

WESTMORLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the weather may be challenging (-30 degrees last week!) WHS Board Committees have been hard at work preparing for next season. It's a busy time of year—with grant applications, updating of our Events Schedule, preparing advertising for the Provincial Guide, posting to various websites, researching material for Wall of Fame inductees and developing new Museum Exhibits for the 2015 season. (Our year-end Financial Statements and various reports to government—with strict 'deadlines'—are also due at this time.)

I want to thank the Executive and the Board for their hard work—and especially Alice who has worked many weeks preparing and submitting various grant applications. *She is looking for a Board or Member volunteer to help her with this work—if you can spare one or two hours a week at this time of year, it would certainly be appreciated.*

Fund-Raising and Events 2014

Our five major fund-raising events this year raised thirteen thousand dollars to support the museum and its activities, with eight thousand coming from our Haunted House nights. I want to thank all our volunteers with a special thanks to Marilyn and Ted Wheaton and Mike Shea and their families and friends for their many weeks of work, as well as Bernie Melanson and his students for their enthusiastic participation.

Volunteer Appreciation Night on January 11th was again a great success. Over fifty volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to relax, meet new people, and savour another fabulous 'pot luck'. Thanks again to Alice and her volunteers for making it a special night.

Bell Inn Update

As part of our efforts to preserve the

Bell Inn—and make it economically viable (which is what our mandate requires), the Board has undertaken several new initiatives over the past few months.

New Roof Installed

The cedar roof, metal flashing, many clapboards and the gutter system had seriously deteriorated (we had leaks!) and a new 'simulated wood shake steel' roof has now been installed (50 year guarantee). New clapboards, flashing, new R-40 insulation and an ice and water shield over the entire roof are now in place, with the gutter system soon to be completed.

Since the Bell Inn has provincial designation, Boyd Algee Architect Ltd. was contracted to develop the Roof Concept Study (design specs satisfying Heritage Branch, options for WHS) and to work with us during the bidding process and project supervision. A

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KEILLOR HOUSE MUSEUM —SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual General Meeting Sunday April 26.

Time, Place and Speaker to be announced. Delicious dinner guaranteed.

Mother's Day Tea and Sale—Keillor House

Saturday May 9. *Coffee also served in case Mom doesn't drink tea. \$10.00*

Keillor House Opening Saturday June 13.

Right after the Shiretown Parade. Free

Celebration of Canada Day. At Veterans' Centre. Free

Sandpiper Festival Breakfast—Keillor House July 25. 7:30-10:30. Pancakes, Sau-sages & Baked Beans.

\$7.00 (children under 6 free)

Harvest Supper Saturday—Keillor House September 12. 4:30-6:30

Hip of beef and old-fashioned desserts. \$14.00

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AMNB HONOURS JUDY MORISON



Each year the Association Museums New Brunswick (AMNB) presents Awards of Merit to individuals for 'outstanding contributions in the field of heritage'. At the 2014 Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Fredericton in November 5-7, 2014 the Award of Merit was presented to Judy Morison.

Judy has been Secretary of the Westmorland Historical Society and a Board member since 2003, served as Secretary for the South Eastern Museum Zone Network and represented WHS on the SE Tourist Association. She has also volunteered as Co-chair of the Cultural Coast tourism association and Co-chair of the New Brunswick Mat Registry.

From the Nominating Submissions...

Judy since her retirement over ten years ago has practically dedicated her life to heritage in New Brunswick. After just one visit to an activity at the Keillor House Museum...she said she would like to help with anything we may be planning...

She was on the planning committee and chaired many meetings to organize the Keillor House Museum's 200th Anniversary...assisted with organizing Inga Hansen's highly successful '200 Years of History Through Fashion' and with the publication Small Town, Big Fashion documenting the Keillor House exhibit 'Small Town, Big Fashion: Fashion in Southeastern New Brunswick 1860-1960'

She worked tirelessly marketing museums in the province...chairing the Cultural Coast marketing initiative for Westmorland and Kent counties and being an active member of the South Eastern Zone of Museums...

An avid rug hooker, Judy planned, organized, founded and continues working with the New Brunswick Rug Registry...which registers antique rugs in private collections in New Brunswick... creating a data base at the New Brunswick Museum'

Judy has tirelessly pursued this endeavour to search out hand hooked rugs and record their history by facilitating registries and training volunteer groups of rug hookers to collect data. Mat registries have been set up province wide under Judy's direction...

With Judy's perseverance, drive and dedication to the art of rug hooking this part of our heritage is being recorded.'

Our sincere congratulations to Judy on receiving this honour. It is most deserving and we thank her for everything she has done to preserve New Brunswick heritage.

The Executive

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

successful bid was received and detailed architectural drawings have permitted effective supervision by Boyd Algee Ltd. of all phases of the project.

We want to thank our partners at Heritage Branch who have provided a grant of \$35,000 which covers about half the cost of design, supervision and construction. Without this support we would be hard pressed to undertake the work required.

The project should be finished in the next few weeks.

New Heating System and Insulation

Last winter (2013) the Bell Inn heating bill over the winter months (with restaurant closed) was so high that the building was no longer economically viable unless heating costs could be significantly reduced. Although we had installed an efficient new oil furnace in 2004, the price of heating oil has surged in the last ten years—and something else needed to be done.

In the fall we contracted with Advantage Insulators to have spray foam insulation blown in between the headers in the basement of the restaurant, which prevented substantial air leakage between the foundation walls and floor. This has had an immediate and dramatic effect on current heating costs.

In late fall, three new heat pumps working off two compressors were installed by Bob's Heating to heat the restaurant and basement—so only a single tank of heating oil has been used from November to mid February. (However, the heat pumps cannot supply all the heat needed—when the temperature falls below -20 degrees, the furnace must be turned on since in these extreme temperatures the pumps consume more energy than they generate.)

In order to buy a measure of safety, and avoid any more pipes breaking (as in the past), we have also had glycol put in the furnace's circulation system by Plumb & More Services Ltd., preventing any further 'freeze ups' and expensive repairs.

These measures taken together will, I think, not only 'maintain' the building but allow it to be economically viable into the future.

I want to thank Sara and Andrew for their patience during all of this construction—having a new roof put on during winter weather, certainly came with its challenges!

Thinking About the Future

There is every sign that government support for museums will continue to decrease in the coming years, and if we are to survive, we must make our historic buildings 'self-supporting' (*See Newsletter, September 2014*) and protect our Museums through investment in the Graydon Milton Endowment Fund.

All Endowment Gifts will be invested for long-term capital appreciation, and can be in the form of cash or a publicly listed security. It is also tax effective to assign WHS as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. (You or your estate are eligible for a charitable receipt for the full amount of your Gift.)

Even a small contribution will grow over the years—and will help to protect the future of our Museums.

For more information—contact Finance Committee Chair, Cole Morison (506) 379-6682.

Cole Morison

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT: JOHN KEILLOR'S ACCOUNT WITH AMOS FOWLER 1789-99; WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT THE KEILLORS?

In the last issue I told you how my blunder in ordering the wrong microfilm unexpectedly turned up a hitherto unknown account that master furniture maker and general handyman, Harmon Trueman, rendered to his uncle, John Keillor, in 1803. Among other things it supported some conclusions I had come to about John from other evidence: While relatively prosperous by 1790, he was by no means rich and so had to strain his resources somewhat in order to achieve a lifestyle appropriate to a gentleman farmer, something that was indispensable to realizing his long standing ambition of being appointed one of the county's Justices of the Peace. (This finally happened in 1805.) In this issue I want to further whet your appetite for my forthcoming book on the Keillors by throwing you a few tidbits from the section that analyzes another of the documents serendipitously discovered on that blessed microfilm, a long lost account rendered to Keillor by Amos Fowler that I had been trying in vain to hunt down for several years. Not only does it support my interpretation in a gratifying way; it also reveals a good deal about life in the Keillor household in the 1790s when the family was still living in the log house that John built about 1782 near what was later called 'Robb's Brook' (named after his son-in-law, John Robb, who established one of the county's first oat mills there).

Amos Fowler was not the only merchant with whom John did business, but the surviving portion of his account is particularly valuable because it runs from February 1789 to March 1799, the longest of any I have yet seen in the course of my research on the Keillors. This means that we can get a pretty good handle on the family's pattern of consumption and—because it also includes payments and balances at various times—its financial circumstances. But before getting into all that, let's meet Amos.

Amos Fowler was one of a number of merchants who served the Chignecto-Dorchester area at this time. Others included William Harper of Saint John and Sackville who later established a store at Hall's Creek to become Moncton's first storekeeper, Benjamin Wilson who ran a store and kept a tavern on Dorchester Island, and Stephen Millidge who owned Sackville's first store at Westcock.

(He was also High Sheriff of the County and a son-in-law of its Big Man, Amos Botsford.) Like Harper and Millidge, Fowler was a Loyalist who nonetheless maintained contact with his former homeland from whence he imported a fair amount of his stock. He was settled near Fort Cumberland (previously and afterwards Fort Beauséjour) but seems, like Harper, to have run a schooner to Sackville, Dorchester and probably 'The Bend' to pedal his wares, as well as to Saint John and probably Eastport to pick up goods for his store. He was also John Keillor's brother-in-law, or at least he was until 1798 when Ann, who was John's youngest sister, died, probably in childbirth, the chief occupational hazard of motherhood in those days (she was only twenty-eight). As a point of interest otherwise irrelevant here, the following year Amos married the widow of jeweler Peter Etter (of Etter Ridge) to help raise his five children by Ann and soon afterwards bought the original Keillor homestead from John's brother, Robert. That's why what could have been 'Keillor's Hill' became instead 'Fowler's Hill'. The small white (or recently gray) old farmhouse you see on your right going east on the TransCanada just as you go up the hill towards Fort Beauséjour is the site of the little stone house that John's father built soon after arriving in the New World.

So, what did the Keillors buy from Fowler, and what does this tell us about the Keillors? For purposes of analysis I divide their purchases into several categories and comment on them more or less as follows. (This is of course an abbreviated version.) For those interested in the details such as price and quantity (and they are interesting), I provide a complete transcription of the accounts in an appendix.

Sewing Needs: Besides knitting needles, ordinary needles, thread, pins, buckles and buttons, these included an impressive variety of fabrics, some of them plain, but others quite fancy. Thus, there was baize (a coarse woollen cloth sometimes tacked onto doors to deaden sound), broadcloth, Cambric (fine white linen cloth), cotton cloth, white and brown linen, flannel, fustian (a thick short napped twilled cloth), Osnaburg (a coarse cotton used for draperies etc.), Ticklenburg (a coarse mixed linen fabric), silk shirting, Russian duck (fine white linen canvas) as well as vest patterns, indigo and wool.

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)

Clearly, Elizabeth Weldon Keillor (John's wife) and perhaps her domestic help as well, if she had any, were making a lot of the family's clothes as well as curtains, drapes etc. There is even some evidence—if any were needed—that the Keillor daughters were taught to sew from an early age. One of the items purchased in 1793 was for "1 ½ yards Durant for Ann," the first-born of the Keillor children. She was just ten or eleven at the time. The wool, indigo and knitting needles are a clear indication of spinning, dying and knitting. There is no direct evidence of weaving (such as a loom), while the amount and variety of purchased fabrics suggests that even if there was some being done, it was of lesser importance. The presence of linen on the shopping list also makes me doubt that there was a flaxbreak in the house. One of the more curious fabrics is "Rusha shirting" (1 yard bought in 1791), probably the same thing as "Rusha duck" (6 yards in 1798). This was evidently a misspelling of 'Russian duck', a fine white linen canvas much lighter than ordinary canvas and therefore not used for tents, bags, wagon covers etc. It might have been used for making John's summer trousers.

Condiments: include cinnamon, mustard, nutmeg, raisins, salt, salt peter (for curing meat or possibly making gunpowder) sugar, Bohea tea (regular black) and vinegar.

Most of these items are common in the other accounts I examined but nutmeg is less so, even if hardly rare. However, this is the only instance of cinnamon I have encountered. I assume there were others I haven't seen, but in any case it seems to have been an unusual item. Meat, flour and other basic foodstuffs are conspicuously absent. It looks like the farm was supplying them.

Household furnishings: bed cord, blankets, bluing, brimstone (sulphur, used as a fumigant or perhaps in gunpowder), brushes, chamber pots, cordage (rope), a cream pot, flints, forks, iron pots, knives, mugs, plates, spoons, tablecloths, tape and tins.

These things, too, were pretty ordinary but they tell

us that the Keillors were maintaining a decent standard of living, apparently replacing or adding to the stock of cutlery and other accouterments of civilization on a regular basis. The bluing for whitening the wash and the brimstone for fumigating (outhouses among other things, I suspect) suggests a level of cleanliness that was probably not found in every home.

Personal items: combs, diaper material, gloves, hats, plain cotton handkerchiefs, shawls, shoes, and soap.

Again, these were fairly common, especially the handkerchiefs and shawls. For some reason, people seem to have preferred them 'tailor-made', rather than making them themselves, which should not have been too hard to do. I assume that many, especially of the poorer sort, made their own soap, but it can also be found in a number of other accounts besides the Keillors'. It was probably imported from the United States, where soap had been manufactured commercially since the seventeenth century. Most likely, it supplemented rather than replaced the homemade variety and was probably for personal ablutions, rather than laundry. In any case it appears no less than six times in the Fowler account, another indication of the Keillors' concern for cleanliness. I find it rather fetching that one of the three pairs of shoes was for little Ann.

Livestock and other farm equipment and supplies: bellows, cod line, a pair of compasses, four cows, currycomb, files, gimlets (for drilling small holes), girt buckles (for horse harness?), one horse, a horse collar, jack knife, lantern, lead, leaf tobacco (2 barrels), leather, scythes, sharemould (for making ploughshares?), nine sheep and one lamb, shoe knife, shoe tacks, shot, snowshoes, tacks, whiplash.

We can learn a number of things from this list besides the obvious one that the Keillors kept both sheep and cattle. I know from other sources that they milked quite a few cows, so the lantern could have been used, among other things, for milking in the dark. The currycomb indicates that they had horses (one of them is listed here) and that they were groomed. The horse collar can only have been for a draught horse, so they must have had a horse-drawn wagon or cart, or both, which would explain the whiplash as well. Carriages didn't arrive in this area for another two decades or more and it is unlikely, though not impossible, that horses were used for ploughing at this early date. The bellows and sharemould

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)

suggest that there might have been a forge on the farm, although probably not a fully outfitted blacksmith shop (blacksmithing was a specialized trade), while the cod lines (John bought three from Fowler) prove that someone was fishing. The shot and lead, which can also be found in other accounts of the time, are a pretty good indication of hunting. John was both a Surveyor and a Commissioner of Highways at various times so the pair of compasses may have been used in that work. Another possibility is that they were used for navigating through the back woods, perhaps while trapping. The snowshoes alone don't necessarily indicate trapping, as they were also used for just getting around in winter (I have seen other references to them). But as we will see below, John made at least one payment to Fowler in the form of pelts.

Several other items reveal some rather different aspects of the Keillors' domestic economy. The bulk leather (six pounds bought in 1793 and three pounds in 1795), the shoe knife (not the shin kicking kind you see in the movies) and the shoe tacks mean that someone was making or mending shoes. The two barrels of leaf tobacco bought in 1799 weighed a whopping 196 pounds, far more than any one person could smoke before it went completely stale, and way out of line with John's earlier purchases of this product. I can't think of anything else he could have done with this amount except resell it in smaller quantities to his neighbours. This may have been his first step into the small retail business he would develop in the following decade.

Building materials: hinges, locks (for both chest and door), nails, thumb latches, window glass.

From these we learn that improvements and/or repairs were being made to the house, and that there was some concern for security. There is no reason to think that windows during this period were ever covered in anything but glass. It was easily imported and appears frequently in other accounts besides Keillor's.

Amenities (by which I mean items that were nice to have, but not strictly necessary, yet common enough not to be considered extravagances): a pepper caster (shaker), (apple) jack, gin, rum, Suchong (a deluxe smoked tea, the original 'Earl

Grey'), a tailor-made coat, tobacco.

Both rum and tobacco were pervasive among the early settlers as well as many generations of their successors, so it is hardly shocking to see them here. But the Fowler account reveals an interesting development nonetheless. While still an unmarried young man living with his widowed mother and siblings on the family farm near the fort, John had an account with local merchant James Lowerison during the year 1782 and into the spring of 1783. From it we learn that he bought only a very modest one quart of rum and no tobacco at all during this period. By contrast, he bought about two *gallons* of rum in each of the years 1789, 1790 and 1791, and one gallon and one pint in 1792. He didn't buy any rum in 1793, at least not from Fowler, but he did indulge in a bottle of gin. After that there is no more of either substance in the Fowler account until 1799, when he bought another gallon of rum. However, we cannot conclude from this that he went completely dry for five years. W.C. Milner cites a few items from "an account dated 1795 rendered...to John Keillor" by Stephen Millidge (the original is still missing) and among them are a gallon of rum and a gallon of "spirits." Evidently, Fowler was out of stock for a while. The evidence is obviously incomplete, but it seems that John was consuming considerably more hard liquor than before. However, the amount was still fairly modest compared to what many others were swigging down.

He also appears to have picked up the smoking or chewing habit since moving to Dorchester—it was very common among men of the day. From Fowler he bought two pounds in 1791, 1792 and 1793 and six pounds in 1795. He bought two pounds again in 1796 and then the really big order of 196 pounds in 1799. As stated above, I think that was intended for resale, but he could also have smoked some of it. If two pounds a year were his average consumption, he would not have been a terribly heavy smoker. That works out to 2.66 ounces a month which, according to a pipe website I consulted, would be about twenty-six pipe fills, or less than a pipe a day. However, a pound of tobacco is also one of the items Milner cites on John's 1795 account with Millidge. This, together with the six pounds bought from Fowler in 1795 seems to suggest a somewhat heavier user, and this impression may be confirmed—although the evidence is pretty shaky—by the accounts that some other smokers in the area had with William Harper. For what it is worth, they generally bought only one pound at a time.

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)

Most of the tea on John's account with Fowler was Bohea, or ordinary black tea, while Souchong was a treat. It was about 40% more expensive than Bohea, but it was not all that uncommon.

Luxuries (by which I mean items that, although not necessarily terribly expensive, are relatively uncommon in the other accounts I have seen, and suggest a certain refinement of life): a black silk handkerchief, chocolate, cordial (liqueur), decanters, ivory combs (5), loaf sugar, tumblers, wine glasses.

Cotton handkerchiefs, both ordinary and muslin, were fairly common, but silk ones, especially black silk ones, were not. In fact, this is the only one I ran across in the accounts I examined. At nine shillings apiece, they were nearly three times as expensive as the common red cotton ones and were used only for 'dress up'. Since both men and women carried them, it is impossible to know whether this one was for John or Elizabeth. I found tumblers (fancy flat bottomed drinking glasses) in only ten of the approximately sixty different accounts that I examined in the surviving ledgers of William Harper, and all ten of them were those of prominent and well to do families. In buying a decanter, presumably for decanting wine (why else would he need wine glasses?), John was in even more exclusive company. In my sampling (by no means an exhaustive one, it must be added) they appear in only two other accounts. Of course that doesn't mean that others didn't have them, but it does suggest that they were something of a 'high end' item.

Another item I have seen nowhere else is chocolate. (It is the drink we are talking about; chocolate candy was only 'invented' in 1849, by Joseph Storres Fry.) For a couple of centuries after its introduction into Europe during the Age of Discovery it was a luxury available only to the wealthy. However, the arrival of the steam engine in the early eighteenth century mechanized the grinding of the cocoa bean and the price dropped to within reach of more ordinary folk. Chocolate became particularly popular in the New England colonies where its production, according to one article, proceeded "at a faster pace than anywhere else in the world." During the Revolutionary War it was "included in the soldiers' rations and was sometimes used in lieu of wages." Thus, it was a common and affordable enough item in New England, which makes me wonder why I didn't see it in any of the other

accounts. Perhaps I missed it, or it was in others I didn't examine. In any case, like the other items on this list, it seems to be making a certain statement about the family's level of refinement.

Educational Supplies: ink powder, lampblack (used in making ink), penknives, paper, spelling books.

Clearly, some writing was being done in the Keillor household. From 1793 to 1797 three quires of paper—which according to the standard definition of 'quire' would mean seventy-five pages—were bought from Fowler. Unfortunately, this doesn't tell us what it was used for, or whether there was also another source of supply. (I assume there was some on hand before 1793.) But the spelling books could suggest that some of it was used to practise writing and do other exercises such as arithmetic, meaning that the children were being educated. Much more than the name implies, spelling books were used to teach children to read and generally included a "syllabary" (ba, be, bo, boo etc.) a brief grammar, a dictionary of useful words, and selected readings. If Keillor bought copies of Daniel Fenning's *Universal Spelling Book; or, a new and easy guide to the English language* or similar works—popular in both Britain and America in the later 18th century—they also offered recipes for making ink and instructions for writing, while the selected readings were intended to be "not only diverting to the Mind, and improving to the Morals, but a great Help to prevent Youth from falling a Sacrifice to the common Temptations of Life, and their own ungarded Passions."

There is also an interesting sidebar to this: The only child in the Keillor household old enough to start reading when the first spelling book was bought in 1790 was Ann, who was seven. When the second one was bought in 1792 all the children except she and Mary were under six. John Junior was six in 1797 when the third one came into the house, but there was also another girl, Elizabeth, age nine. It would seem, then, that the girls were being taught to read as well as to sew and knit. If so, it would be in contrast to their mother and grandmothers, all of whom signed their names with an 'x'. It would lead too far afield to discuss them here, but I know from other sources that there were private schools in the area at this time.

Cash advances and payments to others on John's behalf: Besides supplying goods that people couldn't produce themselves,

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)

merchants like Fowler acted as bankers, lending cash to their customers and paying off their debts in the hope of recovering the money later. Indeed, such transactions made up a considerable portion of John's "purchases" from Fowler. Merchants also allowed trusted customers to use their account to pay others for various services rendered. Thus, John had a horse shod, a saddle mended and a sleigh repaired (the last named by Bedford Boultenhouse), all charged to his account with Amos. Presumably, he wrote the service providers a note—essentially a cheque—that they then presented to Fowler for payment. He also used this payment method to buy livestock from Peter Etter and "the French." Incidentally, the latter purchase is interesting evidence of economic interaction between the Anglophones and Acadians of the Memramcook Valley.

Payments: John made payments on his account every year except 1794 and it is interesting to see what they consisted of. Over the ten years the account ran, less than 25% of the payments were in cash and of this only about two thirds came directly out of his own pocket. The rest was paid to Fowler by others who owed John money. Clearly, the Keillors didn't have a huge pile of spare cash lying around. Like the majority of their neighbours, they did most of their shopping by barter. And what did they barter? Oxen, some of them intended for the plough, others for the larder, made up about 68% of the total value of the payments. Butter accounted for about 8%, wheat 5%, a few furs (fox and bobcat) and credit for hauling some goods from Dorchester Island about 1%, and all the rest about 18%. But "all the rest" was actually a credit of £20 for the return of a horse in 1799 that had been bought two years before.

The return of the horse is quite revealing. Every year, John had a balance owing that ranged from a modest £2.14s.9d. to a fairly hefty £45.13s. 5 ½ d. (the value of half a dozen oxen). Moreover, the larger balances were in the later years of the account, precipitated mainly by his failure to pay anything in 1794, which more than doubled his debt to Fowler. He was unable to catch up after this in spite of paying £13.5s. in 1797 while buying only a little more than £5 worth of household goods that year. This was because he also

bought the horse for £20. The following year he was only able to deliver Fowler ten bushels of wheat valued at £5 while his purchases and a cash advance came to £5.10s.8d., leaving his balance the highest yet. Then in 1799, the last year of the account, it seems that he had to pay off three Acadians, probably for some work they did for him. That cost another £5.17s.6d. He also decided to invest £16.8s. in some oxen, probably with a view to fattening them up and reselling them, as well as £11.12s.9d. in two barrels of leaf tobacco, also probably for resale. All this added up to a pretty hefty £33.18s.3d., and when the ladies of the house decided they needed £9.12s.10 ¼ d. worth of sewing materials, five iron pots and yet another ivory comb, something had to give. So, to keep the debt from getting out of hand, the horse was returned, no doubt with regret. (Were there some disappointed girls to comfort?) To his credit, Fowler didn't charge any depreciation on the animal.

Clearly, John was stretching his budget, and not just with Fowler. From the missing account cited by Milner and three others mentioned in the Fowler account it is evident that he was shopping with others as well during this period—and also racking up debt. He paid off the three aforementioned accounts by charging their balance to his account with Amos, the equivalent, I suppose, of paying off Visa with MasterCard. So he seems at this time to have had a bit of a 'cash flow' problem, and the reasons are probably not far to seek. As I explain in another section of the *opus*, these were the years when John was scrambling to assemble as large a land base as possible with the limited cash at his disposal. Yet, at the same time he was struggling to acquire land, he was also buying things, modest in number to be sure, that were not strictly necessary, but which added a certain refinement of life.

However, we shouldn't conclude from this that he was being irresponsible. Having an account outstanding with one of the local merchants was almost the norm and, unlike many of his neighbours, he made payments every year (with one exception). Furthermore, I have pretty good reason to believe that he eventually discharged his obligations because, also unlike many of his neighbours, he was never sued for debt (or anything else for that matter). He may have been living a bit beyond his means, but he must also have been confident that his means wouldn't always be so limited. In this, time would prove him right.

Gene Goodrich

REPORT ON THE KEILLOR PROJECT (CONTINUED)

1793

Mr. John Keillor *to Amos Fowler* *Dr* *420*

| | | | |
|----------|----|--|--------------|
| January | 18 | To Amount of Accts Rend. you | £ 68-1-2 1/4 |
| | 18 | To 1/2 D bond for 1000 | 10 - - |
| | | To 1/2 D paper 1/2 2 D for 1000 | 9-3 |
| | | To 1/2 D paper 1/2 1000 for 1000 | 6-6 |
| | 17 | To 1/2 D wood 1/2 1000 for 1000 | 11-3 |
| June | 13 | To 1/2 D Bond to Elizabeth Black 1/2 1000 for 1000 | 9-2 |
| | 19 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 9-3 |
| | 22 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 4 - - |
| July | 6 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 3-9 |
| | 29 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 9 - - |
| October | 7 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 8 1/2 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 1-4 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 4-1 1/2 |
| November | 14 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 3-6 |
| January | 24 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 1-3 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 1-6 |
| March | 22 | To the Amount of Mr. Chapman's Acct | 2-17-7 |
| April | 5 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 2-0 |
| | 10 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 2-6 |
| | 15 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 1-3-9 |
| November | 4 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 1-15 - |
| | 17 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 10-9 |
| | | | £ 79-7-5 1/4 |

1794

Dr *Mr. John Keillor* *in Acct to With* *Dr* *420*

| | | | |
|--------|----|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| number | 24 | To Amount of Acct brought forward | £ 79-7-5 1/4 |
| | 24 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 17-6 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 7-6 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 19-3 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 7-3 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 2-6 |
| | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | £ 103-9-5 1/4 |

Westmorland January 10th 1795 P. E. E. E. E.

1793

Amos Fowler *Dr* *420*

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 9-7-5 1/4 | January | To Amount of Acct Rend. you | £ 52-12-4 |
| 17-6 | April 23 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 15 - - |
| 7-6 | January 10 | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 15-4-7 1/2 |
| 19-3 | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 12-6 |
| 7-3 | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | 2-6 |
| 2-6 | | To 1/2 D Bond to 1000 for 1000 | £ 103-9-5 1/4 |
| 3-9-5 1/4 | | | £ 103-9-5 1/4 |

1795 P. E. E. E. E.

Amos Fowler

LATE BREAKING RESEARCH NEWS: THERE PROBABLY WAS A POST OFFICE IN KEILLOR HOUSE, AFTER ALL

For some time I have been aware of a tradition that what is called “Granny’s Room” in Keillor House once served as a post office. I was somewhat skeptical of it because, even though I knew from my research for *Stagecoach Days on the Westmorland Great Road* that Dorchester had the first and most important post office in this area, I assumed it was in a separate building, and in any case I knew of no evidence that it was in any way connected with Keillor House. Now I have found some (in the usual way—by stumbling upon it while looking for something else). In the course of my meanderings in search of information on John Keillor and his family I learned of a yearly publication called the *New Brunswick Almanac and Register* going back at least to 1811 (the earliest I could find, although I am sure there are others even earlier). As you would expect, the almanac offered a calendar, tables of the moon’s phases, famous events that had happened on each date, public holidays, tide tables, advice to farmers, and the like. This was not too useful for my purposes, but the Register section listed, among many other things, the chief officers of the provincial government, the judges of the Supreme Court, the roll of barristers and attorneys, the officers of the provincial and county militias and the provincially appointed officers of each county (Justices of the Peace etc.). And occasionally it also listed the postmasters in some (but never all) of the counties.

This is how I learned that John Keillor was Postmaster for Dorchester in 1829 and 1830, while his younger son, Thomas—the one who inherited the house along with the care of his mother—held the position in 1833 and 1834. This doesn’t mean these were the only years the Keillors held it, as the almanacs only listed the postmasters sporadically, and in any case I did not have access to the ones between 1811 and 1827. (The almanacs are scattered in various libraries and archives. However, many, but unfortunately not all, are available online.) I would guess that John was first appointed in 1825, the year a post office was established in Dorchester, and that he continued until he was able to pass the office on to his son sometime between 1830 and 1833. (As a Justice of the Peace and a Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, he would have had considerable influence on the next appointment.) Thomas most likely retained the position until 1840, the year he was succeeded by Christopher Milner (who became Postmaster at Sackville when the main post office was moved there in 1849). It was not the habit of the Post Office to replace the postmasters every year. They would have served at pleasure, or until they no longer wanted the position.

Of course, this is not final proof that Keillor House served as a post office unless, contrary to my probably too hasty assumption, there were no dedicated post office buildings in small places like Dorchester at this time—in which case we could hardly come to any other conclusion. And, after some reflection, I now think this must indeed have been the case. The volume of mail during this period never exceeded what could be carried in a wagon or (after 1836) a stagecoach, so it would probably not have taken a whole building to sort and handle it. In fact, “Granny’s Room” (which never was a granny’s room, as there was no granny living in the house) would have filled the bill quite nicely. Since it was obviously built after the main building was completed (about 1812 or 1813), we could even speculate that it was added for that purpose in 1825. Who knows? Maybe some other evidence will turn up to clinch the matter.

Gene Goodrich

NOTES FROM MARLENE'S SCRAPBOOK

It's been a while since we brought you any items from Marlene Hickman's researches into her family's history. That's because the supply is almost exhausted, but there are still a few more nuggets lurking here and there among her notes. The following "Rules for Home Education" from the October 6, 1865 issue of The Borderer are a dramatic reminder that the present doesn't have a monopoly on wisdom when it comes to childrearing. Sadly, some of the wisest of them could be put in the "Try Getting Away With This Today" Department.

1. From your children's early infancy inculcate the necessity of instant obedience.
2. Unite firmness with gentleness. Let your children always understand that you mean exactly what you say.
3. Never promise anything unless you are sure that you can give them what you promise.
4. If you tell a child to do anything, show him how to do it and see that it is done.
5. Always punish your children for willfully disobeying you, but never punish them when you are angry.
6. Never let them perceive that they can vex you or make you lose your self command.
7. Never smile at any of their actions of which you do not approve, even though they are somewhat amusing.
8. If they give way to petulance and temper, wait until they are calm and then gently reason with them on the propriety of their conduct.
9. Remember that a little present punishment, when the occasion arises, is much more effectual than the threatening of a greater punishment should the fault be renewed.
10. Never give your children anything because they cry for it.
11. On no account allow them to do at one time what you have forbidden, under the same circumstances at another.
12. Teach them that the only sure and easy way to appear good is to be good.
13. Accustom them to make their little recitals the perfect truth.
14. Never allow tale bearing.
15. Teach them that self denial is the appointed and sure method of securing happiness.



Donations, Memberships and Newsletter
Submissions to:
4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB
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 13 to Sept. 12 2015

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



We can never thank our volunteers enough for all the good work they do to keep our operations running smoothly. Nor is there ever enough space to mention them all individually in each issue. So, again, we turn the spotlight on a few, knowing that that they stand for many more.

For more than ten years Joanne Corey and Moe Gautreau have been decorating Keillor House for the Victorian Christmas Dinner, and in so doing have played a major role in its smashing success. Like so many others, Joanne was recruited by Alice for one job and was inspired enough by the experience to take on additional responsibilities, in her case serving on the Board and looking after the Gift Shop displays. She in turn recruited Moe and together they make a terrific team. While working at the Royal Bank they each procured \$500 grants to WHS under its programme to encourage its employees to volunteer for community service. They have both moved on to other jobs, but Moe was able to get the same deal from his employer this year. It only remains to be added that they use their holidays and sometimes even unpaid leave from work to create the magic that is Keillor House during the Holiday Season, and you will have some idea of their dedication.

The Executive