

# LIBRARY

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SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
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Wolfville, Nova Scotia

"And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

## SAINT JOHN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by  
Estelle M. A. Vaughan

An article in the New Brunswick Magazine for 1904 credits Saint John with having the first Free Public Library in Canada, but this is open to dispute. Perhaps it was the first Library to be started without any cost at all to its patrons, no charge being made for even the initial card which is usually five or ten cents. The same article says "that the Free Public Library did not have its beginnings in any popular demand, but was really brought into being before its time, and was the evolution of an idea in the minds of a few persons that a Free Public Library was necessary for the adult population of a city which had declared in favour of the free education of the masses." In 1875 through the efforts of Dr. James Hannay the City Council was induced to reserve a room in the new Market Building for library purposes, but the Great Fire of 1877 came and everybody was too busy getting readjusted to think of a library, and the room was rented for business purposes. But the seed had been sown.

The real founders of the Library were Colonel James Domville and a committee of ladies, headed by Miss Manning Skinner. On May 18, 1883, the Library was opened to the public three half-days a week, and it was incorporated in the same year. The Act provided for nine members -- five men and four women -- for four years with an annual grant from the City of Five Hundred Dollars. This is said to be the first time in the City that women had ever been appointed to a public body.

The Library since 1883 has had three homes. Until 1885 it was housed in a room in the Market Building; then the books were removed to a suite of rooms in the Masonic Building on Germain Street. In 1902 the City accepted the gift of \$50,000 from Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a suitable building, with the understanding that the City assess annually for a sum not less than \$5,000. In 1904 the building was finished and the Library was removed to the new two-story brick building. Since then it has been open daily from 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m., except on Sundays and legal holidays. For the past two years the Library has been open on Sundays from October to May for reading only from 2.30 to 5 p.m. Since 1883 the Library has not only had three homes but also three Chairmen and two Chief Librarians.

In the Reading Room are found all the leading periodicals and newspapers of Canada, Great Britain and United States. The Reference Room has a splendid collection including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks of all kinds and anthologies, directories, gazeteers, atlases, etc.

The children have a specially attractive room. It is open during school sessions from 1 to 6 p.m., and in the school holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They have their own Librarian and a well chosen collection including reference books of all kinds.

The Library possess a valuable collection of Canadiana including some very rare volumes. The scrapbook collection, though not ornamental, is very useful, especially those compiled by the late Dr. W. O. Raymond. The index to these volumes is constantly being consulted in answering the many questions on local history.

The growth of the Library has been steady, one step taken at a time:-

In 1914 the Dewey-Decimal classification was introduced and the card catalogue begun. One card only was allowed to a family and that has now been increased to four. Books can be exchanged every day instead of once a week. The stack has been opened to the public who select their own books - open access system.

Anyone not a resident or a City tax payer may use the Library on payment of a small fee.

From one Librarian the staff has increased to six, including a Juvenile Librarian. The usual annual grant is now \$10,000.

Statistics of the Library show:-

Book stock - approximately 50,000 volumes;	Circulation, 1936 - 141,942;
Registered borrowers - 7,510;	Largest circulation - 144,481

#### REGIONAL LIBRARIES FOR NOVA SCOTIA?

by  
Marion Gilroy

In 1933 the Commission of enquiry on Canadian libraries suggested that a demonstration of modern library service be undertaken in Prince Edward Island. It was hoped that such an experiment "might so stimulate the interest and capture the imagination of the people that an efficient and permanent service might later be instituted, wholly at the cost of those served, throughout all three of the Maritime Provinces".

At the present time, it seems as if their wish were about to be fulfilled. When Miss Nora Bateson, the director of the Carnegie Demonstration in Prince Edward Island, described the progress which had been made there at meetings in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia, the pessimists thought that it would take at least another generation to make a beginning without financial aid from outside.

In Eastern Nova Scotia, where the adult education program of St. Francis Xavier University is building a people, the idea was seized upon because it so obviously offered a solution to the demand for more and more books to supply the study clubs. While some parts of the province may protest at the cost of such library service, there is a growing body of opinion that the lower our per-capita income the greater the need for organized sources of information which will enable us to alter unfavorable conditions. Cape Breton County, with its relatively large population (92,000), small area (972 sq. miles), and excellent system of communication, was the first to take action in support of the plan.

On February 4 of this year, a Committee of the Joint Expenditure Board and Municipal Council of the county, "in answer to numerous requests from the people of the county", decided that there was "an urgent need for libraries" and drew up the following four resolutions:

1. Resolved that the existing library law (1923) be amended to permit the establishment of regional libraries in Nova Scotia, and the appointment of a Library Commission, with a trained librarian as Executive Secretary and Field Worker.
2. Resolved that the provincial government be asked to authorize a survey of the county of Cape Breton during this year as a possible unit for a regional library.
3. Resolved that this Council go on record as favouring a regional library for the county of Cape Breton, with the possibility of later enlarging the unit to include the whole island.
4. Resolved that the Solicitor for the county of Cape Breton be authorized to seek the necessary legislation to enable the establishment of regional libraries in Nova Scotia.

The idea of regional libraries was given extensive publicity in the local papers when Professor E. A. Corbett, Director of the Canadian Association of Adult Education, visited Halifax in March. He cited the successful example of Prince Edward Island, stressed the value of such a service, particularly in rural communities, and declared that a library system was essential in any successful program of adult education.

Premier Macdonald, acting on the resolutions from Cape Breton County, introduced a bill into the legislature entitled "An Act to Provide for the Support of Regional Libraries", which passed on the seventeenth of April. This Act (cap. 11) provides that

1. Any municipality, town or city within the Province of Nova Scotia desiring to establish a regional public library or to associate itself with any other municipality, town or city in the establishment of a regional public library is hereby authorized to levy taxes and grant money for the establishment and support of such regional public library.
2. Any sums voted or granted by any municipality, town or city for the purpose of establishing or supporting a regional public library shall be held to be sums voted or granted for the ordinary lawful purposes of the municipality, town or city, and shall be raised, levied and collected in the same manner, and in all respects as other sums required for the ordinary lawful purposes of the municipality, town or city are raised, levied and collected.

The government showed its further interest when Dr. H. F. Munro, Superintendent of Education, announced early in September that, on the recommendation of the American Library Association, Miss Bateson had been appointed to make a survey of Library conditions and needs throughout the whole province. It was particularly gratifying that Miss Bateson, who is well known in the province and whose work in Prince Edward Island has given such a valuable precedent to both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, should have been chosen to make the survey. After visiting the principal towns and villages of the province, Miss Bateson addressed a meeting in Halifax on October 11 at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Dr. Munro presided, and in his introduction pointed out the great need for efficient library service in Nova Scotia, where the appalling results of the side dissemination of cheap reading material are evident in the dulled sensibilities and lack of creative imagination in the school children of today. Miss Bateson sketched the history of the regional library movement, and its operation with particular reference to the demonstrations in the Fraser River Valley and in Prince Edward Island. The establishment of six or eight library units within the province was offered as the solution to the library problem in this province. Miss Bateson stressed the new conception of a library as a vital institution in the community, supplying books of information as well as those of recreation and inspiration, and the importance of their selection with the needs of the particular region in mind. After the address, the meeting nominated a committee

of five, with Dr. F. H. Sexton, Principal of the Nova Scotia Technical College, as chairman. The committee is to be enlarged to include members representative of the county at large.

Miss Bateson's visit has stimulated interest throughout the province in libraries in general and regional libraries in particular. Editorials, special feature articles and letters have appeared in the Halifax and Cape Breton newspapers. One enthusiast declared: "It is no more of an experiment than drinking spring water is an experiment to a thirsty man", and ended with the plea: "This regional library sells itself at sight to the people of Nova Scotia. It is sound economics, it is sound democracy, it is sound education. Let us have it". Different organizations and groups in Cape Breton County continue to give their support to the plan. Colchester County has appointed a committee, with Rev. Harry Rackham of Bass River as chairman, to present the plan of regional libraries to various municipal bodies in the county, with a view to establishing a library in that county.

Meanwhile, Miss Bateson's report and the meetings of the provincial legislature and the municipal council of Cape Breton are awaited with great interest and high hopes. Perhaps we are on the verge of an era of library activity in the province. It is to be hoped that we shall soon lose the unhappy distinction of being the province with the lowest per capita expenditure on libraries in the dominion. Then we shall cease to feel like the ostrich when we hear that "the most prominent characteristic of a civilised country is a widely disseminated taste for books, knowledge, and good literature".

#### THE SILVER JUBILEE LIBRARY AND ITS FOUNDER

On September 11 of this year, at Hopewell Cape, Albert County, N. B., Mr. John Allan Drummond, the founder of the library with the beautiful name given above, and his valued co-worker, Miss Edith Louise Peck, daughter of the late Mr. Charles LeBaron Peck and Mrs. Peck, Loyalists of Hopewell Cape, were united in marriage. A few days later they were touring the Annapolis Valley and called on the editor of the Bulletin in her sanctum. Inspiring it surely was to hear these two people tell of the work in their home community, of the library Mr. Drummond had founded and of their happy plans for the future. Both are teachers in the United Church Sunday School, both are members of a newly appointed Board of Library Trustees, both are interested in the keeping and storing of local archives material as well as in the dissemination of general literature. With citizens so intelligently alert in every Maritime community, the matter of library legislation would assume a different aspect.

The library which Mr. Drummond founded at Hopewell Cape was built and financed from the pension cheques he received as a war veteran. It has now about 2000 volumes and has five branches in the County, at Currieville, Riverside, Harvey, Waterside, and Alma. The library has had generous patrons, notably Hon. R. B. Bennett, who lived in the vicinity as a boy, but the main builder, contributor, and organizer was Mr. Drummond himself. On December 3 of this year the Silver Jubilee Library was presented by the founder to a well chosen Board of Trustees at a meeting in the Moncton Public Library. The new organization is named the Silver Jubilee Rural Public Library Association. The Board has a lease on the land for 999 years. The trustees are: Capt. R. V. Bennett, Sackville; Abram Sherwood, Hillsboro; Mrs. Edith L. Drummond, Mr. John A. Drummond, Hopewell Cape; C. H. Blakeny, M.P.P., Moncton; Mrs. B. F. Moore, Moncton; George C. Blight, Hillsboro. The officers of the Association are: President, Capt. R. V. Bennett; Vice-President, George C. Blight; Secretary, John A. Drummond; Treasurer, Abram Sherwood.

Should not Mr. Drummond's successful venture establish a precedent for other communities in the Maritime Provinces?

I.O.D.E. LIBRARY AT SACKVILLE, N.B.

by

Winifred Snider

Book Week to the I.O.D.E. Boys' and Girls' Library in Sackville, N. B., meant a week of riotous rehearsals, dress-making and assembling costumes, with much consultation of books to see that details were correct, and finally the presentation of two plays, in which more than sixty children took part, before a large and delighted audience. The boys and girls took upon themselves the responsibility of selling tickets at ten cents each (adults) and were so successful that a sum of thirty-eight dollars was realized, which will of course be spent on new books for the library.

The project proved to be most satisfactory from all angles. It seemed to give the boys and girls themselves a feeling of unity and a realization that the library is theirs. It was splendid publicity, since we cannot stress too frequently the point that the library, which is run on a cooperative basis by the I.O.D.E. and the Mount Allison Memorial Library, is free to all children in Sackville and vicinity. The response from the town was almost unbelievably gratifying. Last but not least, it has provided a decided stimulus to the children's reading.

NOTES AND PERSONALS

The following new members have joined the Maritime Library Institute since our last issue of the Bulletin:

Miss Dorothy L. Dobson, Saint John Free Public Library, Saint John, N. B.

Miss Laura L. Freeman, Acadia University Library, William Inglis Morse Collection, Wolfville, N. S.

Miss Lorna Warneford, Saint John, N. B.

During the early autumn the Acadia University Library Extension Service was re-organized and recatalogued. There are now about one thousand books available in travelling libraries of twenty-five volumes each, sent free, except for transportation charges, to any club or community desiring the service. Requests for catalogues and libraries have come in from the most remote points in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Miss Marion C. Morse, of the Acadia University Library staff, was married to Mr. Thomas Allan Beattie, at Paradise, 19 August.

Miss Laura L. Freeman, B.A., Acadia '36, B.L.S., McGill '37, has joined the staff of the Library of Acadia University, and is in special charge of the William Inglis Morse Collection.

A Catalogue of the Eric Dennis Collection of Canadiana, Acadia University Library, compiled by Miss Helen D. Beals, of the Library staff, will be published immediately.

Director E. A. Corbett, of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, visited the Maritimes in the early autumn and spent a week in Prince Edward Island. He writes: "It was an inspiring experience, in spite of bad weather and fairly heavy roads. There were eight meetings, mostly in branch library centres, and at each place large crowds greeted the speakers. There are now twenty-four library branches on the Island, served from a large central library in Charlottetown". Mr. Bramwell Chandler, M.A., is the Director of this Library. He is constantly on the road, reports Mr. Corbett, organizing study groups and integrating the excellent library services.

From Saint John, N. B.

The Saint John Branch of the Maritime Library Institute has resumed its activities for the season and two meetings have been held. At the first, reports were given on the A.L.A. Conference in New York and the M.L.I. Conference in Antigonish, and a paper was read on Readers' Advisory Service. At the second meeting the guest speaker was Miss Gillette of the Saint John Vocational School, who spoke on the subject, Art and Social Trends.

The Childrens' Room of the Library has had many attractive posters and book lists on display for Childrens' Book Week and on Saturday morning, November 20th, a very successful Puppet Show was held with an attendance of nearly one hundred children.

The "Friends of the Library" Group has resumed its meetings and plans have been made for the winter. It was decided to hold another Book Shower in February similar to the one held last year.

Miss Mary Clark has been appointed Librarian of the Lending Library at Manchester-Robertson-Allison, Ltd., Saint John.

Some books referring to the United Empire Loyalists in the Saint John Free Public Library:

Boggs, Theodore H.	Loyalists of Maritime Provinces
Bolton, Robert	History of Westchester County
Bradley, A. G.	United Empire Loyalists
Curwin, Samuel	Journals and Letters
Fisher, S. G.	True History of American Revolution
Flint	Early Long Island
Hannay, James	History of the Loyalists
Hulton, Ann	Letters of a Loyalist Lady
Jack, D. R.	History of Saint John City
Jack, D. R.	Loyalist Biographical Dictionary MS.
Johnston, Arthur	Myths and Facts of the Amer. Rev.
Lawrence, J. W.	Foot-Prints
N. B. Historical Society	Loyalist Centennial Souvenir
Raymond, Dr. W. O.	River Saint John
Raymond, Dr. W..O..	United Empire Loyalists
Raymond, Dr. W. O.	Winslow Papers
Ryerson, A. E.	Loyalists of America
Sabine, L.	American Loyalists
Sibiert, W. H.	Dispersion of the American Tories
Sibiert, W. H.	The Loyalists of Pennsylvania
Simcoe, J. G.	... Military Journal
Stark, J. H.	The Loyalists of Massachusetts
Striker, W. S.	New Jersey Volunteers
Van Tyne	Loyalists in the American Revolution
Wallace, W. S.	United Empire Loyalists
Wilmot, Henry	...The Losses, Services and Claims of the American Revolution

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"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow; The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.	Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand, Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be."
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