



BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Bedeque Area Historical Society

Newsletter 13

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Members and Friends of Bedeque Area Historical Society,

We are pleased to send you our end of summer Newsletter. The Museum has been open from June 28 to September 4, staffed by our two student workers, Nigel Waite and Callie Campbell, and has been visited by over 450 people, which is a considerable rise from last year. A special occasion was the visit by more than one hundred members of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada in July. Our new Loyalist exhibit has been set up and new donations of artifacts have been made to the Museum. We have also held a series of talks which attracted about 140 people. And one of our members, Earle Lockerby, has made an exciting discovery concerning the account book (actually a store ledger) of William Schurman, the Loyalist progenitor of all the Schurmans on Prince Edward Island. All of these topics are covered in this newsletter.

United Empire Loyalists from across Canada toured the Bedeque Museum in July.

It was a busy morning in the Bedeque Museum on July 8 when more than a hundred members of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada travelled by bus from Summerside to Bedeque to view the Loyalist monument in Central Bedeque and to see the new exhibit on the Island's

Loyalists in the Museum. The exhibit was in part funded by the national organization. The Annual Meeting and Conference of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada was held for the first time on Prince Edward Island, on July 7-10, with the Abegweit branch (i.e., P.E.I.), headed by BAHS Board member, Peter Vaniderstine, hosting the event, which was based at the Loyalist Inn in Summerside. The following are some of the photos taken of the visit by Board member Don Jardine and others.



Loyalists from across Canada gather at the Loyalist Monument in Central Bedeque.

Town Crier, Mr. Frank Gorham from Amherstburg, Ontario, and a Fernwood summer resident, welcomes the Loyalists to the monument with his stentorian voice.



Paul H. Schurman of Summerside delivers the address at the monument, telling about the contribution that the Loyalists made to the province and in particular the outstanding career of Jacob Gould Schurman, born in Freetown in 1854, who went on to become the president of Cornell University, and later American ambassador to Germany and China between the two world wars.

Nigel Waite of Summerside, one of our two summer student employees, shows the museum to the Hon. Peter Milliken, President of the Kingston Ontario Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association. Peter is the longest serving speaker in the Canadian House of Commons, having retired in 2011 after ten years in the office.





While touring the Museum in Bedeque, Past-President of the UELA of Canada, Bonnie Schepers, and Jim MacKenzie (far right) of New Brunswick, Vice-President of the Atlantic District, pose with Tom Sherry (far left), President of the BAHS and Doug Sobey (second on right), BAHS Board member.



Abegweit Branch president and BAHS Board member, Peter Vaniderstine welcomes the crowd at the monument.

The Mounties provide a safety patrol at Callbecks Corner in Central Bedeque for the large number of people crossing between the monument and the Museum.



The Official Opening of the New Exhibit on the United Empire Loyalists of Prince Edward Island.

On the morning of Saturday July 9 the official opening of the Museum's new Loyalist exhibit took place with over sixty people in attendance, including Member of Parliament, Wayne Easter, who addressed the event. The exhibit consists of three newly designed posters giving background information on the Loyalists: one is on 'The American Revolutionary War', another on 'Who were the Loyalists?', and the third is on: 'Where in the World did the Loyalists Go?'. There are also two posters which tell the story of two local Loyalist families: the family of Alexander Anderson of Sea Cow Head, and the family of John and Mary Murray of North Bedeque.

Also part of the exhibit on its opening day was the unique cane of Peter Schurman (1769-1868) of Central Bedeque, made from the root of a tree. The cane was loaned for the opening by the Wyatt Heritage Centre in Summerside. Also on loan is an old Record Book of the Bedeque Baptist Church, dating from 1854, and containing testimonials by early Loyalists concerning the founding of the church in 1826.

On the opening morning, the public was greeted by Board member, Doug Sobey, and there were also words of welcome, and praise for the exhibit, from M.P. Wayne Easter, from Lesley Caseley, the chair of the P.E.I. Community Museums Association, and from Ron Rayner, the chair of the Bedeque Area Council.

The display is intended to be the forerunner of a much larger exhibit on the United Empire Loyalists of Prince Edward Island which will cover all aspects of the topic and period.



M.P. Wayne Easter says a few words at the official opening.



Part of the new Loyalist display area in the museum.

A Walk along the Historic Dunk River

On Saturday morning June 11 thirteen members of the BAHS and friends gathered at Scales Pond to participate in an historical and natural history walk along the Dunk River Trail led by Doug Sobey. The weather was brilliant, bird song filled the air, and the spring woodland flora was in its full display. The following are some pictures from the outing, several taken by Susan Bouchard.



We gathered in Scales Pond Park before heading onto the trail.





Pink Lady Slippers were in full bloom along the trail.



There were clusters of Blue Bead Lily in several spots.



Doug Sobey points out one of the old trees along the trail

The AGM of Bedeque Area Historical Society.

The AGM of the BAHS was held on Monday 18 July in the Bedeque United Church Hall.

The past Board was re-elected and consists of the following persons: Lloyd MacCallum (President), Percy Affleck (Vice-President), Don Jardine (Secretary), Susan Leard (Treasurer), Bill Callbeck, Greg Corbett, Valerie Curtis, George Read, Tom Sherry, Earl Smith, Doug Sobey, and Peter Vaniderstine.

Memberships for this year were due from the beginning of July (for individuals it is \$20, for families or households, \$25).

Five Summer Talks

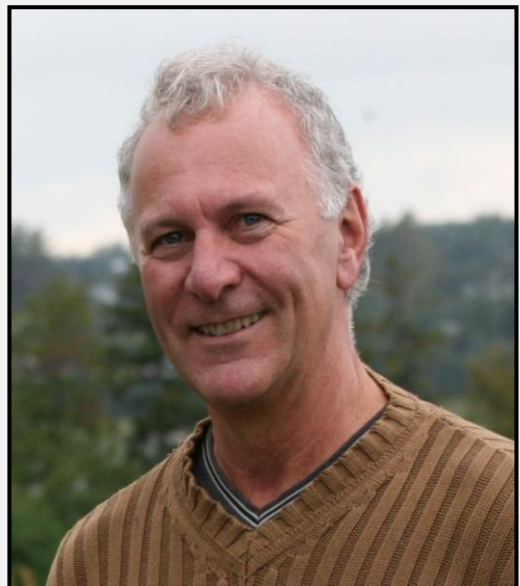
This summer we hosted five evening events involving talks or seminars, four connected with the Loyalists of the Bedeque or wider area, and the other a talk given at our AGM by Georges Arsenault on Acadians in the Bedeque area from the 18th to the 20th century.

The Acadians in the Bedeque Area – from 1750 to the Twentieth Century

On Monday July 25 at our Annual General Meeting, Georges Arsenault, the well-known Acadian historian and folklorist, and the recent recipient of the Order of Canada, who is a summer resident at Fernwood, gave an illustrated talk on **“The Acadians in the Bedeque Area – from 1750 to the Twentieth Century”**.

In his talk Georges described the Acadian community of ‘Bedec’ as it was before the deportation of 1758, and because of the survival in the French Archives of a detailed nominal census carried out in 1752, he was able to put names to some of these early settlers.

He also described the return of the Acadians to the general area in the 1770s, settling along the south shore of Malpeque Bay in what is now Sherbrooke and North St. Eleanors, and the later movement of young Acadians to the Bedeque area from Miscouche and Egmont Bay / Mont Carmel to work on the farms of English-speaking farmers. He also described how these Acadians integrated into the anglophone community in the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and showed pictures of some of these persons.



Georges Arsenault spoke at our AGM.

A History Circle on the Loyalists.

A 'History Circle' on the Loyalists was led by George Dalton and Paul H. Schurman of the Summerside Historical Society on July 18 (both are also members of the BAHS). Those attending were encouraged to bring along any objects that had a connection with the Loyalists. Jean (Cameron) MacDonald of Summerside, and formerly of Albany, showed the Marriage License of her ancestor Stephen Wright of Bedeque which was issued in 1791 and signed by Governor Edmund Fanning. Jean has decided to donate the certificate to the Museum – see elsewhere in this bulletin.

The Monument to the 'Bedeque Harbour Loyalists'.

On Monday August 8 Paul H. Schurman of Summerside, a BAHS member, gave a talk on the events that led to the building of the Loyalist monument in Central Bedeque in 1985 commemorating the 'Bedeque Harbour Loyalists'. Paul illustrated his talk with many photographs of the re-enactment in 1984 of the arrival of the Loyalists at Bedeque in 1784, led by William Schurman, and of the official and festive events connected with the unveiling of the Loyalist monument in 1985.



Paul H. Schurman, Lea Campbell, and Hillard Murray (who was the stonemason in charge) place the final stone on the Loyalist Monument in Central Bedeque Park in 1985.



Herbert B. Schurman, David Schurman and Elmer Waugh in 1984 on the boat representing the sailboat that brought William Schurman and other Loyalists to Bedeque in 1784.



Audrey Waugh (far right) and others during the re-enactment in 1984 of the Loyalist arrival in Bedeque in 1784.

Researching Loyalists on Prince Edward Island.

On Monday August 15, David Walker, a Loyalist genealogist and historian, and a BAHS member, reprised the talk he gave to the national conference of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada in Summerside in July. Titled **'Researching Loyalists on Prince Edward Island'**, David described resources on P.E.I., on-line and on-site, for researching Loyalist interests, and made available a selection of Loyalist-related books for perusal. He also showed the procedures he uses for recording tombstones and cemeteries and he ended his talk with a film showing photographs of people from the past, including many of his ancestors.



David Walker tells the audience about his Loyalist genealogical research methods.

The Murray Family of Bedeque.

On Monday August 22, Doug Sobey of the BAHS gave an illustrated talk, attended by about fifty people, on **'John and Mary Murray of Bedeque and their Descendants'**. Based on the research of Rev. Arthur Murray and his son-in-law Rev. James Lawson in the 1990s, plus his own research into the Murray farmstead in Scotland, Doug followed the movements of John Murray and his family from the banks of the River Esk in Dumfriesshire in 1772, to the foothills of the Catskill mountains, west of Albany in New York, to, finally in 1784, the banks of another river, the Dunk.

John Murray had been a tenant farmer in Scotland. Using detailed maps of the period now in the National Library of Scotland and available online, and the online program Google Earth, Doug showed the Murray farm house in Scotland as it is today, largely unchanged (see picture).

Murray had the misfortune to arrive in the colony of New York just three years before the outbreak of the American Revolution. He then got caught up in the animosities and suspicions of the American Patriots towards recently arrived Scottish settlers. In his own words he was "at different times, by different parties of the Americans, robbed, plundered, threat at length, made prisoner and put in close confinement at Albany, New York. The whole of my property was taken from me, or else wasted and destroyed."

Doug also told about the short story and the novel written by Murray's most famous descendant, Lucy Maud Montgomery, which she based on the story of the marriage of one of John Murray's sons, David Murray, which had been passed down in her family.

If you missed the lecture, a summary of John Murray's story is told in one of the posters in the exhibit in the museum.



The farmstead of John Murray, called Upper Mumbiehurst, in Eskdale, Scotland, as visible on Google Earth. Above is the house, and below, the farm buildings attached to it.



Donation to the Museum of the 1791 Marriage Licence of Stephen Wright of Bedeqe (1768-1841) and Fanny Lord of Tryon River (c.1771-1863).

The Licence was donated to the Museum in July by Jean (Cameron) MacDonald, formerly of Albany and now living in Summerside. Jean is a great-great-grand-daughter of Stephen Wright and Fanny

Jean Cameron MacDonald presents the marriage Licence of Stephen Wright, dating from 1791 to Doug Sobey, representing the Bedeqe Area Museum.



Lord. Her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Wright (1848-1934), was a granddaughter of Stephen Wright.

Jean also donated the family Bible of her great-great grandfather Job Wright (1804-1888), Elizabeth's father, dating from 1880, and containing early photographs of the Wright and Bradshaw families – his daughter Elizabeth had married Wallace Bradshaw (1844-1918) of Oswego Falls, New York, when on a visit to relatives there. Wallace and Elizabeth then moved to Middleton P.E.I. where Wallace took over and farmed his father-in-law's farm. As a young man Wallace had fought in the American Civil War and his sword (see below), which had passed down in the family to Jean, has also been donated to the Museum by Jean, along with a powder horn (see at end of this newsletter) that she said had been passed down with the sword.

All of these items, including the Marriage Licence and the sword are described in *The Wrights of Bedeque*, the great genealogy of the Loyalist Wright family, the work of Doris Muncey Haslam in 1978. We very much appreciate the donation to the Museum by Jean of these important items of Loyalist and local history.



The American Civil War sword and scabbard belonging to Wallace Bradshaw (1844-1918), Jean's great-grandfather, who was born in New York state, but moved to Middleton, PEI.

Wallace Bradshaw, the owner of the sword, as a young man. Jean Cameron MacDonald is Wallace's great-granddaughter and allowed the Museum to copy this picture.



Tracking Down the Account Book of William Schurman, Loyalist

By Earle Lockerby

William Schurman, a Loyalist, came to the Island with family members in 1784, settling at Bedeque. Upon establishing himself, Schurman opened a store, for which he maintained an account book, also known as a ledger. Its first entries were in November 1784; the last entries occurred in 1819, the year in which William died. The account book contains thousands of entries regarding what was sold to whom (approximately 200 customers) and what wages were paid to whom. A wide variety of goods, including rum – lots of rum – ribbons, molasses, tea, coffee, sugar, spices, salt, cutlery, cups and saucers, pails, iron pots, lanterns, paper, ink, linen, flannel, cotton, clothing, axes, saws, tobacco and livestock. As such, the account book was considered to be a valuable and interesting source of information about the early settlement of Bedeque and a widely surrounding area. Its importance was recognized by George A. Leard who wrote a series of articles in 1939 in *The Guardian* about the account book and, among others, Ross Graves, who devoted a couple of pages to it in his work, *William Schurman, Loyalist of Bedeque, Prince Edward Island and his Descendants*, published in 1973.

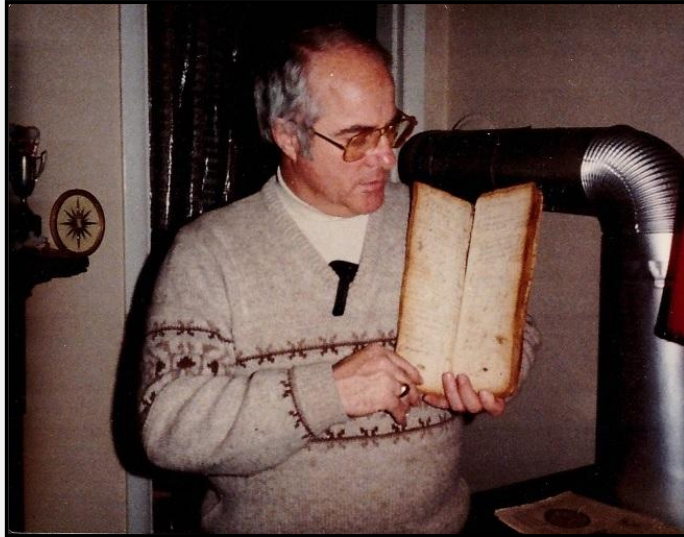
In 1983 the account book was in the possession of a descendant of William Schurman, Miss Enid Barwise of Ross's Corner, North Bedeque, a fact revealed to the Bedeque Area Historical Society this summer by Paul H. Schurman. Paul further revealed that in 1983 Miss Barwise was also in possession of a gnarled



Paul H. Schurman holding the cane of Peter Schurman, with Enid Barwise, holding William Schurman's account book, in 1983.

wooden cane, made from a tree root that once belonged to Peter Schurman, one of William's sons. Paul told how the late Peter Pope of Summerside managed to

track down the cane in the home of a Schurman descendant in Truro, Nova Scotia and was instrumental in having it “repatriated” to P.E.I. – it now belongs to the City of Summerside and is displayed in the MacNaught History Centre.



Paul H. Schurman with William Schurman’s account book, in 1983.

This summer Doug Sobey of the Bedeque Area Historical Society, initiated a search for William Schurman’s account book. He contacted Paul H. Schurman who told him what he knew of the account book, and Doug also found that Island author Jim Hornby had mentioned the book in his 1991 work, *Black Islanders* – Jim had

referred to William Schurman in the context of Schurman’s two black slaves who had accompanied

him to P.E.I. Jim had written that the account book was “said to be in the possession of Gordon Schurman of Truro”. It was at this point that I volunteered to take on the challenge of tracking down the account book.

My research began with Gordon Schurman and his family. I discovered that Gordon had died in 2008 but that he had a son, Wayne, and two daughters who were still living. Through the website, Canada 411, I tracked down Wayne, who, it turned out, had no knowledge of either the cane or the account book. After checking with a sister, he advised me that she also had no knowledge of the account book, although she remembered the cane. I also checked with Jim Hornby, but he was unable to recall how he learned back in 1991 of the location of the account book in Truro.

As a last-ditch effort, I attempted to track down Ross Graves through the internet but without success. However, I did find an obituary for the second husband of the former Mrs. Ross Graves. This further dampened my spirits since it suggested that Ross Graves was perhaps deceased. From Graves’ book and from internet

sources I learned that Graves had a daughter and two sons. The daughter had a fairly unusual first name, which facilitated research on where she might live and how she might be contacted. It turned out that she lives in Halifax and works for the provincial Department of the Environment. I spoke with her on the phone and learned that her father was very much alive, still possessed an excellent mind, and was currently away on vacation. She offered to take up with him the question of where the account book was in 1973 when he wrote that it was then “in the possession of a great-great-great grand-daughter” of William Schurman, whom he did not identify in the book.

I then waited for a few days, trying not to get my hopes up too high and thinking that Ross Graves might after 43 years, have a faded memory of the account book and its whereabouts at that earlier point in time. Imagine my excitement upon receiving an e-mail from him, informing me that in 2013 he inadvertently discovered that the account book was at the P.E.I. Archives and Records Office (PARO) in Charlottetown! What a surprise – and what good news – following the thought that the account book had left the Island and might no longer be traceable – indeed might no longer exist.

Readers of this newsletter may think that the PARO would have been an obvious place to search from the outset. What had detracted myself, and Doug, from checking the PARO near the beginning of our quest was the belief that the account book had accompanied the cane to Truro, and like the cane, had become a possession of the late Gordon Schurman. It was generally accepted that the account book did not accompany the cane back to the Island. With such “conventional wisdom” in mind, the search quickly became an “off-Island” search. As it turns out, the account book has apparently never left the Island!

I have not yet determined who donated the account book to the PARO but have learned that in 1994 it was loaned to the PARO by Michael Schurman (a son of the late Harold B. Schurman) for microfilming, after which it was returned to its owner. It is a very good thing that the account book has been microfilmed because, in the words of the PARO, it is “in very fragile condition, having come loose from its binding with pages stained and crumbling at the edges”. Despite its

sometimes faded ink and delicate condition, the account book, which is about 12 inches high, 3 inches wide and 1 inch thick, provides us with a wealth of information about the early settlers of the Bedeque area, including the Loyalists. I am pleased that this valuable artifact is safely lodged and preserved on P.E.I. in the provincial archives where it may be viewed. In order to minimize further damage and deterioration, those who are interested in researching the contents of the account book should do so by utilizing the microfilm.

Some News Articles from our Summer Employees, Nigel Waite and Callie Campbell:

From Callie Campbell:

What is it like to dress from the 1800's? Well, let me tell you!!

I'm Callie Campbell, one of the summer student employees, and when I first heard I had to wear a Loyalist costume, I wasn't sure what to expect. People dressed very differently in the 1780s than they do today. In the summer, I will wear shorts and a T-shirt. Back then, girls my age would wear a long dress or skirt that touched the ground, usually with petticoats, knee-high stockings, aprons, and a corset (see my picture below). As I experienced this summer, it can get quite warm wearing a long, heavy, skirt. I can't imagine dressing like that all the time. Guests do enjoy the costumes though.



Callie Campbell, with Nigel Waite, in front of the copper boiler brought from Quebec in the 1780s by the Loyalist soldier Alexander Anderson who settled at Sea Cow Head.

From Nigel Waite:

We have had a very successful year at the Bedeque and Area Historical Museum, with over 450 visitors coming through our doors, which is more than ever before. Visitors of all ages came from far and wide to visit the museum and hear the stories and see our collection. Our visitors have come from all over Canada, the United States, and even from Europe and Asia. While many visitors have varying interests, many came to the museum to view the new Loyalist exhibit. The addition of this exhibit also encouraged many who had already visited the museum at one time, to come and see it again.

Three items in the Museum collection chosen by our two student employees for this newsletter:

A spinning wheel is a machine used to turn fibre into thread or yarn. This thread or yarn is then woven as cloth on a loom. The spinning wheel's essential function is to combine and twist fibers together to form a thread or yarn and then gather the twisted thread on a bobbin or stick so that it may be used as yarn for the loom. Colonists brought the design of a large spindle wheel to North America when they came from Europe. The **great wheel** is sometimes called a walking wheel or a wool wheel. There is uncertainty about the development of the spinning wheel as some argue it was developed in China as early as the sixth century for silk spinning, while others believe it may have developed later in India for cotton. [By Callie Campbell]

Callie Campbell with the large spinning wheel from the Howard Clark Collection.





Shown left is a **kit for tattooing foxes**. The kit, contained in its box, was made by the Ketchum Manufacturing Company Limited. Tattoos were given to foxes as a method of identification. The tattoo was put on the ear of the fox.



This kit was originally owned by Mr. Leith Schurman, of Central Bedeque, and was donated to the museum by Ron Rayner of Central Bedeque, to whom Leith had given it. The box contains two hand operated punches, which look similar to plyers. These punches are used for putting the tattoo on the fox. Also included in the kit are different letters and numbers made from needles for pressing the ink into the skin on the ear of

the fox. [By Nigel Waite]

On the right is a **powder horn**. Powder horns were horns taken from some type of bovine, hollowed out, and used as a container for gun powder. The wide end was used for filling the horn with gunpowder, and the slim end was used for pouring the powder into the rifle. This particular horn was given to the Museum by Jean Cameron MacDonald (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and was handed down in her family from her great-grandfather, Wallace Bradshaw. [By Nigel Waite]

