

the history of
HOSPITALS IN PICTOU

by Annie Barnwell

commemorating
the official opening of the
Sutherland-Harris Memorial Hospital

Wednesday, June 1st, 1966

62/85

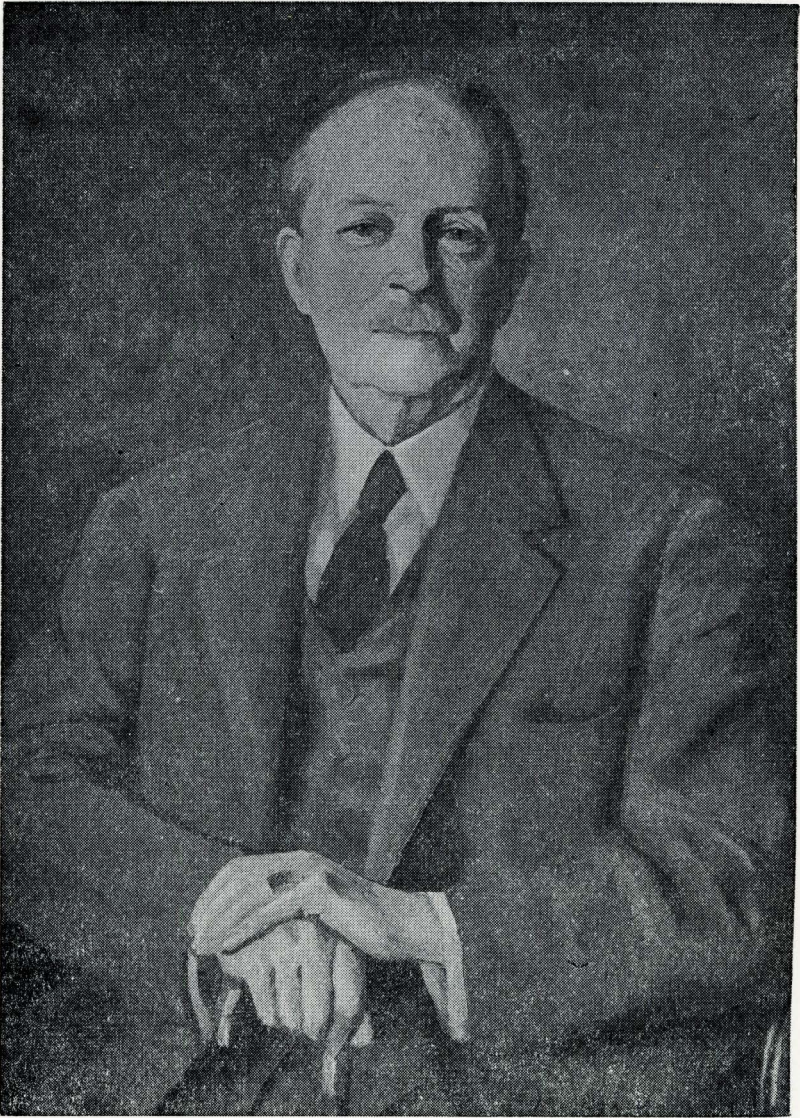
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BARNWELL, Annie (Logan).

The following is an historical sketch of the hospitals in Pictou from 1848-1966. I wish to express my gratitude to the many friends for the valuable information they supplied me which made this outline of the history of hospitals in Pictou possible.

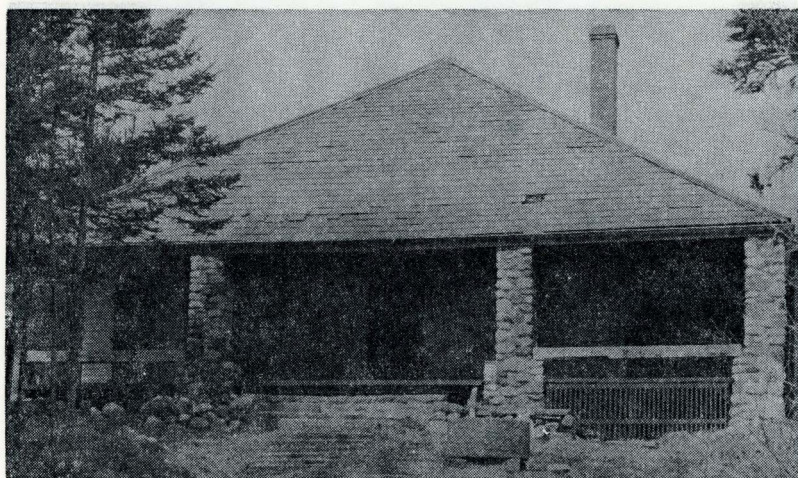
ANNIE BARNWELL.



D. H. Sutherland



William H. Harris



Lazaretto - Infectious Hospital

LAZARETTO — INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL

In the days of long ago, when Pictou harbour was alive with vessels from all over the world, many of the sailors were stricken with smallpox and other infectious diseases. Some of the patients were put in tents as there was no hospital to accommodate them.

The Board of Health decided something would have to be arranged as conditions were very serious, and they corresponded with the authorities at Halifax.

The following was copied from The Journals of Assembly 1847-1848 at the Public Archives in Halifax:

"On Thursday, 24th of February, 1848. at the Assembly, a memorial of the general sessions at Pictou to His Excellency. in reference to a Lazaretto proposed to be erected there and the same was read by the Clerk. He was ordered that the memorial be referred to the committee on the subject of claims for expenses for sick mariners."

On April 10th, 1848, of the same Journal, the following appears: "On motion of the Provincial Secretary, resolved that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to take measures for the erection of Hospitals in Halifax and Pictou, for the relief of sick and destitute immigrants and seamen, and that this House will at its next session, grant two-fifths of the cost thereof respectively; not to exceed six hundred pounds for Halifax and two hundred pounds for Pictou; provided the other three-fifths be assessed respectively of the City and County of Halifax and the County of Pictou."

On the same date it was reported. "Resolved that the Bill do pass and the title be: An Act to authorize the Grand Juries of the County of Halifax and Pictou to assess said Counties for the Erection of Hospital Therein."

On April 11th, 1848. the following Act of the Nova Scotia Statutes was passed:

"That it shall be lawful for His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to nominate and appoint a Board of Commissioners in each of said Counties to purchase a lot of land for the erection of such hospitals and to erect, build and complete the same and to hold the same in trust, subject to such rules and regulations as the Legislature may hereafter provide for the conduct and management of said hospitals respectively."

Later plans were made by the Board of Health in Pictou to build on land down the Beaches Road about three miles from the town. the district now known as "Braeshore". A very fine sandstone building was erected to take care of the patients in the early stages of smallpox, about one hundred yards away a wooden building was built to be used as a convalescent home. In recent years both of these buildings which are still in splendid condition, though now privately owned, are being used as summer homes. The Supervisors of the hospitals were Doctors George M. Johnstone and William James Anderson, later Dr. John MacMillan was the adviser appointed by the Government.

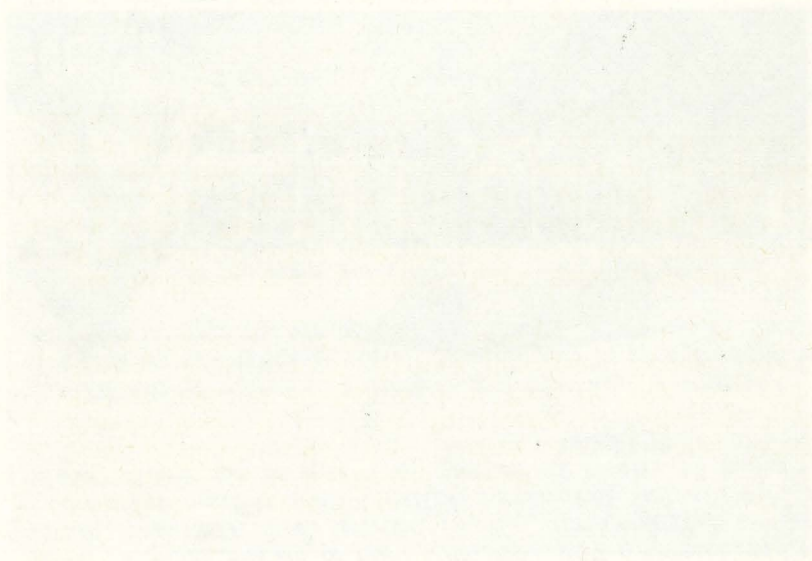
The Board of Health for Pictou consisted of leading citizens namely:

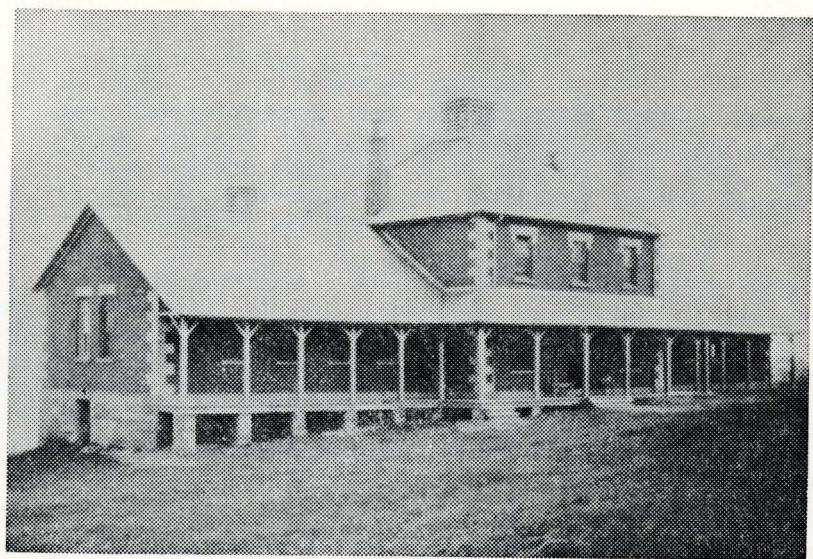
President — George Smith

Secretary — A. C. MacDonald (lawyer)

Hon. David Crichton, Wm. Gordon, John Yorston, James Purves, James D. B. Fraser, Dr. George M. Johnstone, John T. Ives, Roderick MacKenzie, A. P. Ross, Dr. Wm. James Anderson, Daniel Hockin, Andrew Robertson, Samuel Taylor, Henry Blackadar and Robert P. Grant.

Due to Pictou being a seaport town. many problems arose which necessitated calling together these men sometimes several times a week. They met in the Court House, generally at noon hour. and held sittings which often lasted for hours. Many situations arose from the visits of foreign vessels to the port and frequent letters passed between the Board and the Hon. Joseph Howe who was Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.





Marine Hospital

MARINE HOSPITAL — 1880

The Marine Hospital was built on the site later occupied by the Sutherland Memorial Hospital.

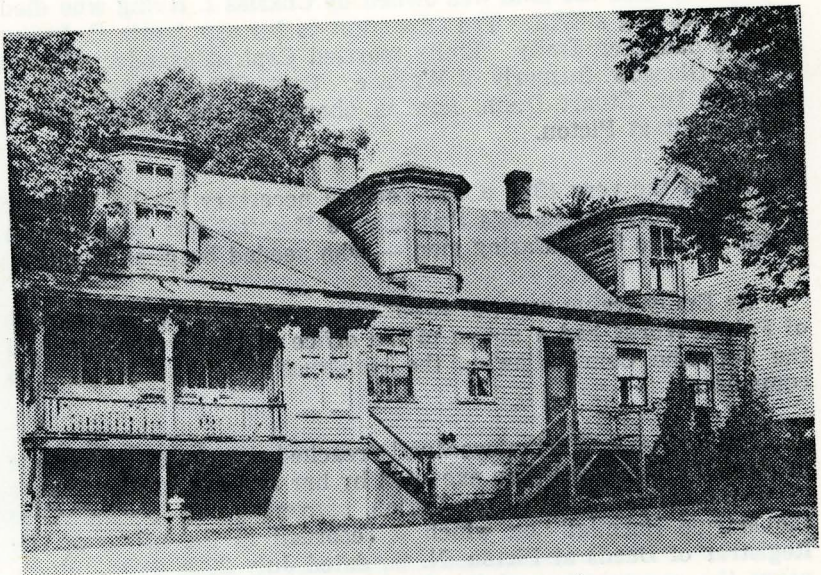
At the time the land was owned by Charles I. Irving who died without leaving a Will. The title went to his son James C. Irving and his daughter Emily. Emily married Capt. Alexander O'Brien of New Glasgow. formerly of Wallace. Capt. O'Brien was a grand-uncle of Dr. Stuart Dunn, now in charge of the Public Health Department at Pictou.

About the year 1878 it was deemed necessary by the Minister of Public Works of Canada that Marine Hospital was necessary in Pictou. to care for seafaring men — who needed hospital attention.

As Emily Irving was not twenty-one years old the Department of Public Works had a notice in the office of the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court allowing the construction of the hospital to commence.

Emily Irving O'Brien eventually reached the age of twenty-one years and a Deed was then executed by her and her brother James C. Irving to Her Majesty the Queen, conveying the lot known as the Marine Hospital Lot, which is recorded in the office of the Registrar of Deeds at Pictou. N. S., dated July 20th, 1882. It appears the construction of the hospital started sometime in 1880 or 1881.

The one-storey building was built of brick and wood with a low verandah running full length on the north side facing the Beaches Road. In the centre was a two storey apartment which was occupied by the caretaker. The two wards extended on each side. east and west.



1st General Hospital

FIRST GENERAL HOSPITAL 1893

Largely through the efforts and encouragement of Doctor John Stewart and Smith Anderson and a number of energetic ladies of the town the First General Hospital was started. Accommodation was procured in the home of Mrs. George Logan on High Street. Mrs. Logan was the mother of Mrs. John D. MacMillan, who is now living on Cottage Street. Four rooms were furnished, the Board paid seven dollars a month toward the rent of the rooms and fifty cents a day for each patient's board, washing and attendance.

When the hospital was ready Dr. Stewart had in waiting the first patient. The operation which was performed on a table, was the amputation of a leg at the hip on Packles MacLeod of Pictou. For years after Mr. MacLeod was a well known and active citizen of the town. It was commonly known that Dr. Stewart never performed an operation without first offering a prayer. He was a beloved physician and a large number of boys in Pictou are namesakes. In his younger days Dr. Stuart had taken a post-graduate course in London, England, and studied under the noted Dr. William Osler, who was known as "the most famous doctor in the world".

The hospital was supported by voluntary contributions and the assistance of the Ladies Aid. During that time a Glee Club was organized with Mrs. James Primrose as director. The first annual meeting was held on January 16th. 1894, the treasurer reported the sum of \$223.50 had been raised; this included \$50.00 donated by the Glee Club.

The officers were:

President, Mr. J. MacG. Stewart (the father of the late J. MacG. Stewart, corporation lawyer of Halifax).

Secretary, Miss Isabelle Patterson

Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Brown.

Mrs. Logan was the supervisor, and worked under great difficulties, without modern facilities, and on duty twenty-four hours a day. The work was carried on until about 1901 when the west wing of the Marine Hospital was procured and used as a Cottage Hospital. Miss Delaney of Montreal, a Victorian Order Nurse, was in charge. She was succeeded by Miss Dunn, and she by Miss Schwartz, all Victorian Order Nurses. Later Miss Lottie Kayenburg of Pictou was appointed superintendent.

The first year thirty-five patients were cared for, fourteen of whom had typhoid fever.

As the old building did not meet requirements, the need was imperative to erect a new hospital, committees were formed and a considerable amount of money was raised.



Pictou Cottage Hospital

PICTOU COTTAGE HOSPITAL — 1906

ACADIA STREET

Plans were made in 1903 to build and in 1906 the new building was completed and opened with impressive ceremony: prayer was offered by Dr. Alexander Falconer of Prince Street Church, the address was given by Hon. D. C. Fraser, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Mr. G. R. Chisholm, Manager of the Royal Bank was Chairman, Mrs. J. D. MacLeod, Mrs. E. M. Macdonald and Mrs. G. R. Chisholm welcomed the guests.

The Superintendent was Miss Lottie Kayenburg, who later married Dr. J. J. MacKenzie. She was succeeded by Miss Maud MacDonald, then by Miss Katherine MacDonald and in 1911 by Miss Susan Currie, who remained for fourteen years then resigned on account of poor health. In 1925 Miss Florence Boa of Montreal became Superintendent.

Various fittings and appliances were donated to the new hospital when it was opened, a number of rooms were furnished by individuals and societies, the hospital when opened was reported free of debt.

At this time it is fitting to mention the generosity of the Misses Charlotte, Sophia and Mary Russell, their bequests known as the "Russell Sisters Memorial Trust Fund", the revenue of which continues to benefit hospital work in Pictou.

The operating room in the new hospital was completely furnished by the Misses Russell, and donations to supply necessities of every description to carry on the work were contributed by them, apart from their special Trust Fund.

A great debt is owed to the nurses who did the pioneer work in these Cottage Hospitals. They were on call any hour of the day, and with the exception of their annual vacation "time off", was practically unheard of. They did wonderful work without the present day conveniences and equipment. The wonder drugs which are available today were unheard of then. Their faithful nursing was an enormous factor in a patient's chance of survival when suffering from diphtheria, typhoid, pneumonia and tuberculosis. We pay them a sincere tribute for their faithfulness and devotion to duty.



Sutherland Memorial Hospital

THE SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL — 1928

As the Cottage Hospital was inadequate for increased work a larger building was built on the site of the old Marine Hospital on Beaches Road. named the "Sutherland Memorial". It was built by public donations and the efforts of the Ladies Aid, assisted by the Junior Auxiliary and supplemented by a generous bequest from Mr. Daniel Sutherland, ex-Mayor of Pictou. The name "Cottage" had been dropped as the new hospital was in a higher category.

The cornerstone was laid on August 31st, 1927, the proceedings being held in connection with Pictou's Natal Day. A large gathering attended and the address was given by Premier E. N. Rhodes.

The formal opening took place on June 27th, 1928. the principal speaker being Lieutenant Governor J. C. Tory. Dr. John Stewart, then a resident of Halifax, formally opened the building. Mr. H. Seymour Hamilton, Chairman of the Building Committee, made formal presentation to the hospital board by handing the keys to Mr. John A. Adamson, Chairman of the board. Mr. John D. MacDonald, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave a detailed history of the hospital. This was followed by Governor Tory's address. Dr. John Stewart then spoke of the years he had lived in Pictou, phrased in friendly, thoughtful words. He then invited his hearers to accompany him to the main door of the hospital, which he unlocked and declared the hospital open.

The executive consisted of:

President — Mr. J. A. Adamson

Secretary — Miss Jessie (Jet) MacDonald

Treasurer — Mr. D. B. Scott.

Miss Florence Boa continued as Superintendent until September. after being in charge since 1925. She was succeeded by Miss Susan MacQueen, who remained for twenty-five years. During that time Miss MacQueen being most efficient and congenial to work with had the satisfaction of seeing the facilities brought up to date due to the very generous bequests of interested friends and organizations.

Two energetic citizens who did not live to see the full fruit of their labours in the erection of the "Sutherland Memorial" were Mrs. James Primrose and Dr. Smith Anderson. Bronze tablets in memory and appreciation of their work have been placed in the building.

In 1943 the hospital was greatly overtaxed when our popula-

tion was practically doubled on account of the Wartime Ship-building boom in Pictou.

In 1944 the erection of a Nurses' Home with an Infectious Disease Ward was completed and made a gift to the Town by the Wartime Housing Ltd. This relieved the congested situation in the hospital by changing the nurses' rooms over and making a four bed maternity ward, three private rooms and one semi-private room, the accommodation was increased from twenty-two to thirty-one beds.

Once again congratulations were extended to Miss MacQueen for directing and supervising alterations. Needless to say the opening of the Nurses' Home was the big interest of the year, providing an entirely different life and environment for the entire staff.

Miss MacQueen resigned in 1953 after twenty-five years of most excellent service. She was succeeded by Miss Marjory Jones in 1954, then by Miss Ethel Elliott who resigned in 1957 on account of ill health. Mrs. Louisa Langille was acting superintendent until the appointment of Mrs. Jean Baird in December, 1957. Mrs. Baird remained until June 1959, when Mrs. A. Chisholm became superintendent. Mrs. Chisholm resigned in June 1964. Mrs. MacKenzie again acting superintendent until October, 1965, when Mrs. Walter Leslie was appointed.

The present nursing staff consists of the following:

Mrs. H. Logan	R.N.
Mrs. Eva MacKenzie	R.N.
Mrs. H. Priest	R.N.
Mrs. MacK. Langille	R.N.
Mrs. M. Arbuckle	R.N.
Miss M. LeBlanc	R.N.
Mrs. R. Chambers	R.N.
Mrs. F. Fagan	R.N.
Mrs. R. Hale	R.N.
Mrs. F. Horne	R.N.
Mrs. J. MacDonald	R.N.
Mrs. H. MacKay	R.N.
Mrs. G. Miller	R.N.
Mrs. M. Miller	R.N.
Mrs. J. MacLean	R.N.
Mrs. S. Dunn	R.N.
Miss M. Dwyer	Grace Graduate
Miss E. MacKenzie	Grace Graduate
Mrs. L. MacKenzie	Grace Graduate
Mrs. M. Buchanan	C.N.A.
Mrs. J. O'Hearn	C.N.A.
Mrs. J. Dobson	Grace Graduate
Mrs. E. Wry	R.N.

Pictou has always been fortunate in the calibre of her physicians such as Doctors John Stewart, John MacMillan, G. I. MacKenzie, Smith Anderson, J. J. MacKenzie (G. I.'s son), Duncan Murray, G. A. Dunn, M. R. Young and R. H. Sutherland (all deceased).

The present Medical Staff consists of Doctors Fraser and Clarence Young (M. R.'s sons), C. B. Smith, S. D. Dunn (G. A.'s son), and C. A. Robertson of Glasgow, Scotland, who has recently joined the staff.

It was in 1961 that the board of Sutherland Memorial Hospital took steps to improve conditions at the hospital that had served so well for so many years.

The main problem was that the hospital had been designed for 14 beds but it now had 31 beds and was badly overcrowded.

The first plan was for an addition that would have cost about \$400,000. The plans were drawn up but were rejected by the Commission at Halifax.

Eventually, in order to take advantage of grants and to obtain governmental approval, the board found it would be necessary to build an entirely new hospital.

Architects were hired and they advised the most economical method would be a one storey building. This required a large land area and a committee surveyed several sites.

From a long term point of view, the acreage on which the new hospital now stands at the west end of the Town was found to meet all requirements of the architects and the hospital board. It's a splendid site with sufficient acreage for additional accommodation if and when the time comes.

While the building was in progress we were fortunate to receive a substantial bequest from the Estate of the late Sheriff William H. Harris. This generous bequest plus approximately \$25,000 donated by business firms and individuals made it possible for the board to buy the most modern hospital equipment and furnishings available.

It has been, indeed, a community effort. We appreciate the support given by all and trust that this beautiful modern hospital will serve the residents of the town and district for many years to come.

SUTHERLAND-HARRIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL — 1966

On June 29th, 1965, a memorable ceremony was held at the site of the new hospital, the special occasion being the turning of the sod by Colonel Daniel H. Sutherland of River John, nephew of the late Mr. Daniel Sutherland of Pictou, benefactor of the Sutherland Memorial Hospital.

The ceremony was witnessed by members of the Hospital Board, Town Council, Medical Staff, Press and a few guests including Rev. Donald Sutherland, only son of Colonel Sutherland.

The site is at the West end of the Town overlooking the harbour and the hills beyond, spacious green fields can be seen from all sides of the building, when completed.

Mr. William A. Broidy, Chairman of the Hospital Board, welcomed the group and said, "it was a most gratifying sense of fulfillment after four years of planning and many frustrations, finally to see the work started". He thanked the members of the Board and everyone involved for their cooperation. In introducing Mayor H. M. Russell, he particularly thanked him for his assistance in the negotiations with the Provincial Government.

Mayor Russell said in his remarks, "that the new hospital costing approximately three-quarters of a million dollars would be the largest single project ever built in Pictou".

Mr. Allan A. Ferguson as Chairman of the Building Committee stated, "that it was expected the hospital would be completed in the early spring of 1966".

In February, 1966, at a town council meeting the Sutherland Memorial Hospital was conveyed to the town of Pictou by deed. This gives the town authority to sell the lands and buildings of the Sutherland Memorial Hospital with the stipulation that the money received must be used for the retirement of debt incurred in the building of the new hospital. At the same time, authority was given to change the name of the new hospital to "Sutherland-Harris Memorial Hospital". The change of name was proposed at a previous council meeting to honour the memory of another benefactor, the late William H. Harris, former Sheriff of the County. Mr. Harris made a magnificent bequest in excess of fifty thousand dollars to the new hospital.

The growth from a few rooms in a private dwelling in 1893 to the modern hospital we now have, shows the advancement made in hospital work and demonstrates a fine degree of public spirit and generosity in our beloved old town.

Splendid work has been accomplished in the old hospitals of our town, and it is confidently expected that the same high

standard of selfless service will prevail in our new hospital. It will be furnished and equipped with the most modern material available. I am assured that, true to our tradition, that nothing is being spared in providing for the protection and comfort of our people.

I feel sure I am speaking for all Pictonians, when I say a grateful thank-you to the Members of the Hospital Board, and all others who have made this fine Hospital available to us.

Annie Barnwell.

NOTES OF INTEREST

These items are a glimpse into the past, with an outline of a few events which contributed to the growth of the hospitals in Pictou.

- 1848 — Lazaretto and Convalescent hospital, a Government project.
- 1880 — Marine Hospital also a Government project.
- 1893 — First General Hospital, a local project, four rooms rented in a private dwelling.
- 1894 — First General Hospital annual meeting held. It was reported \$223.50 was raised during the year.
- 1901 — The west wing of the Marine Hospital was used as a Cottage Hospital. The Victorian Order of Nurses were sent from Montreal to take charge. Later Miss Lottie Kayenburg of Pictou was appointed superintendent.
- 1903 — Plans were made to build a new Cottage Hospital on Acadia Street.
- 1903 — The first Hospital Board was incorporated as "The Pictou Cottage Hospital Board," the incorporators being: Messrs. John D. MacLeod, David H. Purves, John U. Ross, Howard H. Hamilton, A. C. MacDonald, Charles E. Tanner, Smith Anderson, M.D., John MacKenzie, M.D., and the following ladies: Mrs. James Primrose (Annie McD.), Mrs. Jane Baillie, Mrs. Edith L. Macdonald, Miss Amelia G. Gordon, Miss Agnes Fraser, Mrs. Margaret F. Logan, Mrs. Archibald MacKenna, Jr. Mr. W. B. Ives was Secretary.
- 1906 — Pictou Cottage Hospital on Acadia Street was opened. Built by John Mitchell, River John, lowest tender \$5,500.00.
- 1925 — The first X-Ray was a small portable used for pictures of broken bones in the arms and legs.
- 1928 — Sutherland Memorial Hospital finished, by contractors

Fraser, Mason and Fraser, New Glasgow. Approximate cost \$60,000.00 (June).

- 1928 — The first child, Clara Sutherland, was born on August 27th, to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Cheverie. The middle name "Sutherland" was given for the hospital. The birth was caesarean, Drs. G. A. Dunn and T. W. MacLean in attendance.
- 1929 — A second-hand X-Ray was bought from Springhill Hospital, and operated by Miss MacQueen. Later a large one was purchased and operated by Miss Elsie Talbot and an elevator was installed and paid for by a substantial bequest made by Alexander MacDougall.
- 1933 — The Junior Auxiliary disbanded, joining with the Ladies Auxiliary. When the "Sutherland Memorial" was opened the Auxiliary donated a large commercial refrigerator, window blinds for the building, crutches, splints and various useful items. A five hundred (\$500.00) dollar government Bond was given to the Hospital Board for special equipment when needed, the interest to be used for the upkeep of linen. A balance in the funds of one hundred and thirty dollars (\$130.00) was to be used as occasion arose.
- 1933 — The Annual "House to House Canvass" was introduced instead of "Hospital Sunday" collection at churches, which had been carried on for years. The first year the collection amounted to five hundred and seventy-five (\$575.00) dollars, an increase over previous years which was very gratifying. Larger contributions were received in subsequent years, the result of careful planning by the ladies in charge.
- 1937 — The first blood transfusion was given by Dr. Fraser Young to Mr. Walter Ross of Rogers Hill. Mr. Ross is now eighty-five years old and frequently visits his friends in Pictou.
- 1943 — The first By-Laws of the Sutherland Memorial Hospital were passed and adopted at the annual General Meeting held on December 28th, 1943.
- 1944 — The first Penicillin was released. Each hospital received

a certain quota at a price sufficiently reasonable to make it available for emergency use.

- 1944 — The new Nurses Home was completed. Furnishings for the building were the gift of the Rotary Club of Pictou, through a donation of five thousand dollars.

The hospital benefitted from the generosity and interest of the Kinsmen and Kinettes since these organizations were started in Pictou. The Kinsmen provided two ambulances, an incubator, washer, sterilizer, new mattresses for patients, combination aluminum windows, nursery furniture, etc. The Kinettes particularly have been most helpful, they maintain the nursery, keeping it well equipped with essentials and are of great assistance in various ways.

The people of the districts surrounding Pictou and individuals in town carry on a charming old custom by contributing generously with donations to the hospital of vegetables, jams and pickles.

A Committee from the Ladies Auxiliary continue to provide special attractions for the patients' trays and the nurses dining table on all the special holidays throughout the years. A committee has also taken charge of repairing the linen, etc. The women's organizations of the churches assisting. All in all a nice facet of our small town way of life.

- 1953 — Miss MacQueen resigned after twenty-five years of faithful service. In the minutes of a previous monthly meeting a member who was reporting for the visiting committee said: "Having visited the hospital and patients, again I was impressed with our good fortune in having Miss MacQueen as our superintendent. With her sense of humour and her ability to share her cheerfulness, she is the right person in the right place. Her quiet efficiency, with a complete knowledge of her profession, gives her every quality needed to fill her position."

- 1958 — The Board sold the Junior Auxiliary Bond to assist in paying for new refrigeration for the kitchens.

- 1961 — Mrs. Chisholm, the superintendent, reported that the hospital was 97% full with three beds in the corridors. This has been a frequent and continuing situation.

- 1962 — At the Board Meeting in January, the matter of a new

hospital was discussed. Mr. Beacom, Treasurer, stated, "that Mr. Broidy (Chairman of the Board) had called him from Montreal and suggested the Board Members should give thought to an entirely new hospital. Mr. Broidy stated, "that he was now convinced we would never obtain approval from the Hospital Commission in Halifax for the construction of the new wing to the old Hospital that we had been working for."

- 1965 — Miss Elsie Talbot resigned from the staff being a member of the staff for twenty-five years. Miss Talbot was a faithful worker at all times, for some years past she was in charge of the X-Ray Department.
- 1965 — Mr. G. F. Wortman joined the staff as Administrator in March and Mr. Harold Murphy was appointed as X-Ray Technician in May, both having served in the Navy.
- 1965 — This year the annual collection amounted to approximately \$3,920.31, which showed the advancement since 1894 — the total then being two hundred and twenty-three dollars and fifty cents (\$223.50).
- 1966 — The first money raised locally for the new "Sutherland-Harris was three hundred and twenty-six dollars (\$326.00). Tickets were sold on a Seascope picture painted and donated by a member of the Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary have undertaken the payment for certain equipment in the new building which has kept them busy.

Annie Barnwell.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE SUTHERLAND-HARRIS
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL — 1966**

CHAIRMAN — WILLIAM A. BROIDY

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SECRETARY — ROLAND F. ENGLISH

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DEPUTY MAYOR J. W. SELLERS

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DR. CHARLES B. SMITH

COL. DANIEL SUTHERLAND

ISAAC J. VIGNEAULT

DR. FRASER YOUNG

THOMAS C. SEDGWICK, Q.C. — SOLICITOR

The construction and equipping of the Sutherland-Harris Hospital has been achieved through the generosity of the following:

GRANTS

Government of Canada

Government of the Province of Nova Scotia

Council of the County of Pictou

Council of the Town of Pictou

CONTINUING TRUST FUNDS

Robertson Carmichael Estate

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Amelia Gordon Estate

Sarah J. MacClure Estate

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Misses Sophia, Mary and Charlotte Russell Estate

Alex Stalker Estate

Daniel H. Sutherland Estate

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Gertrude Murray Estate

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Harry C. Williams Estate

Alexander MacDougall Estate

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Mr. & Mrs. William A. Broidy

Mr. & Mrs. Fred R. Dunn

Mrs. G. A. Dunn

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Scotsburn Hospital Association

The cost of publishing this booklet has been donated.

