

QUEEN'S COUNTY BIOGRAPHY: Dr. E. Stone Wiggins 1839 - 1910

A name that is spoken frequently with awe and reverence in Queen's County is that of E. Stone Wiggins, and one wonders whether his colorful personality or his accomplishments account for the memories still vividly recalled more than 70 years after his death. An examination of biographical material shows that he was indeed "a man of many parts".

Ezekiel Stone Wiggins was born at Waterborough on December 4, 1839, the son of Daniel Slocum Wiggins and Elizabeth Titus Stone. Education seems to have been his forte and he went on to become "one of Canada's finest educators". He received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree from Victoria College, University of Toronto, and in 1869 graduated from the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery. Also, sources indicate that he was "honoured with the conferring of a Doctor of Laws degree" at a later date; one supposes that this was an honorary degree but regrettably the name of the University is not mentioned.

Stone Wiggins seems never to have practised medicine, but in 1870 he was the first principal of a school for the education of the blind at Brantford, Ontario. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Church of England boy's college at Saint John in 1874, and also at some stage in his career served as principal of the Ingersol Grammar School (Ontario) and as Superintendent of Education for Prince Edward County, Ontario. He ventured into politics and as one biographer puts it in 1878, he "left a Professorship at a boy's college to contest a riding in his native New Brunswick at the request of Sir John A. Macdonald. He was defeated, but Sir John ever loyal to a follower found a place for him in the Finance Department". He remained there until 1900 when he retired for reasons of ill health.

As was expected of all well-educated nineteenth century men, E. Stone Wiggins had many interests and abilities, and wrote on many subjects. He was outstanding in Mathematics and Greek, and "an accomplished reader of Latin and French". His hobby was Astronomy and his book Architecture of the Heavens was published in 1864. His Essay on Comets was noteworthy, and in 1874 he published a Grammar for Dominion High Schools which was "pronounced the best thing of its kind to date".

For Queen's County residents perhaps his most worthwhile work was a prize-winning Essay on Queen's County published in "The Watchman" in Ottawa in 1876. In this he sketches the county history, then begins a catalogue of old Queen's County families, including the immigrant ancestor, the place of origin in many instances, the family members currently alive, their genealogy, and often a list of offspring and their spouses. Also, he sometimes included bits of information not necessarily available anywhere else now - things like "He was a big handsome man standing six foot four in his stocking feet." or "Miss Dykeman showed me a pair of small gold earrings brought to Grand Lake by this Loyalist great grandmother". The list of names is more or less alphabetical (the "A's" are all together) and while it is not complete by any means, it nevertheless is a source of much valuable genealogical information. Copies of this essay are available at the Provincial Archives in the Queen's County file.

Apparently Stone Wiggins was a keen amateur scientist and observer of natural phenomena. In his obituary it is written "During the last quarter century Professor Wiggins' name has been a household word throughout the civilized world due to the fulfillment of his numerous storm and earthquake predictions". Numerous other "discoveries" are credited to him, but we must remember that he lived in an age of many "scientific" theories and hypotheses that were not followed up by research. Most of his assumptions did not bear scientific examination, and no written arguments are available to us to show how he arrived at these conclusions. However, right or wrong these theories indicate a creative and inquiring mind.

Professor E. Stone Wiggins died on August 14, 1910 after perhaps a decade of failing health. His obituary in the Saint John Globe on August 24th of that year says "He was most domestic, modest, and retiring, loving his home and always referring to it as his heaven below. No whiter soul ever inhabited a human body. He despised fraud and sham of every kind. He loved the beautiful, good and true, requesting that he be laid to rest in the most quiet way with no tolling of bells, and was frequently heard to quote that beautiful stanza "Let there be no meaning of the fear when I put out to sea". He was buried among

his kinfolk in the churchyard of the church he attended as a child, St. Luke's Anglican Church at Young's Cove.

Mrs. E. Stone Wiggins was famous in her own right and her biography will appear in our April Newsletter.

School Return

This School Return is for the Parish of Hampstead, Little River School. The teacher is William Ried, a married man of 38 years who was first licensed to teach in February, 1830. This return is for 1844, and the usual branches of education were taught. The pupils and their ages are:

Asa Slip	6	Drucilla Vanwart	7	Jared Smith	7
Archibald Mathews	6	Daniel Smith	5	James Smith	8
Ann Maguire	7	Emer Parlmer (Emma?)	8	Jacob Smith	6
Bradford Parlmer	7	Elizabeth Smith	11	James Thompson	6
Bradford Durgan	14	Elizabeth Vanwart	10	Jane Ried	8
Benjamin Parlmer	10	Elizabeth Ried	7	Leveret Vanwart	6
Charlotte Durgan	11	Gilbert Merritt	5	Ried Slip	11
Charlotte Slip	7	George Parlmer	6	Thomas Parlmer	8
Caleb Slip	5	Hannah Thompson	6	Thomas Slip	12
Cathrine Durgan	8	Isaac Merritt	6	William Smith	6
Daniel Parlmer	6	Israel Merritt	12	William Merritt	7
David Merritt	5	Isaac Smith	10	William Slip	15

A second short return from Parish of Waterborough, Number 8, Jemseg. The teacher is Mary Jane Spencer who is 19 years old. The year is 1844, and at that point Parish of Cambridge was not in existance. The children and their ages are:

Martha Burns	8	Pheb Dyksman	6	William Dykeman	8
Sarah Burns	13	Eunice Dykeman	4	H. Wm. Dykeman	10
Sarah Dykeman	13	William Burns	6	Jacob Dykeman	6
Charity Dykeman	11	David Dykeman	7	George Griffiths	4
Matilda Dykeman	13	Henry Dykeman	5		

Books

We note the publication of four books in time for the Christmas season. One is most emphatically Queen's County History, and the other three are relevant (some moreso than others) to our interests.

The Queen's County book is W.J. West's The Wests of Coles Island: The Story of a Family. This is delightfully readable, of enormous interest to most of us in this part of the county, and amazing in that it was written by Judge West as he approached his ninetieth year. For some readers there may be difficulty in this book distinguishing what is "absolutely real" from the imaginary. For example, verbatim conversations from the 19th century have not been preserved, although the tone of these reported conversations is just right. Neither will everyone agree with the author's assessment of the patriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982, and in places in this book its conclusion seems a bit contrived. On the whole it is a remarkable history of Coles Island and captures the spirit of the community very well. We note with pride that it was a Society Member, Marion Reicker, who edited this book; and the sketches by the author's daughter, Canadian artist Mary Pratt add to its charm.

A second book with lots of Queen's County ties is Steamboat Days on the St. John 1816-1946 by Dr. George MacBeath and Capt. Donald F. Taylor. This book is packed with information, is readable, and has a wealth of illustrations. These include maps, drawings, and reproductions of advertising material as well as actual photographs of river boats. In fact the balance between text and illustrations is about equal and the latter add a great deal to our understanding of this golden age of river transportation. This is a scholarly work, indexed, properly footnoted, and has two appendices including a check list of riverboats, and a catalogue of steamboat men. No doubt it might have become the definitive source book for riverboat information but for one glaring omission. The Steamer Dream and the ensuing tragedy are left out completely, no doubt for personal reasons, but unfortunately this raises the question "What else has been overlooked?".

Both of these books are paperbacks and are available in Fredericton bookstores, and no doubt in other places as well.

The third book was reviewed by Dorothy Wilson at our December meeting and is titled R.H. Nicholson - Painter and Man of God. This is a biography by Jean E.S. Irving, and is advertised as "capturing old logging days on canvas". It is a large, beautiful, memory-evoking book containing 44 colour reproductions of Nicholson paintings. It is available from Bethany Bible College in Sussex, or from Studio House, Box 2113, Saint John, N.B. E2L 3T5.

The fourth book is Gerald Stevens' Glass in Canada, The First One Hundred Years. This is a beautifully illustrated book, contains extensive information on Canadian glass manufacturers, and is a joy for the collector to peruse. The color photographs add enormously to the knowledge available to the glass enthusiast, and while the book itself is beautifully produced and therefore expensive, serious collectors should consider the possibility of investing in it. It, also, is available in local bookstores.

Johnny Cake

This rhyming recipe is from the cookbook section of the "Peoples' Home Library" published in 1904,

Two Cups Indian, one cup wheat,
One cup sour milk, one cup sweet,
One cup good eggs, that you can eat,
One half cup molasses, too,
One half cup sugar add therto.
Salt and soda, each a spoon,
Mix up quickly, and bake it soon.

**Jim Hargraves

The following notice is reproduced from the December 1982 issue of the N.B. Genealogical Society Newsletter:

INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP
(Highlighting the Loyalist Bi-Centennial Year)
July 30, 31 and August 1, 1983

"You are cordially invited to attend this three day workshop which is being held in Saint John in recognition of the Bi-Centennial of the landing of the Loyalists in 1783. Why not visit Canada's oldest incorporated city and participate in this fine workshop? Two days of lectures and seminars will be combined with a tour of some Loyalist country including a visit to an historical gaol, two local museums, a service at a Loyalist church and a Loyalist luncheon.

The workshop registration fee is \$35.00, but delegates who register in advance (Before May 1, 1983) will pay only \$20.00. A name will then be drawn and a lucky advance registrant will win a set of the recently published 1851 Saint John County census books valued at \$30.00. Your registration fee includes the cost of the Loyalist tour and the Loyalist luncheon.

Delegates will have access to our local archives and to the local genealogical library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, for family research purposes. There will also be ample opportunity for reviewing and/or purchasing local books of interest.

The responsibility for conducting the Workshop has been delegated to our Saint John branch. You should therefore direct all of your correspondence to:

Saint John Branch
New Brunswick Genealogical Society
Box 3813, Station B
Saint John, N.B., Canada E2M 5C2

We look forward to your visit to the Loyalist city and we will do all we can to make you feel at home.

Sincerely,
Jim McKenzie,
Workshop Chairman

Catalogue of Queen's County Built Vessels continued from Vol.2, #5.

Name	Rig	Tons	Where Built	When	Owner or Managing Owner & Address
Harriet Chase	Schr.	99	Up. Gagetown	1873	George Eaton, St. John
Hattie Hant	Schr.	99	Grand Lake	1866	John R. Carle, Canning, Q.C.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rig</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Where Built</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Owner or Managing Owner & Address</u>
Helen H.	Schr.	49	Newcastle	1873	Peter Yeamans, Newcastle
Helen Marion	Bark	693	Grand Lake	1869	John Yates, St. John
Hopvine	Schr.	91	Gagetown	1878	Geo. W. Gerow, St. John
Hummingbird	Schr.	18	Cumberland Bay	1879	Wm.D.McIntyre, Waterbor.
Hyena	Wbt.	55	Grand Lake	1848	George W. Cain, Portland
Irene	Wbt.	78	Grand Lake	1859	Allan Craig, St. John
Industry	Wbt.	69	Grand Lake	1864	Sylvester A.Belyea,Greenwich
Inkerman	Wbt.	87	Grand Lake	1855	Jos. Fanjoy, Westfield
Ira	Schr.	34	Grand Lake	1865	R.D.Weaver,Port Geo., N.S.
Ivy	Schr.	17	Wickham	1874	Chas.S.Goggin, St. John
Joliette	Wbt.	47	Cambridge	1876	Geo.T.Mullin, Johnston
Janie B.	Schr.	43	Wickham	1877	Valentine Cole,Dorchester
Lady Havelock	Wbt.	69	Washademoak	1858	Arch.W.Worden, Johnston
Lampedo	Wbt.	71	Cambridge	1864	Hugh A. Holder, Kingston
Lelia B.	Schr.	71	Washademoak	1870	David Bostwick, Wickham
Linnet	Wbt.	29	Coles Island	1867	J. Travis, St. John
Lizzie A.	Wbt.	35	Canning	1876	Frances D. Ganong, Springfield
Lizzie G.	Schr.	113	Wickham	1872	Turnbull & Co.,St.John
Llewelyn	Wbt.	62	Jemseg	1879	Joshua D. Colwell,Jemseg
Lottie S.	Wbt.	63	Cambridge	1869	Wm.H.White,St.John
Louisburgh	Schr.	68	Cambridge	1874	Albert Day, St. John
M.L.St. Pierre	Schr.	98	Up.Gagetown	1871	John Cotter, St. John
Marco Polo	Schr.	62	Grand Lake	1854	Jas.A.Kincaid, Johnston
Margaret	Wbt.	30	Wickham	1839	James C. Clark, Wickham
Mary A.	Wbt.	66	Cambridge	1868	James Gillespie, Portland
Mary B.	Wbt.	65	Waterborough	1875	James R. Graville,Waterbor.
Mary Pickard	Schr.	89	Up. Gagetown	1874	Wm.G.Knox, Oromocto
Mary Theall	Schr.	99	Wickham	1874	Geo.F.Baird, St. John
Maud & Bessie	Schr.	75	Cumberland Bay	1872	Ed.C.Elkins, Portland
Mayflower	Wbt.	62	Johnston	1868	Thomas Owens, Johnston
May Bell	Wbt.	76	Jemseg	1874	Chas.B.Colwell, Cambridge
Merrimac	Wbt.	70	Grand Lake	1864	Jacob D. McDonald, St.John
Merlin	Schr.	99	Up. Gagetown	1865	Peter Riley, St. John
Milo	Schr.	84	Waterborough	1870	John Stewart, St. John
Minnie	Wbt.	28	Canning	1873	Wm. Cameron, Hampstead
Mirandeaux	Wbt.	62	Grand Lake	1847	Mayes Case, Wickham
Nashwaak	Wbt.	60	Grand Lake	1852	Thomas S. Adams, St.John
Native	Wbt.	63	Grand Lake	1865	Enoch G.Chase, Sheffield
Nautilus	Wbt.	54	Grand Lake	1852	Wm. Martin, St. John
New England	Wbt.	60	Cambridge	1865	R.A.Cameron, Cambridge
No Surrender	Wbt.	76	Washademoak	1857	James G.Watson,Johnston
Nymph	Wbt.	60	Waterborough	1847	Israel Merrit, Portland
Ocean Belle	Schr.	104	Waterborough	1870	D.V.Roberts, St.John
Ospray	Wbt.	85	Grand Lake	1857	David Collins, Indiantown
Panther	Schr.	59	Grand Lake	1853	A. Denton, Canning
Paragon	Wbt.	66	Waterborough	1874	Noah H.Urquhart,Kars,K.C.
Phoenix	Wbt.	63	Waterborough	1848	Patrick Higgins, St.John
Pilgrim	Wbt.	91	Cambridge	1857	James Branscombe, Portland
Pioneer	Wbt.	81	Grand Lake	1856	R.A. Cameron, Cambridge
Progress	Wbt.	70	Grand Lake	1869	Wm. Davidson, St. John
Prospect	Wbt.	77	Canning	1874	John Robinson, Canning
Prussian General	Schr.	78	Canning	1870	James Donoghue, St. John
Queen of Clippers	Wbt.	66	Grand Lake	1865	Joseph M. Belyea,Greenwich
R. Knight	Wbt.	47	Cambridge	1875	Richard Knight, Cambridge
Ranger	Wbt.	70	Grand Lake	1867	John M. Taylor, St.John
Reindeer	Wbt.	54	Newcastle	1854	Peters V. Laskey, Portland
Relief	Wbt.	60	First Range, QC	1868	John R. Merrit, Kars
Revenue	Wbt.	64	Grand Lake	1854	James F.Roberts, Waterbor.
Riverside	Schr.	98	Wickham	1875	James C. Price, Carleton
Rowland Hill	Wbt.	54	Newcastle	1864	Michael Durick, St.John
Russian Counsellor	Schr.	65	Gagetown	1863	David S. Howard,Parrsboro, N.S.