

# HILLSBORO

## One of the Oldest Settlements in the Province.

### Founded By Germans In 1755--Its Picturesque Features--Its Summer Hotel Breezy Sketch of the Village, Past Interesting History. --Its Industries and Institutions-- and Present.

#### HILLSBORO.

The village of Hillsboro, fifteen miles distant from Moncton, on the right bank of the river Petitcodiac, is in many respects but one among the many of the pleasant New Brunswick villages, with its typical general features and ways, but in addition, with aims and ambitions which are peculiarly its own, and which its people are, after their own fashion, directing their efforts zealously to realize.

It is above all a healthy and a sunny spot, appropriately named a burg, or borough, nestled among the hills, and, being on the west line of some big but hitherto little-known attractions for the tourist--it needs but to become sufficiently known to swing the head end of that procession this way.

One hundred and forty-nine years ago--in 1755, the last of the original settlers after the red men, the French, were expelled from their homes at what is now Hillsboro by several hundred soldiers under command of an English officer, Major Frye, of the garrison at Fort Cumberland. Tradition says they were driven along a footpath to Moncton, on their way to augment the pathetic band of exiles of that memorable year. There is certain knowledge of the burning by this officer of a French chapel which stood at this early time a short distance back of the spot where the new settlement stands today. Two weeks ago a man making an excavation beneath the barn of B. A. Marven, M. D., dug up part of a skeleton--the skull was missing--which is considered one of the remains of these early settlers. They had during their period of occupancy planted orchards and made an attempt at dyking in portions of the marsh lands opposite Gray's Island. Evidences of such dykes may still be seen, and until about seventy-five years ago remains of an orchard existed on the farm now owned by John I. Steeves, a prosperous farmer of the place. The hills of Hillsboro, which are quite different from those grown generally in Nova Scotia, are often called French cherries, and are no doubt the same variety as those of these unfortunate pioneers.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

In an almost forgotten corner of the old cemetery at Hillsboro lie the remains of Heinrich's home at Osnabruck, Germany, 1730, and his wife Rachel, who, immigrating to Pennsylvania in 1760, and thence, five years later, to Hillsboro, became the first permanent settlers of the village, and the ancestors of the large Steeves family. Heinrich brought with him his seven sons, Jacob, born 1750; John, 1752; Christian, 1753; Frederick, 1755; Henry, 1757; Ludwig, 1759, and Matthias, the youngest of the seven was born in Pennsylvania in 1761. A grant of two hundred acres with provisions for two years, some stock and agricultural implements and a free passage were promised. Five other men by the names of Lutz, Tritz, Rickers, Jones and Somers, with their families, joined fortunes with him, and their sheep was moored on Gray's Island early in July, 1755. Here Heinrich decided to settle, but the rest moved further up the river and located near the site of the future city of Moncton.

At first Heinrich merely squatted on the land, but in 1756 he granted a section nearly three square miles in area and extending along the river from the "Lake" to what is now the road to Gray's Island. Evidences of such a grant do not since that time passed out of the hands of the Steeves family, for the name is now spelled in that way; indeed the premises upon which the above mentioned men were recently found had remained in the possession respectively of a direct line of descendants of the original Heinrich, namely, Heinrich, Martin, the Hon. William I., Anthony and Joshua Steeves, before becoming the property a few years ago of its present owner.

The slope which transported them never returned, as it promised on leaving, their supply of seeds became exhausted, and for several years many hardships had to be endured. During this time they received valuable advice from a Frenchman, the Belliveau, who had escaped transportation to the galleys and was familiar with the country. The Indians also, who were friendly, taught them how to trap and snare in the winter season. In 1758, in a comparison with the land in which they had made their home during the five preceding years. But game and fish were abundant, and the only luxuries they really lacked were milk, butter and eggs. Heinrich built a dwelling near the marsh land on the property now owned by John I. Steeves, of which evidences are still occasionally turned up by the plough.

In this way then the first permanent settlement was made. Later came people by the name of Beatty, Gros, Taylor, Edgett, Jonah and others, of whom there are numerous descendants living in Hillsboro at the present time.

#### THE VILLAGE OF TODAY.

There are in the village today about one thousand people, living in great part in houses of their own, principally on either side of the long village street, Moncton to Hillsboro, on a moderate elevation, it affords what might well be termed a charming view of the river for miles in either direction. It is the centre of business for a large population of farmers from whom fortune has been kind, and who have every reason for being contented and happy. Adjoining it are Surrey or Lower Hillsboro, and Weldon, on either side along the river, and Sater in the rear. Many of the people of Hillsboro are prosperous farmers, the dyked marsh, a portion of which is owned by almost every well-to-do tiller of the soil, forming some of the most valuable land for hay

growing purposes to be found in the province. In the early days the river, beginning as far up as Moncton, but more especially Weldon Creek, three miles above Hillsboro, spread over the low land on the Albert county side, and year after year for centuries its muddy waters kept laying down deposits of the rich sand and loam of the soil which has its equal in natural fertility only in the western prairies that have been further enriched by the yearly decay of vegetable matter. The early settlers after the manner of their German ancestors, began building mury walls or dykes to keep out the river water and allow the soil to be cultivated. Year after year, after it had been properly flooded on the purpose the owners of their good hay crops with little need of renewing its fertility by agricultural means. And this valuable tract of land extends along the river with increasing width from Hillsboro to Harvey. Two qualities of hay are produced, "English," which commands the highest price and is grown, and a coarser variety, Broadleaf, which is cut later and fed to the cattle. It has been customary at times to open the sluices in the dykes and allow the marshes to be flooded on the occasion of high tides for the sake of the mud deposit that is secured. At such times the tides reach nearly to their top and frequently find a way in of their own. At a low place a single high tide, it aided by a strong wind, has often, to the owner's sorrow, been sufficient to wear the dyke down and break its way through, and if incoordinated by an untimely damage to the crop. This fact of increasing difficulty year by year in protecting such lands along the Atlantic seaboard from the encroachment of the sea has been the subject of an argument in favor of the belief that the eastern part of the continent is slowly but gradually sinking, as it is believed that the western coast is gradually undergoing an upward movement.

By the side of the river opposite the upper end of the village is a sand and gravel bed known as Gray's Island, now inclosed by a concrete wall. The island is a delightful spot with a luxuriant growth of trees and has for a long time been used as a cemetery. Grave is secured from its northern side for burial purposes and here too is the wharf from which Hillsboro ships its lumber, and the gypsum of one of the best of the province. Travellers who down the river are the wharves of the Albert Manufacturing Company, where its gypsum and calcined plaster are loaded for export.

FROM THE TOURIST STANDPOINT.

When its natural features are considered it seems strange that the people of Hillsboro have only recently begun to realize what choice and rare attractions the place and its immediate vicinity have to offer to that class of people who leave their homes each summer for a few weeks or a few days rest away from the turmoil and cares of the city, and the confinement of its tenements and offices, where they may be privileged to drink in the pure sweet country air, or to rest on a grassy bank or brief space of time on the freshest and choicest products of the farm and dairy, and to feast their eyes on such a picture as the hills of Hillsboro, which are appreciated by them almost as much as the products of the farm and dairy.

Hillsboro is the natural centre for what Albert County has to offer. It is easily reached in an hour and a half either from Salisbury or Moncton, and may drive down from Moncton. There is now the most efficient railway service that this line has ever afforded, and although there are those who would scorn to be suspected Hills-travelled by speaking other than disparagingly of their own branch line, those who have essayed more than the one known to the Salisbury and Harvey railway stands on the level equality with the best of the other branch lines of the province. On the other hand it is a delightful ride from Moncton through the best of the country, and the enjoyment of the scenery alone is worth a few miles of the trip.

Within a few miles of Hillsboro are natural features which many have come to see. At Demouille's Creek is one of the few underground lakes in existence. Once seen it will not be readily forgotten; and in this cool spot for a summer day one may pack a snowball in his leisure. It is in reality a monstrous cave, partly filled with water, in the gypsum rock, which surrounds it on all sides, save for the opening which affords the passage way to the interior.

For those appreciative of the picturesque and sublime, the widely known Cape Rocks at Hopewell cannot fail to have a charm. The cliffs of sandstone and conglomerate partly worn by the waves, and arched and high bold bluffs attract more sight-seers each year than any other natural feature in this section of the province. There are the best opportunities for salt water bathing, and from the geologist's standpoint as well these are objects of much interest. The gypsum quarries and the old Albert Mines are other places well worth visiting.

THE EMPIRE HOTEL.

To make an adequate provision for the big stream of tourist travel that must eventually be attracted in this region, and which has already well begun, a large and commodious hotel, the Empire House, was planned by some of the most prominent business men of the place and built during the summer of 1902, within one minute's walk from the station on an elevation which commands what is without doubt a better view than that afforded by any other hotel or dwelling in the vil-

lage. Either of the verandahs or the promenade above is a lookout point over the surrounding country and Shedy Bay, which, during the summer months, presents the busy appearance of a shipping port.

The building, designed with an eye to every modern convenience, is a two story 35 x 63 foot structure, surrounded on two sides with wide verandas supported by Gothic columns. It presents a pleasing appearance from the outside, and within is fitted up in a most comfortable and convenient manner, and in an inimitable style. It is heated with hot air supplied to every room and lighted by acetylene gas from an automatic rice carbide generator in the basement, which furnishes an ideal soft and penetrating light. In the basement also a large coal sample room has been built, with a gent's toilet in connection, and the hotel refrigerator. While excavating for the foundations a good stream of water was struck and here a well has been dug from which the water supply is secured. This is pumped by electric power to a three thousand gallon tank on the upper floor and from here furnished to the different rooms. This water has a local reputation as a curative of indigestion.

ITS NEWSPAPER VENTURES.

During the past forty-five years five distinct attempts have been made to provide Hillsboro with a newspaper of its own. The first of the attempts, the Eastern Advocate, was started shortly before 1865, but the original proprietor found the venture unsuccessful and was about to abandon it when

longing the life of that journal, which was soon doomed to join the ranks of its starved and neglected brothers that had gone before.

In March, 1903, Hillsboro's present newspaper, the Albert County Journal, was founded by the Albert Journal Publishing Co., with J. W. Gray as editor and manager. Previously it had been published in Oxford, N. S., as the Oxford Journal. Since its inception the Journal has continued to improve in every way and its present issues contain all the local news.

LUMBER AND GYPSUM.

It is but fair to say, however, that from a business standpoint journalism has proved Hillsboro's least successful venture. It is an unusual occurrence for a business man of the place to become unable to meet all his obligations. Lumbering has proved an unprofitable industry in the county. The old Albert mines the oil used to ooze out of the walls and galleries. At Dover, in Westmorland, there has been found an oily substance called Maltha, which has oozed from the ground and hardened as pitch. Some are of the opinion that the petroleum turned into Maltha and subsequently into Albertite when the oil was exposed to the atmosphere.

There is, then, this geological reason for believing that oil is, or at any rate has been, abundant in this vicinity and in other parts of the county. Work has been conducted on both sides of the Petitcodiac, with satisfactory results, in search of this valuable commodity.

Manganese and shale are found in the parish of Hillsboro and a great deal of money has been spent in developing these extractive industries. A new woodworking factory will be started in Hillsboro in a few days, the building, which, including the main factory, 50 ft. by 24 ft., with engine house, dry house and store house, has been recently erected and fitted with the latest improved machinery by the Hillsboro Woodworking and Manufacturing Co., with J. L. Peck, banker, president, for the purpose of making doors, sashes, flooring, sheathing and mill building materials. About fifteen men will be given employment. The village is provided with a large new and well equipped superior school



EMPIRE HOTEL, HILLSBORO.

building of three departments, under the principalship of Henry Burns, B. A., a Baptist, Methodist and an Episcopal church, a small Roman Catholic church, three hotels, two public halls, a public library, post office, customs house, a private bank, several stores, two liverys and a large number of handsome residences, including those of C. J. Osmann, M. F. F., F. C. Taylor, John Wallace, J. L. Peck, Coun. Jordan Steeves, B. A. Marven, M. D., A. Sherwood, J. Tompkins, F. Thompson, Archibald Steeves, J. M. Steeves, R. C. Randall, M. D., W. H. Duffy, W. Slater, Lambert Steeves and others.

THE FIRST HILLSBORO BAPTIST CHURCH.

On the 6th of October, 1822, after the ordinance of baptism had been administered to several candidates in Weldon Creek, about three miles to the west of the village, under the auspices of Rev. Joseph Crandall, in a barn at Salem owned by Henry Steeves, and across the creek now occupied by Har- dis Steeves, not far distant from the present site of the church, the first Hillsboro Baptist church was organized. It was claimed by some to have already been erected on the spot where the village church now stands. Some time after the first Hillsboro Baptist church was organized this building was removed and became the property of the Methodists. Another building was put up, which was in due course of time removed and a still larger edifice, the present church, erected in its place. Since that time the following clergymen have administered to the spiritual wants of the members of this church. The dates of the commencement of service in each case is also given:

Rev. James Wallace, 1824.  
Rev. William Sears, 1834.  
Rev. James Wallace, 1844.  
Alexander McDonald and John Francis in 1848 appear to have preached for a time in the church, but whether or not as pastors the present writer is uncertain.

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The late named clergyman has recently resigned to take charge of the interdenominational Sunday school work in the province and for a week the church has been in the hands of a layman, or rather, a pastor.

The members of this church have been established at Weldon and Salem.

The present pastor of the Methodist church is Rev. I. N. Parker, and of the Episcopal church Rev. Allen W. Smithers.

THE OLDEST INHABITANT.

The oldest resident of the place living at the present time is Christian Steeves, great grandson of the original Heinrich, or Jacob, who, as we have seen, was called, now in his ninetieth year. Mr. Steeves was born on the premises adjoining his present home, and has lived in one or the other of those two houses throughout his more than 68 years. He is yet active and enjoys good health, but has not been actively engaged in work for twenty years. He is one of a family of six brothers and has six sisters, of whom three of the latter are still living.

There are many in the village who retain a vivid recollection of the great and destructive Saxy tide, from six to ten feet higher than the dykes, so named from the professor who gave warning of it, which at about nine o'clock on the evening of October 4th, 1868, rolled up the river before a strong gale sweeping everything before it, completely tearing away the dykes, the barns of the marsh lands, and even the wharves along the river. The wharf of Gray's Island was lifted and carried along and is supposed to have been the immediate cause of the tearing away of Moncton bridge from its foundations, for it was carried up river by this tide. Many buildings were torn out and several buildings, badly transported to higher ground, in one instance with their sleeping occupants. A great deal of the old burying ground records the death by drowning of Heide- caha, the 24 year old daughter of James and Hannah Bray, as she was being driven across the "Lake" on this eventful night.

The list of summer visitors at the present time includes George Steeves, Ottawa, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Steeves; Miss May Steeves, the guest of her mother, Mrs. Anthony Steeves; Mrs. E. W. Hatch, at Ward's Hotel; T. E. Colpitts and wife, the guest of J. L. Peck; Mrs. Geo. Seaman, guest of Mrs. W. B. Dickson; Mrs. F. W. Minnear, of Moncton, visiting her mother, Mrs. William McLaughlin; Mrs. Florence Pierce, with Mrs. James Bilgus; Mrs. F. H. Tingley and children, at the Albert Hotel; also Mrs. Charles Carter and family, at the same place; C. S. Steeves, of Boston, visiting his old home after an absence of fifteen years; Mrs. E. E. Babcock, of Sackville, the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dimock Steeves.

A HOMELY ON EARS.

(From the Philadelphia Press.)

"They were all sitting about a dinner table. The coffee had been served, the cigars had been lighted, and the Naturalist, released for a season from college duties, was holding forth for the benefit of his audience only.

"Why is it," asked one of the latter, "that the human ear is crushed and crumpled and flattened a deformity, in fact--while the ears of the lower animals are erect and comely?"

"That," replied the naturalist, "is probably due to the fact of man's intelligence. Our brains, you see, have made our heads too top heavy. In deep, for instance, the head of a low er animal needs no support but its neck, but a man's neck is too weak to sustain its brain-weighted skull, which, therefore, must be laid, with the ears underneath, on a pillow.

"I've no doubt that man in the beginning had a smooth, shapely ear. But his head, with its developing brain, outgrew his neck's power to support it. There came the time when the pillow, with its consequent crushing and crumpling of the ear, and thence came the ear of today--which, since it's universal, isn't proper sport, a deformity at all. Good-night."

The Naturalist rose and left the room. For a moment his friends sat silent, looking from one to the other. "Now, I wonder," drawled the original questioner, "whether he was stringing us?"

Lakeside (in Eighth avenue restaurant--I see you have a sign requesting guests to remove their hats. Why not?--er--yes, we found it necessary. Lakeside--Just like New York. Why, out in Chicago we never think of sitting down to a meal without taking off our hats and coats--Town Topics.

Doctor--As you live in the city I wouldn't advise the sea level for a vacation. You need a change of altitude, go to the mountains. Patient--But, doctor, you seem to forget that I've been living in a skyscraper hotel.--Town Topics.

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The 4th session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order Odd-fellows of the maritime provinces is to meet here the second week of August. It is expected that about 900 delegates, with their families, will be in attendance and that the gathering will be one of much importance, not only in the interest of the order, but also in the interest of the tourist association.

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---IN THE---  
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FOR THE U. N. B.

Senate Meets to Appoint Successor to Dr. Davidson.

Hotel Proprietor Painfully Injured--  
Oddfellows to Hold a Big Meeting.

FREDERICTON, N. B., July 10.--The senate of the University of New Brunswick has been summoned to meet here on Tuesday next for the purpose of electing a professor of philosophy and economy, the chair lately made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Davidson.

It is understood that the senate so far has received three applications for the professorship, viz. Dr. Riley, who has been occupying the chair during Mr. Davidson's absence; W. C. Riestead, a university graduate of the class of 1898, and Thomas M. Forsyth, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. The last named is very highly recommended by a number of distinguished persons.

The senate may go outside of these applications altogether in making its selection. A feeling has been growing for years past among the friends of the college that in cases of vacancies of this kind, that if it is possible graduates of the university should first be considered. The authorities for the past ten years or so have attempted to carry this policy out in the case of the late Dr. Davidson, but they have made no mistake. The election of Professors Raymond, Jack and Clawson have been a material benefit to the university and it has been shown that in choosing these gentlemen the senate has acted wisely. The decision of the senate will be awaited with much interest.

The 71st Regiment and Infantry School Corps returned from Camp Sussex yesterday afternoon. The march of the soldiers from the station and the boys received a hearty welcome home.

Thomas Pheneey, one of the popular proprietors of the Waverly hotel, met with a rather painful accident yesterday. In attempting to erect a drunken disturber from his house his left hand was badly cut by a broken window. Medical aid had to be summoned, when it was found that Mr. Pheneey had severed an artery. There was much difficulty in stopping the flow of blood and the victim suffered from weakness.

Principal Falconer of Pine Hill College, Halifax, arrived in the city yesterday and today delivered two eloquent and powerful sermons to the congregations of St. Paul's.

Mrs. F. C. Powys left yesterday morning's train for Shediac to visit her sister, Mrs. Reid. In the false belief she had contracted the disease she will join her husband in the west.

The speech delivered by Judge Hanington at the recent meeting of the Church of England Synod has stirred up some interest among the adherents of that denomination. The judge's