in a logging crew, and find himself in a remote camp. One note states that Senator King believed that his Father had Jerome in one of his camps. Those of us who have spent time in one of those camps know that over Christmas, the camp would be about empty of all who had homes, and what would be more natural than a stranger taking a walk in the woods and become "turned around", and lost. That has happened to most of us who have been in such places.

Jerome could have been days lost and wandering and becoming more demented before being rescued. So, I would think that Jerome was found the last week of 1859, and brought to Mr. Benison the next week. He must have been treated locally until the operation in 1861, when complications must have made the operation necessary. With expenses mounting and probably Jerome unhappy and maybe hard to manage, the County authorities saw no way out of this situation that was not of their fault or choice, except to leave him with people of Latin origin and the Catholic religion. History shows the choice of the Acadian settlement of Metagan and the surrounding to be the best for the sufferer. His long life, till 1912, near a half century attests to that. The heroes or heroines were the kindly people of Nova Scotia. Theirs was not any fault or choice, either.

Jerome seems the winner; after all, he should have stayed where he

was safe.

**A. Leslie Denton

School Return 1844

This return is for District Number 1, Parish of Hampstead where the teacher was a 34 year old married man named Joseph Brown who had first been licensed to teach in 1832. The usual branches of education were taught and the pupils and their ages are as follows:

Emely Cameron	13	Christopher Gaunce	14	Joseph Penery	9
Ann Cameron	9	Henry Gaunce	11	Eliza Jane Penery	7
James Ebbet	13	Ruth Hendry	5	Rachel Penery	5
Charles Ebbet	9	(Peoli) Hewes	10	Sarah Slip	14
Mary Ann Ebbet	9	John Hewes	8	Susan Slip	12
Hannah Ebbet	5	Catharine Hewes	12	Elisha Slip	7
Margaret Ebbet	11	Albert Holder	10	Elizabeth Thompson	11
Isaac Fox	9	Mary Ann Holder	8	John Thompson	6
George Fox	6	Priscilla Murray	12		
Caleb Fox	9	Elizabeth Murray	11		

Buckwheat Pancakes

At this season of the year a century and less ago one of the staples of the diet was buckwheat pancakes. The steps in growing and processing buckwheat can be written another time but this is an authentic pancake recipe that should be mixed in grandmother's batter pitcher and fried on a properly seasoned cast iron griddle rubbed from time to time with the flat surface of a peeled potato to prevent sticking and smoking.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 2 C. buckwheat flour | 1 C. white flour |
| 1 Qt. buttermilk | dash of salt |

Mix well at least an hour before frying. Let stand at warm room temperature. Add 3/4 tsp. soda dissolved in a little warm water when ready to fry. Use warm water to thin the batter if necessary. The recipe continues "serve with fried moose steak and gravy".

AGRICULTURE: A Johnston and Company advertising booklet called "The Farmers of New Brunswick 1883" has come to our attention. It is dated St. John, N.B., May 1st, 1883. They state that they began sales in the Province after January 1st, 1879 and now have over 6,500 customers here. It would be impossible to publish all their testimonials but the names and addresses of their customers throughout the province should enable one to determine the satisfaction of their customers.

Original is rebound, and belongs to Mrs. Percy Bridges, Gagetown, N.B. These are the Johnston & Co.'s harrow customers listed in Queen's Co.:

Baird, James	Chipman	Huestis, Samuel R.	Mouth Jemseg
Belyea, J.P.	Gagetown	McAlister, James	Coal Mines
Brown, John	Chipman	Orchard, Robert	White's Cove
Carpenter, A.M.	Narrows	Peters, S.L.	Otnabog
Clark, John	Harley Road	Slipp, Charles L.	Mouth Jemseg
Fairweather, G.H.	Coal Creek	Ward, Thomas	Chipman
Golding, Gilbert N.	Wickham	Young, M.	Coal Mines
Howe, John	Welsford		

Some New Brunswick farmers who have bought reapers from Johnston & Co.:

Belyea, J.P.	Gagetown
Chase, George S.	Chipman
Clark, John	Harley Road
Darraha, Robert	Red Bank
DeVernet, H.J.	Upper Gagetown
Howe, R.S. & Graham	Petersville Church
Kennedy, Thomas	Clones
McCready, Henry	Shannon
McDermott, S.A.	Gagetown
Peters, S.L.	Otnabog
Polley, James	Clones
Slipp, Reid	Hampstead
Smith, G.N.	Daniel

There were six "Gray's American Two Horse Power Threshing Machines" sold in Queen's County. The customers were:

Akerley, A.&C.	Big Cove
Barton, I.&J.	Cumberland Bay
Coakley & McDonald	Newcastle
Slipp, Bros.	Lower Jemseg
Taylor & Perry	Hunters' Home
White & Fowler	Cambridge

It is interesting to note that the photograph of Mr. Garfield Fowler's grandfather's two horse thresher has been exhibited to Society members more than once.

Cure for Wet Boots taken from the above book: When the boots are taken off, fill them quite full with dry oats. This grain has a great fondness for damp, and will rapidly absorb the least vestige of it from the wet leather. As it quickly and completely takes up the moisture, it swells and fills the boot with a tightly-fitting last, keeping its form good, and drying the leather without hardening it. In the morning, shake out the oats and hang them in a bag near the fire to dry, ready for the next wet night; draw on the boots, and go happily and comfortably about the day's work.