The Public Archives
2014
Almanac
and
Miscellany Celebrating 1864:
A Look at Prince Edward Island in the Year of
the Charlottetown Conference

Charlottetown Conference 1864
The Charlottetown Conference, held in
September 1864, was initially estab-
lished to address the question of the feasibil-
ity of a legislative union between...

Prince Edward Island
The
PUBLIC ARCHIVES
2014
ALMANAC
and
Miscellany Celebrating 1864:
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the Charlottetown Conference

Prince Edward Island
December 31 [The last day of] the old year and what a happy happy year to us it has been; Oh! What will 1864 bring to us!

*Diary of Margaret Gray Lord, 1863* (Acc 3466/HF78.63.1)

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Thank you to Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island, for allowing us to use their digitized copy of *Meacham’s 1880 Atlas* for the image on page 11.

The advertisements that appear at the front and back of the almanac are from *Hutchinson’s Prince Edward Island Directory for 1864* (Acc 4064/1a).

Inspiration for the cover art was taken from *Harvie’s 1872 Almanac* (Acc 4225/s7/8).

Research and Text by Gillian Booker

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The Public Archives 2014 Almanac and Miscellany Celebrating 1864: A Look at Prince Edward Island in the Year of the Charlottetown Conference

2014

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About this Almanac

An almanac is an annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information such as astronomical data and tide tables. Some, like the familiar Old Farmer’s Almanac, contain information specific to a topic or pastime. Others contain more general interest information. Historically, almanacs were also used as daybooks or diaries as they contained blank pages on which individuals could record planting and harvest information, the comings and goings of family members, important events in the community, comments on the weather, and more. The almanac has even been compared to the iPhone:

“Just as an iPhone connects users to an outside world and provides a feast of tools designed to make our lives easier, the almanac held the same promise…. Equipped with the latest issue, you always knew what day and time it was, how much money you had, where you were going and how to get there. As a bonus, you also could rely on your almanac for something to read along the way. Who could ask for anything more?”

This commemorative almanac was designed to celebrate Prince Edward Island in 1864. Every month explores a different theme in Island life from the time period. A list of “Remarkable Days” can be found at the beginning of each month, as well as photographs, maps, letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, and other records from the Public Archives’ collection. Those traditional blank pages have also been included, with sections specifically set aside for the recording of thoughts and notes about 2014 celebratory events.

Like the almanacs that came before, this commemorative almanac is meant to be personalized and used, studied and consulted. We hope you find yourself picking up The Public Archives 2014 Almanac and Miscellany throughout 2014, and for many years to come.

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1 Molly McCarthy, “Redeeming the Almanac: Learning to Appreciate the iPhone of Early America,” Common-Place, Vol. 11, No. 1, October 2010; http://www.common-place.org/vol-11/no-01/reading/.
LAIRD & HARVIE,
SOUTH SIDE QUEEN’S SQUARE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

British and American Books,
STATIONERY, HARDWARE, TOYS,
AND
FANCY GOODS.

CONSTANTLY ON HAND

An extensive assortment of Religious, Historical, Scientific, Poetical,
Educational, and Miscellaneous Works; Hymn Books in
variety, Psalm Books, Bibles and Testaments, in great
variety; Prayer Books and Church Services, in
magnificent bindings.

ALL THE SCHOOL BOOKS IN GENERAL USE THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND, SCHOOL REQUISITES, &c., &c.
The latest English and American Periodicals always on hand, or
promptly ordered and supplied at Publishers’ prices.

PLAIN AND FANCY STATIONERY
IN VARIETY.

BLANK WORK OF ALL KINDS, INCLUDING LAW FORMS.

ROOM PAPER OF CHOICEST PATTERNS.

A GENERAL STOCK OF
BRITISH AND AMERICAN HARDWARE.

Perfumery, Toilet Soaps, Pomades, Essences, Marking Ink, Benzole, Perfume,
Lamps, &c., &c., &c.

A choice lot of Fancy Goods, in Papier Mache, Gutta Percha, &c., &c.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS,
In Splendid Bindings;

CARTES DE VISITE, &c., &c.

LAIRD & HARVIE.
ROBERT T. HOLMAN,

GENERAL IMPORTER OF

BRITISH, AMERICAN AND WEST INDIA

MERCHANDISE;

—ALSO—

Wholesale dealer in

Flour, Meal, Grain, &c.,

SUMMERSIDE.
APOTHECARIES' HALL,

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND
ESTABLISHED 1810.

A T this Establishment may be had at all times, Wholesale and Retail, imported from first Houses in London,

Genuine Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Perfumery, Dye Stuffs, PAINTS, OILS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, COMBS AND BRUSHES OF ALL KINDS,

TOILET SOAPS, and other requisites.

Pickles, Sauces, and Vinegars, FRUITS, SPICES, CONFECTIONARY OF ALL KINDS,

Candied Peel, Rice, Arrow Root, Corn Starch SAGO, TAPIoca, PENCOLA, FARINA, ISINGLASS, GELATINE, MEDICATED AND OTHER LOZENGES, TRUSSES, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, VETERINARY MEDICINES,

WITH ALL THE PATENT MEDICINES IN REPUTE.

NONE BUT GENUINE MEDICINES KEPT.

Prescriptions prepared at all hours, by day or night, by an experienced hand, with neatness, accuracy, and dispatch.

T. DESBRISAY.

THE OLD STAND, QUEEN'S SQUARE,
Corner of Queen and Grafton Streets,

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
NEWSPAPER, BOOK, AND
Job Printing Office.

The Subscriber, having added a large Power Press, and also a fast Jobbing Press, to his establishment, is fully prepared to execute all orders for Printing, from a Newspaper or Book, to the smallest Card or Label, at short notice.

ROSS'S WEEKLY,

Having much the largest circulation of any other Newspaper in the colony, and the SEMI-WEEKLY ADVERTISER,

Afford the best and cheapest advertising mediums on Prince Edward Island.

JOHN ROSS,
PROPRIETOR.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.
January

Remarkable Days

The Levee at Government House on New Year's Day was very numerous and respectably attended. After paying their respects to His Excellency, the visitors were received very kindly and with her accustomed grace and affability, by Mrs. Dundas, in the drawing-room.

~ The Monitor, Thursday, 7th January, 1864.

After several days' delay, the Couriers, with the mails, managed to cross to Cape Tormentine, on Monday last at noon. Among the passengers who were compelled to wait some days for a favorable opportunity to cross, were the Hon. James C. Pope, I. C. Hall and son, and Messrs. Van Horn, Atwood and Hewes.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 7th January, 1864.

The Government have offered a reward of £100 to any person or persons (not being an actual party to the act) who will give such information as will lead to the discovery, apprehension, and conviction of the person or persons who brutally murdered Terence MacInnis, late of Lot 66, farmer, on the night of the 17th ult., - the perpetrators of the foul deed being still at large. A Reward of £50 has also been offered for the discovery of the parties who, on the night of the 30th of November last, sawed down the flagstaff of the American Consulate, in the vicinity of Charlottetown.

~ The Monitor, Thursday, 7th January, 1864.

We learn that a little girl about five years of age, daughter of a Mr. Williams, residing in the Western part of this City, died on Wednesday morning from the effects of a severe burning, occasioned by playing with Lucifer matches on Tuesday last.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 9th January, 1864.

12[th]. [B]ought a load of hay and a buffaloe for the sleigh.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 12th January, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.


~ Diary of H. J. Cundall, 12th January, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF72.139.4.
Within the past ten days, several horses have been lost in the ice of our different rivers. On Wednesday night, the 6th inst., it being intensely cold, a horse and sleigh with two men fell through the ice on East River, and after being in the water some twenty minutes, the men managed, by hard struggling, to reach firm ice, but their horse was lost. They almost perished before they reached a house on the nearest shore.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 14th January, 1864.

Roderick McLeod, who has for many years been an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum in the neighborhood of this city, died there on Monday last. McLeod was one of the unfortunate sufferers in the celebrated Belfast riot, where he received a severe blow on the head from a bludgeon, producing insanity.

~ The Monitor, Thursday, 21st January, 1864.

A Bazaar in aid of the Volunteer Band was held in the Temperance Hall on Wednesday, and was a brilliant success. The Hall was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. The tables were amply supplied with fancy and useful articles in great variety, and the ladies who had charge of them were never more zealous or, we believe, more successful in obtaining purchasers for their beautiful and attractive wares. The Hall was crowded with the beauty and fashion of the City throughout the day and evening.

~ The Examiner, Monday, 25th January, 1864.

On Sabbath last the new Kirk, on Brackley Point Road, was opened for Divine Worship. The services were held during the day and evening. Rev. Mr. McLean of Belfast preached the forenoon and afternoon sermons, Rev. T. Duncan that of the evening. The new Church is a comfortable place of worship.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 28th January, 1864.

If the balance of the northern world can produce similar fine weather, and equally glorious sleighing, as the inhabitants of P. E. Island have enjoyed thus far, we should be pleased to hear of it. No severe storms have yet been experienced. . . . no rude wintry blasts disturbing the quiet alighting of the beautiful and tiny flakes, nor sweeping them madly hither and thither, blocking up streets, and doors and windows.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 28th January, 1864.

On Saturday last, on Prince Street, Mrs. E. McCormack was run over by a horse and sleigh, and somewhat badly injured.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 28th January, 1864.
January 2014

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Charlottetown

In the 1860s, Charlottetown was a busy port with a successful ship-building industry and a vigorous network of trade. The incorporation of the city in 1855 began a gradual process towards civic improvement and the institution of better services and facilities. A range of businesses operated in Charlottetown at this time, providing both locally-made products as well as items imported from Great Britain, the United States, and other parts of British North America. Grocery and hardware suppliers, furniture makers, shoe manufacturers, blacksmiths, and medical and legal services were just some of the businesses that made up the commercial landscape of the city. Although the provision for public facilities had improved in Charlottetown by the mid-1860s, with the introduction of gas lighting to the streets and the preparation of some planking for sidewalks, progress was gradual and the streets of the city at different times of the year could still prove variously muddy and dusty. In August 1864, Ross’s Weekly complained that Charlottetown had become ‘notorious for dust’ and that goods and furniture had been rendered worthless due to the failure of the ‘City Fathers’ to address the problem; while in November of the same year, the newspaper spoke with envy of the new granite crossings that were to be laid at the muddiest corners in Halifax, wondering whether such a day would ever come to Charlottetown.
Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.242 The Province Building, St. Paul's Church and the round Market House, Charlottetown, ca. 1860s.

From the top of the Province Building there is a beautiful view; its peculiarities are strikingly American, and yet from the universal red clay roads, and banks of the rivers, it may claim its own native distinctions. Most visitors to a new city like to get up on some high place and “view the landscape o’er,” and those who honor Charlottetown with their company may gratify this justifiable ambition by ascending the Province Building, and there from its summit attain many striking effects. In this survey will be seen buildings conspicuously placed highly indicative of the moral and religious influence which its philanthropists and religious men exercise. Colleges, churches of every denomination, (among which the Catholic Cathedral stands pre-eminent) Temperance Hall, Jail, the Barracks, two large Breweries, Gas Works, Steam Mills, and innumerable flagstaffs, ready for the gala bunting of any festival or joyous occasion. Across the harbor, lie the village of Southport and the Blockhouse, and on its north bank, seen to great advantage on entering the harbor, Government House, the present residence of His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor ….

Acc2353/538 The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.
Meacham's Atlas of Prince Edward Island, 1880. Situated on the corner of Great George Street, the Union Bank opened to the public in June 1864, providing Charlottetown with its second financial institution, following the establishment of the Bank of Prince Edward Island a decade before.
Queen Street is the main street, and slopes pleasantly to the water’s edge, terminated by a fine wharf, and busy with shippers’ interests. The spirit of improvement has here steadily worked and produced what in some respects may be called a fine street; there is no feeling of confinement in it, and from its breadth, position and capabilities, it will some day be a very beautiful street; but Prince Street, parallel with Queen Street, and separated from it by the length of Queen Square, is a pleasanter street, and when its freshly planted trees come to perfection, it will form a cool and shaded promenade, having also a wharf to conduct to the saline waters of the Hillsborough, and place you where the summer breezes may refresh and invigorate, while the scenery delights and gratifies.

Acc. 2353/538 The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.

Acc. 3218/10 Richmond St., Charlottetown, in winter, ca. 1862.
Acc. 4064/1a Hutchinson's Prince Edward Island Directory, 1864. Photography was enjoying growing popularity in the 1860s. Several photographic studios operated in Charlottetown at this time, affording residents the opportunity to sit for personal or family portraits.
The sale of the military barrack grounds in Charlottetown took place by auction in June 1864. The Examiner reported that '[g]reat care has been taken to lay out the various sites in the most judicious manner, so as to combine the useful with the ornamental. A handsome esplanade, sixty feet wide on the entire sea face, has been reserved as a promenade and carriage drive for the beauty and fashion of the City, and the spot, which embraces one of the most enchanting and picturesque panoramas, bids fair to become the favorite resort of all'.

RG16 Land Conveyance, Government to John G. Eckstadt, registered 1st December, 1865 [Liber 84, Folio 733].
Several boys were the other day brought up before the Mayor’s Court, and fined – one two pounds and others one pound each – for jumping on the back of sleighs passing through our streets.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 4th February, 1864.

The young men in connection with the New London section of Rev. Alexander Cameron's congregation, have presented their pastor with a very superior sleigh, together with a sum of money, as a token of esteem. A pleasing and encouraging address accompanied this free-will offering.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 6th February, 1864.

Mrs. Stevenson’s concert on Monday night was well attended . . . . The programme consisted of English, Irish, and Scotch melodies, together with selections from Italian and French composers. . . . We cannot avoid remarking that the splendid vocal powers of the talented lady who originated and directed the concert were exhibited to great advantage in every piece . . . and her popularity cannot fail to have increased by this her second appearance before a Charlottetown audience.
~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 10th February, 1864.

The funeral of the late William Douse, Esq., was attended, on Monday last, by a very large number of people. The Free Masons (the deceased having been a member of the Order) of the City were in attendance in a body; together with all the most respectable of our other citizens. Very many of the Tenantry of the estates of which he was an Agent, followed the remains to the grave, thus testifying their respect for the deceased. We have heard the funeral spoken of as being the largest that was ever seen before in Charlottetown.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 11th February, 1864.

Union Bank of P. E. Island. - A General Meeting of the Stockholders of this contemplated Bank took place . . . at the Colonial Building, on Thursday last, the 11th inst. The meeting was largely attended both by Town and Country Stockholders. A series of carefully prepared By-laws, Rules and Regulations for the management of the affairs of the Corporation were passed . . . .
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 13th February, 1864.
Young Men’s Christian Association and Literary Institute. - Last Thursday evening the Association was treated with “Sketches of Travel” by Charles Palmer, Esq., and Dissolving-View exhibitions of the ascent of Mont Blanc, and some other interesting scenes in Europe. Mr. Palmer first referred to ocean life on board the Atlantic steamers, then described some of the cities and scenery of Ireland – among the latter the lakes of Killarney - then conveyed his auditors over the channel to Holyhead . . . ; then to London - the building, extent and bustle of which he dwelt on for a considerable time – and then he hied off to Paris – amid the splendid palaces of which he was stopped short in order to make time for the Dissolving-view part of the entertainment. . . . The exhibition of Dissolving views, which was under the management of H. J. Cundall, Esq., was quite a success; seldom, if ever, have we seen views shown to better advantage.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 13th February, 1864.

Thur. 18[th]. Bright but drifting. The Western mail set out, but was obliged to return – the roads so much blocked up.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 18th February, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

The store of James DesBrisay & Co., dry goods’ merchants, was forcibly entered on the night of Friday last, through a back window, and coppers to the amount of £2 11s. 6d., together with homespun cloth purses, combs &c., were stolen. To effect an entrance the thief or thieves cut away part of the lower sash, and removed two panes of glass. On Saturday a boy named John Fennessay, about 18 years of age, said to belong at Tignish . . . was arrested for the burglary. . . . The bearing of Fennessay before the court showed him to be a hardened young scamp.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 18th February, 1864.

For a week past we have had several falls of snow, but the first real snow-storm of the Winter occurred on Tuesday night, when nearly a foot of snow fell on the level, and on Wednesday it was knocked by the high wind into fantastic heaps, blocking up the roads in all directions.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 18th February, 1864.

Has anyone about here seen the Comet! – Astronomers on both sides of the Atlantic tell us that Rhspighis’ Comet, commonly known as the comet of 1810, is adrift in the boundless expanse of the heavens, and on the 1st of the present month was to have approached to within the extremely short distance of eighteen millions of miles of the earth! It was not so far off but that some one must surely have seen it with the naked eye!

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 18th February, 1864.
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2014 Celebratory Events
Rural Life

Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.7 A rural road in Prince Edward Island, 1861.

The rural landscape of Prince Edward Island during the 1860s showed many signs of development, with churches and schools the most obvious indications of community life; while in other more widely-settled rural areas businesses such as general stores, tanneries, mills, and blacksmithing establishments also existed. Farms typically consisted of a hundred acres of land and a variety of food was grown, reared, and processed on them. Meat, such as beef and pork, was cured at home; crops, like wheat, potatoes, and turnips, were cultivated; and a selection of fruits were produced and preserved. The self-sufficiency of the farm and the adequacy of its provisions were important, especially during the winter months, when rural roads could be difficult to negotiate, and access to alternative food supplies could prove challenging. The operation of the farm typically required the assistance of the whole family. While male members of the family undertook much of the heavy labour, like ploughing and hauling, women were involved in a variety of tasks that helped to keep the farm running efficiently, from churning butter and cultivating fruits and vegetables to raising poultry, collecting eggs, and making bread and other homemade produce. Children contributed to the work of the farm from an early age, partly as a source of additional labour, and partly to prepare the children for their future when they would run farms and households of their own. Due to their relative isolation, rural communities relied heavily on the mutual support of their residents, and exchanges of produce, dry goods, and labour between neighbours helped to support and promote the success and self-sufficiency of the community as a whole.
Acc. 2540/1 Diary of Emma Stretch, 1st-5th May, 1860. Stretch’s diary for ca. 1850-1860 records some of the typical tasks undertaken by family members in the management of a successful farm. It also demonstrates the close-knit community in which the farm operated showing, in particular, the mutual exchange of goods and labour and the role Stretch played in managing such aspects of household economy.
RG3/s2/ss1 Acts of the General Assembly of Prince Edward Island, 1864. By the 1860s, some species of animals on Prince Edward Island had become rare or had disappeared altogether through destruction of their habitat and over-hunting. Caribou was extinct on the Island at this time and numbers of otter and lynx were also small. Bears still existed but were hunted, particularly for the danger that they posed to residents and for their attacks on livestock. The government’s concern in 1864 for the dwindling number of partridge prompted it to take action with the passing of an act designed to facilitate the survival of the species on Prince Edward Island.
Acc. 4064/1a Hutchinson's Prince Edward Island Directory, 1864.

16th. Hay harvest very wet – employed machine to cut – don’t approve of it in bad weather – exposes too much grass at a time – several had their hay rotten before getting it in.

~ Acc. 3466/HF83.74.1 Diary of David Ross, 16th June, 1864.
Acc. 2353/93 Entry from 12th October, 1866, from the notebook of Island naturalist and farmer, Francis Bain.
Acc. 2540/1 Practice composition written by Emmeline Stretch in the diary of her mother Emma, 28th April, 1860, detailing her planned flower garden.

“We were wont in childhood, to sow the seeds of certain flowers and vegetables in the shape of letters and words, so that our little gardens became legible and illuminated manuscripts as the spring wore on.”
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 3rd September, 1864.
March

Remarkable Days

The removal of the old Church of St. Andrew’s Parish to Charlottetown, on the ice, is worthy of more than a passing notice. The people of this Parish having completed their splendid new Church, and having no use for the old one, resolved on hauling it to the city for a school-house. . . . It is the oldest Catholic Church on the Island, having been built upwards of sixty years ago by Bishop McEachern. . . . To transport a Church upwards of sixty feet in length, to a distance of twenty miles, was not an undertaking of a trifling nature. Hence, it was necessary, in the first place, to place the building on a strong sleigh, the runners of which were of hard wood, at least a foot square. The Church being securely fastened on to this sleigh, some fifty teams of horses were, on Monday, the 7th inst., tackled thereto, hauled it on to the ice of the Hillsboro’ River, and set out for Charlottetown. A large number of persons, Protestants as well as Catholics, assembled to aid in starting the Church; and seldom is there enjoyed anywhere a more beautiful and picturesque sight than was enjoyed by those who witnessed the Church passing down by Mount Stewart Bridge, at the rate of five miles an hour, accompanied as it was by hundreds of individuals. For about twelve miles every thing went on admirably, and without even one stoppage; but when the building was approaching Apple-tree Wharf, and as the horses were trotting along with the view of passing rapidly over the ice which was known to be weak at that place, suddenly the Church broke down into the river. . . . After making several unsuccessful attempts to draw the building out of the ice, the people dispersed for the night. . . . On the following day . . . two unsuccessful attempts were now made, and many were of opinion that the building would never be got up. However, when the third effort was made, the Church issued forth from the hole. . . . On Wednesday morning . . . a great portion of the city was in excitement, and many hundreds were congregated along [Kent] street to witness the building going along as fast as the horses could walk. An immense crowd preceded and followed the building, and the whole affair looked like a triumphal procession, as it really was . . . . When the Church reached Pownal Street, it was turned round the corner with as much apparent ease as an ordinary sleigh, and finally placed on the foundation prepared for it. . . . All the good people who took an active part in the matter are deserving of much credit; but none are deserving of more praise than the parishioners of St. Andrew’s, who . . . will, we hope, be amply rewarded for their zeal and piety, if not in this world, at all events in the world to come.

~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 16th March, 1864.
Thunder was distinctly heard here on Saturday last, - rather an unusual phenomena at this season of the year.
~ The Islander, Friday, 18th March, 1864.

[T]he Nova Scotia Government intend submitting a resolution . . . for the appointment of delegates to confer with delegates from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, respectively, for the purpose of arranging preliminaries for the union of said colonies under one Government and one Legislature, when such Union shall have been agreed to by the respective Legislatures, and confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 19th March, 1864.

On Wednesday the 16th inst., Mr. George R. Mayhew, Tanner, of Margate, New London, discovered that his tan-vats, not very far from his dwelling-house, had been opened, and some £200 worth of leather stolen. The leather was ready for dressing. The thieves obliterated every trace of their operations, having returned the tan-bark to the vats and replaced the covers. Mr. Mayhew thinks the robbery occurred about a fortnight previous to the time he discovered his loss. No trace of the perpetrators of the theft has yet been discovered.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 24th March, 1864.

24th. A heavy snow storm. [O]ne of the worst we have [had] this winter . . .
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 24th March, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Several very fine Fatted Cattle, the property of Mr. James Blake, Butcher, of this City, were exhibited on the market square on Tuesday last. Some prime Easter Beef may be expected in to-morrow’s market.
~ The Islander, Friday, 25th March, 1864.

On Monday the 21st inst., the stable of Mr. Wm. H. Botts, at Nine Mile Creek, Lot 65, was burned, together with a horse, a valuable mare in foal, a cow, a heifer, a calf, and a pig. The horse belonged to a brother-in-law of Mr. Botts, who was visiting him; and it seems that while they were putting up the horse, fire must have been communicated from the candle to some of the hay thrown to the horse, as the stable was seen to be in flames in a few minutes after the parties attending the horse left. It was a heavy loss for Mr. Botts. He was lying at the time ill from injuries received a week previous, by being accidently trampled upon in the chest by a powerful horse.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 31st March, 1864.
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March 2014
2014 Celebratory Events
In 1852, the Free Education Act was passed in Prince Edward Island. Prior to this Act, teachers’ salaries had been paid through local taxation in the district in which they taught. This practice frequently resulted in poor wages and unreliable payments. Under the new Act, the government assumed responsibility for teachers’ salaries as a means of encouraging more qualified teachers to take up employment in Island schools. The free admittance to schools of children over five saw attendance double within the two years following the introduction of the Act. This development was particularly advantageous for the children of poorer families, who gained an opportunity to broaden their prospects through education. Despite these positive steps, the education system on the Island in the 1860s still encountered many problems. Attendance, though increased, was frequently sporadic, being greatly affected by the seasonal demands of agricultural life, whereby many older children would stay home to assist with the farm during particularly busy times, like the harvest. In return for government assistance with teaching salaries, local communities were responsible for the financial cost of building and maintaining schools. Some schoolhouses were in good condition; while others were in urgent need of repair. The very worst examples, the school inspector reported in 1863, were ‘wretched hovels, so contracted in space and height, as to be injurious to the health’. In some cases, a lack of sufficient teaching resources, such as books, maps, and blackboards, also hindered instruction. The Free Education Act made schooling on Prince Edward Island during the 1860s more accessible, but the quality of the education students received differed greatly according to several factors, including the availability of resources, the capabilities and determination of teachers, and the importance placed by families on the attendance of their children in a non-compulsory system of education.
The three principal seats of higher education in the Island during the 1860s were located in Charlottetown: St. Dunstan's College, founded by the Roman Catholic diocese, was established in 1855; the Central Academy, created in 1836, became the Prince of Wales College in 1860; and the Normal School, designed to provide teacher training, opened its doors in 1856.
CONVERSATIONAL SKETCH OF THE QUEEN.

1. All good and loyal little boys and girls will have no doubt like to hear something about our great and noble Queen. When she is addressed in writing by any of her subjects she is styled Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria; but she is generally called the Queen.

2. The Queen lives in England, where she has several beautiful palaces in different parts of the country. In London several wise and distinguished men assist her in governing her great empire.

3. Among the Queen’s forefathers were the celebrated Alfred the Great, and William the Conqueror. The King who reigned before our Queen was her uncle, William IV. When he died, she was made Queen of the whole British empire (including all the British colonies).

4. The Queen had an excellent mother, who early taught her to love God. When her uncle died, and she was told that she was a Queen, her first act was to kneel down and pray to God for his divine guidance.

5. The Queen has ever since ruled the empire so wisely, that she is greatly beloved by all her subjects. She has a number of children, who, from their high rank, are called Princes and Princesses. Her eldest son, the Prince of Wales, visited the British North American Provinces in 1869, and was welcomed with great love and affection by all classes of the people.

6. In 1861 the Queen suffered a great loss in the death of her noble husband, Prince Albert the good. All her subjects mourned with her, and from every part of her vast empire she has received the warmest sympathy.

7. Our duty to the Queen is to love her, and to obey the laws of our country. The Bible says, “Fear God and honour the King,” and “Obey them that have the rule over you.” With one heart and voice, our prayers for her should continually ascend; and in the words of our National Anthem, we should all heartily sing:

   “God save our gracious Queen,
   Long live our noble Queen!
   God save the Queen!
   Send her victorious,
   Happy and glorious,
   Long to reign over us!
   God save the Queen!”

“Our farmers send their sons to school until they can merely read and write, and then place them behind the plough to plod on their weary course, as their ancestors have done for ages before them. They seem never to have imagined that educated men would make better farmers, as they make better lawyers and better statesmen. They never dream that beneath the rough homespun suit and tawny complexion of the ploughboy, there may dwell a mind, which if educated, would make its influence felt in the world.” ~ A Friend of Education. The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, 12th November, 1864.
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, CHARLOTTETOWN.

Gentlemen;

During the past quarter I have visited sixty-three schools; the particular results as to each will be found in the subjoined Schedule.

The season of the year, during which I necessarily completed my circuit, was peculiarly unfavorable to the attendance of the scholars; and it was rendered still more so by the uncertain weather which prevailed during the last harvest. Every child that could be of use in gathering up the grain was employed in the harvest field, and the schools were conducted generally by the younger members of families, so that my examination does not by any means afford correct data as to the state of education throughout the western portion of the Island. In more than one instance, children were sent for from the school, on the weather clearing up in the afternoon, to assist in binding or turning the grain, which would otherwise have received serious injury. I am sorry, however, to be obliged to add, partly from my own observation, and partly from the information of the teachers, that the general attendance is by no means so regular as it ought to be; and I have endeavored to suggest some means by which an evil, so detrimental to the progress of the children may, at any rate, be palliated. It has occurred to me, and I am borne out in my opinion, by the concurrence of nearly every person, especially the trustees, whom I have consulted throughout my district, that the autumnal vacation should be extended to three weeks, instead of two as at present; and that the trustees of each school district should be empowered to fix the time, either in the months of September or October, or partly in one and partly in the other, instead of being restricted to the latter month alone. Thus the wants of each district might be better supplied according to its local circumstances; the children would be released from school during the height of harvest, or during potato digging, or partly for the one and partly for the other; and there would be less inducement to the parents to keep them at home at different times; a practice which, by separating the members of a class, not only retards the progress both of those present and the absent, but, in a large school, greatly increases the difficulties and labor of the teacher. Of course the School Visitors would, in this case, arrange their circuits so as not to visit during either of the months I have mentioned.

Another suggestion bearing in some measure on the same subject, has been made to me, on which I offer no opinion at present: that the daily averages should be taken half-yearly, instead of quarterly as at present. I have already stated the obstacles to a full, or even an average attendance in the autumnal quarter. In the winter quarter, the snow drifts and the state of the roads present difficulties to the attendance of young children, more especially in large and thinly settled districts, and in very many instances, the want of clothing, particularly of shoes—a want which, in country places, it frequently takes time to supply—prevents the school from being filled as it ought to be at that season. I have known, during my recent visits, quite young children to walk, barefooted, two miles through the snow to their school, and I also know that this is often a very serious cause of non-attendance.

Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.8 Horace T. Bayfield in graduation attire, 1861.

April

Remarkable Days

On Saturday last the Couriers crossed the Strait, after a few days’ delay on account of the weather, and between eight and nine in the evening some 21 bags of mail matter reached town. Several more bags came also, between Saturday evening and Monday morning. These mails, together with the one that reached town on Monday night, brought a perfect avalanche of mail matter to the Island.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 7th April, 1864.

Last week large numbers of Eels were taken at Lot 11, near Mr. Warburton’s residence, some of which measured five feet in length.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 7th April, 1864.

10[th]. Sleighs out again. [A] boat crossed the channel for the first time. Very raw and cold.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 10th April, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

18[th]. The trees and ground all covered with snow and the river all closed with ice.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 18th April, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

On Friday evening last, the 8th inst., as Daniel Quiglay, Bailiff, of the Small Debts Court, at Tryon, was in the act of seizing a horse upon the premises of John Runnahan, Lot 27, of the Back Settlement, an absconding debtor, he was furiously attacked by Mrs. Runnahan, her son, about 15, and daughter, about 17 years of age; Mrs. Runnahan had armed herself with a pitchfork, the lad with an axe, and the girl with a large cudgel. . . . On Saturday morning the three outlaws were apprehended, and after a summary examination of the case, by three magistrates, they were immediately committed to prison to stand their trial for the offence, at the Supreme Court, to be holden at St. Eleanor’s.
~ The Islander, Tuesday, 19th April, 1864.

21[st]. . . . Mrs. Dundas gave a ball at Government House. The ladies looked very well.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 21st April, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.
For a lark, some wag or wags placed a human skull in or under the building undergoing repairs, which adjoins Apothecarie’s Hall. – The skull was discovered by the workmen, and on the strength of the discovery, the most improbable stories have been in circulation, which are ridiculous and laughable in the extreme. As the announcement of the finding of the skull passed from mouth to mouth, additions were added to the simple fact, until the story reached alarming proportions, and part of the community were fully impressed with the idea that a frightful crime had been committed – a woman had been murdered – and the skeleton found had brought evidence to light! The skull had grown to a whole skeleton, under the skilful manipulation of busy tongues and lively imaginations.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 21st April, 1864.

Brandt and Wild Geese have been very plenty for the past ten days – thousands have passed over this City. On Saturday last, we learn that two individuals shot between thirty and forty Geese at Brackley Point.

~ The Islander, Friday, 22nd April, 1864.

25[th]. A lovely day. [T]he streets nearly dry. Mrs. W. Stevenson gave a Shakespearean Tri Centenary entertainment in the Temperance Hall.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 25th April, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Large numbers of seals were lately killed on the south shore of East Point, but unfortunately before the seals were secured the ice parted from the shore, and the parties engaged were compelled to abandon their valuable prizes.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 28th April, 1864.

The Hon. T. H. Haviland, on Thursday, resigned the office of Speaker of the House of Assembly, and the Hon. Roderick McAulay, the colleague of the late Speaker in the representation of Georgetown, was duly elected Speaker.

~ The Islander, Friday, 29th April, 1864.

By an advertisement in several of our contemporaries, we perceive that a meeting of Delegates for the purpose of forming a “Federal Tenant Organization,” is to be held in this city about the middle of May.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 30th April, 1864.

The Children’s Bazaar in aid of the funds of St. James’ Church Sabbath School, came off on Thursday last, at Masonic Hall, as announced, and was quite a success. A great variety of useful and fancy articles was exposed for sale, and met with ready purchase. The amount realized was about £70.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 30th April, 1864.
2014 Celebratory Events
Clothing and Fashion

By the mid-19th century, the availability of ready-made clothing had increased due to new industrial innovations, including the mass production of the sewing machine, which improved the speed and ease of clothing manufacture. The domestic use of the sewing machine began to grow steadily throughout the 1860s; however, much of the clothing of the period was still made by hand. The artistry of tailors, seamstresses, and women in the family home remained important to the process of creating, adorning, and adapting garments of all kinds. Residents of Charlottetown during the 1860s had access to a number of establishments that catered to clothing, millinery and tailoring needs. Moreover, with the advent of improved transatlantic transport and communication, Island merchants were able to offer their customers a wide choice of fabrics, clothing, and accessories, not always readily available domestically. The defining fashion feature of the period for women was the crinoline, a cage of steel, cane or whalebone hoops suspended around the waist and used to give the skirt a full, bell-like appearance in place of layers of heavy petticoats; male clothing, meanwhile, was generally of a much more plain and simple design, often consisting of a suit, shirt and necktie, finished off with a top hat, bowler, or cloth cap.

Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.25 Government House lawn, 1860.
Acc. 4225/s8/ss3/76 An inventory of fabric, clothing, and millinery goods to be shipped on the “Empress” by Mr. Arthur & Co., Glasgow, for A. A. Macdonald & Brothers, Georgetown, 16th July 1860. Muslin and silk fabrics were popular with women due to their lightweight qualities which meant that they draped well over crinoline cages.
Full skirts, high-necked buttoned bodices with small collars, and low set shoulders sloping into wide sleeves were typical features of female dress during the 1860s. Use of braiding and other trimmings, like those seen on the dress of Helen Bayfield (lower left), were highly popular as a means to provide further adornment to the hems of skirts, sleeves, and bodices. Hair was typically worn parted in the centre and swept back neatly into loops or a bun at the nape of the neck. By the mid-1860s, the bell-shaped contours of the crinoline had begun to change, with much of the fullness moving to the back of the dress, giving a much flatter appearance to the front.

Straight-cut trousers with a high waist were a distinctive feature of male attire during this period. Trousers were often black and made of plain wool, but other weaves and colours were also used. Robert Grubb’s choice of narrow checked trousers, shown in the image, reflects the growing popularity of check and plaid designs during the 1860s. Shirts with stiff collars, often upturned, were usually worn with single breasted waistcoats of varying colours and patterns, complemented by a cravat or necktie. Men’s coats or jackets were worn long, usually extending to the mid-thigh or knee.
Crinoline: A Real Social Evil

The London News – in an article suggested by the recent deaths resulting from the prevailing fashion among ladies of wearing extending crinolines says: - The “kiss-me-quick” bonnets are declared by our physicians to be the cause of the great increase of maladies of the head and eyes, – the rheumatism, the neuralgic pains, the decaying teeth, the inflamed eyes; yet the bonnets are nothing to crinoline, which has become responsible for more deaths than any other fashion ever caused. During these five years, says our contemporary, we have done our best to be patient under an evil which we hoped would be short-lived. We have had no comfort in social meetings, because no dinner-table and no ball-room, no box or stall at the theatre, no carriage, and no boat, could accommodate both our families and ourselves. We have found it difficult and disagreeable to walk with our wives and daughters, on pavements, and in lanes and country footpaths made for people more naturally drest. We have seen the choicest flowers in our gardens, and the most cherished plants in our greenhouses, cut off by the hoop. We have paid a fare and a half each for wife and daughters, travelling by coach in rural districts, and have lost all our pleasure on steamboats, from the anxiety of watching lest any of our party should sweep a child over into the lake or river. – Our wardrobes afford no room for our clothes, because the women of the family want more space than they can get. For five years we’ve not had room to turn ourselves round in our own homes…. The cook could not pursue her business without incessant personal danger; the housemaid may meet the fate of other housemaids, and be burned to death upon the hearth; and the nursemaid is more likely than not to push some one of the children off a footbridge, or a river-side path, or from the causeway into the road. It is now a question whether we can be justified in permitting a practice which we were anxious to keep our tempers with as a nuisance, but which is now recognized as dangerous to life…. Besides the deaths by fire, there have been many by crushing under carriage wheels and in machinery, and in narrow spaces where a woman reasonably dressed would be in no danger. There have been cases of actual disembowelling from the gashes inflicted by broken steel springs and hoops. There have been drownings, wounds, crushings, burnings, -- many torturing modes of death; and it is no wonder that juries and coroners now appeal to the sex to cease their subornation of murder….

The Monitor, Wednesday, 8th January, 1862.
A person in passing a certain millinery establishment on Kent Street cannot help being struck with surprise at the arrangement of articles in the window. We noticed several ladies halt in astonishment before it, and catch their breath.

~ Ross’s Weekly, 16th June, 1864.

Otters are getting very scarce now, but their fur is highly esteemed. There are no nicer winter gauntlets and caps than are made out of what is called plucked otter, that is, drawing out the long hairs and leaving the under fur untouched, like goosedown after the feathers are drawn.

~ Acc. 2353/538 The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.

Left: Advertisement for Glasgow House, Protestant and Evangelical Witness, 30th January, 1864.
Acc. 2295/2 Annual Report of the Wesleyan Dorcas Society, 1860. Clothing was not just a practical consideration; it was also a manifestation of social status. The wealthy were in a position to keep up with changing fashions and to purchase garments of quality that suitably reflected their influential role in society. With the growth of trade and industry on the Island, even the middle classes, such as merchant families, were able to acquire sufficient wealth to emulate the fashions of the social elite. For the poor, however, clothing was a necessity not easily afforded. The Wesleyan Dorcas Society was established in 1844 with the aim of distributing clothing to the needy and providing them with spiritual comfort.
May

Remarkable Days

5\textsuperscript{th}. A beautiful day. [T]he wind very high but the air soft.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 5\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Sometime about New Year’s last, Mr. Adam Leard, of Bedeque, lost a flock of 11 sheep, and throughout the winter could obtain no tidings of them. About a fortnight since, however, he was agreeably astonished at seeing the flock return safe to his yard in good condition. – Where they had wintered he was unable to tell.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 5\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864.

McGilvray who was flogged at Georgetown about a month ago for highway robbery, succeeded in effecting his escape from [King’s County] jail on Tuesday morning last, and is at large again to the terror of the country . . . Pursuit was at once made, and all the fords guarded and it is to be hoped he may be recaptured.
~ The Islander, Friday, 6\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864.

The weather for some days passed has been dry and fine, and we understand that farming operations have commenced – the land and the roads are drying up fast, and in a few days we shall have good roads to travel on.
~ The Islander, Friday, 6\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864.

It is now the Sixth day of May, and we have not yet had an arrival of a vessel from a Foreign port this Spring. This is exceedingly unusual. Last year the Steamers commenced running between this Island and the neighbouring Provinces on the 20\textsuperscript{th} April. Early in the month of March last there was scarcely a bit of ice to be seen in the Strait; but whilst we write the Strait of Northumberland from Cape George to the West Cape of this Island appears to be thoroughly crammed with ice.
~ The Islander, Friday, 6\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864.

We understand that the City Council are about entering into a contract with the Gas Company for lighting the streets for five years. This is a step in the right direction. Whether it is intended to make a material addition to the number of lamps now lighted, we have not heard.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 14\textsuperscript{th} May, 1864.
An inquest was held on Thursday last, before John McNeill, Esq., one of the Coroners for Queen’s County, on view of the body of a person known as Captain Dawson, or G. B. Dawson, who was found dead in a room in the tavern kept by one Michael Walsh, on Queen Square. The following verdict was returned: “That the deceased . . . came to his death from the effects of intoxicating drinks, producing congestive apoplexy”.  
～The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 14th May, 1864.

The Schr. St. Cecilia arrived at Charlottetown from Boston, a few days since, with a general cargo of merchandize. Having one or two cases of small pox on board, the vessel has been placed in quarantine, and every precaution taken to prevent the disease from obtaining a footing in the community.  
～The Monitor, Thursday, 19th May, 1864.

We regret that we are unable to furnish our subscribers with the regular issue of Ross’s Weekly this week, in consequence of want of paper of the proper size. Plenty of paper, however, is now in the harbor, but it unfortunately is on board the Schooner Cecelia, which arrived a few days since with Small Pox on board; and rather than use the paper brought by her, we prefer to wait until more can be obtained, or until the English ship arrives which has a large supply of paper on board for the Weekly. – Upon no consideration would we use the paper brought by the Cecelia, for fear of spreading that most loathsome and dangerous disease Small Pox. We would prefer to forego the publication of the Weekly altogether than to be guilty of such an act.  
～Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 19th May, 1864.

20[th]. Cold, gloomy. The barque Gazelle came in with London goods.  
～Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 20th May, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Tuesday last being Her Majesty’s Birthday, the public offices were closed, and a royal salute was fired by Capt. Morris’s Volunteer Artillery and Rifle Company, from St. George’s Battery. The public buildings, the residences of many of our citizens, and the shipping in the harbor were gaily decorated with bunting in honor of the occasion. At 2 p.m. there was a Levee at Government House, which was pretty well attended, and in the evening a number of gentlemen dined with His Excellency the Lieut. Governor at Government House.  
～The Monitor, Thursday, 26th May, 1864.

～Diary of the Hon. Peter MacNutt (Snr.), 30th May, 1864, Acc. 3552/1.
The Land Question

The land tenure system that was established on Prince Edward Island under British colonial rule began a long period of controversy over land ownership in the colony. Whereas the majority of land that was settled in British North America was freehold, the division of the Island in 1767 into large parcels of land governed by landowners, both resident and non-resident, created a pattern of leasehold tenure on the Island that would continue for many years. Under this system, settlers had little choice but to establish their farms on land rented from landowners rather than purchase their property outright. The desire of tenants to own land, and enjoy the security that comes with it, naturally grew, especially when much effort had been made by tenants to clear and improve their farms over many years. The impetus for change was met, however, with much resistance from landowners. After a land commission in 1860 failed to bring resolution to the issue, despite siding largely in favour of freehold tenure, the frustration of tenants increased. As a result, the 1860s marked a new period of activism in pursuit of freehold lands. In May 1864, the Tenant Union of Prince Edward Island was established. Known popularly as the Tenant League, it advocated the withholding of rents and rental arrears as a strategy to force the elimination of the leasehold system. The Tenant League enjoyed much popular support, but its stance of resistance against civil authority led the government to call in troops to act as a deterrent against incidents of public unrest. Although by 1866 this decision effectively quelled the activism of the Tenant League, the agitation of the tenantry during the mid-1860s helped to prompt changes to the land system on Prince Edward Island that would smooth the path for the demise of leasehold tenure under the terms of union with Canada in 1873.

Acc. 3466/HF81.150.308 List of tenants on the estate of William Douse, ca. 1860s.
Acc. 4371/13 Draft petition from the tenants of Lot 31 [?] to the House of Assembly, ca. 1860, requesting that an act be passed disallowing the collection of arrears of rent by the landlords until the release of the report of the Land Commissioners.
Tenant’s Pledge

Resolved, That we, the Tenantry of _______, individually and collectively, virtually and solemnly pledge our honor and fidelity to each other to withhold the further liquidation of rent and arrears of rent; and this voluntarily enroll our respective names, as a tenant organization, to resist the distraint, coercion, ejection, seizure, and sale for rent and arrears of rent, until a compromise be effected in conformity with resolutions proposed and carried by the meetings in Lots 48, 19 and 50; and further understood that each signature hereto annexed bear a proportionate share of expenses in connection with this organization.

~ The Examiner, 30th May, 1864.

Map 0,249 Plan of Prince Edward Island showing the names of several proprietors and the extent of their lands, ca. 1820.
John Ross, the editor of the newspaper Ross’s Weekly, strongly supported the activities of the Tenant League. His newspaper printed regular announcements of Tenant League meetings and provided detailed accounts of their proceedings. The newspaper often contained puzzles and trivia to entertain its readers. The pictogram puzzle above was used to highlight the ongoing struggle for freehold land. The solution, which appeared in the following issue, reads: ‘The Tenantry bear their woes with commendable fortitude, but expect Legislators are prepared for a settlement of the long-agitated Land Question when the House meets’. The return in early 1864 of William Henry Pope, who had been sent to England as part of a delegation to negotiate with some of the land proprietors there, may have raised expectations that progress would be made on the issue.
Acc. 4660 Report of Theophilus Stewart regarding issues affecting the Mi’kmaq population of Prince Edward Island, ca. 1864. Whilst the settlers and their descendents fought for the right to own land in the colony, their presence on the Island had an effect on the way of life of the Mi'kmaq, who, as the settler population grew and land boundaries became more distinct, were prevented from freely hunting and fishing as they once had. The above report was presented to the Aborigines Protection Society, London, England, in 1865 by Theophilus Stewart, Indian Commissioner of Prince Edward Island. Stewart spent many years advocating for the purchase of Lennox Island so that it might be used by the Mi'kmaq population. In 1870, the Island was successfully purchased from land proprietor Robert Bruce Stewart for the sum of £400.
Acc. 4660 Report of Theophilus Stewart regarding issues affecting the Mi'kmaq population of Prince Edward Island (continued).
June

Remarkable Days

1[st]. The New Steamer/the Princess of Wales/came in for the first time. [S]he is a beautiful boat. [A] great many people went on board of her. The Union bank was opened. . . . The first flag was hoisted for the New Steamer on the new flag staff over the colonial building. A beautiful fine day.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 1st June, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

3[rd]. The Princess of Wales made her first trip to Shediac. [S]he went to Summerside in 3 hours and ¾. [A] great many people went in her. [A]mong the rest was Uncle John and Rosalie Smith.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 3rd June, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

In consequence of the projected sale of the Battery and Adjacent property, a flag-staff has been erected on the Colonial Building, by means of which our citizens will be informed of the approach of all vessels from sea, during the day.
~ The Islander, Friday, 3rd June, 1864.

5[th]. A fine day, blowing hard. [T]he dust is flying.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 5th June, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

11[th]. A beautiful bright day. [T]he wind is very high. [T]he gardens look lovely after the rain, so green and the trees are covered with blossoms.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 11th June, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

In our issue of the 1st inst. a notice of a bogus marriage appeared. The perpetrator of the forgery may congratulate himself on being the first who has imposed on us in this way: but, should our efforts to discover his name prove successful, we promise him such a dressing as shall inspire him with a wholesome dread of the press for all time to come.
~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 15th June, 1864.

Charlottetown Cricket Club. – A game of Cricket between the married and single gentlemen of this Club was played on Monday evening, 13th inst., and was won by the single gents with much ease. ‘Hooray’ for the bachelors!
~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 15th June, 1864.
A Savings Bank, in connection with the Treasury of this Island, will be opened for the transaction of business on Tuesday next, in pursuance of the Act passed last session for that purpose.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 16th June, 1864.

The Battery or Barrack Square – much to the annoyance of a large number of our citizens – was sold by auction, by Messrs. J. & T. Morris, on Tuesday last. This beautiful property was put up and sold in twenty-one lots of various sizes. Along the sea-face, commanding a magnificent view of our noble harbor, etc., a carriageway or esplanade has been reserved, sixty feet wide, connecting with Water Street at one extremity, and Sydney Street at the other. Two Streets running at right angles with Sydney and Water Streets…, one forty feet and the other seventy feet wide, have also been reserved. The purchaser of each lot is bound to erect a two-storey building thereon, and there is every probability that, ere the lapse of many years, this will be by far the handsomest – if not the most aristocratic portion of our city.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 16th June, 1864.

18[th]. Attended funeral of Mr. Jn. Stewarts 2 eldest sons & a baby. [T]he sons drowned at Apple Tree wharf.
~ Diary of David Ross, 18th June, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF83.74.1.

We regret to have to state that two promising young men came to their death by drowning during the heavy squall which occurred on Thursday afternoon last. It appears that six young persons went to bathe in the Hillsborough River about eight miles up – using a boat without oars – that the squall which came on so suddenly that afternoon caught the boat, when one of the young persons who were drowned, becoming alarmed, jumped out of the boat; an elder brother, who was also in the boat, jumped out after him in the hope of rescuing him, but both unfortunately were drowned. They were sons of Mr. John Stewart of Dunstaffnage, St. Peter’s Road.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 23rd June, 1864.

During the past week, four forged $20 Union Bank Notes have been palmed off at different stores in the City, but their spurious nature was discovered shortly after. The notes, it appears, were stolen from Mr. Charles Palmer’s office previous to their being signed by the President or Cashier, and have been traced to a Mrs. Ellen Jane Coombs and her servant, Joanna Connor, who live in the same building in which the office is situated. Both parties had access to the office for the purpose of cleaning it and lighting a fire. . . . Seven notes in all, we understand, were abstracted, and the forgery of the President and Cashier’s names was very clumsily executed.
~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 29th June, 1864.
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Crime and Punishment

With the incorporation of Charlottetown in 1855, a new public service was instituted in the city in the form of a police force. Prince Edward Island already had three jails by this time: the largest was the Queen’s County Jail in Charlottetown, which had the capacity to hold 80 prisoners; while in St. Eleanors and Georgetown smaller jails also existed. Problems with public disorder, such as drunkenness and fighting, were some of the most prevalent offences during this period, but more serious crimes such as thefts, burglaries, and assaults were not uncommon. Like today, Prince Edward Island in the 1860s also had to contend with crimes stemming from the misuse of vehicles, with arrests for such incidents as driving a horse and carriage in a disorderly manner or operating a sleigh without any bells. Falling into debt was another major cause of imprisonment; an annual report of the jails for 1864 shows that by the fall of that year the Queen's County Jail had housed a total of 110 debtors. Concepts of law and justice on Prince Edward Island during the 1860s had developed primarily from the laws and judicial practices of England. Punishments generally ranged from fines and custodial sentences, sometimes with hard labour, to corporal sentences of public flogging for more serious cases. Capital punishment by public hanging was reserved for crimes such as burglary and murder, although after 1869 this punishment ceased to be carried out publicly.

Acc. 2960 St. Eleanor’s Jail and Court House, ca. 1864.
RETURN of the GAOLS, &c.—continued.

QUESTIONS.

6. Dietary or Weekly Allowance, and Weekly Cost per head for the different description of Prisoners? and under what system and control the Food, Medicine, and Clothing for the Prisoners is contracted for, or otherwise provided?

7. Allowance of Clothing and Bedding, and Cost per head?

8. Hours of Labour and Exercise?

9. Description of Employment and Hard Labour?

10. Amount of Earnings, and how applied; in what proportion to the Prisoners, to the Officers, or the Fund for the maintenance of the Prison?

11. Whether the Classification directed by the Colonial Act has been observed: if not, for what reason; and what measures have been taken to remedy this defect?

12. Are convicted Prisoners prohibited from receiving Visits, or Letters, or any articles of Food or Clothing from their Relatives or Friends; if not, under what restrictions?

RG1 Lieutenant Governor fonds, Annual Report 1864, Return of the Gaols and Houses of Correction.
In March, 1864, Hugh McGilvray was flogged for committing highway robbery. He was sentenced to 39 lashes to be delivered both at the beginning and at the end of his sentence. In the presence of a large crowd at Georgetown, McGilvray had his wrists tied to the shafts of a wood sleigh and a gentleman, suitably disguised so as not to give away his identity, administered the 39 lashes upon the prisoner’s bare back. Many of the newspapers of the time criticised the punishment: Ross’s Weekly referred to the practice as a ‘relict of barbarism’ that would do little to ‘improve’ the culprit; while the Monitor concurred, but noted that many fathers had brought their sons to watch the event ‘so as to forcibly impress on their young minds the terrible punishment awaiting crime....’
Acc. 4694/s2/ss1/21 Letter to Frederick Brecken, Attorney General of Prince Edward Island, from Sheriff Norton, 2nd July 1860, p.1. The Sheriff writes to the Attorney General regarding his concerns about the security of the King's County Jail in Georgetown. His anxiety that an escape could take place whilst the prison was undergoing repairs proved well-founded; the Sheriff wrote again to Mr. Brecken in January 1861, to inform him that a prisoner, Charles Bushey, had successfully fled by scaling the scaffolding that was used to aid in the repair of the prison wall.
RG6.1/s5/ss1/ Supreme Court case file containing witness statements in the case of the Queen vs. J. Connors & E. J. Coombs, 1864. Ellen Jane Coombs and her servant Joanna Connor(s) were brought before the grand jury of the Supreme Court in July 1864 in response to accusations that the pair had stolen several $20 Union Bank notes from the office of Charles Palmer, and had then forged the names of bank officials on the stolen notes and attempted to pass four of the notes off to unsuspecting stores in Charlottetown. The case against the suspects fell apart, however, when it was discovered that some of the jurors were in fact directors of the Union Bank.
Remarkable Days

11[th]. A fine morning. [C]ommenced to rain at 10 a.m. and rained very hard and the wind very high. [T]he Princess of Wales took a large number of persons to Pictou to a cricket match.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 11th July, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Cyrus W. Field, Esq., of New York, arrived at Charlottetown from St. John, N. B. on Thursday night last, and left for Halifax this morning. We understand Mr. Field met a deputation at the Reading Room last night, with the view of securing daily telegrams of the latest European and American news. The result of the interview was that Mr. Field proposed to furnish daily telegrams at the rate of one dollar per day. This proposition being far more favorable than any hitherto offered will likely be accepted, especially as it includes daily European news direct from New York, as well as the arrival and departure of vessels to and from Europe and New York, connected with P. E. Island trade.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 16th July, 1864.

The Orange Celebration at Winslow Barton, on Tuesday, was a decided success. The weather was everything that could be desired. . . . The numbers who assembled from different parts of the country, to celebrate a day memorable in British history, were variously estimated at from 2000 to 2500. A larger, more social, and respectable gathering we never witnessed anywhere. The procession was a magnificent sight. . . . The proceedings of the day were enlivened by the Volunteer Band, whose sweet strains alternated with the stirring notes of the Bagpipes of our old townsman, Donald McFadyen. . . . The successful manner in which the tea was got up on this occasion reflects no less credit on the Brethren of Barton Lodge, than the harmony and social intercourse which characterised the day’s proceedings do honor to the Loyal Orange Institution.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 16th July, 1864.

The concert at St. Andrew’s Hall, Pownal Street, on Wednesday evening, under the direction of the Ladies of the Convent, was the most brilliant musical performance we have ever listened to in Charlottetown. The young girls of the Convent, who were the performers, were thoroughly conversant with their several parts, and elicited, by their sweet rendition of the music, most enthusiastic bursts of applause. The Hall was crowded almost to suffocation – even the porch and doorways being jammed by an eager throng.

~ The Examiner, Monday, 18th July, 1864.
A Coroner's Inquest was held before W. H. Williams, Esq., at Souris, on the body of a young man named Charles Bushy, a resident of that place, who died from the effects of injuries received in a quarrel with Peter McInnes, foreman for Hon. D. Beaton. They met at Poquet’s forge, and some joking was carried on between the parties, when Bushy (who it appears had been drinking too freely) cast some reflections on McInnes’ wife, a woman very respectably connected, which so irritated McInnes that he knocked Bushy down and jumped upon him, inflicting the injuries which caused his death. The jury returned a verdict of “Manslaughter,” and McInnes has been committed to jail to await his trial.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 21st July, 1864.

24[th]. The Governor of Nova Scotia and Lady McDonnell accompanied with their private secretary Mr. M. B. Daly arrived in Charlottetown and were the guests of Mr. & Mrs. Dundas at Government House.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 24th July, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

A few weeks since we informed our readers that the City Council had – in a very praiseworthy manner – granted the sum of £20 towards defraying the expense of enclosing Hillsborough Square, – the citizens of the neighborhood undertaking to provide for the levelling, planting, and otherwise improving the same by private subscriptions; and we are now enabled to state, that a contract has just been entered into for the enclosure of the said square with a neat post and rail fence. The ploughing levelling, etc. will also be proceeded with immediately. We may expect, therefore, to see at least one of the public squares redeemed, ere long, from its present rude and disgraceful state, and applied to the purposes for which it was originally intended, i.e., for healthy recreation and innocent amusement, - at once an ornament and blessing to our City.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 28th July, 1864.

We have been informed that, at an Executive Council held on Tuesday last, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to nominate five gentlemen to represent this Island at the Conference about to be held, for the purpose of considering the question of a Union of the Colonies. This Conference will, we believe, be held in the City about the 1st September, and at it will be represented Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The delegates named, on behalf of this Island, are the President of the Executive Council, the Attorney General, the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. George Coles and the Hon. Andrew A. McDonald.
~ The Islander, Friday, 29th July, 1864.
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July 2014
Travel

Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.104 The Margaretha Stevenson, Charlottetown, ca. 1860s.

By the 1860s, travel was gradually becoming easier in British North America with advancements in transportation improving the speed, cost, and comfort of journeys. In Prince Edward Island, the expansion of the steamship service between the Island and the mainland afforded residents a regular means of travel to neighbouring provinces during the months of fine weather. Travel for leisure remained out of the financial reach of many Islanders; however for the upper and middle classes, who often had both the wealth and time for such journeys, travel to other provinces or to countries abroad was becoming more accessible through the development of railway networks in North America and improved travel by sea. With the advent of steamship power in the early half of the 19th century – the efficiency of which had increased greatly by the 1860s – transatlantic travel became considerably quicker and greater focus was placed on the comfort of passengers. Prince Edward Island surveyor and land agent Henry J. Cundall was but one of many who used the service at this time. In 1864, he undertook an extended trip to Great Britain and Ireland, travelling first to Pictou via the Steamer Heather Belle and then on to Halifax for the Atlantic crossing. Like the tourists of today, Cundall visited many attractions of historical and intellectual interest during his visit, including the cathedrals at Winchester and Salisbury, Queen's College in Cork, Ireland, and the British Museum in London, where he saw numerous collections of ‘rare and curious articles’.
Acc. 3466/HF72.139.4 Diary of H. J. Cundall, 13th June, 1864. Henry Cundall made his return journey to Halifax on the Arabia, one of the steamers of the famous shipping magnate Samuel Cunard. In his diary, Cundall recounts the journey home on the steamship, noting his walks on deck, the seasickness brought on by the heavy swell, and his meetings with acquaintances among the 190 passengers on board.
Acc. 2351/File1/1 Itemised bill for Underhill’s Commercial, Railway, and Family Hotel, Exeter, England.
Acc. 2775/s2/6 Letter from W. Simpson to his sister J. Simpson, 1st July, 1860, p. 3. The letter recounts Simpson's trip to the United States, travelling from Prince Edward Island through Canada to Illinois and Wisconsin. For part of his journey, he was able to make use of the railway network that was developing in areas of Canada and the United States. Simpson praises the railway, or 'iron horse', as a most effective means of travel.
I hope every thing is going on right at home they are cutting hay in this country and I hope some grain will be cut in Illinois if you answer this direct to this but I think I may be home before a letter could reach there I was only a week from O. E. Island to Uncle Charles stopping to me two days on the route. To hear from home would be the most desirable news at present.

Almost forgot to say that the Yankee girls cannot compare with our Island girls in looks except the Painted ones.

Remain yours,

W. J. Simpson

In April 1863, Margaret Gray, daughter of politician John Hamilton Gray, took a six-month trip with her parents to England. As well as seeing her extended family during the trip, she also had the leisure to sightsee and visit places of interest such as the National Gallery, the Royal Academy, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the annual horse races at Ascot.

Acc. 3466/HF78.63.1 Diary of Margaret Gray Lord, 4th June, 1863. In April 1863, Margaret Gray, daughter of politician John Hamilton Gray, took a six-month trip with her parents to England. As well as seeing her extended family during the trip, she also had the leisure to sightsee and visit places of interest such as the National Gallery, the Royal Academy, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the annual horse races at Ascot.
Remarkable Days

2[nd]. Commenced to rain. [I]t is the first rain that we have had for three weeks.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 2\textsuperscript{nd} August, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Franklin Snow, Esqr., the enterprising owner of the \textit{Franconia}, having paid a second visit to Charlottetown in his splendid new Steamship, invited a numerous party of ladies and gentlemen on an excursion trip down the harbor and out the Bay. The Steamer left the wharf a few minutes after ten o’clock this morning, and returned at about ten minutes to two o’clock. Though the ship is quite a capacious one, she was crowded out from stem to stern – Members of Parliament, Editors, Clergymen, Lawyers, Doctors, Merchants – all professions and all ranks in the community being well represented; and the beauty and fashion of the City were seldom if ever so charmingly displayed.
~ The Examiner, Monday, 15\textsuperscript{th} August, 1864.

17[th]. The first gathering of the \textit{C}aledonian \textit{C}lub took place on the governor’s lawn. [A] large number of persons were present from all parts.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 17\textsuperscript{th} August, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

The Ladies of St James’ Church have presented Mrs. Duncan, the wife of their esteemed Minister, with a very handsome Sewing Machine. We are glad to see congregations take this proper and practical method of showing their esteem for the wives of their clergymen. The machine, we understand, was purchased from Mr. Higgins, and is of very superior workmanship.
~ The Islander, Friday, 19\textsuperscript{th} August, 1864.

A collision took place on Monday night last, off Point Prim, Straits of Northumberland, between the steamer \textit{Commerce}, which left this port at 6 o’clock on the evening of that day for Halifax and Boston, and the mail steamer \textit{Heather Belle}, bound for this port from Pictou. The latter steamer sustained considerable damage from the collision, but very fortunately nothing serious occurred, although, as might naturally be expected, considerable excitement prevailed on board at the time of the accident.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 25\textsuperscript{th} August, 1864.
In our last issue we mentioned the appearance, in Long Creek, of a disease resembling the Small-pox. We have since ascertained that that loathsome disease is actually making ravages in that settlement, and at latest accounts had attacked three families.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 25th August, 1864.

We understand that the Jail at St. Eleanor’s is about to undergo alterations and improvements similar to those contemplated in reference to the Jail at Georgetown. The present condition of St. Eleanor’s Jail is most disgraceful. The accommodations for prisoners, felons, and those confined for debt, are not such as they should be. The prison in the first place is not safe, and it is far too small.

~ The Islander, Friday, 26th August, 1864.

The Steamer Princess of Wales arrived here at an early hour this morning from Pictou, having on board the Cricket Club from that place, and some 225 passengers, on an Excursion to witness the match to come off this day.

~ The Islander, Friday, 26th August, 1864.

A most melancholy and heartrending scene took place at Kildare, on the 20th inst., which resulted in the instant death of Peter Gillis, a promising young man aged 18 years, and eldest son of Mr. Neil Gillis; under the following circumstances. As deceased was in the act of going down an old well, by means of a rope, and when within about 12 feet of the bottom, his feet came in contact with some loose stones, which instantly gave way; and filling up the space at once, so as to jam him up. Instantly the embankment overhead also gave way, for the distance of eight or nine feet, thus burying him beneath its ruins. Persons assembled at once, and tried all in their power to extricate him; but not until nearly four hours were spent in removing the large stones and rubbish did they succeed in doing so. Strange to say he was not the least disfigured, and although life was extinct, he was still holding on by the rope.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 27th August, 1864.

30[th]. The Circus came over and there has not been one for 21 years, and they acted 4 days and numbers of persons went to see them. [They] took a great deal of money.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 30th August, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

31[st]. The delegates arrived from Canada, also some from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 31st August, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.
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Social and Leisure Pursuits

The church played a vital role in the social lives of Island residents in the 1860s, not only in terms of regular attendance at services, but also with respect to the organisation of social gatherings, such as tea parties, picnics, and bazaars. Most Islanders at the time, regardless of their position in society, had a close network of family, friends, and neighbours, with whom they would exchange regular social visits. Evening parties, in addition to the requisite supper and conversation, often included activities such as singing, dancing, games, and storytelling. In Charlottetown, organisations like the Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute provided informative lectures on subjects such as history, poetry, and travel; while other groups like the Sons of Temperance arranged excursions and outings for its members and their families. Concerts and dramatic renditions were also well-attended. For men, practical activities such as riding, shooting, hunting, and fishing had long been popular on the Island; however, the 1850s saw a gradual move towards sport for pure pleasure with the establishment of the Charlottetown Cricket Club. Many female pursuits were undertaken in the home: cookery and needlework had both practical and pleasurable applications. For the literate population, reading was a popular pastime for both men and women: Laird and Harvie’s Bookstore in Queen’s Square offered residents of Charlottetown a regular selection of new titles. The weather also played its part in the social and leisure activities of the Island: the teas and picnics of summer would gradually give way to the skating, snowshoeing, and sleighing of winter.

The Vindicator, 3rd February, 1864.
The social position of Island residents dictated greatly the time and money that could be spent on leisure activities. Those from wealthy families, like Margaret Gray, had access to private instruction in music, languages, and art.

Acc. 3466/HF78.63.1 Diary of Margaret Gray Lord, 23rd December, 1863. The social position of Island residents dictated greatly the time and money that could be spent on leisure activities. Those from wealthy families, like Margaret Gray, had access to private instruction in music, languages, and art.
Charlottetown is a city with two lives; it has its winter life and its summer life, so different, that the fair city that in summer is all color and variety, is in winter, so far as its appearance goes, robed in only white in endless monotony; but both lives are equally vigorous. The wheels of summer give way to the glib and noiseless sleigh, and the streets ring with the music of a hundred bells, the sound of which, in the cold and bracing air, is perfectly charming, and one’s judgment is held back when he thinks of returning summer.

~ Acc2353/538 The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.
Tea and Bazaar.

The Ladies of the Presbyterian or Free Church Congregation, West River, have agreed to hold a Tea and Bazaar in aid of the Building Fund of the new Church there, on Wednesday, the 13th day of July next, if the day is fine; if not, on the day following.

Notice will be hereafter given about the steamer, and the hour of starting from Charlottetown.

Friends in town and country disposed to give assistance are respectfully requested to hand in their contributions to any of the following ladies:

Mrs. ROSS, Miss M. M. EWEN.
E. M. MILLAN, WRIGHT.
R. BURDIE, ALCHORN.
A. M. EACHERN, MARY ROSS.
FARQUHARSON.
M. B.—The BAND will be in attendance.

June 2, 1864.

The Monitor, 16th June, 1864.

Acc. 2917/9 Diary of Lemuel Vickerson, 23rd July, 1868.
NEW BOOKS! NEW BOOKS!

JUST received at LAIRD & HARVIE'S BOOKSTORE
August, 1864.

Hodge's Outlines of Theology,
Dr. Candlish on the extent and completeness of the atonement
Bogatz's Golden Treasury,
The Upward Path,
The Knights of the Red Cross,
Martyrs and Heroes of the Scottish Covenant, by Gilfillan,
Lectures on the Book of Genesis, by Dr. Candlish,
Conversations on Natural History, by Mrs Charlotte Smith,
The Silver Casket, or the World and its Wiles, by A.L.O.E.
Cobbett's Advice to Young Men,
Life Lessons, or Scripture Truths for the Young,
War and Peace, a Tale of the Retreat from Cebul, by A.L.O.E.
Traditions of the Covenanters,
The Pastor of Kilsyth, by Rev Islay Burns,
Rosendale, or the Deserted Manor House,
Precepts in Practice, Stories in Illustrating the Proverbs by
A Manual of Biblical Antiquities
Truth and Love, or Schoolboys and their Teachers,
Meet for Heaven; Heaven our Home,
Life in Heaven,
Forty Years Experience in Sunday Schools,
The Nursery of the Church,
The Sabbath, and other Poems, by James Graham,
The Boys' Handy-Book of Sports, Games, etc.
Natural History of Birds, &c., 100 Engravings,
Richmond's Annals of the Poor,
Tony Stark Legacy,
Biography of Self-Taught Men,
Newton's Olney Hymns,
Milton's Poetical Works, various editions,
Alicia and her Aunt,
Little Aggie's Fresh Snow Drop,
Hochelaga, or England in the New World, by Geo. Warburton
The War, or Voices from the Banks,
The Sketch Book, by Washington Irving.

The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, 24th September, 1864.

“We went to Gov't. House. Saw Mrs. D. and The Governor. Then to Laird and Harvie's....”
~ Diary of Margaret Gray Lord, 3rd December, 1863.
24. [September] . . . [W]e are all quilting today.
   ~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 24th September, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

Left: Acc. 3466/HF74.27.3.203
Mary Dundas, ca. 1860s.

Acc. 2898/1 Instructions for creating decorative table covers, ca. 1869. This pattern appears with a number of other needlework designs in the notebook of John Kiely, Clerk of the Small Debt Court, Murray Harbour. The spare pages in the notebook were evidently put to good use by an unidentified female member of the household, who was eager to make a record of potential needlework projects.
[The] Olympic Circus is now in full blast in this city. The entertainment is well worth the price of admission – 25 cents; and persons who have never witnessed such performances should not lose this opportunity. Our space will not admit of details, but we will simply mention the double trapeze, by the Snow Brothers, - the monkeys and dogs, - and the trained horses, &c. Messrs. Goodwin & Wilder spare no pains to render the whole affair satisfactory to persons visiting their entertainment. To-day and to-morrow will conclude the exhibition in this place.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 1st September, 1864.

2[nd]. The Circus left at night.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 2nd September, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

The Union Conference. - This august body commenced its labors on Thursday last, in the Council Chamber, in this City, and has continued in session – with closed doors – ever since. The delegates have agreed almost unanimously, it is said, to recommend a Federal Union of all the Provinces, which, if true, disposes at once and forever of the original proposition of a Legislative Union of the Lower Provinces.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 8th September, 1864.

8[th]. . . . A Banquet given in the Colonial Building in honour of the delegates.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 8th September, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

The Hon. Mr. McGee, one of the Canadian delegates now in this City, delivered a lecture before the Young Men’s Catholic Institute, in St. Andrew’s Hall, Pownal Street, on Tuesday evening last, on “Robert Burns and Thomas Moore.” The price of admission being 3s., the audience was not large, but the lecture is highly spoken of by those who had the privilege of listening to it.
~ The Monitor, Thursday, 8th September, 1864.

The Colonial Union Convention closed its sittings at Charlottetown on Wednesday last. On Friday morning the steamer Victoria, belonging to the Canadian Government, steamed away from our harbor with the Delegates of the four Provinces on board, intending, we understand, to proceed to Halifax, where the Convention will be re-opened, and a report drawn up embodying the results of their deliberations.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 10th September, 1864.

September
Remarkable Days
One hundred and forty-five Sheep, on their way to the United States, went up in the *Princess of Wales* to Shediac on Wednesday morning last.

~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 14th September, 1864.

16[th]. The Island cricketers over at Truro playing with Halifax cricketers. [T]he former beat by 32 ahead of the latter. [T]his is the third time that the Island boys have [been] beaten.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 16th September, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

A Moonlight Excursion, under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and British Templars, suggested by Hon. Dr. Young, took place on Wednesday evening last on board the steamer *Heather Belle*. A procession formed at Temperance Hall, and preceded by a Band, marched to the head of Pownal Wharf, where some four or five hundred persons embarked. Soon after seven the steamer, released from her moorings, steamed up the Hillsborough and down again, and out into the bay, returning to the wharf at about half past nine o’clock. The night was exceedingly fine, and what with the music, fire-works, singing, &c., the party had quite a pleasant time.

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 17th September, 1864.

Our Island poet, Mr. Lepage is having some fun at the expense of the Colonial Delegates, who while on a visit to Stanhope, previous to their departure for Halifax, wished to enjoy some sport in shooting plover. It was not long before they discovered what they took to be a flock of those birds, and forthwith commenced to blaze away, but finding that none of the birds flew away after the discharge, a consultation was held to the cause; and the determination arrived at to reload, and have another shot. Just as they were about to aim at the plover, a young man who had been watching their proceedings with no small degree of amusement, rushed up and informed the crest-fallen sporting Delegates, that they were wasting their powder and shot at his *decoys*. Mr Lepage weaves the facts very prettily, and any one who wishes to enjoy a hearty laugh, will purchase a copy of his last *jeu d’esprit*.

~ The Vindicator, Wednesday, 21st September, 1864.

Thursday 29th. Rifle Shooting at Govt. grounds, went down for a short time.

~ Diary of H. J. Cundall, 29th September, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF72.139.5.

Side-walks are being laid down on Queen street preparatory to the sloppy weather, under the direction of Mr. J. Williams, who is in every way competent to overlook such improvements.

~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 29th September, 1864.
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Union of the Provinces

Acc. 4045/3 The Province Building, Illustrated London News, 12th November, 1864.

The pathway to a federal union of British North America grew from an attempt to bring unity to the Maritime provinces. The Charlottetown Conference, held in September 1864, was initially established to address the question of the feasibility of a legislative union between Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. A request by the Governor General of Canada, Lord Monck, that a Canadian delegation might also attend the Conference would ultimately change the course of the proposed discussion. Amongst Prince Edward Island politicians, great debate accompanied the discussions on federal union, with supporters and detractors reasoning the various advantages and disadvantages of the scheme. As the Conference got underway, interest in regional union soon gave way to a focus on the possibility of a larger federal merger. In Prince Edward Island, those opposed to a union argued that the proposal would increase taxation, potentially damage the Island’s successful trade with the United States, and undermine the status and authority of the province as a whole. Public support for the union amongst Islanders, with whom such arguments resonated, was generally weak and at this point the proposed terms of confederation were rejected by Island representatives. Several years later, the tide of opinion changed when the burden of debt from the introduction of a railway to the province meant that Island politicians, and indeed the public of the province, began to see some substantial advantages to the proposal. Under the terms of Prince Edward Island’s entrance into the Dominion of Canada in 1873, the province was not only promised that the debts incurred from the railway would be absorbed, but that it would also receive sufficient funds to buy out the land proprietors and thereby resolve the controversial question of land ownership on the Island.
Acc. 2821/1 Letter written by the Hon. John Hamilton Gray, Premier of Prince Edward Island, to the Governor of Nova Scotia (?), 4th November, 1863, regarding union of the Maritime provinces. Gray highlights some of the major fears that the proposal raised among Island residents. Many of these concerns were reiterated when the matter of federal union was proposed.
The Delegation: Public Hall and Banquet

The Ball and Banquet given at the Provincial Building, on Thursday evening last, in honor of the Intercolonial Delegates, assembled here to deliberate on the question of a Union of the Colonies, was, we believe, the most brilliant Fete that has ever occurred in Charlottetown.... The Delegates from Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, arrived nearly together, about nine o’clock, and were escorted by the Mayor to the Council Chamber, which was most tastefully fitted up as a Reception and Drawing Room. Here they were received by the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Dundas, where they remained until ten o’clock, being introduced to the ladies and gentlemen in attendance whose acquaintance they had not previously made. At ten o’clock they repaired to the Hall of the House of Assembly.... The Band played the national Anthem as they entered, and as soon as it was over the first set of quadrilles was opened, the Delegates and their partners with whom they entered joining in the dance. The Assembly Room was superbly decorated with flags and evergreens. Festoons of green boughs, richly interwoven with flowers, were suspended from the ceiling, crossing and recrossing each other at right angles; and all the pillars which support the gallery were gaily decked with twisted evergreens, interwoven, like the festoons, with flowers....Splendid mirrors, from the establishment of Mr. George Douglas, were placed at both ends of the room, and costly vases, filled with the most delicious flowers, shed a grateful fragrance through it. The skill and energy of Mr. Murphy, Superintendent of the Gas Works, were taxed to give the most brilliant gas light, and in this respect his work was admirably done. Indeed, there was nothing wanted to make the Ball Room a scene of entertainment.... The Banqueting Room was the most interesting place of all.... The Supreme Court Room, on the first floor, was the place selected for the Supper, to which the party repaired a little before one o’clock. The Premier of the Canadian Government took in Mrs. Dundas, and for each of the other Delegates a lady was selected by the Managing Committee.... As regards the rich viands that were placed upon the table, we will not pretend to give a minute notice of them. Everything that could minister to the taste of the epicure, from substantial rounds of beef and splendid hams, to the more delicate trifles of the cuisine, were in great abundance – salmon, lobster salad, oysters prepared in every shape and style, all the different kinds of food which the season and the market could afford – all vegetable delicacies peculiar to the season – pastry in all forms – fruits in almost every variety – wines of the choicest vintage – were in the greatest profusion, leaving scarcely an inch of vacant space on the wide table. There was never such a “spread” prepared in Charlottetown, and the caterer, Mr. John Murphy, of the North American Hotel, well deserved all the praise which he received for it.

~ The Examiner, 12th September, 1864.
Acc. 5131/6 Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 4th-16th September, 1864. The Charlottetown Conference coincided with a particularly busy period of social activity in the city: the first circus to visit the Island in two decades was in attendance; a cricket match between the Halifax and Charlottetown clubs had brought a large party of spectators to the Island; and special rates in force during the week on the steamer lines had encouraged a large number of excursionists from Summerside and Shediac to visit the city. The delegates to the conference also attended a variety of social functions and were invited to a grand ball and banquet at the Provincial Building. One newspaper remarked that the city had ‘never been so crowded, except during the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860’. 
At nearly every prominent corner of our streets, the eyes of our citizens are attracted by extensive placards of an entertainment to be given, in the shape of a Circus, during the course of next week. It is a common remark, and no more common than true, that neither the mind nor the body will stand the strain of constant labour. There must be occasional relaxation, in order to preserve the vigor of the one and the strength of the other. Amusement of some kind must be resorted to; and the question comes to be, what sort of recreation may be lawfully sought? And here we answer, not that to be obtained by an attendance upon a Circus; not the low gratification secured from the fantastic tricks and pranks exhibited, the tendency of which cannot be beneficial to the moral and religious character. ...[C] an it be denied that such a source of diversion is productive of idleness, dissipation, and general depravity? ... And who does not know that it is not unfrequently the cause of drunkenness, riot and outrage? ... Is it not, therefore, the duty of every lover of his race to frown down amusements which result in these consequences?

~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, 27th August, 1864.

The Circus has been and gone. While here it stirred the community from its secluded habit, its grievous dullness, its pallid monotony, its total deficiency of a refreshing current of amusement, so essential to health and to happiness; ...Every man and woman who met at the Circus and smiled together there, and had the health-inspiring laugh, became better friends, and more pleased with the world and their own condition in it.... We were present at the several evenings performances, and were delighted, as thousands besides us were, with the feats of horsemanship, and of trained horses and dogs, but especially were we pleased with the gymnastic performances which were superb.... We believe that reasonable public amusement is necessary in every community. At the Circus we did not discover the essentials of demoralization, saw nothing offensive, heard nothing indecent, nothing that a healthy mind could get squeamish at, and that our opinion is ratified in the fact that night after night gentlemen of the best moral standing took their wives and families and sisters to see the Circus, and we observed in the vast assemblages that the anathema of the Protestant had proved a tinkling thing, a penny whistle, and the community, while they entertain a proper sense of true decency and decorum, do love a jolly laugh...and eschew mawkish morality and sickly piety.

~ Ross’s Weekly, 8th September, 1864.
Left: Examiner, 22nd August, 1864.
Acc. 4225/s4/ss1/41 “Memorandum – what occurred in the smoking room, 25th April [n.d.] present Cole, Whelan, Pope, Macdonald, Brecken, and Walker”, p. 1. Amongst Prince Edward Island politicians, great debate accompanied the discussions on federal union, with supporters and detractors reasoning the various advantages and disadvantages of the scheme. This document records an account of a dispute that occurred in the smoking room, probably at Province House, regarding comments Mr. Coles allegedly made about Confederation and the Quebec Conference.
Acc. 2849/s2/241a Letter from Hector Langevin to Edward Palmer, 10th October, 1864, p. 1. Hector Langevin, one of the delegates from Quebec, wrote to Edward Palmer to convince him of the benefits that would be brought by a ‘marriage’ of the provinces. Palmer, however, remained a staunch and vocal opponent of the proposal for union.
Acc. 2849/s2/241a Letter from Hector Langevin to Edward Palmer, 10th October, 1864, p. 2.

We have been too much of your island, and have made the acquaintance of too many fair ladies to allow you to run away in that way. Your interests are ours, our interests are yours. What is in the way? Here it is a compromise; but our friends in the island must not forget that we have had to make many concessions for the sake of the union, and in order that we might all be united and
from a nation, let them remember that they will have their local government in their own hands, and that to be a part and parcel of a great confederation and people as now proposed is worth some little sacrifice.

Mr. Carter returned yesterday from Washington in good health.

I hope our friends of the Island are all well.

Yours truly,

Hector Langevin
Tuesday 4th Oct. Went out to Cricket field in morning, obliged to return owing to business. . . Fine weather.
~ Diary of H. J. Cundall, 4th October, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF72.139.5.

5th. The Canadian Steamer, Victoria, took all the delegates, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and New Brunswickers to Canada.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 5th October, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

On Saturday night last the Princess of Wales in coming up the harbor ran into the Schr. Lark, from Pubnico, N.S., lying in the stream without any lights or lookout, the night being dark she was not seen until too late to prevent the collision; the Princess of Wales had all her lights burning and blew her whistle several times between the Block-house and the wharf. . . . We know that the public will exonerate the officers of the Princess of Wales from any blame in the matter, as a more careful crew cannot be found on board of any steamer.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 6th October, 1864.

~ Diary of H. J. Cundall, 10th October, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF72.139.5.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings of this week, Professor De Launey delivered lectures on the “Catacombs of Rome”, before the people of this city. Some of his descriptions were very interesting, but on account of his foreign accent, and inability to express himself in that free and flowing manner necessary to a public speaker, much was lost to his audiences. He exhibited a number of diagrams of the excavations in that wonderful place, and read several epitaphs from this city of the dead.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 13th October, 1864.

The publication of the Vindicator has been discontinued. . . . But we are glad to welcome, in the place of the Vindicator, a new paper called The Herald. The Herald is to be neutral in religion and independent in politics. We wish the publisher success in his new enterprise.
~ The Examiner, Monday, 17th October, 1864.
The weather for the last four or five weeks has been exceedingly trying to the patience, and, we fear, detrimental to the prospects of our farmers. Considerable quantities of grain are still in the field, - potatoe-digging can scarcely be said to have commenced, and comparatively little fall ploughing has been found practicable.

~ The Monitor, Thursday, 20th October, 1864.

Complaints have been made to us in reference to certain young men who are in the habit of lounging around the corners of the streets and making remarks insulting to ladies and gentlemen who may be passing. If we hear of similar conduct, names will be mentioned.

~ Ross's Weekly, Thursday, 20th October, 1864.

Last week, Mr. John McDonald of Campbellton, Lot 7, whilst searching in the woods for his cattle, came suddenly across a bear with two cubs. McDonald was accompanied by a boy of about fifteen, and they, seeing the bear was making for them, both ran away – the boy bounding off like a deer in one direction, and McDonald in another, and the bear full pelt after McDonald. Over windfalls and through hemlocks and cedars they go; the Scotchman strong and active, and the bear bounding like a bull. . . . For nearly half an hour the race goes on. McDonald, beginning to find his strength failing, his heart grows faint as he finds the monster gaining on him. . . . As he still runs, he thinks of the fire-side story, that “a bear cannot climb a small tree”, and, live or die, he resolved to test its truth. Soon a tree catches his eager and bloodshot eye, and with the agility of a Highlander, he grasps the friendly branches, but the savage brute grasps his heel and draws him down, but only for a second. Another spring, and McDonald is well up, the bear eagerly following – but down he falls and falls, at each furious attempt to ascend. . . . McDonald threw down his coat, in hopes of the bear going away, which he did, after tearing the coat to shreds with one grab. The boy had, in the meantime, arrived home and alarmed the settlement, who, under the leadership of Mr. Andrew Bell, entered the forest at dark, with guns, &c. Soon McDonald’s shout was heard, and the answering cheer sent back caused a thrill of joy to vibrate in his heart, and brought the tear to his eye, for he knew that his friends were coming to restore him safe to his cabin and little ones. The tree that saved him was a spruce about eight inches through.

~ The Monitor, Thursday, 27th October, 1864.

Sunday the 30th. [A] fine day. [A] goose for dinner.[M]yself in deep trouble of mind and have no great reason.

~ Diary of J. H. Fitzgerald, 30th October, 1864, Acc. 3704.
October 2014

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2014 Celebratory Events
Food and Drink

As an agricultural-based society, with close proximity to the sea and other waterways, Prince Edward Island in the 1860s provided residents with an excellent supply of local produce. Farmers in the region cultivated crops, such as barley, oats, potatoes, and turnips, and supplied a variety of meats, including beef, pork, mutton, and lamb. Hunting offered another source of food, particularly wildfowl such as partridge, goose, and duck; while fishing, although still a developing commercial industry on the Island at the time, supplied many families with cod, mackerel, and herring. Food that could not be obtained locally was acquired through trade with Great Britain, the United States, the West Indies, and other regions of British North America. In 1864 imports from Great Britain consisted of a variety of non-perishable goods like coffee, tea, dried fruit, sugar, and salt, whereas the proximity of the United States brought fresh produce such as oranges, lemons, cheese, fish, chocolate, and confectionary to the Island. In the 1860s, the Victorian ideal placed women in the role of domestic managers, and all but the wealthiest, who could afford servants, played a central part in the preparation of meals. The growth of magazines and books on household management provided access to recipes and cookery tips, but much knowledge and experience was passed down directly from mothers to daughters at an early age through practical initiation in the home. By the 1860s, the temperance movement had gained a hold in Prince Edward Island. Organisations like the Sons of Temperance supported the view that alcohol was responsible for many of the social ills that plagued society, particularly instances of domestic violence and child neglect. Such organisations encouraged Islanders of the period to abstain from alcohol consumption or to drink only in moderation.

Acc. 3466/HF81.140.1 Diary of Rev. L. C. Jenkins, 25th December, 1862.
There are two ways of supplying the table [in Winter] – by dependence on the market, and dependence on one’s self. We have given a Charlottetown bill of fare in the Appendix … but of course this does not include many luxuries for which provision was made by family foresight in the wild fruit season, when the famed Covent Garden “seedlings” are put in the shade by the excellency of the flavor of the wild mountain strawberry. There is another way of supplying the table, as we said by dependence on one’s self. This plan becomes a necessity indeed, when located far from a market, but it is a right royal plan, and offers immense opportunities of culinary enjoyments, reduces your stock to its minimum strength, and at a blow, so to speak, supplies your whole winter’s larder. Poultry of all kinds are killed, picked, and cleaned, furnishing during the operation no end of giblet pies, – a pig and bullock, or fat cow feel the slaughterer’s knife in like manner, and are set aside to freeze; a shed is then made secure, and a space about nine feet by three parted off. In this space about a foot of snow is shovelled, on which an assortment of joints of meat and poultry is thrust, with snow between each – then another good layer of snow, and then another layer of assorted frozen joints and birds, until all are safely packed, when the whole is surmounted with more snow, and packed down with the wooden shovel, and left ready for the cook’s first call for fresh meat. All that is required when a joint is wanted is to chop it out with the axe, and put it into a tub of water for a few hours, when it is as fresh, sweet, and tender as any epicure need require.

~ Acc. 2353/538 The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island by C. Birch Bagster, 1861.
Acc. 4064/1a Hutchinson's Prince Edward Island Directory, 1864.

The Monitor, 11th August, 1864.

TO AMATEUR AND MARKET GARDENERS.

The Subscriber having purchased a residence, with a large garden attached, in the City, will lease his well known Orchard and Garden, on the St. Peter's Road, for a term of from one to five years. It is five minutes' walk from the City, and contains about three acres of Land. It is well stocked with hundreds of Fruit Trees and Bushes in full bearing; consisting of Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums, Damsona, Raspberries, Blackberries, Gooseberries, and Currants of the choicest sorts and in great variety; seven sorts of Strawberries, bearing fruit from one to three and a half inches in circumference; a cold Grapery with several vines in full bearing; a large and good stock of Rheubarb; several well established beds of Asparagus, &c. &c. &c. The Garden is open for inspection every day, Sunday excepted. For particulars apply to

Charlottetown, July 26, 1864.

GEORGE BEER.
Acc. 3466/HF81.150.341.60 Recipe book of Jane B. Douse, 1864.

“To marriageable young ladies a word of advice: a man is better pleased when he has a good dinner upon the table than when his wife talks good French”  ~ The Examiner, 18th April, 1864.
Acc. 3466/HF81.120.4 Sons of Temperance charter, Prince of Wales Division, Summerside, 1860.

“I was married all right and straight the Wednesday after I left you and got home the following Saturday. I am living as a married man should, virtuous and consequently happy. Have not drunk more than two quarts of whiskey since I got home. My wife is contented and likes Margate very well indeed. I was down to Morton's today and had a drink. I don't go to the cross often now and it is such mean work drinking alone. I shall give it up and be a Son of Temperance if you don't come home soon and save me from it.” ~ Acc. 2351 Letter from S. W. Dodd to Reuben Tuplin, 18th November, 1864.
Acc. 4405 Account book of J. C. Morris for his general store in Millvale, 1862-1866. The account of Joseph Currie for 1864 shows some of the typical purchases made by customers at the store, such as flour, tea, tobacco, herring, and molasses. As well as accepting monetary payments, J. C. Morris also operated a bartering system wherein goods or labour were exchanged for items from his store. The forms of labour undertaken through this arrangement varied widely, with customers carrying out a range of tasks from constructing vessels and hauling wood to picking potatoes and slaughtering animals.
November

Remarkable Days

2[nd]. Snow fell for the first time, about 1 inch on the ground.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 2nd November, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

The first snow of the season fell in this city yesterday, which warns us to prepare for the approach of the grim king of the North, with his icy hands and chilly countenance, by laying in our coal, banking our houses, and closing up crevices to keep Mr. Frost outside.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 3rd November, 1864.

Lighthouse at Sea Cow Head, P.E. Island. – The new Light House erected at the above place, during the past summer, has just been completed, and the Light was lit up for the first time on Monday last. The light is a Bright fixed Light, and is at an elevation of from about seventy to eighty feet from the level of the sea. The building is of an octagional form and is painted white, the Lantern an Iron frame, covered with copper, and we understand the structure is a very substantial one.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 12th November, 1864.

We learn that obstructions are frequently left on the sidewalks of some of our principal streets, causing not only inconvenience, but danger to persons passing along in the dark. A few evenings ago, a young man passing up Queen Street stumbled over a pile of plank lying on the sidewalk, sustaining severe injuries. Such carelessness is highly to be deprecated; and we think that the civic authorities should take steps to prevent the recurrence of such offences against the public safety.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 12th November, 1864.

14[th].15[th].16[th].17[th]. Very mild and the walking muddy all the 4 days.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 14th-17th November, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

New Wesleyan Chapel. – This large and spacious building was, on Sunday last, solemnly set apart for Divine Worship. At each of the services of the day it was to overflowing, which, with the able addresses delivered, the soul stirring tones of the organ, accompanied by the melodious voices of the choir, rendered it the most impressive and grand scene which has been witnessed in the city for a long time back.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 17th November, 1864.
The entertainment in Ventriloquism &c. at Temperance Hall last evening was postponed on account of the unfavorable state of the weather but will take place to-morrow evening at 8 o’clock.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 17th November, 1864.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Dundas, who were absent for a few days on a visit to Halifax, returned by the Steamer Princess of Wales on Monday last. Mrs. Dundas gave an “At Home”, last night, at Government House, to a number of the inhabitants of the City and vicinity.
~ The Islander, Friday, 18th November, 1864.

Agreeably to announcement a Tea and Pic Nic recently came off on the grounds of Mr. William Poole, on the banks of the beautiful river Montague, to aid in the building of a Free Church in that locality. The day was all that could be desired. Shortly after two o’clock carriages from all parts might be seen coming to the place of rendezvous, so tastefully decorated for the occasion. It was really a magnificent affair. The youth and fashion of Montague, Georgetown, Sturgeon, and surrounding settlements were in attendance. We are glad to state that all denominations were well represented in the assemblage. Tea being over, speechifying and singing was the order of the day. For the latter, the good folks were indebted to that indefatigable young gentleman, Mr. Wm. Johnson, whose vocal powers will attract an audience wherever he is known. A fair sum was realized, which will go a good way towards finishing the outside of the building.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 19th November, 1864.

Mr George Tweedy of Gallows Point has imported from England, by the “David Cannon”, a beautiful Leicester Ram, one year old. Sheep breeders would do well to see this splendid animal.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 19th November, 1864.

We think that as Charlottetown is a city, it should follow the example of other cities throughout the world, in respect to numbering the doors or houses on every street. A stranger inquiring where Mr. Blank lives, has to be directed after this fashion: Go up the street till you come to a pump, thence proceed along till you come to a red gate, then go a little further until you arrive at a lamp post, then go on to the third door, and Mr. Blank lives there. Very plain directions of course, and no doubt the door can be found; but how much easier to say he lives at No. 32.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 24th November, 1864.
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November 2014
In 1864, to travel any distance on Prince Edward Island, residents had to rely on a horse and carriage, or in winter, the welcome assistance of a sleigh. Journeys using Island roads could prove long and arduous: during the winter months heavy snow drifted across roads and in the spring the rapid thaw left muddy surfaces. While other provinces, like Nova Scotia, had begun to create a rail network, construction of the railway in Prince Edward Island did not begin until 1871. During the 1860s, sail and steam power were of great importance to the Island. Business flourished with the ability to export and import goods using such vessels; while traders and merchants could travel easily to foster their business endeavours. Steamships began to replace many sail-powered vessels at this time. The speed of these new ships was of particular advantage in transatlantic travel. A traditional journey in a sailing vessel might take close to a month, but with steam power that time could be reduced to as little as nine days. Steamers also operated locally: the Heather Belle and the Princess of Wales provided residents with a regular service to Pictou, Shediac and Brule during the fine weather of spring, summer and early fall. Telegraph communication was also beginning to develop at this time. The first underwater telegraph cable in North America was laid between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in 1852. This cable, and its subsequent replacements, provided easier access to news and information from the mainland, which was of particular value to the newspapers that were operating in Charlottetown at the time. In the late 1860s, the telegraph began to be utilised for commercial purposes, gradually improving communication and trade between the Island and its business partners.
ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS

Princess of Wales and Heather Bell!

New Summer Arrangements, commencing
July 18th,

CHARLOTTETOWN FOR PIOTOU
Monday, Heather Bell leaves at 9, morning.
Thursday, Princess of Wales leaves at 6, do.

Pictou to Charlottetown
Monday, Heather Bell leaves at 7, evening.
Thursday, Princess of Wales leaves at 12, midnight.

Charlottetown to Brule
Thursday, Heather Bell leaves at 4, morning.
Saturday, Heather Bell leaves at 4, morning.

Brule to Charlottetown
Thursday, Heather Bell leaves at 5, evening.
Saturday, Heather Bell leaves at 5, evening.

Charlottetown to Summerside and Shediac
Tuesday, Princess of Wales leaves at 7, morning.
Wednesday, " " " 4, "
Friday, " " " 8, "

Summerside to Shediac
Tuesday, Princess of Wales leaves at 11½ morning.
Wednesday, " " " 8½ do
Friday, " " " 12½ do

Shediac to Summerside and Charlottetown
Tuesday, Princess of Wales leaves at 2, afternoon.
Wednesday, " " " 2 do
Saturday, " " " 2 do

FARES

From Charlottetown to Pictou or back, Cabin 12s, Steerage 10s. 6d.
From Charlottetown to Brule or back, Cabin 9s, Steerage 7s. 6d.
From Charlottetown to Summerside or back, Cabin 9s, Steerage 7s. 6d.
From Charlottetown to Shediac or back, Cabin 18s, Steerage 15s.
From Charlottetown to St. John or back, £1 8s 1jd, or 9½ do.
do do Eastport do £1 17s 6d, or 8s.
do do Portland do £2 10s 6d, or 9s.
do do Boston do £2 16s 8d, or 9s.

RETURN TICKETS to or from Charlottetown and Summerside, 12s, available one week. Tickets void if parties leave the Island during the time.

EXCURSION RETURN TICKETS, at one first-class fare, may be issued at any Ticket office to parties of five or more going and returning together, to and from any one station within one week, it being distinctly understood that unless these conditions are complied with the Tickets will be void.

" Steamer "Heather Bell" leaves Mount Stewart Bridge every Friday morning, calling at the different wharves on her way up and down the River.

By Order,
F. W. HALE, Secretary.
Charlottetown, July 9, 1864.

The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, 24th September, 1864.
Acc. 4923 Letter from George Moore to his son Theopolis Moore, 30th April, 1864. George Moore explains to his son the difficulty he has had in sending out his letter due to the icy conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence which prevented his friend, who was to deliver the letter to Theopolis, from crossing to the mainland.
As an Island, the province was vulnerable to isolation, particularly in the winter, when the ports would close for many months due to the build up of ice. For this reason, the terms of acceptance agreed for Prince Edward Island’s entry into Confederation emphasised the provision for reliable and consistent communication and transport with the mainland. The debt that had been created through the creation of the railway on Prince Edward Island was absorbed to ensure that efficient travel throughout the province would also be available to residents.
We are happy to learn that the Telegraph line is again in order. Yesterday, about 10 a.m., the Brig *Charles Young*, Young, master, from Pinette, hooked the Cable off Cape Traverse. The Operator, Mr. Muttart, according to his instructions, immediately proceeded with a boat to notify and assist the vessel in clearing it. Much praise is due Mr. Muttart for his promptness in at once warning and assisting in saving our Island form being again cut off from the Main land. Had this occurred at night, in all probability, we should now be without Telegraphic communication. As the hooking of the Cable has been a frequent occurrence, causing much loss to not only the Company who own the line, but also to our Merchants and the Island generally, it ought to be the duty of all Shipmasters and owners to endeavor to protect the Cable from injury, and not anchor in the vicinity of it. The Governments of New Brunswick and this Island should, we think, do what they can in the shape of a law to protect this valuable means of communication. The interruption, yesterday, was caused by the removal of the roof of a bridge near Sackville, through which the wires pass.

*The Islander, Friday 3rd June, 1864.*

![Image of a handwritten telegram]

Acc. 2575/6 First commercial telegram received in PEI, New York, Newfoundland & Condon Telegraph Company, 7th October, 1867.
Acc. 4807/3 Ship's log of the Selina showing entries for 25th-27th December, 1868.
December

Remarkable Days

6[th]. Sleighing pretty good & fine.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 6th December, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

8[th]. Thanksgiving day. [T]he streets in awful state with the mud.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 8th December, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

A Sacred Concert was given in St. Dunstan’s Cathedral, in this City, on
Wednesday evening last, the 7th inst. We understand the object of the
Concert was to raise funds for the purpose of defraying a portion of the
expense incurred in recently importing a magnificent new Organ for the
use of the Cathedral.
~ The Islander, Friday, 9th December, 1864.

The weather continues unusually mild at this season of the year. On Tuesday
night last snow fell to the depth of about three inches, but the hot sun of
Wednesday soon melted it away – indeed the day was more like a day in
June than of December.
~ The Islander, Friday, 9th December, 1864.

Thursday last, the day appointed for a General Thanksgiving, was very
generally observed in this city. We believe public worship was held in nearly
all the Churches, and we saw no shops open during the day.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 10th December, 1864.

We understand that yesterday morning a young woman, named Susan
Murphy, was found dead near the door of ‘Noonan’s’ Tavern, in this City.
An inquest was held on the body, and we learn that the verdict was to this
effect, “Died from intoxication and exposure to cold”.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 10th December, 1864.

The steamer “Princess of Wales” did not attempt a passage from Pictou to
this port yesterday, on account of the gale. She arrived here this morning,
and proceeded to Summerside and Shediaic, but we doubt if she will be
able to effect an entrance at either port. We hear that Bedeque harbor was
frozen over this morning, and Shediaic is also a place which closes early in
the season.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 10th December, 1864.
On Thursday night the navigation of this port closed. The steamer “Princess of Wales” was busy nearly all day in towing out vessels. In the morning she took out the ship David Cannon, bound to Liverpool, and in the evening several smaller vessels. The steamer Franconia, loaded with some 12,500 bush. oats, 150 sheep, and a quantity of poultry, &c., worked her way through the ice out of port the same evening. Three vessels laden with oats are frozen in at the wharves. Immediately on the harbor freezing up, oats fell to 1s. 9d. and could scarcely find purchasers at that price.
~ The Protestant and Evangelical Witness, Saturday, 17th December, 1864.

Sunday, Dec.br 18th 1864. Stormy with flakes of snow.
~ Diary of J. H. Fitzgerald, 18th December, 1864, Acc. 3704.

Wednesday 21st. At Temp[erance] Hall all day, prep[aration]s for Sunday School Tea in Evening. At 6½ Governor and Mrs. Dundas arrived. [A]t 5 Tea was served with cake to about 250 of the scholars who appeared to enjoy themselves. Singing both before and after Tea & addresses by the Governor who expressed himself much pleased at what he witnessed.
~ Diary of H. J. Cundall, 21st December, 1864, Acc. 3466/HF72.139.5.

The greatest quantity of Toys for Christmas and New Year Presents are now on exhibition at Laird and Harvie’s Bookstore, where the hearts of the little folks can be made glad and rejoice.
~ Ross’s Weekly, Thursday, 22nd December, 1864.

23[nd]. Very cold. [T]he thermometer 10 degrees below zero all day.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 23rd December, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

We learn that the Hon. J. C. Pope, yesterday, tendered his resignation of his seat at the Executive Council of this Island.
~ The Islander, Friday, 23rd December, 1864.

A little milder on the 24th. 2 feet of snow in the woods.
~ Diary of J. H. Fitzgerald, 24th December, 1864, Acc. 3704.

25[th]. A splendid day. A great many persons in St. Paul’s Church. [T]he decorating looked very well and so did the new stained glass window.
~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 25th December, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.

~ Diary of Sarah Louisa Cundall, 27th-29th December, 1864, Acc. 5131/6.
2014 Celebratory Events
Private practitioners of medicine had already established themselves in Prince Edward Island by the end of the 18th century. Physicians, like Dr. John Mackieson, who arrived on the Island from Scotland in 1821, brought with them medical knowledge acquired through education and experience in the old country. Professional health care in the 1860s was not free and despite the increasing access to Island doctors, the cost of securing these services proved prohibitive to many Islanders, particularly those living in poorer rural areas. In many cases, lay practitioners, midwives, homeopathic doctors, and other medical consultants, without formal training or license, formed part of a more affordable network of medical care that substituted or supplemented professional medicine on the Island. Bloodletting, whilst beginning to decline in popularity, was still very much in use in the mid-19th century. With little understanding of the causes of many diseases and illness at this time, such treatment was based on ancient Greek beliefs that illness was caused by the body being out of balance. It was believed that the process of bloodletting purged the body of these negative elements and restored its equilibrium. In general, the 19th century saw steady advancements in medicine, with the introduction of anaesthesia and chloroform, and the discovery of antisepsis, all of which had positive implications for surgical practice and prognosis. Although these developments had reached British North America by the 1860s, it took significant time for doctors to apply these methods and feel confident in their use as part of their medical practice. Without them surgery, and other procedures, were often traumatic for patients, and chances of survival were greatly reduced.
Acc. 4225/s7/1 Unidentified diary [Macdonald family], 1st-6th May, 1866. The author mentions the use of a mustard plaster as a treatment for Joe’s illness. This was a popular remedy during the 19th century and was used to treat a variety of illnesses and disorders. It consisted of ground mustard seed, mixed with flour and water, placed in a cloth and applied to the affected area. It was believed that the heat created by the plaster would draw toxins out of the body. The remedy was frequently applied to reduce pain and to treat complaints of the chest; however, if administered incorrectly or left too long, the treatment could cause the skin to burn and blister.
10th [June] . . . felt very unwell, and depressed, much out of order – tried Dr. Graham’s cold water remedy morning and evening.
~ Acc. 3466/HF81.140.1 Diary of Rev. L. C. Jenkins, 10th June, 1862.
Medicines were not properly regulated at the time and large numbers of unlicensed remedies became available to the general public. Many patent medicines, as they came to be known, claimed to cure an array of diseases from minor ailments like headaches and indigestion to more serious illnesses like tuberculosis and cancer. Many of these medicines contained large amounts of alcohol and could include highly potent substances such as morphine, cocaine, and opium.
RG3/s1/ss2/Vol.1864 Table showing the names of those admitted to treatment in the Charlottetown Asylum together with the suspected cause of their illness, submitted as part of the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent, Journal of the House of Assembly, 1864. Public asylums became the favoured model for addressing the problem of mental illness in society during the 19th century. In Prince Edward Island, an asylum for the mentally ill was created in Charlottetown in the 1840s. Like many others, it was based on the precept that the asylum was a place of treatment and cure, rather than a means by which to house, restrain or conceal the mentally ill. Despite all good intentions, conditions in asylums were often less than ideal. Dr. John Mackieson, superintendent at the asylum in Charlottetown during the mid-19th century, frequently pointed to deficiencies in the system. In some of his annual reports, he highlighted the need for additional funds and the requirement to improve various aspects of the building, such as its ventilation and state of cleanliness. Such issues, as well as other incidents demonstrating a general deficiency in care, affected many asylums both in British North America and Great Britain itself. By 1874, the deteriorating conditions of the asylum in Charlottetown, both as a physical facility and a provider of care, were drawing harsh criticism and a new mental health facility was opened at Falconwood in 1879 as a replacement.
RG 6.1/s14/File321 Witness testimony of John Jackson at the inquest into the death of Susan Murphy, Supreme Court, 1864. Susan Murphy was found dead close to Noonan’s Tavern, Charlottetown, in December 1864. Physician David Kaye examined the body as part of the inquest into her death. He found that she had been in good health and had no mark of violence on her person; however, through insufficiency of clothing her feet were both frozen. The doctor concluded that she had died from cold and exhaustion, whilst suffering under the effects of alcohol consumption. A witness, John Jackson, provided a statement for the inquest regarding his final sighting of Murphy.
MARK BUTCHER,
Cabinet-Maker, Upholsterer,
AND
UNDERTAKER,
EAST CORNER OF KING'S SQUARE,
CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

A choice assortment of
DINING AND DRAWING ROOM FURNITURE,
In Mahogany, Black Walnut, and Island Wood constantly on hand.

MELODEONS,
Of H. & H. W. Smith's make, for sale as cheap as can be purchased in Boston.

TURNING,

FUNERALS FURNISHED AND CONDUCTED
With care and economy in any part of the Island.

HEARSE HIRE TO OTHER UNDERTAKERS.

LIVERY STABLES.
Horses and Carriages of every description constantly on hand.
JAMES WALSH,
DEALER IN
Groceries, Flour, Liquors, and Provisions of all kinds,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
GRAFTON STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN,
NEAR PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE.

GEORGE L. DOGHERTY,
CABINET-MAKER,
PRINCE STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN.

An assortment of Ready Made Furniture always on sale,
WARRANTED GOOD.

GILT MOULDINGS FOR PICTURE FRAMES, &c.,
Always on hand, and will be made up at short notice.

ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.
N.B.—CHEAP FOR CASH.

Charlottetown Marble Works,
UPPER GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S. WELLS, Proprietor,
Marble Monuments,
HEADSTONES, CHIMNEY PIECES, &c.,
EXECUTED IN THE BEST MANNER.
Charlottetown Carriage Factory,

Kent Street

Near Great George

John & Robert Scott,

Manufacturers and Dealers in

Carriages,

Waggons, Buggies, Gigs, Sleighs, &c., &c.,

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

John Stewart,

Upper Queen Street,

Carriage and Sleigh Manufacturer.
JAMES WOODSIDE,
BLACKSMITH,
PLoughs made to order.
Carriages ironed in any style, and all kinds of general
Blacksmithing done on reasonable terms.
ST. ELEANORS.

C. E. STANFIELD’S
CLOTH MANUFACTORY,
TRYON RIVER,
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

REUBEN TUPLIN,
GENERAL STORE,
AND
Commission Merchant,
MARGATE.