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Report of the Annual Meeting

Preserving Canada's Historic Past

National Parks Branch and Department of the Interior

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PRESERVING CANADA'S HISTORIC PAST

BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

During the past year further progress was made in connection with the preservation and marking of historic sites of national importance throughout the Dominion. The Department is advised in the selection of these sites by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body composed of a number of recognized authorities on Canadian history. The present personnel of the Board is as follows:

Chairman—Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R. Hist., Ottawa, Ont.

His Honour, Judge F. W. Howay, LL.B., F.R.S.C., New Westminster, B.C.

J. C. Webster, Esq., M.D., C.M.G., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Shediac, N.B.

Professor D. C. Harvey, M.A., F.R.S.C., Halifax, N.S.

Professor Fred Landon, M.A., F.R.S.C., London, Ont.

The Honourable E. Fabre Surveyer, B.A., LL.M., B.C.L., F.R.S.C., Montreal, P.Q.

J. B. Harkin, Esq., Commissioner of National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.

Secretary—G. Wilford Bryan, Ottawa, Ont.

This work was inaugurated in 1919, and since then 297 sites have been declared of national importance by the Board, and recommended to the Department for attention. Of this number 200 have to date been marked by the erection of appropriate memorials. The following were dealt with during the past year:

SITES MARKED

First Submarine Telegraph in America, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

A tablet was affixed to the left-hand pillar of the portico over the entrance to the Provincial Building, to commemorate the laying of the first submarine telegraph cable in America. It extended from Carleton Head, P.E.I., to Cape Tormentine, N.B., and was laid by Frederick Newton Gisborne in November, 1852.

Fort Erie, Ont.

A tablet was attached to one of the remaining walls at Fort Erie, to commemorate the historical events associated with this old fort. These ruined walls and ramparts formed part of the third Fort Erie, built by the British between 1805 and 1808. The fort, which was dismantled in May, 1813, and rebuilt in the following January, was surrendered on July 3, 1814, to United States forces, who made it the rallying point of an entrenched encampment and it was to this place the invaders were forced to flee for safety following their defeat at Lundy's Lane. The fort was unsuccessfully besieged by the British in August and September, 1814.

Capture of U.S.S. Ohio and Somers, Fort Erie

A second tablet was affixed to the ruins of old Fort Erie, to commemorate the enterprise, skill, and undaunted courage of Captain Alexander Dobbs and seventy officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines in capturing the United States ships of war, *Ohio* and *Somers*, in Lake Erie off that point, on the night of August 12-3, 1814.

PRESERVATION WORK

Repairs were made to the crib-work along the ocean front at Louisbourg Fortress, Cape Breton Island, N.S., and also to the entrance road. Restoration and preservation work was also undertaken at Fort Monckton, Port Elgin, N.B.; Fort Chambly, Chambly, P.Q.; Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.; Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ont.; and Fort Langley, Langley, B.C.

ACQUISITION OF SITES

Jacques Cartier, Gaspé, P.Q.

Permission was obtained from the Right Reverend F. X. Ross, D.D., Bishop of Gaspé, for the erection on church property in the town of Gaspé of a memorial cross and tablet to commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Jacques Cartier at the entrance to Gaspé Harbour on July 24, 1534.

First Patent of Invention in Canada, Quebec, P.Q.

Permission was obtained from the Department of National Defence for the affixing of a tablet to the stone wall on the east side of Côte de la Montagne Street, adjacent to the steps leading to Laval-Montmorency Park, to commemorate the issue of the first patent of invention in Canada. This patent was granted on June 8, 1824, in favour of Noah Cushing of Quebec.

McKee's Purchase, Blenheim, Ont.

Permission was obtained from the town council to erect a monument, with tablet, in Memorial Park to commemorate the treaty made by Alexander McKee on May 19, 1790, with the Chippewa, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, and Huron Indians, when a great tract of land, comprising most of the present counties of Essex, Kent, and Elgin, and part of Middlesex, was peacefully acquired to provide homes for expatriated United Empire Loyalists.

Norway House, Man.

The Hudson's Bay Company has granted permission for the erection of a cairn and tablet near the company's buildings on the east bank of the Nelson River to mark the site of Norway House. This post, originally built on Jack River in 1812-3 by the Hudson's Bay Company, was rebuilt on the present site in 1825, and was a frequent meeting-place of the Council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land.

Fort Alexandria, Alexandria, B.C.

An Order-in-Council was passed by the British Columbia Department of Lands, granting permission for the erection of a cairn and tablet

in the south-west quarter of Lot 47, Cariboo District, to mark the site of Fort Alexandria, the last post established by the North West Company west of the Rocky Mountains, built in 1821. This was the farthest point reached by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in his descent of the Fraser River in 1793. It was at this place that the great explorer, on the advice of the natives, decided to continue westward by another route which eventually brought him to the Pacific Ocean at Bella Coola.

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:

- First Organized Land Survey, Holland Cove, P.E.I.
- Roma's Settlement at Three Rivers, P.E.I.
- Battle of Grand Pré, near Grand Pré, N.S.
- Mohawk Indian Fort, near Hogg Island, N.S.
- Fort Chedabucto, Guysboro, N.S.
- Liverpool Privateersmen, Liverpool, N.S.
- The 104th New Brunswick Regiment, Fredericton, N.B.
- First Patent in Canada, Quebec, P.Q.
- Chambly Road, near St. Hubert, P.Q.
- Chaudière Portages, Hull, P.Q.
- First Stage Coach Service, Quebec, P.Q.
- Fort Temiscamingue, near Ville Marie, P.Q.
- Lachine Massacre, La Salle, P.Q.
- The Postal Service, Montreal, P.Q.
- Cavalier de la Salle, Lachine, P.Q.
- Soulanges-Cascades Canal, Cascades, P.Q.
- Champlain's Landing Place, Morrison's Island, Ont.
- Indian Treaties, near Orillia, Ont.
- First Iron Furnace in Upper Canada, Lyndhurst, Ont.
- Officers and Seamen 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 St., Toronto, Ont.
- St. Clair Flats Canal, Lake St. Clair, Ont.
- Murray Canal, Ont.
- Navy Yard, Kingston, 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 Peterboro, Ont.
- Samuel de Champlain, Ottawa, Ont.
- Galops Canal, Iroquois, Ont.
- Rapide Plat Canal, near Iroquois, Ont.
- Farran's Point Canal, Farran's Point, Ont.
- Cornwall Canal, near Cornwall, Ont.
- Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ont.

Combat at McRae's House, near Chatham, Ont.
Burlington Heights, Hamilton, Ont.
Capture of the Tigress and Scorpion, Penetanguishene, Ont.
Norway House, Man.
Dawson Road, Ste. Anne des Chênes, Man.
Forts Maurepas and Alexander, Man.
The Roseau Route, Letellier, Man.
Henry Kelsey, The Pas, Man.
Battle of Fish Creek, near Fish Creek, Sask.
Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.
Cumberland House, Cumberland Lake, Sask.
Fort à la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.
Methye Portage, Sask.
Father Lacombe and the Rev. McDougall, Wetaskiwin, Alta.
Fort Chipewyan, Lake Athabaska, Alta.
Great Fraser Midden, New Westminster, B.C.
Captain George Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.
Fort Alexandria, Alexandria, B.C.
Kootenae House, Invermere, B.C.