

can company which built the mills at Tracadie Mills (also called Fosters, or by its Post Office name of Sheila), the lumber from which is shipped by the railway to Bathurst. Around these mills has grown up a thriving village, which however is threatened with a short existence, since the good lumber on Big Tracadie is believed to be well-nigh exhausted.

An event of much importance in the history of Tracadie was the establishment there of the Lazaretto. About the year 1815, it became definitely known that leprosy existed among the Acadians of Gloucester County, though it is still uncertain, despite various local traditions, how it was first introduced among them. Nothing was done to check it at the time, but it continued to spread until 1844, when the New Brunswick Government, as a result of the investigations of a Commission of competent physicians, established a Lazaretto on Sheldrake Island, Miramichi, and gathered most of the lepers into it. In 1849, however, in order to bring it nearer the centre of the disease and the residence of the lepers, it was removed to Tracadie and established upon its present site. The first buildings were of wood enclosed by high fences, and the lot of the imprisoned lepers was dreary in the extreme. Governor Gordon visited the place shortly before 1863, and in his book "Wilderness Journeys," (published at St. John in 1864), he gives a harrowing account of their conditions. It was a great blessing for them when, in 1868, at the suggestion of Bishop Rogers of Chatham, seven devoted Sisters of Charity of Hotel Dieu, Montreal, consecrated their lives to the service of the lepers, and came to Tracadie to nurse and care for them. And sisters of that order have been with them to this day. In 1880, the Dominion Government assumed charge of the Lazaretto, and soon after the wooden buildings were torn down, and the present commodious freestone building was erected, since