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A GENEALOGICAL NEWSLETTER OF NEW BRUNSWICK SOURCES

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VICTORIA COUNTY

PARISH FORMATIONS

Victoria County is one of the later additions to New Brunswick maps. It was formed in 1844, from lands originally assigned to York County. However, none of the land assigned to Victoria County was ever included in original York Co. Parishes. It was part of Carleton County from 1833 to 1844, and many of it's Parishes were set up in that County.

A parish set up in York County in 1821 did include all Victoria and Madawaska Counties, but this was not one of the original county parishes.

KENT - erected in York County in 1821 of unassigned lands, and included all of Victoria and Madawaska Counties until 1833.

PERTH - erected in 1833, included Gordon, parts of Lorne and Drummond.

ANDOVER - erected in 1833, included Grand Falls until 1852.

(MADAWASKA - included everything north of Grand Falls, thus Drummond & Lorne. It is now in Madawaska County.)

(ST. LEONARDS - set off in 1850, included most of the present Lorne & Drummond, which are now part of Madawaska County.)

GRAND FALLS - set off in 1852, included large parts of Drummond and Gordon, plus some of Lorne. Altered in 1863 to include part of St. Leonard.

GORDON - set off in 1863 from Perth and Grand Falls. Included Lorne.

LORNE - set off in 1871 from Gordon.

DRUMMOND - set off from Grand Falls and St. Leonards in 1872.

In 1978 the Souther Victoria Historical Society began an undertaking that has helped Victoria preserve many historical events in the lives of Victoria County residents. The following account will tell, briefly, what this project was and how it expanded further than originally planned. This account was prepared by Daniel Johnson, a former project manager.

In January, 1978, the Southern Victoria Historical Society, Perth-Andover, NB, undertook a project to research and publish the stories and events of the region, as remembered by the communities' senior citizens. As chairman of the sponsoring committee, Mr. Bruce Hoyt supervised the program, funded under a Canada Initiative Grant.

Mr. David Whalen, former editor of the Victoria County News, was appointed project manager. During the next three months taped interviews of many local residents were procured, complemented by research conducted by Dan Johnson at the Provincial Archives of New

Brunswick, in Fredericton,

NB. Transcripts of the taped interviews were edited for clarity, but with care to retain the "colour" of local expression. Old pictures from the pre-Depression years, generously donated by local inhabitants, augmented these stories in the resultant publication "The Tobiquier", named after the Tobique River, which traverses southern Victoria.

With his appointment as Project Manager, Daniel Johnson broadened the scope of the program to include cemetery epitaph inscriptions, church baptismal, marriage and burial records, biographical data on early settlers and Indian records, which were prepared in a series of unpublished manuscripts.

The following two issues of "The Tobiquier" focused to a greater extent on documented historical accounts, although they still retained the folk lore, and humorous anecdotes. Publishing costs were recovered solely from sales revenue. Distribution costs were minimal, due to the generosity of local store owners, who agreed to provide free space for their sale. Commissions paid to local students for distribution financed many Student Council activities.

Although the project officially ended in August, 1978, additional funding was provided for the publication of issues # 4 and 5 in 1979 with Robert Neilsen as Project Manager. This past year (1979) has seen a growth of interest in the region's history, and local libraries mark a significant increase in users, particularly those researching family trees.

I was told by Mr. Johnson that the only place one can probably find these books would be at a few libraries, or private individuals. Those wishing further information on "The Tobiquier" should write to the Souther Victoria Historical Society, Perth- Andover, NB. They may be able to direct you to one to view. I have viewed the first two copies at a local library, and although I have no direct interest in the area I did find the stories interesting. I am giving a bit more details on these publications than I have about private ones, mainly because they are not in print at this time. If interest is shown the Historical Society might at some future date consider re-printing one or all of the issues.
