

Waterfront Was Focal Point In Early History

Once A Week Service From The Mainland

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directly under the pulpit on a raised oval-shaped floor with a low railing all round at which forty to fifty people could kneel at one time. The choir was in the gallery directly behind the pulpit.

After the Methodist brick church was built the old one was sold, hauled on the north corner of Prince and King Streets and made into a double tenement.

The only other church in 1844 was the Baptist chapel. It was a plan, unpretentious building with two arched windows on each side, and was situated at the head of Prince facing on Euston Street. The congregation was small and not wealthy. Rev. S. T. Rand was their pastor. About 1850 they moved their chapel down Prince to Great George and placed it on the east side of Great George Street between Dorchester and King, and a flag with a Bethel on it was hoisted over it.

POSTAL SERVICE

The Post Office of 1844 was on the south side of Water Street on the Peake property, between Queen and Pownall Streets, directly back of Carvell Brothers' store. It was afterwards used as a tobacco factory by the Messrs. Lowden Bros., Hickey and Stewart, and T. B. Riley. The west end of the building with a door and two windows was the Post Office. It was divided into two rooms, front and back, with a narrow passage between them. The front room was the Post Office, the back one the Post Master General's private office. A hall or passage ran directly through the building from front to back, in which was the wicket. A letter and paper drop were outside.

Thomas Owen, Sr., was Post Master General, and George W. Owen, his son, clerk. The latter went to California in the "Fannie" in '49 and later to New Zealand. There were no postage stamps in those days, nor for many a day after. All the letters had to be weighed and the price marked on each: ninepence and a shilling sterling were the usual prices for English letters and they were often addressed to P. E. I. via Quebec or Montreal. Letters were supposed to be paid for when mailed or taken from the post office, but many preferred having them charged. There was quite a book-keeping system kept up and bills for letters sent out and collected every three months. Some parties neglected to pay their bills, but the money had to be forthcoming and the poor P. M. G. had often to pay up for those in default at the end of the quarter.

Mails and passengers from the provinces came once a week in a packet or schooner, that is if the wind suited, and once a month from England in the summer. As there were many English, Irish and Scotch families here at that time, the inquiry often was "When are we to have an English mail?"

WHARVES AND FERRIES

There were only three wharves in Charlottetown at this time: Queen's wharf at the end of Queen St., Peake's wharf on the west side of Queen's, and the maine's, or the Ferry wharf on the east side of Queen's. All the wharves were much shorter than now: Tremaine's was only a few blocks or piles long, quite long enough for the sail and steam-boats that crossed to Southampton. A sail boat crossed on Mondays and a team-boat the other days of the week.

The team-boat was run by two or sometimes three horses. There was a large wheel in the middle of the boat, (just such a one as is used in a tannery to grind bark) to which the horses were attached: the horses going round and round in a circle, turned the wheel and propelled the boat. Passengers came from the Southport side and returned again about four times a day, twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon.

A story is told of a middle-aged lady who came across the ferry to do some shopping in town. She had not taken into consideration that the tide was falling when she left home; it was one of the sailboat days, and when she got to Charlottetown side the tide was low, and she being very stout and heavy, could not climb the wharf, neither could her friends lift her up, so she had to remain in the boat for some hours, until the tide

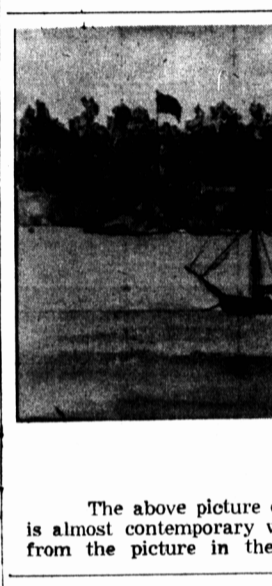
fell lower and rose again sufficiently high for her to reach a proper stepping-place. That was one of the inconveniences of long ago.

EARLY SCHOOLS

To acquire any kind of an education, even a preliminary one, was very different then from what is now. There were no free or Government schools. The children of the very poor had to grow up without education. Some of those who were well off had a tutor or governess. A few of the young men who desired a classical education were sent to English Church clergymen throughout the country—Rev. Charles Lloyd, of Milton; Rev. E. Panter, of Georgetown; and Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins of St. Eleanor's—to prepare them for Windsor or Edinburgh. The Roman Catholics had their colleges at St. Andrew's, where their young men were educated. The Central Academy (afterwards Prince of Wales College) was the high school for boys. Mr. Brown, the headmaster, at this time, died in 1845 and was succeeded by E. R. Humphreys, Esq., who came out from England.

The school next in order was the National School, built on part of the Academy grounds facing on Kent Street. It was afterwards

built belonged to Mrs. and Miss Fanning. The greater part of the ground was a well-kept garden, with fruit and ornamental trees. Their dwelling was a two-story house, with a large porch in front, reaching to the second story. It was on the corner of Great George and Sydney Streets, facing on



Charlottetown Waterfront Scene In The Early 1800's

Pownal Wharf in the old days, with a paddle steamer and the flag of Mr. Yates, auctioneer, in the left foreground. The vessel tied up at the south side of the wharf (centre) is the famous Brig Fanny, which sailed from Charlottetown on Nov. 12, 1849, with a company of Island adventurers to share in the California gold rush.

one removed after the garden was divided into lots; and the first house built on the old garden site was erected upon that corner.

In the summer of 1847 the Fanning house was destroyed by fire. It was in the morning, and the smoke was curling around the large chimney before the fire

parties and pedestrians. The Methodists held their annual Sunday School feast there; it was a pretty sight to see the children walking in procession from their meeting house along Prince and Kent Streets on to Kensington and watch them winding through the trees with their banners and flags

to which her son attended. Her husband, Ewen Cameron, St. had been drowned a few years previously when bathing in the Charlottetown harbour.

Adjoining the Cameron property was a vacant piece of ground, which had either been fenced in or the fence taken away, for the

came a small two-story house, in which a cooper, named Kelly, lived. Hoops and barrel staves were numerous about his house, and in the vacant lot, and did not at all add to the appearance or tidiness of the place.

And now we come to the corner known, by even the oldest inhabitant as "Stamper's Corner", (now Prowse Bros. corner) There the youngsters of Old Charlottetown bought their books, stationery, their toys and valentines.

Mr. Stamper was a particularly neat and gentlemanly little Englishman. He kept the latest English and Colonial newspapers and periodicals and his shop was a favorite resort. His small yard and neat little stable were between his house and Kelly's, and opened on Richmond Street or Queen Square.

STAMPER'S CORNER

In 1845 Mr. Stamper had his stable changed into a shop; it was small, but large enough for a Mrs. Forsythe and her daughter, who came here from Halifax and started a fancy-work store, where she sold all colours and shades of Berlin wool canvas and patterns for working covers for cushions, chairs, and ottomans, and for making slippers. She sold other materials for fancy work, and, as she was well patronized by the ladies she made a comfortable living.

CAMERON BLOCK

About the year 1840 a large three story building was erected on the vacant ground adjoining the Cameron property. There were two fine shops in it, much larger

"Charlottetown" As It Appeared In 1778

The above picture of the Island capital in early days is from a water colour painting by C. Randle and bears the date, 1778, and is almost contemporary with the raid upon the Town by American privateers, which occurred in 1775. The photograph was taken from the picture in the Public Archives, Ottawa.

enlarged and became the Normal School.

Mrs. Hebbes ran a finishing school for young ladies; she taught French, drawing, vocal and instrumental music, also "English in its various branches." She was an English lady, and had lived a good deal in Paris. Her terms for English alone were thirty shilling or five dollars a quarter; the same for each subject in other branches, when there was all were taken, fifteen shillings (Island currency) a quarter was the usual price for young children.

About the time the new St. Paul's Church was built it was decided to build an infant school. Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbard with their son and daughter came from England and took charge of this institution. They were paid a salary and all that was required to be paid by each child was a penny a week. This infant school was kept up until the free school system began.

In the autumn of 1845 Mr. Hubbard was asked to open a class for paying pupils every afternoon from three to six, which he did. Whether the venture was disappointing or the long hours of teaching class too arduous for him, the afternoon class was not continued after that winter. Of those who went to that class one achieved more than passing fame. He was to become Sir William C. MacDonald, Glenadale, one of Montreal's millionaires, but at that time of Charlottetown.

FANNING GARDEN

The Fanning garden was a lovely spot in Old Charlottetown. The whole block between Great George and Prince Streets, on which the Y. M. C. A. and (old) Zion Church were subsequently

Sydney Street, and stood in about eight or ten feet from the corner, with a low railing around it. Shrubs and flowers were placed inside the railing. The stable was on the corner later occupied by the Bank of Nova Scotia (later by the Bank of Canada and now by the Provincial Treasurer's Department.)

Everything about the house and grounds was beautifully kept, and the perfume from the shrubs and fruit trees was delightful. The ladies, Mrs. and Miss Fanning, were often seen walking in the garden or sitting in the arbor at the lower part, just where the Lyceum later stood; and we have been told that the General's great enjoyment in his later years was to sit and read in that arbor. Not any of these fine old trees are now standing. There was one in Dr. MacLeod's grounds until the summer of 1888, whose large trunk and gnarled branches showed its antiquity; but it, too, is gone, and there is nothing now remaining of the lovely old garden.

JUDGE YOUNG'S WILLOWS

We have heard the late Judge Young say he brought the first willow trees to Charlottetown. Be that as it may, we remember a large willow at the north-east corner of the Fanning garden; it branched far into Richmond Street. The ground was often very wet under it. That tree was the first

broke through the roof, or the alarm was given.

To show how far apart the houses were at that time, any one standing at the north-east corner of King Square could see the roof of the Fanning house. Mrs. Fanning, if we remember, had died a year or two before; and Miss Fanning was living alone. She was in her private sitting room that morning, writing for the English mail when the alarm of fire was given; and it was with difficulty she could be persuaded to leave the house. When everything had been as was supposed, removed from the house, John Coll Macdonald, going in, happened to notice a door in the panelled wall under the staircase. He broke it open and there discovered and saved the plate-chest, with all the family silver and other valuables.

The Fannings had land in other parts of the town; they owned a large piece on the corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets, where (the Baptist Church stands). They had fully quarter of that block. It was called Miss Fanning's field. Sometime in the seventies it was claimed by a descendant of General Fanning's living in the United States, and was sold by him.

That property which is now the Kensington area and Exhibition grounds belonged to the Fannings; it had in the forties pretty groves and stumps of trees through it, and being situated on the river side was a favorite resort for picnic

posts were standing, and they were useful for any one to tie his horse to whilst he was attending his business in town. Next to this

ST. PATRICK'S HALL

Directly across Great George Street from the Fanning house and stables was a fenced-in piece of grass known as Mr. Brennan's field. Some years later St. Patrick's Hall, now Queen Square public school, was built upon that ground.

Next to Mr. Brennan's field was a large and handsome brick residence owned and occupied by John Morris, Esq. It was similar in appearance to the Peake house on Water Street. As bricks were not easily obtained and brick houses were few, Mr. Morris was generally named John Brick Morris to distinguish him from another John Morris who had moved from their house, and the Hon. Small Macdonald took it and there Mr. Macdonald died in 1849.

Adjoining the Morris' brick house was a two story building, probably built for a store; a Mr. Clark had his shop there. Then came the Cameron property, on which was Mr. Cameron's house and warehouse or stable with a large yard between, and a nice garden at the back. Gardens were necessary in the long ago for each one had to grow his own vegetables or do without, as only potatoes and turnips were brought to market. Mrs. Cameron had a shop in the west side of her

er and brighter than any others in Charlottetown at that time. It was owned by a Mr. Wilson who came here from England. After Mr. Wilson had been here for a short while he decided to make this Island his home, and bought Warblington, the property and residence of the late Hon. George R. Goodman of H. M. Customs, on Ellens Creek—part of the North River. He (Mr. Wilson) was a widower, and married a younger daughter of the late Thomas Felthick, Esq., then returned to England and brought out his family with their governess. They lived at Warblington for a few years, and eventually returned to England where his widow and son resided.

Soon after the three-story building was finished, Mr. Jardine McLean of Halifax, brother of the late J. S. McLean, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Halifax, opened a grocery store in one of the shops. Everything was astonished. The idea of any one in his senses, thinking he could make a living by selling groceries alone! All the other merchants had general stores. Many were curious to know if he would succeed and went into his store, not to buy but just to see, and were so pleased with the appearance of everything and

the freshness of his goods that he soon got up a fairly brisk trade for Charlottetown. He did not remain longer than a year, however; and the next heard of him was from California—the place so many were rushing to at that time.

About the time Mr. McLean left this Island the large building was bought by William Brown, Esq., with the assistance of his elder brother John, who had a tea plantation in Bombay. William went into partnership with Charles McNutt, Esq., of Malpasque, and started a general store under the name of McNutt & Brown, which continued until Mr. MacNutt's death. The Browns kept up the business there till February, 1884, when the Brown and Cameron buildings, also some others were destroyed by fire.

THE DAVIES PROPERTY

On the west side of Queen Square, where there is now a succession of handsome brick shops there were, in 1844, only three houses: or to speak more correctly, two houses and a stable. On the corner where the London House later stood (now Royal Bank of Canada) was the residence of Mrs. Davies. Her son, (later Hon.) Benjamin Davies,

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