

Kevin's
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History of
Deagher's Grant

HISTORY OF MEAGHER'S GRANT

The Musquodoboit Valley was settled by Europeans about 1692. The first English speaking settlement was in 1784 by people from Northern Ireland and New England.

Meagher's Grant was named after Capt. Meagher, who was granted a tract of land, about 9000 acres, to compensate him for the loss of his schooner which he loaned to the government about 1784. It is a lumbering, hunting and sport fishing centre, with both salmon and trout being taken from the Musquodoboit River.

The total length of the Musquodoboit Valley is about thirty miles. Its confluence with the sea is at Musquodoboit Harbour.

Musquodoboit was once known as the home of Joseph Howe, the famous orator and statesman, who lived there for a time. The Musquodoboit Valley includes Upper & Middle Musquodoboit, Elderbank and Meagher's Grant. Meagher's Grant is a little village six miles in length. The name "Musquodoboit" is derived from the Micmac, the aboriginal form of which is "Muskodeboogek", meaning 'flowing out square and plump or rolling out in foam'.

The early settlers grew wheat, oats, barley and flax, raised sheep, cattle, pigs and horses, and were beyond a doubt a happier lot than the present generation.

The first settlers were earnest citizens and good Christians, and created many rules to govern their community. New settlers continued to arrive, set up saw-mills and built houses. The years brought increasing splendor. There was music, dancing and frolics.

At first Capt. Meagher was the sole proprietor of Meagher's Grant, monarch of all he surveyed. The first settlers purchased land from the original proprietor, pitched their tents in the forest and entered upon the cultivation of the soil. To some extent these early labourers had the way prepared for them, for they entered into possession of broad acres of intervals and extensive meadows which produced quantities of hay.

The country to which the pioneers of this settlement came has proved itself to be a good country. When the first settlers came much of it was virgin forest or unbroken wilderness.

These early settlers had their hardships such as the cold summer, the year of the mice, and the freshet. 1792 was the year of the great freshet that carried off the lowlands all the hay and grain it could get hold of. In November 1813 came the big wind which blew down houses and did great damage. It was near that time that the cold summer came, when the crops did not come to maturity.

Like all the first settlers of Nova Scotia they had hardships to encounter and many difficulties surrounded them. Every year they had to travel to Truro through the forest to procure seed wheat,

a cereal which then flourished without attacks of evil. Because there was no highway board to construct roads, they travelled through the trackless forest to Truro and Halifax to procure the 'staff of life'. Although in the early days they had meat only on Sundays and Holidays, they grew strong and sturdy on the daily meals of potatoes, cabbage and black bread.

John Dunbrack, the first settler in Meagher's Grant, was a Scotsman who came through from Truro and down the Musquodoboit River in a canoe. He settled first at Gibraltar, afterwards returning to Meagher's Grant and settling on the farm later owned by his great-grandson (R.O) Richard Dunbrack. He had four sons who all settled here. His was the first frame house in Musquodoboit.

Roland MacDonald, another one of the oldest settlers, came here from the United States in 1774. He was one of the many Loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia about that time. He was born on the Isle of Skye and lived here on the place later owned by Bert Kerr (now owned by Robert Misener).

The Dillmans, another one of the old families, came here about 1790. Christopher the first of the name was a Hessian soldier who was given a grant of land (300 acres) for his services. He married Eunice McDonald and settled near the present iron bridge over the river, called the Dillman bridge. Their descendants are legion, one of their great-grandsons, Alfred, having a family of ten boys and two girls, so there is very little danger of the name running out.

A David Bradley lived on the farm later owned by George Sibley. He was an Englishman and never married.

Miles McInnes first settled on the farm known as the Parker Place, afterwards moving on land later owned by Wellington Kent, later owned by Ernest Sibley. His family was not large, but one of his sons, Malcolm, raised a family of sixteen. None of his descendants live here at the present time. Miles McInnes was another Loyalist and wherever you hear the name McInnes you will find a carpenter. It has been said of Malcolm that he could build a mill with a square, saw and broad axe.

Peter Hurley lived on the farm later owned by Henry Cole, now owned by Raymond Cole. He was drowned in the Musquodoboit River. His son Peter lived on his father's farm and died there. He raised quite a large family, Alexander, Peter, Thomas, Fred, Duncan and Miles, also two daughters Mary and Jane.

Alexander Grant settled on the farm later owned by his son Miles, then James and later great-grandson Perry. He had a family of six boys, some of whom were great trappers and hunters. One son George was a carpenter.

Thomas Cole settled on the place where Stanley Streach now lives. There must have been quite a lot of Coles at one time, for there was

a settlement known as Cole Town.

John Ogilvie settled on the place later owned by Edward Dares, now owned by Owen Dillman. He lived to be the oldest man I have any record of, dying at the age of 105. His sons were: John, Wellington, Alexander and George. None of his descendants live here now. John Ogilvie when a young man carried a bushel of wheat from Truro on his back and sowed it, raising therefrom 20 bushels.

Donald Grant, or as he was better known by the name of Titus, was a Freemason and a carpenter learning his trade at the Halifax Dockyard. He could tell many wonderful tales of his work, one of which is, "I was working on a high building in Halifax on a very cold day; I dropped my hammer and did not wish to take the time to go down after it, so I took a bottle of tea that I had for my lunch, poured it down on my hammer. It froze as it run out and I pulled the hammer up by the icicle." This may be an exaggeration but, well, it is a long time ago and strange things happen. He lived near where Allison Brown lived later.

A man by the name of Calder lived on the farm known later as the Bambrick farm. William Bambrick a nephew later lived there. He was David Bambrick's father. A great-grandson Roy later lived in Elderbank.

I now come to the name of Henry who first settled what is known as the Seeton Farm. He sold to a man by the name of Fisher, who built a grist mill on the little brook which runs through the farm. A man by the name of Wilson also lived on this farm. This farm then passed into the hands of Daniel Lydiard, who sold to Andrew and James Seeton, Lydiard going to Minnesota in 1862.

William Roberts, grandfather of J. H. Roberts, was a noted Irish soldier. He lived first on the Lydiard farm, paying 60 pounds a year rent. He kept 60 head of cattle besides sheep and horses. His grandson J. H. has a blackthorn cane which the old man brought from Ireland.

Andrew Brown married Eliza Jane Lydiard and lived on the farm later owned by Andrew Grant. He moved to Minnesota in 1862.

Ezekiel Sibley came here from Truro and settled on the Bradley farm, which is still owned by his descendants.

Mike Power settled on a piece of land later owned by Ernest Sibley and known as the Mike place.

Ben Wood cleared a piece of land on the place known as the Parker place but never lived on it.

A man by the name of Cowan lived on land later owned by James Dillman. He moved to Ship Harbour.

Colin Johnson settled a mile from the settlement on a place now known as Johnston Hill. He was a shoemaker by trade. (This Mr. and Mrs. Johnston brought my great-grandfather Alexander Grant from Scotland

South Course

when he was a small boy. They were his Uncle and Aunt and took him on the death of his mother.)

A Mr. Coffman lived on land later owned by A.B. Lay, and a Mr. Crocker on part of Mr. J. D. Bayer's farm.

Thomas Wade, a coloured man, lived on land later owned by J. L. Dillman, he selling to a Cruickshank and later owned by Doctor Wilson. Thomas Wade died at Windsor Junction, Oct. 19, 1910, age 102 years. He was the last coloured man to reside in Meagher's Grant.

Samuel Dickie came from Glenmore and lived on the farm later owned by J. K. and Sidney Dickie, sons of his second marriage.

James Bayer and Roland, brothers, came from Musquodoboit Harbour. James settled on the farm where his son J. D. and grandson Ralph later lived. House fallen down many years ago. Roland lived on the place now known as the Parker place. He had no family.

James Shaw settled on the place where William Streach lived later. He married Janet, daughter of Samuel Dickie. After Mr. Shaw's death the family moved to Minnesota about 1880..

Andrew and James Seeton came from Londonderry and bought the Lydiard farm.

Miles Logan came from Middle Musquodoboit and settled on the farm later owned by his son Leander, now owned by Harvey Logan's widow. Harvey was a son of Leander.

Archibald Crawford came from the Southern States and settled on land later owned by Bert Kerr, afterwards moving to the Falls, which was called Crawford Falls after him. He was another Loyalist. He died at the age of 100.

John Kerr came here a young man, settled on the farm later owned by his son Bert. He married Harriet, daughter of Samuel Dickie.

John Milne lived here for many years on the farm now owned by Ivan Dickie.

More about John Dunbrack the first white settler of Meagher's Grant. His house and farm were on a rolling green hillside near the River, on what later became known as the "Dick Dunbrack place". John was the great-grandfather of Dick. Living still in Meagher's Grant are three great-grand daughters - Mrs. Ralph Rourke, Mrs. Laurin Kerr and Mrs. George Barker, and one great-great grandson Fulton Dunbrack.

North Course

The Early Settlement of the Lower Part of the Musquodoboit River

Records indicate that the frontier of settlement was gradually pushed from Truro to the Stewiacke River Valley; then up that valley and "across the mountain" and down the valley of the Musquodoboit River.

In the days when there were no roads, streams were used where possible for transportation. The lower end of the Musquodoboit River did not present a very inviting appearance to would-be settlers. In the first two miles, or more, from salt water the river was very rocky, with many rapids.

It does not appear to be generally realized that, while settlement of the land was progressing from Truro and Onslow to Middle Musquodoboit, via the Stewiacke and the head-waters of the Musquodoboit River, it was also progressing up stream from Musquodoboit Harbour, in spite of the rocks and rapids.

From time to time, in the past 150 years, different stories have appeared in print in which statements have been made as to who were the first settlers in the Musquodoboit Harbour district of Halifax County. What is believed to be more authentic information has recently been found, in the course of a study of records in the Archives of the State of North Carolina, and in the Public Record Office, London, England, as well as in the records of the Public Archives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

According to an affidavit sworn to before Daniel Wood, Jr., J.P. of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 1st day of May, A.D. 1788, the first settlers on the Musquodoboit River above the "falls" (extending up-stream from tide-water about two and one-half miles) were: "A Mr. Blue, a half pay officer, another family, and Miles McInnes, a Highlander from the Isle of Skye, Scotland, who had settled in North Carolina in 1774, but who had lost all his extensive property there because he had served as an officer with the British forces in the American War of Independence. His friend and neighbour, "Mr. Blue a half pay officer was "Quarter Master Daniel Blue, late of Dunlop's Corps", also a veteran of the American War.

In his affidavit, Miles McInnes stated that he arrived in Halifax, N.S., in the fall of 1784 and was promised a grant of 200 acres of land "on the river Musquodoboit" by Governor Parr, but the latter could not have it laid out unto me until the year following by reason of the many prior applications.

Crown Land records show that on the 15th day of November 1785, an Order of Survey was issued containing the following instructions:

"To admeasure and lay out unto Daniel Blue and Miles McInnes each a plantation containing 200 acres at Musquodoboit."

The survey must have been made in December, 1785, as the surveyor's report was dated the 7th day of January, 1786.

The lands of Mr. Blue and Mr. McInnes were about 2½ miles up-stream from the mouth of the river - on the eastern side of what is now called the Musquodoboit River. French families had settled earlier on land near the salt water, as these settlers were essentially fishermen, not farmers.

Mr. Blue and Mr. McInnes wished to farm and to raise cattle, but most of the land they received was fit only for a "blueberry plantation". They and their unnamed neighbour had to cut roads around the rapids or "falls" on the lower part of the river, "there being no communication with Halifax but by sea, passage often attended with considerable loss of time, every species of provision and clothing dear, the necessary seeds of all kinds at a very high rate and sometimes very difficult to procure."

In a somewhat similar affidavit dated the 4th day of May, 1787, Miles McInnes stated that until he and the others

"Settled on the said River at Musquodoboit there were no inhabitants on the said river and the same lands were never before settled by white people."

It is not known where Quarter Master Daniel Blue lived before coming to Nova Scotia, but Miles McInnes owned a plantation in Anson County, North Carolina. When the Highlanders of North Carolina were "called up" in February, 1776, he served as a Lieutenant under Brigade Major Allan MacDonald, Commander of the Anson County Battalion.

The Highlander Loyalists were ordered to march about one hundred miles to the sea, where they were to be taken on board ships to be carried to Halifax, Nova Scotia, there to undergo training in the Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment- later known as "The 84th".

About fifteen hundred Highlanders started on this march from what is now called Fayetteville, North Carolina, but was then known as Cross Creek. About half the men were without arms. Of those armed, the majority had only their swords. They were ambushed, at a bridge across a creek, by well armed American "patriots" and badly defeated. One half were taken prisoner. In fact, the Americans had far more prisoners than they could guard, and many of the Highlanders were allowed to "escape" and to return to their plantations. Among the latter were Miles McInnes and his neighbour in Anson County, James McDonald, son of his Commanding Officer Allan McDonald. The wife of Allan MacDonald was the famous Flora MacDonald, who became the great Scottish heroine in 1776, when she safely conducted "Bonnie Prince Charlie" through the line of troops that had him surrounded, where, but for her help, his capture and execution was almost a certainty.

Flora's husband was held as a prisoner of war for over a year but was exchanged, in New York, for a captured rebel officer. Allan then joined the British forces in New York. In October, 1778, Allan MacDonald was ordered to serve at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment, with the rank of Captain.

The headquarters of the regiment were in Halifax, but it had detachments in various places, including Windsor, N. S. Allan MacDonald remained in Nova Scotia until the regiment was "reduced" in October, 1783. He was awarded a "Regimental Grant of Land on the Kenetkook River" in what is now Hants County, Nova Scotia, where he built a house and worked at clearing land until after Miles McInnes returned from England, where he, McInnes, had gone to try to collect compensation for the loss of his real and personal property in North Carolina.

Miles McInnes had been successful in obtaining some compensation for his losses and was awarded an annual allowance or pension. Captain Allan MacDonald had tried in vain to collect compensation for the loss of his lands and other property in North Carolina, by correspondence from Nova Scotia, including a claim notarized in Halifax, N. S., on the 3rd day of January, 1784. He decided that he also might stand a better by a personal appearance before the "Commissioners Appointed by Act of Parliament to Enquire into the Claim of American Loyalists". He went to London and declared his intention of returning to Nova Scotia as soon as possible. His efforts did not meet with the success he had hoped for and, after long delays, instead of returning to Nova Scotia, he went back to the Hebrides. He died near his birth place a few years later.

Following his escape after the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 28, 1776, Miles McInnes returned to his plantation and remained there as a neutral until he was, more or less, forced to join the British forces invading North Carolina in 1780.

He served as a Lieutenant with the British Army until the end of the war - in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. He went to London to press his claim for compensation for the loss of his valuable property in Anson County, North Carolina. Immediately this matter was settled, he applied for and was granted permission to go to Nova Scotia, where, he claimed, he had "many friends and connections".

About 1790 Miles McInnes moved from his blueberry plantation near Musquodoboit Harbour to what is now the village of Lower Meagher's Grant, where most of his neighbours were other Highlander Loyalists, including Randal MacDonald, Angus MacDonald and Archibald Crawford.

Miles McInnes was a single man in 1783. At some unknown date he married and at Meagher's Grant raised a family of three sons and six daughters:-

Ranald McInnes - first name of wife was Elliphalley but surname unknown.

Angus McInnes - Malcolm McInnes -

Ann McInnes married a McDougall

Jannet McInnes, born 1792, married in 1815 to Robert A. Logan, lived in Niddle Musquodoboit.

Mary McInnes, married James Cruickshank

Alexanderina (Lexie) McInnes, married Samuel Dickie, lived and died near her birthplace in Lower Meagher's Grant.

Christiana McInnes - Eliza Ann McInnes.

The Crawfords of Musquodoboit.

The Crawfords were United Empire Loyalists, coming to Nova Scotia in 1767, and were given grants of land by the Government.

Archibald Crawford, having served in the Militia of the War of Independence, was granted land at Crawford's Falls on the Musquodoboit River, being then a young man about twenty-one. He married Mary MacDonald, daughter of Ranald MacDonald, likewise a Loyalist, who had settled in Meagher's Grant on the land later known as the John Kerr property. Their family consisted of three sons and four daughters, Ranald the eldest, remaining on the homestead at Crawford's Falls.

Ranald married Frances Verge, and their family consisted of five sons and five daughters. The sons were: Archibald, Nelson, Ranald, John and Henry; Nelson and John having died in young manhood. The daughters were: Janet (Mrs. Henry Carson, Halifax), Mary (Mrs. Joseph Wallace, Elderbank), Anne, Emily and Eliza, the latter three having died in infancy.

Archibald married Rosena Dares and lived on the homestead at Crawford's Falls, later moving to Musquodoboit Harbour. Ranald and Henry settled at what is known as Gibraltar, Meagher's Grant. Ranald never married. Henry married Annie Ogilvie of Elderbank and had a family of one son and two daughters. Henry lived to the advanced age of ninety years. He was a very popular and efficient guide for tourist anglers and hunters, for many years, being situated near many lakes and streams and good hunting grounds, and entertained many in his roomy and comfortable hotel (house burned down after property was bought by Gilroy's and logged). One of his daughters became the second wife of the late Arnold McBain, merchant of Meagher's Grant, which business was later conducted by his son Orrin. Business is now run by Orrin's son Douglas and his wife.

Henry Crawford's son Ira lived on his father's place till around 1950, when he sold to Gilroy Bros., moving to Truro with his family.

CHURCHES

Meagher's Grant enjoys the honored distinction of enjoying the labors of the first settled Presbyterian Minister in Nova Scotia, Rev. James Murdock. His early ministry was spent in a part of Hants and Kings Counties, but he labored several years in Meagher's Grant. On the ground now occupied as a cemetery he built a house and whilst dwelling there he taught and preached the Gospel. In a manuscript diary written by him he tells that in 1792 he set out from Meagher's Grant travelling twelve miles through the woods to Gay's River. Next day he crossed the Shubenacadie River breaking the ice with a pole in order that he might reach his destination and perform a marriage ceremony. One day he proceeded to the Musquodoboit River near his residence to fish trout. He was sitting on the branch of a tree and being subject to ill turns, it is supposed he slipped off and when falling his arm grasped the limb of the tree. When found his head was above water, but life was extinct and his body benumbed with cold. He was interred near where he dwelt, and a monument marks the spot where he was buried.

After the death of Mr. Murdock, visits were made from time to time to minister to the spiritual wants of the early settlers. The Rev. Hugh Graham of Stewiacke, Rev. Alex Dick of Maitland and Rev. John Brown of Londonderry, gave some services. They could make only an occasional trip for they had to travel by slow locomotion on long journeys.

The ecclesiastical history of Meagher's Grant is somewhat interesting and varied. The Rev. John Sprott living at Middle Musquodoboit was within a reasonable distance. He sometimes dispensed ordinances and performed marriages and kept the light burning. Upwards of 95 years

only a monthly service was given by the Rev. Dr. Teasdale in the old church which was never finished. The Dr. resided in Middle Musquodoboit.

length a new structure was erected in connection with the Presbyterian Church. The Rev. E.A. McCurdy became the first pastor. Then Methodist Church was built and also a Baptist. Eventually the settlement had the services of three ministers of different denominations.

change however has been brought about, the whole field with one Church now occupied by student minister Dana Cocrane, Elderbank, of the United Church of Canada.

UNITED

The first church was built about 1780 as a Union Church for all Protestant denominations. It was built near or near where Mrs. Clyde Higgins now lives, and was known as "The Lord's Barn". The first minister was Rev. James Murdock. He came here in 1767. The old church was torn down about 1870. It was built of logs and was rough on the inside (there were saw mills at the time). The hill near there is still called "The Meeting House Hill".

In 1864, Methodist and Presbyterian ministers had preached in the old meeting house. Each denomination now had enough followers so that they thought each could have a church of their own. Therefore, a Methodist church was built in 1866, where Ronald Dickie now lives.

In 1867, a grant of land was bought from John Dunbrack for six dollars and a Presbyterian church was built. On June 2, 1870, the people met and levelled the grounds in front of the church. A picket fence was put around it in 1873. The first elders to be elected in 1873 were James Dunbrack Jr. (son of John), James Seeton, Leander Logan. In 1919 the name St. James was given to the church.

The set of the communion sets now in use was in the Methodist Church. The set was given by Ralph Bayer in 1959 in memory of his wife Ida. In 1925, it united with other churches and so took the name of St. James United Church.

There were three churches in Meagher's Grant at one time, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist. They all held regular services each Sunday. The services overlapping, all were largely attended. Now when travelling so easy, the only church in the community like a great many churches in other places, does not seem to have the same attendance.

Recent years have witnessed many improvements in this church of St. James. Electronic chimes were installed a decade ago. A basement was constructed in 1958 and a furnace was added the following year. The interior was redecorated in 1960.

BAPTIST

The Baptist church was organized in this community in 1874, due to the influence of Mrs. John Milne and my grandmother Mrs. James Dunbrack Sr., and a few others. They got in touch with Rev. E. T. Miller, pastor of the Wittenburg and Stewiacke Baptist churches, and invited him to preach

the word to them. They met for the first year in available buildings and in their homes.

The interest grew and a few more were added to the church so that in 1876, although few in numbers, they decided to erect a building for public worship. This was done with the aid of the Baptist Home Mission Board. From that time the Baptist church in Meagher's Grant worked in co-operation with the Wittenburg and Stewiacke churches under the Home Mission Board.

In 1923, due to the growth of the town of Stewiacke and Brookfield, the Home Mission Board saw fit to remove the parsonage from Wittenburg to Brookfield, thus leaving this field too far distant to have regular service, much to the regret of the older members.

During the years this church was active, it was ministered to by twelve different pastors, and in the later years by student pastors, during the summer months.

The late Rev. Blois Crawford was a product of the Baptist Church of Meagher's Grant. He was the son of the late Ira and Elizabeth (Ogilvie) Crawford. His sister Viola (Mrs. Roselyn Brown of Bristol, N. B.) trained for full-time service in the Baptist church as a deaconess and served in various parts of Canada.

METHODIST

Among the immigrants who came to Nova Scotia after the expulsion of the Acadians were groups from Yorkshire, England. The first detachment sailed from Liverpool in March, reaching Fort Cumberland, the old French fort of Beausejour, in May 1772, having been nearly three^{months} crossing the Atlantic, which can be crossed by steamer in five days.

Among these Yorkshire settlers, familiar with the teaching of the Wesleys, came the first Methodists of Nova Scotia. A son of one of them, William Black by name, was the first Methodist minister of this province. Mr. Black while still a young man was made a bishop of the church. At this time in the Halifax district there were 160 members of the Methodist church, and the population of Nova Scotia was about 12,000.

Included in the Halifax district was Musquodoboit Harbour where lived an earnest church leader, Mr. Gaetz, who had two sons Joseph and Leonard in the Methodist ministry; and a third son Isaac was a popular lay-preacher. The Rev. Joseph Gaetz, at one time president of the conference, was the first Methodist minister to preach in Meagher's Grant, where he held service in the Lower school house. In 1865 Meagher's Grant became part of the Middle Musquodoboit circuit.

Previous to this, a loyal member of the Methodist church in Halifax had come to Middle Musquodoboit to live, Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Eweuing of Halifax and wife of William Layton. Through the influence of Mr. & Mrs. Layton, a Methodist church was instituted, Rev.

Mr. McKeown being the first minister. He was succeeded by Rev. Leonard Gaetz, who being a single man, the conference sent in his place Rev. J. J. Teasdale, a married man, so that the parsonage or mission house as it was then called might be occupied. At the expiration of the usual three year term, Mr. Gaetz having by this time a wife, was returned to Middle Musquodoboit in the year 1865. He was a very earnest young man in the cause of Christ and being a very fluent speaker, was called to St. James Church, Montreal. After a few years because of failing health, his physician advised the West and he settled in Red Deer, Alberta, where he remained until his death.

In 1867, during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Gaetz, the Methodist church in Meagher's Grant was built, Samuel Dickie giving the piece of land. The men interested in this building, we are told, cut timber and gave their work. Tea meetings were held, funds contributed and pens were sold. When completed, we understand, there was no debt on the building. Miles and Sandy McInnes were the contractors.

The early records of membership of this church include the names Logan, McInnes, Lay, Dickie, Dunbrack, Seeton, Grant, Piert, Shaw, Fuller, McKinley, Scott, Ogilvie, Gilbert, Dillman, Crawford and Wilson. Among the devoted workers in this early church were Mrs. Alexander Lay, Mrs. James Seeton, Mrs. Peter Dunbrack, who was a life-long Sunday School teacher, Miles Logan and Alexander Lay who for many years conducted a weekly prayer meeting. In a record dated "Middle Musquodoboit Sept. 12, 1871" we read, "Miles Logan, John Dunbrack and Lemon Grant were elected Society Stewards for Meagher's Grant, signed William Layton, Circuit Steward.

The ministers who occupied the pulpit of the Meagher's Grant Methodist church, although often weary with long hard drives over roads which were not always smooth, found themselves cheered by the unfailing hospitality of the people of this place - Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodists alike. And it was often noted that practically the same choir sang in the three churches, so the way was permanently paved for true union.

Church union which was consummated on June 10, 1925, was the climax of a series of events which had made that date memorable. On June 10, 1859, John Knox preached in the church before which stood one hundred soldiers who represented the law that forbade him to preach. On June 10, 1842, John Wesley, standing on his father's tombstone, proclaimed anew a full salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Early Methodist ministers.

The ministers following Rev. Leonard Gaetz were Rev. Martin Desbraisy, Tweedy Mosher and W. G. Lane. Rev. W. G. Lane, well known throughout Canada but particularly in the Maritimes, deserves more than passing notice. He served his country in the South African war as chaplain to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. At the close of the war he was for a time a house guest of King Edward VII then Prince of Wales, at Sandringham. Through all his life which is filled with thrilling adventure beginning with his departure from his home in England at the age of fourteen, he remained a valiant soldier of the King of Kings.

Mr. Lane was a naturally gifted musician, could play almost any instrument and had a cultured voice both in speaking and singing. Immediately succeeding him was Rev. J. Hiram Davis. During the pastorate of Mr. Davis the parsonage at Middle Musquodoboit was built. The congregation which at this time included Middle and Upper Musquodoboit, Higginsville, Meagher's Grant and Moose River Mines, assisted materially in the building.

A list of succeeding ministers are as follows: Revs. Howard Doane, Robert Barry Mack, W. I. Croft, Mr. Daniels Ph.D., David Walker, W. G. Whitman, William Perry, Alfred Lund, C.H.C. MacLarren, Willis Layton, William Wright, Robert Brown, Mr. Owen, Mr. Mitchell, George Brown, Arthur Baker, Mr. Bleasdel.

At the close of Rev. Mr. Bleasdel's pastorate in 1921 the Methodist and Presbyterians of Meagher's Grant entered into a co-operative union. For ten succeeding years the Methodist church was used as a church hall; it was then sold and torn down.

During the years from the opening of the church in 1867 to the closing in 1921 there were five marriages in the church. They were: Arabella Fuller and Dr. Weeks, Nellie Fuller and James Duncan Bayer, June 19, 1872; Mary Jane Dunbrack and Alexander Nicholson, August 8, 1881; Isabelle Dunbrack and William Logan, January 24, 1888; Margaret Dunbrack and Joseph Albert Nickerson, October 16, 1906.

HISTORICAL ANNIVERSARY OF MEAGHER'S GRANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 19, 1914

A very interesting meeting was held in the Meagher's grant Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 19th. Rev. D. Stiles presided. The choir, under the leadership of Miss Gladys Bayer led in the service of praise, and rendered two anthems with excellent taste.

After devotional service, Mr. Fraser read a historical sketch. Then Rev. E.A. McCurdy, D.D., who was minister of this congregation for several years from some time in 1866 gave a splendid address, full of interest and power. The first part was reminiscent. When he came to the congregation there were 24 communicants. Of these only one is now living. This is Mrs. Mary Grant, daughter of the late Mrs. James McCurdy, and she was present at this meeting. Of the 25 who were added to the communion role during his ministry, only five are living, and only two of these are now living at Meagher's Grant. He recalled much of the past, and gave some touching incidents of his ministry. He then spoke impressively of the great usefulness of the Church in the life of the community and showed the debt the people owe to the work of the Church amongst them.

Rev. T. Stewart, D.D., Halifax, and successor to Dr. McCurdy as agent of the Presbyterian Church next spoke most effectively of the great work to which the Church

Historical Anniversary, cont'd.

is called of God, outlined what he called the "Enterprises" of the Church, describing briefly but very clearly the lines along which the Church carried on her great work at home and abroad. He emphasized and illustrated the great value of the work the church is doing where ever she preaches the Gospel of Christ. Business men recognize this value from a merely economical point of view, as is strikingly shown by the fact that the C.P.R. Company, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., both give to missionaries 25 per cent discount on their passage to foreign countries, simply because they realize the great service missionaries render to civilization, and commerce. They grant this privilege only to bona fide missionaries under appointment of some responsible Mission Board in the United States and Canada. He gave graphic sketches of missionary work, and showed the need of ever increasing sympathy and support for the splendid work of evangelizing the world. It is well that the people of our congregation should hear of the work as Dr. Stewart is able to present it with authority and with persuasion.

On Sabbath there was a largely attended communion service in the Presbyterian Church, at which Mr. Fraser was assisted by Dr. McCurdy. When this Historical Anniversary was first spoken of, a desire was expressed that Dr. McCurdy should be asked to come and speak. It was certainly very gratifying to him to be thus kindly remembered after so long a time, and he feelingly gave expression to this touching request which brought him back to scenes of his earliest pastorate. And his presence and addresses and sermons were much appreciated.

signed "Fiddler"

P.S. I was very sorry not to be able to attend these interesting meetings but am glad to say that I am feeling better now. Gladys and I did have a lovely visit in Truro and shall never forget the kind treatment of the many old friends in that town during our short stay.

Dr. McCurdy was a guest with us while attending those meetings and preached a rousing sermon on Sunday.

Mr. McCurdy wasn't equal to the long journey in the buggy.

The steel is now within four miles of our church.

Brookland Farm,
Meagher's Grant.
September 24.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF MEAGHER'S GRANT

The first school house in Meagher's Grant stood on a site back of where Mrs. Arthur McLean now lives. It was built of logs with a huge fire place at one end of the building. This school house had a cellar, for some of the old people recall a Mr. Glen who put children in the dark cellar for punishment. This same man would place a boy on the back of another and administer a caneing.

Mr. Glen boarded around; he had no home and when past teaching he remained in the place going from one house to another and died at the residence of Mr. John Ogilvie- the same Mr. Ogilvie who lived to be 105.

The first teach^{er} in this "varied scene of woods, hill, dale and sparkling brook between" was Mr. Berthwick, a great-grandfather of a later teacher in both the Lower and Upper Meagher's Grant schools, Miss Marguerite Lay.

Then came Walter Russel who taught about the year 1850. A son of John Dunbrack was named after him, Walter Russel Dunbrack.

The second school building was erected beside the old road at the top of the hill back of where the present lower school house now stands. Later it was moved down the hill to a spot nearly opposite James Dunbrack's residence. Mr. Welloughby taught in this building, both situations, and continued as school master for upwards of five years.

"Beside yon stragglng fence
That skirts the way
With blossomed fur ze unprofitably gay
There in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,
The village master taught his little school."

A dwelling house was built for Mr. Willoughby in the field owned by Samuel Dickie. Here he lived with wife and children. His daughter Elizabeth became a teacher and afterwards married M. Whiston, who conducted a commercial college in Halifax.

The house mentioned was built entirely of planks dove-tailed together and was known as the plank house. It was used for a number of years as a school house and later caught fire and burned down.

The teacher succeeding Mr. Willoughby was a Mr. Tilley, an Englishman who when seeing anyone go by whom he did not recognize, would call the children to come and look. If any of the older people now are asked "Do you remember Mr. Tilley?" the invariable reply is "Oh, yes, he was a big fat man!" They do not seem to wonder how "one small head could carry all he knew".

When came as teachers George Merson, Susan Lydiard, called by her devoted pupils "Miss Susan", Isabella (Isey) Bayer, sister of J.D. Bayer and Mrs. Dillman, and afterwards wife of Charles Mott, Halifax.

Before the plank house was burned another school house was built at the cross roads. This was nearer the centre of the section which had not then been divided. Previously the pupils of Upper Meagher's Grant had a long distance to walk to school. Elizabeth Tully, afterwards Mrs. J. Howe Roberts, had walked four miles every morning from the place where Alex Murphy later lived.

The school house at the cross roads was near where the railway station was later situated. It in turn was for a number of years used for a hall, later as a building for the road machine.

The first teacher at the cross roads school was a Mr. Chloe - no one remembers anything about him except his name. There was also a Mr. Cleary who taught there. He was succeeded by Alfred Dickie, later Rev. A.B. Dickie, D.D., and Miss Maggie McDonald.

The next school house in Lower Meagher's Grant was built in the year 1865, the Upper school house some years later. The first teacher in the Lower School was Alfred Dickie, who had taught at the cross roads, Then Mr. Willoughby came back and was teaching there when the Methodist church was under construction, 1867.

James Kent Dickie was then a young man of twenty-one and going to school with other young men near his own age, among them being John Seeton and Robert Logan, who later became a teacher in the same school. These young men went to see the work going on at the church nearby, were late for school, and as a punishment were stood in the corner.- Imagine! James Dickie rebelled, left school and never went back. A few days later he left home for the Ship Harbour lumber woods and worked for old Mr. Ben Young.

Highly spoken of is the next teacher, Miss Bessie Archibald of Truro. She boarded at Mr. Samuel Dickie's. His son Charles Anderson then a boy of fourteen, a brother of James K., drove her to Shubenacadie Station, his first trip away from home. Miss Archibald was succeeded by Matthew White and then Alexander Urquhart, a fine teacher of Elocution.

From this school came the next teacher Melissa Kent, daughter of Wellington Kent, then Mr. Urquhart came back and taught until the entrance as teacher on January 4, 1870, of Miss Esther Stewart of Upper Musquodoboit. She taught until April 30, 1871, and then became the bride of Ezekial Sibley.

Robert Logan taught in 1872 and Jane Kent Sibley the winter, spring and summer of 1873. Next in order were Jane Burris, later Mrs. John McFetridge, Elmsdale; Polly Braden, the well known Mrs. McNab, Editor of the Message, Halifax; Ellen McInnes, daughter of Malcolm McInnes of this place; Katie Sullivan, Ida Kent, Margaret Logan, Bessie Flemming; Luanna Bentley, 1884; Minnie Archibald, 1885; Lelia Annand 1886, later Mrs. Richard Dunbrack. She had fifty-nine scholars, as there was no school that winter in the upper section, and some came from there. The salary at that time was \$65.00 for a six month's term and board was \$1.25 per week. Then came Mulloy Geddes in the summer of 1886 and winter of 1887, the time of "The Blizzard", which

storm was remembered for many years. Next were Louise Lay (Mrs. Alex Logan), Ethel Cox (Mrs. Noble Johnson), Janie Gammel, a Mrs. Johnson, Alice Annand of Gays River, Mrs. Martin Scott formerly Miss Libbie Gladwin; Susan Sibley; Maggie Archibald (Mrs. Raymond Dickie) 1896; Isabelle Higgins 1897; Howard Burris 1898; Miss Hallimore, afterward the wife of Capt. Arthur Morris, 1900; Gertie Lewis (Mrs. Everette Deckman) 1901; Egbert Annand 1902 - He afterward moved with his father's family to California and was killed by an assassin.

Mary Dunbrack, Dartmouth, who came to her father's birthplace as teacher, afterwards became a teacher in a Commercial College, Winnipeg, and married a professional man of that city. Next were Bessie Dickie and Grace Fraser, both of whom died in the West; Lillie Dickie (Mrs. Foster Cruickshank, Elderbank); Mary Mellish of Eastville, Upper Stewiacke; Gertie Dickie (Mrs. Cecil Woodworth, Port Williams); Florence Goff, then Lillie Dickie again, Maud Dickie, Edith Brown, Margaret Lay, great granddaughter of the first teacher in this place.

About the year 1873 the section was divided and shortly after, the Upper School House was built. Previous to this Mr. Thomas Wilks, father of Joseph and Charles Wilks, taught pupils in a dwelling house. The first teacher in the Upper School was Mary Ellen Grant, sister of Lewis Grant.

Sibley School was closed in 1970, and is now a dwelling house.

Sibley School House - Upper Meagher's Grant

This school house was built on a hill, around 1870 or later, and was considered quite a structure. There were three windows on each side, a lobby on the front with two windows and a door.

There was one large room with benches and desks running along each side. This same school still stands but was sold in 1975 and made into a house for week-ends and holidays.

Before this school house was built the children attended school in the old hall which was built where the Community Hall now stands.

The first teacher in the new school was a local girl, Mary Ellen Grant, the second was Viny Rhodes, the third was Jerry Willoughby, who drove from Elderbank every day in a horse and buggy.

The school was given the name "Sibley" because the majority of the ratepayers were Sibleys.

Every teacher of this section had many worries on account of the brook being so close to the school. But there was only one fatality - Bertha Scott, 13 year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Scott, was drowned while skating.

This one-room school accommodated pupils from beginners to Grade VI until the Musquodoboit Rural High School was erected in 1950

Mrs. Laurin Kerr was the last teacher in this school.

MILLS OF MEAGHER'S GRANT

First I shall tell you about the mills on the Grand Lake Stream. In the year 1840 a grist mill was built on the stream that runs from Grand Lake and empties into the Musquodoboit River. This mill was built and owned by Malcolm McInnes and James Bayer. The beams of the mill were hewed on the day J. D. Bayer, son of James Bayer, was born. This mill stood opposite the house later owned by Thomas McLeod, later Fred Fuller, was occupied several years by Walter Harvey, later by George Fisher.

Some years later this grist mill was burned, and James Bayer built a saw mill in the same place. For some time this mill was in operation by James Bayer and his son J. D. Bayer. Later run by the grandsons of James Bayer - Ralph and Guy Bayer. Laurie Dickie and sons had a saw mill on the opposite side of the road from the old mill site in later years. They operated this mill for several years.

The next mill we come to on this stream was built and operated by Miles Logan. After Mr. Logan's death the mill was left to his son, Leander. But for some years was in operation by James Dickie and J. K. Sibley. This mill was approximately a quarter of a mile from Bayer's mill.

Next we come to a saw mill built by Miles Grant and Daniel Dillman, who sawed week-about in the mill. After a few years Mr. Dillman sold his share to Mr. Grant. At Mr. Grant's death he left the mill to two of his sons, Charles and James. They also sawed week at a time. After Charles died, James bought his share. This mill was one and a quarter miles downstream from Logan's mill and a quarter of a mile from the foot of Brushy Meadow. This mill was later bought by Douglas Woodworth. After his death it was removed to the property of Arthur McLean.

Now I will tell you about a saw mill built at the foot of Beaver Lake. Beaver Lake Brook joins the Grand Lake Stream at a place just below Grant's mill. This place is called the Alderland. This mill was built by Mr. Rourke and a colored gentleman by the name of John Forrester. The Forrester's family lived in Halifax and he had two sons that were red headed. This mill was built over a hundred and fifty years ago, and for some time was in operation by the builders; later sold to Timothy Scott, who also operated there for several years.

Next we come to a grist mill approximately one mile from the Alderland. This mill is an old mill and I have no record of who was the builder. This mill is believed to have been owned at one time by a J. Ogilvie and stood just above the place where the Ogilvie Bridge now is, also about a mile from the Musquodoboit River.

Next there were two mills at Jenkins Falls, one a grist mill owned and operated by Richard Tully, and a saw mill owned and operated by Donald McInnes. Jenkins Falls is back of Alex Murphy's farm. After Alex Murphy's death, Sandy Dillman bought the farm, rented it for a few years. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arno Schneider.

going to Halifax by the old Guysborough Road, you cross the Jenkins brook. The bridge is below the falls. It empties into the Musquodoboit River. These are old mills and there isn't much trace left of them. About eighty years ago there was a saw mill built at Jenkins Falls. It was built by George A. Sibley and operated by him for some time; later sold to Thomas Grant.

The next mill is several miles downstream from the ones above mentioned, and is believed to have been the first mill ever built in Meagher's Grant. It was a grist mill and stood below the bridge now called the Seeton Bridge. This mill was built by Mr. Fisher on a little brook that runs through the farm. Later the farm and mill was sold to a Mr. Wilson, then to William Roberts. People from the neighbouring places would bring their grists to the mill in canoes and boats to be ground into flour. At one time Mr. Roberts had a 'reaping frolic' and in those days when people went to a frolic they went before breakfast and worked the whole day, or until the job was finished. At the time of this frolic Mrs. Roberts had no flour, so the men went to work with their sycles, as that is what they used in those days. Then they took some wheat to the mill and ground it into flour, next they took the flour to the house for Mrs. Roberts. She went to work and made pancakes and they had them hot for breakfast. That will give us a little idea of the difficult times our forefathers had.

Also there were two saw mills on the Gibraltar Brook. This brook runs into the Musquodoboit. On going to Henry Crawford's we cross the Gibraltar Brook. Henry Crawford had a lumber mill there which was built by him, and operated by him and his brother Ronald. The other mill was a shingle mill built and operated by George Landels. I have now told you all about the water power mills.

Some hundred years ago a Mr. Leedham built a mill that was run by steam power, that stood on the bank of Kerr Brook. This was a bark mill. Mr. Leedham was trying to extract some kind of juice from the bark of logs to be used for tanning, but it proved a failure.

There have been several portable steam mills in operation in later years, but none in operation at the present time.

ROADS OF MEACHER'S GRANT

The first means of travel to and from Meagher's Grant was by log canoe on the Musquodoboit River. They were not the fancy kind that are used today but were made from a large tree capable of carrying a family with belongings, or two men with several barrels of flour. As the country began to be settled there were trails blazed through the woods and people walked from one place to another, or perhaps a more elegant term to use - hiked. Then roads were cut through the woods and people travelled on horse back.

The first road I have knowledge of left the Old Guysborough Road in Musquodoboit and came to Meagher's Grant by what is now known as the back road. Many changes have been made since and I will try to show you the route in the old days and then the route later.

We will start at the old Bambrick farm (Harvey Dillman now owns this farm). The road came across the Bambrick field and passed through where the Dick Roberts buildings stood (later bought by Harvey Rector) and followed East of the present road through the old Bambrick place and came out on the present road above the Upper School House; followed this road to the turn of what is called the old meeting house hill; from there it passed through what is now woods and pasture by the Charles Grant farm and down over the hill through the Lydiard farm (later owned by Ralph Bayer); then across the present main road where the Seeton bridge is; then up by the Mrs. Ross house; past Bayer Dickie's (now Ivan Dickie's), then by Frank Dickie's barn through the old picnic grounds east of Aubrey Kerr's close by Bert Kerr's buildings; beyond that I cannot say which way it went, but Mr. Harry Crawford's father cut a road from his place through the woods to Paces Lake to join a road at Chezzetcook for Halifax. (The Crawford place was bought by Gilroy's. The house burned down in 1959.)

Now we will return to Bayer Dickie's where a branch left the main road and went to what was then known as the back settlement. This road went across the Ronald Bayer farm, or as what is now known as the Parker place, east of C. A. Dickie's buildings and came out by Malcolm McInnes (Guy Bayer's), followed the present road to A. B. Lay's (now James Dickie's), passed through where his barn now stands, then over the hill to Bayer's mill.

So much for the old route.

The present road to Musquodoboit Harbour was built about the year 1860 and the branch to Bayer's mill which leaves the main road at the school house, about the same time, passed the Wilks farm, which is now used as the Post Road to Elderbank and Middle Musquodoboit.

These roads are being improved continually. We now have pavement from Musquodoboit Harbour to Upper Musquodoboit.

TRAINS

The last passenger train on the Dartmouth - Upper Musquodoboit line lurped quietly into the station yard about nine o'clock on Saturday morning, January 23, 1960, ending a service of 44 years. No fanfare accompanied the demise of the old "Blueberry Special" as it was fondly called, and no officials came to see the finish of a service which had become a way of life for the Musquodoboits. In the later years passengers became fewer and fewer, until the average was about one per trip. A few regular travellers miss the trips to and from town, and express and freight is now delivered by C. N. R. trucks.

When the first government train arrived at Upper Musquodoboit on January 3, 1916, excitement ran high and government officials were proud they opened the Musquodoboit Railway service.

Older residents have seen a dream realized, then gradually die, in the progress of modern times, and among them there is considerable nostalgia.

Passengers were many in the early days, and many distinguished travellers found their way to Upper Musquodoboit. Many people from the Eastern Shore used the train service to Musquodoboit Harbour and Upper Musquodoboit, completing the trips to their home by mail coach. Cars have replaced both the train passenger service and the old horse drawn coaches.

In the spring and fall months, hundreds of carloads of limestone and dolomite were shipped monthly, and daily trains were needed. Lumber and pulpwood were shipped the year round, but increasing freight rates faced lumbermen and they now use trucks for more and more movement of their products. It is claimed that the Musquodoboit line had been through its lifetime a paying and profitable one, and many residents couldn't see the reason for curtailment of services on this particular section of the C. N. R.

One of the men who helped build the railroad and settled in this country was Hans Olsen from Drummond, Norway, who with his wife and family live on Fern Street in Halifax. He as a boy in his teens, with several other men from Norway and two from Sweden, boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willian Grant (my parents).

Mr. & Mrs. Olsen and members of their family still visit with my sister and me. Mr. Olsen says he did not know a word of English when he came to Meagher's Grant. But my sister and I aged 3 and 6 years taught him to speak our language. He in turn tried to teach us his language but didn't get very far. The few words we did learn we have forgotten long since.

RECREATION AND FIRE HALL, MEAGHER'S GRANT

built for Bingo, Dances, Card Socials, Dancing Classes, Banquets and Wedding Receptions, opened on Friday, April 14, 1972. The formal ribbon cutting ceremony was carried out by the eldest man and woman in the village - Wilson Streach and Mrs. Laurie Dickie.

The Meagher's Grant Fire Brigade was formed in October 1970. Previous to that fire protection was provided with a portable pump and any one who happened to be available at the time of a fire to operate it. As the plans were developed to construct a new community hall it was decided to include in the plans space and facilities to keep fire equipment. A fire truck was purchased from another fire brigade and the organization got under way. The first chief selected was Glen Cole, with Willis Dickie deputy chief.

The first truck has been replaced and the present unit is equipped with a 250 gallon tank and a snow plow on the truck. Equipment in the brigade includes a portable pump, 2000 feet of hose, fire extinguisher, two respirators, helmets, etc.

The members are also involved in other community projects, including monthly couples dances, ball teams. The members meet on a regular monthly basis and have a work night each month.

THE LATE HENRY WILSON, M. D.

Strange to relate Dr. Wilson's correct name was "Henry Stone". He was an Englishman and ran away from college before graduation, not having obtained his diploma. He went from England to Australia where he spent some time in hunting. He was a great sportsman and hunter in big game. Previous to his coming to Nova Scotia, he planned to join the Stanley party to go in search of Dr. Livingstone. Through some misunderstanding in the place of meeting, the expedition had already left, and he decided to come to Canada.

He afterwards came to Musquodoboit and arrived at the late Thomas Gladwin's just at the beginning of haying and engaged with Mr. Hurley for haying. He was there a few weeks during which time Mr. Hurley's daughter was very ill. Mr. Hurley had no thought of Wilson being a medical man and he had a local doctor attending his daughter. The doctors of this valley at that time were Dr. Pearson, Upper Musquodoboit, Drs. Shepherd and Laughlin, Middle Musquodoboit - Dr. Morris came a little later. Miss Hurley kept growing worse. "Hay helper" said "I think perhaps I could help your daughter". Mr. Hurley, surprised that his hay hand knew anything about medicine, gave Wilson the case, and in a very short time much improvement was noticeable and Miss Hurley fully recovered.

The doctor did not work in the hay field much longer and was called from far and near to attend the sick. He turned out to be a very skilful physician. After practicing in the valley for some time he moved to the Eastern Shore and located just at the east end of Salmon River bridge, Jeddore. He married a Miss Webber, sister of John Will Webber of Lower Lakeville (now Lake Charlotte). He later moved to Meagher's Grant and settled on the old Wellington Kent farm, now owned by Robert Misener. Here he built a house long and low, much in the old English style. He employed a good farmer who brought the farm up to a high state of cultivation. His practise extended from Ship Harbour on the east to Gay's River, Chezzetcook and the Musquodoboits.

Dr. Wilson met a tragic death by drowning in the Musquodoboit River just opposite where Henry Crawford then lived. He was on his way from Musquodoboit Harbour at time of high water to visit a patient, Miss Lalia Crawford (later Mrs. Arnold McBain). Mr. Ronald Crawford met him with a boat, but it being a warm day the doctor preferred to swim across the river. He is believed to have taken a cramp.

Dr. Wilson was a fine looking man of middle height, stoutly built and of great endurance. His hair and side whiskers were jet black. He was one of nature's gentlemen. He with his favourite horse "Jeff" was a familiar figure on the road. He made his trips from his home to the bedside of his patients in quick time. He was a great favourite and his untimely death caused much sadness to the people of this valley and surrounding country. He was born in 1843 and drowned September 13, 1880 at the age of thirty-seven.

Mrs. Wilson lived in Nova Scotia for eleven years after his passing on, two years in Meagher's Grant and nine at Ship Harbour Lake. Mrs.

Wilson was a direct descendant of John George Webber, who came to Nova Scotia in 1782, having fought as a Loyalist in the Revolutionary War; at that time he was commissioned Captain of the Militia and made Justice of the Peace.

Mrs. Wilson's brother, John Will Webber, lived on at Ship Harbour Lake until his death about 1952. He was made Postmaster and Mail Carrier, a commission that had been in the family for many years.

The body of Dr. Wilson was found by Howard Roberts. Money was collected from all over Nova Scotia for the needle pattern tombstone in the Meagher's Grant cemetery.

HOW THE MACINNES' CAME TO THE GRANT

"It isn't every day that a man from Lower Meagher's Grant gets his name in a weekly newspaper published so far away from Dartmouth, even if the news has been "held over" for a matter of some one hundred and eighty years."

This is the comment of Robert A. Logan, now of 801 East 2nd Street, Duluth, Minnesota, and formerly of Lake Charlotte and Middle Musquodoboit. As a subscriber to the "Dartmouth Free Press" Mr. Logan was used to having his news "held over" as are many other Eastern Shore readers.

The man he refers to is Miles MacInnes, his great-great-grandfather. The mention was made in the "Weekly Scotsman", a paper circulated in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and more precisely in one of its series of stories on the Clans.

In an article on the Clan MacInnes of Skye by Allan Douglas, the writer traces the far-flung MacInnes clan to its ill-fated sojourn in North Carolina and final settlement in Lower Meagher's Grant. Here is the story as written by Allan Douglas and relayed to the "Free Press" by Robert Logan:-

"Sqiathansach" is a Gaelic word meaning a Skye-man and there's an old Gaelic proverb which warns us that you should never trust a person from Skye. Just as you think he's played all his cards, the Skye man has another up his sleeve. "As long as there is a stick in the forest," says the proverb, "there is treachery in the heart of the "Sqiathanach".

Of course clansmen in every part of the Highlands engaged in treachery at one time or another: so it seems unfair to single out the men of Skye. (Editor's note: As a Macaulay I was brought up never to trust a Campbell or a Cameron, who were probably brought up never to trust a Macaulay. Trust seemed a commodity in short supply in the early history of Scotland.) Perhaps it's only fair to say a Sqiathanach is craftier, more cunning than the rest.

For example, there was once a Skye-man named Moal-Moire MacInnes whose home in the Misty Isle was near Cunnacoc in the Trotternish

As a soldier with the Duke of Marlborough in the Netherlands, MacInnes almost single handedly captured a large group of French soldiers outside a wine shop. To shoot his prisoners in cold blood was out of the question. How could anyone expect that so many prisoners could be safely marched to a place of confinement without the help of extra guards. But MacInnes had an "extra card up his sleeve".

He lined up his prisoners with their backs turned and ordered all to raise their hands in the air. He then cut each man's braces. As MacInnes marched his prisoners away, each man was too busy holding up his trousers to think of trying to escape. That's what we mean by the crafty Sqiathanach.

MacInnes, of course, is simply a phonetic attempt at spelling Mac-Aonghais, the son of Angus, and the clan Aonghais or Children of Angus are said to have a common origin with the MacDonalds.

Although Mornern was their principal clan country, the Sons of Angus were quite numerous in Skye where they served as hereditary bowmen to MacKinnon chiefs in the District of Strath.

Several families who spelled their name McInnes emigrated to the Carolinas during the great Skye 'tackman' emigrations of the 1770's. Their descendants still live there, some of them owning farms near McInnes Bridge, which crosses the Piedee River.

In 1774 a Skymen named Miles McInnes arrived in North Carolina and purchased land in Anson County. His property was close to a plantation later owned by Allen MacDonald and his celebrated wife Flora MacDonald, the heroine of '45 (when she was credited with saving the life of Bonnie Prince Charlie).

When the American War of Independence erupted both Allen MacDonald as Brigade Major and Miles McInnes as a Lieutenant joined the Loyal Highland Militia for the Crown and were captured by the Americans at the Battle of Moore's Creek in 1776. McInnes managed to escape, and served the remainder of the war in a regiment of the British Army, but the American patriots confiscated all his lands.

In the autumn of 1783 Lieut. Miles McInnes visited London, England, to present his claims for loss of property. After receiving some compensation he sailed in 1784 to Nova Scotia and settled with other displaced Highland Loyalists on the Musquodoboit River at Lower Meagher's Grant, Halifax County. There he married one Christina MacDonald or McDonald, believed to have been a near relative of Flora and Allen MacDonald.

Flora and her husband also made their way to Nova Scotia and would have probably settled there permanently instead of returning to Skye had Allen been properly repaid for his wartime losses.

THE DAY "THE DEVIL" SHOT A MOOSE AND LIT A FIRE - DANNY GRANT

My uncle Danny Grant had the first rifle and the first matches seen in Meagher's Grant. Once he went on a hunting trip with an indian named Paul. When he raised his rifle and shot a moose standing in the middle of a bog, the indian was impressed that the moose could be killed at so great distance.

As the indian heaped dry leaves to start a fire with flint, Uncle Danny touched a match to the leaves. The indian vanished. When Danny's brother Colin Grant asked where Danny was, the indian said "Him devil, First he shoot moose half a mile away, then he light fire with a stick, Him devil."

The earliest history of Meagher's Grant is largely associated with myth and tradition. It is supposed that the first to settle in Meagher's Grant were Micmacs who were the original inhabitants of Nova Scotia, who hunted moose and caribou, sang their songs of love and war, and offered sacrifices to their gods in the light of a thousand lodge fires.

The caribou have been gone from Meagher's Grant for many years. The last caribou seen in Meagher's Grant was shot by Danny Grant in 1885. My father William Grant helped to carry it out of the woods. In 1960 caribou were brought to the Wild Life Park in Shubenacadie. Deer were brought to Meagher's Grant in later years.

Bay of Islands

FIRST WAGON IN NEWFOUNDLAND CAME FROM THE GRANT

The first wagon in Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, came from Meagher's Grant, Nova Scotia, in 1898.

While Mrs. Miles Streach was going through a box of old letters a few years ago she found a letter written by her grandfather, Charles Farnell in Corner Brook, Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, to her father, William J. Grant in Meagher's Grant, dated November 3, 1898.

In this letter Mr. Farnell states he has received the wagon shipped to him from Mr. Grant. This was the first wagon ever on the Bay of Islands and was quite a curiosity the day it arrived at Petries Wharf where Mr. Farnell was waiting with his pony. The duty on the wagon was \$13.60 and the freight was \$3.60.

A Poem about Meagher's Grant written by Miss Annie Locke Merrill, Goffstown, New Hampshire, after spending a summer vacation (1907) in that place. Miss Merrill's mother was formerly Esther Seeton of Meagher's Grant.

A REVERIE

The witching spell of twilight hour
Falls on my mind with artful power,
And soon my vagrant thoughts will stray
To beauteous scenes far, far away.

I see the water flowing on,
I hear the Musquodoboit's song,
As peacefully it winds between
The meadows fair and pastures green.

And where the drooping alders throw
Their shadows on the pool below,
The speckled trout lie still and deep,
or scatter spray with bounding leap.

And clearly now before my mind
I see the dusty roadway wind
And standing near a group of trees
That toss their branches to the breeze.

A little church that nestles down
Admidst a quiet country town,
The road runs on and passes by (St. James Presbyterian
Where all the dead in quiet lie, (cemetery) Church)

And now there ripples through my dreams
The murmur of a little stream,
Where, shining through the water clear
The tiny fish come darting near. (The Seeton Brook)

'Tis there the old home farm house stands
Admidst its broad and fertile lands, (Andred Seeton's
That now are tilled by alien hands. homestead)

Along the road on either side,
The gentle farmer folks abide
Removed from crowds and city marts.

They dwell content; nor ask to know
The pride of wealth or outward show,
The weary traveller wandering near
May share their simple, kindly cheer,
And blest are they who once have known
The truest kindness ever shown.

A REVERIE continued

Still on and on the road extends
Through fertile fields and shady glens,
Ascends a hill, and now at last
Familiar farmhouse scenes are past;
We praise, and lo! Before our eyes,
A lake in "mirrowed beauty" lies,
Full many a pleasant day we spent
While you, my friend, your presence lent.

To spend the hours and perfect make
my pleasure on that lovely lake,
Oft have I heard at close of day
The "loon's weird laughter far away"
And listened, while from moor and fen
The echo answered back again.

The red swamp maples bending low
Cast on the lake a ruddy glow
That mingles with the glowing dyes
Reflected from the Western skies.
At length, behind the wooded hill,
The setting sun sinks lower still
And with the last departing ray
The colors gently fade away,
The chill of Autumn fills the air
And turning from a scene so fair, (Lay's Lake)
We quickly to the home repair,
And there the open fire extends
A welcome to us all, and lends
Its glowing heat, as if in pride
It this evening chill defied
And drew us to its sheltering side.

Around that ancient fire place
Has gathered many a friendly face (Home of J.D.Bayer
And while the merry fiddle's sound, and son Ralph)
And jokes and stories circle round,
The older ones in sadder strain
May call to mind old friends again,
Who from the homes have wandered far,
Or in a fairer country are.

The jovial Doctor, loved so well, (Dr. Wilson, who
Long years ago, I heard them tell, owned the farm later
Has joined the choir invisible, owned by Ernest Sib-
Old times and scenes their minds recall, ley and son
And shadows on their faces fall, Elmer)
Until the sound of laughter gay
The hint of sadness drives away.

Oh happy times in twilight dreams
I live it o'er, so real it seems;
I see each face, I hear each voice,
With them I sigh, with them rejoice,
The quaint old songs about me steal,
The fire glows, - again I feel
The love of friends so true and real.

- 27 -
A REVERIS continued

I thank them all, that e'er I went
From those glad hours amidst them spent,
I learned the lesson of content.

And many and many a day shall die,
And many a weary year go by,
Yet happy thoughts will come to cheer
And memory hold them ever dear.

A VISIT TO CLAM HARBOUR by Alex Lay, Lower Meagher's Grant

Again I have been at Clam Harbour
The home of the brave and the free
Where men are engaged in the summer
Gathering wealth from the sea.

The girls they are handsome and modest,
The bachelors say they are shy,
I think it's because they can't win them
Because they don't know how to try.

They have a nice school at Clam Harbour,
The children are healthy and gay
And quick to receive education,
Their teacher, I think, is Miss Lay.

There is a nice store I would mention
Where all kinds of goods you can buy
From a needle or pin to an anchor,
Likewise the renowned Diamond Dye.

Tea you can buy by the bushel,
Old ladies declare it is nice,
Sugar and cocoa and coffee,
Flour and barley and rice.

Tobacco and soda and mustard,
Ginger and butter and lard,
Molasses so thick, will you believe me,
It's always retailed by the yard.

Then there are brooms and nice buckets,
Dresses that never will fade,
Boots of all sizes, and rubbers,
And thimbles and buttons and braid.

Then there is candy called kisses,
I think by the name they are sweet,
Stockings and gloves and nice corsets,
Which make the young ladies look neat.

Dishes of every description,
From china to pewter and lead,
Jubily bowls with a handle,
Nice to go under the bed.

Now I must stop, I am sleepy,
I find I'm beginning to nod,
God bless those brave fishers and send them,
Plenty of herring and cod.

Now do not get mad, gentle reader,
If those verses should cause you some pain,
But remember the gray headed writer
Is a little bit wrong in the brain.

ELDERBANK - VILLAGE LIFE IN THE 1800's
Written by Alexander Lay

Come near my companions, both simple and whitty
And listen to me while I sing you a ditty
About the good people of Elderbank lane
The first I will mention is merchant McBain.

In a two storey house with a neat little wife
He lives a most happy and peaceable life,
And cheap for the money will always supply
Such goods as his neighbors are willing to buy.

There's tea and tobacco and matches and pipes,
Gordon's hot drops for to warm up your tripes,
And needles and thimbles and buttons and pins
And handsome white stockings to cover your shins.

And then there is bobbin and ribbon and tape
Cotton and couburgh and buster and crape
Nets for the ladies to wear on their head
And neat little mugs to go under the bed.

Dishes of various color and size
All sorts of spices and all sorts of dyes,
Shoes for the ladies to wear on their feet
And hoops to make the dear creatures look neat.

And there is buckets and brooms and nice whip
Braces to keep your pants over your hips,
Boots that will reach up its no matter where,
And combs and nice brushes to friz up your hair.

But now I must bid farewell to McBain
And wish him success till I see him again,
And step, for a moment, just over the way
Where two jolly blacksmiths are blowing away.

There Samuel and William you always will find,
Busy, but always obliging and kind,
Ready to serve you by night and by day
No odds for your color so long as you pay.

ELDERBANK VILLAGE cont'd

The ring of the hammer and anvil you hear
Like music it sounds on the still morning air
Whilst late in the evening the brilliant sparks fly
And glitter like diamonds or stars in the sky.

And there you will find the gay blacksmiths all day
Forging and welding and sledging away.
And all sorts of iron work they will make
And neatly repair anything that you break.

But now I must bid the two blacksmiths adieu
And bring my friend Wallas out clear to your view.
With saw and with hammer, with chisel and plane,
He works late and early a living to gain.

He makes handsome sofas and tables so neat,
Washstand and bureaus and paints them complete,
Will build you a dwelling from bottom to top
And make it all ready just in it to pop.

And then he will frame pretty pictures so cheap,
Make cradles in which little babies may sleep.
And when in this world you take no more delight
He will make you a coffin and screw you up tight.

And now I must toddle along in my route
And see when McMullen, the wheelwright's about,
Contented and happy he's working away
And ready to sell you a pung or a sleigh.

And then he will make you nice waggons and carts
Rig you a harrow in one or two parts,
Make you a loom with the temples and reel,
And for twenty shillings a nice spinning wheel.

But now I must stop or I fear you will think
I am crazy or very much given to drink.
So fare ye all well, I have no more to say,
But remain most sincerely, your friend Alick Lay.