

Chapter One

The St. Andrews Herald

THE TOWN'S FIRST newspaper was the *St. Andrews Herald and Commercial Advertiser* (1818-1831), and its first editor was James Cochrane. Mr. Cochrane soon left and his place was taken by David Howe, brother of the Honorable Joseph Howe of Halifax, with James Storey of Saint John's *Royal Gazette* as foreman. Howe and Storey soon bought the Company and became publishers themselves, but sold out to Peter Stubs after a few years. Stubs was a local merchant and, between 1820 and 1827, a member for Charlotte. He left for his home country of Scotland in 1832 and the *Herald* ceased publication, Howe returning to Halifax and Storey staying on to work in succeeding newspapers such as the *Courant*, *Provincialist* and *Standard*.

Interestingly, the *Herald* was for a time printed on paper manufactured at Chamcook by John Wilson, a prosperous shipbuilder and millman. Less interestingly for the chronicler of the Town's past, there was little in it that could be called local news. According to Robert Armstrong, editor of the *St. Andrews Beacon* (1889 -1919), "The early publisher did not consider it any part of his duty to mirror the doings of the townsfolk or to devote any part of his paper to chronicling local happenings. He had no editorial opinions on any subject or if he had he did not give expression to them. Indeed were it not for the few local advertisements the reader would scarcely know that there were any inhabitants in the town. It was regarded then as little short of impertinence to make mention of the movements of people, the only persons who were thought worthy of mention being some prominent official or someone of unusual importance."

As with most Canadian newspapers at this time, this small four-page production was taken up almost entirely with English news and local ads, but there are a few items where, almost incidentally, a miniature portrait of the town seems to peep through, some tiny sense of life in the early part of the nineteenth century, when St. Andrews was still a booming frontier town manufacturing ships and exporting lumber, and when trade between Britain and the West Indies was still the staple of the local economy.

Though the *Herald* published for 14 years, only a dozen issues survive. Some of the following selections, such as the opening of the Greenock Church and the execution of Richard and Maria Stewart, are quoted elsewhere from issues now lost. ❧



The Market House and St. Andrews Rifles, 1866, during the Fenian Scare

The Market House was located on the site of the present Town Hall, and was the Town's first courthouse and jail. In August, 1826 a black brother and sister, Richard and Maria Stewart, were hung here for infanticide. The building was converted for market use in 1842 after the construction of a new jail in 1832 and courthouse in 1840. It burned in 1874.

Charlotte County Archives

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For Sale

A SINGLE PEW on the West Isle of the St. Andrews Church, belonging to the subscriber (if not disposed of by private sale), will be sold at public auction, on the 1st of June next, to the highest bidder. John Merrill, March 11, 1822.—*Herald*, August 1, 1820

Notice to Emigrants

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING been appointed to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, a Committee for Charlotte County, to enquire into the characters, testimonials and claims, of all such Emigrants as may arrive at or come into this County from the Mother Country, and to recommend and report, such as wish to become settlers in the same, to His Excellency, for location tickets, if they may, after due enquiry, think eligible—they therefore give notice, that they will pay immediate attention to any applications made to them for the above purposes.

Hugh Mackay

John Campbell

Peter Stubs

—*Herald*, August 1, 1820

English Papers

BY THE JUNE packet, arrived at Halifax, we have received English papers to the 12th of that month, and have transcribed some of the most interesting articles.—The arrival of the *Queen* appears to attract the attention of Government, and possibly may interfere with its arrangements, and perplex its deliberation; it is to be hoped, however, that the inquiry now pending may lead to satisfactory result.—*Herald*, August 1, 1820

Coronation of George IV

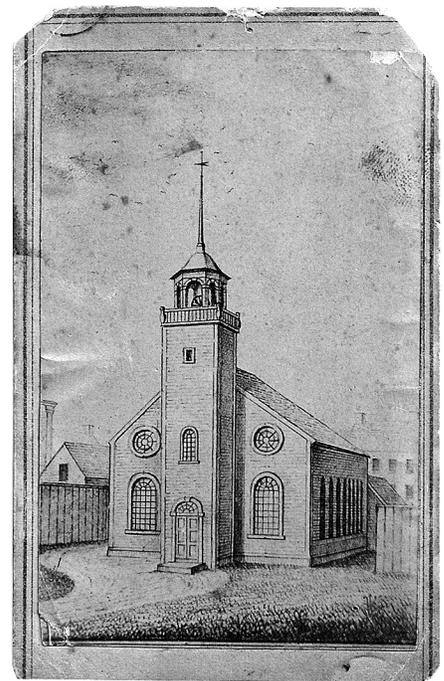
THIS IS THE day appointed for the Coronation of Our Most Gracious Monarch, George the Fourth; may his reign be glorious, long, and prosperous; and may posterity ever have occasion to hold in grateful remembrance his actions and his motives.—*Herald*, August 1, 1820

Public Whippings

ON THURSDAY LAST, John Barton Morris, sailmaker, of London; and Ebenezer P. Paine, late of St. Stephen, shoemaker, were severally sentenced to receive thirty-nine lashes for stealing sundry articles from the store of Mr. G. Hunter, of St. Stephen, under the value of 20s. The sentence was the next day carried into execution in front of the Gaol Yard.

Also, yesterday, John Dunn, and James Hazen, were publicly whipped: the former, for stealing some articles of clothing from William McLeod; the latter for stealing three pair of ear-rings from Terence McKenny.

Morris, Paine, Dunn and Hazen, are to leave the County in five days from the time of receiving their punishment.—*Herald*, August 1, 1820

**All Saints Church**

The first church was located at the corner of Church and King Street, and had a small graveyard. It was torn down in 1868 and some of its furnishings, including its coat of arms, moved to the new location at King and Parr.

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Detail from Frances Wren's Pictorial History of St. Andrews

Mrs. Howe was the wife of David Howe, Co-Editor with James Storey of the *St. Andrews Herald*. David Howe was the brother of the Hon. Joseph Howe of Halifax.

Courtesy Dareth Thorne



Female Education

MRS. HOWE RESPECTFULLY acquaints her friends, and the inhabitants of St. Andrews in general, that she intends commencing a school on the 1st of September next, in which she proposes the instruction of pupils in the following branches of female education: viz:

The English and French languages, sacred and modern geography, composition and parsing, reading, writing and arithmetic, painting, drawing, embroidering, tambouring, working upon muslins, plain sewing and marking.

The utmost attention will be shewn, as well to the morals as to the improvement of such pupils, as may be entrusted to her care; and by exerting her best endeavours to give general satisfaction, she hopes to merit the patronage now solicited.—*Herald*, August 15, 1820

Provisions, Groceries, etc.

THE SUBSCRIBER OFFERS for sale, at the store directly opposite D. McLaughlin's, Esq., cheap for cash:

Superfine flour, yellow corn, Indian corn, rice, barley, peas, beans, cod and pollock fish, butter, cheese, lard, hyson and souchong teas, loaf and brown sugars, coffee, molasses, figs, raisins and currants, indigo, copperas, alum, red and log woods, otter, pepper, mustard, allspice, ginger, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, confectionery, camphor, starch, fig blue, pearlash, vinegar, table salt, sulphur, etc.

W. Whitlock

—*Herald*, August 15, 1820

Birthday of George IV

YESTERDAY, BEING APPOINTED (by Royal ordinance) for the celebration of the Birth of His Most Gracious Majesty, George IV, was kept here in a manner worthy of the occasion, and evincing in the highest degree the loyalty and affection of the inhabitants of this part of His Majesty's American domains. About half past 12, the troops of this depot, under the command of Captain Thomas Jones marched down King Street, and were drawn up in the Market Square, where they fired a *feu de joie* in honor of the day, with a regularity and precision we have seldom witnessed. The Militia Artillery Company, under Captain Hatch, with the two companies of the first Battalion Charlotte Militia under Major C. Campbell, commanded by Capts. Jack and McMaster, assembled at their usual parade ground and after performing several evolutions, proceeded to Water Street, and at 4 o'clock fired a royal salute in very good style; after which the music played up, and three loyal cheers were given until the hats of all present waved in the air. . . . The officers of the Militia, with Magistrates of the town, then repaired to McFarlan's Hotel, where a celebration was provided. The festivities of the day were closed by a ball at McFarlan's Hall, where the most respectable of both sexes were present. The room was handsomely decorated with festoons of evergreen, and in one part was placed the crown, and underneath, the well-known motto "Dieu et Mon Droit." The dancing continued to an early hour, and all appeared to enjoy the scene in the highest glee. His Majesty is now in the second year of his reign, and we trust he will long hold the scepter of the British realms, secure alike in the affections and loyalty of a free, generous and brave people.—*Herald*, April 24, 1821

Fire

ON SATURDAY MORNING last, about three o'clock, the brig Robert, of Londonderry, Nova Scotia, lying at the wharf of D. McMaster, Esq., was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was immediately given, and the Firewards, Military and inhabitants, repaired quickly to the vessel. The most judicious measures were adopted, and carried into execution with spirit and promptitude, notwithstanding the extreme severity of the weather. We are happy to state their exertions were crowned with success, the fire being kept under until the rise of the tide, which completely extinguished it. The vessel has sustained less damage than was at first imagined. The fire was occasioned, it is supposed, by some defect in the hearth of the fireplace. Where all deserved praise, it may seem superfluous to particularize, yet we cannot help remarking, that Capt. Jones, Lieut. Barker, and the troops at this Post, deserve the thanks of the community for their unwearied exertions on the occasion.—*Herald*, January 8, 1822

Keep to the Left

AT THIS SEASON when our beaux and belles are amusing themselves in riding through the streets in sleighs, it may not be amiss to caution the drivers to keep constantly to the left hand side of the road, in order to prevent accident:

The Rule of the Road is a paradox quite,
In driving a sleigh or a carriage along,
If you keep to the left you are sure to be right,
And if you go right, you go wrong.
—*Herald*, January 8, 1822

Opening of the Scotch Church

ON THE EVENING of the New Year the Scotch Church was opened. The front was brilliantly illuminated by wax lights tastefully arranged. Several appropriate selections of sacred music were executed and a great number of the most respectable people of both sexes were present. The outside of the church is finished in the Doric order: extreme height of steeple, 120 feet. Inside is executed in Ionian order. The gallery is supported by ten columns of the most beautiful birdseye maple. The pulpit and precentor's box are of mahogany supported by six columns of the same in Doric and Ionian orders. In the rear of the pulpit is a Venetian window with four mahogany columns in the Ionic order. The ceiling is finished in ornamental stucco work, forming a large and handsome panel supported by an elliptic arch. The whole has been planned by and executed under the immediate and constant superintendence of Mr. Joseph Stevenson, and every part bears the most ample evidence of his skill, fidelity and attention. It is one of the most neat and substantial places of public worship throughout British America. The Church and Manse will cost about £16,000 and by this the public may form some idea of the magnitude of the benefaction of C. Scott, Esq., who has thus generously made the most acceptable present to the disciples of the Church of Scotland and their descendants which man can offer; and for which his name will be held in grateful remembrance long after the edifices themselves shall have yielded to the relentless scythe of time.—*Herald*, January 1824

Opposite

Detail from Frances Wren's Pictorial
History of St. Andrews
Courtesy Dareth Thorne

As with "The Birthday of George IV" (previous page), from a lost issue. Quoted in Robert Armstrong's "History of Journalism in St. Andrews," *Beacon*, February 3 and 10, 1910