

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 ISSUE # 2 JUNE 2014 ISBN320813

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a pleasure to be able to report on the many exciting and diverse *volunteer* initiatives the Society has undertaken over the past few months. A few come to mind—at once:

Bob and Kathy Bowser, Alice Folkins, and volunteers from Westmorland Institution working over many months to refurbish the Bell Inn apartment (*See article in this Issue*), Margaret Eaton preparing an outstanding Wall of Fame Plaque honouring Helen Petchy, Judy Morison co-chairing the Cultural Coast Steering Committee, giving Keillor House a 'higher profile' within the region and with the provincial Tourism department.

Thank you all for volunteering to help.

Bell Inn Opens for Shiretown Days

It is an exciting time for Dorchester and for the many patrons of the Bell Inn. The new owners, Andrew Harrison and Sara

Craig—both experienced and enthusiastic chiefs—have maintained many of the traditional dishes associated with the Bell Inn while adding a number of exciting new ones. It will also be possible in the near future to enjoy a glass of beer or wine with your meal. As part of the 'new' Bell Inn, the kitchens and prep areas have undergone extensive updating.

If you have not yet had a chance to visit, and especially if you have a special 'event' coming up, drop in or call for a reservation.

Congratulations, Sara and Andrew on your exciting opening.

Welcome to Our New Staff for the 2014 Season

Meghan Beaudin, our very capable Manager this season, is hard at work hiring staff, getting them trained and fully oriented to the museum 'culture'. She handles scheduling—a

'big' job with three *very* different museums, prepares payroll time sheets, updates our Tour Scripts, co-supervises the Visitor Information Centre, creates individual 'projects' for Staff to complete and catalogues items for the Collections and Inventory Program. Her responsibilities also include planning and supervising Canada Day festivities and the Heritage Fair. (Meghan was recently accepted into a Ph. D program at U of M so, unhappily, she may not be able to be with us next season.)

This year Ashley Beaudin will be our accessions cataloguer, co-supervisor of the Visitor Information Centre and supervisor of the Gift Shop. Ashley will also be responsible for updating the Facebook page. Weekly, a new recipe from the Keillor House Cookbook will be posted, along with photos of recent visitors on a tour—a good strategy for maintaining visitor aware-

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KEILLOR HOUSE MUSEUM —SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebration of Canada Day. (Date was announced in 1867.) Time: 1:00-3:00.

Free cake, ice cream and fiddle music.

Sandpiper Festival Breakfast—Keillor House Museum July 26
Pancake Breakfast Time: 7:30-10:30. \$7.00. Family Rates

Heritage Fair—Keillor House & St. James Textile Museum July 26
Time: 12:00-4:00. *Try your hand at traditional skills.*

Harvest Supper—Hip of Beef. Keillor House Museum September 20. Time: 4:30-6:30. \$14. & family rates.

Tickets available in advance 379-6620.

Haunted House Tours—Keillor House. Oct 17, 18 & 24, 25 Time: 7:00-9:00. Tickets at door. Special bookings for groups. 379-6620. Adults \$10, Students \$8.

Victorian Christmas Dinner—Keillor House Nov 29 & Dec 6. Time: 6:30-10:00. Tickets \$65. Book Early 379-6620.

Elegant four-course dinner with wine. Live musical entertainment.

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SHIRLEY DOBSON 1927-2013

Eldon Hay sent me the following obituary for Shirley Dobson, a long time member of WHS who, I am sure, will be remembered by many. It was written by her daughter, Barbara Dobson, and printed in the Globe and Mail February 5, 2014. I think it most appropriate to reproduce it here.

Shirley Anne Oulton Dobson

Author, historian, genealogist, lady. Born on Oct. 16, 1927, in Dorchester, N.B.; died Oct. 14, 2013, in Moncton, after a long illness, aged 85.

After Shirley Dobson passed away, a friend sent a message of condolence to her family, describing her as a "true Maritimer" who was "solidly good." She would have been quietly thrilled by that practical, yet poetic, praise.

Shirley's Maritime roots dated back more than 200 years in New Brunswick, and she lived her entire life in the region she loved. She was born to Thomas and Jean Oulton, the second of two daughters, in Dorchester. The town, established in 1786 where the Memramcook River flows into Shepody Bay, became important for lumbering and ship building, and its story provided early fuel for what would become Shirley's lifelong love of history and genealogy.

A long-time member of the Westmorland Historical Society, she was directly involved in projects such as the restoration of Dorchester's historic Keillor House and Bell Inn, as well as Moncton's Free Meeting House. She would often be seen at a museum opening or fundraiser dressed in a period costume she had made herself.

Shirley also traced the history of both her family and that of her husband, Glenn Dobson. Their ancestors arrived from England in the late 1700s to settle in the Jolicure and Chignecto areas of south-eastern New Brunswick. She was almost encyclopaedic in her knowledge of the early settlement of this beautiful marshland area between Dorchester and the Nova Scotia border.

During their trips to England and Scotland, Glenn would go off to people-watch in a nearby café while Shirley visited museums and churches where she would pore through archives to meticulously research six or seven generations' worth of marriage and death certificates, seeking links in their family trees. All her research was done without the Internet—she never owned a computer.

Shirley and Glenn, who married in 1948, raised their three daughters and son in Moncton. They attended Central United Church for more than 50 years and Shirley was a member of many committees and boards. While Glenn served as an officer with the Moncton police force, she balanced parenting with her own career, which included working as a secretary for Moncton law firms and ending as executive secretary for the New Brunswick Federation of Home and School Associations.

After retiring, and nearing age 60, she attended Mount Allison University to study her beloved subject, history, and take writing courses. She loved to read ... and read ... and read, particularly female Canadian authors, as well as history and philosophy. She was often found sipping tea, book in hand.

In 1994, she published a book, *The Word and the Music: The Story of Moncton's Central United Church and its Methodist Roots*. She also presented papers relating to Methodism in Westmorland County. A special highlight was a presentation she gave at Mount Allison University in Sackville as part of Yorkshire 2000, a gathering of descendants of Yorkshire settlers who came to the area in the 1770s.

One of Shirley's favourite places was Buck's Flats, a large area of intertidal mud flats on the Fundy coast just outside Dorchester, where she had spent many summer afternoons as a girl. She always loved to return there, and no doubt that is the spot where her spirit will linger.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ness.

Allie Russell, Colton Colp and Nabeel Malik are joining us this year and Annie-Sarah Lavoie-Rochon will be at Keillor House working on projects for the South East Zone.

Dee Millikan, and—if her health permits—Betty Adams, will be demonstrating and teaching a new group of students at St. James Textile Museum.

Dee, thank you as well for managing our Face Book account for St. James.

It looks like it will be a great season.

We have been very fortunate in being able to hire such an outstanding staff and we hope it will be a rewarding experience for all of them.

Cole Morison

NEW ACQUISITION: SOME LEDGERS FROM THE WINDSOR HOTEL



Editor’s Note. Many thanks are due to Judy Morison for rescuing an interesting bit of Dorchester’s past from the maws of the antiquarian market and bringing it safely home to rest in the Keillor House Museum. When she heard that two ledgers of the Windsor Hotel were to be auctioned off at an estate sale in Amherst she braved icy roads and fierce Tantramar winds to rush over with the highest bid, and now we have them. Marlene Hickman has been studying these valuable artefacts and offers her observations here. Before turning to them, however, a brief review of the Windsor’s somewhat chequered and unfortunate history might be in order. You may remember (although I had almost forgotten it myself) the article entitled “The Hotels of Dorchester” that was republished from the **Chignecto Post** in the June 2012 issue of this Newsletter. Although unsigned, I believe it was by W.C. Milner, known to most of you, I am sure, for his **History of Sackville and The Early History of Dorchester**. It includes a very detailed description of the Windsor, based, apparently, on a personal inspection just before its grand opening in April 1896. It would be pointless to repeat it all here, but a few highlights will help to set the scene for Marlene’s discussion of the ledgers.

Built in Queen Anne style on the site of the old Wilbur Hotel (also known as the Dorchester)—now a vacant lot adjoining the Payzant & Card Building—its four stories commanded a lovely view of the marshes sweeping down to the head of the bay. With its elegant high-ceilinged rooms—enough to accommodate two hundred guests—numerous fireplaces, a grand dining room (43’x23’), separate but equally ornate ladies’ and gentlemen’s parlours, lavatories “with the most modern plumbing fixtures,” silvered radiators, slate as well as fancy wooden mantles (with mirrors to match, of

course) and electric bells "of the most improved pattern," it was the last word in 'posh' for a small town in a rural setting. Perhaps its best-loved—and certainly best remembered—feature was the solid mahogany bar in the basement, said to be the longest east of Montreal. Milner looked forward to "bathing houses...at Cole's Point" to whose "extensive sandy beaches and beautiful surf bathing" guests were to be "conveyed by the hotel coach twice a day, free of charge, during the bathing season." Additional grandiose furnishings such as an all glass front with enclosed patio were planned but never completed because the builders ran out of funds. Constructed during a brief period of renewed optimism for Dorchester's future, the Windsor became a sad symbol of its long decline into obscurity. It was the project of a joint stock company formed in 1895 by the shiretown's leading businessmen and professionals. The President and Vice President were Wm. Cochrane and W.D. Wilbur, while J.H. Hickman served as Secretary Treasurer. In addition to these three gentlemen, the Board of Directors included Geo. H. Fairweather, P.W. Chapman, H. J. McGrath and A. J. Chapman. Milner was apparently told that it cost \$14,500, but a later article that Marlene dug up claims that the total tab would have been \$23,000, except that funds ran out at \$18,000. The unfortunate reality was that there was never enough business to justify such an investment, and in 1901, only seven years after its glorious debut, W. Frank Tait bought it for \$10,000. In 1926 Frank sold it to his son, William, for \$5000. From 1946 to 1957 it had seven owners before Irving bought it in 1956 and sold it for salvage in order to build a service station. That, too, is now gone, but it is not as sadly missed as the once regal Windsor.

The ledgers, which run from Friday May 27, 1904 to Saturday March 31, 1906, were manufactured by J.S Lockhart & Co. of Brookfield, Colchester Co, Nova Scotia, a company that apparently specialized in this. I was fortunate to have an opportunity to look through them to find the story they record. W. Frank Tait is listed as proprietor of the hotel in 1904. In a small block at the top we read, "Guests without baggage are requested to pay in advance." Another rule insisted, "Money, jewels, coats, valises and other valuables must be left at the office, and checks received for them—otherwise the proprietor will not be responsible for any loss."

The same block advertisements appear repeatedly on each left hand page of the ledger. The Empire Business College of Truro, NS advertised courses in penmanship, bookkeeping, correspondence, arithmetic, shorthand, commercial law, typewriting, and orthography. An ad was placed by the Parker Hotel on Outram Street, Truro (A.H.H DesBarres, proprietor). Sackville businesses were represented by E.R Hart, dentist; Wallace Rodds, druggist and "opticing"; H.R. Ayer, watchmaker and

jeweller; Powell, Bennett & Harrison, barristers; T. J. Horsler, merchant tailor. The York (E.B. Snarr, proprietor) promoted its "excellent oyster stew and lunch at all hours" as well as fruit, confectionary, summer drinks, ice cream, cigars etc.

The advertisements by Dorchester businesses give a picture of life in the village at the turn of the century. J.H. Hickman & Co. were importers and dealers in dry goods and hardware, iron and steel, paints and oils, window glass and crockery, general groceries, flour and feed. They were also agents for the Intercolonial Mining Company of Westville, Pictou County, NS. Another Dorchester business, F.C. Palmer & Co., also dealt in dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, ready-made clothing, furniture etc. They were agents for Springhill Coal. Geo. W. Merrill, located on Woodlawn Street, was a manufacturer and dealer of light and heavy harness, collars, blankets, robes, horse furnishings, harness and oils. A.A. Steeves carried staple and fancy groceries, gents' furnishings, staple dry goods, boots and shoes. He, too, was an agent, in his case for the Standard Life Assurance Company, Sackville Bakery, and Canadian Express Company, which offered express money orders for sale. A.M. Gaudet guaranteed all his work as a house and sign painter—paper hanging, gilding, glazing, etc. He suggested in his ad that prospective customers write for estimates.

Guests were registered on the right hand pages. Columns listed the name, residence, time of arrival and room number. The letters 'B', 'L', and 'D' appear in the 'time of arrival' column, presumably meaning that the guests had arrived at breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Room numbers ranged from 1 to 27. The more commonly used ones were 10, 8, 4 and 5. Some rooms were rarely assigned. From the entries, it is difficult to determine how many nights the guests may have stayed.

The signatures are often difficult to decipher. Many of the guests were from relatively nearby: Sackville, Moncton, Saint John, Chatham, Point du Chene, Springhill, Advocate, Annapolis, East Apple River etc. Others came from Ontario and the eastern seaboard of the US, or from further afield: Winnipeg; Portland (Me.); Buffalo; Los Angeles; Wilmington; Chicago; Cleveland. And some came from surprisingly far away: Glasgow, Scotland; London, Liverpool and Manchester in England—and even from such exotic places as Paris, Kingston (Jamaica), Mexico and India. Almost daily, at least one guest gave Toronto or Montreal as his place of residence. During the twenty-two month period covered by the ledgers approximately 166 guests were from Toronto and 208 from Montreal. Forty-five were from Boston and about the same number from Ottawa and New York.

Most of guests were 'one-timers' but some were regulars. W.P. Archibald visited several times from Ottawa. A Google search revealed that he was Canada's first Parole Officer and he

probably came to visit the penitentiary. (The Salvation Army now operates a halfway house bearing his name in Toronto.) Edgar Card of Vanceboro, Maine was also several times a guest. On June 8, 1905 J.A. Graham of the *Montreal Herald* was registered. In the case of families, the signatures still reflected the great age of patriarchy: Thus, we hear of R. Lyons and P. Anderson by name, but of their spouses only as 'wife'. Needless to say, children were even more anonymous. However, women did occasionally travel alone, in which case they were graced with a name. A Miss Hill of Bermuda and a Miss Wallace of Boston visited in the warm month of July. Many of the last names of the local patrons are still familiar: Fillmore, Keith, Wright, Smith, Kennedy, Dysart, Douglass, Steeves, Wilson, Dobson, Fawcett, Campbell, and so on.

Occasionally a guest put down a ship as his 'residence'. J.B. Kehoe was listed as Captain of the *SS Tanagra*. Google immediately knew that she was a steamer of 5450 tons, length 340 feet, built by Russel & Co. of Glasgow for William Thomson & Co. of Saint John and launched in 1899. Other guests listed the *SS Trebia*, also built by Russel for Thomson. She was launched in 1902, weighed 3586 tons and was 338 feet long. Other ships that appear in the ledgers are the *SSs Exetria* and *Loretia* and *Edith Hayre*. In August 1904 the 1st officer and 2nd engineer of the latter were guests at the hotel. This time an Internet search failed to yield any further information.

Sometimes there were comments on the weather and other events: December 3, 1905 "First sleighing;" January 23, 1906 "Still mild and poor sleighing;" January 25, 1906 "Great change weather, wind & zero—Hockey: Moncton vs. Marysville". On Saturday March 11 the weather was described as "very windy." On Sunday it was "five trains still fast, 33 off track."

Hockey comments were more common. An entry in January 1905 listed the team members of the Sackville Shamrocks and noted, "4-2 slow game," adding "against St. John Micmacs 2-6 fast game." On February 3 it was "Mt. Allison Senior Hockey Team score 2-2 fast game." Feb 15: "Amherst score 10-0." Feb 21: "Moncton Hockey team beat 5-2." March 14: "Springhill Hockey Team—Thistle—score 3-2 in favour of Dorchester." Dorchester obviously had a strong team: On Jan 26, 1906 there may have been a tournament: "Moncton Hockey Team and Dorchester Hockey—3-1 Dor." And "Sackville Jr. Hockey Team and Dorchester Jr.—3-2 Dorchester". An entry on March 25 listed the names, positions and hometowns of Mount Allison's hockey team.

Guests also came in groups: On Tuesday Feb 13, 1906 "The East Lynn Co" registered with eleven signatures. On June 20, 1905 the Sells & Downs Show was in town. On Wednesday

June 8, 1905 the townspeople were enjoying "The Stillwell Comedy Co. tonight, Hickman's Hall." Harry and Nellie Stillwell, together with little Violet, stayed in Room 8, the others in 3 and 22. The hotel had quite a good day on that occasion. Twenty-nine guests came from Moncton, Fredericton, Montreal, Hamilton and New York. Capt. Kehoe of the *SS Tanagra* was also a guest. It's not recorded whether he took in the show.

The average number of guests was less than twelve, but many days saw from twenty-five to fifty. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays appear to have been the busiest, possibly related to the court sessions held at the courthouse across the square. It is unclear whether guests signed the registry if they were lunching at the hotel but not actually staying for the night. For example on Thursday Oct 5, 1905 there were fifty-two signatures, all of them relatively local. On any given day, the majority of them were from the area: Moncton, Sackville, even Dorchester itself. Tuesday May 2, 1905 saw forty-six guests, also from around here. Tuesday June 6, 1905 brought "stormy" weather and forty-four signatures. Was it the weather or a court session that filled the hotel? On Friday December 8, 1905, there were nine people from Boston. Were they a performing company? A normal day would see several out of town guests along with the locals. For example, on Tuesday November 22, 1905 there were fifty-one signatures, most from the local area but also some from Saint John, Montreal and England.

I did not examine each name but I am sure a closer look would reveal many notable people who enjoyed the comfort and beauty of the Windsor Hotel. In lieu of that, I append an alphabetical list of most of the places guests came from during the period covered by the ledgers. It is really quite revealing.

Marlene Hickman

Advocate	Brooklyn NY	Halifax
Albany NY	Buffalo NY	Hamilton ON
Alberton PEI	Charlottetown	Hants Port
Alma	Chatham	Havelock
Amherst	Chelsea MA	Hillsboro
Annapolis	Chicago	Ingersoll
Antigonish	Dalhousie	Johnson Mills
Baddeck	Dupuis Corner	Lockeport NS
Baie Verte	Edmundston	Loggieville
Bangor ME	Fairfield ME	London ON
Bass River	Folly Lake NS	Lowell Mass
Belliveau Village	Fredericton	Lower Cove NS
Boston	Glace Bay NS	Lunenburg NS
Bouctouche	Grand Manaan	Manchester NH
Bridgetown	Grandville Ferry	cont. p.6

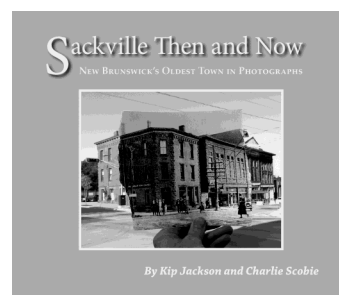
Melrose NB	Port Hood NS	Springhill	Windsor ON
Milton ON	Portland ME	St. Hyacinthe PQ	Winnipeg
Moncton	Providence RI	St. Stephen	Woodstock NB
Montreal	Pugwash	Surrey	Yarmouth
Mount Agony	Rexton	Sussex	California
New Glasgow NS	Richibucto	Sydney NS	Finland, Russia
New York	Richmond VA	Taylor Village	Glasgow, Scotland
Niagara Falls	River Glade	Toronto	Ilford & London GB
Ottawa	Rock Island NY	Truro	India
Oxford NS	Rockport NB	Vanceboro ME	Kingston, Jamaica
Petitcodiac	Saint John	Vancouver BC	Liverpool, England
Pictou	Salisbury	Victoriaville PQ	Manchester, England
Pointe du Bute	Shediac	Weyworth NS	Mexico
Pointe du Chene	Shemogue	Willington Delaware	Paris

BOOK REVIEW: SACKVILLE THEN AND NOW

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Krista Johansen for offering the following review of an important new book that will be of interest to WHS members. Krista is Librarian at the Dorchester Memorial Library and the author of many books of science fiction and fantasy.

Sackville Then and Now: New Brunswick's Oldest Town in Photographs

by Charlie Scobie and Kip Jackson
Sackville, NB: Tantram Heritage Trust 2013



The history of the urban landscape holds an enduring fascination. Like fossils in stone, echoes of old buildings can persist long after the structures themselves are gone: a wall, an alignment, an odd shape imposed on the landscape. However, even when a casual glance might suggest that the old has been swept away to make space for the new, a more careful examination can reveal the bones of the original building. At the same time, edifices of the past can persist, altered here, repaired there, expanded, contracted, their purpose reassigned but still recognizable even to their original builders, if only they were to return.

Sackville Then and Now combines text by Charlie Scobie and recent photographs by Kip Jackson with historic photographs drawn from many sources, including the Mount Allison archives and a number of private collections. Many of the old photographs date from the late Victorian period to the First World War, with a few from later in the twentieth century. Most are paired with a photograph of contemporary Sackville; when doing so, Jackson has taken care to photograph the buildings or sites from as near the same angle and perspective as possible, inviting easy comparison of past and present.

The photographs are not all of buildings; the marshes, wharves, parks, the racetrack, bridges, several fires, the flood of 1962, and many other significant landmarks of place or time are documented here, in addition to houses, churches, university properties, and businesses. Among the many interesting "fossils" preserved unexpectedly is, in the lines of the Kwik-Way on Queen's Road, a store dating back at least to 1894. Some contemporary photos document only empty lots: the Main Street Irving; the blacksmith shop on Lorne Street torn down in 2004. Others reveal houses still lived in and lovingly maintained by their current owners. The photographs of the downtown core, particularly the much-changed business area of Main Street where once houses and a pond were located, are particularly fascinating. One omission appears in the chapter on the university; although old destruction and replacement is discussed, no mention is made of the university's several controversial building demolitions of recent years, such as those of the Memorial Library, the Palmer students' residence, and Hillcrest, Hesler, Baxter, and Sprague

Houses, and no historic photos of these buildings are included.

Taken as a whole, though, the book is an important document of the changing urban texture of Sackville, and indeed of its surrounding human-altered landscape of marsh, farmland, and river. Though the eye goes first to the photographs, seeking the familiar in the lineaments of the past, Scobie's detailed and informative text should not be overlooked. Most readers, even those long familiar with Sackville's history, are going to find here much that is new to them, and likely some facts that will surprise. *Sackville Then and Now* is not only a record of past and present, it is an invitation to embark on further exploration of a landscape which familiarity may have come to take for granted, and to consider what its future might be.

Krista Johansen

A. CAVOUR CHAPMAN, PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZEN

Editor's Note: *In the September 2012 issue Althea Douglas told the interesting and amusing story of her great-grandfather, Robert Andrew Chapman's, unsuccessful bid to unseat Sir Alfred J. Smith in the federal election of 1878. (One highlight of the campaign was a scurrilous poem and cartoon in the very partisan Chignecto Post accusing the 'Knight' of bribing voters with bags of money and promises he never intended to keep.) Chapman lost the election, as had his father, Robert Barry Chapman, before him—also to Smith—but he had other, and more gratifying, accomplishments to his name. He is best remembered for founding the Chapman shipyard at Taylor Village that sent vessels—including the largest one ever built in Dorchester—over many a bounding main. One of Dorchester's leading citizens, even after the collapse of his shipbuilding enterprise, he and his family enjoyed a comfortable life of gentility in Swisscote, originally built as a wedding present for E.B. Chandler's son, Charles. His desire to perform public service was at least partially satisfied by an appointment as High Sheriff of Westmorland County. He was also doubtless highly gratified to see his children well settled in life, particularly his eldest son, Ad-elbert Cavour Chapman (1860-1943), who became one of Moncton's leading businessmen as well as one of its most outstanding public servants. An early and long-serving city councillor, Cavour was several times elected mayor, filling that office with great distinction. But perhaps his most important contribution to the common good was his twenty-three year stint as Chairman of the Moncton Hospital Board, the longest in its history. According to the late Professor W.G. Godfrey of Mount Allison University, who wrote the definitive book on the hospital's history, Cavour worked closely with the highly talented and utterly dedicated Hospital Administrator, Alena MacMaster, to transform what was in effect a crowded and chronically under-funded alms house into a fully up-to-date and internationally accredited hospital, complete with nursing school.*

Althea, who is one of Cavour's granddaughters, was clearing out some files last year when she came across a typescript written by Aida McAnn, a good friend of her mother. Evidently having some training as a journalist (she later married Hugh John Fleming who was New Brunswick's Premier from 1952 to 1960), Aida interviewed Mr. Chapman three years before his death and apparently intended the resulting piece for publication. It seems to have slipped through the cracks on that occasion, but Althea thought that members of WHS would be interested in it. I think we will be. There is some interesting history in it, and Mr. Chapman's advice to guard our forests seems especially timely. Would that it had been heeded when he made it! Thanks for sharing this with us, Althea.

63 Bonaccord St., Moncton, N. B.
November 23, 1940

Mr. A.C. Chapman,
169 Botsford St. Moncton, N.B.

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in granting me an interview. I enjoyed it greatly and learned much about many interesting things. I enclose a copy of the proposed article; please correct any mistakes and I hope you will find it worthy of publication. I know that the things you told me cannot fail to interest people and perhaps inspire younger men to be more active in community work because of your fine example.

Yours sincerely,
Aida B. McAnn

CAVOUR CHAPMAN (CONT)

"When I was a little fellow and walked along with my grandfather," Mr. A. Cavour Chapman of Moncton reminisces, "people used to say that one's head was as white as the other's." Today no similar comment would apply to Mr. Chapman and his grandchildren, for at eighty he has few grey hairs. In the last twenty-five years he has changed little in appearance and his youthful carriage and keen blue eyes bespeak a life full of interest and activity.

It has been said that the secret of retaining youth is keeping busy and Mr. Chapman proves the rule. A few of the interests which occupy him at eighty include: Chairmanship of the Moncton Hospital Board, Manager of the New Brunswick Wire Fence Company, Presidency of the Kent Lumber Company, Presidency of the Realty Holding Company, First Vice-Presidency of the Central Trust Company and active membership in Central United Church.

Back of his many successes lies an interesting story, a story ever illuminated by Mr. Chapman's outstanding ability, courage, initiative, foresight and public-spirited activity. His career began back in 1860 in Rockland, Westmorland County, a thriving ship-building centre on the Memramcook River directly opposite Dorchester.

"I was born in a shipyard," is the way Mr. Chapman puts it. "During my boyhood," he recalls, "there were many busy shipyards in our neighbourhood, my father's at Rockland, the Hickman and Palmer yards across the river at Dorchester and on the Albert County side, the Bennett establishment owned and operated by 'Deacon' Bennett as he was called, the grandfather of the Honourable R.B. Bennett. In addition to our shipyard there were other industries in Rockland: two large freestone quarries, one owned by Smith and McKelvie, the other managed for a New York firm by Mr. William Dobson, whose son Frank Dobson, a brilliant mathematician, recently died in Dorchester. The freestone produced in Rockland was of a very high quality and much in demand in the United States where it entered duty free. I once had an interesting trip to New York on a sailing ship carrying a load of stone. When the kind of building stone they required was discovered in the United States a high duty was immediately placed on ours, and the New Brunswick business was ruined overnight. One of the original American quarries is still in operation in East Long Meadow, Massachusetts, and there today are working the descendants of the men employed sixty years ago at Rockland.

"But," Mr. Chapman adds, "The end of the stone quarry business was scarcely more sudden than that of the ship-building industry. About the same time, the introduction of iron and steel ships ruined the wooden ship trade. Of the flourishing town of Rockland with its sixty or more comfortable homes, nothing remains today. Not one

house is left standing."

With the homes of Rockland also vanished the little white schoolhouse of Mr. Chapman's boyhood. Built by his father and given to the community for a school, it was used by his grandfather on Sundays for Sunday School, and on week nights for prayer meetings. Though not a minister, this Robert Barry Chapman (like his grandfather, the first William Chapman to come to New Brunswick with the Yorkshire settlers), was a devout Methodist.

"One of my first teachers," Mr. Chapman recalls, "was Miss Alberta Ryan of Coverdale, Albert County, sister of Sanford and James Ryan, prominent Moncton men in later years. Ours was really a private school and the teacher exacted what she could from the parents of the pupils. In 1874, when I was fourteen, I went to Sackville for further education. And speaking of changes, nowhere are they more striking than at Mount Allison! Why, we boys had to carry water in a pitcher from the old spring on the side hill and we had to chop our own wood. The academy was the only building then and Dr. Allison, "Davy" as we called him, was the college President.

"Many of my classmates at Mount Allison later became prominent in the life of the Maritimes. They included H.A. Powell, who settled in Saint John, Dr. Dunlap, Dr. Gaius Smith, Dr. R.L. Botsford, W.F. Humphrey and Matthew Lodge, all of Moncton, J.E. Humphrey of Petitcodiac and Dr. J. Clarence Webster of Shediac."

During his second year at Mount Allison Mr. Chapman had a severe attack of typhoid fever and when he failed to recuperate, the College Doctors prescribed a sea voyage. The trip was arranged and when the young man returned to Sackville after his outing was over, it is a safe wager that he had more experiences to talk about than any other student. It was in 1876 at the age of sixteen that he set out on a sailing vessel bound from Saint John to Limerick, Ireland, carrying a crew of twelve men, a cargo of deal and one passenger.

"When we set sail, the harbour of Saint John was crowded," Mr. Chapman recalls, "there were ships lying three tiers deep waiting to load lumber for the British market. Saint John was a thriving port in those days. We had a pleasant sailing of twenty-three days going over. I was much interested when I discovered that the Shannon River was quite similar to the Petitcodiac. Here also there is a high tide and the river is practically empty at low tide. When we landed, gates were closed to keep the water in. In the huge floating dock every ship lying at anchor was either from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia!

"Coming back to New Brunswick was quite a different sort of trip. We were sixty-five days on the water and the storms were so bad that half

the time we didn't know which side of the ship was uppermost. We had two Captains and I used to tell them to play a game of checkers to see which of them should be thrown overboard so that the other could steer us safely home. [Crossed out: 'We had no flour and so no bread'] Milk or fruit we never had as this was before the wide use of canned foods. For eleven whole days we existed on nothing but corned beef and curry powder! Our flag was put at half-mast in order to attract help. Finally a fishing schooner out of Gloucester, Massachusetts, sighted us and the Captain sent his dory over. We bought flour and other staples from him and paid in British sovereigns. The Captain and crew were so delighted at the sight of real gold that they sent over another dory load of food, this time a gift, consisting of fresh vegetables, squash, pumpkins, cabbage and potatoes. What a meal we had and what a treat it was! The reason the gold so greatly appealed to the Massachusetts men was because it was extremely scarce in the United States [Crossed out: 'at this time of slow recovery'] after the recent terrible economic setback of the Civil War. I need not point out the change in regard to the gold situation today!"

After leaving Sackville, Mr. Chapman came directly to Moncton and went to work as a bookkeeper for A.J. Babang, Wholesale Grocers. His ambition and initiative soon impelled him to set up shop for himself and he opened the grocery store of Allen and Chapman. This business did not succeed any too well for as a friend told him: 'You don't make the grocery business pay because you can't say 'No'.'

Creating a new and better job for himself was interesting work to Mr. Chapman. He bought out a patent and in 1899 founded the New Brunswick Wire Fence Company. When the Company was being organized a prominent iron manufacturer in Saint John advised a friend: 'Don't put any money into that. It won't last two years.' "But," Mr. Chapman explains with justifiable pride, "*it has been a going concern for forty-one years and has paid a dividend every year to the stockholders!*" The slogan of the New Brunswick Wire Fence Company, now one of the leading manufacturing firms in the Maritimes is: "From the ore to the finished product all made in the Maritimes!"

While building up his own business, Mr. Chapman never for a moment forgot community responsibility and from young manhood was active in every movement to make Moncton a better town in which to live. It was in 1889, before Moncton was incorporated as a City, that he first served on the Council. He represented first Ward One, then Ward Two, then acted as Alderman-at-Large and in 1896 was elected Mayor. A quarter of a century later in

1920 he again consented to act as Mayor, and was elected in 1921 to serve a second consecutive term. During his long civic career he fought tirelessly for all civic improvements, in many cases meeting strenuous opposition in the introduction of services now taken for granted.

"I can't remember exactly when it was that I took up work in the interests of the City Hospital," Mr. Chapman replied when questioned. The records show, however, that for the past twenty-five years he has been Chairman of the Moncton City Hospital Board. "My object over the years," Mr. Chapman explains, "*has been to make our Moncton Hospital the equal of any other modern hospital in Canada.*" The beautiful new wing with its splendid equipment exists today because of Mr. Chapman's perseverance and vision. When the Board Committee said: 'You can't raise \$400,000 for that new wing and its furnishings,' he replied: "*Nothing is impossible!*" That the Board Chairman's efforts to make Moncton Hospital one of the finest, have been successful is proven by the splendid rating granted the institution by the American College of Surgeons and the American Hospital Association.

The Moncton Hospital Board does well to continuously refuse to accept Mr. Chapman's resignation as Board Chairman. Every enterprise with which Mr. Chapman has been connected during his long lifetime has prospered. But even he and many other clever and public-spirited citizens of the Maritimes have not been able to hold or bring back industrial prosperity such as these Provinces by the sea enjoyed during his youth. "In my opinion," states Mr. Chapman, "*Confederation killed the Maritimes and blasted the hopes of our industrial development. When I was a boy there were fourteen banks all owned, managed and controlled in the Maritimes. Today there is not one; they are all centered [sic] elsewhere.*"

During his eighty years of living Mr. Chapman has seen great changes. He has studied their causes and effects. His advice to the younger citizens of the Province is worth heeding. He says: "*New Brunswick's wealth has come from her forest products. Guard the forests. Beware of indiscriminate cutting. This 'Green Gold' is New Brunswick's most precious heritage.*"

A FACELIFT FOR THE OLD 'BELLE', OR A 'BELL' OF A JOB

When Cole introduced the new owners of the Bell Inn Restaurant in last issue's President's Message he said of the Executive, "we are working closely" with them. This has to be the understatement of the century. After hearing about some extensive repairs and renovations, I stopped by one day and was flabbergasted by the amount of work being undertaken by four 'superstars', namely Cole himself, Bob and Kathy Bowser and (need I say it?) Alice (who is not technically on the Executive, but is certainly there in more than spirit). I immediately thought that something about this should go into the *Newsletter*. I know we are forever praising the efforts of our volunteers, but this really is 'above and beyond the call of duty'. Yes, they had help from our friends at Westmorland Institute, but they did much more than just supervise them. They worked with the 'boys' when they were available, and without them when they were not, and together they renovated most of the inside of the building over the course of the winter. The brief description that follows will give some idea of what they accomplished. The Society could never have afforded to hire all this done, and we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The work began last November when—just to whet their appetite—a goodly portion of the ceiling in one of the dining rooms collapsed onto the floor, the victim of a water leak in the upstairs apartment. Nothing daunted, they took down the rest of the ceiling, put up new dry-wall and repainted, finishing this job early in the New Year. In the meantime, in order to keep from going soft, they put new locks on all the exterior doors, mortar-filled all the cracks in the foundation (this was one of Cole's specialties), dug out a foot of earth all around it and filled it in with gravel as a special surprise for our furry friends of the rodent persuasion. (OK, it was the lads from Westmorland who put in the gravel.) While they were at it, they installed new smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting, much to the satisfaction of the Fire Marshall. After the long winter had given them a reprieve from outside chores, Alice, together with long-time 'faithfuls', husband Ritchie and Susan Spence, limbered up by cleaning up the grounds with help from the Westmorland Volunteers. (Susan has

recently become certified as a supervisor of the Volunteers and Cole asked me to mention that here, with thanks.)

Lest you should think they remained idle during the winter, throughout January, February and March they worked more or less steadily on the upstairs apartment with help, two to three days a week, from the Westmorland Volunteers (who received certificates recognizing their contribution—another example of Alice's generosity of spirit and concern for others). All the windows were taken out, sanded, scraped, recaulked, repainted and reinstalled. They also made up and installed new plexiglass interior storm windows for the upstairs of the back ell. Then they crack-filled, primed and repainted all the walls, ceilings and trim in every room and turned the two smaller apartments (one of which had been vacant for years) into one very commodious and cheerful suite for our new restaurateurs (who are renting it from us.) Now nicely warmed up, they tackled the two bathrooms, installing new toilets, tub surround etc. and taking up the old floor in preparation for new vinyl. (They *did* contract that job out, the shirkers.) They did pretty much the same in the kitchens, installing two new stoves and one new fridge. Just to keep busy, they then sanded down and refinished the wooden floor in the back ell (Cole tells me that Bob and Kathy were especially zealous here) and for good measure put in some new fixtures and lights. They also arranged for new vinyl flooring to be laid in the hallways and foyers. In the meantime Bob and Cole took up the old carpet in the living room and bedrooms and replaced it with new hardwood floors (Cole modestly says that Bob did most of the work). Of course, they couldn't ignore the old lighting/fan fixtures, and new ones were duly installed. Finally, it was the turn of the basement where they installed a washer, dryer and new water heater as well as new wiring and plumbing where required. Bob's skills in this department were especially appreciated. (It's amazing what they learn in accounting school.)

When this was all done, they turned to helping the new owners, Andrew Harrison and Sara Craig, to refurbish and update the restaurant. Here the Society supplied most of the materials (which had to be gotten together) while Sara and Andrew did much of the work, or hired it done. Even so, our intrepid team was not stingy with the elbow grease. Bob refurbished one washroom while he, Cole and the Westmorland Volun-

teers removed and replaced about a third of the ceiling in the main kitchen downstairs. Alice and Cole crack-filled and painted the central dining room and Cole weather-stripped all the external doors. In April Cole had a knee operation and so took on the role of ‘consultant’ but Alice was always there to see that things went smoothly. Not bad for ‘just helping’ our new tenants get their business established. Together they have given the old place a real facelift. Everywhere you look there is now new paint, new flooring, new toilets, new counters, new shelving, new appliances—you name it. As an added bonus, the updates meet all the requirements for obtaining a liquor licence, a pleasing prospect for those of us who feel a touch of nostalgia for the days when the Bell really was an inn. Congratulations to all of you!

Gene Goodrich



A study in concentration: Bob ‘measures up’ to expectations.

CONSERVATION IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In researching my Local Government in Early Westmorland County (described in the June 2013 issue of the Newsletter) I had to read through most of the province’s early legislation. I found the following item particularly interesting as it not only illustrates the multifarious nature of the duties of a Justice of the Peace, a major topic of the study; it also reflects a mentality that I am sure most of us are glad to have behind us. Twenty shillings (one pound) was about a week and half’s wages for most people at that time.

Gene Goodrich

32 Georgii III, cap. V (1792): *An Act to Encourage the Destroying of Wolves.*

Whereas many losses have been suffered by sundry inhabitants of this province from the destruction of their Sheep by *Wolves*, to the great discouragement of the increase of valuable stock.

I. BE IT ENACTED, *by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly*, That from and after the publication of this act, a reward of *twenty shillings* shall be paid to any inhabitant of this province for each full grown *Wolf* he shall kill within the limits of the same, and *ten shillings* for each *Wolf*’s whelp under a year old; and to every Indian *ten shillings* for every full grown *Wolf*, and *five shillings* for every *Wolf*’s whelp under a year old which he shall kill within the limits aforesaid.

I. *And be it further enacted*, That whosoever shall kill any wolf, wolves, their whelps, or whelp shall bring the head or heads of the same to one of HIS MAJESTY’S Justices of the Peace within the county residing nearest to the place where the same shall be killed, who shall examine the party on oath (if he judge it necessary) and, on being satisfied of his being entitled to the reward, shall disfigure the head of the wolf or whelp by cutting off both ears, and shall give under his hand and seal a certificate specifying the reward to which the party is entitled directed to the Treasurer of the province, or his deputy, in case any such deputy shall be resident in the county, who shall pay the same out of the monies belonging to the province Treasury: Which certificate shall be a sufficient voucher to the Treasurer for the money paid by virtue of this act.



Donations, Memberships and Newsletter
Submissions to:
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E4L 2Z1

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

Museum Hours

June 14 to Sept. 13 2014

Tuesday to Saturday

10:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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 Membership Secretary, at 4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB, E4L 2Z1. (506) 379-6682. morc@rogers.com

Annual Fees

(Includes Newsletter)

Individual: \$10.00

Family: \$15.00

Sustaining: \$25.00

Life: \$150.00

Research Associates

Judith Rygiel, W. E. Goodrich

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SALUTING OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

In this issue you have read even more than usual about the outstanding work of our volunteers, but, in this organization, it seems that, no matter how many are mentioned, there are always more to be thanked.

In this column we would like to recognize Board Member Susan Spence. As you learned in the article on the refurbishment of the Bell Inn apartment, Susan has become certified to supervise inmates on the work release programme and has already put her training to good use in the spring clean up.

She also played a major role in this year's Mother's Day Tea, which was a huge success. She organized the ticket sales as well as the silent auction, helped with the baking, pre-sold tickets, worked the door, served up goodies and helped with the clean up. She typifies

the dedication and enthusiasm of the many volunteers who carry out the Society's mission with such success.

Thank you, Susan, and so many others like you.

J

Our Secretary, Judy Morison, has been working for many months 'behind the scenes' to promote Keillor House and St James Textile Museum across the province. As Co-Chair of the Steering Committee bringing together Kent and South East Tourism to form the new Cultural Coast tourism initiative, Judy has played a vital role. By amalgamating these regions, financial and other resources can now be 'leveraged' to provide a unified strategy to market in a co-ordinated fashion, the many outstanding attractions in each region.

By working together, the new Cultural Coast tourism strategy has already raised

the profile of the area, and gained the support of Tourism department.

Congratulations, Judy, for your commitment and for helping to make all of this happen.

The Executive

Small Town, Big Fashion

This highly successful exhibit curated by Inga Hansen, will open at the Thomas Williams House in Moncton June 20th.

If you missed the exhibit at Keillor House or at the New Brunswick Museum, this will be the last time the it will be mounted.

You don't want to miss it!