

NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 2015



Volume IX, Issue No. 3

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well another summer has come and gone and Fall is well underway. Not sure about others, but I must confess to doing very little research this summer. The hot, humid weather was just not conducive to this activity for me. I'm hoping with the nicer Fall weather to get back to work!

With our meetings now resumed for the fall, a welcome is extended to our new and returning members. Join us – and bring a friend.

Have a productive year. May 2015 be the year you find that elusive bit of information that has been hiding behind your family tree!

Faye Baisley

BRANCH NEWS

Although we had no regular branch meetings in July and August, we participated in a number of events over the summer starting with the Gathering in June; Miramichi Irish Festival in July; and Miramichi Heritage Weekend and Tabusintac Old Home Week in August. Once again our members came through and our display was fully staffed at all these events. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for these events. We couldn't do it without you!

BRANCH LIBRARY HOLDINGS

This summer member Donna Kelly with the assistance of our summer student did a thorough inventory of the materials in our cabinet at the Chatham Library. During

this process, it came to light that some materials are missing. As the cabinet is locked and only available to NBGS Miramichi members, would anyone who accessed these materials recently check their research material to see if any branch material may have inadvertently got mixed in with your personal material. If so, could you return the material to the cabinet at the Chatham Library as soon as possible. Thank you.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

At the September meeting of NBGS Miramichi, we have traditionally recognized one of our members for his/her contribution to the organization. This year the recipient of our Certificate of Appreciation was John Fogan.

John joined the Miramichi Branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society in 2003 and has been an active member since doing so. He is always one of the first to volunteer his services at the many events the branch participates in including: the Miramichi Heritage Photo Gathering, Miramichi Irish Festival, Heritage Week workshops – wherever we need a volunteer, John can be counted on to help out. He has a genuine interest in helping people with their research and works diligently to assist both members and the public with their queries.

John currently serves as Secretary of the local branch – a position he has held for a number of years. In this position he not only keeps accurate records of all meetings, but is constantly handling written and e-mail inquiries from the public and goes to great lengths to find information for them – on one occasion even going so far as to visit a cemetery and take photos of headstone as part of research conducted in response to an out of town inquiry.

However, perhaps his greatest contribution has been in working with the NBGS Miramichi website – the forum, wiki, posting and updating data.

On September 22, 2015 - for all his hard work and many, many volunteer hours, NBGS Miramichi recognized, with their thanks, John Fogan for his contribution to the organization.



Rita Brown & Randall Biddle at Sept. Branch meeting

SPECIAL VISITORS

At our September meeting, we were pleased to welcome two members “from away” – not only out of town members – but out of country. Rita Brown and Randall Biddle joined us all the way from California.

After our regular business meeting, Randall gave an interesting summary of the research he is conducting that brought him to Miramichi and his keen interest in shipbuilding history. Randall is a nationally recognized builder of model ships to scale and was interested in the shipbuilding legacy of Miramichi. He was impressed with the written material available on our shipbuilding history and indicated this area had done a much better job than most in recording our nautical history.

He had heard there was a model shipbuilder in our area and was interested in connecting with him. We were able to put him in touch with that person - Bob Squarebriggs. Hopefully, it was a mutually beneficial meeting.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We would like to thank Dave & Melinda Harper for their work as editors of the newsletter for several years. We accepted, with regret, their resignation at our June meeting. The position is still vacant – if you have an interest in the position, please contact a member of the executive.

This edition has been a group effort – thank you to all who submitted articles, assisted with the proofing, distribution, etc.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Our local branch is always interested in hearing from members who do not live in the Miramichi area. Why not write a few lines, paragraphs, short stories, etc., pertaining to your genealogy experiences, family history, family gatherings or what have you and we will publish it in upcoming newsletters.

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter will be February 7, 2016. Submissions may be e-mailed to membership@nbgsmiramichi.org or mailed to:

NBGS Miramichi P.O.
Box 403 Miramichi, NB
E1N 3A8

SUMMER STUDENT UPDATE

On our website www.nbgsmiramichi.org under the wiki section it states:

Miramichi Branch, courtesy of funding received through both provincial and federal government grants, employed two students this summer to assist with ongoing branch projects.

The provincial grant went to a 3rd year university student while the federal grant went to a high school student. They were both hired to work typing obituaries from the Ben Donovan Collection and the North Shore Leader which will be added to the obituary books as well postings to the website. The total number of obituaries that were typed over the summer was in the range of 700 for each grant. They also assisted in working at “The Gathering” which was held in June 2015 and “The Irish Festival” which was held in July 2015.

It was a busy summer and thank you to everyone who made it a great success.

Donna Kelly, Student Co-coordinator

THANK YOU

NBGS Miramichi extends thanks to Ben Donovan who loaned us his private collection of newspapers for use in our obituary project.

ARTICLE FROM OLD NEWSPAPER

The Month of October (*Verse one*)

Today the sun is glowing in the heavens
A heavy haze hangs o'er the languid scene
The trees in gold and brown and ruddy
glory, Flash forth amid the ever changeless
green; The brooks are babbling onward to
the rivers, The pebbles flashing brightly in
the rills, Ah, 'tis the golden glory of the
autumn, The glory of October on the hills.

This is just part of a poem by a local poet Michael Whalen of Renous River, NB. It was published in one of his several pamphlets of poems. This pamphlet was named “The Call of Christ”, dated 1922, printed at the Gazette Office in Chatham, NB

Michael Whelan, the Poet of Renous was born on April 27, 1858 in Renous, New Brunswick, the second youngest child of William Whelan, a native of Ireland, and his wife, Mary Keary, a woman of Irish origin who was born in New Brunswick. Early in his life, Whelan worked as a school teacher on a local license at schools in Renous, Grainfield, White Rapids, and Cains River. He later worked as a bookkeeper for Snowball's lumber mill and other lumber firms on the Miramichi and in the United States. His real vocation, however, was writing poetry, especially poetry praising his native land and the people who lived in it.

Best known for writing poetry celebrating the Miramichi, he was not only a successful poet in the area, but continues to be a hero within the area's rich folk tradition. While many verses were published in the local newspapers, he supplemented his income by printing and selling them in pamphlets. The Dungarvon Whooper is perhaps his most famous poem, a song about the Dungarvon River and its whooping ghost based on an often-told tale in the Miramichi. He died on May 10, 1937, in Chatham, N.B. leaving his legacy in the form of songs and poetry still cherished. His title of “The Poet of Renous” was well earned.

STRAYS FROM AWAY

Delbert Norman ALLISON passed away suddenly in Grimsby, ON on June 5th, 2014, in his 78th year. Husband of Ruth for 52 years, father of Dean and Dale ALLISON & Rhonda ASKEW, brother of Joan ALLISON of Moncton., Del was predeceased by his parents Douglas & Dora (DUNNETT) ALLISON of Whitney, NB and Brother Raymond. Private family interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. *Source:* www.westviewfuneralchapel.com

Victor MUTCH (Nov 13, 1965 - May 28, 2014)
Sherwood Park, AB –Born in Newcastle, NB, son of the late Percy and Laura MUTCH of Lyttleton, He is survived by this wife Sonda, three children Megan, Charis & Samuel, two sisters, Bonnie and Dawn and one brother, Gayle. In addition, Victor has another daughter, Jessie LeBREQUE. A memorial service was held at the Edmonton South Chapel, Edmonton, AB *Source:* www.fostermcgarvey.com/obituary

Shane Michael WALSH (October 05, 1973 - June 01, 2014); grandson of Vincent & Nellie (ALLISON) WALSH of Miramichi. A Memorial Service was held at Good Shepard Anglican Church. *Source: Edmonton Sun, June 05 & June 06, 2014*

Donald Joseph RUSSELL (January 11, 1952-January 11, 2015)
Donald was born in Chatham, NB & passed away in Oromocto, NB. He was the son of the late Peter RUSSELL of Lagaceville & Harriet VAUTOUR of

Gwendolyn Anne (McKINNON) GALLEY d. November 13, 2014 (formerly of Douglastown, NB)
Gwendolyn passed away in her 78th year, in Hamilton, ON. She is survived by her husband Weldon and children Mary and John. Interment: Our Lady of Angels Cemetery. *Source: Hamilton Spectator, November 15, 2014*

Layton Delmont MATCHETT; (Nov 21, 1953-Dec 16, 2014)

Born in Miramichi NB, he was the son of Delmont & Henrietta (MATCHETT) MATCHETT.

Funeral Service was held in Brampton, ON on December 21, 2014. Interment at Assumption Crematorium, Mississauga, ON. *Source: Brampton Guardian, December 19, 2014*

James K. MAHONEY, age 54, of West Windsor, N.J., passed away on December 18, 2014.

Amongst his survivors was his second wife, Deborah nee MAHONEY (of Sunny Corner, NB); step-children, Michelle JARDINE of Whitney NB & Drew MATCHETT of Moncton, NB. A Funeral Mass was January 17, 2015 at St. John the Apostle Church, Clark, NJ. Interment in Hazel Wood Cemetery, Clark *Source: New Jersey Star Ledger, December 21, 2014*

Lizzie S. (HOLMES) GRIFFIN, RN, age 100, wife of the late Henry M. Griffin (1990) passed away on January 02, 2015 in Scarborough, Maine, She was born in Halcomb, NB, Canada on August 15, 1914 to Fred and Annie HOLMES. Lizzie was also predeceased by a daughter, Patricia in 1996; her brothers Hubert, Buel, Bill and Gayer HOLMES; her sisters Reta BLACKMORE and Dot BRENNAN of NB. She is survived by her daughter Sandra (Lawrence) DOLBY of Saco with whom she resided; her granddaughter Christina (Robert) O'BRIEN of Saco; two great-granddaughters, Courtney & Sarah O'BRIEN; a sister, Molly EMERY of Saco and many nieces and nephews. Her funeral was held at the Dennett, Craig & Pate Funeral Home, Saco on January 6th. *Source: Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram , January 03, 2015*

Neguac. Donald is survived by sisters: Elizabeth RUSSELL, Celina McCANN & Rosemarie RUSSELL three brothers; Leo, Adelard & Ronald RUSSELL. Predeceased by his sisters: Yvonne RUSSELL, Muriel RUSSELL, Margaret TAPP and brother Eric. *Source: Fredericton Daily Gleaner, January 13, 2015*

Leo Joseph MULLIN, age 84 -Lantz, formerly of Belnan, passed away January 10, 2015 in Truro, NS. Born in Trout Brook, NB, he was a son of the late Leo and Sarah (McNEIL) MULLIN. He is survived by his children, Cecilia COX, Gordon. Paul & Francis MULLIN, David McCRIMMON, and five grandchildren, brothers Bernard & Gerald & sisters: Veronica MATCHETT, Anna VARGA, & Frances BARNS & numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Ruth, son Robert, grandson Christopher COX, sisters, Mary, Connie and Genevieve, brothers Linas, Cyril, Mark and Louis. A funeral mass was on January 15, 2015 in St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Enfield. The committal will follow in the parish cemetery. *Source: The Chronicle Herald (Halifax), January 14, 2015*

Wilson HUBBARD, 85, of Woodstock NB, died on December 24, 2014. Wilson moved to Campbellton from Miramichi in 1953 and then to Woodstock in 1997. He is survived by his wife Carol, sons, Gary and Brian; brother; Gerald and sister Shirley BURNS, as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Wilson was predeceased by his parents, William and Irene (BRYENTON) HUBBARD, sisters Margaret GILKS and Gladys MANDERVILLE. Interment in the Woodstock Rural Cemetery. *Source: www.carletonfuneralhome.ca*

Frank Kenneth SLACK (1923-2015)

Frank, age 91, of Valley, Colchester Co. NS, passed away on January 7, 2015. Born in Truro, he was a son of the late James and Maudie (PARKS of Miramichi) SLACK. Interment in the Terrace Hill Cemetery, Truro, NS. *Source: Chronicle-Herald (Halifax), January 09, 2015*

Shelton Ross DUNNETT (1958 - 2014) passed away in Moncton on December 28, 2014. Ross was predeceased

by his parents, Hayward and Jean (ADAMS) DUNNETT and his sister Kimberly DUNNETT. He is survived by one brother Andrew, sisters Cynthia BARBOSA and Jeanie SAULNIER of Moncton, two nephews, one niece, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. At the family's request, there was no visitation or funeral. *Source: Moncton Times-Transcript, December 31, 2014*

Muriel Martha (Johnston) HOLMES (1919 – 2015)

Muriel Holmes, formerly of Lyttleton, NB wife of the late Murray HOLMES (1978) died on January 1, 2015, at the age of 95 in Penticton, BC. She leaves daughters Elizabeth and Kerry, two grandsons, several grandchildren and her brother Woodrow Johnston of Sunny Corner. Her funeral was held January 8th, 2015 at the Parkview Funeral Home in Penticton, BC.

providencefuneralhomes.com

HOLTVILLE UNITED CHURCH

The Holtville United Church - a small church situated on the corner of the Holtville Road and Carson Lane in the Upper Miramichi part of Northumberland County - began in 1897 as a Presbyterian Church. At a time when most people in the area were Presbyterian, the church was the center of the community. In 1925, when the United Church of Canada was formed, it became a United Church.

This church from its beginning had a connection with the Fowler Family. James Andrew Fowler, who came from Salmon Creek, NB, to Holtville to work, met and married a local girl, obtained a 100 acre grant of land and settled in Holtville.

James Andrew and his son Jerry, along with others, contributed in money, time and labour to the building of the structure. The minister was brought to James Andrew's on Sunday after church for dinner; the tradition continued when James Andrew's son James inherited the home and one third of the property. Until the church was closed, most of James's family remained faithful members of this congregation.

Changing times brought an end to this tiny church. It was decommissioned in 1913. Today it is the summer home of a Fredericton family.



To best tell the story of the building of this church, what follows is the itemized account of every day spent, every board used, every person involved, taken from Grace MacMillan Spencer's *A History of Early Boiestown*.

The Building of a Church – The Holtville United Church**Minutes of Church Meeting held in Pleasant Ridge School House**

Aug 4th, 1886

Moved, sec. & resolved that we build a church on the corner of Kenneth Cameron's lot. Resolved that the Church be free to all Denominations. Moved, sec. & resolved that the Church be deeded to the Presbyterian Church. Resolved that the Church be built 24 feet wide and 30 feet long. Moved, sec. & resolved that we appoint seven men as trustees. Said trustees to act as a building committee. Theodore Pond, Charles H. Reid, Alexander Carson, James A. Fowler, Frederick McKeil, Robert Ross and Kenneth Cameron appointed trustees. Kenneth Cameron appointed secretary, William Harris, Abraham Munn and John Cameron appointed auditors. Meeting adjourned. Kenneth Cameron Secretary

Pleasant Ridge, Friday, Aug. 14th, 1896

Commenced laying foundation for Church. James A. Fowler, Archie Munn, Mack Carson, Stephen Galen and Kenneth Cameron worked one day each. James McKeil, Hale Reid, William Munn, Alex Carson and Theodore Pond, half day work each. Jerry Fowler worked half day with team hauling stone. Alfred Carson with horse hauling two loads of stone. William Munn ploughed ground for digging foundation.

Saturday, Aug 15th

Wednesday, March 31, 1897

Abraham Munn & Thomas McKeil one day's work each at making frame for Church.

James A. Fowler and Jerry half day with team hauling stone. Alex Carson and K. Cameron half day each. Alfred Carson with horse hauling two loads of stone.

Saturday, Aug. 22nd

William Harris & Abraham Munn making & hauling two sills. James Fowler, James Munn & James McKeil one day each. K. Cameron half day making frame. Jerry Fowler & team hauling one load frame.

Monday, Aug. 24th

James McKeil & K. Cameron worked half day each getting frame. Alfred Carson with horse hauling one load of frame.

December 4th, 1896

Mr. Sutherland and Abraham Munn two day's work each getting out frame timber for Church. K. Cameron one day's work. Blair Cameron one day's work with team.

January 25, 1897

K. Cameron one day's work with horse yarding out frame stuff at A. Munn's. Also cutting and hauling to Church ground fourteen pieces for posts.

School Room, Pleasant Ridge

March 17th, 1897

Meeting called to order. Theodore Pond appointed Chairman. After discussion as to the mode of seating in Church, it was resolved that there be three rows of seats and two aisles. Mr. Sutherland duly authorized by meeting to order of S. Freeze, Doaktown, the seats, window frames, sashes, doors and wainscoting.

Meeting adjourned, Kenneth Cameron, Secretary

School Room, Pleasant Ridge

March 26th, 1897

Meeting called to order. Joseph Cameron appointed Chairman. Minutes of August meeting read and approved. Resolved that the Church be built 32 feet long instead of 30. Resolved that Rev. Mr. Sutherland and Joseph Cameron's names be added to the list of trustees before appointed. Resolved that Joseph Cameron be authorized to procure the tools needful for drilling stone for foundation. Resolved that there be a Cove formed in the Angle of Ceiling of Church.

Meeting adjourned, Kenneth Cameron, Secretary

Thursday & Friday, April 1st & 2nd

James Munn & Kenneth Cameron two day's work each making frame.

Monday, April 5th, 1897

James A. Fowler, Thomas McKeil, John Cameron, Ichabod Norrad and Kenneth Cameron half day work each making frame.

Friday, April 9th, 1897

John Cameron, Mr. Sutherland, William Harris, Jonathan Munn, Ichabod Norrad and Mose Davidson, one day work each making frame.

Monday, April 12th

Thomas McKeil, J. A. Fowler, John Cameron, K. Cameron, Bird Brown, Mr. Sutherland and Ichabod Norrad worked all day. Stephen Galen, Mack Carson and John Cameron worked half day making frame.

Tuesday, April 13th

Mr. Sutherland, John Cameron, Bird Brown, Thomas Brown, Ichabod Norrad, Thomas McKeil, James A. Fowler and K. Cameron one day each. William Harris, Mack Carson and Abe Munn half day each making frame. Alex Reid one day with team hauling frame. Finished making frame. Kenneth Cameron, Secretary

Wednesday, April 14th

William Harris with team hauling load of boards from Boiestown.

April

James Cameron and team, one day, hauling logs to mill.

June 14th

James A. Fowler by one thousand feet boards hauled to Church grounds.

June 17th

Joseph Cameron and John Cameron two days each getting stone for foundation. Bird Brown, Abe Munn, W. Harris and J. A. Fowler one day each getting stone.

June 18th

Joseph Cameron and B. Brown half day each laying stone.

June 21st, Monday

Commenced framing Church. Alex Carson, Alfred Carson, Mack Carson, James Cameron, William Munn

Wednesday, June 30th

A. Cameron, A. Carson, Jerry Fowler, Burt Carson, Alf Carson worked all day. Abe Munn half day.

Thursday, July 1, 1897

worked one day. Archie Carson, Abe Munn, W. Harris and K. Cameron worked half day. James A. Fowler hauled two loads of frame stuff from mill.

Tuesday, June 22nd, 1897

Alex Cameron, Abe Munn, James Cameron, Alf Carson work all day. Mack Carson, Arch Carson, Kenneth Cameron worked half day. James Fowler hauling load of frame from mill.

Wednesday, June 23rd

Alex Cameron, Abe Munn, James Fowler, Mack Carson worked all day. K. Cameron half day.

Thursday, June 24th

Alex Cameron and William Munn worked all day.

Friday, June 25th

James and Blair Cameron hauled 640 feet boards from mill given to Church by K. Cameron. James Fowler hauled load of shingles.

Saturday, June 26th

Alex Cameron, William Carson, Mack Carson, Archie Carson, Alf Carson, Hale Reid, Thomas McKeil, James Fowler, Jerry Fowler worked all day. Joseph Cameron, Abraham Munn, Robinson Ross, Robbie Davidson, K. Cameron worked half day, raising frame and boarding in. Alex Carson gave 1100 feet boards on ground and hauled one load of boards and shingles from mill. William Harris hauled one load of boards from Boiestown.

Monday, June 28th

Alex Cameron, Alex Reid, W. Carson, Alfred Carson, Robbie Davidson worked all day. Mack Carson, Archie Carson, Will Black worked half day. Abraham Munn and Charles Clowater worked all day. Alex Carson hauled one load boards from mill.

Tuesday, June 29th

Alex Cameron, Abe Munn, Burt Carson, Alf Carson, Charles Clowater worked all day. Alex Reid, Mack Carson worked half day. J. A. Fowler hauling from station one cask of lime, 400 clapboards.

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Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day each. James Cameron one day. Alex Carson hauled two loads of logs to mill for strapping.

Monday, Aug. 2nd

Alex Cameron one day's work. Abe Munn half day.

Tuesday, Aug. 3rd

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day's work.

Alex Cameron, Abe Munn worked all day. A. Munn to get One Dollar per day and board himself. Alex Carson hauled 300 feet of boards and one thousand of shingles from mill.

Friday, July 2nd

A. Cameron, Abe Munn, Mr. Sutherland, Archie Carson, Mack Carson, Alfred Carson, James Cameron, Burt Carson, worked all day.

Thursday, July 22nd, 1897

Abe Munn and Charlie Clowater hauled load of brick and lime from Boiestown. W. Harris' team.

Friday, July 23rd

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day work each. Charlie Clowater worked one day with Harris' team, hauling sand. K. Cameron one day's work getting sand.

Saturday, July 24th

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day each. Charles Clowater with Harris' team, one day hauling sand. K. Cameron one day's work getting sand.

Monday, July 26th

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day each. James Cameron one day painting.

Wednesday, July 28th

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day work each. James Cameron one day painting. James fowler hauled cask lime and two-hundred clapboards from Boiestown.

Thursday, July 29th

Alex Cameron & A. Munn one day. James Cameron one day painting.

Friday, July 30th

Alex Cameron & A. Munn one day's work. James Cameron one day's work.

Saturday, July 31st

Derby and Nelson area of Northumberland County; 4. Jane born 1783 and did not marry as far as we know; 5. Alexander born 1788, nick named "The Judge", married Ann Saunders and had at least seven children in the Derby and Nelson area of Northumberland County.

In doing some research on the Descendants of William (Godsman) Davidson (1740 – 1790) for the 250th.

Wednesday, Aug. 4th

Alex Cameron & Abe Munn one day's work.

Thursday, Aug. 5th

Alex Cameron & A. Munn one day's work. Joseph and John Cameron half day each making bed and mixing mortar. James Fowler hauling three puncheons water.

Friday, Aug. 6th

Joseph & Johnnie Cameron half day's work building chimney.

Saturday, Aug. 7th

Joseph Cameron one day's work plastering. Also Johnnie Cameron & Will Cameron one day's work each mixing and carrying mortar.

Friday, Oct. 8th, 1897

A Cameron & A. Munn one day's work. Joseph Cameron one day painting.

Saturday, Oct. 9th, 1897

A. Munn half day. A. Cameron one day's work. A. Carson, Alfred Carson, W. Carson, Mack Carson, J. Fowler, K. Cameron & Tom McKeil half day each. Mr. Sutherland all day. CHURCH COMPLETED.
Kenneth Cameron, Secretary

Article submitted by: Marilyn Creamer-Fowler

A WILLIAM DAVIDSON MYSTERY

In all histories written on William Davidson, the first English speaking settler on the Miramichi, it seems to be a common thought that he and Sarah Nevers had five children: 1. Elizabeth born 1799 married George McGregor and had five children as far as we know; 2. William born 1780 married Jane McCullam and had no children; 3. Phineas born 1782 married Sarah Elizabeth Ledden and had eleven children that we know of in the

Anniversary of William Davidson's arrival on the Miramichi, I ran across the following obituary in The Saint John Daily Sun in the 13th of December 1883 Issue: (Daniel Johnston's Vital Stats)

"Yesterday Morning, William Davidson, one of our oldest merchants passed away. He was born at Newcastle, Northumberland Co. in 1810, came to Saint John City about 45 years ago. He commenced business as a lumber merchant. At one time he was in partnership with the late Charles Adam, father of James Adam of this city, but of late years had been doing business solely under his own name. His mills, four in number, are situated at Great Salmon River, where there are two, a water and a steam mill; at Mosher Beach (water power), and Martin's Head (steam power). He leaves a widow and three children: W.J. Davidson, Mrs. James P. Hannington, and Mrs. D.C. Robertson. Cooney's History of the northeast part of N.B. is authority for the statement that the grandfather of the deceased was the first English settler in the County of Northumberland. We quote: In the summer of 1764, William Davidson, a gentleman from the north of Scotland arrived here.

...In the following years he obtained a grant of 100,000 acres upon the Elm Tree tract on the SW branch of the Miramichi. Here about the year 1772 or 1773, he and a Mr. Cort, lately arrived from Aberdeen, set a cross net with which they annually caught 14 to 18 hundred tierces of salmon. In order to meet the requisitions of an extended trade, Mr. Davidson built a schooner of 300 tons, called the "Miramichi". The vessel was lost a couple of years after, while attempting to enter the harbour of New London on her voyage hence to the Island of Grenada".

Now this would not have been quite such a mystery until I discovered this second obituary in the 19th of December 1883 issue of the Newcastle *Union Advocate*. (Daniel Johnston's Vital Stats)

"Saint John papers announce the death in that city of Wm. Davidson who for many years was engaged in general business in Saint John and afterwards in milling and lumbering. The deceased was the son of the late

William Davidson, brother of the late Judge Davidson and was born 1811 at French Fort Cove, a short distance below Newcastle, Northumberland County. At that time his father was engaged in shipping square timber to Great Britain and also carried on a general business. When William grew up to manhood he accepted a clerkship with the late William Abrams, who carried on the shipbuilding business at Rosebank. In that gentleman's employ he remained for several years after which he removed to Saint John. His

Can someone out there give me a little more information on this family? My e-mail is: wrdonald@bellaliant.net and phone number is (506) 622-7461.

William (Bill) Donald

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

mother, Jane Davidson, who resides at Newcastle, reached her 90th year on October last”.

Now, what makes this a bit of a mystery is the fact that both the *First Families of New Brunswick* collection and the book *William Davidson (1740-1790)* by Wm. Harold Davidson state that William Davidson and Jane McCullam had no issue. Now when Jane (McCullam) Davidson dies, her obituary adds a little more to the mystery. Following is her obituary as taken from the Saint John Daily Telegraph on the 19th of March 1886: (Daniel Johnston’s Vital Stats)

“An old inhabitant of Newcastle, Northumberland Co., passed away a few days ago, being in her 93rd year. Jane Davidson relict of William Davidson, who was the son of William Davidson, the first white settler on the Miramichi, **and elder brother of the late John Davidson.** Jane Davidson was the eldest daughter of the late Henry McCullam, whose grant of land from the government bears the date of 1788. She was a native of Newcastle where she resided all her life. Her only son, William Davidson of Saint John, died a year or two ago. The McCullam homestead was well known in olden times, the family being famed for their generous hospitality and after the great Miramichi Fire of 1825 this homestead, which was situated about where the store of P. Hennessy now stands, and which escaped the conflagration, was filled with sufferers from the fire. – ‘Advocate’.”

I think that these obituaries confirm that William Davidson and Jane McCullam did have a son William who lived in Saint John, unless this William may have been adopted. Now who was this John Davidson mentioned in the above paragraph? We only know of five children born to William Davidson and Sarah Nevers. Was there a sixth child that maybe died before 1851, as he does not show up in any census or did they mean Judge Davidson?

At the Spring Seminar series hosted by Capital Branch NBGS, the following list of websites was distributed which may be of help in your research. (*Note: I have not tried accessing all of these so cannot vouch for what information is available or if there is a cost involved.* Faye Baisley)

Irish Genealogy Kit – Canadian immigration records: Irish immigrants

<http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/Canadian-immigration-records.html> and <http://irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/Irish-emigration.html>

The Ships List – Canadian Passenger Records

<http://www.theshipslist.com/Research/canadarecords.shtml>

Can Genealogy – Immigration

<http://www.cangenealogy.com/immigration.html>

Cyndi’s List – Canada Immigration, Emigration & Migration

<http://www.cyndislist.com/canada/immigration/>

The Olive Tree Genealogy – Ships Passenger Lists to Canada

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/canada/> and <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/articles/immcanpre1865.shtml>

Immigrants to Canada – Emigration Information of the Nineteenth Century

<https://personal.uwaterloo.ca/marj/genealogy/thevoyage.html>

Roots Ireland – Irish Passenger Lists

<https://www.rootsireland.ie/index.php?id=71>

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) – Immigration

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Heritage – Digitized Images (search using “New Brunswick”

<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/>

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) – Passenger Lists

<http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/Databases/PassengerLists/?culture=en-CA>

FALL HOURS AT LOCAL LIBRARIES

Local libraries have reverted to winter hours and the Chatham Library continues to have closures for lunch and supper hours – schedule below.

Newcastle Public Library.

Tuesday – 1:00 – 8:00

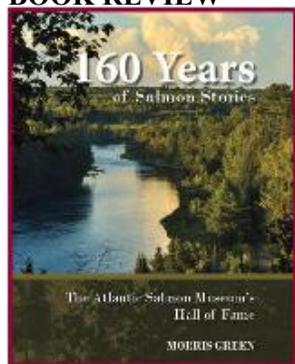
Wednesday – 1:00 – 8:00

Thursday – 10:00 – 5:00

The remaining sites will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Friday – 10:00 – 5:00
Saturday – 10:00 – 5:00

BOOK REVIEW



160 Years of Salmon Stories: The Atlantic Salmon Museum's Hall of Fame. Researched by the Central Miramichi Historical Society and written by Morris Green, this book chronicles the lives of 128 men and women, all of whom had a deep and passionate connection to that fish of all fishes, the Atlantic Salmon. Consider it a book of 128 “short stories,” easy to read whenever you have a moment and full of history, genealogy, recipes and a lot of Miramichi humor.

160 Years sells for \$60.00 (tax included) with all proceeds going to support the Atlantic Salmon Museum. Arrangements can be made for shipping and/or for a special inscription by the author. Please contact the Atlantic Salmon Museum at 506-365-7787 (museum@nbnet.nb.ca), or Bill Donald at 506-622-7461 (wrdonald@bellaliant.net).

Your Christmas shopping just got a whole lot easier!

Chatham Public Library

Tuesday – 1:00 – 5:00 & 6:00 – 8:00
Wednesday – 10:00 – 12:30 & 1:30 – 5:00
Thursday – 1:00 – 5:00 & 6:00 – 8:00
Friday – 10:00 – 12:30 & 1:30 – 5:00
Saturday – 10:00 – 12:30 & 1:30 – 5:00

Please remember that your NBGS membership card is required in order to access the holdings of the genealogy branch.

NBGS Miramichi

**P.O. Box 403
Miramichi, NB E1N 3A8**

Our Branch meets the 4th Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) at the Chatham Library at 6:15 PM.

Guests are always welcome!

