

Sherwood in 1807 to Brenton Halliburton, then a young man who had left the army—retiring from a captaincy in the Duke of Kent's regiment, the 7th Fusiliers. Mr. Halliburton had just married Margaret Inglis, daughter of Bishop Charles Inglis. At Sherwood he resumed the study of the law, which he had thrown aside for a military career. Under the patronage of the Duke of Kent Brenton Halliburton was destined to attain the top rung of the ladder. After being admitted to the bar he rose rapidly in his profession. He was elevated to the supreme court bench, eventually succeeding Samson Salter Blowers as chief justice of Nova Scotia. He was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in the fifties, being the first member of the legal profession in the province to receive that honor. From Brenton Halliburton, Sherwood passed into the hands of Mrs. Jane Donaldson, the widow of a leading business man of Halifax, who died in the first year of the nineteenth century. In April, 1819, Jane Donaldson inserted in the *Nova Scotia Gazette* the following advertisement:

TO BE LET.

The elegant summer residence, at Birch Cove and Sherwood, with all the grounds attached to them respectively. The fields and gardens are in a high state of cultivation. The fences are excellent, outhouses in good repair. Mrs. Donaldson, shortly after this advertisement appeared, died, as the following obituary shows: Died—On Friday last, at her residence, Birch Cove, after a short but severe illness, Mrs. Jane Donaldson, in the 46th year of her age, widow of Thomas Donaldson, universally respected by all. Her death took place in June, 1820.

In 1839 Joseph Howe had apartments at Sherwood, where it was his wont to retire when tired out during the strenuous struggles for responsible government. In the summer of 1846 Sherwood was rented by Harriet Mixer, who completely fitted up the whole house in the most comfortable manner for the reception of the public. A few rooms were especially furnished to accommodate ladies and gentlemen with their families during the summer. The gentlemen of the army and navy were invited to call and enjoy the salubrity of the delightful scenery of Sherwood. In 1847 the property was conveyed by William

Donaldson to William (afterwards Sir William) Young—thus Sherwood, at long intervals, becoming the property of two owners who were destined, in turn, to fill the chief judicial seat in Nova Scotia. The property after that passed to Thomas Kenny, the brother of Sir Edward, and the senior partner of the firm of T. & E. Kenny. Thomas Kenny resided at Sherwood until his death, when it passed to Sir Edward Kenny, who used it as a summer residence for many years. In 1881 Sir Edward Kenny conveyed it to his son, Jeremiah F. Kenny. Sherwood is now owned by a number of persons living in Virginia, U. S.

In the middle forties, when the Dartmouth Ferry Company established twice-a-week excursion trips to Sackville, during the summer months, there were rounds of picnics at the 4-Mile House, at Birch Cove, and at the head of the Basin. The association at the former place could not, perhaps, be properly called a picnic. It was usual for men only to leave the steamer at the 4-Mile House to engage in the very rational pastime of skittles in the well-equipped skittle alley which "mine host" of this hostelry provided for his guests.

One of the largest picnics held at Birch Cove was that of the Repealers—then a most vigorous organization in Halifax. It came off at the old Donaldson place. A Dartmouth steamer conveyed the company to and from the grounds. The music was furnished by St. Mary's and St. Patrick's amateur bands. Coblenz, a famous Halifax caterer, was purveyor for the occasion. The company numbered about five hundred, and all enjoyed themselves most gaily in the different amusements of dancing, football, swinging, leap-frog, quoits, cards, conversation, courting and such other recreations as they fancied. Michael Bennett presided at the dinner, assisted by Thomas Ring and Bernard O'Neil. The affair passed off very pleasantly. It was customary, too, for the North British Society to hold high festival on the grounds of the Prince's Lodge; and the Nova Scotia Philanthropic Society enjoyed their annual outing with all the greater zest when they were gathered together on the charming grounds overlooking the Basin, and thus honored the anniversary of "the day when the Britons came over."