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OPENING EXERCISES SUSSEX NEW  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL BUILDING.

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WITH HISTORICAL SKETCH OF  
SUSSEX SCHOOLS.



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER SEVENTH,  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

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# PROGRAMME.

## MORNING.

9 a. m.—Building open to the public for Inspection.

## AFTERNOON.

2.00 p. m.—Sussex Band will play on School Lawn.

2.30 p. m.—Public Meeting in Assembly Hall.

Opening Address by the Chairman.

Address of Welcome by Mayor Mills.

Address by Lieut.-Governor Tweedie.

SELECTION BY SUSSEX ORCHESTRA.

Address by Mr. Justice McLeod.

Address by Rev. Dr. Kierstead, McMaster University—subject, "Education."

SELECTION BY SUSSEX ORCHESTRA.

Addresses by Dr. Inch, Superintendent of Education ; Dr. Allison, President of Mt. Allison University and Dr. Jones, Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW BRUNSWICK

MAY 9 1985

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## Historical Sketch of the Progress of Education in Sussex.

**E**DUCATION has always been given a prominent place in the community of which the town of Sussex is the centre. Board has succeeded board and generation has followed generation, school buildings have been erected and destroyed, teachers have come and gone, but the interest of the people in education has never ceased. The bright and illuminating torch of learning, lighted at Sussex almost at the beginning of our life as a Province, has been passed on, with its flame unquenched, and with growing brightness, from the dim morning of the past to the full noon of to-day.

With the possible exception of Sheffield, and St. John it is doubtful if any community in the Province can boast of older educational institutions than Sussex. For a period of one hundred and twenty-one years, from the autumn of 1784—three years after the formation of the Province—this community has had continuous school facilities. No doubt if all the facts could be secured and the various incidents which have marked the years of our educational growth could be collected and fused into story, the record, without any imaginative embellishing unquestionably would be full of both historic and romantic interest. As it is, however, the historical data available at present is both fragmentary and incomplete. Zealous and worthy as were the men who directed the destinies of our early educational work, it is evident that they believed their work must be its own witness, for they in no sense attempted to perpetuate their memory by making written records of what they did. If to take no thought for the morrow be a virtue they occupy a most exalted place, for, though the eighteenth century had several years "yet", to run when our first school was opened, the twentieth was dawning before a minute book and a local record of Trustees' or annual meetings was dreamed of.

Fortunately, however, all was not lost. An ancient and far off London Society,—a corporation of zealous and godly

men organized in 1649 by Cromwell's Long Parliament,—preserved with great care letters and reports received from their school masters and missionaries in different parts of America. Singular as it may appear it is to the archives of this distant society that we must turn for the record of what took place during the first forty years of our educational history. Happily this written record reaches forward to a point in time back to which the memory of citizens still living extends, and thus we are enabled to trace out link by link that marvellous and mighty chain of history which, binding us to the past indicates the exalted origin of our people and makes it possible for even the unimaginative to see in our magnificent school building of to-day some of the fruit of that spirit which had its roots in Puritanism and which links us to the England of Cromwell.

But to the records of "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." The different school buildings may be discussed briefly in connection with the years in which they were built.

1787.—As early as June 1786, the London Society, or more briefly the S. P. G. appointed as one of its managers in New Brunswick the Hon. George Leonard then, and for many years afterwards, the leading resident in the vicinity of Sussex. Of three schools established in the Province one was at Sussex, another at Woodstock and a third at Sheffield. All of these schools were primarily established from a religious motive and were intended as a means of Christianizing the Indians. However, the few English children then in the country were by no means excluded. The Sussex school seemed to have speedily overshadowed the others for we find it drawing the sons of the Loyalist gentry from what was properly the constituency of the schools at Woodstock and Sheffield.

This early pre-eminence of the Sussex school is probably explained by the social prominence and scholarly attainments of its organizer and first master, Mr., afterwards Rev. Oliver Arnold, who having graduated from Yale College in 1776, came, with the Loyalists to St. John in 1783. The building in which Mr. Arnold taught until he took Orders in 1792, was erected in the fall of 1787, and according to the late Leonard Allison who did much valuable research work, "stood on the northeast corner of the lot on which Trinity church now stands and by the small gate leading to the

building." This building may safely be set down as school building number one.

That the scope of this early educational venture was wide, its aim ambitious and even modern, is shown by a copy of a prospectus issued in March, 1793. It states :—"The accommodations will be in readiness on the first of May next for the reception of any young gentlemen who may be sent to the said school, where he will be taught reading and writing, English grammar, mathematics and natural philosophy, surveying, navigation, and geography, also the Latin and Greek languages."

This our first school is interesting from yet another standpoint. If, as already indicated, it was connected through the S. P. G., with the England of Cromwell, it may be said that through Mr. Arnold, who was the grandfather of Major O. R. Arnold and a relative of General Benedict Arnold, our Sussex schools are also related in a vital and interesting way to the American Revolution.

General Arnold's is a figure around which controversy will probably continue to rage as long as men read or write history. For the benefit of the young it may be said in brief that Benedict Arnold had attained unto the rank of Major General in the Whig or Rebel Army of the United States. So great was the confidence reposed in him that at the opening of the Revolution he was entrusted with the command of the forces which were repulsed at Quebec by Carleton the last day of the year 1775.

Later in the war, and to the great amazement of both Washington and the English Government he forsook the rebel cause and cast in his lot with the British. Quite naturally, therefore, United States historians speak of him as "Arnold the Traitor." The American view of him may be summed up in the sweeping and caustic but no doubt indiscriminate words of Sabine who says : --"I am inclined to believe that Arnold was a finished scoundrel from early manhood to his grave. He fought as a mere adventurer, and took sides from a calculation of personal gain. His chief merits were that he was brave and among the bravest of men, and had the additional merit of inspiring his troops with his own courageous spirit."

But the man who was received into and made a Brigadier-General in the British service, who received a large amount of gold to cover his losses from voluntary sacrifices, who was of the same family and doubtless of the same spirit

as the founder and first master of our Sussex schools must have been possessed of other merits and qualities than those referred to by United States historians. The probability is that General Arnold, like the Apostle Paul, may have been somewhat slow to see on which side the right lay, but having seen it he acted accordingly regardless of either criticism or consequences. Though his conduct will doubtless remain a storm-centre, his name and figure must continue to be of great romantic and historic interest for about him as centre the entire history of the Revolution may be grouped and studied.

General Arnold, who resided for a time in St. John, died in London in 1801. His kinsman, Rev. Oliver Arnold, was succeeded as principal of our first school in 1792 by Mr. Elkanah Morton, grandfather of the late Judge F. E. Morton.

**1795.**—In this year a report of Mr. Arnold to the S. P. G. states that a new building, evidently the second for school purposes in the community, had been erected. This building, which was situated on the site where now stands the residence of Hon. Mr. Justice A. S. White, was a structure of considerable importance, being thirty by eighty feet, with belfry, balcony, and underground storeroom for supplies. It was occupied until 1826 when the school was broken up and further attempts to work along the original lines were abandoned. The building which was later used as a residence was destroyed by fire about 1849. It is generally conceded that the attempts made by the S. P. G. during forty years to educate and evangelize the Indians were largely without permanent results.

In this connection Mr. Allison writes:—"The greater proportion of the Indians departed from Sussex soon after their allowances ceased, and all speedily abandoned the church which had made such exertions and outlay for their civilization and conversion; and, indeed, but for the pathetic little wooden crosses in Ward's Creek cemetery, one would now hardly know that the few Indians remaining in this vicinity had ever heard of Christianity."

**1819.**—Passing from that part of our educational history which touched the instruction of the Indians, we come to the work which was done exclusively for the English children. About the year 1817 there was a general revival

of interest in education throughout the Province owing to the introduction of the Madras or National Schools. The Madras Schools were so called because of having been first conducted at Madras by their founder Rev. Dr. Bell. The first of these famous and excellent schools in America was opened at Halifax in 1816. The system spread rapidly and by 1819 there were Madras Schools at Sussex, Fredericton, Kingston, Gaagetown and St. John. The first teachers in Sussex under this system were Joseph R. Legget and his wife, who in 1819, had in school at Sussex 30 boys and 33 girls. On the best authority available Mr. Leggett's school was on property now owned by Sylvester Ryan some three miles northeast of Sussex town. It drew pupils from a very wide area and was in operation as late as 1852.

The Madras Schools were placed under the supervision of the rector of the parish. The poorer children were admitted free of charge and in some cases had free school books provided for them. The schools were not unlike some of the famous schools of England. The principle of emulation was given free play and when a boy became competent classes were given to him for discipline and instruction. The fees paid by pupils were supplemented by grants both from the Government and the S. P. G.

**1865.**—As time passed—it would seem in about 1855,—a school was opened at Sussex Corner and from 1854 to 1859 there is known to have been a school in operation near the present site of Trinity church. Gradually, however, with Mr. Leggett's school evidently closed, and Sussex Corner, the chief centre of population, the Sussex Corner school took pre-eminence—a place which it continued to hold for many years. It was here that Mr. John Raymond was master, and in this school that Mr. C. R. Palmer who was assisted by Misses Davis and Humphrey taught from 1864 to 1870. Owing to its general excellence, Mr. Palmer's school made a wide appeal, and up to at least 1865, many pupils from what is now the town were in attendance at Sussex Corner. Therefore while the Railway was opened in 1859, and while school classes seem to have been held in various buildings in what is now Sussex it was not, as near as can be ascertained, until 1865 that a school building was erected in the precincts of the town. This building stood almost opposite the new brick structure on land now owned by Mrs. David Aiton.

Counting the two Indian Colleges and the school in operation near Trinity Church in 1859 this building of 1865 was evidently the fourth structure devoted exclusively to school purposes. The Misses Raymond, John Toland, Eldon Mullin and S. C. Wilbur are known to have been teachers here, and here many competitive examinations were held. Penobsquis, Millstream, Berwick and Sussex Corner also had at this time excellent teachers and schools and as to material, it may be noted that in one or other of these schools there were at one time as boys, the Hon. G. E. Foster, the Hon. Wm. Pugsley, the Hon. Mr. Justice McLeod and Dean R. C. Weldon of Halifax.

1873.—On June tenth of this year a new school site was purchased from Mr. Isaac Bunnell and later the building on Main Street was sold and removed and a new structure erected on the site now being discarded.

1793.—The building above referred to was burned and in 1893 the structure now standing vacant and silent was erected on the same site as its predecessor.

1908.—September the Seventh of this year saw the formal opening of the new brick building erected at a cost, including land and equipment, approximating \$50,000. So far as can be determined it is the seventh school house erected inside the limits of what is now the town of Sussex. A matter of interest in connection with the location is the fact that the site was selected at a meeting of one hundred and twenty-one ratepayers by a majority of one.

Regarding the new building little comment is necessary. It is on a foundation deep, broad and sure; its walls are solid and substantial, the system of ventilation is simple and thorough and the whole is practically fire proof. No money has been spent on mere ornament and if there be any lack of embellishment this has been more than made up in general solidity and commodiousness.

With respect to this latter feature it may be said that the builders of this new hall of learning have shown themselves possessed of a larger measure of faith than has usually characterized the citizens of our town. The vexed question of the enlargement of our buildings both public and private—a question ever with us in Sussex—has been push-



ed, it is believed, so far as school accommodation is concerned, into the safe and dim recesses of the future by the men who planned and reared the spacious, substantial and beautiful building in which the young of our town may now assemble; and in doing this doubtless there has been manifested anew some of that rare wisdom which is ultimately justified of her children.

For at least two years the Trustees and their Secretary have borne a heavy burden. In their efforts to give expression to the will of the community and meet the demands made upon them by their constituency, they have surmounted almost innumerable difficulties. They were called upon to create an ideal, and were asked to give it concreteness and reality in enduring brick and stone. This they have done, and it must be with feelings of satisfaction, not unmingled with sentiments of relief, that Mr. McLean, Mr. Humphrey and Dr. Pearson now hand over the result of their work to the citizens of the community; for, if in the beginning Mr. Arnold, and later those who followed him laid well the foundations, our school officers of to-day have surely taken heed how they have builded thereupon. The barest justice, therefore, demands an expression of universal gratitude to them and also to Mr. J. A. Freeze, the vigilant and efficient Secretary of the School Board and for many years a Trustee, and to Inspector R. P. Steeves, both of whom have been for the last decade at least, advocating better and larger school facilities for Sussex.

All of these gentlemen having given freely and largely of their valuable time have rendered the entire county their debtor. They have done work which will serve as their character credentials for submission to the generations to come, and while they are to be most warmly and heartily thanked, there is a sense in which they also are to be envied, for in looking upon this magnificent structure, almost pyramidal in size and solidity, one cannot refrain from feeling that here, as in the case of all true service to humanity, the gentlemen referred to, in the building of this temple of intellectual light for the benefit of others, have been at the same time, quite unconsciously, but nevertheless surely and efficiently, rearing to their own memory a monument, which doubtless in the nature of things, will still be lifting up its large front and opening wide its doors long after the minds which planned and the hands which reared it have ceased to be factors in the world of living men.

# PROGRAMME.

## EVENING.

7.45 P. M. SELECTIONS BY SUSSEX ORCHESTRA.

8.00 p. m.—Address, - Lieut.-Governor Tweedie.

Piano Duett, - - Misses Parker and Sherwood.

Vocal Solo, - - - - Mr. J. D. McKenna.

Violin Solo, - - - Mr. William Redpath.

Address, - - Mr. George W. Fowler, K. C., M. P.

Vocal Solo, - - - - Miss Pearl Veysey.

Address, - - - - Inspector R. P. Steeves.

Cornet Solo, - - - - Mr. Albert Perkins.

Address, - - - - Dr. H. S. Bridges.

Vocal Solo, - - - - Miss Mabel Murray.

Vocal Solo, - - - - Mr. W. H. Plummer.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

## SUSSEX SCHOOL TRUSTEES 1908-1909.

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J. R. McLean, Chairman.  
G. N. Pearson, M. D.  
J. A. Humphreys.  
J. Arthur Freeze, Secretary.

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### GENERAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE.

Mayor Mills, Chairman.  
J. D. McKenna, Secretary.  
James A. Murray, M. P. P.  
S. A. McLeod.  
J. J. Daly, D. D. S.  
W. B. McKay  
Rev. W. F. Alton.  
Ora P. King, K. C.  
Rev. Frank Baird.  
Rev. Scovil Neals.  
Hon. A. S. White.  
George W. Fowler, K. C., M. P.  
Rev. Father McDermott.  
Rev. Dr. Rogers.  
S. H. White.  
Rev. H. G. Kennedy.  
Judge McIntyre.  
M. W. Doherty.  
Inspector Steeves.  
H. H. Dryden.

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This Programme is issued by the General  
Committee.