

# WESTMORLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you will see in reading this issue of the *Newsletter*, there are many positive things to report, but they are no recompense for the sudden loss of our dear friend and colleague Lorna Partridge.

When I became President in June, 2006, Lorna had been serving the Society for a number of years, and I soon learned what a model of devotion, reliability and competence she was. Not only did she keep WHS's books in 'perfect order' - drawing on her professional expertise, but she continued to serve as a member of the Executive Committee even through her illness, not wanting to let any of us down. Through all of this

she was unfailingly cheerful, positive and supportive of everyone else.

I was personally acquainted with her mainly in connection with her work for the Society, but I was not surprised to learn of her tireless and unselfish devotion to other charitable organizations such as the Friends of Aleisha Fund, the Dorchester Fire Department Auxiliary, the Dorchester Lioness Club, the Dorchester First United Baptist Church, the Pathfinders, the Access Centre, the Sandpiper Committee and many other community-building institutions.

Her New Brunswick Day

Merit Award for Community Volunteer Work is indicative of the esteem in which she is held by the people of Sackville & Dorchester.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Greg and to Lorna's family. I know I speak for all members of the Society when I say: "Thank you, Lorna for enriching the lives of all of us. We will remember you for everything you have done"

*The Lorna Partridge Volunteer Bursary Fund* has been set up in her honour to help an Outstanding Student Volunteer to pursue further education.

Gene Goodrich

#### *The Lorna Partridge Volunteer Bursary Fund*

Over the next two years the following community organizations -with whom Lorna worked, will be fundraising to secure capital for the annual Bursary:

-*The Westmorland Historical Society*

-*The Friends of Aleisha Fund*

-*The Dorchester Fire Department*

-*The Dorchester Lion's Club*

If you wish to contribute to the fund *directly*, please contact

Cole or Judy  
(506) 379-6682

or

Nancy Blakney  
(506) 379-6746

### KEILLOR HOUSE MUSEUM—2008

#### **Keillor House—'Down Home Supper'**

Saturday, April 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Ham, scallops, baked beans, gingerbread. \$12.00. For home delivery/take out contact 379-6680.

#### **Mother's Day Tea—'Putting on the Glitz'**

Saturday, May 10, 1:00-2:00 & 3:00-4:00 p.m. Tea, sandwiches, cakes ; antique

& costume jewelry for sale by Shepody IODE. For tickets call 379-6620.

#### **Keillor House Official Opening**

Saturday, June 14, 3:00 p.m. after Shiretown Parade. Don't miss the popular 'Hats off to You-Encore' Exhibit (1830-1980)—new costumes & accessories. Free admission

#### **Celebrate Canada Day**

Tuesday, July 1, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Music— Ivan & Vivian Hicks, children's games, cake, ice cream, prizes. Free admission.

#### **Sandpiper Festival Breakfast**

Saturday, July 26, 8-10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast with sausages, baked beans and muffins. \$6.00.

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## HIGHLANDER IN THE FRENCH-INDIAN WAR 1756-67 LT. COL. MCCULLOCH

ISBN 978 1 84603 274 5 Printed 2008, Osprey Publishing

"In this new Warrior title, Seven Years' War expert Ian McCulloch, tells the stirring story of the three highland regiments that soldiered during the French & Indian War. Beginning with the devastating blow to the Highland army at Culloden in 1746, he recounts how many former Jacobites flocked to join the new highland regiments raised in North 'America'

### Fortress Louisburg

The 250th anniversaries of the sieges and battles of The Seven Year's War are upon us. This summer *Fortress Louisburg* hosts a Grand Encampment to commemorate the 1758 Siege.

Information: <http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/>

*"Highlander in the French-Indian War 1756-67"* is the 126th monograph in Osprey's outstanding Warrior series. Using new sources, Col. Ian McCulloch (Canadian Staff College) allows the voices from the ranks to give the Highlanders' perspective on actions fought from the crags of Signal Hill, Newfoundland, to the Forks of the Ohio in the Pennsylvania wilderness—fighting some of the most bloody battles ever fought on the North American continent. With colourful artwork, evocative images and illustrations, *Highlander* is a fascinating resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the role of these soldiers during the 'clash of empires'.

The following excerpts (pps.54-56) draw on the 'personal accounts' of Grenadier Sgt James Thompson of the 78th Foot providing a 'soldier's view' of the fall of Louisburg. (Sgt Thompson's account was found on the reverse pages of old accounting ledger in the National Archives of Canada—scrawled in pencil!)

### 'The Experience of Battle'

At 4 o'clock on the morning of June 8, 1758, the first wave of boats containing four 'Company of Grenadiers' and 100 Highland grenadiers of the 78th Foot set off for the beach at Coromandière Cove, 4 miles west of Louisburg.

Sgt Thompson and the Frasers were going into action for the first time. When the leading boats were 30 yards from the beach, swathes of camouflage were suddenly pushed forward or pulled aside [and] the entire shoreline erupted with a blaze of fire from 6pdr, 9pdr, and 24 pdr guns. Swivel guns stuffed with nails, glass, and chewed bullets spewed forth their deadly contents. The aimed musketry of 1,200 men of the Artois regiment, Acadian militia, and the French Navy added to the din, rattling up and down the beach like a *feu de joie*...

One British sergeant standing up exclaimed 'Who would not go to hell, to hear such music for half an hour?' then promptly fell dead as his boat was racked by French swivel guns discharging grape shot. A boat packed with grenadiers of the 15th Foot was smashed by a shot and 'sunk, by which one Officer, two sergeants and thirty fine fellows were lost' except for the drummer, who 'buoy'd up by his drum' was saved.

Eventually a French cannonball turned Thompson's boat into a charnel house for they 'were so closely packed together'...the 24 pdr solid shot 'did a great deal of mischief' cutting a swathe through the dense mass of Highlanders. Thompson felt the actual ball as it 'passed under my hams and killed Sgt Mackenzie...and it carried away the basket of his broad sword which, along with the shot, passed through Lieutenant Cuthbert, who was on Mackenzie's left, tore his body into shivers, and cut off both legs of one of the two fellows manning the tiller of the boat...[who] died with the tiller grasped tightly in his hand'.

### Why Did the Highlanders Join the British Army?

Even before the 'massacre' at Culloden in 1746, Highlanders were forbidden under the Proscription Act to wear the kilt or 'Bonnets Blue, with Sword and pistol and warlike Goods.' The only exception?—if they fought in service of the British King. After Culloden many joined the new highland regiments—which carried their traditional weapons, and escaped landlessness or unemployment—but of course, many 'volunteered' by way of the 'press gang'!



**HIGHLANDER IN THE FRENCH-INDIAN WAR** (Continued from page 2)

In spite of the withering fire, Sgt Thompson survived this battle and lived a charmed life through the rest of the war—living to the age of 97. In 1759, he fought with his grenadiers at Montmorency and on the Plains of Abraham with Wolfe's army. Along with 'an unadulterated elation and pride' at this victory he recorded other memories:

*'If the French gave themselves quietly up. They had no harm done to them...  
But Faith! If they tried to outrun a Hielandmon, they stood but a bad chance,  
for Whash! Went the broadsword.'* (p.57)

And what of the aftermath of battle?

*The casualties lay on the field as thick as a flock of sheep and just as they had fallen, for the main body had been completely routed off the ground and had no opportunity of carrying away their dead and wounded. We killed seventy-two officers [including non-commissioned officers] alone, and it was horrid to see the effect of blood and dust on their white coats.* (p.57)

The Editors

**Recruiting Broadside  
42nd Foot**

(Translation from Gaelic, 1756)

*...Recruit me none but the old  
Clans,*

*Camel's [Campbells],  
Mackenzys, Fraser's and Grant's*

*For they are brought up to the  
Sword,*

*Such warlike men Lord Loudoun  
wants.*

**RELATED WORKS OF INTEREST**

**Other works on the Seven Year's War and the Highland soldier:** Daniel Marston's *The Seven Year's War* is a reliable description of 'this closest thing to total war before WW I'; For Culloden, see Peter Harrington's *Culloden 1746—The Highland Clans' Last Charge* for all aspects of the battle and its immediate background. Stuart Reid's *The Scottish Jacobite Army, 1745-46* is invaluable for describing the organization, command system and tactics of the Jacobite army while his

*Highland Clansman 1689-1746* examines the society which produced these fierce fighters and tactics like the 'Highland Charge'. Col. McCulloch and Tim Todish, *British Light Infantrymen of the Seven Year's War* document the resilience and resourcefulness of these soldiers adapting so successfully to irregular warfare.

A copy of *Highlander in the French-Indian War 1756-67* has been donated to the Graydon Milton Library.

**THE STORY OF JOSIAH WOOD**

In the last issue of the *Newsletter* I reported on the project of describing the Wood Library at the Keillor House. I am glad to say that it is now completed—pending final editing, and may soon be made available in booklet form. Since it is lengthy (some 85 pages) and much of the material is esoteric, I don't expect many will want to plough through it all; it was written as a reference work for the Museum and probably won't be made into a movie! Nonetheless, parts should be interesting to local history buffs and for that reason I am offering a few excerpts in this and the following *Newsletters*.

Having described the collection in general terms in the last issue, I continue with a brief sketch of the family

history and the remarkable career of Josiah Wood. (Those interested in learning more about this remarkable man can do no better than to read Dean Jobb's fine study *The Life and Times of Josiah Wood 1843-1927: A Builder of Sackville*, available at the Keillor House gift shop.)

*Emigration from Connecticut*

The story of the Wood family in Dorchester and Sackville begins with Josiah's grandfather, also called Josiah (1776-1809). He was a Connecticut Yankee of very modest means who—around 1800, came with his widowed mother to Nova Scotia to take up a land grant near Cornwallis that had been made to her father some forty years before follow-



## JOSIAH WOOD (CONTINUED)

ing the expulsion of the Acadians. When their claim was denied, presumably on the grounds of non-residence, they returned—not to Connecticut, but to Dorchester Island where months before they had first landed on British soil.

### *The Marriage of Josiah's Grandfather*

Here young Josiah met and married Miss Sarah Ayre who bore the same name as the captain of the ship that had brought him there the first time, which *may* explain the decision not to go back to Connecticut. While waiting for their claim to be heard in Nova Scotia, Josiah worked in a local cloth mill, taught school and entertained fellow workers by singing and playing the flute, which suggests a man of some education and refinement, as well as diligence. After his marriage he supported his family with the relatively modest means of a schoolteacher, sailor, innkeeper, jail keeper (succeeding Robert Keillor) and cloth maker until his untimely death in 1809 at the age of thirty-three.

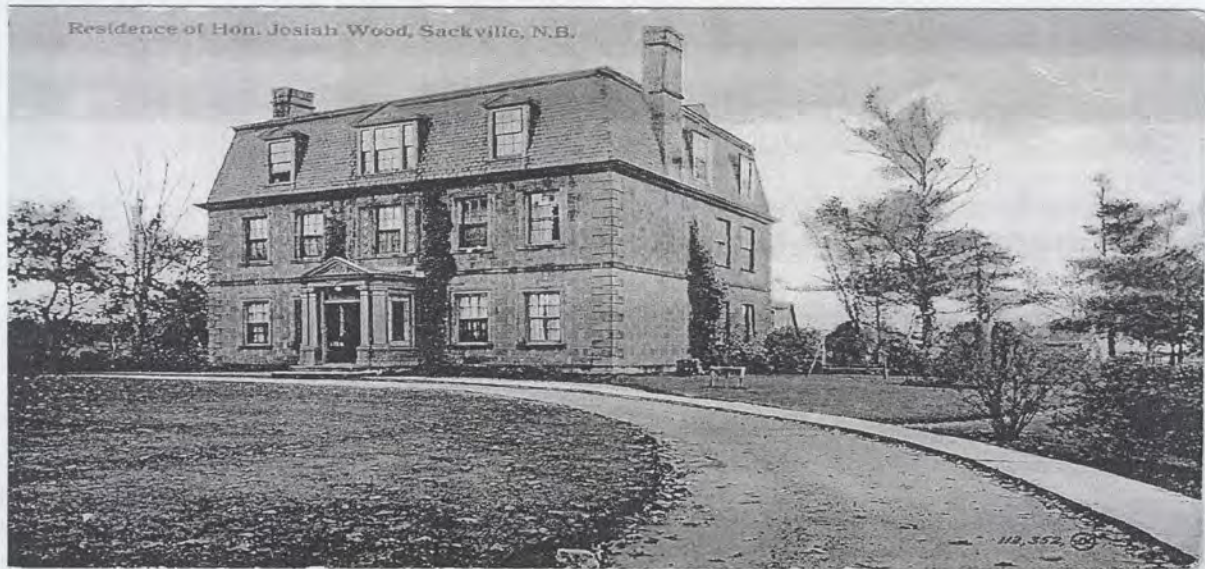
After his death, Sarah's fortunes improved considerably! Although widowed with two small children, she managed to attract the attention of "Squire" Philip Palmer (1786-1873), eldest son of Gideon Palmer, one of Dorchester's leading Loyalists and grandfather of Hiram and Barlow Palmer who would build one of the shiretown's largest shipyards. Besides owning a large section of the Dorchester marsh, hundreds of acres of timberland near Aboushagan and some excellent farmland in Middle Sackville where he resided, Philip Palmer enjoyed the prestige and emoluments of public office as a Surveyor of crown lands, Justice of the Peace, Captain in the local militia and Member of the House of Assembly.

### *The Palmer Family and Mariner Wood*

It was with the Palmer marriage that the Wood family fortunes were finally made. Philip could well afford to give his children a good start in life, and they took full advantage of it. Of his six sons by Sarah, two became lawyers while another was a doctor. One of the lawyers, with the improbable name of Acalus, had a flourishing practice in Dorchester and St. John and eventually landed a seat on the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. Philip was also very good to his stepson, Mariner Wood (1806-75). Besides giving him as good an education as could be had in the Sackville of the 1820s, he helped him, when the boy was still only sixteen, to set up a store on the Palmer farm. Mariner soon showed a talent for business and before long was buying additional property to expand his store and build his own home. His Palmer connections would no doubt have given him access to ships and the sea-borne commerce that, by the 1840s, was bringing prosperity to the merchants of Maritime ports like Sackville and Dorchester. Like many other entrepreneurs in this region, he shipped lumber, hay and other agricultural produce to Britain, New England and the West Indies and imported from them a wide variety of goods that were not produced locally, such as hardware, crockery, flour, sugar, molasses, and probably rum, which he sold in his store for a handsome profit. From there he ventured into shipbuilding and other businesses to become one of the wealthiest merchants in Sackville.

With prosperity and position it is small wonder that his venture into the marriage market was equally successful. In 1841 he married Louisa Trueman who brought not only Yorkshire heritage back into the Wood lineage (the ancestors of the Connecticut Woods also came from Yorkshire) but strong Methodist convictions which would have a powerful influence on Mariner as well as their children. Information is lacking on the religious affiliation of Mariner's parents, but, as we have seen, the New England Puritan—if not strictly Methodist, tendency to self-denial and interest in education (another Methodist concern) was already part of his father's make-up, while Methodism was a strong force in Sarah's Dorchester almost from the beginning. And it was certainly the religion of Mariner and Louisa, the parents of our Josiah. In Mariner's case this was manifest in regular church attendance as well as membership in 'improving societies' such as the Sackville Bible Society and the Temperance Society, devoted public service—especially in the cause of education, and unfeigned personal piety. Evidence of Mariner's interest in the things of the mind may be seen in the books in the Wood Library that have his name inscribed on them. Such then was the prominent and highly respected family into which the Josiah Wood of our story—and actually the fourth of his lineage to bear that name, was born in 1843. He not only strengthened its tradition of Methodist piety and public service combined with business acumen, but entered further into the field of higher learning than any of his ancestors had been able to do.





*'Cranewood' - Residence of the Hon. Josiah Wood*

*Picture Courtesy of Al Smith*

*Education at The Wesleyan Academy*

This was largely owing to the founding —also in 1843, of the Wesleyan Academy by Charles Frederic Allison, a prominent Sackville businessman and convert to Methodism. Hitherto, opportunity for education beyond the 'three R's' in the Sackville-Dorchester area was limited (even for the well-to-do) to the Westmorland Grammar School (founded in 1820), which offered basic instruction in English grammar and orthography, Latin and Greek, geography and practical mathematics, supplemented by whatever private tutoring happened to be available, usually by one of the local clergy. Under the direction of Principal Humphrey Picard —a graduate of Wesleyan academies in Massachusetts and Connecticut, the Sackville Wesleyan Academy offered not only a grammar school, but a three-year program comparable to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Britain and America. The Sackville Academy quickly gained a reputation for quality; indeed, its grammar or intermediate, school won the praises of the Inspector of Schools as the "very best educational institution in the province". It was no doubt for this reason, as well as for the family's Methodist ties, that Josiah was taken out of the local public (i.e. Parish) school and enrolled in the course at the new Academy. By the time he had finished intermediate — or grammar school, in 1861, the collegiate course had turned into the three-year Bachelor of Arts program of a degree-granting institution now called Mount Allison Wesleyan College. In 1863 Josiah, who was an excellent student, became one of its first two graduates.

*The Curriculum and Syllabus*

From the Academic Calendar we know the courses and academic exercises he completed, —and they throw considerable light on the library he later collected. With few electives, students had to pass written *and* oral exams in a broad range of prescribed mathematical, philosophical, scientific, literary and religious subjects. French, Latin and Greek were all requirements (and would have been studied in the grammar school), while detailed study of selected classical authors *in the original languages* made up a considerable portion of the program. Other subjects included mathematics (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, optics and calculus); science (chemistry, physiology, geology, mineralogy and zoology); philosophy (both mental and moral); political science; and "natural theology" which sought to demonstrate the existence of God and the truths of Christianity by scientific and historical arguments.

There was no formal indoctrination of Methodism as such, since the College was to be open to all Christian denominations (or at least all Protestant ones), but Bible reading, regular church attendance and strict moral behaviour were demanded of all students. During the freshman year there was a weekly exercise in both Latin and Greek composition, and during the junior (second) year a weekly recitation in both Latin and Greek history was required, in addition to a weekly exercise in both English composition and elocution. In the senior year students had to prepare and deliver no less than six original orations. This experience in public speaking would stand Josiah in good stead throughout his later life.



Since there was but a single textbook for each course, and each professor (there were only six at the time) taught a variety of subjects, students would not have been exposed to in-depth specialized knowledge in any of them. Nonetheless, a solid foundation was laid for further study in either the arts or sciences, or for a career in one of the "learned professions", namely the ministry, medicine, or law. After toying with the idea of entering the ministry, Josiah chose the law. There was no law school at any of the Maritime colleges at this time; lawyers trained as clerks with established lawyers and studied law on their own time until they could pass the examinations to be admitted to the bar. Entry into the legal profession was the easier for Josiah in that his uncle (his father's half-brother), Acalus Palmer, had an established law firm in the county seat of Dorchester, and it was here that the young graduate did his training until he could hang out his own shingle.



*Businessman and Philanthropist*

But law was not his only activity. From the time they were teenagers, he and his younger brother, Charles, had helped their father in his business —and even as a lawyer, Josiah continued to do so, although it was expected that Charlie would eventually take over direction of the firm. However, this was not to be. Victim of a pulmonary disease, his younger brother became increasingly infirm before dying at age twenty-five, leaving Josiah, already a man of strong family attachments, no choice but to give up his law practice and replace his brother as heir to his father's business. He assumed his new responsibilities with devotion and a high degree of competence, developing the staples trade quite beyond what Mariner had done and branching out into many other ventures, from farming and lumbering to shipbuilding and banking, all by the time he was in his early thirties. From there he became a pioneer of the industrialization of the Maritime economy, eventually owning considerable stock in a sugar refinery, a gaslight and water company, a cotton mill and other industrial concerns in Moncton.

*Picture Courtesy of Al Smith*

He was also the founder, eventual President and largest shareholder of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway Company which ran from Sackville to Cape Tormentine. Like his father, he devoted much time and money to community service. He succeeded Mariner as Treasurer of the Board of Governors of Mount Allison College and personally supervised its financial affairs for forty years, frequently dipping into his own ample pockets to help it out of its periodic financial crises and to endow worthy endeavours, such as the digging of the "Swan Pond" and sponsoring the series of public lectures by people of note that still bears his name. Active in the Methodist Church as befitted a man whose mother and wife were both Truemans of Yorkshire descent, he participated in the Bible society and helped administer the church finances.

#### *His Political Career*

As if this were not enough (only the smallest part of his activities can be detailed here), on the urging of his uncle, Acalus Palmer —who called him an "accomplished scholar and modest man", he sought and won the Conservative nomination (1882) and went on to defeat the sitting Liberal, Sir Albert Smith, who had lost much of his popularity outside his hometown of Dorchester because of his attacks on Sir John A. MacDonald's National Policy of high tariffs on imported industrial goods, the very thing that made the industrialization of Moncton possible. As a Member of Parliament, Josiah was in a good position to lobby for federal subsidy of his financially ailing railway, which in turn brought prosperity to the region and



assured his re-election in 1887 and again in 1891 before he was appointed to the Senate in 1895. But politics in Ottawa did not keep him from public service in Sackville, not only to church and college, but also to the town; active on the local board of trade, he was also instrumental in its campaign —against considerable opposition, to incorporate the community as a town (hitherto it had been part of a parish) and was duly rewarded by being elected Sackville's first Mayor (1903-08). But the greatest recognition of his public service came when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick (1912-17), a position he filled with honour and integrity, even forcing Premier James Flemming to resign after irregularities in his fund-raising were revealed, despite pressure from Conservative friends in both the federal and provincial governments to do nothing. In spite of failing health, he continued to render devoted service to his church, his community, his family and his beloved alma mater until his death in 1927 at age 84, almost universally admired for his integrity, vision and public spirit.

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The foregoing is only the briefest sketch of his busy life and multifarious activities. But the main point is clear. Josiah Wood was primarily a man of practical affairs, far removed from the dusty halls of Academia. Yet he collected, and presumably enjoyed, a library worthy of a professional scholar. But did he use it very much? Of course it would be unrealistic to assume that he read every book on his shelves (how many professional scholars do that?). Indeed, there is evidence that a few of them were left unread, as the pages that printers sometimes folded together on a single sheet are still uncut. But much indirect evidence suggests that this was the exception, not the rule. We have seen that he certainly had the educational background to understand and appreciate the works he collected, something that most people today with only a Bachelor's degree would be hard put to do. We know also that he had a reputation for being extremely well-read, and that his political and other public speeches were noted for their solid substance, clear style and sound reasoning. According to reporters who heard him, "his manner on the public platform was conversational rather than declamatory, but he always had the mastery of his subject and was a most convincing speaker." His nomination speech for the 1882 election was said to be "so admirable in tone and so statesmanlike in manner as to visibly impress the thousands of electors present." As a Member of Parliament, he "quickly earned a reputation for speeches that were balanced, well documented, thoughtful, and polite". Another admirer thought that his oratorical strength lay "not in flashy, frothy rhetoric, for he has none of the arts of the stump speaker, but in the fullness of his information, the searching analysis which he brings to bear on the phenomena which he discusses and the clearness with which his well-matured ideas are enunciated." It is difficult to believe that his readings in classical rhetoric and moral philosophy did not play a large role in this.

But even more convincing evidence —indirect though it is, lies in the high moral tone of his public and private life. Philosophical, religious and moral works made up a large portion of his library, or at least that part of it that came to the Keillor House Museum, and most of them espouse the classical and Christian Humanist ideal of the virtuous engaged citizen: sound in religion, liberal and humane in sentiment, devoted to family, friends and country and dedicated to public service, not for personal gain, but because his means and his education make it his Christian duty to do so. That describes Josiah Wood exactly, and it is in the context of his exemplary life that the Wood Library should be interpreted and appreciated.

Gene Goodrich

## LIBRARY & GENEALOGY CENTRE

### *Library*

Gene Goodrich finished his digital catalogue of Museum reference books, and all have been shelved in the Library workroom. The location of the Prison Collection and WHS files at Mount Allison is under review by the Library Committee.

### *New Prison Collection Material*

Roger Malenfant has given us his outstanding thesis on Dorchester Prison—with supplementary material, adding a valuable resource to the Prison Collection.

### *Publications*

Margaret Eaton has agreed to edit Bob Cunningham's 'At the Head of Fundy'—in spite of her schedule. (She is working on another book.) The Society wishes to thank Margaret—and Bob for giving WHS the rights to his manuscript.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Margaret's fine book of poems *Seeking Grace*, it is available at the Keillor House Gift Shop. (We will give information on Margaret's new book in our next *Newsletter*.)



## LIBRARY & GENEALOGY CENTRE (CONTINUED)

### *Research Projects*

As Gene Goodrich's work on the 'Stage Coach Era' moves to the writing stage—we will 'serialize' parts of it in coming *Newsletters*.

### *'Living Conversations'*

Last year the Library Committee decided—with urging from Edith Gillcash & Judy Morison, to start digitally recording 'conversations with extraordinary people'.

Charles McEwen—truly a 'Renaissance Man', was the first one to be 'interviewed'. A 'hard' transcription was made after considerable difficulty, and then a good digital recorder with voice recognition and transcription capability was purchased.

If you wish to suggest an 'extraordinary' person who should be interviewed—contact Edith, Gene or Judy

*The Editors*

## ST. JAMES CHURCH MUSEUM

An Exhibit Renewal Grant to show-case the Beachkirk Collection was submitted to Heritage Branch last fall, and proved successful! (Judy & Alice prepared a very professional submission with input from Betty Adams, Denyse Milliken—and Peter Laroque, Regina Mantin & the Outreach Team from the New Brunswick Museum.)

### *The New Plan*

...expands on the theme introduced on the Storyboard 'The Way of Life of the Early 19th Century Settlers', while providing improved traffic flow, new display cases, a dedicated lighting plan, expanded workshop areas and additional storage space.

The principal objectives are:

1. to redesign the space to better highlight *more* of the artefacts, and
2. to 'engage' the public more fully with opportunities for greater 'hands-on' experience

### *New Storage Space Is Vital*

... it allows us to rotate the exhibits, mount 'traveling exhibits' and expand the workshop areas. It is also vital for security—since we do not have secure storage at present.

### *WHS Fund-Raising*

...to 'match' a portion of Heritage Branch's contribution we need to do some fund-raising over the next year. (The Quilt Raffle is a step in this direction.)

### *The Work Plan*

#### Pre-Construction 2006-2007 (Phase I)

Research & development of 'theme' by Gabrielle Cormier (HRDC Grant); Consultants Report; Storyboard

#### Construction 2008 (Phase II)

Implement Scheduled Activities on Work Schedule—Spring 2008

### *You can Help!*

To volunteer, contact Judy Morison at (506) 379-6682. e-mail: [morc@rogers.com](mailto:morc@rogers.com)

### Quilt Raffle

Double—Dresden Plate Pattern

In support of the Exhibit  
Renewal Project  
at  
St James Church Textile  
Museum

Contact Alice for Tickets  
at  
(506) 379-6620

Draw on December 1, 2008  
at  
The Village Office  
Dorchester

### *St. James Church Museum*

#### *Is Unique*

We are the *only* museum in the province providing the public with a 'hands-on' experience with textiles—



## KEILLOR HOUSE MUSEUM

The Keillor House expects a banner year with New Exhibits and an impressive calendar of Nine Special Events.

### *New 'Hats Off to You' Exhibit*

This popular exhibit offers new hats from the costume collection (1830-1980) and hats from Lieutenant-Governor George Stanley and his wife Ruth Stanley, and tells the 'story' of changes in styles, materials and headdress design over two centuries.

### *Events and Activities (Special Events Calendar—2008)*

Nine exciting events/activities are scheduled for this year with proceeds going to support new museum activities and programs. Invite a Friend and Tour the Museum the same day!

### *Museum Committees*

The Museum Committees have been active over the past months...

### *The Gift Shop Committee*

Dianne, Karen, Judy and Joanne, are preparing for the Opening on June 14th with an expanded range of products and unique items of interest. Sales subsidize the museum—so visit the Gift Shop if you can. (Joanne Corey chairs this Committee and welcomes all volunteers.)

### *The Grants Sub-Committee*

Alice is the Committee! —and she has been working on the grant applications for months, with the final submission due the end of April. *Thank you Alice for all your work....*

### *Urgent—Volunteers Needed*

Keillor House needs 10-15 volunteers (2-3 days) to 'guide' visitors at the Museum during the month of June. A 'training session' (May) will include an 'easy-to-follow' Script. If two members volunteer together—scheduling is even easier! To sign up contact Alice at 379-6620.

## AMNB RESPONSE TO THE NON-PROFIT TASK FORCE

The Association Museums New Brunswick (AMNB) prepared an 'official' response to the recommendations of the *Premier's Community Non-Profit Task Force* ('The Bradshaw Report') on behalf of New Brunswick's community museums.

*Building A New Foundation for the Museum Community* contains 36 recommendations for 'transforming' the relationship between government and the museum community. Among these—proposals for an operations/capital funding formula, tax and other incentives for volunteers, liability insurance for volunteers and tax relief on 'historic buildings' not designated as 'museums'. This last proposal directly affects the WHS, and if adopted would

make a significant difference to our financial situation.

A campaign to have the government adopt the recommendations as part of the Self-Sufficiency Policy has been initiated—with efforts to mobilize heritage groups, MLAs and community museums.

### *What Can You Do to Help?*

We are asking our Members to contact their MLA and local municipal officials to express support for the document. To obtain an e-mail version of the document (French/English), contact Cole at [morec@rogers.com](mailto:morec@rogers.com).

*Cole Morison*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2008

### *Strategic Plan Initiative —2005-2010*

*A strategic review of the Society's mission, vision and organization was initiated in the fall of 2004 chaired by Jack Lines with a Draft Strategic Plan from this review approved by the Board in 2005.*

*The Board has been working hard to implement two key objectives recommended in the Draft Strategic Plan*

1. *to put the Society on a sound financial footing—the historic properties were not 'breaking even' with deficits threatened our future.*

*Deficits have been significantly reduced and our cash flow position has much improved.*

1. *To introduce management, accounting and investment systems that would sustain the long-term 'survival' of the Society.*

*Steps have been taken to improve all these systems with the key steps listed below.*

### *Administrative*

*-introduced an Executive Committee to oversee day-to-day operations of the Society. (AGM 2007).*

*(Previously Alice acted as property manager, did data entry, rent collections, payroll, bill paying, grant submissions, etc. working through the Dorchester Heritage Properties Committee.)*

*-updated WHS by-laws following Canadian Museum Association recommendations (AGM 2007) .*

*-initiated written Policy Guidelines as recommended by AMNB Guidelines for Museums (Privacy Guideline, 2008)*

### *Accounting & Management*

*-integrated Dorchester Heritage Properties and Westmorland Historical Society accounting systems (Fiscal 2007.)*

*-retained a professional bookkeeper to do data entry, handle routine bill paying, payroll, prepare reports for the Property—and other, Committees and submit WHS accounts to accountant for year end. (May 2008)*

### *Investments*

*-developed document Long-Term Investment Strategy for the Westmorland Historical Society (May 2007)*

*-implemented the investment strategy for the Graydon Milton Bequest working with a professional Investment*

### *Advisor (June 2007)*

*-set up an Endowment Fund for WHS to provide for the long-term needs of the Society (June 2007)*

### *Properties*

*-signed long-term lease agreement with proprietors of the Bell Inn Restaurant (Fall 2007)*

*-initiated talks with Village of Dorchester for a long-term lease of Library space in Payzant & Card Building ( Spring 2008)*

*-adjusted rents with all tenants to reflect market conditions and capital replacement needs (January 2008)*

*-increased insurance on buildings with some co-insurance coverage on contents of Keillor House & Payzant & Card*

*-initiated a Preventative Maintenance Program for the museums and historic properties (Spring 2008)*

*-set up former Visitor Information Centre for summer rental by local crafts person*

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*The Board wishes to thank—in particular ,Jack Lines and Gene Goodrich for their many hours of work updating the WHS by-laws and committee system. Jack initiated the strategic review and directed our attention to the danger of not addressing our 'chronic fiscal imbalance'*

*The idea of an Executive Committee was Gene's and it has proven very effective in keeping the Board ahead of emerging problems. Gene's leadership has been key to the Society's success on these initiatives over the past two years.*

*The integration of the accounting systems was spear-headed by Lorna Partridge during fiscal 2007 who worked through her illness to see the project through.*

### *Alice Retiring?*

*Alice who has done all the property management, data entry (with Lorna), payroll, bill paying, grant submissions, etc. for so many years will be giving up her data entry and property management duties this spring. She will continue to be involved in museum activities—and will help with the 'transition' to a professional bookkeeper. At this point, the Property Committee will oversee the buildings—hopefully, with some help from Alice. As we all know, Alice's contribution to the Society has been remarkable and recognition of her outstanding service to heritage in New Brunswick was honoured with the AMNB Quarter Century Award of Merit in the fall of 2007.*

*The Editors*



## AMNB ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS—2007

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION MUSEUMS NEW BRUNSWICK AWARD WINNERS FOR 2007: Alice Folkins, Donald Alward, Huguette Desjardins and Jack Lines. The AMNB Achievement Awards are given to those who have contributed *with excellence* to New Brunswick's museums and heritage.



ALICE FOLKINS was awarded the AMNB Quarter Century Award of Merit for '30 years of selfless service to the heritage community of southeast New Brunswick and to the Westmorland Historical Society, which she continues to serve in numerous capacities, and whose achievements over the past ten years are largely due to her outstanding leadership, drive and enthusiasm.'

JACK LINES was recognized for 'his outstanding contribution to all aspects of the \$500,000 Keillor House Project. Without his 30+ years engineering experience, sound judgement and outstanding leadership skills, the project could not have been initiated nor carried to a successful conclusion.'

DONALD ALWARD received an Achievement Award 'in recognition of his work for the Albert County Historical Society as Manager and Curator of the \$1.4 Million R.B. Bennett Commemorative and Interpretative Centre Project and the Albert County Museum.'

HUGUETTE DESJARDINS also received a Quarter Century Award of Merit 'for her many years of community service in the Madawaska area.'

### Thanks to...

Edith Gillcash for her advice & contributions to the Newsletter

Thanks to Retiring Board Members...

Pat Estabrooks whose advice & invaluable experience will be greatly missed. Pat is standing for the mayoralty in Sackville...we hope to have her rejoin us sometime in the future...

Gerry Gillcash from Lutes Mountain Heritage Foundation has given the Board excellent council over the years but needs to devote his time to the 'Daring to Dream Campaign'... Gerry thank you for your commitment...

### Welcome to...

Nancy Vogan— a WHS Life Member who served on the Board a number of years ago, and who has graciously consented to help us again.

### 'Daring to Dream Campaign'

Lutes Mountain Heritage Foundation Inc is raising funds for a new building with meeting rooms, library, kitchen facilities and an archive area. The Meeting House will become a full-time museum, with a foyer joining it to the new facility.

For more information contact Betty Lutes at (506) 384-7719 or e-mail her at lutzmntnheritage@rogers.com.





## WESTMORLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Donations, Memberships and Newsletter  
Submissions to:  
4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB  
E4L 2Z1

Keillor House Museum  
Manager: Diane Nicholson  
Tel.: (506) 379-6633  
Fax: (506) 379-3418  
E-mail: keillorhouse@nb.aibn.com  
www.keillorhousemuseum.com

### Museum Hours

Before June 14th, 2008

Open by appointment

Tel. (506) 379-6633

## PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The Westmorland Historical Society is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1965 with the mandate to collect, preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Westmorland County, NB. For four decades the WHS has worked with local partners to apply this mandate in a unique *entrepreneurial* way by encouraging *self-financing historic sites* attracting visitors from across North America. The historic Sir Pierre Landry House, the Bell Inn, and the Payzant & Card Building, contain apartments or businesses that help off-set the costs of preserving these historic buildings.

The Society's stellar museums—the Keillor House Museum (1813) housing the Graydon Milton Library and Genealogical Centre— and the St. James Textile Museum, contain remarkable collections attracting genealogists, researchers and visitors from across North America.

### How to become a WHS Member?

Contact Judy Morison, our Secretary at 4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB, E4L 2Z1. Tel: (506) 379-6682.

### Annual Fees (2008)

(Includes Newsletter)

Individual: \$7.00

Couples: \$10.00

Sustaining: \$25.00

Life: \$100.00

### Board of Directors

President	Eugene Goodrich
Past President	Alice Folkins
Vice-President	Greg Partridge
Secretary	Judy Morison
Treasurer	Vacant
Vanessa Bass	Cole Morison
Genie Coates	Shirley Oliver
Joanne Corey	Susan Spence
Karen Trueman	Cheryl Feindel
Nancy Vogan	

## SALUTING OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heart of WHS— your willingness to give your time to community and fund-raising events has meant that our museums can stay open! And the generosity of our many donors has allowed us to protect the heritage of the region for future generations.

*The Society wants to thank...*

*For the spectacular Christmas decorations at the Keillor House*—Joanne Corey and Moe Gautreau for giving up two weekends and putting in over 60 hours!

*And for helping at the Victo-*

*rian Dinner*, Moe, Joanne—our pro Amy Cormier, and the 'backroom' team - Gene & Joanne, Maryanne, Alice & Ritchie, Susan, GINETTE, Ted & Dianne, Karen, Judy & Cole, and Wendy & Warren.

With her usual flare, Lori Crosthwaite did a spectacular job as our caterer. Darlene, thank you for helping with desert!

*For entertaining us so ably*—Margaret Eaton, Kerry Mattatall, Mary Ellen Nurse, 'R.J' Lautenschlager and the Moncton Barbershop Quartet

*For creating the Ultimate 'Haunted House' Tour (sound effects, smoke, lighting & props)* Wendy & Warren Folkins—and Janet & Steven Ward, for over 100 hours on set-up! Thanks also to the BuckSkinners Reenactment Group.

*And Thanks to Our Ghosts, Witches, Goblins, Counts & 'Creatures'*—Alice, Bernie, Shelby, Maddy, Greg, Alexa, Andy, Janet & Steven, Cole, Wendell, Diane & Ted Donna, Gene & Joanne, Betty & Cody Wheaton

### Why Not Volunteer Today?

To find the activity that is right for you, contact  
Alice (506) 379-6620  
or  
Judy (506) 379-6682

### Newsletter Submissions Welcome!

Send comments, articles or items of historical interest to Cole Morison  
E-mail: morc@rogers.com.  
Tel: (506) 379-6682.