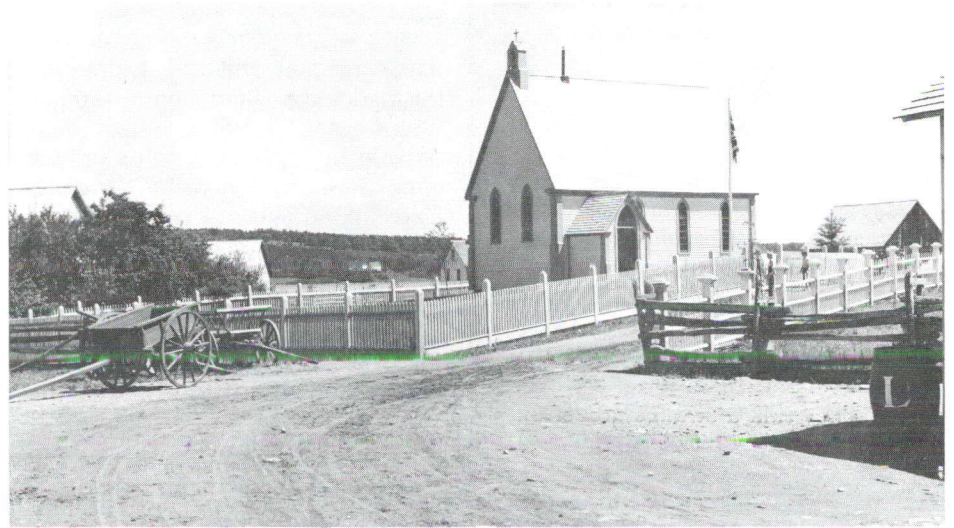


Kings's Landing, N.B., restored as historic village

A visit to King's Landing Village, 23 miles northwest of Fredericton, New Brunswick, is literally a step into history. Suddenly, you are living in the early nineteenth century, surrounded by buildings meticulously restored and inhabited by families dressed in the clothing and doing the chores of their forebears.

The establishment of this historical settlement has been done under a series of agreements between the governments of Canada and New Brunswick. To date, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) has contributed some \$3.5 million to the costs of development and the job isn't finished yet. Over the next three years, it is proposed that an authentic nineteenth century sawmill and gristmill will be constructed, the interiors of a number of houses will be completed and an improved access from the Trans Canada Highway will be built.

The building of King's Landing has



employed an average of 50 persons year-round for the past seven years, with the staff more than doubling during the tourist season. Many have an opportunity to develop skills in furniture and building restoration, masonry, and such almost-forgotten arts as spinning, weaving, dyeing, iron-working and slating.

Provincial asset

A spokesman for the New Brunswick Historical Resources Administration, the implementation agency for the project, said at the official opening last summer: "King's Landing is one of the most important educational and economic assets in the province. It provides students with an unrivalled opportunity to see the past living in the present, and attracts many thousands of visitors every year, thus helping to keep tourists in New Brunswick."

King's Landing never actually existed as a community. It is made up largely of buildings salvaged from the area now known as the Mactaquac Headpond, before the opening of the Mactaquac Dam on the Saint John River created this 90 miles of man-made lake.

Period pictures

To give a comprehensive picture of life in the Saint John River Valley between 1790 and 1870, some 11 dwellings, an inn, store, school, church, community hall and blacksmith shop, plus two period farms and a dozen gardens are on the 300-acre site. The buildings contain literally tens of thousands of artifacts, all identified, researched and restored.

Though it is still not completed, King's Landing has been open to the public for the past three seasons and the number of visitors has far exceeded expectations. The "natives" appear happy and friendly as they go about their daily duties — using the tools, furniture, equipment and even the same type food as did the original inhabitants.

(From October '74 issue of Telescope, a publication of DREE.)

