

The background of the cover is a photograph of a paved road with a yellow line, receding into the distance. In the foreground, there are branches of a flowering shrub with small white flowers and green leaves. In the background, a white building with a dark roof is visible under a clear sky.

# *Cherryfield*

*(A parish of Moncton, N.B.  
From the 19th Century to the present)*

*A change of scenery*

*Marilyn Shaw-Guisset*

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**Marilyn Shaw-Guisset  
Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada  
2002, 2015**

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From the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present.)  
A change of scenery

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Agriculture  
Families  
Air Mail Postal Service Route  
McNutt Reservoir

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#### **Disclaimer**

Even if accuracy has been an important preoccupation during the research, this book should not be considered as a legal document or replace the services of professionals in the fields. Indeed, acreage of real property is generally described in approximate terms and house constructions and the maintenance of such are based upon verbal history, searched records and visit to the premises. Please report to the author any errors and omissions or volunteer any further information.

**Dedicated to former neighbours**

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## Introduction

Driving in a northerly direction on McLaughlin Road from the overpass of the Trans-Canada Highway to the intersection with Ammond Road, one can only be moved by the peaceful and pastoral scenery: the bungalows and houses surrounded by trees and gardens on the right and, on the left, a luxurious vegetation of coniferous and deciduous trees changing with the seasons. One can hardly imagine, today, that during the last part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, an active and prosperous community was managing the land re-conquered now by a wild nature. Upon arriving on the site called Cherryfield, open your left window and you will seem to hear the long old clamours of the farm yard, the recitations and songs from the school, the hello of the post-master. Stop in front of the remnants of the old Alexander Road linking McLaughlin Road with McNutt Brook for it was here that Bulmer, Fitzsimmons and Goodall families had their farms. All that little world disappeared with the construction of the Reservoir, and the land has become a watershed thus creating a major change of scenery. I would like through this work to invite you to get re-acquainted with the old landscape: the houses and their inhabitants and, from time to time, a few anecdotes gleaned from the memories of living relatives or from old newspapers. A number of the buildings, private residences, two used for commercial purposes, and the church are still standing today.

The terms used in the description of the residences are not too technical and well in the reach of lay persons. It is hoped that through this publication the fabric and the history of this community will be preserved. After reading it, your journey on the McLaughlin Road may not be the same.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the assistance and contributions of the (present and former) residents of Cherryfield. Also, I would like to thank Brenda Orr, Curator of the Moncton Museum, The Moncton Public Library, la Bibliothèque Champlain at Université de Moncton, Bert Ayer, eng., and Malcolm McKinnon, eng., of the City of Moncton. Appreciation is extended to Joe Casey for comments and suggestions in editing this book. Lastly, gratitude is expressed to Bonita Hester for her assistance.

Marilyn Shaw-Guisset, B. Comm., F. I. I. C.  
November, 2002.

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Back Cover: A local Philóhela minor (Photo courtesy M. Guisset)

## A View Of Cherryfield

The place name Cherryfield can be traced back to 1831 when land was granted by the Crown to Robert CROSSMAN, in 1832 to James GUNNING and in 1854 to Alexander MORRISON. These three grants amounted to a total of six hundred acres (Province of New Brunswick, 1988). The place name is believed by some elderly residents to have derived from the pin cherry (*Prunus*) trees that grew along the fences, among the first to bloom in the spring, and those blossoms later develop into fruits known as pin berries (Bulmer, Jack, 2002). An ideal location to find such trees is where the wooded areas have been thinned and where shade is lacking (Angier, Bradford, 1974).

The National Archives of Canada recorded an increase in the number of Cherryfield families in 1898 and 1900 from twenty-five to thirty, while the *1901 Census New Brunswick* listed thirty-five families. In the latter, many of the inhabitants were described as landowners with acreage ranging from twenty-five to three hundred and eighty-five acres. Their homes were mostly single family frame dwellings, some with as few as two rooms and others as many as seven rooms. A good number of the residents had an outbuilding or two upon their property. Both sides of McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield were inhabited, whereas, today most of the west side is now uninhabited and has been overgrown with trees for decades.

Timber was plentiful on both sides of this road; however, the west side was more attractive to businesses since it had two natural resources lacking on the east side, a stone quarry and a watershed (Beauséjour Region-Moncton, Westmorland/Albert Registry). This stone quarry had been in use since at least 1885 and is referred to in the land deed in which John A. HUMPHREY, lumber merchant, and the Moncton Gas and Light and Water Company are named. This document provided a term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years in which stone can be quarried and trees and bushes may be cut (Beauséjour; City of Moncton, 2002). Due to the presence of the actual water reservoir, a dispute arose between the City of Moncton and a logging company when cutting of timber re-commenced at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. However, in 2002 the *Times & Transcript*, reported that based on the deed and due to lack of adequate surveys produced during the litigation process, the plaintiff dropped the charges against the logging company. Logging continues today near the watershed. The stone quarry is presently in disuse with its steep embankments overgrown with cherry trees and other species. Nearby, the McNutt Brook is fed by the Groundwater and Horseman brooks. These in turn are filled from numerous springs in the vicinity of McLaughlin and Ammon roads (Gore & Storrie, 1949). In 1914, McNutt Brook was developed into a reservoir (see, *The Development of McNutt Brook*).

The Reserve, Alexander, and Oscar Horseman roads (now vanished) facilitated the everyday activities of this community. The two latter roads may have been named after the families who once resided in the area. Today, only a few people can recall the shortcut from McLaughlin Road to the Ammon Road made via the Alexander Road (Flemming, H. 2002; Morton, C. 2002; Roach, A. 2002).

Besides the commerce of the natural resources, there were a good number of farms and a few carpentry businesses, a church, a school, a cattle pound and a Post Office (National Archives of Canada; *Daily Transcript*, 1900; *Daily Times*, 1917). In 1909 a “so-called, Poor Farm” comprising of ten acres situated along the west side of McLaughlin Road was owned by Edmund H. PRINCE (of 898 Main Street, Jeweller and Optician), and others (Beauséjour; *Daily Times*, 1912; The Times Printing Co., 1920). (The exact location of this farm could not be determined.) From 1930 to 1934, Frank HYSLOP of Cherryfield, was the Overseer of the Poor for the Moncton Parish (Might’s). However, during the post war years numerous residents found employment with a national railway, and rural mail delivery caused the closure in 1932 of the Post Office in Cherryfield (see, The Home of the Caretaker of McNutt Brook).

During the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, businesses such as Frizzell Bros. Construction Ltd., and the Moncton Broadcasting Company had operations in Cherryfield (Might’s, 1985; Beauséjour).

Notable professionals who resided in Cherryfield include, George Harmon BROWN, merchant, Edward B. CHANDLER, barrister-at-law, Duncan McDOUGALL, photographer, and Reverend John PRINCE (Beauséjour; Kanner, K.1995). Others worthy of mention are William H. CALDER, a former Superintendent of Works and Parks for the City of Moncton, and Ambrose WHEELER, Mayor of Moncton, 1926, who at one time owned real property in the area (see, Cherryfield’s Only Stone House). In 1932 one of the eldest residents of Cherryfield was identified as William L. STEEVES, age eighty-two (*Daily Times*). His son reportedly lived to the age ninety (*Times & Transcript*). Another elderly resident, Valentine Mary SURETTE of Cherryfield, died in 1973 at the age of ninety-four (*Moncton Transcript*).

## **The Journey Of One House From Cherryfield To Humphrey**

This house that was once situated in Cherryfield can today be seen at 341 McLaughlin Road. Its journey is an incident passed on by the homeowner to his descendants. A member from this family recounted the story for this work. In the 1940's, a team of horses was hired to drag a house four miles along the McLaughlin Road, from Cherryfield to the more southerly area of Humphrey. It was a gravel road with a ditch on either side rather than paved with asphalt as it is today. The journey commenced near the north side of Cherryfield United Baptist Church then proceeded down a small hill. In this area the road was flat for a short distance, then there was and still is a deep valley leading to Ogilvie Brook. Pulling a house up the opposite side was no doubt a strenuous task to the horses because of a sharp and long incline. At that time the Trans Canada Highway had not been built, so there was no need to travel beneath an underpass, but the structure being hauled exceeded the height of the live electrical cables that lay overhead, periodically crossing the road. The solution was expensive (five hundred dollars), time consuming, and no doubt dangerous: the power supply lines were disconnected to allow the frame structure to pass, then the lines were reconnected.

The present owner cannot recall who sold this house to Edward Theodore KEITH (1903-1980). No record of ownership was found in the records searched for this work for the period leading up to 1946. However, a listing in 1946 establishes that the KEITH family resided along the McLaughlin Road, so they may have rented or leased land from at least 1946 to 1948 when Ella May KEITH (wife of Edward T. KEITH)\* purchased the parcel of land at Humphrey from John DUNHAM of Killam Mills, farmer. It was approximately three hundred and thirty feet by sixty-six feet and situated on the east side of the McLaughlin Road (Might, 1946; Beauséjour).

Following the relocation of the building from Cherryfield, the KEITH family set about renovating the interior of their one-and-one-half-storey dwelling. Initially, the family resided in an adjacent structure on the lot. During the two years of renovations, much of the interior of the dwelling was altered or repaired. Most of the interior walls were removed so that the lath and horsehair plaster were replaced with plasterboard and a porch was added to the front entrance. Upon completion to the renovations, the temporary dwelling that the family initially lived in was transformed into a private one car garage (Windle, 2002). After this period and for more than a decade, the house was rented while the KEITH family relocated due to an employment opportunity in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Upon their return, further repairs were made: clapboards on the exterior walls were covered with rows of aluminum siding that are now covered with vinyl siding. Black asphalt shingles were applied to the gable roof. The central heating system is now a furnace fueled by oil. Numerous windows were replaced. The original interior straight staircase had a steep rise but following an accident was dismantled and removed. Today, the staircase is not as narrow or steep. The front door is about the only remaining original fixture in this house (Windle, 2002).

Some of the memories the children of the KEITH family have about this era are of the teams of quality horses that passed in front of their house. These horses were led by a stallion and the mares followed in an orderly fashion moving from north to south [returning to the stables for the night]. Theodore KEITH informed his children that the horses had been wild and were shipped from Sable Island (Windle, 2002). Evidence found in the records for this work indicates that the horses were most likely used in the work at the McLaughlin Road Reservoir (see, *The Development of McNutt Brook*).

\*Ella May (nee JOLICK) (1900-1991), formerly of Three Rivers, State of Massachusetts, U. S. A. married Theodore KEITH (1903-1980), civil servant then merchant (Beauséjour; Kanner, 1995; *Moncton Transcript; Times & Transcript*). He was born in Thorndike in the State of Massachusetts, and was the son of Jason KEITH and Minnie (nee DAVIS) of Havelock, Kings County in the Province of New Brunswick (Windle, 2002; *Moncton Transcript*). In 1969, E.T. KEITH was reportedly a pallbearer in the funeral of Mrs Celia Maria BISHOP [wife of Otho H. BISHOP] of 250 McLaughlin Drive (*Moncton Daily Times*; *Might's*, 1946).

Photo Text: In the foreground on the right-hand side is the premises of 341 McLaughlin Drive. Photographer, M. Shaw-Guisset. Flooding occurred circa 1980 on McLaughlin Drive but it may not have affected the buildings situated on either side of the road in spite of the dramatic effect illustrated in the photograph herein.



**Figure 2**  
Photograph taken about 1980 during flooding of McLaughlin Drive. In the foreground is the former KEITH home.

## The Occupants Of 714 McLaughlin Road

A large white frame house stands on the west of a road and a decline near the south side of the Trans Canada Highway. Physically, there is nothing commanding about the style or construction of this private residence. However, evidence found during the course of this work suggests it was built as early as 1892. Information from the *1901 Census New Brunswick* describes the premises as a single family frame dwelling with ten rooms and four barns/outbuildings upon a tract of land of eighty-five acres. Today, it is identified through the civic address of 714 McLaughlin Road.

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the driveway leading to the main entrance was situated on the south side of the dwelling (Bulmer, P. 2002). Located not far from the front door was and still is a mature maple tree. On the north side and close to the house, lilac trees and a hedge of honeysuckle shrubs grew in abundance but have in recent years been greatly trimmed back (Tracey, V. 2002). Two-and-one-half-storeys, and square, this residence was and remains set back from McLaughlin Road. The main roof is a hip type with the ridge following an east to west direction. Immediately above, is a dormer with two separate windows and a pyramid roof (see photographs overleaf). Also, two double hung windows were installed on the exterior east side wall. On the north side exterior wall on the ground level of the house was a large window that has since been replaced with a bay window. The view from this window is panoramic as it overlooks two mountains: Lutz mountain to the north-west, and Caledonia mountain to the north-east.

Towards the end of the century, work was undertaken to improve and maintain this dwelling. The driveway is now located on the east side of the house, thus providing direct access to McLaughlin Road. Also, a concrete basement was poured circa 1952 under the frame structure, rows of siding were installed to the exterior walls, and porches were built on the east side and on the south side. On the west side, a one storey addition was built that serves as a hobby workshop. Black asphalt shingles were recently applied to the roofs. The house still has ten rooms as it did in 1901. Four of these rooms are bedrooms. (NAC; Tracey, 2002). While insulation was being applied circa 1980 between the interior and exterior walls of this dwelling, two items were found. One included a small container addressed to William STEEVES of Cherryfield, while the other had affixed a one and two cent war tax stamp. Recent examination of the stamps during research for this work has estimated the date of issue as circa 1915. The sender of the small container with a postmark of 1919 was a soap company in St. Stephen, N. B. (Tracey, 2002). A final note pertaining to the renovations of this home is that in 1988 the dormer on the east side of the house was removed after a dramatic experience to the homeowners.



**Figure 3** The former STEEVES family residence with a dormer.



**Figure 4** The same dwelling in 2002 (without the dormer).

Local residents have long been aware of a verbal history associated with the dormer. Not only did it provide a panoramic view of the north-east towards Caledonia Mountain but it was subject to the tempestuous winds blowing from the Northumberland Strait and over the said mountain. For example, a summer storm in 1924 reportedly broke windows and caused interruption of electricity in the Moncton area (*Moncton Transcript*). It was perhaps under similar circumstances that, several decades ago, a previous owner took flight from the house. The current owners confirmed that on occasions the velocity of the winds would force open the windows of the dormer thereby creating a howling and most fearful sound throughout the house. The pinnacle event for them was that the winds blew the windows from their frames and created such a noise that it caused the family pet to die from fright. Subsequent to this event, the dormer was removed and now the house is much calmer. Also, landscaping and planting trees as wind breakers has beautified the property (Tracey, 2002).

In 1892, James Moses MURRAY and his wife Mary Jane were the proprietors of this house as well as one hundred and eighty-one acres that can be traced back to the land grant of William LEWIS. The land deed in which they were grantors describes three parcels of land and buildings. Firstly, seventy-two acres formed one lot bound on two sides by the McLaughlin Road. Secondly, a much smaller parcel of one acre also had frontage to the McLaughlin Road, and finally, another lot of sixty acres included a brook (Beauséjour). Between this brook and the west side of the house was an orchard (Tracey, 2002). In 1892, William STEEVES of Coverdale in Albert County, New Brunswick purchased just one hundred and thirty-three acres of the above tract of land (Beauséjour). This would indicate that between 1892 and 1901 the forty-eight acres were sold. Other land transactions suggest more land was sold between 1923 and 1936 thereby reducing the total acreage once again. Fifty years later, further land negotiations occurred so that today this house stands on considerably less acreage than it did originally (Beauséjour).

The STEVES family recorded in the *1901 Census New Brunswick* included William STEVES (born 1850), Laura L. (b. 1865), Grace M. (b. 1891), Walter I. (b. 1892), and Anne who was just a mere eight months old. The first mentioned was a German-Canadian farmer whose religious denomination was given as Baptist; his wife was a Scot and her religion is listed as Methodist. Information from the land deed gives the spelling as STEEVES. At this time, the STEEVES family employed the services of Trueman PROSSER (1860-1926) as a herd man, but in 1926 he was described as unsettled and a fish pedlar who died at Mapleton, New Brunswick (NAC; *Daily Times*; Administration Office of Elmwood Cemetery, 2002). He was the son of Richard PROSSER of Prosser Brook, Elgin, Albert County, New Brunswick, and in 1887 married Susan DOPSON [sic] of Moncton (NAC; Administration Office, 2002; Kanner and Geldart, 1984).

Oddly, on August 29, 1890, their marriage was declared null and void and a document was later published in the *Daily Times*. The contents of such indicate that Trueman PROSSER was unable to provide sufficient income for the couple to live together. Susan PROSSER signed this document while her husband placed his mark upon such. More than thirty years later, he died at the age of fifty-five, following one of the worst blizzards in the Maritimes (termed as a “snow hurricane”) and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery (*Moncton Daily Times*).

The weather conditions and other hazards may provide a glimpse of the risks the STEEVES family faced as farmers and explain the sale of land. During the 1920's unusual weather conditions were experienced in Moncton. In 1921, a drought occurred and was followed in 1922 and 1923 by several storms. Furthermore, in July 1923, much of New Brunswick was covered by smoke as a result of the forest fires in the Province of Quebec and the State of Maine. Not only was the exterior air pungent but the smoke was so thick that it appeared to have a red glow. Just three months later, thieves raided and vandalized farmers gardens along McLaughlin Road (*Moncton Transcript*). It is perhaps such events that caused Laura L. STEEVES (b. 1865) to sell an acre of the family's real property. Indeed in 1923, Henry S. BULMER of Moncton purchased this for the sum of one thousand and one hundred dollars (Beauséjour). The STEEVES family probably gave up farming following WWII, as did a number of other farmers in Cherryfield.

Several residents of Cherryfield can give an account of Laura STEEVES and her son Walter but recall nothing of her husband William STEEVES. Laura, the widow of William L. STEEVES (1850-1932) passed away in 1947, while their son Walter I. died in 1984 (*Moncton Daily Times; Times & Transcript*). One or two people can remember the strong religious beliefs of Laura STEEVES until the time of her death, while more recollect the eccentricity of Walter I. STEEVES (*Daily Times*). Laura was reportedly the daughter of Oliver PRIDE of Jacquet River, and her brother Fred G. PRIDE of McLaughlin Road died in 1946 (*Moncton Daily Times*). One former resident of Cherryfield can remember her son Walter STEEVES as a minor dairy farmer with a milk route (McDuff, E. 2001; Bulmer, 2002). Several others recalled Walter I. STEEVES as a bachelor; however, evidence has been found of wife Nancy (nee PHILIPS) STEEVES. She was from Scotland and attended the Pentecostal church in Moncton (*Moncton Daily Times*). Prior to the death of Nancy (nee PHILIPS) STEEVES (b. ca. 1898-1963) this STEEVES family sold more property, including the private residence (Beauséjour). Walter and Nancy STEEVES built a small house and barn in the orchard area where they resided until the death of the latter (Bulmer, 2002). Notices in a local newspaper provided a glimpse of the two least known persons in this family: William, the father, and Walter's sister Grace.

In 1911, Grace Marion STEEVES was just nineteen years old and confined to bed when she passed away. She had attended Aberdeen High School and was in the class of Miss MURPHY.

During her brief illness and at the funeral, numerous floral arrangements were received, some of which were laid upon her casket just prior to the funeral service conducted in the family home (*Daily Times*). In 1917, William STEEVES of Cherryfield publicly announced that several found cattle could be recovered from the animal enclosure at the pound in Cherryfield: four heifers and one bull. They could be reclaimed upon payment of expenses incurred (*Daily Times*). All members of this STEEVES family but one daughter Mildred of U. S. A. are interred at Elmwood Cemetery in the City of Moncton.

## Dwellings Adjacent To Ogilvie Brook

Long before the Trans Canada Highway was built, the one border glaring to the tract of land granted to John READY was Ogilvie Brook (Beauséjour; Department of Municipal Affairs, 1973). This brook is fed by the former FITZSIMMONS Reservoir and flows from east to west into North Hall's Creek. Located at the southern entrance to Cherryfield, along route 490, this waterway is particularly visible during the spring thaw when the water rises above the banks.\*

In 1905, this property was owned by John BULMER, then, for a decade, by a Moncton merchant Walter P. JONAH who, in 1918, sold it to Arthur Claude LUTES (Beauséjour). He was the son of Bernard Rufus LUTES (1856-1943), farmer, and married to Lydia HORSEMAN (b. 1881) (Kanner, 1993; Lutz, 2002). Arthur Claude LUTES was a blacksmith employed by a national railway company. He and his wife Lydia (nee HORSEMAN) LUTES resided for over fifty years at this location, described in the land deeds as Cherryfield. These legal documents provide evidence that, at that time, this community extended beyond the south banks of Ogilvie Brook. Along the west side of the McLaughlin Road, high on the hill of its southern bank is a tract of land of one and one half acres upon which a house stands. In the vicinity, the southern boundary line is a thickset of trees that includes spruce and hemlock and is today situated between the dwelling and the Trans Canada Highway (Beauséjour). The records searched, as well as the oral history in the community of Cherryfield, indicate that this house is old and was probably built as early or before 1905. A maple tree that may be as old as the house stands near the front entrance. This private residence is of frame construction, one-and-one-half-storeys high, and has a peak roof without dormers. Black asphalt shingles were used to cover the roof. The front entrance faces east and a side entrance is on the south side of the home. A one storey addition was built on the west side, at the rear of the building (see photograph overleaf). As late as the 1960's this house was heated with a pot belly stove with wood fuel (McEachern, V. 2002).

After the death of the LUTES couple the estate was sold, sub-divided into two lots and the lot with the house was re-sold. A private dwelling was constructed circa 1970 upon the vacant lot much closer to Ogilvie Brook (Beauséjour). The civic numbers are known as 808 and 818 McLaughlin Road. The newer residence has two levels with windows overlooking the brook. During the 1980's, the homeowner informed this writer that the sound of the brook can reveal the current season (MacPherson, 1981; 1982). For example, April showers increase the volume of water in the brook, the banks overflow creating a strong current and at its height makes a turbulent sound. Nevertheless, it is a picturesque area, where the scenery changes with each season (see photographs pp. 14, 16).



**Figure 5**

In 1918 A. C. Lutes purchased this property.



**Figure 6**

Ogilvie Brook as it appeared about 1981.



**Figure 7** A winter scene at Ogilvie Brook.

\*Footnote: As an anecdote about this brook, one could report that remarkably, on 23 April 1905, thirteen people from the congregation of the Cherryfield United Baptist Church were baptised in this brook (History of the Cherryfield United Baptist Church). It was a significant event for the church as it parted from the First Baptist Church; it was Easter, and the weather was not particularly agreeable since rain fell over the Maritime Provinces (*Transcript*).



**Figure 8**  
Ogilvie Brook during a spring thaw in 2002.  
The photograph was taken along the east side of  
McLaughlin Road.

## The One Room Schoolhouse

The history of a school in Cherryfield spans from around 1894 to 1962. There is a possibility that two separate structures were used although both would have been located on the same site. The one room schoolhouse described in the photo is that of roughly 1924. In 1911, the school stood upon the south-east corner of a lot measuring

211.5 by 98 feet which was situated on the west side of the McLaughlin Road (see, Appendix I.) (Beauséjour). The wood frame building, one and one half storeys high, stood upon a concrete slab. At the base of the front door were two steps surrounded by gravel. The exterior walls of the school were covered with horizontal wood siding and were painted white. A double hung window was installed on either side of the front door and a smaller window of the same style was centered high on the rise of the steep gable roof. As well, there is no evidence of a chimney on the roof. Although, Alice FITZSIMMONS does remember as a pupil of this school that a wood stove was used as a source of heat.

Landowners who resided near the school included Alfred R. EMERSON; Donald R. McKINNON and his wife Phoebe; Edward B. CHANDLER, medical doctor; and Duncan McDOUGALL, photographer (Beauséjour). Mr. FITZSIMMONS, caretaker for McNutt Brook also resided nearby (Roach, 2002).

The following records may provide a glimpse of events which occurred at the school premises and may also enlighten us as to how the school operated:

Trustees who paid a school rate included Thomas E. BREWSTER who, in 1899/1900, paid \$15.00 to the City of Moncton while Charles H. STUART paid the amount of \$130.69 in 1915 (Annual Report). In 1917 the Trustees of the School in Cherryfield made a request to the municipality's Water and Light Committee for a larger water main and this was, in turn, passed to the City Engineer (*Daily Times*). Then in 1921 Thomas FITZSIMMONS is named as a school trustee (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick).

On occasion, the school premises were used for public meetings. For example, in 1908 farmers met here to discuss ways to improve methods of farming, as well to organize a "Mutual Reform Club" (*Moncton Times*).

Just prior to Christmas 1912, the outstanding achievements of several students attending school in Cherryfield were noted: Doras E. NICHOL, Jack A. NICHOL, and Grace J. H. STUART received marks of 100. Those who reportedly did well in arithmetic were (in alphabetical order), James

BULMER, Doras NICHOL, Jack NICOL, Clarence RENTON, Willard RENTON, Clements RITCHIE, and Elmer RITCHIE.



**Figure 9** The schoolhouse as it appeared about 1924.

Others who attended during this period were Herbert R. BULMER, Orville B. NICHOL, George RENTON, Neta M. RENTON, and Audrey E. STUART. Their teacher was Mrs. W. FITZPATICK (*Daily Times*).

In 1916 the “Compulsory Attendance of School Act” was enacted and signed by Amos O’BLENES. In brief, the act stated that all children aged six to sixteen were obliged to attend school. Those who opted to play truant would be arrested, and persons who kept their children from attending school would be subject to a fine of twenty dollars upon the first infraction (*Moncton Daily Times*; *Moncton Transcript*). This Act continued to appear at least until 1924 in the local newspapers (*Moncton Transcript*). Businesses in Moncton may have seen an opportunity to increase their sales, because a number of advertisements for school equipment, supplies and clothing was found in the *Moncton Transcript*, 1924. Here are some examples:

1). R.R. Colpitts & Son of 788 Main Street (opposite Church Street) in Moncton was offering a one hundred and twenty page scribbler with assorted covers for the price of five cents. A forty-eight page plain exercise book with ink paper cost five cents. The oilcloth covered exercise books ranged in price from five cents to fifty cents.

2). Perc[y] Higgins located in the Imperial Block in Moncton offered “dependable school shoes,” while Doyle’s Ltd. of 400 St. George Street advertised school shoes without any further description.

3). O’Neil & LeBlanc, Limited, of 781 Main Street provided a detailed description of available “school clothes for boys.” The most modern suits ranged in price from seven dollars to seventeen dollars. The price for bloomer pants started at one dollar and fifty cents, while the rock rib hosiery ranged from fifty cents to seventy-five cents. Other available items included blouses, shirts, underwear, caps and sweaters for boys.

Such details provide an idea of the style of clothing worn by schoolchildren during this decade. In 1928, those who attended school at Cherryfield included (in alphabetical order) Annie BULMER, Bobby BRIGGS, Alice, Ernest, Russel, and Thomas FITZSIMMONS, Marjorie GELDART, Margaret HINES, Stanley HYSLOP, Irene MacNEILL, Albert MELANSON, Allison and Ernest MORTON, Douglas and Margaret RENTON, Ida RITCHIE, Helen SCHOFIELD, Belle, Charlie, Helen, and Leslie STUART, Frank SURETTE, Edward, Eva, and Violet SURRETTE.

The highest average mark of 89.7 was awarded to Irene MacNEILL. The teacher was F. E. MORTON (*Daily Times*).

The last day of school before the Christmas holidays appears in the records of Cherryfield School as the most active day in the school year for the pupils attending. In the days or weeks leading up to this period, a Christmas tree was cut from a timberland, brought into the school house and decorated.

The final day of school began with exams on the subjects of History, Geography, Reading and Health. Each pupil in Grade IV and V was asked to illustrate their knowledge by using chalk to draw the voyages of Jacques Cartier upon a map drawn on the blackboard by the teacher. Pupils in Grade VI read from the book entitled "David Copperfield" to demonstrate their ability in articulation and expressive reading. Those in Grade VIII demonstrated their ability to apply artificial respiration (resuscitation) in the event of a person drowning.

Christmas plays, songs and recitations followed the class examinations. Sometimes the activities continued into the evening, but without fail each year, Santa Claus appeared and delivered gifts and candy to the pupils. The long day ended with everyone joining into the singing "God Save The King" (PANB).

Records relating to incendiary fires were found for 1922 and 1934. A payment of \$21.50 to the Provincial Government was located in the Annual Reports of the Several Departments of the City Government for the Civil Year ending 31 December 1922. Details indicate a team was hired to fight a fire in Cherryfield (but the exact premises is not provided). On the other hand, evidence was found of a fire in 1934 on the school premises at Cherryfield, for William BINGHAM [insurance agent] was praised for his role in having the fire loss adjusted in such a speedy fashion (*Moncton Daily Times*).

In spite of the property damage to this school it continued to operate until about 1962 when it was sold to the highest bidder and then hauled from the west side to the east side of the McLaughlin Road onto private property. This structure then remained there until the end of the millennium at which time it was demolished (Flemming, 2002; Frizzel, L. 2002; Roach, 2002).

## United Baptist Church Of Cherryfield

The Baptist Church in Cherryfield was officially opened on Dec 30, 1888 with the Revs. John PRINCE and W. B. HINSON conducting the Sunday Service (“Church Opening”). The latter relinquished much of his pastoral work on Dec. 29, 1891, due to ill health, but continued to conduct services on Wednesday at 18:30 (*Daily Times*, 1891,1892). In 1908, the Missionary Society of McLaughlin Road received a bequeath of five thousand dollars from Alfred E. CHAPMAN (Beauséjour ). In more recent times, Rev. Michael L. HORSMAN held the Cherryfield Circuit and resided at 1055 (e/s)McLaughlin Road (Polk, 1985). His family included two adopted children named Katrina and Patrick. Later, in 1986-1987 Rev. Winston PARK oversaw a project that involved major renovations to this church (Park; Bulmer, 2002).

In 1888, this church was known as a Mission (Wilson and Thériault, 1990). Today, it is identified as the United Baptist Church of Cherryfield with the civic address of 1199 McLaughlin Road (Moncton City Directory, 1999). The walls and ceilings are of hardwood strips. The original interior is an impressive work of finished carpentry. The walls are in a herringbone pattern while the ceiling is a complex design of squares and diamonds. The windows are arched. The door casings and trim are made of Douglas fir.



**Figure 10** A view from the north side of the United Baptist Church in Cherryfield.



**Figure 11** An interior wall displaying a herringbone pattern. (Built in 1888)

## Cherryfield's Only Stone Building

The only stone building in Cherryfield is set back from the McLaughlin Road. It is recorded by at least one survey (Wihjelm, C. E. 1969) and is remembered by a number of residents as the house of CKCW radio transmitting station due to the tall towers on the premises. What is not generally known is that at one time Ambrose WHEELER (1886-1962) of 13 Ralph Street, former Mayor of Moncton, owned this property. He was a noted contractor of several stone buildings in Moncton including St. George's Anglican Church (built in 1932) and Moncton High School (built in 1934); however, it is speculative at this point to suggest that he also built this structure in Cherryfield (Beauséjour; Maritime Advocate and Busy East, 1949).

This two storey stone structure may have been constructed in 1903, or between 1934 and 1944 and is on the east side of McLaughlin Road. A dormer was built on the west side of the pyramid or hip roof with lightning rods installed at the peak. Another roof, the width of the west side of the house, was built below the windows of the second floor and over the front entrance. It has an overhang projection and is supported by the exterior wall. It is evident that a number of the windows are as old as the building itself while others have been replaced by double hung aluminum frame windows. Glass blocks have replaced a large window on the ground floor. It appears the pointing on the exterior south side wall has been repaired.

The land upon which this building stands can be traced back to land granted by the Crown in 1837 to John HICKMAN and known as lot three. Originally of two hundred acres, it has since been divided into smaller lots (Province of New Brunswick, 1988; Beauséjour) (see page 49). Fifty acres were registered from 1934 to 1944 to Oliver N. WILSON (1890-1966) and his wife Clementine M. (nee MURPHY) (d.1962). He was the son of William WILSON (b. ca. 1855), farmer (Beauséjour; Kanner, 1993). Then in 1944, Oliver N. WILSON conveyed the real property to Ambrose WHEELER and his wife. The latter couple owned the premises for a brief time and later in the same year sold it to Moncton Broadcasting Company (Beauséjour). The boundary lines of this lot were identified in the land deed, in part by a simple cedar post and a maple stake. The Moncton Broadcasting Company took occupancy of the premises; the fixtures and fittings on the ground floor of the dwelling were completely removed and radio equipment was installed. The upper level of the building was transformed into an apartment (Dobson, E. 2002). Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the owners of the radio station vacated the premises and the building was subsequently sold. Today, it is still used for commercial purposes (see also, p. 49).



**Figure 12**  
Ambrose WHEELER, former mayor of Moncton, owned this property  
before it was purchased by Moncton Broadcasting Company.  
(Demolished)

Moncton Broadcasting Company hired Stanford DOBSON in 1934 as a transmitter engineer, who in 1950 became the keeper of the radio transmitter station in Cherryfield. He was born in Moncton and was the son of John and Adelaide DOBSON (*Moncton Daily Times*, 1955). In 1926, he was a pianist for the Empress Theatre and resided at 166 Enterprise Street in Moncton (Maritime Press Limited). He was also known to be of good character and wit (Dobson, 2002). During the five years that Stanford DOBSON and his family resided in Cherryfield, Edythe, his wife, was the publisher of the *Cherryfield Gazette*. She produced more than twenty-two editions of local news that sold for ten cents each. Their young daughter Eileen delivered the journal to local residents and the revenue was donated to the Cherryfield United Baptist Choir Fund for the purchase of choir gowns (Cherryfield Gazette; Dobson, 2002).

## **The Premises Occupied By The STUART Family**

The BLAKE and STUART families had close ties seeing as Robert Charles BLAKE (c.1825-1914) was the father-in-law of James Stymes STUART (1842-1901). Also, in 1875 the latter had purchased fifty acres of land with frontage along the Irishtown Road from Mr. BLAKE. In 1891 Robert C. BLAKE was named as a defendant in a judgement. Then in 1895, BLAKE, STEWART, McMASTER and CHAPMAN were named defendant in a legal action, after which the lands was sold at a public auction. Following this Robert C. BLAKE and his two sons Joseph and Samuel departed for the United States. Oddly, Robert left two children Rowen and Annie with the STUART family (Beauséjour; NAC; Kanner, 1995; *Moncton Transcript*). This period was probably tumultuous for both families; nevertheless, in 1901 James STUART (1842-1901) and his family still resided along the Irishtown Road (NAC).

James Stymes STUART (1842-1901), son of Adam E. STUART (d. 1875) of Hillsborough, N. B., married Tracey L. BLAKE (1846-1922). Her father was born in New Brunswick and her mother was born in Wales (Flemming, 2002). It should be note that her name appears in the census and cemetery records as Gracey. Together, this couple raised several children (including their son Charles) and today, the STUART family is but one of the few families in Cherryfield that date back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It appears from this evidence that life was not so unsettling for Charles STUART (1874-1946). He made at least two land acquisitions, that were within the vicinity of each other (Beauséjour). Although these events seem to signify the family's relocation from the Irishtown Road to Cherryfield, in reality, the STUART family moved from the eastern to the western end of their tract of land that spread the width of Irishtown and McLaughlin roads.

Charles H. STUART was a carpenter by trade and most likely built his home along the east side of the McLaughlin Road. Later, in about 1914, this structure was completely destroyed by fire. The cause was a burning candle that resulted in the curtains catching fire. Without the services of a fire brigade, there was little hope of containing the fire. The STUART family lived for a short time in the home of the Caretaker of McNutt Brook and in the autumn of 1915, moved into their newly constructed home (Flemming, 2002; Roach, 2002). From the evidence presented herein, it can be asserted that the STUART family home that exists today was built in 1915.



**Figure 13** The former STUART family residence (built about 1915).



**Figure 14**  
The original staircase as seen in spring 2002.

Descendants of this family believe Charles H. STUART constructed the present residence and that the wood frame home was built upon the sandstone block basement of the home destroyed by fire. Unfortunately, it has not been concluded that the rocks of the newer home came from the quarry of McNutt Brook which would prove that it was indeed the foundation of the former residence. Nevertheless, the house is situated close to the road and the civic number is 1383 McLaughlin Road.

The rectangular frame home is one-and-one-half-storeys in height. The length of the home that faces north and south. This house has a gable roof with a small dormer on the south side, and most of the windows are double-hung. A sun porch that extends the width of the house and where for many years a vine grew was built on the west side. Presently, the roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles and rows of white vinyl siding cover the exterior walls. In more recent years, a sun porch was built on the south side exterior wall with an entrance to the interior. This porch extends to approximately half the length of the house. Both porches are one-storey high and each has a roof being the same colour and material as the main roof. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a sundeck was built at the rear of the house on the east side. The original brick chimney in the center of the roof no longer exists; rather, a metal chimney protrudes from the roof on the southwest corner to accommodate a propane gas heating system.

The present-day owners of this home undertook the arduous task to repairing and preserving the original stone walls of the basement. Manually, two feet of soil was taken from the earth floor of the basement. The purpose for this operation was to get under the stone walls to install a concrete wall under the stones, and finally, to pour a concrete floor over the bare earth. The operation has been a success in that the walls are now dry and will probably be preserved for a good many years. Furthermore, the basement now has an extra two feet in height so one can move about freely. Other major renovations were done to accommodate the present-day lifestyle of the residents. The former pantry, kitchen and dining room walls have been removed to create an open space with an abundance of natural light. Kitchen cabinets made of cherry wood hang on the east wall of the kitchen and nearby modern appliances facilitate the busy lifestyle of a young family. Evidence as to the age of this home is seen by viewing the original staircase. It is a long L-shape staircase and is much the same as when first built. The newel post is craved from what is thought to be pinewood, then capped with an ornament (see page 28). Two similar but smaller ornaments exist upstairs on the guardrail. The wooden banisters are also craved and the patterns are lined up in such a way that they display the rise in the staircase.

The landing on the second floor is made with plank flooring and was laid from north to south, while the flooring material in the bedrooms was laid east to west. These floors were painted with a rich deep brown colour and a high gloss finish. A bathroom did exist at the southern end of the hallway but has since been removed to provide added length to the corridor. The exterior window of the former bathroom still exists and nowadays provides natural light to the area. The bedrooms, situated to the east and west sides of the hallway, have door casings and trim made of Douglas fir (*pseudotsuga taxifolia*). The baseboards are made from the same type of wood and are fasten with dowels. The attic roof is made from wood boards and is held together by square nails. Moreover, this area was recently insulated. The interior roof and walls are finished with gyprock, plastered and painted, giving the family more living space (Henderson, 2002).

A century ago, livestock was seen in the fields surrounding the dwelling, as well as a wooded area from which timber was cut for firewood. Included in the livestock was four dairy cattle, beef calves and pigs, and laying hens for eggs. The livestock and crops were raised and grown for personal use rather than for commercial purposes. Each autumn, the family harvested hay and potatoes from the fields. The granddaughter of James Symes STUART (1843-1901), remembers that as a young girl she and her seven siblings weeded the fields. As well, the boys chopped firewood. Moreover, her father rented the most easterly end of their real property exiting onto the Irishtown Road because it was not feasible to walk to it each day to farm it. In the spring, sap was drawn for syrup from the maple tree in front of the house. Perhaps, it was as old as the house, but in 2002 it was chopped down. An innovative family member took a slice of the tree trunk to make a wall clock as a keepsake of this tall majestic tree (Flemming, 2002). In recent years, the wild rose shrubs with their vivid pink flowers that had been planted decades ago have also disappeared from the old well site. Interestingly, directly across the road from the STUART family home stands an old apple tree reminding the long-time residents of the former GOODALL farm (see, Notes About Several Families Around McNutt Brook).

## The Farmhouse Built By Ernest MORTON

In 1920, Ernest MORTON purchased a farm of seventy-five acres along the east side of McLaughlin Road (Beauséjour). At that time, the farmhouse was situated on top of a hill and more easterly than the present day dwelling and barn (Morton, C., 2002). Farmer Ernest MORTON (b. 1883) was the son of George R. MORTON (b. ca. 1849) of McQuade, New Brunswick. He was raised in a large family with ten brothers and sisters Gerry

(b. 1875), Charity (b. 1879), James (b. 1878), Elizabeth (b. 1879), Ethel (b. 1880), Ida (b. 1881), Russell (b. 1884), Mary E. (b. 1885), George (b. 1887), and Agnise (b. 1885) (NAC). He purchased the farm in 1920 for one dollar from Elmira (nee McFARLANE) McPHERSON, of Moncton who was the widow of the late John McPHERSON, formerly of Dorchester (Beauséjour; GenTree Associates, 1993). Bog land existed at the most easterly end of the property near the Irishtown Road (Beauséjour). This gave rise to the STUART family agreeing to permit farmer MORTON's herd to graze in the eastern end of their fields, close to the Irishtown Road. In return, the tenant agreed to pay the property taxes for this acreage (Flemming, 2002). In 1926 Ernest MORTON was a keeper at the local animal enclosure known as the pound (*Daily Times*).

In 1937, he built the actual farmhouse facing the former Alexander Road. Rocks were transported from the Cape Breton Road to construct the basement walls with mortar joints. This square dwelling was of frame construction, two-and-one-half-storeys high. The main entrance was from the single storey sun porch while the rear entrance, on the east side of the house, led directly into the kitchen. The exterior walls were finished with a dark brown brick siding material, giving the effect that the home was built of bricks (Morton, 2002). This finish would have been in stark contrast to the gold color of the autumn corn that was grown for cattle feed in the field just north of the house. Dormers in the pyramid roof (on all but the south side) had double hung windows installed side by side. A brick chimney with a single flue was situated at the center of the roof. Located in the basement was a floor furnace that was fueled with wood and was quite large by today's standards. It was a model known as a "Scorcher #380" and was manufactured by Charles FAWCETT Limited of Sackville in New Brunswick. In the southwest corner of the kitchen, the basement stairs were narrow and straight; another stairwell led to the second floor. In the same area, was a cupboard containing a fold down ironing board while wainscoting covered the lower part of the walls. In the southeast corner, stood a pump to draw water from the well. The ground floor sub-flooring was laid diagonally from east to west, braced between the floor joists and finished with hardwood. The interior walls of the living room and the front room were made of lath and plaster.



**Figure 15**

A view of the former MORTON farm from the northeast side. Photograph was taken about 1978, after an ice storm.



**Figure 16** Photograph taken in 2002 from the west side of the same property.



**Figure 17** The farmhouse built in 1937 by Ernest MORTON was in 1995 abandoned and later destroyed by fire.

The former was situated in the northeast corner of the house while the latter was in the northwest corner. French doors once existed in the wall dividing the living room from the kitchen. The staircase leading to the second floor was a long L-type, with a newel post and a handrail that were most likely made from hardwood. The design of the crafted newel post indicates the work of a skilled carpenter. An ornament once decorated the top of the newel post but was recently removed by vandals. Upstairs, the doorways to the five bedrooms were visible from the landing, each having door casings made of Douglas fir. Although these rooms were small, they each had a window overlooking the landscape with the east side one offering a panoramic view over the site of the old farmhouse. Steep, narrow steps faced the north wall and led to a walk-in attic. Wooden planks of a reddish tone were used to form the roof.

Four years earlier, in 1933, Ernest MORTON had built a new barn (shown in the photograph as the tall southern end of the structure) for a dairy herd and a team of horses. The foundation was of gravel and cement with the construction year inscribed on the upper southern wall. Today, only the top part of the figures is visible. The building was two-and-one-half-storeys and of wood frame construction. The main entrance to the barn was gained through a single door on the south side and was the shortest route to tend to the livestock. On the east side were large double doors to access the second floor where hay was stored. This area was supported by beams and posts eight by twelve inches. The mansard roof was covered with black asphalt shingles. On the peak of the roof were two vents used to exhaust the hot air collected in wooden ducts on the floor of the livestock stall. Five hatches existed on the lower west side of the barn for the removal of the manure. During the latter part of the 1970's, two vents also existed on the east side of the lower part of the mansard roof, probably serving to prevent combustion within the hay. These lower vents may have been removed when new shingles were applied to the roof circa 1980.

Between 1937 and 1957, Ada (nee MONTROSE) the wife of Ernest MORTON (b.1883), installed photographs of her nine sons in the front room. These hung neatly in a row across the wall and she called them her "gallery of roses." Visitors such as Helen (nee STUART) remember being taken to view them while Mrs. MORTON proudly gave their names: Allison, Ernest, Earl, Ivan, Ralph, Austin, Lester, Cecil and another (Flemming, 2002; Morton, B. 2002). Other visitors included her grandchildren who amused themselves with the amethyst rock near the farmhouse. An amethyst stone measuring about twelve inches high by ten inches wide sat for several decades upon the premises of the MORTON farm. Specifically, it was located near the steps of the entrance to the sun porch at the northwest side of the farmhouse.



**Figure 18** A view in 2002 looking to the east where the MORTON farmhouse stood between 1920 and 1937.

This quartz had numerous bubbles that sparkled under certain light, such as sunlight, and was the source of great amusement for the grandsons of this farmer (Morton, 2002).

Presumably, this gem shone the greatest at sunset since three elm trees planted along the south side of this house provided shade during the day. Two other elm trees, and a maple still exist along the north side of the home, probably intended to provide shelter from the cold north winds. These trees may be more than sixty years of age; the amethyst rock, however, disappeared from these premises within the last forty-five years.

Occasionally the grandchildren walked across the field to visit Mrs. David BREWSTER. Now and then, they hid under the stairs of the sun porch in order to avoid certain farm tasks, one being the removal of leaves from the turnips so the adults could shred them by machine for animal feed. These turnips were grown to the east of the house and barn. A grandson of Ernest MORTON can recall that hay carts were driven by a team of horses from the hay fields into the east side of the barn where it was unloaded via a pulley. To the left of the double door, hooks that formed part of the pulley are still intact. Sometimes the hay was so abundant that it filled the area up to the rafters (Morton, 2002).

It was important in those days to have running water installed in the barn. The installation of this necessity cost Mr. MORTON three hundred dollars. Between 1926 and 1933 this farmer took the milk of his herd to sell in the City of Moncton. During the long days of harvesting, the grandchildren would sleep overnight in the make shift bedroom in the attic of the farmhouse (Morton, 2002). In 1944, Ernest MORTON was able to harvest more than six hundred bushels of potatoes from his farm in Cherryfield. Having completed his own work, he then went to his brother's, Ivan MORTON of Ammon, where he assisted in harvesting a further two hundred and fifty bushels (*Moncton Daily Times*).

In 1957, he sold his farm in Cherryfield. Somewhere around 1960, the subsequent owner added, a shed roof on the east side of the house. The entire exterior was then covered with white asbestos shingles and the wood trim painted a dark green. Also, an addition with a circular metal roof was added to the north end of the barn. The west side of this extension had twenty-four hatches. Furthermore, the long driveway leading from the McLaughlin Road to the farmhouse was raised and filled in to prevent snowdrifts (Morton, 2002). Today, both buildings sit abandoned since the occupant passed away in 1995. Despite this and the vandalism, it was still evident from a visit to the premises that the structures were built with quality materials and workmanship. The MORTON farmhouse represents one of only three large frame private dwellings, built between 1901 and 1950 in Cherryfield that still exist today. Notably, it was the only farm still operating in the area during the 1980's. The civic address is 1455 McLaughlin Road.

## The BREWSTER Family And 1519 McLaughlin Road

Presently, a mature maple tree stands on the west side of this private residence. An aging David BREWSTER (1880-1965) informed a young resident of Cherryfield that, at the age of nine, he himself planted this maple tree (Kelly, J., 2002). It is not clear if the dwelling was built prior to the planting of the tree. Those who were interviewed for this work could not remember when the house was constructed, however, all agreed it is an old house. Several of them remember the BREWSTER family who during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century inhabited the house depicted in the photograph herein.

Members of the BREWSTER family found listed in the *1891 Census New Brunswick* are Thomas, age 52; Rachael, age 44; Gertrude, age 19; Easter, age 16; David E., age 11; Laura, age 8; and Hirman, age 5. A search of the land deeds produced an unexpected result. Oddly, four grantees were found registered in 1891 for this parcel of land. The final grantee for the same year was in the name of Thomas BREWSTER, a mechanic (Beauséjour). This establishes when Mr. BREWSTER was the landowner but not when the house was built. Members of the BREWSTER family found listed in the *1901 Census New Brunswick* are the following: Thomas (born 1869), his wife Rachel (b. 1847), and their children Easter (b. 1874), and David E. (b. 1880). David BREWSTER (1880-1965) continued to reside in the family home after his parents had passed away.

The BREWSTER family residence was built upon the peak of the terrain and on the east side of McLaughlin Road. On the south side of this parcel of land is a driveway extending approximately two hundred feet from the road to the house. In 1901, the home was described as a single family dwelling with eight rooms. Included with this description was one outbuilding. Both of these structures stood upon seventy-six acres of land. In more recent years, the acreage has been given as much less (*Times & Transcript*, 1991). The house stood exposed to northerly winds. An attempt to break these strong cold winds was done by planting several conifer trees not far from the residence (see page 38). These evergreens were said to have been planted circa 1900 (Bulmer, C. 1980). Fewer of them remain today. Although the cause of the reduced numbers was not investigated, there is an instance where resident(s) witnessed an event near the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and had a moment of anxiety. One of these trees was seen falling and narrowly missing the house (MacEachern, 2002). A further desperate attempt to create shelter from the winds was the placement of a shed covered with tar paper between these trees and the residence.



**Figure 19** The maple tree said to have been planted (about 1889) by David BREWSTER. Photo taken about 1982.



**Figure 20** A southeast view of the former BREWSTER dwelling. Photo taken about 1978 after an ice storm.

Other elements also caused concern to the homeowner. During the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, bales of hay were placed around the exterior basement walls. This task was usually done prior to the first snowfall, the purpose being to insulate the walls of the basement from the harsh winter conditions. However, snow drifted and accumulated in the dead air space along the south side exterior wall. Another place where snowdrifts were seen was on the west side of the house. Here the snow collected so high there are instances where the trunk of the maple tree was not visible from the road. Furthermore, the snow drifted across the width of the house hiding the first storey from view at the roadside. Additional outbuildings existed to the rear of the main structure, being at the east side of the house. Here, animals ranging from rabbits to dogs were bred at different times and then sold. On occasions, worms were sold as fishing bait to motorists driving on McLaughlin road along Route 490. At one time duck could be seen in and around a pond at the south-west corner of the property, but since circa 1983 the pond was filled in and replaced by lawn.

The dwelling is one-and-one-half-storeys. On the west side is the front door which is the entrance to the living room. On the south side towards the rear of the building is another entrance. As the writer recalls, it was used towards the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as a cold storage area. The interior staircase provides access to the second floor that is to the south east corner inside the house. The present day structure is of frame construction with an asphalt shingle roof. This is a gable roof with a brick chimney rising from the center. Painted wood siding covers the exterior frame. Beams in the basement are said to be of unfinished logs and are used to support the ground level floor. The basement floor is now concrete while the upper floors are said to be made of hardwood. The door and window casings have been painted, so determining the type of wood is difficult. Horizontal wood planks are nailed to the roof frame. The home is heated by an oil furnace (Chapman, 2002). Since the departure by the BREWSTER family, the interior walls have been covered with panelling.

David BREWSTER (1880-1965) married to Joanna N. (nee FITZSIMMONS). The latter is remembered as visually impaired (Morton, 2002; Roach, 2002). She was the daughter of William FITZSIMMONS (b. 1836) and Margaret Mahoney (b. 1839) of Sullivans in Westmorland County. Born in Irishtown, she later attended Cherryfield United Baptist Church (NAC; "Death of Mrs. Brewster"). In her advancing years, she is remembered as being a person who took delight in the visits of the MORTON grandchildren. One of these grandchildren recalled how little light there was in the room where his hostess sat. She is remembered as a kind person and was delighted to hear music. Her husband is remembered for his daily walk to the MORTON farm. Due to a foot ailment he walked barefoot from his home to the farm next door.

The walk was approximately five hundred feet across a field to the barn. There, he enjoyed a drink of fresh milk. Following this, he had a bottle filled with milk and then returned home in the same manner (Morton, 2002).

Later in life, the elderly BREWSTER couple were lodgers in nearby private dwelling. The adjacent RENTON family cared for this couple and provided for their needs. Several members of the RENTON family can today still remember Mr. and Mrs. David BREWSTER. Joanna BREWSTER outlived members of her immediate family (“Death of Mrs. Brewster”). She was predeceased by her husband. When he passed away in 1965 his funeral was held during the month of March. Then the body was placed in the vault of Elmwood Cemetery ready for internment after the ground had thawed (*Moncton Transcript*). Both, Mr. and Mrs. David BREWSTER are interred at Elmwood Cemetery (Kanner, 1995).

The parcel of land owned by David BREWSTER was seventy-seven acres. However, upon the death of him and his wife, an adjacent farmer purchased the land. The latter subsequently sold the house with less than two acres of land and the remaining acreage was retained by the farmer as pasture for his cattle (Beauséjour). The civic address of the former BREWSTER residence is presently 1519 McLaughlin Road in the City of Moncton.

## The Home Built By Willard RENTON

In 1929, Willard RENTON constructed a new house just west of where a henhouse was situated. He and his five brothers and two sisters had by this time reached adulthood (*Moncton Transcript*, 1927; MacEachern, 2002). This square dwelling was built just eight years before the MORTON farmhouse but is by no means the oldest structure in Cherryfield. Similarly, the RENTON and MORTON dwellings are of frame construction, two-and-one-half-storeys high. The RENTON home has a one-storey addition at the east side of the home to store wood, as well as a sun porch on the opposite end. On the west side of the pyramid roof is a dormer: and both roofs are covered with black asphalt shingles. The foundation walls seem to be made of sandstone. The door and window casings are of the original pinewood that has aged to a typical warm deep brown colour with much darker knots. The staircase, with a broad open stringer and plain banisters, is made from similar material (see page 44). The floors were finished with hardwood. Such woods represent the lumber that was available to this family since it was harvested from their own timberland. Originally, the brick chimney with a single flue was located at the top of the roof, but it has since been removed.

In recent years, the walls of the chimney were elegantly transformed into an archway leading from the kitchen to the living room. The remaining bricks were used to form a firewall behind the new wood stove in the living room. Other renovations, undertaken towards the end of the millennium, included the installation of a cement floor in the basement where an oil furnace was installed, the conversion of the woodshed into a garage for an automobile, and transformation of the pantry into a half bath. In addition, the kitchen and living room areas were enlarged and wall to wall carpeting was laid down in a couple of rooms. As well, the sun porch on the west side of the house has now been enclosed. Not much has changed in the front room, where traditionally, guests were invited, aside from furnishing it with the modern comforts of home.

Andrew RENTON (b. ca. 1819), (grandfather of Abel) was born in England. His son John RENTON (b. ca. 1841) was, in 1899, a landholder of a large part of Lot 45 in the Parish of Moncton (Beauséjour; NAC). In 1901, Abel RENTON (1867-1927), resided, along with his wife Eleanor M., (nee KELLY) (b.1873) and infant son Willard C. (b. 1900) in Stilesville (NAC; GenTree, 1993). In 1903, they moved from Stilesville to Cherryfield to live on the seventy-seven acres of land they purchased from Jacob McFARLANE (1848-1923) and his wife Rhoda S., (nee REED) (1846-1920) (Beauséjour; NAC). The McFARLANE family sold their property to the RENTON family shortly after the death of two of their children Reed (b. 1882) and Fred (b. 1884) (NAC; Stilesville; Beauséjour).



**Figure 21** A northerly view of a tract of land owned in 1903 by Abel RENTON. (Photo taken about 1982)



**Figure 22**  
A northerly view of the RENTON residence (built in 1929).

The land was situated along the east side of McLaughlin Road and can be traced back to the land grant of William HARPER (d. ca. 1829). Prior to the RENTON's purchase, between 1894 and 1899, the land title had changed several times. For example, in 1894 it passed from Daniel R. TINGLEY to Sarah A. CHAPMAN, then from David and Sarah A. CHAPMAN to Lucy B. BRIGGS. Following this, the BRIGGS family sold the land to [Bertram] Jacob McFARLANE who in turn sold the property to Abel F. RENTON (Beauséjour). The records show that RENTON paid the sum of three hundred and eighty-four dollars for this parcel of land known as Lot 5.

Two neighbours of Abel F. RENTON were William A. LEWIS, and Thomas BREWSTER (b. 1869). Another neighbour, was Hazen DERRY, who in 1891 was a 53 year old widower and farmer (NAC; Beauséjour). It might be of some interest that eight years later, in 1899, a person with the same name was noted in the *Daily Times*. Elmwood Cemetery registers him being buried in 1905 at the age seventy-two.

Twenty-six years after the RENTON family moved to Cherryfield, they abandoned their home to use it as a henhouse and grain storage area. The interior of the building, including the stairwell, had been dismantled so that a large open space existed. A note is in order about the transformation since it once represented a private dwelling in Cherryfield, as well, it has an interesting architectural history. When the Renton family inhabited this house, the roof and exterior walls of the two-storey dwelling were covered by cedar wood shingles. A wood stove was used as a source of heat. The interior staircase leading to the second floor was extremely narrow. The conversion of an abandoned home into a hen house was not uncommon in Cherryfield. As recent as 1980 a photograph is evidence that a neighbour to the north of the RENTON property had done the same. In the picture, we see the fowl being protected from the harsh exterior winter conditions (see page 48). Generally, when a farmer used an abandoned house for such a purpose, it was after a new home had been built elsewhere upon the owners property.

This branch of the RENTON family were residents of Cherryfield for about fifty years. During this time they increased their holdings to one hundred and seventy-two acres from the original seventy-seven acres (MacAlpine, 1908; MacEachern, 2002). However, by the 1960's an adjacent farmer purchased one hundred acres of this, and subsequently the area with road frontage was sub-divided into lots and sold. In recent years, acreage east of the private dwelling was sold to Royal Oaks and is now part of a golf course. The dwelling that was built by Willard RENTON presently sits upon less than two acres of land and is identified by the civic number of 1551 McLaughlin Road. A reference to the landscape was made in the 1970's by Key Surveys Limited.



**Figure 23** The staircase built by Willard RENTON.



**Figure 24** A recent transformation of a brick chimney.

In particular, it was noted that eight trees situated south of the former RENTON dwelling formed a boundary line. By 1980, all but one of these eight trees had fallen. The solitary conifer had been a tree house for the proprietor's children, but this had collapsed in March 2002 during a snow storm (MacEachern, 2002). However, while still standing, the tree had been the subject of several photographs taken under various conditions (see page 46). Two examples are:

- i). Two horses grazing during a misty evening near the conifer tree.
- ii). In the background is the last remaining tree, to the right is a barn used by adjacent farmer to store hay.

Evidence from other land deeds name Abel F. RENTON (1867-1927) and Rupert Clinton GOODALL (b. 1889) (son of David W. GOODALL) as joint tenants for property along the Irishtown Road. In addition, Abel and his brother-in-law Charles Bertram GOODALL (b. 1903) had an interest in other real property in the area (Beauséjour; Goodall, 2002). Abel and Clinton had purchased a parcel of land from the STEEVES family, who in turn had purchased it from the HANNAGAN family of Westmorland and Kent County, New Brunswick. Upon the death of James HANNAGAN (c. 1831-1896), his brother John HANNAGAN (b. c. 1827) became the administrator of the estate. Following this, another brother William HANNAGAN (b. c. 1828) and others were plaintiffs in an action in which their brother Andrew HANNAGAN (b. c. 1838) was named a defendant (NBER, 1896; NAC). In the following year, the heirs of the late James HANNAGAN conveyed the property along the Irishtown Road to Andrew HANNAGAN (Beauséjour). It may be of interest to note that the registry spells the names of these brothers differently: both HANNAGAN and HANNIGAN are the spellings bestowed.

After the death of Abel F. RENTON, in 1927, the farm in Cherryfield was operated by his son, Willard RENTON (1900-1972). In 1912, Willard RENTON attended the school in Cherryfield and remained in the community throughout his life (see, *The One Room School*). Upon marrying, his wife then took on the responsibility of selling the farm products at the market. The quality of their grain did not go unnoticed because Willard RENTON won several awards for this product from his farm. Specifically, in 1938, he was given an award by the Moncton Rotary Club and won first prize in the grain category (Renton, 2002). In 1947 Willard RENTON was elected a member of the board of directors for the Moncton Milk Producers (*Moncton Daily Times*).



**Figure 25** The last of eight trees described by Key Surveys Limited.



**Figure 26** Another view of the solitary conifer.

Another interesting tidbit noted in the local paper was that during the autumn of 1946, Mrs Willard RENTON took the time from the farm activities to attend the wedding of Leonard T. ANDERSON. She wore a navy suit with white accessions for this occasion (*Daily Times*). As well, just a few years before this event, electricity had been installed throughout the RENTON home, thus improving the quality of life for the family. In the 1950's, the RENTON and GOODALL families farmed about one hundred acres (MacEachern, 2002; Beauséjour).

Footnote: After 1960, a number of homeowners built homes upon the subdivided lots of the former RENTON acreage. One such owner, a grandson of a former farmer of Cherryfield, gave an account about the construction of his home many years ago that is worthy of mention since it pertains to the quality of workmanship. Once construction of his residence was completed he asked a salesman for an estimate for wall-to-wall carpeting. The latter provided an estimate with an allowance for extra carpet due to the fact that the corners within the houses were off square. When the potential customer became aware of this, he advised the salesman that the corners of the house were square and requested a quote to reflect such. However, the salesman insisted that most homes built at that time did not have square corners and encouraged the prospective customer to accept his quote. In the end, the homeowner demonstrated with a square rule that the corners of his home were square. In 1980, another lot owner (PID 02267412) built a two car garage (also with square corners) and it is situated between the lot of the aforesaid homeowner and the former BREWSTER property (see photograph below).



Figure 26 PID 02267412



**Figure 28** A henhouse.  
PID 70225701.



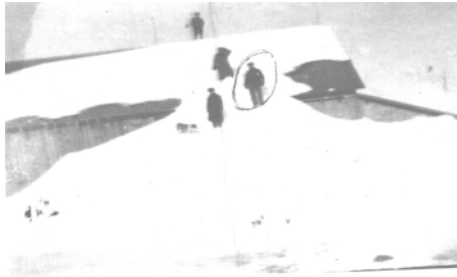
**Figure 29** A closer view of fowl in the henhouse.

## Farm Notes And Family Events

Farmers in the lowlands of Cherryfield toiled with soil that can be best described as acidic and of a reddish brown colour. Drainage very much depended upon the slope of the terrain. This community is identified through a Canada Soil Information System Identification number in the National Soil DataBase (CSISD) NB 028512 and on a Land Registration Information Service map (LRIS) 211/02-V3 (Rees, H. W., Duff, J. P., Colville and Chow, T.L., 1996). Rees et al., 1996. described the soil in much finer detail within their work entitled, *The New Brunswick Soil Survey Report. No. 15*. Further, they suggested that the natural fertility of the soil was low. This would indicate that farmers in this community did not have the most fertile land to work with, yet a number of them made farming their vocation. For instance, in the *Seventh Census of Canada, 1931*, the total number of landowners of farmland in the Parish of Moncton in Westmorland County, was 714 with 21,317 acres of cultivated land and 47,577 acres uncultivated. However, much has changed since this era because much of the farmland in Westmorland County is no longer used for agriculture due to expansion of urbanization (Rees et al., 1996). Cherryfield was no exception to this phenomenon even if a 1940 photograph of the McLaughlin Road published in the *Moncton Transcript* still portrays the region as a rural setting.

Found recorded in the *1901 Census*, the list of farmers along the McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield included the surnames of BLEAKNEY, CUTHBERTSON, McFARLANE, MURRAY and STEEVES. Two or three decades later, one will find surnames like CALDER, GOODALL, HYSLOP, MORTON, POTTER, and RENTON. Several of these families have been described elsewhere in this work but others are also worthy of mention.

**1. William H. CALDER** (1870-1936) was born in Forres [Moray], Scotland, and between 1901 and 1913 arrived in Canada. He married Marie A. RAUH (1870-1932) and together they produced one daughter and two sons (*Moncton Daily Transcript*, 1936; Kanner, 1995). In 1919 he purchased fifty acres along the east side of the McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield (Beauséjour) (see page 23). In 1927 Wm. H. CALDER was noted for his success in growing vegetables and the presentation of them in the Moncton Horticultural Exhibition (*Daily Times*). For eight years, he held the position of Superintendent of Works and Parks for the City of Moncton. He gained notice as a result of his work in the layout of the landscaping of Victoria Park in the City of Moncton (*Moncton Daily Times*). In 1917 *The Daily Times* reported that Victoria and Bend View Parks “now looked the best in their history.”



**Figure 30** A scene in 1923 at the HYSLOP farm after a snow storm.



**Figure 31** A view of trees laden with ice along the west side of McLaughlin Road.



**Figure 32** Chunks of ice removed about 1978 from the road surface in Cherryfield.

The same year, he submitted a request for re-appointment to his position as a Superintendent of Works and Parks for a term of one year. This in turn was referred to the Parks Committee (*Daily Times*). Later William H. CALDER was commissioned to do a work similar to Victoria Park at Fort Beauséjour but was unable to complete the work as he became ill and passed away shortly thereafter (*Moncton Daily Transcript*)(see also, p. 23).

**2. Frank Leslie HYSLOP** (1866-1944) was born in Buctouche, Kent County, N.B. and married Ella Mae (nee ELLIOT) (b. ca. 1871-1946) of Shediac (*Transcript; Moncton Daily Times*). Over time, Frank L. HYSLOP owned various tracts of land in Cherryfield, such as the former property of Duncan and Julia McDOUGALL. In 1914 he purchased from Allen BULMER twenty-five acres that, in 1899, were registered in the name of George L HARRIS (Beauséjour). At the time of his death, a farm of 165 or 163 acres, possibly his, was advertised for sale (*Transcript*). One person who remembers the HYSLOP farm is Edmond McDUFF, who was for nine years employed to pick mustard weeds from the hayfield at this farm. In 1924 Frank L. HYSLOP and his family were hosts to the Farmers and Dairymens' Protective Association. Attending this meeting were Clarence CHARTERS, Pres., Ferdinand BOURGEOIS, Councillor, John BISHOP [farmer of Irishtown Road], Abel F. RENTON [farmer of Cherryfield] (*Moncton Transcript*). From 1930 and for several years, he was the Overseer for the Poor for the Moncton Parish (Might, 1930, 1934). In 1944 he was the president of the Dairymen's Association and remained an active dairy farmer until age 78 (*Transcript*). The evidence suggests F. L. HYSLOP was also active in community affairs up to the time of his death. Both, he and his wife are buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Moncton.

McLaughlin Road also known as Route 490, became a busy highway from the City of Moncton to a number of subdivisions in the north and towards Kent County. In the vicinity of the former HYSLOP and NICHOL properties is a curve that has over the decades been a site of a number of automobile accidents. For example:

In the 1980's, a heavy vehicle had overturned and this writer was able to capture the scene through a photograph. In the background is the former farm property. A more recent photo reveals the absence of the trees and the alterations to the dwelling.

In 1981 an accident resulted in litigation (N. B. R.).

On September 16, 17, 18, 2002 an accident with a fatality was reported in the *Times & Transcript*.



**Figure 33** In the background is the residence formerly owned by F. L. HYSLOP.  
This automobile accident occurred about 1983.



**Figure 34** A more recent photo of the former HYSLOP dwelling.  
Note the trees are absent.

**3. George Allison NICHOL** (b. 1838), farmer, and his wife Anna Amelia BREWSTER (1847-1928) were long time residents of Cherryfield (NAC; *Daily Times*, 1920, 1927). In 1911 he sold Thomas FITZSIMMONS a tract of land adjacent to Ernest A. FRYERS and his brother P. H. FRYERS (Beauséjour). In 1926 George A. Nichol served as an officer for the Parish of Moncton with the responsibility of keeping stray animals in an enclosure (*Daily Times*).

Albert H. NICHOL, son of George Allison NICHOL, was also a well known farmer in the community of Cherryfield. In 1902 he married Althea HORSEMAN (b. 1877) (PANB; NAC). He was a landowner with a real property described as being fifty acres along the west side of McLaughlin Road and adjacent to Obadiah AYER, as well as with a lot of fifty acres on the east side of McLaughlin Road, in the vicinity of the property belonging to Frank L. HYSLOP (Beauséjour). In 1922, his brother-in-law Moody John HORSEMAN died at Ammon following an accident when he fell from a wagon loaded with shingles. Following his death, an inquest was held at which Ensley MILLS (c. 1845-1932) was a juror (E. MILLS sold his farm in Cherryfield that was later owned by Clinton GOODALL) (*Moncton Daily Times*; NAC; Beauséjour). A former resident of Cherryfield can remember the farm of Albert NICHOL because butter was sold on the premise for 25 cents per pound (McDuff, 2002). It is known that Mr. A. NICHOL was still farming as late as 1943 since the Annual Farm Field Day was held that year at his farm. This event was under the direction of Lewis McKAY of the Department of Agriculture in Fredericton, N. B., and held in combination with the Guernsey Calf Club Fair. A number of Guernsey cows and calves were on display as well; a total of sixty head of cattle were exhibited. Stanley WOOD, Livestock Superintendent, would travel from Fredericton to act in the capacity of judge. Another included dignitary was C. C. MacDOUGALL, Secretary Of New Brunswick Guernsey Breeder Association. A picnic lunch was served to the participants and exhibitors (*Moncton Daily Times*). In the following year, Albert H. NICHOL sold the two properties along with a maintenance bond to his sister and her husband, then in 1947, he passed away (Beauséjour; PANB). The dwelling once occupied by Mr. NICHOL was demolished a number of years ago and replaced with a more energy efficient home (Bulmer, 2002).

**4. David Calder POTTER** (c. 1878-1947) was born in Kouchibouguac, Kent County, N. B., and was the son of John Sullivan POTTER (b.1820). In 1903 he moved to Sunnybrae and later became a prominent citizen (*Moncton Daily Times*). In 1904 Mr. POTTER married Henriette DUTCH (c. 1873-1906) of New Mills, Rest. Co. She was noted for her business aptitude in the operation of their grocery store in Sunnybrae. However, she died prematurely (PANB). She had the misfortune to contract typhoid fever from which she did not recover.



**Figure 35**

Originally a one storey dwelling, this house is believed to be situated on the land granted to William RITCHIE. At the rear of 1007 McLaughlin Road is a brook that drains into Ogilvie Brook.

This occurred at that time her husband was also seriously ill and was admitted to hospital (*Transcript; Moncton Daily Times*, 1947). In 1910 David C. POTTER married Effie Fraser McBEATH (1871-1965), daughter of Alexander McBEATH and Jane (nee JOHNSON) (PANB; *Moncton Daily Times; Moncton Transcript*). In 1912 D. C. POTTER advertised a flat for rent on the Church Street Extension in Sunnybrae. It was described as having seven rooms, running water in the kitchen and a walk of approximately two minutes from the railway station (*Moncton Daily Times*). [This apartment may have been located on the upper floors of the grocery store.]

David C. POTTER raised cattle on a farm in Cherryfield and on another farm in Irishtown. He was reportedly the first in New Brunswick to have an accredited herd of Ayrshire cattle (*Moncton Daily Times*, 1947). The farm in Cherryfield was along the west side of Route 490 and in later years the grounds were occupied in part by Frizzell Bros. Construction Ltd., (Bulmer, 2002). When the latter was in business, the civic address was known as 1050 McLaughlin Road (Polk, 1985). Mr. POTTER reportedly gave his customers calenders for the year 1921 with a picture reproduced from a painting by H. H. BAGG (1852-1928). It portrayed a landscape with two world champion shorthorns “Maxwalton Commander” and “Roan Lady” (*Transcript; California-Art*). On April 10, 1926, the “Potter Farm” of 200 acres situated at Scotch Settlement was advertised for sale in the *Moncton Daily Times*. On Wednesday November 15, 1944, a public auction was held at the farm. The assets were described as:

38 purebred Ayrshire cattle accredited herd, 14 cows, 6 two year old heifers, 8 one year heifers and 10 calves. 1 registered Dorset ram, 1 half-bred Dorset ram, a one year old ram, and a number of ewe lambs. Also, a nine year old mare, a four year old colt, a three year old colt, 2 colts each two years old. As well, bridles and collars and parts of harnesses, two saddles. In addition, hens and chicken, a flock of geese, and six foxes. Vegetables and grains for sale included a bin of turnips, and a quantity of hay and green oats. Equipment included two team wagons, a milk wagon, one Electra separator, a team sled, two ploughs, two mowing machines, three set of harrows, three rakes.

**5. David C. RITCHIE** (1854-1940) lived in Cherryfield, along with his wife Eliza J. HENDERSON (1869-1960) formerly of Scotch Settlement, and their sons Gordon and Elmer (NAC.; *Times and Transcript; Moncton Transcript*). This branch of the RITCHIE family were long time residents of Cherryfield and their settlement can be traced back to William RITCHIE, who was granted land identified as Lot B. Originally, this lot comprised two hundred and six acres but has since been divided into lots (Beauséjour).

A stream with a small lake flows from Lot One (in the north), and leads into Ogilvie Brook by passing through Lot B (Rees, et al., 1996; Province of New Brunswick, 1988; Department of Municipal Affairs, 1973). Little is known of the life of farmer William RITCHIE, but some events concerning his descendants are worth mentioning

Gordon John RITCHIE (1895-1989) of Cherryfield, was a carpenter by trade and like other family members resided along the east side of the McLaughlin Road (Beauséjour; NAC; *Times & Transcript*). In 1919 he married Effie MacDONALD (d. 1977) formerly of Winnipeg, Manitoba (PANB; *Moncton Times*, 1947). In 1927 he reputedly organized the Rabbit Breeders Club. Officers of the club were J. G. Ritchie, Pres., J. E. LeBlanc, V. P., J. M. PAY, Sec. A meeting was held on Wednesday, November 2, 1927, at City Hall (*Daily Times*). His affiliation with this club may have been brief because in 1940 Gordon J. RITCHIE was reportedly with the C. A. S. F. in Vancouver, British Columbia. It was at this time that his father passed away (*Moncton Transcript*). In more recent years, Gordon RITCHIE attended the funeral of Lorne W. CAIL who was a farmer and former Postmaster of Pine Ridge in Kent County, N. B. (*Transcript*). When Gordon J. RITCHIE passed away his body was interred at Elmwood Cemetery. A number of his family members are listed in the records of Elmwood Cemetery (Kanner, 1995).

In 1930, a family tragedy occurred when Elmer, heroically saved a person from drowning but as a result lost his own life. His body was brought from Saint John to the family home in Cherryfield where a funeral was held (*Telegraph Journal; Daily Times*).

**6. Milliage Van BUSKIRK** (c. 1869-1932) was the son of Jacob Van BUSKIRK(1826-1908) formerly of Freetown, Prince Edward Island, and later of Telegraph Street in Moncton (*Daily Times*; NAC.; *Moncton Daily Times*). This family were well known business people in Moncton. Records seem to indicate that Milliage and his brother Joseph were cattle farmers in Cherryfield. In 1894 in the City Market, Milliage Van BUSKIRK purchased for \$126 a stall formerly occupied by Mr. COATS (*Daily Transcript; Moncton Daily Times*, 1932). In 1901 he was a hotelkeeper who resided in a single family dwelling with seven rooms upon twenty-eight acres along the McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield (NAC).

## Notes About Several Families Around McNutt Brook.

The year before the McNutt dam was completed, a vein of water was discovered not far from the McNutt Brook. After a drilling only 29 feet into the ground, **Mrs. Charles BEZANSON** witnessed and reported an overflow of 15 feet gusting into the air from the ground surface on her farm near the brook (*Daily Times*, 1913).

**William BROWN** (b. c. 1844-1920) and his wife M. Augusta GROSS (b. c. 1850-1937) resided west of the McNutt Brook where they operated a boarding house. It was adjacent to the CARPENTER farm as well as the land belonging to the brothers Ernest A. and Philo H. FRYERS' (Beauséjour; *Daily Times*, 1937). After they sold their forty acre property in 1912 for one thousand dollars, they moved in to the City of Moncton (Beauséjour). William BROWN was employed with I. C. R. and his wife operated a quality boarding house at 71 Church Street in the City. William passed away at his residence on 10 Gordon Street and later his wife relocated to Botsford Street (*Moncton Transcript*; *Daily Times*).

**George Harmon BROWN** (1833-1914), merchant, and his wife Sarah KINREAD (1845-1930) resided upon one hundred and forty acres. Their neighbours were the Honourable E. B. CHANDLER, Rev. John PRINCE, and James ALEXANDER. This BROWN family had purchased the real property from Edward ROBERTSON, a gentleman, after the latter was named (along with others) in a legal case (Beauséjour; Kanner, 1995; NBER, 1906). In 1909 G. Harmon BROWN received a refund of \$8.00 from poll taxes (City of Moncton). Ten years later, his wife Sarah sold sixty-one acres of their property to the City of Moncton (Beauséjour).

**John A. BULMER** (1854-1913) and his wife Lulish/Letitia RILEY (1859-1927) raised twelve children including Edward, Emily C., Walter A., Roger A., Viola M., Letitia, John A. (1894-1953), Willa B., Oscar Harold, Howard/Herbert, James, and Ella (NAC; *Transcript*; Kanner, 1995). In 1901, this family resided upon fifty acres of land that can be traced back to the land granted to Stephen HUMPHREY and that is also adjacent to (and south of) the dam. Their immediate neighbour was Mrs. NICHOL (Beauséjour; Robinson, 1912). Their home is described as a single family frame dwelling with five rooms along with two outbuildings/barns (NAC). It is believed to have been built during the late 1880's but was completely destroyed by fire in 1935. Of interest is the stone basement, since the stones were cut and hauled from the quarry at the McNutt Brook.



**Figure 36** The premises of the first Post Office in Cherryfield. Later, in 1935, it was destroyed by fire.



**Figure 37**  
This desk was used from 1900 to 1926 by  
John A. BULMER and Letitia BULMER  
in the Post Office at Cherryfield.

Fifteen-foot corner posts placed upon the foundation walls strengthened the one-and-one-half-storey exterior walls that were later covered with rows of white clapboard. The gable roof had a steep pitch that provided ample room for bedrooms on the second floor. On the ground floor was a large kitchen heated by a wood stove (Bulmer, 2002). The land formerly occupied by this family was located where the former home of the caretaker of the McNutt Brook is situated today.

It is also interesting to note that Mr. and Mrs. BULMER were the first Postmaster and Postmistress of Cherryfield. John BULMER was appointed Postmaster in 1900; and he passed away in 1913 while still holding this position. His wife applied for the office, was appointed and kept the position until 1926, at which time she resigned due to ill health (NAC). From 1900 to 1926 the Post Office of Cherryfield was situated in their residence. A desk used to store the postal material is still in the possession of the BULMER family (see photographs on previous page).

**Ephraim S. CARPENTER** and his wife Amelia JONES (c. 1852-1933), returned to Dundas in Kent County after they sold their twenty-five acre farm to the City of Moncton in 1911 (see, Appendix I) (Beauséjour; *Moncton Daily Times*). Their son Urban W. CARPENTER resided at 21 Enterprise Street in the City of Moncton, and it is there that his father, Ephraim, spent his final years (*Moncton Times*, 1945). Kathleen Carpenter and her husband resided at 37 Enterprise street (*Moncton Daily Times*, 1922). In a recent conversation with a descendant of this family, it was learned that a photograph taken in 1905 by Ralph WOODCOX of Main Street, Moncton, shows Ephraim CARPENTER and a son, along with two other children and two horses posing near the family home in Cherryfield. It is unfortunate that the photo has gone astray (Carpenter, 2002).

**David W. GOODALL** (b. 1846) and his wife Alberta Mae GREER (1866-1913) moved from Cherryfield to Memramcook after they sold two lots along the west side of McLaughlin Road (Beauséjour; Goodall, R. 2002). (The tombstone of Alberta states a different birth year.) They were paid one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars for the two five-acre lots, each being on either side of the Alexander Road. Oddly, the HORSEMAN Plan shows that D. W. GOODALL was a landholder of more than one hundred acres. His neighbours Harry BULMER held five acres, as did Martin FITZSIMMONS. Both sold also their land to the City of Moncton (see, Appendix I) (Beauséjour).

In 1901, **Duncan MacDOUGALL** (1847-1927) with his wife Julia FERGUSON (b.1856), and their children Robert Cameron (b. 1893), George Tennyson (b. 1895), Colin Clyde (b. c. 1891) resided along the west side of McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield (NAC; Beauséjour; *Moncton Transcript*).



**Figure 38**

At the right is the house known as the Lefurgey house. In earlier times, it may have been owned by Duncan and Julia MacDOUGALL. Three original floor beams still exist in this house.

Their home was a single family dwelling with seven rooms and, upon the premises of seventy-five acres, were two barns/outbuildings (NAC). Oddly, just seventy-two acres are stated in Plan A of [his neighbour] William HORSEMAN (see, Appendix I) (Beauséjour). The sale of their property to the City of Moncton was included on the agenda of a council meeting in 1911, and arrangements for its purchase and lease were formulated. The settlement agreed upon stated that the buildings, the fruit trees and the crops of the present and following year would remain in the possession of the MacDOUGALL family. Notwithstanding, the title of the land was to change to the City of Moncton with payment of two thousand and one hundred dollars. The lease between the grantor and the grantee was drawn up for a term of eighteen months with payment of ten cents per month (*Daily Times*). Perhaps because the lease had expired in 1912, a request was made by Duncan MacDOUGALL to the City Council for permission to take dead wood from the land surrounding the McNutt Brook in the area of the construction of the new reservoir. The intended use was for firewood, but Mr. MacDOUGALL did not get an affirmative answer during the following meeting of the Council. Instead, his request was passed to the Water and Light Committee (*Daily Times*). During the same year, Julie, wife of Duncan MacDOUGALL purchased twenty-five acres on the east side of McLaughlin Road from John W. LeFURGEY, a blacksmith, and his wife Lottie E., who had taken out a mortgage of five hundred dollars for the property (Beauséjour). Assuming the MacDOUGALL family home was hauled from the west side of McLaughlin Road to their newly acquired land, it is believed that the building may be situated today at the civic address of 1043 McLaughlin Road. The three six-inch by six-inch original floor beams, still held together with wooden pegs, show the age of the structure situated on that lot today.

Those beams were finished manually with a hand tool. The MacDOUGALL family sold their property to Frank HYSLOP at which time they may have moved to the United States (Beauséjour; *Transcript*).

In 1901, Donald McKINNON (1844-1903) a blacksmith, and his wife Phoebe (1849-1914) and their children Esther, John, Bessie (b. 1879), Frank and Angus resided upon fourteen acres along McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield. Their home is described as a single-family frame dwelling with nine rooms. An outbuilding also existed upon the premises (NAC). Mr. McKINNON died at that address, and his funeral was conducted in their home (*Transcript*). His wife died later in the U. S. A. (*Moncton Daily Times*).

**The WILKINS** and the MacDOUGALL families were neighbours. In 1890, Bessie Belle NICHOL (d. 1928) married John WILKINS (d. 1932), also a blacksmith, and in 1891 this couple resided, along with a young child, in the home of John McMILLAN, a carpenter (NAC; PANB; *Daily Times*). In 1909, the name John WILKINS appeared on the Tax List, indicating that he became a landowner during that time period (*Daily Times*).

Other information about the land belonging to the WILKINS family can be found in the chapter “The Development of McNutt Brook.” After they released the title of fifty acres in Cherryfield, this family relocated to 73 Robinson Street, City of Moncton (*Daily Times*).

## The Home Of The Caretaker Of McNutt Brook

The home of Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS (1877-1949) is still remembered by several residents of Cherryfield. It is one of several homes built circa 1914 that still exist today in Cherryfield. It was situated southwest of the Cherryfield school, across a field. Both buildings were on the west side of the McLaughlin Road and almost opposite the actual Cherryfield United Baptist Church. To the west were two frame barns or outbuildings, one that, for the most part, was empty and remained so. The home stood upon a stone basement and, on the ground floor, were a living room and a dining room. Initially, there was also a pantry that has since disappeared as did a kitchen built shortly after the construction of the house onto the main structure but removed three decades later. Four bedrooms could be found on the second floor, two on either side of the hallway and above was an attic. A gable roof was built on the original part of the dwelling (see photograph overleaf). The heat was provided by a wood stove in the hallway not far from the east side entrance of the residence. The front door of this residence faced east towards McLaughlin Road and the back door was on the west side, facing McNutt Brook. The home in which Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS (1877-1946) and his family of ten children had resided was sold in 1947, for one dollar, to Mrs. Vera BULMER of Cherryfield (Roach, 2002; *Moncton Daily Times*). The latter moved the house to its present location further south (Roach, 2002).

During the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, this house underwent major renovations. For example, it was raised circa 1983, then concrete foundation walls were poured and a one storey addition with a shed roof was built on its south side. A bay window with diamond grills was installed, as well as other new windows and doors. More recently, cedar roof shingles found under layers of roofing material were removed and replaced with asphalt shingles (Bulmer, 2002). The present-day owners removed also the inside walls so that the home could be insulated against exterior cold temperatures. Gyprock sheets and plaster now replace the original lath and plaster walls (Brouton, 2002). With the repairs and renovations during the last three decades this residence no longer resembles the original house of the caretaker of McNutt Brook. Rather, the interior reflects the modern comforts and interests of a growing family in Cherryfield, with a computer room for the children, and a family room in the basement. The civic address is 1080 on the west side of McLaughlin Road.

After a brief stay in Cherryfield followed by an other in his family home in Irishtown, Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS returned to Cherryfield until retirement.



**Figure 39**

The dwelling formerly occupied by Thomas E. FITZSIMMONS, first caretaker of McNutt Reservoir.

**T E N D E R**

Scaled Tenders will be received by the undersigned for the purchase and removal of dwelling occupied by the Caretaker at the McLaughlin Road Reservoir. Tenders to close at 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, July 26th. For further information apply at the Water and Light Office, City Hall. Mark on envelope "Tender for House."

The highest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

W. A. MacWILLIAM,  
Supt. & Accountant.  
7-25sch.

**Figure 40** A request for tenders.

It is there that, in 1911, he purchased approximately twenty-five acres of land from George NICHOL, farmer, and his wife Annie. Their immediate neighbours were John BULMER and E. A. FRYERS (Beauséjour). Identifying the grantee FITZSIMMONS, and grantor NICHOL, was done by searching the 1881, 1891, 1901, Census New Brunswick and probate wills. Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS (1877-1946) was the son of Thomas FITZSIMMONS (1843-1922), formerly of Ireland. His siblings were Ellen Agnes, R. Frank, Thomas E., and C. Fred. Three other children, Mary A. FITZSIMMONS (1870-1885), Maria (1876-1884), and George W. (1883-1884) are buried in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Church Cemetery (Roach, 2002). Oddly, the birth year marked on the headstone in the same cemetery for the younger Thomas FITZSIMMONS is 1879 while it is given as 1877 in the *1901 Census New Brunswick*.

In 1912, Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS sold the real property to the City of Moncton for a sum of two thousand and seventy-one dollars (City of Moncton). In the same year, he was appointed by the engineer for the City of Moncton as the caretaker of FITZSIMMONS Reservoir in Irishtown (also known as the Old Reservoir) while his father, Thomas FITZSIMMONS, received the title of inspector (*Daily Times*). [The Fitzsimmons Reservoir referred to in the Annual Report for the City of Moncton was named after this family (*Daily Times*, 1943).] While residing nearby the Fitzsimmons Reservoir, Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS and his family received the visit of his sister Ellen Agnes and her husband Edward Jas. HARRINGTON who had, in November 1912, travelled from Michigan, U. S. A. to Moncton (*Daily Times*). Within the next three years, he married and with his wife produced several children. His daughter Alice recalled the verbal family history of how she was a mere six months old when she and her family moved in October 1915 to Cherryfield. Another person was able to verify this event by recollecting the fire that destroyed their family's home and their temporary stay during that period in the caretaker's house near McNutt Brook until their home had been rebuilt (Flemming, 2002). Those events thus indicate that the caretaker's house was built between 1912 and 1915 possibly constructed by the City of Moncton.

From 1915 to 1946 Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS was the caretaker of McNutt Brook (also known as McNutt Reservoir and later McLaughlin Road Reservoir) (see, *The Development of the McNutt Brook*) (Roach, 2002; *Might*, 1946). In addition, from 1926 to 1932, he held the office of postmaster to the way-office in Cherryfield (NAC). His daughter Alice recalled that he also was the caretaker of Cherryfield School. Their relocation in 1915 to Cherryfield included Thomas Edward, his wife Celestina (nee PORIER) (1885-1958) of Notre Dame, and their children Marjorie, Irene, Fred (d.1942), George, and young Alice.

In the following years, the family would grow to include several more children: Arthur, Tom, Ernie, Harold, Russell and Bernard. Sadly, two of the ten children, Arthur and Bernard, died during infancy (Roach, 2002). Alice FITZSIMMONS remembers the interior of the family home with an armchair near the stove and how one of her brothers found it a comfortable area to study until he graduated from high school, while another brother preferred the outdoors life. Also, she recollects her father's role as postmaster and how the customers used the back door rather than the front door because it gave better access to the postmaster's desk. The long driveway allowed those in the house to see the visitors and the customers approaching. After entering the house, the customers would walk through the kitchen and to the north west corner of the dining room where the post office desk was located. Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS was appointed the third and final postmaster of the Cherryfield Post Office. During his term in office, he witnessed the inaugural flight of air mail postal service and was one of the first people in the community to have a telephone installed (New Brunswick Telephone Co. Ltd., 1919) (see, Air Mail Postal Services). In the spring of 1932, the Cherryfield Post Office closed and rural mail delivery commenced within this community (NAC).

In the arid summer of 1946 the caretaker of McNutt Brook retired and moved to Dieppe (Roach, 2002). Then on October 3, 1946, Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS passed away (*Moncton Daily Times*). The sheer number of people who attended the funeral indicates the respect held for the former postmaster and caretaker of the Brook. Condolence was expressed by numerous individuals, as well as organizations such as the Federal Labour Union, Local 378 of the International Brotherhood Boiler-makers, the Moncton Civic employees, the Moncton Police Athletic Assoc., the Staff of the Regional Office UIC., and the Water and Light Department employees (*Moncton Daily Times*).

As mentioned, the house was sold in 1947 and moved to its present location where over several decades it underwent renovations. A new dwelling was constructed later near McNutt Brook for Mr. Lee WILLISTON (d. ca. 1990) who was its final caretaker.



**Figure 41**

The dwelling occupied by Lee WILLISTON, final caretaker of McLaughlin Road Reservoir. In the foreground and to the right was the schoolhouse premises. In 1911, Duncan MacDOUGALL resided further to the right where there are trees.

## **Air Mail Postal Services**

### **From McNutt Brook To The Magdalen Islands**

In 1928, hundreds of people from the Moncton area clambered over or drove through snow drifts in frigid exterior temperatures to get a first hand view of the first plane to have landed upon the frozen reservoir in Cherryfield. While flying from the manufacturing plant in New York to Quebec, the crew incurred unfavourable weather and were then diverted to McNutt Brook, adjacent to the McLaughlin Road where they landed safely. Inclement weather and lack of regular weather forecasts caused several delays for this plane en-route to its maiden voyage for regular Air Mail Postal Service to the Magdalen Island. This aircraft was commissioned by the Post Office Department in Ottawa (*Moncton Transcript*, 1928; *Telegraph Journal*, 1928; *Times and Transcript*, 1961).

The plane was manufactured by Fairchild Airplane Manufacturing Corporation of Farmingdale, Long Island in the State of New York, U. S. A. It was a five-passenger cabin Fairchild plane, sixty-five feet in length. It had a Pratt and Whitney “wasp” engine of 420 horse power. Fuel consumption for this type of engine ranged between sixteen and twenty gallons per hour, and the plane had capabilities of flying at one hundred and forty-five miles per hour. Equipped with night flying apparatus, floats and ski pontoons, the plane also had a fuselage of one hundred and thirty imperial gallons. In the fuselage was a chute to drop mail in the event the plane was unable to make a landing. The maximum cargo capacity was one thousand and five hundred pounds (*Moncton Transcript*, 1928). The registration identified it as “G-CA10” (Roach, 2002).

The aircrew for the flight from New York to Cherryfield was Captain E. J. (Ted) COOPER, formerly of England, late of U. S. A., pilot, and Earl A. RICHARDSON, of U.S.A., mechanic. Before the flight’s departure, the destination was Quebec but after experiencing snow flurries with poor visibility the pilot chose to divert the plane to Boston then fly to the Province of New Brunswick since this was a more direct route to the Magdalen Islands. The flight from Rockaway Flying Field in New York to Saint John covered six hundred and twenty miles in five hours and fifteen minutes. From Saint John to Moncton along the Bay of Fundy was an additional ninety-eight miles, with a flight time of fifty-five minutes. Originally, the plane’s arrival in Moncton was expected at 4 p. m. Wednesday, January 4, but it eventually landed at 3:15 p.m. Saturday, January 7. In between these times, the pilot communicated with the Post Office Department in Ottawa with the anticipation of a night landing.

Arrangements were then made between the latter and various parties in Moncton whereby lights would be placed on the frozen McNutt Brook to form a landing strip, and a local company supplied oil and gas to refuel the plane for its flight to the Magdalen Islands. However, with further delays the plane landed during daylight hours of the following day but not before circling over the City of Moncton at a low altitude and alerting the citizens of its arrival (*Moncton Transcript*, 1928; *Telegraph Journal*, 1928; *Times and Transcript*, 1961).

Later, dignitaries officially welcomed the crew and inspected the plane. The inaugural flight of the Air Mail Postal Service was postponed until Thursday, January 12. In between these events, a local bus company saw a business opportunity. The Grey Bus Line Co., Limited of Moncton placed an advertisement in the local paper announcing that bus tours would commence on Sunday afternoon January 8, with departures every thirty minutes from Moncton's city center to Cherryfield. Throughout this Sunday afternoon, the intersection of Church and St. George Streets was crowded with people waiting to board buses to go and view this unusual sight. A reported total of three to four hundred people travelled from midday to sunset along the McLaughlin Road and resembled something of a mass exodus from the city center. The influx of people into the small community of Cherryfield included pedestrians and motorists, who with the buses created much traffic congestion along the McLaughlin Road which had, in 1924, been "ditched and lined" (*Moncton Transcript*). Compounding the situation further were the stranded motorists who got stuck in the snow banks along either side of this road. Nevertheless, the atmosphere was generally amiable because people assisted stranded motorists too eager to get to their destination (*Moncton Transcript*, 1924, 1928; *Telegraph Journal*, 1928). It is doubtful that the residents of Cherryfield have since seen anything similar in their community.

Two people who still today remember this event were at the time just young children. Their memories of this event were confirmed through newspaper reports. One of these two saw a similar opportunity as the bus company to make money. She and her brother stood at the entrance to McNutt Brook on their father's property requesting a small donation from the public on their way to see the plane. People generally gave five to ten cents. However, their revenue was cut short when the Post Master of Cherryfield learned of the children's emerging entrepreneurial skills (Roach, 2002).

Officials involved with the ceremonies of the inaugural flight between Moncton and the Magdalen Islands included the following persons:

D. McBEATH, municipality of the Moncton, city engineer,  
J. S. HENDERSON, Department Postmaster,  
Messr. HERRING of the Postal Department in Ottawa,  
G. DeMERS, of the Postal Department in Ottawa,  
A. POULIOT of the Postal Service Department in Quebec,  
Dr. CUISIMER, general manager of the Canadian Transcontinental Airway  
Service of Murray Bay in Quebec

Dr. Cuisimer travelled with the pilot on the maiden voyage from McNutt Brook while the mechanic returned to New York. On Thursday, January 12, the plane departed to Grindstone Island. The anticipated hour of return for this round trip was at 2:07 p.m. the same day. A Moncton newspaper reported good weather as the plane travelled across Prince Edward Island and situated itself over Charlottetown, P. E. I., at 3:15 p. m. on its return flight (*Moncton Transcript*, 1928). On the other hand, the *Telegraph Journal* of Saint John, N. B., painted a different picture about the return trip to Moncton. Sixty miles before arriving at Moncton the pilot ran into a crippling snow storm and made an emergency landing at a small bay. An account was given in the following days that the plane was disabled for two days at Peacock's Cove, near Cape Tormentine. Since the plane could not be easily freed, arrangements were made for a team of horses to drag it onto land where the pilot managed to take off. He arrived at midday on Saturday at Moncton.

During the initial period of this postal service, the crew and plane were fraught with unpredictable flying weather, and later, officials concluded that McNutt Brook was not large enough as a landing strip. Another location was then sought and representatives from the City of Moncton, and Canadian Transcontinental Airway Service discussed the possibility of two sites, namely, Cook's Brook Lake situated along the Shediac Road, and Memramcook Lake. On January 18, the plane landed at Cooke's Brook after completing a round trip to the Magdalen Islands in five hours (*Telegraph Journal*, 1928). In hindsight, the decision to terminate the usage of McNutt Brook landing strip may have been prudent since there may have been a risk of aircraft fuel spilling into the reservoir that could have had a disastrous effect upon the Moncton 's supply of drinking water.

Postscript: In 1929 an air show was organized and a decade later the first passenger flight service was available in the region. In between these events, a flight training school opened in Moncton, and regular weather forecasts came into use.

Moncton Airport (formerly known as the Lakeburn Airport) has now been operational for over sixty years (*Times and Transcript*, 1961). As a consequence of the Air Mail Postal Service, a cross-licensing agreement was made between the plane manufacturer, Fairchild Airplane Manufacturing Corporation of Long Island, N. Y. and Canadian Vickers Limited of Montreal, Province of Quebec.

This agreement included opportunities for the latter to increase sales within the private market. Also, Canadian aviation businesses were able to obtain service with Canadian owned service companies in the larger cities of the U. S. A. and Mexico, as well, open new air routes between Canada, U. S. A. and Mexico (*Moncton Transcript*, 1928).

## The Development Of McNutt Brook

The project of developing McNutt Brook into a Reservoir eventually transformed the lands along the west side of McLaughlin Road granted to James GUNNING, John HUMPHREY, S. HUMPHREY, A. McKAY, John STEADMAN, and Stephen H. SHAW totalling 1179 acres (Province of New Brunswick, 1988; Community Planning Branch 1973; Beauséjour; City of Moncton). However, with later additions the limits of the watershed now total 1881.59 acres (McKinnon, M., 1987).

The transformation began in 1908 when an engineer, representing the City of Moncton, emphasized the need for a new source of drinking water, the existing one being spread over a huge swamp in a “lowland area” (*Daily Times*). At the end of the year, City Council adopted a Bill whereby the Water and Light Department became a commission rather than a department. Then, in 1909 the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in Fredericton passed an Act of a similar nature, as well as another Act allowing the City of Moncton to issue debentures. The new Water and Light Commission consisted of a chairperson and two officers. The former had a mandate of two years but could be removed from office by City Council while the latter were appointed annually by Moncton City Council. The annual salary for the chairperson was \$1,800 and each officer received not more than \$120 per year. Briefly, this commission had the responsibility of administering, managing, maintaining, and operating the water and lighting system of the City of Moncton. In 1910 Crown Land and surveys were obtained by the City of Moncton at the expense of \$538.57 and in the following year, the City Council agreed to commence the construction of a new reservoir (Annual Report, 1910; Tibbits, R. W. L., 1909; *Daily Times*, 1911).

A number of right of way documents and land deeds drawn up between representatives for the City of Moncton and landowners of Cherryfield were located for this research in the land registry office and at City Hall. Several grantors were BROWN, BULMER, CHANDLER, HENDERSON, HUMPHREY, MacDOUGALL, NICHOL, and WILBUR. On Friday November 8, 1912 *The Daily Times* reported that Alderman FRYERS relayed the interest of Mr. HORSEMAN in selling his tract of land for \$20 an acre with the condition that he be granted the right to remove timber for two or three years from the land. John WINTER sold a right of way and a deed to the City of Moncton for his property where the old pumping station already stood. Other grantors include ALLEN, AYER, CARPENTER, FITZSIMMONS, FRYERS, GOODALL, LUTZ, and McKINNON (Annual Report, 1910; 1912; Beauséjour). In one instance, the municipality purchased the land and farm structures of David GOODALL.

## Tenders for Dam.

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and marked "Tender for Dam" will be received until 12 O'CLOCK NOON, JULY 27th, 1911, for the construction of a reservoir dam, etc., at McNutt Brook, according to plans and specifications which may be seen at the City Engineer's office, and where forms of tender may be obtained.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified bank cheque made payable to the City Treasurer, equal to three per cent. of the amount of tender, which will be forfeited if the party whose tender is accepted fails to enter into a contract and will be returned if tender is not accepted.

The City Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

J. EDINGTON,  
City Engineer,  
City of Moncton

Figure 42 "Tenders for Dam."

## TENDERS

### City of Moncton, N.B.

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned and marked "Tender for Pipe Line," will be received at the City Office, Moncton, N. B., up to FIVE O'CLOCK P. M., AUGUST 15TH, 1911, for excavating and refilling trenches, laying and joining pipes from the City of Moncton to the new reservoir, according to plans and specifications to be seen at the City Engineer's Office, where forms of tender may be obtained.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified bank cheque made payable to the Treasurer of the City of Moncton, equal to three per cent. of amount of tender, which will be forfeited if the party whose tender is accepted fails to enter into a contract, and will be returned if tender is not accepted.

The City Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

J. EDINGTON,  
City Engineer,  
Moncton, N. B., July 28th, 1911.

Figure 43 A request for Tenders for Pipe Line.

The newspaper noted that the sale of his residence, wagon house and piggery building was to be advertised by posters at various locations (Daily Times, 1912; Beauséjour).

During the course of building the reservoir, Duncan McDOUGALL had taken photographs and payments for his services are recorded in the *Annual Report for the City of Moncton, 1912*. A recent search for such photographs failed to produce anything, so the possibility exists that these items were destroyed in 1914 when a fire occurred at City Hall. On a happier note, the Plans of the City, and The Moncton Assessment Plan Of Property were stated to have been stored safe from the fire (Daily Times, 1914). In 1914, Percy CRANDALL was also paid for a series of photographs that presently cannot be located either (Annual Report, 1914).

Constructing the foundation of the dam required the moving of approximately ten thousand yards of earth at a cost of three thousand dollars. The supervision of such was given to John M. BROWN and the inspection to Thomas FITZSIMMONS (1843-1922) who had experience in his capacity as Caretaker of Fitzsimmons Reservoir. Fred and Irvine LEWIS cleared the land while J. S. McMANUS & Co., was contracted to construct the dam and build a new reservoir at McNutt Brook. C. E. FISH was initially hired to lay a pipe line and was so eager, that he commenced work even prior to producing a bond under the terms of the tender. CANADA I & T LABORATORIES tested the pipe line and O. H. TRITES cleaned it. The material for the line was purchased from CANADA IRON CORPORATION CO., transported via INTER-COLONIAL FREIGHT AGENT, then hauled by Stewart TRITES, and SUMNER CO. The line from the reservoir to the pumping station via a bridge over Hall's Creek, measured 15,390 feet. MONCTON STABLES, H. S. STEEVES, and W. A. HUMPHREY were chosen to provide horses while Roy ALEXANDER and Charles BULMER took care of the transportation of the stones. (Daily Times, 1911, 1912; Annual Report, 1912; *Moncton Daily Times*, 1912). This list of companies and individuals hired for work in the construction of the new reservoir is not exhaustive.

The construction of a dam, gate house, and reservoir at McNutt Brook was completed in 1914 with a total expenditure exceeding \$370,000.00. On December 17, 1914, the new water supply was turned on for use in the City of Moncton and in spite of a dry summer the reservoir had seventy-five million Imperial Gallons (one quarter of its capacity). Also, there was sufficient pressure to supply water to all homes, even to the highest elevation in the City of Moncton (*Moncton Daily Times*, 1913; Annual Report, 1914).

## THE MAYOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Gentlemen: I herewith submit my report as Mayor for your consideration for the past year.

Our new water system is about completed and the long suffering and patient residents on the higher levels have at last been given a good service. You will notice by the figures given below that we have paid on this account about \$371,000.00, which will necessitate a further issue of bonds to complete payments now due and some work yet to be done. The amount expended on this work will mean a large interest item and I would strongly urge the governing Council to practice every economy, as for some years it will be difficult to make ends meet. Should Moncton grow, and we are satisfied it will, the system should be a splendid asset, as there is ample water for a city of 200 thousand people.

#### WATER & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT.

(Since the commencement of the construction of the new service.)

Income.	
Balance in Bank November 30th, 1910.....	\$ 2,745 7
1911.	
Cash received from Bills Receivable .....	2,225 5
Cash from sale of land to A. A. Tuttle .....	100 0
Cash from sale of land to G. T. P. Railway .....	1,520 4
Proceeds sale of \$100,000 Bonds @ 99.03.....	99,030 0
Interest on Funds .....	600 0
1912.	
Cash from sale of land to Dr. F. H. Price .....	90 0
Proceeds sale of \$130,000 Bonds @ 95.625 .....	124,312 5
Accrued interest on Bonds before delivery .....	647 0
1913.	
Proceeds sale of \$100,000 Bonds @ 97.25 .....	97,250 0
1914.	
Interest on Funds .....	900 0
Cash from sale of land to John Brown .....	872 0
Proceeds sale of \$25,000 Bonds @ 99.12 .....	24,653 0
	<b>\$367,300</b>
Expenditure.	
1911.	
Construction Acct. Oct. and Nov. 1910.....	\$ 3,595 10
Electric Light Construction, 1911.....	522 44
Water Construction City Service .....	7,575 44
Water Construction McNutt Service .....	46,450 95
1912.	
Water Construction City Service .....	8,006 71
Water Construction McNutt Service .....	132,390 87
1913.	
Water Construction City Service .....	8,537 75
Water Construction McNutt Service.....	107,195 25
1914.	
Water Construction City Service .....	11,028 77
Water Construction McNutt Service .....	85,204 90
	<b>\$418,000</b>
Overdraft at Bank, Const. Account November 30th,	
1914 .....	\$ 42,400 0
Note.—McNutt Service cost in addition to above amount \$438.57 expended 1910 for Crown Land and Surveys.	
During the past five years we have paid \$70,817 39 of Bonds out of the surplus from the earnings of this department.	
Had we done as our predecessors have done, re-issued Bonds to pay this amount, we would have shown a surplus on operating account at the end of the fiscal year, November 30th, 1914, \$86,442.30, whereas we only show a plus of \$15,624.91.	

Figure 44 "Extracts from the City of Moncton Blue Book."

The development of McNutt Brook into a reservoir was at the time a huge undertaking by the municipality. The only fatality during the construction project appears to have been a grey horse that drowned in Hall's Creek (Annual Report, 1914). In spite of the sheer acreage involved and the number of residents relocated, there was only a couple of controversial issues that came to light. One case involving Bessie B. WILKINS went to arbitration (N.B.R.). In another case, there was a boisterous incident that *The Transcript* reported about on January 20, 1913, where, during a public meeting Messrs. BROWN, FRYERS, and WILBUR, spokespersons for the landowners, brought to light a discrepancy in acreage in a purchase and sale agreement. At stake were ten acres of three hundred and seven acres surveyed by Mr. McBEATH and also owned by B. B. WILKINS. It was alleged that the City of Moncton had received these ten acres without payment to the landowner. Also in 1914, Alderman McAnn, an arbitrator in B. WILKINS case above, claimed that land transactions between one landowner and the City of Moncton had not been recorded or registered as a land deed (Annual Report, 1914; *Daily Times*, 1915; *Transcript*, 1914).

During the 1920's, additional land acquisitions were made in and around Cherryfield by the City of Moncton as well as adjustments and improvements to the reservoir and the gatehouse. It was recommended that the dam be raised to one hundred and forty-four feet (an additional 3.5 feet), with material found on-site and with puddle clay. Such work would provide a capacity of 670,000,000 imperial gallons and an elevation of the water way to one hundred and forty feet (about four more feet), thus providing an additional 80,000,000 gallons. In addition, a new Pumping Station was built and began operations with a chlorination of the water. The distance the water was pumped from the McNutt Reservoir to the new Pumping station was more than three miles through a pipe of 20 inches in diameter. George MITCHELL was the city engineer for the new pumping station, and J. D. MCBEATH, city engineer, was the spokesperson for the chlorination program and in charge of assuring the general public that the water was safe to drink (Times Printing Co., 1922, 1924; Annual Report, 1926, 1927; *Daily Times*, 1926; *Moncton Transcript*, 1926). Perhaps the most notable event regarding the water supply in 1924 was a chart made up from surveys obtained in 1922 from which the water capacities during the dry season could easily be determined (Times Printing Co., 1924). Surveys of the dam were completed in 1926 by Gregoire LeBLANC, Thomas McQUADE and Arron STEEVES (*Daily Times*).

Further transfers of land titles took place in the 1940's, as well as major work involving land clearance, build-up of the dam, replacement of old equipment and overhaul of the distribution system at an estimated cost of \$130,000. WHEATON BROTHERS LIMITED was awarded the contract. This involved the removal of trees and stumps around the reservoir "between elevation 136 and 142.5."



**Figure 45** A work crew clearing shrub at McNutt Brook.  
Far left in front row is T. E. FITZSIMMONS.

## TENDER

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Tenders will be received by the undersigned for the clearing of land at McNutt Reservoir. Specifications can be obtained at the office of the City Engineer. Tenders to close 5 p.m., December 18, 1942. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

W. A. MacWILLIAM,  
Superintendent Water & Light  
Dept.

12-17..

**Figure 46**  
A request for tenders to clear land at McNutt Reservoir.

Also, fallen trees and debris were removed from several brooks that flowed into this reservoir. Reid MCMANUS, contractor, was hired to raise the dam by five feet. This involved removing 25,000 cu. yds of soil around the area of the berm, removing the rip rap and constructing a spillway made of concrete. On November 15, 1944, Reid MCMANUS had fulfilled his duties under the terms of the contract (*Daily Times*, 1943; Annual Report, 1944, 1945; The Times Printing Co., 1943). One of the labourers who was employed for this project was Edmond MCDUFF. He was just fifteen years of age in 1943 when he used to witness stone being blasted at the stone quarry. He would then load stones onto a wooden sledge that a team of horses would drag to the site of the dam for unloading. He remembers the owners of the horse teams as George HORSEMAN, Billy KILLAM, Jack SEAMAN, and Warren WILSON. Replacement of the worn and inefficient equipment in the pumping station was undertaken. Work along the three mile pipe line from McNutt Brook to the pumping station included replacement of valve chambers, repairs to air valves and twenty-four leaks in the distribution mains (15" dia.) and service pipes (9" dia.). As already mentioned, in 1914 a single pipe of twenty inches carried the water from the reservoir to the pumping station, but, in 1943, the water system running between these two locations was changed to two pipes of various dimensions converging into a 20 inch pipe near the pumping station where the water was chlorinated (*Daily Times*, 1943; Annual Report, 1944, 1945). Frank WEIR was the foreman of the station during this era when the daily average consumption of water was 4,238,167 gallons (*Moncton Transcript*, 1942; Annual Report, 1945).

Witnesses to all these projects were Thomas Edward FITZSIMMONS and his dog "Cappy." He resided in a municipally owned house that was in need of repairs in 1943, then after he retired was purchased, in 1947, by Mrs. Vera BULMER and moved to a different location (see page 64) (*Daily Times*, 1943; *Moncton Daily Times*, 1943; *Moncton Daily Times*, 1947). Mr. FITZSIMMONS job included measuring in feet the maximum and minimum levels above the datums, totalling the number of days the water overflowed, and recording the quantity of water flowing over the waste way in Imperial Gallons (Annual Report, 1922; Roach, 2002; *Moncton Daily Times*, 1943). Another of his tasks involved cleaning the screens of debris at the gate house situated near the dam (see page 80). After walking back to his home he would phone the information to a representative for the City of Moncton. In addition to this, he would measure each rainfall via a container located near his residence (Roach, 2002). This information was compiled and included in each of the *Annual Reports of the City Moncton* thus providing statistical data about the state of the resources of McNutt Brook over the years.



**Figure 47** The gatehouse at McNutt Reservoir, about 1942. Unidentified person in the photo.



**Figure 48** The gatehouse and bridge at McNutt Reservoir (now known as McLaughlin Reservoir) can be traced back to 1914 when R. C. BACON did work on it.

Today, the McLaughlin reservoir has become a secondary source of water supply for the city of Moncton. A new treatment plant using the water of the Turtle Creek Reservoir in Albert County is servicing Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview (*Times & Transcript*, 1998).

In the summer of 2002, the opportunity arose for this writer to visit the McNutt Reservoir and the view from the dam looking north towards Lutz Mountain was spectacular. Nearby were numerous pin cherry trees in blossom. The call of a Killdear could be heard and a black duck, perhaps a coot, was sighted before it dived into the water. Plants growing on the premises of the former caretaker's home included blueberries, wild strawberries and rhubarb. Also, blood-twig dogwood shrubs were conspicuous, as well as hawthorn trees, chokecherry, pine and maple. In the vicinity of the former GOODALL piggery one can find today raspberry stalks, strawberry plants, and remnants of pots and pans that are fragments of a community that thrived at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century at McNutt Brook and along the west side of McLaughlin Road in Cherryfield. Bear, deer, moose, racoon, a few salamanders and flocks of birds are now the sole occupants of the land around the hidden reservoir and the cry of a solitary loon remind us of its presence behind the trees.



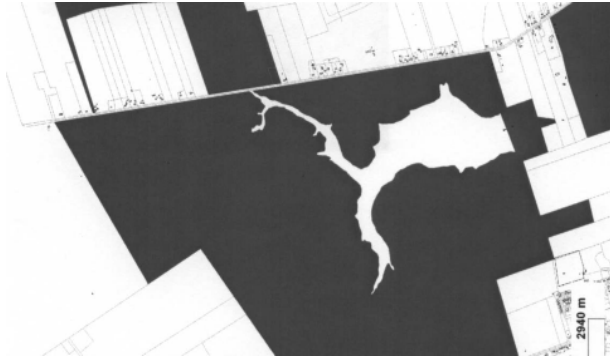
**Figure 49**  
Spillway at McLaughlin Road Reservoir.  
At left are Pin Cherry trees in blossom.



**Figure 50**  
Northeast side of McLaughlin  
Road Reservoir, adjacent to No.  
2 Well.



**Figure 51**  
Near No. 5 Well and looking north to No. 2 Well.

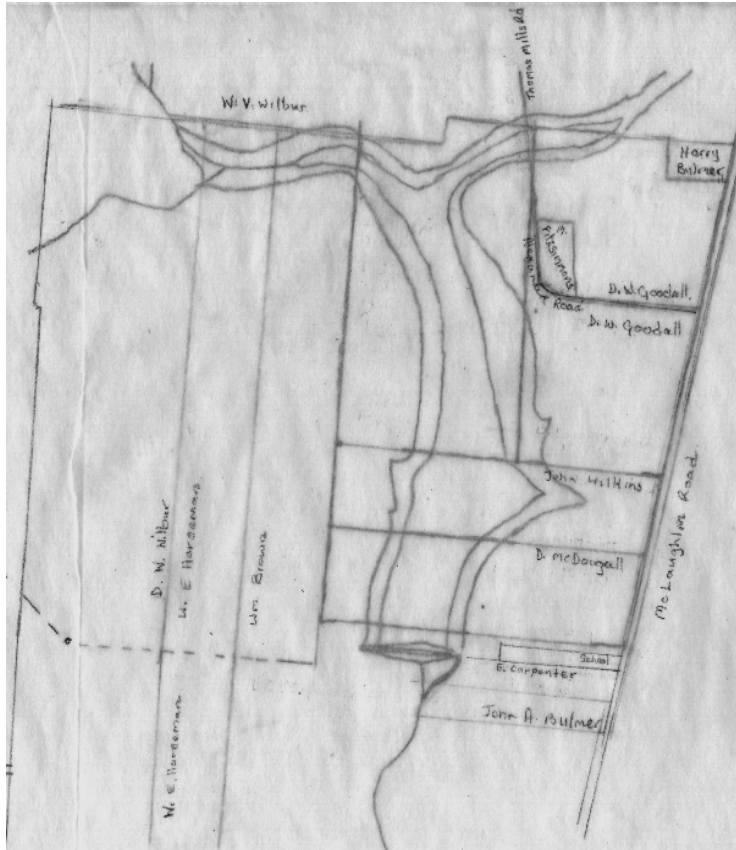


**Figure 52**  
Limits of watershed surrounding McLaughlin Road Reservoir

## **Summary**

Cherryfield was once a farming community which over time has changed, in great part, due the development of McNutt Brook that served as a primary source of water supply to the City of Moncton. Today, Cherryfield has become part of the urban area in the City of Moncton in the Province of New Brunswick.

# Appendix I



This plan is a combination of four different plans illustrating the proximity of selected landowners to McNutt Brook and for no other purpose. (Not drawn to scale.)  
(Source: Beauséjour Region-Moncton, Westmorland/Albert Registry)

## Appendix II

### A Shopping Basket Of Monday, February 1, 1897

“The Moncton Market.”

Corrected to January 25 [1897]

(Source: The Daily Transcript. Vol. XVII. No. 241).

Lamb	1 lb.	5 cents	6	Potatoes	Bushel	35 cents	00
Mutton	1 lb.	4 cents	5	Turnips	Bus.	40 cents	00
Beef, butcher	1 lb.	3 cents	5	Carrots	Bus.	40 cents	00
Pork carcass	1 lb.	5 cents	0	Parsnips	Bus.	60 cents	00
Chicken	pair	35 cents	50	Cabbage		6 cents	00
Fowls		35 cents	0	Beets	Bus.	40 cents	00
Geese		50 cents	65	Pumpkin	1 lb.	1 cent	0
Duck	pre pair	50 cents	0	Onion	1 lb.	2 1/2 cent	0
Turkey	1 lb.	10 cents	11	Squash	1 lb.	1 cent	0
Beef Tongues	each	15 cents	20	Savory	Bunch	0	0
Herring	dozen	10 cents	0	Sage	Bunch	0	0
Shad		12 cents	0	Citron		3 cents	0
Haddock		3 cents	0	Cheese	1 lb.	8 cents	0
Codfish		0	05	Eggs		00	20
Salmon	1 lb.	20 cents	25	Butter	Tub	0	16
Mackerel	piece	15 cents	00	Butter, Rolls	1 lb.	18 cents	20
Smelt	1 lb.	5 cents	6	Lard	1 lb.	12 cents	00
Eel	1 lb.	10 cents	00	Buckwheat meal	Cwt.	\$1.00	00
Bass		12 cents	00	Oats	Bus.	25 cents	00
Oyster	bbbl.	\$3.50	00	Maple sugar		10 cents	00
Lambskins		45 cents	00	Apples	Bbl.	\$1.25	00
Calfskin	1 lb.	6	00	Honey	1 lb.	20 cents	0
Hides	1 lb.	4 cents	4 1/2	Cranberries	Bog qt.	54 cents	00
Yarn	1 lb.	50 cents	0	Cranberries			
Socks	pair	15 cents	20	n.b.	per qt.	10 cents	00

## Appendix III

### Fruits For Easter At G. H. Gunning store

(Source: Moncton Transcript April 12, 1922 pg. 8)

Pineapples,	each	40 cents.
Grapefruit,	2 for	25 cents.
Hot Cross Buns,	per dozen	25 cents.
Whipping Cream,	per quart	60 cents.

### Easter Offerings At The Moncton Co-operative Ltd., 286 St. George Str.,

(Source: Moncton Transcript April 12, 1922 pg. 8)

Sugar cured picnic Hams,	per lb.	27 cents.
Choice breakfast bacon,	per lb.	45 cents.
New laid eggs, guaranteed,	per doz.	33 cents.
Buckwheat meal	10 lbs.	65 cents.
Molasses	per gallon.	79 cents.

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