

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

Report of the Delegate to the Annapolis Royal Celebration

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THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE ANNAPOLIS
ROYAL CELEBRATION

The undersigned had the honour of attending, as a delegate of this Association, the celebration at Annapolis Royal, on August 31, 1921, of: (1) the Tercentenary of the birth of Nova Scotia; (2) the Bicentenary of the establishment of the first court administering English Common Law within what is now the Dominion of Canada; and (3) the Centenary of the arrival in Annapolis Royal of Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

The proceedings were opened at 2.45 p.m. in Fort Anne, now constituting one of our National Parks. A temporary platform had been erected for the speakers on what was the parade ground of the Fort in former times; and chairs were provided for invited guests facing the platform.

The afternoon proceedings consisted of addresses and the unveiling of three memorial tablets, which were placed conspicuously on the platform. The first bears the following inscription:—

1621-1921

“ This tablet, placed here by the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia, A.D. 1921, commemorates the three hundredth anniversary of the issue of the charter of New Scotland, by King James I of England and VI of Scotland, A.D. 1621.

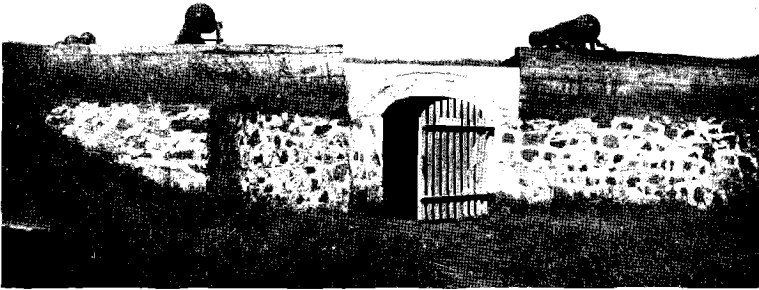
“ The birth of an idea which lived, and had its final fruition in the taking of this Fort and conquest of Acadia in the reign of Queen Anne.”

The second one bears the inscription:—

“ This tablet, placed here by the Bench and Bar of Canada, A.D. 1921, marks the two hundredth anniversary of the establishment and sitting (in this Fort), A.D. 1721, of the first Court administering English Common Law within what is now the Dominion of Canada.”

And the third, the following:—

“ This tablet, erected A.D. 1921, under the auspices of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival in this town of Thomas Chandler Haliburton, who lived here eight years and began in this place his great career in Law, Literature and Public Life.”



"Bastion de Bourgogne" (first powder magazine, 1702), at Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal, N.S. (Photo., Can. Nat. Parks).



Officers' Quarters, Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal, N.S. (Photo., Can. Nat. Parks).

Among those having seats on the platform were the Honourable Mr. Justice Chisholm, Chairman; the Hon. MacCallum Grant, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia; the Hon. Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and President of the Canadian Bar Association; the Hon. R. E. Harris, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia; the Hon. George H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia; the Hon. W. F. McCurdy, Minister of Public Works for Canada; His Worship Mayor Hardwick, of Annapolis Royal; L. M. Fortier, Esq., President of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, and F. C. Whitman, Esq., Vice-President of the same association.

The proceedings began with an address by the Chairman, after which the Hon. George H. Murray presented the first tablet and commended the practice of celebrating in a formal way the great events in our colonial history. The second tablet was presented on behalf of the Bench and Bar of Canada by the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, his address being followed by speeches from the Hon. Sir James Aikins, the Hon. W. F. McCurdy and others representing the Bar of Canada. The third tablet was presented by Mr. F. C. Whitman on behalf of the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal. The ceremony of unveiling these memorials was performed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

After the formal proceedings had taken place the invited guests repaired to the "Hillsdale House", where afternoon tea was served by the Fort Anne Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire. An open meeting of the Historical Societies of Nova Scotia and Annapolis Royal took place in the evening at 8 o'clock in the Bijou Theatre. The Hon. Mr. Justice Chisholm was in the chair and papers were read by Colonel Alexander Fraser, LL.D., on "The Royal Charter of Sir William Alexander"; by Chas. Morse, K.C., D.C.L., on "The Courts and the Commonwealth"; and J. Murray Clark, K.C., LL.D., on "The Relations of the British Dominion of Virginia with the Dominion of Canada". Another paper, prepared by J. Irvin, Esq., K.C., on "A Philosophic Examination of the Spirit of Nova Scotia's First Criminal Laws", was summarized by the author, on account of the lateness of the hour. At the conclusion of the meeting a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the authors of the papers was moved by the Hon. Mr. Justice Longley of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and seconded by Mr. L. M. Fortier. The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal is to publish these papers in book form under the title of a *Book of Remembrance*.

THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The following societies were represented at the celebration: The Royal Society of Canada, The Canadian Bar Association, The Historic Landmarks Association of Canada, The Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa, The New Brunswick Historical Society, The Nova Scotia Historical Society, The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, The Haliburton Club, Windsor, Nova Scotia, The Barristers' Society of Nova Scotia, and The Law Society of Upper Canada.

In the course of his remarks after the unveiling of the tablets in the afternoon proceedings Mr. Fortier made the following observations:

“ One interesting thing I must not omit to mention. The flags used for the unveiling ceremony, and which are now seen flying over their respective tablets, were presented for the occasion; the first, the banner of Nova Scotia, by the Saint Andrew Society of Glasgow; the second (a reproduction of the union flag of George I), by the Historic Landmarks Association of Canada; and the third, a present-day Union Jack, by Mrs. Laura Haliburton-Moore of Wolfville, a collateral descendant of Judge Haliburton. These flags are to be placed under glass in the museum of Fort Anne, with a statement of the facts concerning them, for permanent preservation.”

CHARLES MORSE