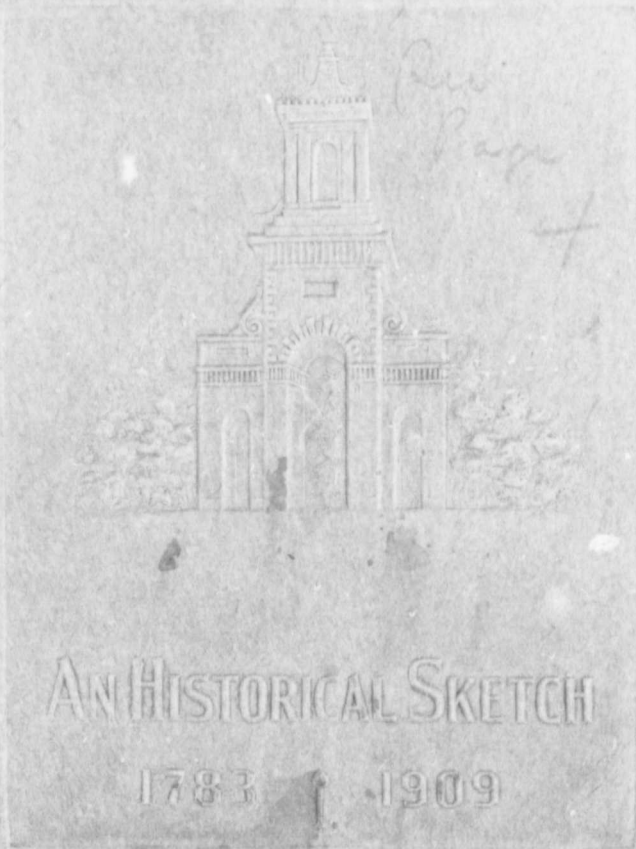


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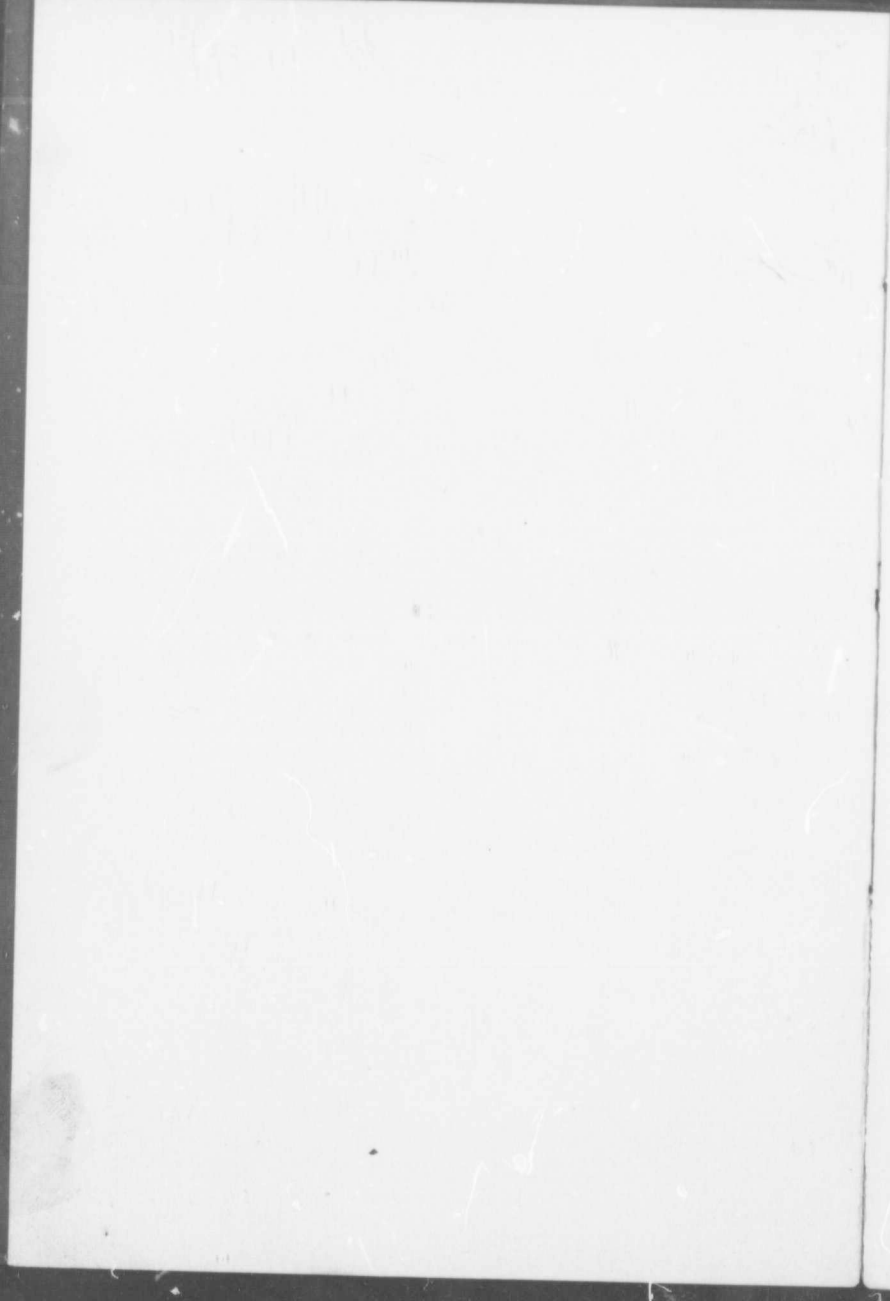
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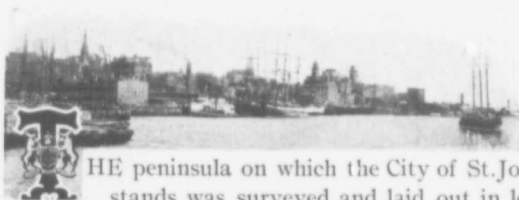
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

1783 - 1909

An
Historical Sketch
1783-1909

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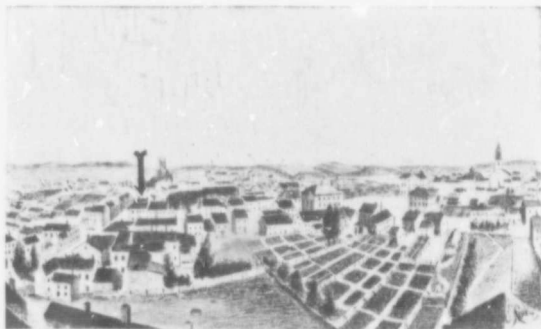




THE peninsula on which the City of St. John stands was surveyed and laid out in lots by Paul Bedell, under direction of Major Gilfred Studholm, Commandant at Fort Howe.

These lots were divided up among the Loyalists who came here in 1783 — at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. Lot No. 391 on the Northeast corner of King and Germain streets was drawn by Robert Wood, a Pennsylvania Loyalist. He took out his freedom in 1785 as a Tobacconist, and built a dwelling on the corner, where he was living as late as 1815.

One of the earliest settlers of St. John not connected with the Loyalist Immigration was James Scoullar. He was a native of the Parish of Dulsirt, in Lanarkshire, Scotland, where he was born on the 19th of May, 1768. He came to this country in 1795 and settled in St. John and took out his freedom the same year as a Merchant Tailor. He commenced business in a building on King street, just below the lot on which the Royal Hotel now stands. He was a man of much enterprise and ability and was soon at the head of a prosperous concern. About 1820 he bought the corner lot occupied by Wood and erected on it the brick building which is still standing there.



ST. JOHN IN 1820

This building is said to have been the second brick building built in St. John, the first one being the Disbrow Building, erected on the corner of Germain and Church streets in 1817, but which was burned during the fire of 1877, so the building built by James Scoullar and now occupied by Scovil Bros., Limited (Oak Hall), is the oldest Brick Building standing in St. John to-day, being well on to One Hundred Years old.

The fire of 1849 which burned Charlotte street and the northern part of King street was stopped when it reached the Scoullar Building. It was during this fire that the cupola of old Trinity Church was ignited from a spark and to save the Church the cupola had to be cut down.

James Scoullar was twice married. His first wife died March 4th, 1800, and is buried in the old burial ground on Sydney street, where a tomb-

stone is erected to her memory. His second wife whom he married in New York on the 27th of March, 1805, was named Elizabeth Walker. She died in 1831 and is also interred in the old burial ground. The house on the corner was finished but never occupied by James Scoullar. He died in New York, where he had gone to procure furnishings for the new house, on the 13th day of July, 1825, in the 58th year of his age.

Mr. Scoullar's		Debit	
1825	Sept.	Superfine Blue Sarcot Coat	6 12 6
		White pantaloons	1 2 6
		Buff pantaloons	1 3 4
		Blue Cassimere pantaloons	2 15
	Oct.	Superfine Black pantaloons	1 13
			\$ 13 00
E. Coates			
Sept. 1825			

The above is a Reproduction of an Account made out by the Estate of James Scoullar. It will give an idea of prices at this date.

Although he never occupied the new building intended for his tailoring business, yet it is worthy of note that its very first occupancy was of that nature — carried on by his foreman as the following advertisement taken from the "Courier" of that date shows:

SCOTT & LOWREY

Tailors,

RESPECTFULLY beg leave to apprise their friends and the public that they have commenced business in the above line in the shop in the *New Brick Building*, of the late Mr. James Scoullar, next adjoining Dr. Hamilton, and fronting on Germain Street, and they pledge themselves that all orders with which they may be honoured shall be executed with the utmost neatness and punctuality.

D. Scott having been Foreman to the late Mr. Scoullar, and for some time past sole conductor of his business, and having purchased the greater part of his most expensive cloths, feels fully confident of giving every satisfaction.

Army and Navy Uniforms prepared, for which Scott & Lowrey have some very superior cloths on hand.

August 20, 1825.

Mr. Scoullar was spoken of by his contemporaries as a large-hearted, kindly and benevolent man, outspoken in his views and a hater of shams, energetic in his business and much esteemed and respected by his workmen, with whom he had always the most friendly relations. In the notice of his death it is stated: "Few men leave a name behind them more remarkable for integrity and benevolence."

He left surviving a son, who was long a merchant in Liverpool, England, and five daughters. The eldest became the wife of Robert Sheed, a well known cabinet maker of old times; three others married William Thomson, Robert Thomson and James E. Barnes, prominent business men in St. John, who have died in recent years, and one daughter died unmarried.



ST. JOHN IN 1825.

About 1830 the property was sold by the Executors of the Estate of James Scoullar to Moses Vernon, son of Gideon Vernon, a Pennsylvania Loyalist, and first Sheriff of Charlotte County. Mr. Vernon occupied the portion of the building set apart for a dwelling until his death, which occurred in 1868. He reached the advanced age of 91 years.

The dwelling was entered from Germain street by a short flight of steps leading to a doorway of old colonial design. The business portion fronted on King street, as at present, except that on the corner of Germain street an outside iron stairway led to a moderate sized apartment which was first occupied as a Post Office. An old advertisement in the Courier of May 13th, 1837, announces that

THE POST OFFICE is Removed to a Brick Building at the Corner of Germain and King streets, known by the name of Scoullar's Building.

The main store on King street had as a tenant in 1836, J. McInnis, whose business was somewhat of the nature of that now carried on by Messrs. Scovil Bros., Limited, in this historic old building. He has an advertisement in the Courier of May 21st, 1836, for:

FIVE JOURNEYMEN TAILORS, to whom
the highest prices and constant employment will
be given. None but first-rate workmen need apply.
J. McINNIS, Scoullar's Brick Building.

Shortly after the place was occupied by the late Dr. Livingstone as a drug store under the name of "Apothecaries' Hall."

In later years there has been a succession of tenants, the late D. O. L. Warlock carried on here a watch-making business. Mr. Corkery had a shoe-finding store, Friel groceries.

In the early fifties the late William Kennedy occupied all the basement with an entrance on the corner of King and Germain streets, as a grocery and fruit store and carried on business there for a long period. Associated with him at the time was his son, Mr. E. J. Kennedy, who is still living, hale and hearty. The old view of the store was taken at the time of his occupancy, and has been kindly loaned us by his son. Finally in 1877 the premises were acquired by Messrs. McCafferty and Daly, Dry Goods Merchants, who made extensive alterations and improvements, remodelling the building to suit the requirements of their trade. They continued in business until 1889, retiring



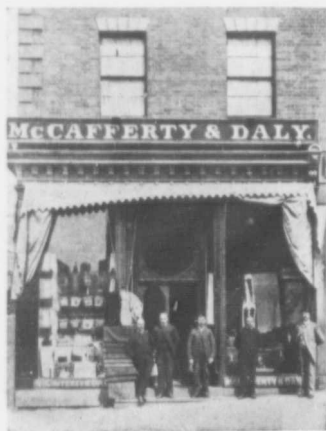
KING STREET, ST. JOHN, IN 1852

that year, when the place was taken over by Messrs. Scovil, Fraser & Co.

William G. and James M. Scovil, natives of Springfield, Kings County, opened a clothing store in a building on the Market Square, near Dock street, on January 19th, 1889, in company with E. E. Fraser, under the firm name of Scovil, Fraser & Co. In May of the same year their business had so much increased that they required larger quarters, consequently they removed to the Scoullar or Vernon Building on the corner of King and Germain streets, then occupied by McCafferty & Daly, dry goods, and T. O'Brien, stationer.

They occupied the lower half of the house, vacated by McCafferty & Daly and in their new location soon found a marked increase in their business.

Their stock consisted of Ready-Made Clothing and Gentlemen's Furnishings, and the time rapidly approached when their largely increasing business required much more space than that comprised in the portion of the building occupied by them. In 1895 the Messrs. Fraser were bought out and the



1877 — 1889

firm continued under the name of Scovil Bros. & Co. Enlargement now followed by degrees. The floor space was greatly extended and the building now entirely occupied by the firm was remodelled throughout and a story added to the height. The large and efficient staff was increased, the various departments

were established and Greater Oak Hall became a representative Canadian Clothing-House. There are 16,000 feet of floor space in Oak Hall, all of which is utilized.

There are the Men's Furnishing Department, the Cutter's Headquarters and Custom Tailoring Section, the Men's and Boys' Ready-Made Clothing Departments, the Packing and Advertisement Departments and space for reserve stock, and the latest addition being an up-to-date Hat and Cap Department.



1889—1892

In Men's Clothing Oak Hall is thoroughly well equipped in all its gradations, and everything in the clothing line required for Men's Wear can be furnished.

The Boys' Clothing Department is also very complete, being the most up-to-date in its appointments of any in Canada, and any garment required by a lad can be procured there.

The Men's Furnishing Department is also very thorough and up-to-date. This item applies to a variety of articles, but the Department can supply them all.

Finding much difficulty in securing properly made and satisfactory Clothing from Manufacturers of this day to supply the demands of their high class and ever increasing trade, the Proprietors of Oak

Hall a short time ago launched out into the manufacture of Ready-Made Clothing on their own account. The success of this venture has been most marked. Today in addition to manufacturing for the needs of their own large retail trade, they have a large wholesale connection to supply. Each season new territory is opened up, the product of the factory being well received, business in this Department being ever on the increase.

One very important thing to remember in connection with the manufacturing part of the business is this:

It placed Oak Hall Clothing Store in a position not possessed by any other hereabouts, in that it is enabled to supply its retail patrons with clothing at manufacturers' prices, admitting of great saving in price.

Eighty-three years have passed since James Scoullar departed this life, taken away just as he was preparing to enjoy the results of his labors in the building he had erected for the purpose of increasing his facilities for carrying on his business as a Clothier and as a comfortable home for his family, yet could he revisit the scene of his early life he would still find in the same situation prepared for himself, a business of the nature of his own, yet far exceeding anything he ever could have conceived possible in that vocation.

On January 19th, 1909, the Oak Hall Clothing Store will have completed Twenty years of business life, and by next May it will have occupied its



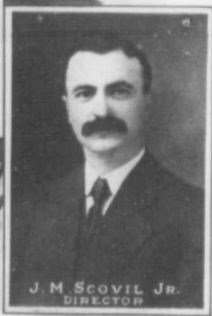
F. C. SMITH
SECY-TREAS.



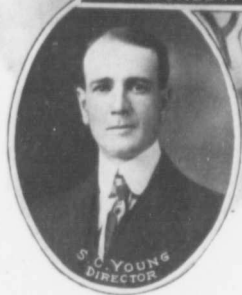
W. G. SCOVIL
VICE-PRES.



J. M. SCOVIL
PRESIDENT



J. M. SCOVIL JR.
DIRECTOR



S. C. YOUNG
DIRECTOR

present location for the same length of time, in a building built by a Merchant Tailor nearly one hundred years ago for the needs of his business, and which has been occupied by some one in the same line of business most of the time since.



1892 — 1894

Twenty years is a short time in the history of any business, but it is a question if any line of business has advanced from so small a beginning twenty years ago until now, having outgrown all its competitors, it is the largest Clothing Business in the Maritime Provinces, presenting a striking illustration of what

Brains, Push and Energy can accomplish.

On the 4th of July, 1906, the Firm was changed to a Limited Stock Company. The present Officers are James M. Scovil, Sr., President; William G. Scovil, Vice-President; Frank C. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; J. M. Scovil, Jr., and Sidney C. Young, Directors.



PRESENT DAY BUILDING.

"GLOBE," ST. JOHN.