

Wolfville in 1865

Nearly sixty years ago, before the Windsor and Annapolis Railway was in operation, Wolfville was a busy center of trade and through its institutions of learning was well known. Few of the men who were alive at that time are with us. None of the business places, except Rand's Drug store, are associated with the activities of the year 1865.

A brief statement of the residents of Wolfville at that time may be of interest to readers of THE ACADIAN.

Beginning at the Tannery Brook on the North side the first place was occupied by the late Enoch Neary. This place was afterwards owned by the late James Elderkin, and is now occupied by Harry G. Parker.

The next place was that now occupied by Mr. R. A. Jodrey. The old dwelling which stood on that site was then occupied by the late James Elder. It was afterwards owned by Mr. A. C. Johnson who built the new house afterwards remodelled by the late W. M. Black after he became the owner of the property.

The late J. W. Bigelow occupied the next place, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Whidden. This was formerly the home of Mr. James Johnson. Mr. Johnson received such injuries from a vicious bull as to cause his death. Mr. Bigelow was interested in big shipping enterprises and after coming to Wolfville was an enthusiastic orchardist. He was one of the first Mayors after Wolfville became incorporated, and was also for some years president of the N. S. Fruit Growers Association.

The double house now occupied by Mr. A. C. Cox and Mrs. A. N. Johnson was the next place in those days as it is at present. It was then the home of Capt. George Johnson on the west side and Mr. Andrew H. Johnson on the east side. Both were progressive and worthy citizens.

Dr. J. R. Hea then resided in what is now known as Kent Lodge. Formerly this property was owned by the late Judge DeWolfe. It was afterwards for many years the home of the late W. H. Haliburton, father of Mrs. L. H. Moore.

Next was the home of the late Dr. J. M. Cramp, the first president of Acadia College. This place is now occupied by Capt. John Pratt. The building has since Dr. Cramp's day been much changed and improved. The late C. R. Bill resided here when he first came to Wolfville.

At the time to which we refer the house now the home of Mayor Fitch was occupied by a Miss Best, who at one time conducted a private school for girls where Mrs. Stackhouse now resides. This place was for a long time the home of the late Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., formerly the pastor of the Baptist church.

Mr. William Fitch, the grandfather of the present Mr. William Fitch and Mayor Fitch, then occupied a dwelling which stood near the site of the fine residence erected by the late George Thompson. This, we are informed, was the old Cleve-

land homestead. It was removed when Mr. Thompson built his house. The latter was for years an honored resident of Wolfville and gave splendid service as Mayor for a number of years.

The old Baptist parsonage was the next residence and stood on the site of Mr. H. Stairs' residence. It was at that time occupied by the late Rev. Stephen W. DeBlois, who for more than a quarter of a century was the beloved pastor of the Wolfville Baptist church. When the new parsonage (Mr. Stairs' home) was erected the old building was moved back and is now occupied by Mr. Russell, Physical Director at Acadia. This place was occupied for some time by Mr. Simion Vaughan who went to British Columbia many years ago and died there.

Next was the David Thomas place now occupied by Capt. Beardsley. Mr. Thomas was a native of Canada and erected the house where he resided for a number of years. It was afterwards owned by the late Augustus A. Pineo and later by the late J. B. Tingley.

The late W. J. Johnson was the next resident. He lived on the property now owned by his son, Mr. E. C. Johnson, and died many years ago. He was a well known and esteemed citizen.

The house near the campus now occupied by Dr. Coit was the next residence. It was built by a Mr. Harris who lived where Mr. Johnson H. Bishop now resides. At the time of our story, Mr. Harris who lived in the old building had erected the new house, which was occupied by the late Henry B. Witter and family. Mr. Witter conducted a business in a building which stood opposite and afterwards in the store now occupied by Mr. C. H. Porter.

The late J. L. Brown, who was one of the foremost business men at that time, lived in the house recently vacated by Dr. G. E. DeWitt. This house was erected by his brother, the late William Brown, and was then, as it still continues to be one of the finest residences in town. Mr. Brown had a large family which occupied a large place in the social life of the community in the old days.

The Village House (for many years the Central House) was a popular hostelry under the management of Mrs. Arthur Murphy, still remembered by some of the older residents. It was well conducted and a favorite stopping place.

The small building next was then occupied as an office by the Minas Marine Insurance Co.

East of the old burying-ground was the home of the late Edward Chase with the store alongside. This was the home of his father, the late Rev. John Chase, who conducted the store. The latter had several tenants, our townsman Mr. G. H. Wallace carrying on a successful grocery here for years. Mr. Chase was the local expressman and a general favorite with tourists.

The next building was the Acadia Hotel, which stood where is now the Royal. This building was erected by Rev. John Chase

and was used at first as a ladies' school under the name of Grand Pre Seminary. At the time of this sketch it was occupied by a Mr. Ellis. Other landlords were Mr. Marshall, E. D. Bishop, John Jenkins, and J. W. Beckwith. The building was burned and replaced by Mr. Beckwith with the present structure.

The late James S. Morse occupied the store on the corner where is now Young's Bakery as a flour store. His residence was alongside, the building which was moved on Elm avenue and is now occupied by Mr. T. E. Hutchinson. Mr. Morse owned the land on the east of his dwelling now converted into stores and his garden, of which he was justly proud, was one of Wolfville's beauty spots. He was a prominent citizen. Mrs. F. H. Doull, who is a frequent visitor to Wolfville, is a daughter.

Joseph Weston lived in what is now the Delaney building and also carried on the business of Merchant Tailor. Mr. Weston was an Englishman and he was also an ardent gardener.

What is now the Town Hall was in those days the "Union House". It was owned by the late Grandison Eagles and conducted as a boarding house by a Mr. Clarke. This building was erected about 1865 by Mr. Eagles, who later resided here for years. There was a small building occupied as a tenement where Westcott's store now stands.

(Continued next week.)

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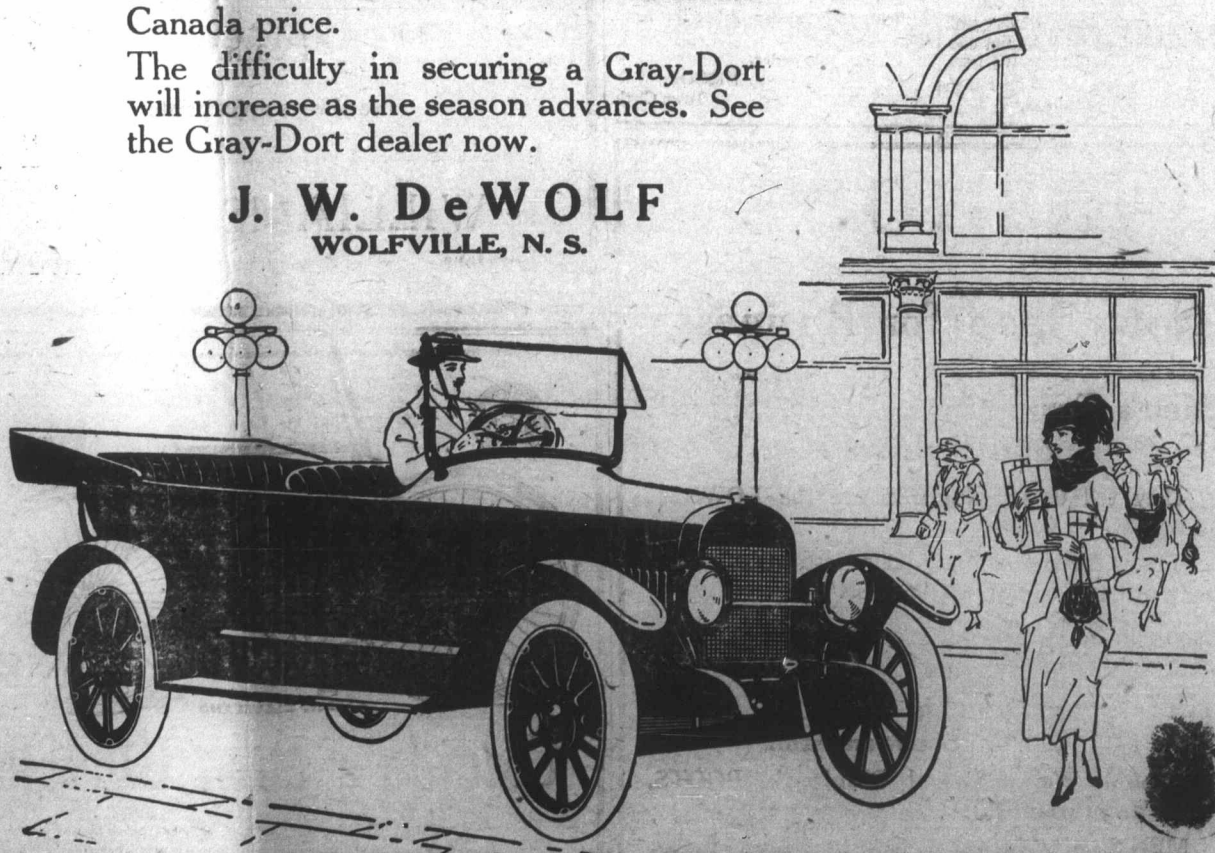
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