

EDITORIAL: May you have a Happy Year in 1985! This is the first issue of Vol. 5 of our Queens County Historical Society Newsletter.

Our Provincial Bicentennial celebrations are over. I am sure we all had fun. Happy memories will be with us for many years to come. We are pleased to note that both Saint John and Fredericton are celebrating Bicentennials of their own in 1985. Don't pack your Bicentennial costume away! Keep it still handy in your closet. There should be lots of chances to wear it.

By this time everyone has had ample time to read our new book "A Time There Was". This should have aroused your interest in Petersville area, so we give you at this time an obituary from The Valley Banner, August 15, 1953.

Rev. W. L. Moore: Stricken in his 65th year by a heart seizure Rev. Wm. L. Moore, pastor of St. Ignatius' Parish, Petersville, died at the rectory there. Although in ill health for some time, he continued his duties till the last, and on Sunday only a few hours before his death, celebrated Mass at Petersville, and at the Church St. Vincent de Paul in Oromocto. Petersville, Oromocto, Fredericton Junction, and St. Bridget's Church, Gagetown, comprised the large parish to which he was appointed in 1942. Father Moore was born in Elgin, Albert County. He attended Provincial Normal School and taught in various sections of N.B. and the Canadian West. He completed his Arts course at St. Thomas University, Chatham; and studies at Holy Heart Seminary, Halifax. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1917, and was afterwards attached to the Cathedral in Saint John for three years. He was in charge of St. Joseph's Parish, Chipman, for 12 years; and pastor of St. Gertrude's Church, Woodstock, for 8 years. He was an Army Chaplain, Second World War, just before his appointment to his last parish.

Over 50 priests from all parts of the Province attended his funeral, held at St. Ignatius Church, Petersville. Great numbers of parishioners and others attended.

In January and July of each year the sessions of the Queens County Council were held. It was no great trouble for the councillors to get to the July session, but getting to the January session was a different matter. One January when roads were blocked Councillors Weldon Keirstead and Oattie Black started their trip to Gagetown on snowshoes. They headed for Havelock and just got within sight of the railway station when the train pulled out. As I remember hearing Rol Beach tell the story, they snowshoed on to Petitcodiac and took the train from there to Saint John. They continued their trip to Gagetown via the Valley Railroad the next day. Does anyone remember this story? If so, please set us straight on the facts and date. (Editor)

The last Queens County Council meeting was held in July, 1966. The Council was disbanded when "Equal Opportunity" for the Province came into being, so the Council ceased to exist on Dec. 31, 1966. The last Warden was Alex (Sandy) McConnachie.

We quote at this time from the column "Old Days in Queens", Valley Banner, January 16, 1954, issue:

"Before the next issue of the Valley Banner appears, the Queens County Council will have concluded another annual meeting. A special meeting on the Queens County schools will have brought the Councillors face to face with modern educational problems; and the impact of the Army Camp development will have been fully realized.

The Queens County Gazette of January 24, 1900, devotes almost two full pages to the sessions of the Queens County Council of that year, opening in the County Court House on January 16th. We read that total assets that year were, - Contingent \$2,574.67 and liabilities nil; School Fund, \$3,853.43 and liabilities \$1,841.30. Despite this apparently satisfactory picture, economy seemed to be in the air, for the Secretary-Treasurer's salary (despite the fact that his books were reported in first class shape) was slashed from \$300. to \$200. a year, and the sheriff's salary, on motion, was discontinued. However, when motions were made to have the \$2.00 per day paid to the Councillors done away with, and their milage fee reduced from 10¢ to 5¢, these drastic changes were voted to be laid on the table until next session.

To compensate for the effort entailed in all this business, we read that the auditor (C.D. Dykeman) entertained the Councillors at an Oyster Supper." (End quote)

Note: The supper we read in a further article was held "in the usual good style at the Hotel Dingee" -----the party dispersed about 11 p.m. after National Anthem.

It might be interesting to note that the total budget in 1966 was \$745,574.59.

BOOK REVIEW: THE ROYAL COMMONERS by Florence Cass, published by Lingley Press, 1984, is most interesting. This book is a project of the author in honor of the New Brunswick Bicentennial in 1984. The book begins its story when Thomas and Isabella Cass arrive in Halifax in March, 1863. A year later they settled on their grant at Zionville near Taymouth. The story reads almost like a diary of events. We know that three of our Society members who have read the book, report that they could scarcely lay the book down until they had finished reading the whole book. It does have a Queens County link with 3 sons of Foster (Tom Cass's son) - Bill Cass worked on building the Power Plant at Grand Lake staying on to work there; Gordon and son Clarence worked for Aubrey Wasson strip mining; Reeves was Plant Superintendent at the Grand Lake Plant for 37 years.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF SUSSEX will interest those who admire older architecture. It was published by Bicentennial Committee of Sussex. Clear black and white pictures with write-up for each. Price is only \$3.00.

Had I a gift poetical,
 This charming vale I'd seek,
 And I would sing my sweetest song
 In praise of Colwell Creek.

The morning sun's advancing rays
 Spread o'er the western hills,
 And all the fragrant valley with
 The soul of music thrills.

Above the meadows damp with dew,
 Like an orchestra in flight,
 The bobolinks, on wings of song
 Salute the morning light.

How fair at noon thy meadow banks
 Beneath the linden trees,
 And ancient elms that murmuring rise
 Obstructive to the breeze.

How pleasant drifting with thy tide,
 Where the golden lilies grow,
 And, floral draped, the leaning trees
 Their mottled shadows throw.

At evening purple fringed the clouds
 Escort the sun to rest,
 And lend from the sunset sky a tint
 To linger on thy breast.

'Mid scenes like these I love to stay
 For there's another charm
 Attaches to the Colwell Creek,
 And to the Hendry farm.

I wonder not that ye halt and tarry
 In circling eddies slow,
 For sweet remembrances ye carry
 Of the "happy long ago"

When on this pebbly beach
 Thy crystal waters smiled,
 And held in wavering duplicate
 My mother as a child.

Dr. Manfred H. MacDonald, Hampstead, N.B.

Dr. MacDonald's son, F.A. MacDonald, states that the poem would have been written in the 1890's. It was published in "A Selection of Poems" printed by Barnes and Co., St. John, N.B., in 1909. Russell Bond has a copy of this book. Colwell's Creek is one of the mouths of the Washademoak Lake.

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Excerpts from Joseph Hetherington's Diary (father of late Hazen Hetherington, Gagetown)
March 28, 1902 -The Canaan ice ran out taking with it Clark's Bridge (Canaan), Coles Island Bridges East and West, and the Central Railway bridge, and damaged all the bridges on the Canaan, March 27, 1902.

The Washademoak River cleared of ice, May 28, 1902. The long span of the Washademoak bridge gave way and let the six-wheel engine, tender, two cars of sawn lumber and a box car through, leaving the passenger car on the rails. The fireman, Stanley Brand was killed and engineer Chris Purdy was injured.

March 3, 1904 -A big thunder storm, it thawed all day. The thunder began in the evening and lasted two hours. The thunder was heavy and the lightning vivid. The lightning struck the ice by Josiah Phillips' shore smashing the ice in atoms for a space of about an acre.

March 21, 1904 -An earthquake shock was felt here this morning. The shock was heavy in Fredericton and St. John. In Maine buildings were damaged.

June 22, 1907 - Crystal Stream burned at Coles Island. Four men burned - Fred Smith, Baxter and two Logans.

June 17, 1908 - Aberdeen burned at Coles Island

January 5, 1909 -Started to rain, continued raining until Jan. 6th about 4 o'clock. About 7 in the evening, the Canaan ice began to run and about one hour later swept out the temporary span of the railway bridge.

Roy W. Thorne of Canaan Road, Havelock, died Jan. 16, 1985, at age 93. He is survived by 5 daughters, 3 sons, 24 grandchildren, 34 g.g. children. This "grand old gentleman" was looked up to by all who knew him. He was very active in the organization of the Thorne Reunion. Last summer on July 29, 1984, he took an important part in the Thorne Reunion at Havelock. He will be greatly missed by his family as well as many Thorne relatives and friends in Queens County and elsewhere.

A great deal of history goes when we lose our elderly citizens.

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