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Report of the Annual Meeting

Preserving Canada's Historic Past

National Parks Branch and Department of the Interior

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PRESERVING CANADA'S HISTORIC PAST

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Owing to existing conditions, work during the past year in connection with the preservation and marking of historic sites eminently national in character was necessarily restricted. Considerable attention was devoted, however, to the development of some of the larger areas which have been acquired on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

A general meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa in May, when various subjects were discussed and a further selection of sites made for attention by the Department in due course.

Honourable E. Fabre-Surveyer was appointed a member of the Board for the Province of Quebec, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Marechal Nantel.

From the several sites which the Board has had under review, two hundred and seventy-five have been selected as being of sufficient national importance to receive attention by the Department. Control of two hundred and fifteen of these has been obtained and one hundred and ninety-seven memorials have been erected to date.

Public interest in connection with the work has been greatly aroused, as the sites are visited annually by large numbers of people, including many tourists, who find much to interest them, especially at those sites where original structures still stand and at which museums have been created.

A summary of last year's operations is enumerated hereunder.

SITES MARKED.

Bloody Creek Engagements, near Bridgetown, N. S.

A field stone cairn, bearing a bronze tablet, was erected on a small plot of land, donated by Mr. Milledge Rice, adjacent to the Bridgetown-Annapolis Royal Highway, east of Bloody Creek, to commemorate the encounters which took place there in 1711 and 1757, between the British garrison of Annapolis Royal and the allied French and Indians in the half century of conflict for possession of Acadia.

First Paper Mill in Canada, St. Andrew's East, P.Q.

A cairn was erected in a small park east of the Town Hall and adjacent to the Ottawa-Montreal Highway, to mark the site of the first paper mill in Canada. This mill was built in 1803-5 by a group of New Englanders and was later operated by James Brown of Montreal.

Sir Gordon Drummond, Toronto, Ontario.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the inner wall at the right of the main entrance to the Parliament Buildings at Toronto, to commemorate the distinguished public services of Sir Gordon Drummond. Selected by the Duke of York for special service in Canada, he was, upon arrival in October, 1813, appointed to command all forces in Upper Canada and to administer the civil affairs of the Province as President of the Executive Council. His daring and skilful campaign during the following winter transformed public feeling from deep depression into well grounded confidence.

Nanticoke, Ontario.

A tablet was affixed to the outer wall of the public school in the Village, to commemorate the events connected with the engagement which took place there on

November 13, 1812, when Norfolk volunteer militia, under the command of Lt.-Col. Henry Bostwick, routed a band of enemy marauders who had terrorized the country. This exploit inspired the military forces and was an important factor in the immediate recovery of lost ground.
Fort Drummond, Queenston, Ontario.

A tablet was affixed to a stone standard provided by the Niagara Parks Commission at Queenston Heights, to mark the site of the double fortification built by military labour, during May and June, 1814, for the defence of the Niagara Frontier, and named in honour of Sir Gordon Drummond. It was dismantled and abandoned on July 10, 1814, re-occupied by British troops on July 23, and held as a military post until the end of the war.

General Strange's Column, Edmonton.

A monument of cut stone, to which is affixed two bronze tablets, was erected near the new Administration Building, to commemorate the operations of the Alberta Field Force under Major-General Thomas Bland Strange during the Rebellion of 1885. This force consisted of detachments of the North West Mounted Police, Alberta Mounted Rifles, Steele's Scouts, 65th Carabineers Mont Royal and Winnipeg Light Infantry. Advancing from Calgary by way of Edmonton and using wagon boat transport, they engaged the indians under Big Bear near Frenchman's Butte, and at Loon Lake in May, 1885. The operations of this force averted the danger of an Indian uprising in Alberta.

AQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES.

The following action was taken with respect to the acquisition of sites recommended for marking by the Board and in connection with the improvement of other properties already controlled by the Department:—

Louisbourg Fortress, near Louisbourg, N.S.

The entrance road was regraded where necessary and surfaced from the West Gate to its junction with Rue d'Orleans. Excavations were made at the northerly end of the Citadel building, which contained the soldiers' barracks and officers' quarters. All walls uncovered were repaired, carefully pointed, and in some instances, rebuilt to an average height of two feet above ground. The remains of a body, supposedly those of Due d'Anville, were located during excavation work at the site of the Chapel. These have been carefully protected pending further identification if possible. The French and English cemeteries at Rochfort Point were fenced and some cribwork built near the main entrance, between high and low water mark. A granite boulder, suitably inscribed, which was furnished by Lord Dundonald to perpetuate the memory of his ancestors killed during the second siege of the fortress, was erected at Black Rock.

Fort St. Louis, near Port la Tour, N.S.

Mr. Orlando Taylor donated a small plot of land near the public highway which runs between Barrington and Baccaro Point, on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of the fort, built by Charles de la Tour, prior to 1627.
Fort Beausejour, near Aulac, N.B.

Considerable excavation work was carried out at the main gateway, which disclosed the original stonework in a fair state of preservation with loopholes extending across the entire gate. This was uncovered to a depth of seven feet and repaired where necessary. The remains of the old casemate inside the entrance were excavated to a depth of three feet below the loopholes in the main wall. Some cleaning out was also done to the casemate near the fort entrance. The area comprising Butte a Roger outpost was enclosed with a fence.

Martello Tower, Saint John, N.B.

A considerable portion of the exterior stone wall of the structure was repaired and repointed, and an electric lighting system installed throughout.
First Submarine Telegraph, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The Provincial Government granted permission for the erection of a tablet on a pillar at the entrance to the Province House, to commemorate the events connected with the laying of the first submarine telegraph cable in America, November 22, 1852.
Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.

A new landing wharf was constructed on the east side of the island; the ruins of ovens in the embarkment at the rear of the officers' quarters building were excavated

and partial repairs made; the stone arch stairway at the back of the men's barracks building was repaired, and investigation made of the drainage system at the fort.
First Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.

The Department of Public Works granted permission to affix a tablet to the Post Office Building, St. James Street, Montreal, to commemorate the events connected with the inauguration of the first organized postal service in Canada.
Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario.

Repairs were made to the officers' quarters building, listening post and guard house; the exterior upper portion of the blockhouse was painted and other improvement work carried out on the buildings and grounds.
Yonge Street, near Jefferson, Ontario.

Permission was obtained from the Summit Golf and Country Club to place a memorial on their property twenty miles north of Toronto and adjacent to Highway No. 11, to mark the site of the military road and commercial highway, laid out and constructed in 179-96, to connect Lakes Ontario and Huron.
Fort Erie, Ontario.

The Niagara Parks Commission granted permission to affix a tablet to the ruined walls of this structure, which was first built in 1807-8.
Henry Kelsey, The Pas, Manitoba.

Permission was obtained from the Town Council to place a memorial in Devon Park, to perpetuate the memory of Henry Kelsey, discoverer of the Canadian Prairies.
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta.

The Hudson's Bay Company granted permission for the erection of a memorial on a small plot of land in Lot 12, Chipewyan Settlement, to mark the site of the fort built by Roderick Mackenzie in 1788, for the North West Company.
Fort Alexandria, Alexandria, B.C.

Mr. T. H. Greenfield donated a plot of land adjacent to the Cariboo main highway, between Quesnel and Ashcroft, on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of the last post established by the North West Company, west of the Rocky Mountains.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites and services of important personages, recommended for attention by the Board, will be dealt with from time to time:—

First Organized Land Survey, Holland Cove, P.E.I.
Roma's Settlement at Three Rivers, P.E.I.
Battle of Grand Pre, near Grand Pre, N.S.
Mohawk Indian Fort, near Hogg Island, N.S.
Fort Chadabucto, Guysboro, N.S.
Liverpool Privateersmen, Liverpool, N.S.
First Patent in Canada, Quebec, P.Q.
Chambly Road, near St. Hubert, P.Q.
Chaudiere Portages, Hull, P.Q.
Soulanges Canal, Cascades Point, P.Q.
First Stage Coach Service, Quebec, P.Q.
Admiral Bayfield, Quebec, P.Q.
Fort Temiscamingue, P.Q.
Jacques Cartier's Landing, Gaspé, P.Q.
Lachine Massacre, La Salle, P.Q.
Champlain's Landing Place, Morrison's Island, Ont.
Indian Treaties, near Orillia, Ont.
First Iron Furnace in Upper Canada, Lyndhurst, Ont.
Officers and Seamen Royal Navy, Kingston, Ont.
Mission of Ste. Marie I, Midland, Ont.
Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.
First Petroleum Wells in Canada, near Bothwell, Ont.
Butler's Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
Danforth Road, Hamilton, Ont.
Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, Ont.

Fort Henry, Kingston, Ont.
 Trent Canal, Bobcaygeon, Ont.
 Six Nations Indians, Brantford, Ont.
 First Cheese Factory in Canada, near Norwich, Ont.
 Discovery of Red Fife Wheat, near Peterboro, Ont.
 McKee's Indian Purchase, near Blenheim, Ont.
 United Empire Loyalists, near Cornwall, Ont.
 Carrying Place, Bay of Quinte, Ont.
 Crawford Indian Purchase, Kingston, Ont.
 Samuel de Champlain, Ottawa, Ont.
 Galops Canal, Iroquois, Ont.
 Rapide Plat Canal, near Iroquois, Ont.
 Farran's Point Canal, Farran's Point, Ont.
 Cornwall Canal, near Cornwall, Ont.
 Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ont.
 Combat at McRae's House, near Chatham, Ont.
 Burlington Heights, Hamilton, Ont.
 Capture of Tigress and Scorpion, Penetanguishene, Ont.
 First Ontario Indian Treaty, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Fort Maurepas, Fort Alexander, Man.
 Norway House, Man.
 Dawson Road, Ste. Anne des Chenes, Man.
 Battle of Fish Creek, near Rosthern, Sask.
 Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.
 Cumberland House, Cumberland Lake, Sask.
 Fort a la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.
 Methye Portage, Sask.
 Rev. John McDougall, Wetaskiwin, Alta.
 Rev. Father Lacombe, Wetaskiwin, Alta.
 Great Fraser Midden, New Westminster, B.C.
 Captain George Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.

The following poem written and read by the author on the occasion of a recent unveiling ceremony is an appreciation of the efforts of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and the Department of the Interior in commemorating historic events throughout Canada:—

MILESTONES OF EMPIRE

BY FISHER DAVIDSON

" when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?"—Joshua 4:6.

In after years, and they shall pass and say,
 "What mean these stones which we see ever stand,
 Upraised, throughout this vast, fair maiden-land?
 On some lone hill, or by the thronging way,
 By sounding wave, or in a country mead,
 A shaped cairn or boulder greets our gaze,
 With brazen scroll, that tells of olden days,
 Belike, and some forgotten tale, long dead!"

Up! Say these are milestones on empire's way
 That mark the hard-won steps of its great tread,
 As, ever on, its mighty course hath led
 To fuller glory, like a dawning day;
 They brightly show to every coming time
 That Canada, 'mid bloom of youthful pride,
 Did not forget those who had wrought and died
 To raise her high, nor let oblivion's rime
 Fall on their names and deeds, but set them clear
 On stone and bronze's fair and deathless page,
 Where tale of nation's making meets each age:

Intrepid explorators sojourned here,
Who, pressing ever toward the rising sun,
Yet traced the pathways of an unknown vast;
And there the valiant holy Fathers passed,
Who held the torch of Christ and empire one;
And one bespeaks heroic bands, who came
To wrest a homeland from the wilderness;
And one those who, 'midst carnage and the press,
Did give themselves and win this lasting fame
In struggle, that it might be kept still free.
Yes, say, then, these do tell each brilliant stand
As empire blazed its trail through far, new land—
An onward trail and ever so shall be.
