

Mr. McAlpine, and he trusted by strict attention and civility to give satisfaction to those who might favor him with their custom—as he could accommodate with good diet and excellent beds, for which only a moderate charge would be made." This was in 1822.

In the days before the construction of a railroad to Windsor, all traffic from the western part of the province came by the Bedford road to the metropolis. The coach, with its passengers and the royal mail; the farmer with his produce, and the drover, with cattle for the imperial forces, and the public market, came that way, and stopped over-night at one of the wayside inns along the Basin for rest and refreshment—for horse and man. The following fragment of an old letter turned up among some of the papers of *Agricola* (John Young.) It is headed "A Change of Scene," and goes on to say: "It is but a few years since I left the province, and in taking a ride on my return as far as Sackville bridge, I could not but observe the different buildings on the road. The new road is certainly one of the greatest improvements imaginable. McAlpine's place seems dwindling away, like many other reputed places of resort. The tanyard is certainly in a prosperous condition, but *Sherwood*, once the residence of Bishop Stanser, is sadly neglected, and the fences going to ruins. McAlpine's Three-mile house stood at the junction of the Westernmost or Blue Bell with the Lady Hammond road, as shown on a survey of that locality, by Titus Smith. Nearby John Steele, a merchant, built a cottage, which was named the "Triangle cottage." Previous to the building of Mr. Steele's cottage a Mr. Shaw, once a member of the house of assembly, built a residence in the valley, which was years afterwards occupied by Increase Ward as a hotel.

In 1829 John Northrup kept the Three-mile house. Besides Northrup's there were the Rockingham, Barkman and Fultz, named the 15-mile house, at Sackville. In 1833 the following road-houses existed along the Basin road: Birch Cove hotel, five miles; Rockingham, six miles; Gough's, eight miles and a half; Fultz's, twelve miles.

When the Duke of Kent occupied the Lodge, on the Basin, he erected a range of low buildings a little to the north of the Rotunda, which were

occupied by two companies of his regiment, and contained the guard room and mess room for the officers. This building was afterwards known as the Rockingham Inn, a favorite resort in summer when tea and ginger beer were to be had under the piazza, which ran along the edge of the water. This hotel acquired the name of Rockingham, having been for a long time after the duke's departure the place of meeting of the Rockingham club. This club was established either while the duke was resident here, or very soon after his leaving for Canada. It was composed of Governor Wentworth, the members of H. M. Council, the admiral of the station, several of the principal military officers, and a number of the leading citizens of Halifax. A number of portraits of the leading members of the club were executed by Field, an artist of good reputation. The guard house, or barracks, which was transformed into the Rockingham Inn, has been erroneously applied to the four-mile house. The Rockingham was destroyed by fire 70 years ago, before the firemen from the town could reach the scene to do anything to save it. The four-mile house, in the fifties, was kept by John Butler, who afterwards removed to the "Nine-mile house," and then to Bedford, where he kept the upper hotel, above Fitzmaurice's, which was near the railway track.

The Four-mile house, in the days of boat racing on the Basin, was kept by William Davey, who had been an alderman in Halifax, and, at one time, the proprietor of the hotel adjacent to Northrup's market. He was a man of large proportions—a typical "mine host." Davey's hotel was in full operation in the sixties and seventies of the last century.

Long distance races are not altogether a modern feature. As early as 1808 races of this character were pulled off in Halifax. At the above date a number of soldiers of the 101st regiment lined up opposite the North Barracks, on what is now Cogswell street, for a series of races to the Bedford road. Messrs. Lynch and Blake, of the 101st, started from Colonel Pollock's quarters and ran to Rockingham Inn. McNaughton and Scott, of the same corps, ran to Irvin's tanyard, and Dillon and Rochefort, to Rockingham Inn.