

EDITORIAL: The Executive of the Queen's County Historical Society, and the Newsletter Committee wish each and every one of our readers a blessed and peaceful Holiday Season.

Biography: James F. Parks, Trapper, 1843-1929

In February of 1928 an interesting news item appeared in a Saint John paper, it was headed: "Veteran Cambridge trapper celebrates 85th birthday. James F. Parks, hale and hearty still follows his trap line."

"Cambridge, Feb 24--More than 50 years ago a young lad trudging through the dim woods tending his trap-line, in the early morning light, got the thrill of his life, when there on the ground before him he discerned a huge black creature firmly imprisoned in one of his heavy "dead-falls". His heart palpitated wildly for a moment, then swelled with pride. He had captured his first bear!

Yesterday, James F. Parks, the trapper, observed his 85th birthday, with more than 70 bears to his credit, a record, for this section at least. He still follows his trap-line every day.

Born at Cambridge on Feb. 24, 1843, the son of William Parks, a ship builder, and his wife, formerly Miss Harriet Knight, of Grand Lake, in the days when the ship yards of this place were the busiest industrial centres along the shores of the Washademoak Lake, Mr. Parks has resided here practically all his life. He holds the record of being the oldest man in this section.

His wife was before her marriage, Miss Mary Elizabeth Cole, and is still living, and like her venerable husband, still enjoying good health. Their only daughter is Mrs. William A. Straight, with whom the couple reside, here, and their grand-children are Mrs. Chester Black, of Silver Falls; Mrs. Perry B. Craft, of Mace's Bay; Mrs. Jack C. Keith of Corn Hill, and Fred Straight, of Cambridge.

When a very small boy Mr. Parks followed the urge of the hunt. Before he attained the age of twenty he had earned his "spurs", having bagged his first bear, as well as a number of other specimen of large game. His first traps were dead-falls, the method of the Indians.

In one instance the veteran hunter came as near death from the attack of a wild beast as he had ever experienced. Attending to his trap-line one morning, he came upon the place where one of his steel traps had been placed to find only a bare spot, scarred and torn up, indicating plainly that the jaws had imprisoned an animal of no mean strength. No trail of the trap could be seen in the snow, however, so conceding that the animal must have picked up the trap in its teeth, he set out to look for it. The beast was discovered through the barking of his dog which accompanied him and the tortured animal, in savage passion, attacked him. Had his son-in-law, who happened to be in the near vicinity, also looking for the get-away bear, not appeared in time to put a shot through the animal, it would likely have been the last bear captured by Mr. Parks.

Partridge hunting was also one of his favourite sports during his younger years and to this end he kept a special partridge dog. In the old days he recalls, these birds were not so wild and by no means as scarce. His first moose was shot about 50 years ago on the Canaan Rapids and it was also in that vicinity that he captured his first lynx, then called loup-cervier. He recalls the days when caribou were plentiful about this section, running in droves of 20 or more.

Mr. Parks for some years carried on a shoe making business, having learned his trade from his brother, Samuel Parks, who lived at West Saint John, where he kept a shop at the corner of Ludlow and Guilford streets.

Until recent years, Mr. Parks has manufactured all his boots and moccasins by hand and also made all the snow-shoes that he used. A number of years ago, the only canoes used by him for his muskrat trapping and duck shooting were logs, hollowed out, after the original plan of the Indians.

After all his experiences of the trapline or on the river during his long life, however, he still has the record, of which he is very proud, and justly so, that he has never once been lost in the woods and unable to find his way."

Mr. James Parks died in 1929 at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Straight, at the age of eighty-six. In his life time he never had any sickness or any medical attention. He was buried at the Narrows cemetery, the service conducted by the Rev. Avery Hatt.

### An Old Queen's County House

The house at the Narrows now owned by Isaiah and Evelyn Thorne (once owned by his father, John Thorne) was built in 1817 by a Mr. Reid at McDonald's Corner on the Allen McDonald property near the Baptist Church. About 1877 the house was moved on the ice by oxen to the shore of Arch McLean's property at Cambridge (now owned by Marven Reicker). It proved impossible for the oxen to haul the house up the steep incline from the shore. Here it sat for three years. In 1880 it was again moved on the ice to its present location on property owned by the Worden family. It was occupied by the late Sandal Worden's aunt, Phoebe. Skating on the Washademoak Lake and watching the moving of this house on rollers was a 13 year old boy, John Thorne, who was later to occupy it.

John Thorne's brother, Jim Thorne, later bought the house. In 1908 it was purchased by Isaiah's father, who had lived in Gofftown until this time. Now he wished to move where there was a school for Isaiah to attend. John Thorne was the last resident to move from Gofftown. In this house there are still six original window frames with most of the original glass still intact. It was not finished inside on the north end past the front door when moved to its present location.

\*\*\*A.P. Hetherington

### Book Reviews

We would draw your attention to 4 books of possible interest to our readers: Two of these have a lot of Queen's County content, and while the other 2 are broader in scope they should prove interesting and valuable to many of us: These books, in order of appearance are:

Christmas Through The Years: New Brunswick Recipes and Recollections by Ruth Spicer and Marion Elliot, published privately, printed by Print 'N Press Ltd., St. Stephen, N.B., 1982; selling for \$4.95.

Early Loyalist Saint John: The Origin of New Brunswick Politics 1783-1786 by D.G. Bell, published by New Ireland Press, Fredericton, N.B., 1983; selling for \$14.95.

River Boy Returns by J.K. Chapman, published by Brunswick Press, Fredericton, N.B., 1983; selling for \$7.95.

Joyce's Journal: Memories and Other Things by Joyce Chapman Thorne, published privately, printed by Centennial Print and Litho, Fredericton, N.B., 1983; selling for \$8.75.

Joyce's Journal: Memories and Other Things is a "day book" in the pattern of Francis Gay's "Friendship Books" where there is an entry for each day of the year. It comes across as the inner thoughts of a happy, fulfilled woman who appreciates the beauties and sorrows of Life and is sustained by Love and Faith. The writing is fresh, sincere, and nostalgic in the memories that it brings from a childhood spent on the shores of the Washademoak. The original poems, and the verses of Scripture each Sunday add to the appeal of this book, and of course Mrs. Thorne's friends will delight in the memories evoked by her biographical stories of parents, grandparents and other family members. The book is nicely printed, has a jacket design and other art work by Kimberlea Thorne, and the reading of it should prove a joyful, nostalgic and inspiring experience.

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There is more nostalgia in River Boy Returns by Jim Chapman. This is a sequel to the popular River Boy and contains twenty more stories about life as a boy in Gagetown. Some of the stories are far-fetched, some are risqué, and all seem to be a combination of truth and fiction, but it's hard to say where one leaves off and the other begins. Certainly many of the people are recognizable Gagetown "characters" from times past and their conversation and activities are recorded in a fashion that will keep them "alive" for some time to come. The cover photograph is delightful, the sketches throughout are by Rhoda Chapman, and those who enjoyed River Boy can look forward to a good read and some chuckles over this one.

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Ruth Spicer and Marion Elliot's little book Christmas Through the Years came out just too late for last season's Christmas preparations. It is a well researched, well documented (56 footnotes) collage of recipes and commentaries from Christmases past, and should prove a useful reference book for seasonal materials. The recipes are useable, having been thoroughly tested by the authors and range from Lady Ashburnham's Fruit Salad (yes, her pickles are justly famous) to traditional mincemeat, doughnuts and plum puddings. But it is the photographs, reproductions of advertisements from the newspapers of the day and the other fascinating bits of social history that make this book something to treasure, and to return to again and again at Christmas time.

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David Bell's book on Early Loyalist Saint John is a scholarly examination of (as the title suggests) the origin of New Brunswick politics. It begins at the conclusion of the war and covers the period when the foundations of Saint John were being established. An undertaking of this scope does not occur without dissention, misunderstanding and power plays of various sorts, and with a scholar's dedication to presenting all the facts David Bell examines every bit of documentation available from this time period. He may undermine some cherished myths about "our Loyalist ancestors" but he does identify and explain better than anyone else has yet done the various political factors that determined the rather stormy beginnings of the City of Saint John. This book has extensive footnotes with each chapter, an adequate index, and eight appendices. Appendix VIII "Alphabetized List of Refugee Loyalist Households 1783-84" will be particularly valuable to genealogists, for instance, because it contains information from "census" and ships' passenger lists not hitherto available in published form, and can point the way to primary sources that most of us have not yet examined.

Notes of Interest

From genealogist Richard Thorne of Saint John: "Two stones unearthed in the Old Methodist Burying Ground at New Canaan read:

D 1826	D 1830
W & P	P & P
A 83 Y	A 78 Y

I am interpreting these sandstone markers as those of William and Priscilla (Walker) Perry."

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The following appeared in "The Daily Telegraph" published in Saint John, N.B., on December 21, 1878. We are grateful to Ruth Spicer and Marion Elliot for drawing our attention to it:

"Christmas Notes of the City Market - Yesterday the City Market contained a large quantity of country produce. The sales were heavy, and towards evening the quantity on hand was quite stunted. The season this year commences earlier than it did last year, but the sales are not quite so brisk. However, they will, no doubt, be much larger than last year's transactions, as business will be much accelerated on the near approach of Christmas. The most noticeable feature in the building is the display of beef and poultry, which are specially fed and prepared for the Christmas holidays.

O'Neill Bros.

Stall No. 5, on the north side of the market, is occupied by the above named firm. They have in their stall a pair of steers which weighed 2625 lbs.; another, 2080; another, 1780; and the sides of a young pair of cattle, fresh, clear and nicely colored, gave a weight of 1000 pounds. Messrs. O'Neill have also 500 turkey, geese, etc., all fine looking birds. Several have been labelled, and one magnificent turkey carcass weighing 23 pounds, is christened the "Beaconsfield"; the "Marquis of Lorne" rolls up 20 pounds, and "Sir John A. Macdonald" 18½ pounds."

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After hearing of John Enright's interesting talk at our September meeting, a member has informed us that Foster Perry of Cody's, Queen's County was the person to first install electricity in the Saint John City Market.

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This School Report is from District #2, Parish of Brunswick, and is from the Canaan area. The year is 1844, the teacher is a young single woman named Mary Ann MacKenzie and if the dates recorded are to be believed she was first licensed to teach in 1839 when she was fifteen years old. The branches of education taught were: Reading, Writing, Spelling and Arithmetic. The students and their ages are:

Alfred Humphreys	15	Josiah(?) Humphreys	18	Pamela Allward	7
Abraham Corey	13	Jane Hughson	18	Susanna Corey	20
Alban (?) Allward	4(F)	Lavina Keith	18	Sibyl Keith	16
Barbara Allward	9	Mary Allward	18	Sarah Perry	9
Charles Corey	11	Mary J. Allward	18	Silas Allward	7
James Brown	21	Margaret Corey	18	William Corey	16

Hewlett House, Queenstown, N.B.

One of the oldest, perhaps the very oldest Queen's County House is that of Anne and Alastair Fox. The following was part of a presentation to Heritage Canada prepared by Anne:

Hewlett House (continued):

"The senior officer in command of the British and Loyalist troops which landed at Saint John on September 24, 1783-Lt-Colonel Richard Hewlett of DeLancey's 2nd Battalion-had the house completed at the village of Hewlett now Queenstown, Parish of Hampstead, by 1785. "During the agitation which preceded the Revolution he was a strong partisan, favoring the Throne." (Acadiensis, Vol 7, No 1, 1907, p 67). In May 1776 Gen. Washington swore his Congress to secrecy relating to the union of the Long Island and the Connecticut Royalists. "Richard Hewlett of course figures in the narrative as a principal actor," who was later thought to have been one of the conspirators in a plot to seize Gen. Washington.

The Hewletts were prominent in both New York and New Brunswick as many articles about them attest, and the house remained in the Hewlett family through the Peters until it was sold to Henry and Laura Wall in 1926. The Walls of New York City used it at first as a summer home, but by the mid-1930's the Depression drove them to move to Queenstown. However, due to a number of things prior to Gerald, Muriel, and Constance Wall's selling it in 1971, the house had been lived in for but fifteen or twenty of the previous seventy years.

On October 11, 1971, the Walls agreed to sell the Hewlett House to Anne Fawcett. Unbeknownst to the new owner, about two weeks later the New Brunswick Historical Resources branch expressed an interest in it and did a survey which declared the building derelict and.....

Of Hewlett's furniture, only his kitchen table valued at one pound in his will of 1790 remains in the house."

\*\*\*Anne Fox

Christmas Recipe

The early dark fruit cake recipes of New Brunswick made very large cakes. One example is given in an 1892 cookbook by the Ladies of the Baptist Church in Fredericton where some of the ingredients are listed as one pound of butter, thirteen eggs, four pounds of raisins, three pounds of currants, etc. Other ingredients in this cake are Strawberry preserves and molasses. The following quantities are more suitable for the present day updated version:

Dark Fruit Cake

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 3/4 C. molasses             | 1 lb. dates (snipped) |
| 1 1/2 C. butter or shortening | 1 lb. raisins         |
| 1/2 C. sweet milk or coffee   | 1 lb. currants        |
| 2 1/2 C. flour                | 2 eggs                |
| 1/2 C. strawberry preserves   | 1 tsp. soda           |
| or                            |                       |
| 1 pkg. of cut mixed fruit     |                       |

Sift flour and soda into large mixing bowl. Add cut mixed fruit (if used), dates, raisins and currants. Mix until well coated. Cream butter, add beaten eggs, blend molasses and strawberry preserves (if used). Blend well. Add to fruit mixture, stir until well combined. Bake for 2 hours at 275° to 300°. For last hour cover with foil.

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(From "Christmas Through the Years"  
New Brunswick Recipes and Recollections)