

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

Report of the Annual Meeting

Preserving Canada's Historic Past

National Parks Branch and Department of the Interior

Volume 15, Number 1, 1936

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/300162ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/300162ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

ISSN

0317-0594 (print)

1712-9095 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

National Parks Branch & Department of the Interior (1936). Preserving Canada's Historic Past. *Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association / Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada*, 15(1), 115–121. <https://doi.org/10.7202/300162ar>

PRESERVING CANADA'S HISTORIC PAST

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

During the past year the National Parks Service made favourable progress in the restoration and marking of historic sites and the commemoration of events which played an important part in the early history of the Dominion. The Parks Service is advised in this phase of its work by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of recognized historians, each representing different sections of the country.

The annual meeting of the board was held at Ottawa on May 29 to 31, 1935, inclusive, when a number of new sites suggested for marking were reviewed, and from these a selection was made to receive attention at a later date. From the total number of sites which have to date been considered by the board, 303 have been recommended for attention, and of this number, 230 have been marked.

During the fiscal year 1935-36 the following memorials were erected:
First Organized Land Survey, Holland Cove, P.E.I.

A cairn with tablet was erected at the summer cottage colony near the South Shore Road, on a small plot of land donated by Mr. Robert L. Cotton of Charlottetown, to commemorate the first organized land survey. Following the Treaty of Paris in 1763, the British government ordered a systematic survey of its possessions in North America. Captain Samuel Holland was placed in charge of the district lying north of the Potomac and, because of the importance of the fisheries, was instructed to begin with Prince Edward Island. In October, 1764, he established his headquarters at Holland Cove and completed his survey of the Island in 1765.
Liverpool Privateersmen, Liverpool, N.S.

A cairn with tablet was erected in Fort Point Park, by consent of the town council, in memory of the privateersmen of Liverpool Bay, who maintained and defended their trade with the West Indies, and waged successful war upon the enemies of Great Britain in ships fitted and armed at their own expense. Foremost among them were: Alexander Godfrey of the brig *Rover*, who routed a Spanish squadron off the Spanish Main and captured its flagship in September, 1800; and Joseph Barss, Jr., of the schooner *Liverpool Packet*, who, in nine months of the War of 1812, captured more than 100 American vessels off the coast of New England. They upheld the best traditions of the British navy.

The 104th New Brunswick Regiment, Fredericton, N.B.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected in the small park at the junction of Brunswick, King and Smythe Streets, by permission of the city council, to commemorate the distinguished services of the 104th New Brunswick Regiment in the defence of Canada in 1813-14, its endurance in the winter march through the wilderness from Fredericton to Quebec, its fortitude and valour at Sackett's Harbour, Beaver Dams, the blockade of Fort George, the Battle of Lundy's Lane, and the assault on Fort Erie.

Simon Newcomb, Wallace Bridge, N.S.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected on a small plot of land donated by Mr. Harvey A. Betts, adjacent to the Wallace-Pugwash highway, to mark the birthplace of Simon Newcomb, 1835-1909, who, self-taught, in the face of adversity, became one of the world's greatest scientists. Migrating to the United States at the age of eighteen, he devoted his life to astronomy. For his contributions to science he was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society of London, made a Foreign Associate of the French Academy of Sciences, and honoured by many universities and learned societies throughout the world.

First Agricultural Fair in Canada, Windsor, N.S.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected in the small park between King and Gerrish Streets, by consent of the town council, to commemorate the first agricultural fair in Canada, authorized on the creation of the township of Windsor in 1764 and held at Fort Edward Hill on the 21st May, 1765. In 1766 the trustees of the fair received a royal charter which was renewed in 1815. Since that date the fair has had an uninterrupted existence.

First Patent in Canada, Quebec, P.Q.

A tablet was affixed to the stone wall on the east side of Cote de la Montagne Street, adjacent to the Laval-Montmorency Park, by permission of the Department of National Defence, to commemorate the first patent of invention, issued by the Province of Lower Canada in the parliament buildings which stood on that site. This patent was granted on the 8th June, 1824, for a washing and fulling machine in favour of Noah Cushing of Quebec.

Chambly Road, St. Hubert, P.Q.

A cairn with tablet was erected at the entrance to the St. Hubert airport, by consent of the Department of National Defence, to mark the Chambly Road, the first highway of importance in Canada, built to connect Montreal with the chain of forts erected along the Richelieu River for protection against the Iroquois. It was opened in 1665 under instructions of M. de Courcelle, governor of New France.

Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected on a site provided by the city council, adjacent to St. Joseph Street, to commemorate the massacre which took place on the night of the 4-5 August, 1689, when fifteen hundred Iroquois landed at Lachine and placed themselves in small groups near all the houses along the shore. At a given signal the massacre began; two hundred persons perished and one hundred and twenty were taken into captivity. The year 1689 was long known as "The year of the massacre".

Soulanges Canal, Cascades Point, P.Q.

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to the main highway, near Lock No. 3, by consent of the Department of Railways and Canals, to commemorate the construction of the Soulanges Canal. This canal was built in 1892-1900 to overcome the Cascades, Cedars and Coteau Rapids

and replaced the old Cascades Canal, constructed by the Royal Engineers in 1779-1783—one of the eight canals which by way of the great lakes and the St. Lawrence River connect Western Canada with the ocean.

Lansdowne Iron Works, Lyndhurst, Ont.

A cairn with tablet was erected on a small plot of land donated by Mr. F. W. Bresee, at the corner of Cook and Charles Streets, to mark the site of the Lansdowne iron works. These works were built by Wallis Sunderlin in 1801 and operated until 1811. This was the first successful effort to develop the manufacture of iron from local ore in Upper Canada.

Kingston Navy Yard, Kingston, Ont.

A tablet was attached to the Stone Frigate Building, Royal Military College, by permission of the Department of National Defence, to mark the site of the British naval station for Lake Ontario during the years 1788-1818. Here were built the King's ships: *Speedy, Swift, Duke of Kent, Earl of Moira, Duke of Gloucester, Royal George, Wolfe, Melville, Sir Sydney Smith, General Beresford, Prince Regent, Princess Charlotte, St. Lawrence, and Canada*. In the war of 1812-14 this naval force enabled the army to retain control of Upper Canada.

Burlington Heights, Hamilton, Ont.

A stone monument with tablet was erected in Harvey Park, by consent of the Board of Park Management, to mark the place where, in June, 1813, General John Vincent assembled troops that made the successful night attack on the invaders at Stoney Creek. From this point of vantage, in December, 1813, the force which retook Fort George and carried Fort Niagara by assault, began its march. On these heights stood the strong point of reserve and depot of arms for the defence of the Niagara peninsula and support of the navy on Lake Ontario.

The Tigress and Scorpion, Penetanguishene, Ont.

A cairn with tablet was erected in Huronia Park, on a site provided by the town council, in memory of the gallant capture in Lake Huron of the United States ships of war, *Tigress* and *Scorpion*, on the 3rd and 6th September, 1814, by seamen of the Royal Navy under Lieutenant Miller Worsley, after a memorable voyage in an open boat from Nottawasaga Bay to Mackinac, aided by soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment commanded by Lts. Armstrong, Bulger and Radenhurst. In compliance with the Rush-Bagot agreement, these ships were sunk in Penetanguishene Bay.

Discoverer of the Canadian Prairies, The Pas, Man.

A cairn with tablet was erected in Devon Park by permission of the town council, in memory of Henry Kelsey, Hudson's Bay Company fur trader and explorer; the first white man to travel inland from Hudson Bay to eastern Saskatchewan and to see the Canadian prairies, 1690-1692; the first white person to record the existence of the musk-ox of the north, the buffalo herds and the grizzly bears of our plains.

Battle of Fish Creek, near Fish Creek, Saskatchewan.

A cairn with tablet was erected in the cemetery located on Legal Subdivision 15 of Section 23, Township 41, Range 2, West of the 3rd Meridian, to commemorate the engagement which took place on the 24th April, 1885, when troops under the command of General Middleton, while moving to capture Batoche, were attacked by halfbreeds under Gabriel Dumont, from concealed rifle pits near the mouth of Fish Creek. The rebels were defeated and driven from the field. The soldiers who were killed in this engagement were buried in the cemetery.

The Peacemakers, Wetaskiwin, Alta.

A cut stone monument with tablet was erected in the park facing Edward Street, between Lansdowne and Pearce Streets, by consent of the city corporation, in grateful remembrance of the public services of the Reverend Father Lacombe, O.M.I., and the Reverend John McDougall. During the troublous days of 1885 their influence with the Indians was a powerful factor in the preservation of peace in Alberta.

Fort Alexandria, near Alexandria, B.C.

A cairn with tablet was erected adjacent to the Cariboo Road, about four miles north of Alexandria, on a site provided by the provincial government, to mark the site of Fort Alexandria, built in 1821, the last post established by the North West Company west of the Rocky Mountains, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie's farthest point in the descent of the Fraser River in 1793. After 1826, when the trade of New Caledonia found outlet to the Pacific, instead of the Atlantic, it was the point of transfer from the land to the water brigade and so it remained until the gold discoveries transformed the conditions.

PRESERVATION WORK

Preservation and other development work was carried out at the following sites, funds for the larger portion of this work having been provided under the Public Works Construction Act:—

Fortress of Louisbourg, near Louisbourg, N.S.

Further progress was made in connection with the development of this historic site. Excavation of the rooms on the east side of the barracks and officers' quarters in the Citadel was carried out to the basement floor level. The ruins of two large baking ovens, which were exposed during excavation, were repaired and partially reconstructed. On the west side the cobblestone walk running along the building was uncovered, together with sections of the surface drain along that side. The small guardhouse in the King's Bastion was cleaned out and the ruins of the walls exposed. The walls of four rooms at the south end, which formed part of the governor's apartment, were partially exposed. Additional surfacing was carried out on the entrance road, and the protection crib along this road which was commenced the previous year, was continued and completed. The frame building formerly used as the caretaker's quarters was demolished and a new fireproof museum erected along the architectural lines of the original fortifications.

Prince of Wales Tower, Halifax, N.S.

Through the co-operation of the Department of National Defence, the exterior walls were repaired and pointed, the wooden floor of the first storey was renewed, new doors and sashes installed and concrete laid on the ground floor. The concrete roof was also repaired and waterproofed and the interior of the tower whitewashed.

Fort Beausejour, near Aulac, N.B.

A new fireproof museum was constructed within the park and further improvements were made to the grounds, such as placing direction signs and markers throughout the grounds, and cleaning the old trenches known as Monckton's lines. Additional restoration work was also carried out on the stone wall at the main gateway to the original fort.

Fort Chambly, Chambly, P.Q.

Repairs were made to the walls of this old structure and a new fireproof museum was built within the fort to accommodate the increasing number of relics, etc., which are gradually being obtained.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.

A complete drainage system was installed; the remains of the two large kitchens and ovens located in the inner embankment of the moat behind the officers' quarters were repaired and the stone floors of the arcades of the officers' quarters and guardhouse were taken up and re-laid. The commissariat building was re-roofed; galvanized iron gutters and down pipes were installed on the men's barracks and extensive repairs carried out on the guardhouse.

Fort Prince of Wales, Churchill, Man.

Further restoration work was carried out on the ruins of this historic landmark under the supervision of the resident engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals. The entrance walls of the fort inside the gate, the arch of the fort, the ravelin in front of the gate, the whole of the south or front wall and the interior wall east of the entrance walls, were rebuilt. The courtyard was cleaned out to the cobblestone pavement, the ruin of rock which was formerly the west wall of the fort, was cleared away; the brush around the fort was cut and eight additional gun foundations were constructed, making a total of 27 built and 13 remaining to be constructed.

Fort Langley, Langley, B.C.

Extensive repairs were made to the old fort which is now being used by the Native Sons of British Columbia for museum purposes. The entire east wall was torn down and rebuilt with new material, the new timbers being framed and scored with a broad axe to resemble the original as much as possible. The south wall was rebuilt with salvaged material, new rafters were placed where necessary and the roof reconstructed. The timber in all the walls was caulked with oakum. Iron tie rods, with turnbuckles and washers, were placed at the four corners of the building and across the centre, to prevent the walls from spreading. The ground floor was torn up, concrete piers were placed under the cross beams and new beams put in where required. New flooring was laid throughout, and the walls, both

inside and out, together with the ceiling of the main floor, were white-washed. Electric lighting also was installed in the building. A well was sunk and cribbed and excellent water obtained at a depth of 35 feet. A fence was erected along a portion of the boundary of the property.

ACQUISITION OF SITES

Jean Pierre Roma, near Georgetown, P.E.I.

Mr. William Stewart of Montague, and Mr. Henry Parker of Georgetown, have kindly consented to donate a small plot of land as a site for the memorial it is proposed to erect to mark the place where, in 1732, Jean Pierre Roma founded a base for control of the gulf fisheries and for trade with France, Quebec and the West Indies. His establishment was destroyed after the fall of Louisbourg in 1745.

Prince of Wales Tower, Halifax, N.S.

The Prince of Wales Tower, situated in Point Pleasant Park, together with a circular piece of land having a radius of 80 feet, the centre of the circle being the centre of the tower, was transferred from the Department of National Defence to the Interior Department for historic sites purposes.

Roseau Route, Letellier, Man.

Permission was obtained from the council of the municipality of Montcalm to place a monument adjacent to the Jefferson highway to mark the war road of the Sioux leading to the Lake of the Woods. This was the earliest route to the West and was first used in 1733 by the French. La Jemeraye, in 1736, was buried near the mouth of the Roseau River.

Fort Assiniboine, Alta.

The University of Alberta has kindly provided a plot of land on the south west quarter of Section 1, Township 62, Range 6, west of the 5th Meridian, to commemorate the substitution of land for water transport on the trade route to the Pacific. The original route from the Saskatchewan to the Athabaska was by canoe, following Churchill River, Lac Ile à la Crosse, Beaver River, Lac and Riviere La Biche. In 1825, Sir George Simpson changed it to the North Saskatchewan as far as Edmonton, and thence by pack train to this point, effecting material savings in time and expense.

Great Fraser Midden, Vancouver, B.C.

Permission was obtained from the city of Vancouver to place a monument in Marpole Park, to mark the site of one of the largest prehistoric middens on the Pacific Coast of Canada. The implements and utensils found in this midden have thrown much light upon the culture status of prehistoric man in this vicinity.

Kootenae House, near Invermere, B.C.

Mrs. A. M. Hamilton has kindly donated to the Crown a plot of land comprising 11.61 acres covering the site of David Thompson's Post, Kootenae House, B.C.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following have been recommended to the Department for attention by the Board and will be dealt with from time to time:—

Mohawk Indian Fort, near Hogg Island, N.S.
Fort Chedabucto, Guysborough, N.S.
Thomas Chandler Haliburton, Halifax, N.S.
Halifax-Castine Expedition, 1814, N.S.
Baie Verte-Miseguash Portage Route, N.B.
Petitcodiac-Washademoak-Canaan Portage Route, N.B.
First Stage Coach Service, Quebec, P.Q.
Fort Temiscamingue, near Ville Marie, P.Q.
The Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.
Cavalier de la Salle, Lachine, P.Q.
First Canadian Hospital, Quebec, P.Q.
Champlain's Landing Place, Morrison's Island, Ont.
Indian Treaties, near Orillia, Ont.
Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy, Kingston, Ont.
Mission of Ste. Marie I, near Midland, Ont.
Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.
First Petroleum Wells in Canada, near Bothwell, Ont.
Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, Ont.
Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont.
St. Clair Flats Canal, Lake St. Clair, Ont.
Murray Canal, Ont.
Admiral H. W. Bayfield.
Danforth Road, near Toronto, Ont.
Alexander Graham Bell Homestead, Brantford, Ont.
Fort St. Pierre, Rainy Lake, Ont.
First Cheese Factory in Canada, near Norwich, Ont.
Discovery of Red Fife Wheat, near Peterborough, Ont.
Galops Canal, Iroquois, Ont.
Rapide Plat Canal, near Iroquois, Ont.
Farran's Point Canal, Farran's Point, Ont.
Cornwall Canal, near Cornwall, Ont.
Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ont.
Bridge Island, near Brockville, Ont.
Gananoque, Ont.
York Factory, Man.
Norway House, Man.
Dawson Road, Ste. Anne des Chenes, Man.
Forts Maurepas and Alexander, Man.
Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.
Cumberland House, Cumberland Lake, Sask.
Fort a la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.
Methye Portage, Sask.
Fort Chipewyan, Lake Athabaska, Alta.
Fort Assiniboine, Alta.
Great Fraser Midden, Vancouver, B.C.
Captain George Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.
Kootenae House, Invermere, B.C.
Canadian Pacific Railway, Port Moody, B.C.
Samuel Hearne.