

# History of West Dalhousie

(Written by Ida M. Marshall.)

West Dalhousie is situated thirteen miles south-east of Annapolis Royal. It was named for Lord Dalhousie who made through this district on horseback when on his way from Annapolis to Halifax before a road was made.

The first settlement was made by soldiers who had fought in the battle of Waterloo (1815). They were chiefly English, Irish and Scotch. There were about fifty soldiers in all and were granted by the English Government one hundred and thirty lots of land, each soldier receiving about one hundred acres. Besides the land they were given rations for three years and pensions for life time. The grants were given on the 12th of July, 1817. Some began to clear and cultivate in 1818.

These people did not find the land cleared and ready for settlement and were almost discouraged when they found that they had to make a home in the wilderness.

After a site was selected, rude houses were built of logs, then the trees had to be cut down and disposed of. The people of these early times had a way of turning work into play by helping each other in what they called a "piling frolic" or "logging line" at which all the men gathered into a neighbours "burnt land", rolled the logs into a heap and burned them to ashes. The carts and wooden implements that were used were chiefly made by hand.

The women carded and spun the wool and wove the yarn into homespun which was used for making the family clothing.

The houses, as I said before, were made of logs and as stoves and furnaces were not thought of just then the kitchen was supplied with a broad open fireplace and an iron crane. The crane was used for hanging the pots and kettles in which the meals were cooked. Fuel was supplied from the neighboring forests. A large log was placed in the back of the fireplace and in front were the smaller sticks which rested on long narrow stones or andirons.

There were no matches in these early times to light a fire, and fire was obtained by striking a flint sharply with a bar of steel.

When the fire was once kindled it was seldom allowed to die out. At night a hardwood brand was covered with ashes and by morning this would be burned to a bed of coals. Sometimes the brand used was too small and by morning it would be burned to ashes. Then fire was obtained by striking the flint, or the children were sent to a neighbors to "borrow fire".

Tallow candles were used instead of lamps.

When the settlement was first made the only means of travelling was on foot or on horseback, by a narrow path to Annapolis which was the nearest town. But after the land was cleared so that crops could be raised the farm produce was taken there to be sold or exchanged for tea, sugar, flour, etc., money was rather scarce so that in most cases farm produce had to be used in its place. As the travelling increased a road was built so that carts could be used. These were drawn by oxen and later horses were also used. The Dalhousie Road, as it was called, extended from Annapolis to what is now known as Albany where the Halifax and South Western Railway runs across a distance of about thirty miles. About three miles above the settlement of Dalhousie West a branch road was built called the *Wolfeville Road*, so called for a man of the name of Morse who owned land where the road was laid out. This road was extended to Bridgetown and another settlement was made on it.

By 1820 the settlers had made a good start and the number of inhabitants had increased to 350 including 80 women and 188 children.

In 1827 the western end of the Dalhousie Road was changed so as to get rid of some of the hills. Another branch road was also made south of the Dalhousie Road and was named Township Road. Two towns were to be built, one on the Town-

ship Road and another by Lake Clear on the Dalhousie Road. The first one mentioned was to be called Ramsey for the son of Lord Dalhousie and a great many lots of land were given to men who had trades so as to settle the towns; but the plans were never carried out.

The journey to Annapolis was a rather tedious one, but the women folks as well as the men thought nothing of walking there with a basket of eggs or butter to supply the family wants, and to get the mail as the nearest post office was there. No stamps were used then and it cost one shilling to send a letter. They also went to Annapolis to draw their pensions every three months.

One of the soldiers widows, a Mrs. Ingles by name, was walking from Annapolis sometime during the year 1832 and was murdered by a man named Gregory. It seemed that Gregory wanted to hire a horse from her and she refused. This made him very angry and, knowing that she went to Annapolis on a certain day, he went too. On the day home he overtook her and murdered her. Gregory made a confession and was hung. The place where the murder took place is still called the "Ingles Swamp".

The first school house was built of logs and the first teacher was Jas. Aull. He was a free-mason and was given a lot of land in the Township. He received his salary from the English Government and taught until 1831. His successors were paid by the people of the district. They did not board with the same family while they were teaching but "boarded around" as it was called. That is they boarded a while with each family. The length of time depending on the number of children sent to school. Teachers could not always be hired for a year at a time and

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As for women, her back aches, she is dizzy with sick headaches, and often has stabbing pains in the side. The only real health is all-year-round health; and the secret of it is good, red blood and plenty of it. One way to keep the blood in good condition is to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. There is scarcely a nook or corner in Canada where someone will not be found who will tell you the benefit they have had through the use of these pills. And the reason is that through the improved condition of the blood they strengthen and tone up the nerves of worried, enfeebled men and women, and at the same time have given new vigor to pale, delicate girls and thin weedy boys. The value of these pills in all run down conditions is shown by the statement of Mrs. Lawrence Brown, Walton, N. S., who says:—"When I began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I was in a weak, bloodless and nervous condition, suffering from all the depressing symptoms that accompany this run down state of health. I had taken much medicine but it did not do me any good, and as I had a family of small children, I was much discouraged. Then reading about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I decided to try them, and I can honestly say that I feel these pills have saved me from prolonged misery. My health is now good, and we now keep the pills in the house for use as a family medicine."

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ship Road and another by Lake Clear on the Dalhousie Road. The first one mentioned was to be called Ramsey for the son of Lord Dalhousie and a great many lots of land were given to men who had trades so as to settle the towns; but the plans were never carried out.

The first church built was the Episcopal Church in 1837. The first rector was the Rev. E. Gilpin who was also rector of St. Lukes' Church at Annapolis Royal. Before the Church was built the people of Dalhousie attended service at Annapolis whenever it was possible, they also buried their dead there.

The first frame house was built in 1820 which is still standing on the farm of Jane A. Marshall. The boards used in building this house were sawn from timbers by hand. A hole was first dug in the ground and the timber was placed above it. One man got down into the hole while another stood on top of the timber and pulled the saw up and the other pulled it down until the timber was sawn off. This process was continued until the required amount of boards were sawn. The laths were also split by hand.

In building the houses birch bark was put between the boards and shingles. Most of the houses only contained two rooms upstairs and two downstairs. Soon after this was built a frame school house to take the place of the old one built of logs. Improvements have been made from time to time.

All Saints' Episcopal Church was built near "Lake Clear" of which the Rev. John Reeks is now rector and West Dalhousie is now included in Rosette Parish. This parish includes "Round Hill", "Moscovelle" and several small settlements.

The dwelling houses are generally better than those usually found in country places. Other churches have been erected at the "Hill", both Baptist and Methodist.

Some of the scenery in West Dalhousie is very beautiful. "Lake Clear" about one half a mile long and wide, is a grand place for trouting, also "North Lake". Besides these there are several large brooks which attract visitors especially during the trouting season. I might also mention "Lake Alma", well known to lovers of both the rod and the gun all over Annapolis County.

The acreage of cultivated land on the farms is not so large as it is in the neighboring Valley, and lumbering is the chief industry.

A rotary saw mill operated by water power was built near "Lake Clear" in 1816, which takes the place of the old "up and down mill" previously used. Several mills are now operated in other parts of West Dalhousie, both steam and water mills.

For a long time there has been an exodus of people, chiefly the young, from W. Dalhousie, the cause being chiefly the greater attractions that town and city life seems to offer to the young. Many of those people are to be found in Bridgetown, in fact all through the Valley, and in the Eastern States. Among those well known in Bridgetown are the Andersons, Toggles, Taylors, Durlings, Gillises, Dargies and many others.

### MOSCHELLE

Mrs. A. Roger, Miss Winnie Wear, and friend, Mr. Clarence Allan, of Annapolis Royal, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ritchie.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Ritchie, of Lawrenceville, spent Sunday at John McLeod's. Norman Dargie, of Bridgetown, spent the week-end at the same home.

Mrs. Susie Flett, Mrs. Howard Spurr, of Newton Centre, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spurr. Mr. and Mrs. W. Sanford and son, of Clementsport, spent Sunday.

Mrs. P. E. Wright, of Clementsville, visited Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ritchie over Sunday.

Miss Elva Buckler returned from Wolfeville on Monday after a pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. Truman Sanford.

Miss Gladys Whitman, of Round Hill, and Rev. Archdeacon Watson, of Granville Ferry, were Sunday guests at the home of B. G. Fairn.

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### MELVERN SQUARE

Mrs. Doane, who has been staying with her daughter, Mrs. Porter, has gone to Yarmouth to visit for a while before going to Boston for the Winter.

Mrs. Edwin J. Baker has gone on a visit to friends in Boston and will go to New York to see her son before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. George O'Neal attended the funeral of their brother, William O'Neal, of Hampton, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Miner Sprowl and Percy spent Sunday in Wolfeville, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Porter. Mrs. Eliza Stronach is on the sick list. Dr. Miller is attending her. We hope she will soon be better.

Mrs. Saunders, of Springfield, visited her cousin, Mrs. George Brown, last week.

Mrs. Reynolds, of Deep Brook, was a recent visitor at the home of Mr. C. Chute.

Mrs. St. Clair Ritchie, of Winnipeg, is a visitor at the home of Mr. D. M. Outhill.

Miss Cora Bowby, of Spa Spring, spent last week with Mrs. George O'Neal.

Mr. Charles Baker is visiting his sons in U. S. A.

Capt. Carter has been on a business trip to St. John.

### MOUNT ROSE

Recent guests at the home of Mr. Silas Banks were: Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Banks, of Bridgetown; Mr. and Mrs. Willard Whitman and daughter, Miss Lena Whitman, of Williamston, and Mr. Oswald Banks and friend, of Arlington, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Bent and family, of Outram, were visiting at Mr. Edw. Marshall's on Sunday.

Miss Wyona Brown and Mr. Wilbur Nelly spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. Harry Hines.

Mrs. Naomi Banks is spending a few days at the home of her brother, Mr. Adolph Johnson.

Mr. Moody Sanford, of Clarence, was a recent visitor at Mr. Alfred Marshall's.

Mrs. Sarah Grant has returned to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Asahel Whitman.

### SONGS OF A BLUEOSE

O, Love, Do You Remember When—  
(By Platonian.)  
O, Love, do you remember when,  
In those old days of Summer weather,  
For getting cares of book and pen  
We walked these fields together!

The brooks and trees were full of song,  
For Heaven and earth had come together,  
And life was sweet, and love was strong,  
And it was pleasant weather.

And, Love, do you remember how,  
'One night it had that glad Summer weather,  
We pledged beneath the pines a vow  
To walk life's path together?

At twenty-one there's no alloy  
In life for two fond hearts together,  
Then all the world is full of joy,  
And it is pleasant weather.

But, Love, not all our dreams came true  
Since first we walked these fields together,  
Not always clear the sky and blue,  
Not always pleasant weather.

But life is sweeter now than then,  
And we can face all kinds of weather,  
And love is stronger now than when  
We walked these fields together.

For we have learned, as all lives must  
That walk life's rugged path together,  
That perfect love is perfect trust  
In every kind of weather.

So, sweetheart, come again with me,  
And we will walk these fields together,  
There's music still in brook and tree,  
And it is pleasant weather.

10,000 CASES OF LIQUOR PER WEEK COMING FROM ST. PIERRE

Messrs. Adams and Hawlen, of Boston, United States Federal Prohibition Officers, were at the Queen Hotel, Halifax, and left last Wednesday for Boston. They arrived here Monday by the Red Cross liner Silvia, from St. John's, Nfld., and were shown about the city Monday by Inspector Tracey. They called on Chief Hanrahan and other officials at the City

Hall. They went to St. Pierre, Montreal, several months ago to look into importing and exporting matters there interesting the United States, and will report to the authorities at Boston upon returning home. It is stated that liquor shipments from St. Pierre run from 7,500 to 10,000 cases per week.

Rev. Dr. J. Albert Faulkner, of Drew Theological Seminary, New Jersey, was a visitor in town last week, with his old school mate, Rev. E. P. Caldwell. Dr. Faulkner is a native of Grand Pre and usually spends his Summer in his native Province. He has a high reputation as a scholar and as an author.

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## SNOW IMPORTED FOR SKI EVENTS



For the first time the Canadian Pacific Railway carried snow as freight when it transported several carloads from Lake Louise to Calgary, where it was needed for the ski jumping in connection with the Winter Carnival.

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