

MISS LETITIA F. AGNEW

(a copy of her obituary in the Liverpool Advance, June 1936)

Liverpool, June 29, 1936 The last link of one of the pioneer families of Liverpool was broken on Saturday by the death of Miss Letitia French Agnew at the age of 79. Miss Agnew was a great-granddaughter of Hallet Collins, and a granddaughter of Caleb Seeley, who was associated with Capt. Joseph Barss in the famous privateer Liverpool Packet. Her home was formerly the famous Col. Simeon Perkins home and was noted for entertainment and hospitality.

Miss Agnew was interested in world events and local happenings as long as health permitted. Her gracious personality and keen intellect won her many friends among the younger as well as older generations. She was a devoted Anglican and a faithful church worker. In politics she was an ardent Conservative.

Her two sisters predeceased her, one just about a year ago.

The nearest surviving relative is a niece, Mrs. T.E.G.Lynch of Digby. Mrs. Francis Cornish ~~was~~ of White Rock B.C., and Arthur Seeley of Blaine, Washington, formerly of Port Medway, are cousins of the deceased.

Funeral service will be ~~held from Holy~~ from Holy Trinity church at 2.30 o'clock on Tuesday, Rev. Canon E.B.Spurr officiating.

J

List of articles in the Simeon Perkins House

(Note: this list, compiled hastily in 1938, is not complete)

1. Typewritten copy of the Perkins Diary, 1766-1812, each volume bound in half-morocco; this copy made under the supervision of the Dominion Archivist from the Warman copy of ~~Diaz~~ Perkins' diary now in the Dominion Archives. This copy is good for general purposes, but it contains many typographical and other errors.
2. Robert J. Long's "Annals of Queens County", 1760-1867. Six volumes bound in half-morocco, the sheets typewritten by Miss Marion Mack. Dr. Wm. Inglis Morse paid Miss Mack to sort out, arrange, and copy these Annals from a mass of notes, maps, sketches and photographs contained in an old trunk belonging to Robert J. Long, the accumulation of his lifelong research. Mr. Long died in the early 1930's in a Boston institution, and the trunk and contents were rescued and brought to Liverpool by Mrs. John Day of the Queens County Historical Society. Copies of the "Annals" were presented by Dr. Morse to the libraries of Harvard, Acadia and Dalhousie Universities.
3. "The Land of Great Adventure" and other volumes donated by Dr. W. Inglis Morse.
4. "Liverpool Privateers" -- by Miss Janet Mullins; edited, printed and bound under the direction of Mr. Fred S. Morton, formerly of Milton, Queens County.
5. Poems of William E. Marshall
6. "Markland" by Robert R. Macleod
7. Many interesting early documents, wills, deeds, letters and family Bibles.
8. Books by Grace Dean Macleod Rogers.
9. Manuscript reminiscences of Queens County, with map of old Liverpool, compiled by the late Doctor Henry G. Farish
10. "Sacred to the Memory" -- a book of Liverpool epitaphs, collected and with notes by Charles Warman and Robert J. Long.
11. Several steel engravings, framed, of Lord Nelson, Sir Walter Scott, Queen Victoria, belonging to the Seely and Agnew families who lived in the Perkins ~~house~~ house, and donated to the Society by the heir, Mrs. T.E.G. Lynch.
12. A number of drawings and water colors of flowers, painted by Mrs. M. Cowie, circa 1850.
13. Two or three oil and water color paintings, framed, by the Liverpool artist John A. Grant, and donated to the Q.C. Historical Society by the artists son, Mr. Louis Grant.
14. 500 ~~hundred~~ photographs collected by the late Robert J. Long.
15. Photographs, and photographed paintings, of Caleb Seely, Enos Collins, Hallett Collins, Joseph Barss and wife Olivia DeWolf, and others.
16. Half a dozen walking sticks belonging to bygone townsmen of the 19th century.

- 17. Several pieces of chinaware, also a white pottery-ware spirit-lamp and tea kettle, formerly belonging to the Seely and Agnew families.
- 18. A large iron safe (Taylor make) presented by Mr.M.A.Bowlby of Port Medway.
- 19. Desk donated by D.C.Mulhall
- 20. Office chair of Simeon Perkins
- 21. Rocking chair of the late Marion Agnew, the recluse who lived almost her entire life within the walls of the Perkins house.
- 22. Several pieces of furniture, of no particular value, including two show-cases of wood-and-glass construction, also a table, loaned by Mrs. John Day.
- 23. A sea chest and one or two old trunks.
- 24. Window curtains (muslin) donated by ladies of the Historical Society.

Additions to the above list since 1938

- 25. Rocking horse used in the Loyalist family of Captain Gideon White, pioneer of Shelburne, N.S. Date, late 18th century. Presented by Mr. Howland White.
- 26. Mahogany cradle, used in the family of Captain Gideon White, Loyalist pioneer of Shelburne. Date, late 18th century. Presented by Mr. Howland White.
- 27. A collection of muskets (flintlock and cap) including one cap-fire muzzle-load rifle, and cartridge pouch, carried in the American Civil War 1861-65 by a Queens County man; a repeating carbine of the type issued to U.S.Cavalry in the latter part of the Civil War; a French army rifle of the period 1871; a cap-fire revolver with six separate barrels; one or two bayonets.
- 27. Two or three swords, history unknown but probably used in the N.S.Militia between 1865-1895.
- 28. Cutlass, made in Charleston, South Carolina, for the Confederate Navy. This cutlass was presented to Jock Fleming Fleming, the daring Halifax pilot of the Confederate cruiser "Tallahassee", by one of the crew, as Fleming was leaving the ship after her sensational escape from the Federal cruisers. Cutlass presented by Mrs. L.H.Minard, Milton.
- 29. Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, 3 volumes.
- 30. Badges, documents, photographs and field communion kit, including communion vessels and altar cloth, used by the late Rev.(Captain) Joseph Freeman Tupper, with the Canadians in France 1914-18.
- 31. Cap and red serge jacket of the Nova Scotia militia, Fenian Raid period.
- 32. Helmet and belt, etc., of the N.S.Militia, period 1885.
- 33. DesBarres chart of Liverpool Bay and vicinity, showing names given by him to various points but not subsequently adopted by the inhabitants.
- 34. Wooden bust of Samuel Kempton, carved by Crouse, the noted wood-carver of

This cutlass was later presented to the Maritime Museum in Halifax Citadel, with the consent of Mrs. Minard.

Milton, Queens County, who made many figure-heads etc. for ships launched at Milton and Liverpool during the 1850's.

35. Collection of West Indian and other curios, formerly the property of Captain Samuel Kempton, including a glass case containing a fine specimen of coral.
36. A German gas-mask, electric torch, and other mementos of the Great War 1914-18.
37. Specimens of linen made from home-grown flax in Queens County in the 19th century.
38. Sundry 18th century skates, ladies' pattens, candle-moulds, waffle-iron, ~~and~~ candlestick, ruffle-iron, flat-irons, lanthorn, iron pot, etc.
39. Keys, etc., found in the ruins of Gorham College.
40. Baby cap of Rhoda Peake Collins
41. Framed print of the Shannon-Chesapeake battle. (Loaned)
42. Church of England common prayer and hymn books, bound in green leather, formerly owned by the Agnew ladies.
43. "The Church in Nova Scotia," and "The Tory Clergy of the Revolution", by Dr. Eaton.
44. "Pilgrim Memorials," -- Russell.
45. A list of mayors and councillors of Liverpool, N.S. from 1897 to 1932
46. "The Mayflower Descendant", Volume 4, published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants.
47. Poems -- John Adams, M.A. Written about 1750. Label attached to the book by Robert Long reads -- "The first Nova Scotian book."
48. "The Story of the Dominion" -- Hopkins
49. "The Quest of the Ballad" -- Mackenzie
50. French-Abnaki dictionary -- Father Sebastian Rasles
51. Minute book and cash-book of the Queens County Friendly Society, 1839-1905
52. Souvenir coin of the Pilgrim Tercentenary
53. Share certificate of the Liverpool Bridge Company, 1856
54. Share certificate of the Liverpool Gold Mining Company, 1862.
55. Deed, John Wallace to Stephen Snow, Liverpool, 1816
56. Gospel of St. Matthew in the Micmac language -- Rand -- 1871
57. English -- Irish Gaelic dictionary, 1814
58. "Burial Hill, Plymouth, Mass." -- Benjamin ~~Essex~~ Drew
59. "The Founding of Halifax" -- Akins

- 60. "The Founding of Shelburne" -- Collections of the N.B.Historical Society
- 61. "Wolfe at Quebec" -- Lorenzo Sabine, 1859
- 62. "Army Administration in Three Centurées" -- by Constitutionalist. (This pamphlet inscribed in ink -- "from Lady Haliburton")
- 63. Sermon at the consecration of Bishop Binney of Nova Scotia, Lambeth Palace, 1851
- 64. Pamphlet -- "Ships and chanties of Liverpool, N.S.2 -- incomplete.
- 65. "The Public Records of Nova Scotia, the history and their present condition" -- by Joseph Plimsoll Edwards.
- 66. Pamphlet -- "The Yarmouth Runic Stone"
- 67. Survey for the Liverpool-Nictaux highway, 1799, showing courses and distances, but giving no geographical detail.
- 68. Original crown grant, with seal, of 6,000 acres on the shore of Antigonish Harbor, signed by Sir John Wentworth, 1807.
- 69. Crown grant to Joseph Tinkham, Port Mouton, 1787.
- 70. Gardner genealogy, 1760-1932, (manuscript with familyvtree)



House of Commons
Canada

File 12 - 0

O T T A W A,
May 23, 1946.

His Worship Mayor Edgar Wright,
Town of Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

Dear Edgar:

This is further to my letter dated 3rd May, in connection with the "Perkins House".

The Historic Sites and Memorial Board of Canada, at its recent meeting, considered our submissions, but did not see fit to recommend the provision of funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the House.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter from the Minister of Mines and Resources in this connection. You will note that the Department is prepared to erect a suitable memorial commemorating the work of Simeon Perkins, and I would welcome your remarks on this proposal before referring same back to the Department. I regret that the Department was not able to attach national importance to the House, as such. It was on this point I thought we might possibly fail to qualify, as I told Merrick Rowling and Thomas Raddall during our interview in March, but I understand that there is still a good possibility of obtaining Provincial assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & RESOURCES

Ottawa, May 20th, 1946.

Dear Colonel Winters:

The proposal contained in your letter of the 1st ultimo, regarding the old home of Simeon Perkins, Liverpool, N. S. was very carefully and sympathetically considered by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada at its meeting held here last week.

The members felt, however, that the building could not be classes as one of national importance and they, accordingly, were unable to recommend that the Dept. should provide funds for its upkeep and maintenance. The Board did consider that the services of Simeon Perkins were of national importance and recommended that a suitable memorial commemorating his life work be erected.

I am unable to say when it will be possible for the Department to proceed with this undertaking as, during the war period, no memorials were erected and, consequently, there is a somewhat lengthy list of sites on hand.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) J. Allison Glen.

COPY



Halifax, N.S.
May 8, 1947.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
N. S.

Dear Tom:-

No doubt you were pleased to see the item of \$5000.⁰⁰ listed in the capital estimates for improvements to the Perkins property.

I do not know the complete plans of the Department, but feel that we have accomplished our aim in interesting the Government in the historic value of this place.

If you have not already done so, I think it might be well to take the matter up with the Historical Society, so that you may be prepared to formally pass the property over to the Province.

Yours sincerely,

Merrill D. Rawding.

MDR/LC

*Ames
May 9/47*



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

May 30 '47

Dear Tom:

To add a word
to my official proclamation
I am very sorry indeed
that pressure of work
from other directions has
made it necessary to leave
the supervision of Simcox
Inc. to others. And with
that goes the pleasure of
working with you, each
minute of which I have
greatly enjoyed — this
enjoyment not being confined
to gastronomical topics

against Cinnamon rolls
and trout taken on ye
Sabbath. Special mention
is reserved for two pots
of tea at Midnight.

Although officially
disowned from Perkins
House, I cannot help
retaining my interest,
and to that end wish
to complete my notes
from the diary. Those
relating to the house I
will segregate for your
interest.

Next week I will
be in Shelburne, and
hope to make time
on the return trip to
drop in, return some
notes, and say "hello".

Sincerely,
Jim Reside

June 6/47
Write & suggesting
ceremony later when
work on house has reached
stage fit for inspection

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
AND PUBLICITY

Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 27th, 1947.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Thank you for your kind letter of recent date. I am sure that all persons interested in the history and tradition of this Province can appreciate the interest that you and other public spirited citizens are taking in such things as the Perkins Homestead. It was with a great deal of pleasure that I read a story in one of the daily newspapers revolving around the Homestead and paying some but insufficient tribute to yourself and other members of the Queens County Historical Society because had it not been for yourself and other members of the Society events recorded in the press might never have occurred.

I agree with you that a ceremonial handing over would be appropriate and I should be pleased to be present on that occasion. Unfortunately I can not be with you on July 1st as I have another engagement for that day but if you could arrange to have it some other day I should be happy to join with you.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Connally
Minister.

Mr. Thos. H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

W. H. STUART
DEPUTY MINISTER



HALIFAX, N. S.

May 30, 1947.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Because of a minor reorganization in this Department, and increased pressure of other work, the restoration of Perkins House will now be the responsibility of Mr. T. J. Courtney, Director of Information. I feel sure that he will find this work as interesting as I have done.

With your permission I will retain the diary for a few more days, permitting me to note a few points which I found interesting.

JWR:JM

Yours very truly,

J. W. Reside,
Industrial Engineer.

October 2, 1948

Mr. Will R. Bird,
35 Marlborough Avenue,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Will,

I'm addressing this letter to you privately because I want to avoid if possible a thundering row in official quarters. It concerns the Perkins house. It is now over a year since the Province accepted this property as a gift from the Queens County Historical Society for maintenance as a Provincial monument, and made an announcement to that effect in the newspapers. In that time nothing whatever has been done in the way of repair and maintenance -- or even to assure the safety of the house. The other day the insurance people informed us that the Q.C.H.S. policy on the house was about to expire, and that the Province was carrying no insurance on it. We promptly renewed our policy, although this places us in the ridiculous position of carrying insurance on a house which in fact we do not possess. Again, in former days we permitted a tenant to occupy part of the house in return for care of the property and a small rental. On transferring the property to the government naturally we gave the tenant notice of dismissal, and so the house has stood empty for more than a year. This has afforded the usual temptation to small boys, and during the summer we had to send a glazier to replace a number of broken panes.

I have had several conversations with Merrill Rawding, who assures me that his department will undertake repairs and a certain amount of restoration as soon as carpenters have been secured. However it is too late in the season now to attempt anything, and it is clear that the house must stand in its present condition for at least another six months. This gives everyone here serious concern in view of the fact that so far no government department appears to have any definite responsibility towards the property. (Rawding assures me that the actual responsibility for the house is not in his department; he merely has charge of the repairs -- when executed.) The fate of the other historic house in Liverpool -- the Cobb home, built by a captain of Gorham's Rangers in 1759 -- is still a vivid memory here. After surviving for 186 years it fell idle and empty for twelve months, the inevitable vandal broke in and set it afire, and the old house went up in smoke. There was a good deal of recrimination over this, and one outcome of the storm of indignation was a determination to make sure that the Perkins house did not go the same way. Therefore the Perkins house was transferred to the Provincial government for repair and perpetual care. And now here is the same situation, and if the same neglect continues we shall see the same result. As president of the Q.C.H.S. the people are looking to me to get something done, and I shall be the local goat if the present situation continues much longer.

Yet I cannot see that I have been guilty of negligence. Last summer and fall I wrote several long letters to Harold Connolly on the subject. Then, last winter, I went to the Province Building determined to have a personal interview with him or with the Premier. As you will recall, I met you, and you informed me that I should see Courtney, since administration of the Perkins property would come under his department. Courtney received me courteously, but I quickly discovered that he knew

nothing whatever about the matter. However he promised to dig my letters out of Mr. Connolly's files and to follow it up. Since then I have heard nothing from him or anyone else.

When our provincial Historic Sites and Monuments Board was formed a year ago I assumed that the government intended to administer the Perkins (and other) properties under its direction. Since then we have had two meetings, one immediately before the opening of the Legislature, and the other in May. At the May meeting definite proposals were made regarding the Perkins house and its care and maintenance, but so far as I can see nothing has come of them.

Premier Macdonald has several times expressed to me his deep interest in the Perkins property. When I met him at a dinner a month or two ago he informed me that he was coming to see me on his next visit to the South Shore, and that he wished to inspect the house. From his talk it was clear that he thought certain things were being accomplished, and I was strongly tempted to tell him the miserable truth. However I refrained, partly because the plain truth would probably create trouble in other quarters with which we wish to work in harmony, and partly because he was bound to learn the truth when he actually came. That is how the situation stands; but I have a foreboding of disaster and I know very well the storm of criticism which is bound to arise when the long tale of neglect is revealed. Whose fault it is, I cannot say. Possibly it is no one's fault but rather a failure to fix responsibility for the property upon a particular department or official. But something must be done quickly. The Queens County Historical Society begins its winter meetings in November and I must have something concrete to report. Already there has been much criticism, and the "Liverpool Advance" has already delivered a sharp jab in an editorial on the subject.

Sincerely,

The Canadian Authors Association

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Editor

Arthur S. Bourinot
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Manager of Publications

Ethel Whyte

35 Marlborough Ave., Halifax, N.S.
October 6, 1948

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Ethel Whyte

Dear Tom:

Arrived home from Montreal last night and found your letter. I wonder you write as calmly as you do. Please burn this after, as it would mean trouble for me if read by others, but I want to be fair with you and talk straight. The premier is in New York, or I would have gone to him and asked a showdown. Our Minister is in New, and so is Tom Courtney, who did not do a single thing after you saw him. In July Prof. Harvey and I got together and exchanged confidences. Being on the ground floor with me on many matters he could understand the position of our Council. We decided to have a meeting with the Minister and call the cards. I tried three times in person to get him to meet us but he evaded the issue. I then went to the premier and told him that for this year just two things mattered, the Perkins House and the Uniacke House. He said we should get immediate action. I asked who would move and who supply the funds. He said the Public Works seemed the people to move and the matter of money would receive attention. Nothing happened. We tried once more in August to meet with the Minister but he would not. Then we simply quit until such time as somebody lighted a fuse. There is bad blood between the two mentioned, and almost defiance. It is bound to break sooner or later into the open. I have no hope that as matters stand now the Minister will do anything. When the premier returns I am going to him and risk all by talking turkey. I'll let you know results. It may be next week before he is back but you can rely on having word from me as to what Queens Co can expect.

Am trying to form up a program for next year. You gave a grand talk at Toronto. Will you give one at the Convention here? Choose your subject. If you and Hugh McLennan will give talks it will have a good Nova Scotia flavor - the Convention, I mean. And we need just that.

Sorry I have no brighter picture re the other.

Sincerely,

Will R

October 8th, 1949

Hon. Merrill D. Rawding,
Minister of Highways & Public Works,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Merrill,

re PERKINS HOUSE

Now that the cold weather is practically upon us, and the nights are quite frosty, arrangements should be made to turn off the water in the Perkins house, and drain the plumbing ready for winter. An empty house like this, standing closed all through the cool Fall weather, will freeze its pipes quicker than one that has been lived in or recently used.

Perhaps I should have referred this to Jim Beside instead of bothering you with a detail, but it occurred to me that Mr. Connolly's department may now be responsible for this kind of thing, which case you could simply pass this letter along to him and so avoid delay.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

October 31, 1949

Doctor D.C. Harvey,

Public Archives of Nova Scotia,

Halifax, N.S.

Dear Doctor Harvey,

I'm sorry that I was out of town and unable to attend the meeting of the Historic Sites Advisory Council on the 21st. The Public Works Department has completed repair and restoration of the Perkins house, and has done a good job. Some work remains to be done on the grounds, and as it is late in the season this will be put over until spring. The next problem is the furnishing and decorating of the house. To depend utterly upon gifts and loans of (often dubious) antiques would mean a collection of odds and ends, none of which sit well together, giving the general impression of a second-hand furniture shop. This end of the province, so near to Boston, has been combed by astute American dealers for almost a century, and very little furniture that is really of the colonial period survives in any case. Miss Anslow, the caretaker of the Sam Slick house, once told me that while such furniture had been loaned or given, she had purchased a good deal in various places including the United States. I gathered that she had been given carte-blanche, more or less, to pick up authentic furniture of the Haliburton period wherever she could find it. An arrangement of this sort it seems to me is the only way to furnish the Perkins house. I'm told that a good deal of furniture belonging to the colonial period is stored in the attic and elsewhere at Mount Uniacke, and that this surplus material may be available for partly furnishing the Perkins house.

However, my main purpose in writing you today is to discuss the disposal of plaque commemorating the visit of DeMonts and Champlain to Liverpool Harbor in 1604, and erected in Fort Point park here by the Queens County Historical Society about sixteen years ago. Possibly you have seen it. Unfortunately the plaque was fastened to a small concrete block less than two feet high. It was always difficult to read without stooping, and now the concrete base is cracking and the plaque must be removed to some other base. I wonder if the Canadian Historic Sites and Monuments Board would consent to the placing of this plaque on the cairn they erected in Fort Park to commemorate the Liverpool privateers? The plaque installed by the Board occupies the seaward face of the cairn, and of course the other three faces are blank. It seems to me that installation of the DeMonts-Champlain plaque on the landward face of the cairn would enable the visitor to read it without stooping, and it would take away nothing from the meaning of the cairn. The DeMonts-Champlain plaque is less than half the size of the Privateers' plaque; it is of bronze, of good workmanship, and with lettering resembling that on the Privateers' plaque. I daresay this is an unusual matter for your Board, and quite possibly they will wish to keep the cairn as it is. I wish you would take it up with them, however. The cost of installing the DeMonts-Champlain plaque on the reverse

side of the cairn would, of course, be borne entirely by our people here, and if the Board wishes, the work can be carried out by skilled workmen here under the supervision of the Board's own engineer. Failing this, we must either discard the plaque or build a cairn of some sort to hold it, and a second cairn (or anything resembling a cairn) in the small park would be an anomaly.

With all good wishes to your family and self,

Sincerely,



PUBLIC ARCHIVES
NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax, N. S.

November 3, 1949.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Raddall,

Yours of the 31st came in yesterday. We missed you at the meeting of our Advisory Council but you will have seen from the minutes of the meeting what was done. We are still entirely in the dark as to what is in the Unicake house, etc., and apparently are not going to be consulted about the final arrangements.

In regard to the plaque to De Monts and Champlain, if you would be good enough to give me a copy of the inscription and the measurements of the tablet I shall take the matter up with the Board at Ottawa at our next meeting.

While we are on the subject, I should like to know if you would not allow us to erect a memorial at the entrance to the yard of the Perkins house as proposed some years ago. From our point of view the matter has already been approved, and if you are willing I shall consult you as to the inscription and go ahead with the project.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Harvey

ARCHIVIST.

November 16th, 1949

Dr. D.C. Harvey,
Public Archives of Nova Scotia,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Doctor Harvey,

Last night our Queens County Historical Society held its first meeting of the winter season, and I brought up the matter of a memorial plaque for the Perkins House as proposed by the national Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

As I mentioned before, the original objection here was to a cairn or any large structure to hold the plaque; because the front lawn, while quite long, is rather narrow, and it was felt that nothing should obstruct the view from the street. This remains the opinion here. There seems to be an impression that the Historic Sites and Monuments Board has a standard structure to hold its plaques and that it cannot be varied to suit some local condition. I ventured an opinion that this was not so, and that the plaque could be fastened to the house itself, failing an attractive means of erecting it at the street entrance. This met with approval, and the matter has been left in my hands as far as the local Society is concerned.

I am coming up to Halifax for a broadcast over the national network on December 7th, and if you could find a spare half-hour I think we can settle the thing.

Sincerely,



PUBLIC ARCHIVES
NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax, N. S.
November 23, 1949.

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall,

Many thanks for your note of the 16th instant.
I shall be glad to see you when you come up on the 7th of December
and I have no doubt that we can agree on some recommendation to the
Historic Sites and Monuments Board about marking the Simeon Perkins
house. I should like at the same time to discuss the inscription
with you; so that I hope you will be able to spend more than half an
hour here.

Yours sincerely,

D. C. Harvey
ARCHIVIST.

SUPER
LINEN RECORD

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HON. THANE A. CAMPBELL, M.A., LL.D., CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

W. D. CROMARTY, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, OTTAWA, ONT.

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Halifax, N. S.
December 15, 1949.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

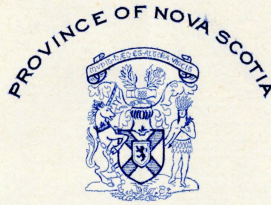
Dear Raddall,

Many thanks for the suggested inscription for the Simeon Perkins tablet. I shall send it along to the Board with the correspondence about the De Monts Champlain plaque and have everything discussed at our May meeting.

Though your inscription is a little long I shall see that nothing essential is deleted. I think it covers the ground very well indeed.

Yours sincerely,

D. C. Harvey



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 26, 1950

Dear Mr. Raddell:

The Honourable Merrill Rawding has spoken to me of the desirability of refurnishing the Perkins building and has said that you are anxious to lend all possible assistance. Knowing this to be so may I venture to ask for help. Will you be good enough to suggest to me what furniture is already available in the house and what additional furnishings will be available.

ok. { If it will be of any assistance to you I shall ask Mrs. Josephine Davison in whose judgment in matters of this kind I have great confidence to visit with you and look the situation over. Meantime I shall await your advise.

Yours sincerely,

Howe Cursey
Minister.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

*Ans'd
June 30th.*

~~*Dropped a further note July 9th to say
I would be out of town until the
17th.*~~

SIMEON PERKINS

This house was built in 1766 by Simeon Perkins whose famous diary records more than 40 years in the life of this community at a crucial period in ^{North} American history.

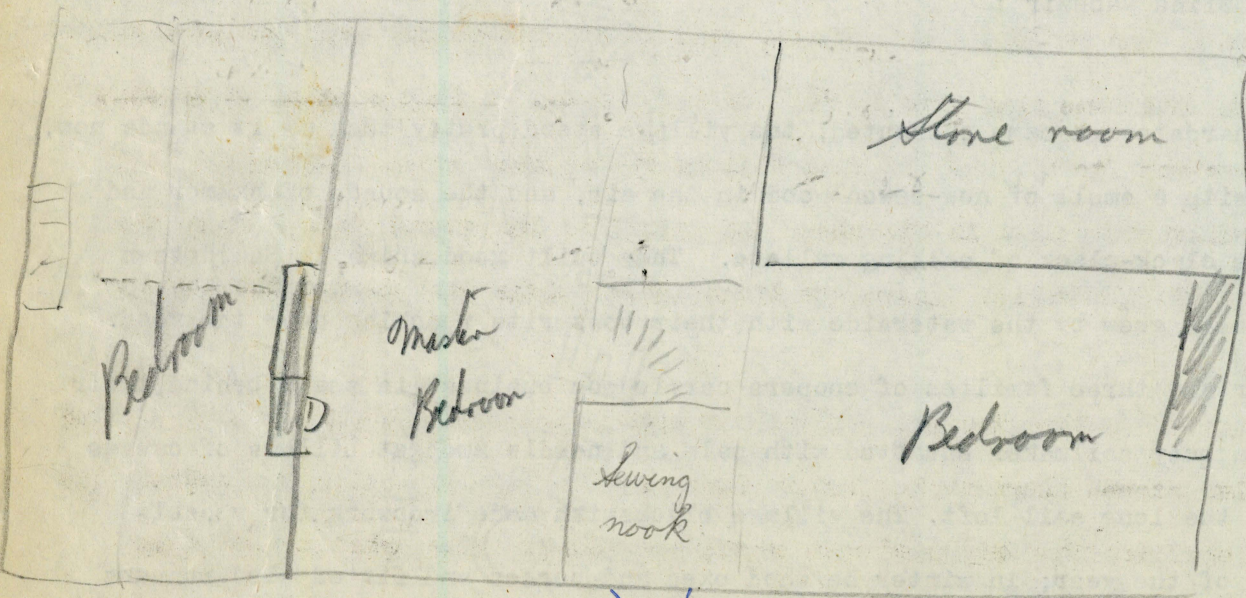
Born at Norwich, Conn., in 1735, he came to Liverpool, N.S., in 1762 and was active as a merchant, ship builder and West Indies trader until his death in 1812. As chief magistrate of the Town, member of the Nova Scotia Assembly, and Colonel of Militia during the American Revolution, he strove to avoid conflict between those who sympathized with King or Congress. His prudence and simple humanity also did much to ease the bitterness left by the war between the old settlers and the Loyalists who had settled in the ^Wmidst.

(This is the wording of the bronze plaque placed on Perkins' house by National Historic Sites & Monuments Board.)

Parkin House



Ground floor



Upper floor

FRONT

In Shardst^stown they sing ballads no more. Nor will you hear a chantey, for the chanteymen have vanished and the tall grass shines where once the shipyards lay under a snow of chips and shavings.

It is a village enchanted. There is the yellow dust of the street, the procession of dwellings down to the broad sheltered bay, where a fleet could anchor and only the lone fishing boat flashes a riding sail; and there is the little church and the store and the dry-rotten fish wharf asleep in the sun, all still as death. Half the houses are empty, with blinds drawn and faded and forgotten, and grass in the kitchen path.

The people are pleasant but silent. They smile and vanish. Down by the waterside, in the lee of a tottering shed, you may find an old man on a cushion of discarded net, with worn boots thrust out before him, with a frown to shield his old eyes from the shine of the sea, and a dream on his face.

A ballad ? People don't sing ballads now. A chantey ? Ha ! Where's the need -- and no sails to haul ? If you persist he will swear great oaths that have a strong taste of the sea, and he will say, " Och, man, yes; but that's too long ago. That's back in the time of Blind MacNair." And who was Blind MacNair ?

Before Shardstown became enchanted, the village stood pretty much as it stands now, but alive, with a smell of new-sawed wood in the air, and the sounds of hammer and adz, and the clack-clack of calking mallets. They built good ships in Shardstown then. The hulls grew by the waterside with their bowsprits reaching over the road. A blockmaker and three families of coopers carried on business in sheds behind their homes, and a busy sailmaker squatted with palm and needle amongst billows of canvas up there in the long sail loft. The village blacksmith made ironwork for vessels three parts of the year; in winter he shod oxen and horses and fitted sled runners

CHAIRMAN, J. CLARENCE WEBSTER, C.M.G., M.D., D.S.C., LL.D.,
F.R.S.C., SHEDIAC, N.B.

PROFESSOR FRED LANDON, M.A., F.R.S.C., LONDON, ONT.

PROFESSOR D. C. HARVEY, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C., HALIFAX, N.S.

HON. E. FABRE-SURVEYER, LL.M., B.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.C.,
MONTREAL, QUE.

J. A. GREGORY, NORTH BATTLEFORD, SASK.



CANADA

REV. ANTOINE D'ESCHAMBAULT, D.S.T., D.J.C., GENTHON, MAN.

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W. D. CROMARTY, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, OTTAWA, ONT.

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Public Archives of Nova Scotia,
Halifax, N. S.

July 4, 1950.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Raddall,

At the meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in Ottawa early in June I took up your proposal of having the plaque to De Monts and Champlain erected on the back of our monument to the Privateers and was able to secure the approval of the Board for that purpose. I imagine you will get official notice from our Secretary in a few days if you have not already received it.

I also got permission from the Board to erect a standard tablet on the Simeon Perkins house although ordinarily we do not place our tablets on a wooden building. I enclose a copy of the inscription which was approved. It is your original inscription slightly modified to get it within the limit of the number of letters that the tablet would take. As this will not be cast until next winter, if there is anything in the inscription that you object to please let me know and I will have the correction made.

I have not heard of any developments in our own local Council but I hope that something more will be done than hitherto. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

D. C. Harvey

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

July 5th, 1950.

Dear Tom:-

For your personal and confidential information I am attaching file of correspondence re the Perkins House. You will note that I have used your name in a recent letter to Mr. Connolly, and undoubtedly you will hear from him. I have this week requested Mayor Wright to have the grass cut and the place cleaned up, so it will at least look presentable for the time being.

Kindly return the enclosed file.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Merrill".

Minister of Highways & Public Works
Province of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Thomas Raddall,
LIVERPOOL,
Nova Scotia.

July 9th, 1950

Dear Merrill,

Thanks for your letter of the 5th, and for letting me see the correspondence, which I return herewith.

I have been extremely busy, otherwise I should have arranged for the grass to be cut around the Perkins House. However I had assumed that the Department would be restoring the lawn in front of the house, and fixing up the car entrance from Church Street, as recommended by Reside last year. This should certainly be done. The cost would not be much.

If the new post office is erected on the site of the Elmwood, as rumored, we shall have a problem with trespassers. A number of people got into the habit of passing through the Perkins property, as a quick way of getting from the Western Head road to Main Street. There weren't many, and by erecting fences and locking the gates we managed to discourage them. However, with the post office right alongside the Perkins house we shall have a continuous stream of people slipping down that way rather than go around the block. The time to discourage this is right at the start. The present fence (as various small boys have discovered) can be circumnavigated by passing over the edge of Armand Wigglesworth's property, which is unfenced. The beginning of a path has already appeared, and in another year we shall have a beaten road right down through the property.

I have had a letter from Mr. Connolly suggesting that he send down a furniture expert, Mrs. Josephine Davison, to look over the house and discuss with me what will be needed to complete the place as a public exhibit. I have written, asking him to send her down. Tomorrow I leave with Edith with a week's holiday at Guysborough. I shall leave the keys to the Perkins property with Hector Macleod. In the meantime I have dropped ^a ~~the~~ note to Mr. Connolly suggesting that Mrs. Davison come down some time after the 17th, when I shall be home again.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Hon. M.D. Rawding

July 19th, 1950

Hon. Harold Connolly,
Minister of Trade and Industry,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Harold,

re Perkins House

Mrs. Josephine Davison came to Liverpool on the tenth of this month, and we went over the house carefully and discussed the matter of furnishing it.

When Simeon Perkins died, his widow and family removed to the United States, taking with them all the furniture and effects, including his now famous diary. About fifty years ago the town of Liverpool managed to secure return of the diary. Nothing else ever came back. Thus our problem in the Perkins House is one of complete re-furnishing, being careful to use material appropriate to the period 1766-1812, in which Perkins lived here.

The Queens County Historical Society has a few bits of antique furniture stored in a shed at the back of the house; but these consist of chairs and a small table or two and a sideboard, none of which match each other, and all in a rather poor condition.

Mrs. Davison agrees with my suggestion that the house be furnished two or three rooms at a time. This would spread the cost over four years or so, and would enable the job to be done carefully. Americans, most of whom have seen good colonial restorations in their own country, are very keen judges of what is right and wrong, and are quick to point out mistakes; on the other hand they are very appreciative of what is good, and will talk about it and send their friends to see it -- the very best sort of advertising. The Perkins House is a little gem of colonial architecture, the restoration work has been well and carefully done, and with the furnishings "in key" we shall have something of which Nova Scotia can be proud.

I hesitate to offer advice in the actual selection of furniture and bric-a-brac. My studies of colonial interior furnishing have been made with a view to its historical aspects and I am by no means an expert on antiques. It seems to me that a start should be made by furnishing three ground-floor rooms: the sitting room, dining room and kitchen. The sitting room should have at least four chairs, a table and settee or sofa, preferably Sheraton, Chippendale or Hepplewhite, a small central carpet, and of course the proper window hangings, a gilt mirror, one or two framed prints, etc. The dining room should have an extension table, six chairs of a single design, a sideboard, and the necessary hangings and bric-a-brac. The kitchen should be furnished in the simplest manner of the early New England pioneers who came to the South Shore; a high-backed pine settle of good size, at least four ladder-back chairs, or two ladder-backs and two Windsor (the Windsor preferably of the country-made type with whittled pine seats), a good-sized table (of the trestle type if possible), a large hooked rug, a good collection of pewter and chinaware for the shelves and pantries, etc.

The possibility of picking up such pieces singly about the local area is not a good one. This part of the country, so close to the Boston market, has been scoured by American antique dealers for half a century. A number of families have excellent colonial furniture of various kinds, but these are heirlooms and a survey conducted by the Queens County Historical Society showed that none could be bought or even secured on loan except for one or two isolated pieces.

However there is at this moment an excellent collection coming up for sale in Mahone. This is the collection of the late Percy Inglis. The will has not been probated as yet, but I understand that the collection has been left entirely to his niece, Miss Quinlan. With Mrs. Davison I visited the Inglis house, and Miss Quinlan showed us the whole collection. A great part of it consists of glassware and chinaware, but there is some excellent furniture. All of this was collected in Lunenburg and Queens counties, and there is danger that the collection may be purchased by some American dealer and taken out of the country for ever.

We found Miss Quinlan anxious to see that the collection remained in the country, but of course she wants to sell it as a whole and to obtain the best possible price for it. Presumably she will have an appraisal made before considering any bids, and we got her to promise that she would notify the Nova Scotia Government before she sold. That of course was as far as we could go. I understand that the firm of Henry Birks & Sons are sending down an expert to appraise the glass and chinaware and make a bid for it, and that a number of Americans from the Chester colony are very anxious to have it.

The Perkins House could use most of the furniture and some of the pewter, glass and chinaware, as well as sundry framed prints, and a quantity of bed covers, haggings and other beautifully made material. The rest of the glassware, chinaware and similar material would be very useful in the Haliburton house, Mount Uniacke, and other historic homes which the Government now has, or may secure in the future. In any case, Harold, this seems to me an opportunity not to be missed. To let this unique collection go out of Nova Scotia at this time when we are trying to preserve what remain of our historic homes would be a crime. You are a man of action and there is no need for me to emphasize the need for moving quickly in a matter of such importance.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Halifax, Nova Scotia
July 25th, 1950.

Dear Tom:

Thank you so much for your letter of the 19th. In my opinion you are absolutely right in respect to the Inglis collection. Indeed before your letter reached me I had mentioned this matter in Government and although there was general accord that the antiques should not be allowed to get out of the Province I have not as yet been able to get a final decision. I shall keep after this matter however and shall hope that we may be able to purchase the collection referred to or the major portion of it and keep it for use in Nova Scotia.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Innis
Minister.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BRANCH

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC
SITES SERVICES

Ottawa, 7th November, 1950.

Dear Dr. Raddall,

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which acts in an advisory capacity to this Department in all matters of an historical nature, has declared the public services of Simeon Perkins to be of national importance and that they should be commemorated.

Professor D. C. Harvey, of Halifax, informs us that he has had some correspondence with you on the subject and it has been concluded that the most appropriate location for the proposed bronze tablet would be on the Simeon Perkins' house, which has been taken over and improved by the Province of Nova Scotia.

The proposed tablet, which is similar in design to that shown in the attached photograph, measures approximately 33 inches in height and 20 inches in width. I should be very much obliged if you will let me know if permission will be granted to place the tablet on the building in question. In this event, your views as to the most appropriate location for it would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

C. G. Childe,
Acting Superintendent
of Historic Sites.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
President,
Queen's County Historical Society,
Liverpool, N.S.

November 13th, 1950

Mr. C.G.Childe,
A/Sup't. of Historic Sites,
Dep't. of Resources and Development,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Childe,

With regard to your letter of 7th November and the proposed tablet commemorating the public services of Simeon Perkins: our Society heartily approves the matter. We have transferred actual ownership of the Perkins house to the Province of Nova Scotia, which has conducted repairs and restoration under the eye of the Historic Sites Advisory Board, of which I am a member. Therefore please consider this letter permission to instal the proposed tablet. After consulting members of our Society here, and Dr. D.C.Harvey, I find that the best site for the tablet is upon the house itself, beside the front door, and to the ^{left} right of it as one enters the house.

Yours truly,



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BRANCH

NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC
SITES SERVICES

Ottawa, 16th November, 1950.

Dear Dr. Raddall,

I wish to thank you for your letter of the 13th instant, stating that actual ownership of the Simeon Perkins house has been transferred to the Province of Nova Scotia, but that your Society is agreeable to this Service affixing a bronze tablet to the memory of Perkins on the outer wall at the right of the front entrance.

In view of the above, I have been wondering if it might not be desirable to also obtain permission from the Province to affix the proposed tablet to the building. Should you consider this action desirable, would you kindly let us know the name and address of the proper officer with whom we should communicate on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

C. G. Childe,
Acting Superintendent
of Historic Sites.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
President,
Queens County Historical Society,
Liverpool, N.S.

Nov. 23rd, 1950

Mr. C.G. Childe,
National Parks & Historic Sites Services,
Dept. of Resources & Development,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Childe,

With regard to ~~your~~ your letter of the 16th , it would be difficult to say at the present time what officer of the Provincial government could give permission for the installation of the tablet on the Perkins house in Liverpool. Responsibility for this and several similar historic sites is now suspended somewhere between the Department of Public Works and the newly named Department of Public Service, in the manner of Mahomet's coffin. However, the Department which eventually has jurisdiction will submit all such matters to the Historic Sites Advisory Council, of which Dr. D.C. Harvey and I are members. Harvey brought up the matter of the National Parks and Historic Sites tablet at a meeting of the Advisory Council some time ago, and when I agreed with his suggestions there was no objection from the other members, indeed the chairman did not consider it necessary to put the matter to a vote.

Yours truly,

CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR FRED LANDON, M.A., LL.D., D.LITT., F.R.S.C.,
LONDON, ONT.

PROFESSOR D. C. HARVEY, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C., HALIFAX, N.S.

HON. E. FABRE-SURVEYER, LL.M., B.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.C.,
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W. KAYE LAMB, M.A., PH.D., LL.D., F.R.S.C., OTTAWA, ONT.

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C. E. A. JEFFERY, M.B.E., ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

DEAN ALFRED G. BAILEY, M.A., PH.D., FREDERICTON, N.B.

W. D. CROMARTY, OTTAWA, ONT.

CYRIL G. CHILDE, B.SC., NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, OTTAWA, ONT.

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Aug 20, 1957

Dear Radball:-

Many thanks for your letter of the 18th and the good news that the tablet to Perkins is now erected and that you approve of its form and spirit. You did not say whether you put it inside or outside.

I was about to write you as to a suitable date for the unveiling. I have asked the Premier to do it and he has agreed if there is no conflict of dates. He is booked for flora MacDonald at Windsor on the 13th of September (I think) and I have to be in Quepsborough for a ceremony on the 7th. It therefore looks as if we have to fix some date subsequent to the 13th. What do you suggest?

I am hoping that you will give the address, the Premier unveil it and I preside.

August 22nd, 1951

Dear Doctor Harvey,

Thanks for your note. I should have mentioned that the Perkins plaque was fastened to the outside of the house, to the left of the front door, where there was a better space for it than on the right, and where the brass bolts (which run right through the wall, of course, and are held by nuts on the inside) are conveniently hidden by the interior doors.

With regard to the unveiling, frankly I should defer it until the house is open to the public. Nothing has been done since the carpenters left in the summer of '49, in spite of all our efforts and remonstrations. The chimneys were left uncovered and the swallows have dislodged quantities of soot which has scattered over the floors. Spiders have been busy from cellar to attic, and there is the usual accumulation of dust in an empty house. My wife and I went in and cleaned up the mess early in the summer, but I noticed the other day that it was effort wasted.

We got a man to go in and mow and remove the long grass all over the grounds, but they are most unkempt, the entrance path is overgrown with weeds, and the shrubs are a tangle. Altogether it looks like something out of Rip Van Winkle. Even if these matters were put straight, the house would still be stark empty except for the Historical Society's small collection in the ell, which has been damaged so badly by the dampness of four years in the empty house that it makes me sick every time I see it. Of course, it might be a good idea to let the Premier (and the public) have a good look at it in this state; but I fear I have become cynical after all the empty promises, and it seems to me that we can expect the stalling to go on until the next election year.

Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR FRED LANDON, M.A., LL.D., D.LITT., F.R.S.C.,
LONDON, ONT.

PROFESSOR D. C. HARVEY, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C., HALIFAX, N.S.

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MONTREAL, P.Q.

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W. D. CROMARTY, OTTAWA, ONT.

CYRIL G. CHILDE, B.SC., NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, OTTAWA, ONT.

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

Dear Raddall:—

Aug 24, 1951

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd.
I was amazed to learn of the utterly neglected
state of the Perkins House and under the circumstances
I quite agree that we should not publish our
shame by having an unveiling ceremony
this fall. As a matter of fact, after I had
written you my hasty note, I thought I
should have suggested having the unveiling
at the beginning of the tourist season
next summer. And that is what I
am suggesting at the moment, in the
hope that in the meantime you may
get some action from the local government.

Bird tells me our Council is to meet
in October. If you come to that meeting
with a strong protest, I shall back you
as fully as I can, and we may get
some action.

With regards to Mrs Raddall
& yourself,
Yours sincerely,
D. C. Harvey

P.S. My Secretary is
on holiday



NATIONAL PARKS
BRANCH

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC
SITES SERVICES

Ottawa, 25th January, 1952.

Dear Dr. Raddall,

As it is customary to have all memorials which we erect under reliable supervision, I should be very much obliged if you would let me know if you would be willing to act as Honorary Custodian of the tablet we affixed to the Simeon Perkins house last year, to commemorate the public services of Simeon Perkins.

This will involve no duties other than casual supervision of the tablet and the furnishing of a report once a year showing its condition.

Yours sincerely,

C. G. Childe,
Superintendent,
Historic Parks
and Sites.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
President,
Queen's County Historical Society,
Liverpool, N.S.

*Amel
eyes
Feb 9/52*

February 9th, 1952

Dear Mr. Childe,

With regard to your letter of January 25th and the tablet on the Simeon Perkins house. The 1952 President of the Queens County Historical Society is Mr. C. Randolph Day, Liverpool, N.S. If you wish me to act as honorary custodian of the tablet I am quite happy to do so. I can report for the present that the tablet and its fastenings remain in excellent condition.

Sincerely,

Mr. C.G. Childe,
Superintendent,
Historic Parks and Sites,
Dept. of Resources and Development,
Ottawa, Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS



NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

T. P. LUSBY
CHIEF ENGINEER

Halifax, N. S.,
July 18, 1952.

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:


At the Honourable Mr. Rawding's suggestion, I contacted Mr. George Watson whom we met at Sturbridge concerning the possibility of obtaining reproductions of Colonial furniture appropriate for the Perkins House. I had also suggested to Mr. Watson the possibility of his coming to Liverpool to advise us. Unfortunately Mr. Watson would be unable to come in the near future but has suggested that I give him a rough history of the Perkins property; who Colonel Perkins was, where he migrated from, for what reason and his circumstances. Mr. Watson has also requested that I send him some interior photographs of the house.

I am afraid that I am not too familiar with the Perkins history myself and do not seem to have the necessary information here. I will appreciate it if you will give me a few lines of information concerning Perkins and the House which might be of help to Mr. Watson in suggested furniture.

In the matter of photographs, I would appreciate it if you will suggest to me a commercial photographer in Liverpool who I might contact to have pictures of the various rooms taken.

Thanking you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours truly,


Chief Engineer.

TPL/DK

July 25th, 1952

Lisby
Mr. T.P. Lesley,
Department of Public Works,
Halifax, N.S.

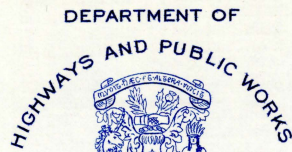
Lisby
Dear Mr. Lesley,

Regarding the Perkins house at Liverpool. Mr. Hedley Doty took a series of excellent photographs of the Perkins house, inside and out, a few years ago, and I suggest that you send a set of them to Mr. George Watson at Sturbridge. Doty's photos show the house as it was just before the ~~restoration~~ restoration work of 1949, but nothing has been changed essentially. I suggest that you send him also a copy of the plan of the house made by your department and used by the contractor during the restoration work.

Colonel Simeon Perkins was a native of Norwich, Connecticut. He moved to Nova Scotia as a young man in 1762 and settled at Liverpool. At that time he was a struggling merchant dealing in fish and lumber and operating one or two small ships in the trade between Nova Scotia and the West Indies. Hence I think three of the rooms (say kitchen, one of the sittingrooms and a bedroom) should be furnished and decorated in the very plain and simple style of a Connecticut Yankee of that period living in a small provincial town.

As the years went by Perkins slowly prospered. In addition to his mercantile interests he became colonel of the local militia, a magistrate, and member of the Nova Scotia legislature, and he entertained the Governor and other visiting dignitaries in this house. He began to be moderately prosperous during the French wars which commenced in 1793. In those wars (which lasted the rest of his life) he owned shares in Nova Scotia privateers engaged in attacks upon French and Spanish trade in the West Indies. These ships brought many cargoes of captured goods north to Nova Scotia, and undoubtedly about this time Perkins began to furnish parts of his house in a more luxurious style. Hence I think the other two bedrooms and the main parlor should be furnished and decorated in the style of a middle-class New England or Nova Scotia merchant and ship-owner in the period of 1795-1812. Perkins was never a rich man and he lived modestly within his means. The furnishing of the house should reflect this kind of life. He died in 1812, forty-six years after the house was built. He kept up correspondence with his old friends and family in Connecticut all his life and at long intervals went back there for a visit, like most of the New Englanders who settled in Nova Scotia before the Revolution. A careful study of his diary, kept for more than 40 years, convinces me that Perkins lived exactly like any moderately prosperous Connecticut merchant or ship-owner of the same period -- which is approximately the period of Sturbridge village.

Sincerely,



T. P. LUSBY
CHIEF ENGINEER

NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

Halifax, N. S.,
September 29, 1952.

Dr. Thomas Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Re: Perkins House, Liverpool

Dear Dr. Raddall:

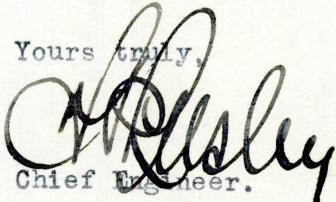
As you know I have contacted Mr. George H. Watson of Old Sturbridge Village concerning the possibility of obtaining furniture for the Perkins House. When I originally contacted Mr. Watson, it was the Honourable Mr. Rawding's idea that possibly we could obtain in the United States recently manufactured reproductions of old furniture.

I was in Massachusetts last week on a holiday and called at Sturbridge to discuss this matter further with Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson who, you will recall, operates an antique store. Mr. and Mrs. Watson tell me that the purchase of reproduced furniture would probably cost considerably more than picking up authentic pieces of old original furniture for this house. In fact, they showed me a few pieces which they had available and on which the prices seemed very reasonable; for instance a chest of drawers in the vicinity of \$35.00.

As a first step and in order to get some idea of how much money would be involved before proceeding with any purchases, Mr. Watson has suggested that if we have an inventory of the contents of the Perkins House that we could send this to him and he and Mrs. Watson would establish what furniture they could obtain together with prices.

I assume that if Simeon Perkins had made an inventory at any time which was preserved in his records, you would know of it and possibly have a copy. I will appreciate it if you will advise me if such an inventory is in existence and your letting me have a copy if you have it available.

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Yours truly,

Chief Engineer.

TPL/DK

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

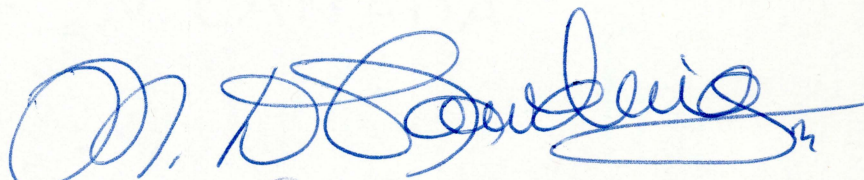
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC WORKS

April 13th, 1953.

Dear Tom:-

I learned that Mrs. Geo Watson of Sturbridge, Mass is expected to arrive in Nova Scotia on April 20th. She will probably fly to Halifax, and be driven to Liverpool by Mr. Thos. Lusby. Either Mr. Lusby or I will contact you by phone when her arrival date is determined, as I am most anxious that you be available while she is in Liverpool.

Yours very truly,


(M.A. RAWNSING)

Mr. Thos. H. Raddall,
LIVERPOOL,
Nova Scotia.

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS



NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

T. P. LUSBY
CHIEF ENGINEER

Halifax, N. S.,
April 15, 1953.

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I believe the Honourable Mr. Rawding has discussed with you the visit of Mrs. Watson to recommend concerning furniture for the Perkins House. In addition to this, as I believe you know, Mrs. Watson has agreed to give a talk to the Queens County Historical Society on Tuesday evening which meeting I understand is to be held in the Town Hall. Mrs. Watson is bringing either moving pictures or slides of Sturbridge Village. The Honourable Mr. Rawding has arranged with someone in Liverpool concerning this and tells me that both a 60 millimeter movie projector will be available there and also a slide projector.

Mrs. Watson expects to arrive here by plane Monday evening. She will spend the night in Halifax and I will take her to Liverpool on Tuesday morning and will contact you immediately on arrival which I assume will be sometime before noon.

It was my intention originally to return to Halifax in the evening, however, in view of the meeting it may be so late that Mrs. Watson would prefer not to drive back to Halifax. I would appreciate it if you would make tentative arrangements for hotel rooms for Mrs. Watson and myself although actually I would prefer to return to Halifax after the meeting if this happens to suit Mrs. Watson.

I explained to the Honourable Mr. Rawding that as our arrangements are dependent on plane service, there is always the possibility there might be a delay in Mrs. Watson's arrival, however, in view of the fact that she expects to arrive Monday evening, it is unlikely that any delay would occur which would interfere with the meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening. There is, however, always the possibility of this occurring.

With my regards,

Yours truly,

T. P. Lusby

T. P. Lusby,
Chief Engineer.

Per *D. Keeney*

TPL/DK

C
O
P
Y

Sturbridge, Massachusetts,
May 5, 1953.

Mr. T. P. Lusby
Department of Highways
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Lusby:

The very handsome Nova Scotian flag arrived yesterday with the publicity booklets. Thank you very much.

I have written two letters concerning information on Mr. Simeon Perkins. One has been answered today. I shall cover the details at a later date when more information is ready.

Thank you for the three sets of prints of the Perkins Property. They will be very useful to cross reference information to you on the furnishings. I suggest to locate the furniture on the plan with a photograph of furniture to accompany the plan and have each photograph numbered and the information given on the back.

There is a question in my mind as to how fast this can be done as some pieces of furniture will be available before others.

Will you please keep in mind that you are under no obligation to buy anything from me but I do wish you would consider furnishing the house with pieces of furniture of the period of the house. In most all cases the old furnishings will be less expensive than a reproduction.

It will give you two things; authentic reference for visitors and school groups and a very pleasing, comfortable look to the house. I would like to have the house look, in the end, as though Mr. Perkins was out but still living in the house.

I have now nearly enough things to suggest for furnishing the downstairs bedroom. Do you wish me to send the plans and photographs for this bedroom along when ready?

I would like to get the pictures of the furniture which you have in the house so they can be worked into the plan.

I also think I can get together some things for the kitchen and a desk for the office. I shall wait to hear from you.

It was very pleasant to have Mrs. Lusby and her friends out here for the day but it was all too short a visit.

Enclosed is a list of expenses covering my visit.

Yours very truly

(sgd.)

Feralyn G. Watson

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS



NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

T. P. LUSBY
CHIEF ENGINEER

Halifax, N. S.,
May 12, 1953.

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

I am enclosing copy of a letter received from Mrs. Watson for your information. In connection with the photographs of the furniture, I am not sure whether you or Mr. Day arranged to have these pictures taken. Evidently Mrs. Watson is anxious to have these now as soon as possible and I will appreciate anything you can do to have them made available.

Yours truly,

T. P. Lusby
Chief Engineer.

TPL/DK
Enc.

June 19th, 1953

Dear Mr. Lusby,

Thanks for your letters regarding the furniture Mrs. Watson is gathering for the Simeon Perkins house, and for the floor-plan of the house. I expect to be away in Ontario for the next two weeks, so if the furniture should be shipped within that time please ask the truckers to contact Mr. C. Randolph Day, either at his home here or at the Mersey Paper Company plant where he works. He has the keys to the house and will arrange reception of the furniture. I have asked him also to provide the photographs and paint samples requested by Mrs. Watson, which he will forward to you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. T.P.Lusby,

Dept. of Public Works,

Province of Nova Scotia.

June 19th, 1953.

Dear Mr. Luby

C
O
P
Y

July 14, 1953.

Mr. T. P. Lusby
Department of Highways and Public Works
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Lusby:

The shipment of furniture to Dr. Raddall in Liverpool was delivered to the freight office Friday, July 10th. Your bill of lading are enclosed.

I have packed in the chest some items which I am giving to furnish the house. A hand loomed sheet, not perfect but to use on the bed until I get two more perfect ones. A woven blue and white coverlet for the bed. Three pieces of Connecticut pottery for the kitchen table and a foot warmer. I thought it was a good opportunity to ship them in the chest.

The bed bolts for setting up the bed are also in the chest. The bed should be roped when set up. I have a correction to make on the bed. It has very skillfully lengthened to take a modern mattress. This in no way detracts from the bed.

I believe you can use the ladder back chair - looking at the enclosed photograph - chair #2.

I remember a table but could not see the top of it when I was there. I believe it can be used in the kitchen. See indication on the enclosed floor plan. You can also use the cradle which I saw in the house, see indication of the floor plan. Chair #3 indicated on the photograph and be used, see floor plan. You may have the Connecticut pottery set upon the table in the kitchen.

I would like to send a few samples of fabrics for curtains for three rooms if you care to have them sent. Would there be a duty if I sent them in a small box, or how shall I send them?

I have been held up on the shipment because of not being able to get a man to crate the things.

It will be very pleasant to hear from Dr. Raddall when the shipment arrives and the condition.

Yours very truly,

(sgd.) Feralyn F. Watson.

Halifax, N. S.,
July 20, 1953.

Mr. C. Randolph Day,
President,
Queens County Historical Society,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Mr. Day:

I am enclosing Bill of Lading covering shipment of furniture from Mrs. Watson which should be arriving in the near future. I am also enclosing copy of Mrs. Watson's letter to me together with photograph of chairs and plan of house to which she refers in her letter and which would be used in setting up the furniture.

You will note Mrs. Watson's reference to sample fabrics for curtains and I am asking Mrs. Watson to have these sent along. I will appreciate you advising me on receipt of this material.

You will note in the second paragraph of Mrs. Watson's letter that she has packed certain items which she is giving for the house. Mrs. Watson mentioned when she was here that she was going to do this and it is very kind of her to have done so and I am writing her concerning this.

Yours truly,

(T. P. Lusby)

Chief Engineer.

TPL/DE
Enc.

CC--Dr. T. H. Reddall ✓

August 3rd, 1953.

Mr. T.P.Lusby,
Dept. of Public Works,
Province of Nova Scotia,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Lusby,

re Perkins House

The shipment of furniture from Mrs. Watson has arrived and is now in the CNR freight shed here. The local Customs office refuses to clear the stuff, however, claiming that they have no proof that the furniture is antique, or for public purposes, and that there is no statement of its value, and so on. This is ridiculous, of course. When I asked what I was supposed to do about it, I was told that the Department of Public Works will have to thrash the matter out with the Customs people at Ottawa. This is the sort of thing that infuriates everyone with red tape in all its forms, and to put it mildly does the federal government no good. However that is where the matter stands, and in the meantime our poor little shipment remains in the CNR shed, where presumably there will be storage charges after a certain number of days.

Yours truly,

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS



NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC WORKS BRANCH

T. P. LUSBY
CHIEF ENGINEER

Halifax, N. S.,
August 7, 1953.

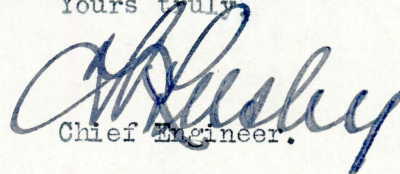
Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

On receipt of your letter of August 3rd concerning the difficulties which have arisen in getting the furniture from Customs, I contacted the local Customs Department. I am advised today that the necessary arrangements have been made to release the furniture to you and I believe you have been advised today of this.

I trust this is the case and that this problem has been overcome.

Yours truly,


Chief Engineer.

TPL/DK



PUBLIC ARCHIVES
OF CANADA

Ottawa 2, September 17, 1953.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

The Simeon Perkins Diary arrived safely in Ottawa while I was away from the office on holiday. It has since been microfilmed, and the manuscript is on the point of leaving for Liverpool by Canadian National Express, charges prepaid, and insured for \$2,000.00.

I have not yet looked at the film myself, but my microfilm man tells me that it is excellent - clearer in many instances than the original itself. I had a positive print run off before packing up the original just as an extra precaution. It is always possible to ruin a negative when a positive is being made.

If you think I should write to the mayor, or send a formal note of thanks to the town fathers, will you please tell me to whom it should be addressed. I have written to the Town Clerk, who sent me the Diary, but this is just a more or less routine letter, notifying him that I am returning the manuscript.

I am most grateful to you for your kind assistance in arranging for the loan of the original. I think it is most important - quite apart from the Champlain Society aspect of the matter - that facsimiles of key documents should be made, in order to provide against the great loss to history which would result from damage to or loss of the original.

I spent my holidays in Vancouver and had two most enjoyable visits with Norman Hacking. He seems well and reasonably settled, and is, I think, liking his job as marine editor of the Province. They give him a regular spot and a six-column headline five days a week, and I think the column is attracting more interest than anything in the way of marine news has done for many a day. Norman's problem is to find something five times a week that will justify the six-column headline!

With my warmest thanks and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

W. Kaye Lamb

Wm. Kaye Lamb,
Dominion Archivist.

WKL/sw

September 23rd, '53

Dear Dr. Lamb,

I'm so glad that the microfilms of the Simeon Perkins diary have turned out well. It is a satisfaction to us all to know that the diary is now preserved in this form in the Public Archives of Canada. We here preserve the original with care, but we have no means of knowing how carefully a future generation may regard it.

An amusing (but chastening) incident the other day reminded us of this. Some workmen digging up an old pipe in the street beside the town hall came upon a tombstone bearing the epitaph of Colonel Nathaniel Freeman, one of Perkins' contemporaries. The men assumed that they had opened an ancient grave, although no bones could be found. I was informed -- and puzzled, for I knew that what we call the Old Town Graveyard (now preserved as a small park) was the place where the doughty colonel should have been interred. The explanation was revealing. Workmen laying the pipe forty or fifty years ago wanted a long flat stone to cover a drain, the Old Town Graveyard was only two or three hundred yards up the street, and apparently the colonel's tombstone was just the thing. At that time the graveyard had long been closed to burials, it was unfenced, and in the course of time vandals had thrown down many of the stones. Upon enquiry I found that more than one tombstone had been removed and put into use (face down) as a doorstep by house-carpenters during the respectable Victorian age. Sic transit gloria!

It was good to hear that Norman Hacking is back at his proper job and liking it after all the wandering. Let's hope he will now pursue his bent further and give us a worth-while book or two.

With every good wish,
Sincerely,

Dr. William Kaye Lamb.

March 31st, 1955

Dear Will,

Kennedy Jones, who is MPP for Queens as you know, phoned me from Halifax tonight. He has been pressing the matter of the Perkins House, in the Legislature and privately with the Premier and the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.

The Premier had informed him that unfortunately the affairs of the Perkins house had got side-tracked in the course of shuffles between three departments, but that it was the intention of the government to go ahead with furnishing the house. Mr. Mackenzie informed him that a sum of money was available for such a purpose this year, sufficient perhaps to furnish a couple of rooms. The Premier wanted to have assurance that the Queens County Historical Society would undertake to provide guides to the house when it was opened to the public.

Having passed this information to me, Mr. Jones suggested that I get in touch with you at once, the idea being to strike while the iron was hot. As you know, in 1953 the provincial government, through Tom Lusby, engaged Mrs. Feralyn Watson of Sturbridge Village, Mass., to come up here, inspect the Perkins House, indicate on a blueprint exactly the furniture it should have for each room, and to start gathering such furniture. She made the trip and the blueprint, and later she shipped a quantity of antique furniture, very cheap and simple stuff, for the kitchen of the house. But there, for what reason I could never discover, her services were cut off; and the single shipment of furniture remains in its original crates in the Perkins House today. The government did install electric (glass) heaters which have been operated at a low temperature during the past winter and have kept the house dry. Previous to this the house interior had suffered a good deal of damage from dampness after the restoration work was completed in 1949. And that is how things stand.

I resigned the presidency of the Q.C. Historical Society in 1951, and since that time the Society has not been very active. However it would revive quickly if the government means business about fitting the house for public inspection.

Will you see what you can do about starting something?

Sincerely,

HISTORIC SITES
ADVISORY COUNCIL

WILL R. BIRD, LITT. D., CHAIRMAN

BOX 503



PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
HALIFAX

April 4, 1955

Dear Tom:

The matter of furnishing the Perkins House was pushed by me to the late Premier to such an extent that last spring he told me to go ahead and see if I could get the stuff needed and he would arrange some way of paying the bill. So I went to Long Island and after visiting four of the outstanding places of such business located one that could furnish the house within ~~six~~ weeks. I had photos of the rooms, size, etc., and came back feeling the problem solved but Angus L passed away without knowing what I had done. Then there was no one to whom I could turn until at last I went to Lusby of Public Works, who appeared horrified at the idea of me butting in. He said you and he had scoured the area and found Mrs. Watson and all was under control, and he would oppose anything else. What could I do? He did write Mrs. Watson again, got the usual delaying letter and there it rested. I told the present Premier about the needs of Perkins House last fall, but doubt it made much impression. He called after his session with Jones and wanted to know about funds. I told him that \$2000 was still ear-marked for Perkins House and was in the Dept. of Health estimate, had been there three years. Later Mr. Potter called me about it and I urged \$5000 set apart this session of the House but all they allowed was another \$1000, which makes a total of \$3000 available. After the House I am to have a long session with the Premier and will again do all in my power to get action. I feel that as long as Lusby has it in his hands it will just drag along. Public Works resents me because I have had the Ross-Thomson House restored and painted at just one-quarter of what they said it would cost, and the late Premier blaw off at Lusby about it while I was in his office. You can be sure I will at all times prod any and all about the Perkins House, and I intend to give the premier the address at Long Island and tell him how quickly he can get action there.

Mr. Hicks →

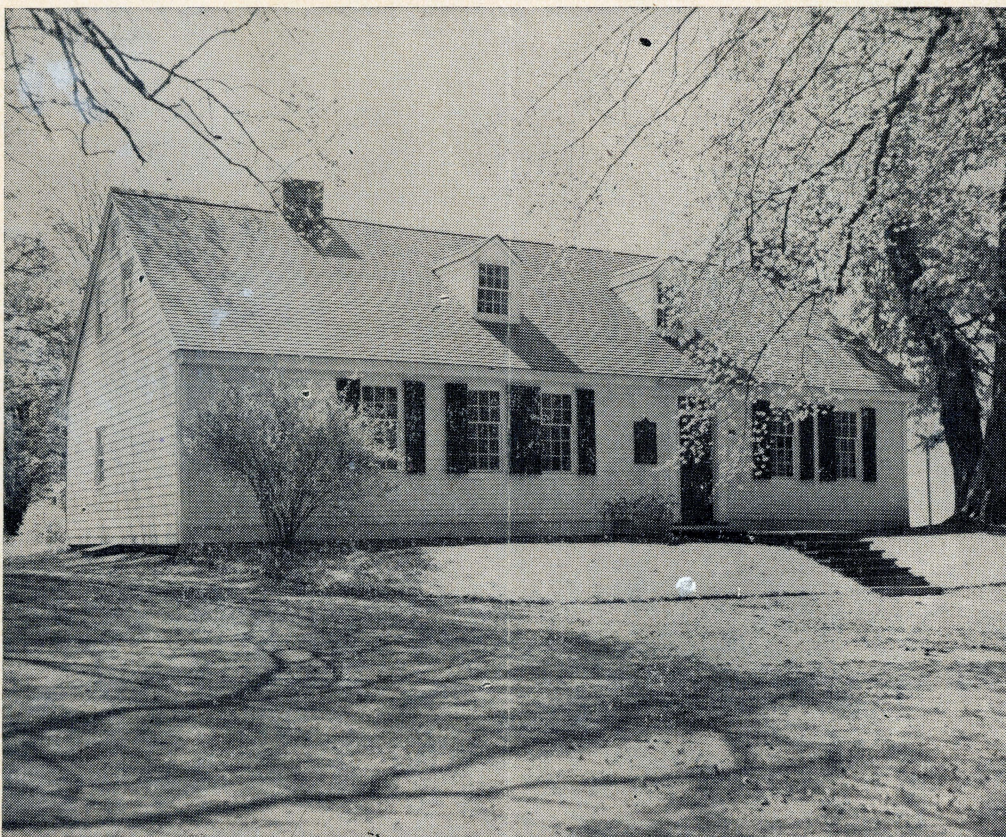
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Glad to know you have another book finished, and admire your courage in taking on Costain. May all your dreams be realized.

Sincerely,

Will R

HISTORIC
PERKINS HOUSE



LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA

THE SIMEON PERKINS HOUSE



This house was built by Colonel Simeon Perkins, (whose portrait appears opposite), a native of Connecticut who came to Nova Scotia in 1762. It is constructed in the simple New England style of the Liverpool pioneers, most of whom emigrated from Cape Cod in the years 1759-1760. The timber came from sawmills at "The Falls" (now the village of Milton) two miles up the Mersey River, and the plaster was fetched in one of Perkins' ships from Windsor on the Bay of Fundy. Perkins' carpenters raised the frame on June 19, 1766 and finished the plastering late that autumn, but as he was unable to get glass for the windows he did not move in until April 18, 1767. Originally the house stood in wide grounds and a lane (now called

Wentworth Street) ran down the slope to Perkins' wharf and store on the harbor front.

The drawing-room at the right hand side of the entry was used for the entertainment of guests. The small panel on the mantel here for many years held a floral design painted by one of Perkins' daughters. The chamber at the left of the entry was the much-used living room or "keeping-room" of the family. As Perkins' children increased he extended the east end of the house to make two extra bed chambers, one upstairs and one below. In his latter years, when stair-climbing had become difficult, he and his wife used the bedroom downstairs, and probably he died in it. Behind the drawing-room is his den or study; there are traces of a doorway in this room which once led directly outdoors, enabling late-arriving ship captains and others who had business with him at night to confer with Perkins without coming through the house. The walls are painted in colours mentioned in Perkins diary. The original dark green in the drawing-room was of ship paint. The red in the kitchen (and on the roof) was the so-called "Spanish brown", a mixture of oil and red ochre. The small ochre deposits at

Port Mouton, originally discovered by the Indians and used for war paint, were the Liverpool settlers' chief ingredient for "Spanish brown."

Here for almost half a century Simeon Perkins carried on business as a merchant and ship-owner, engaging in all sorts of activities from the Labrador fishery to the West Indies trade, and filling out a busy life with his duties as Colonel of the Queens County militia, Judge of Probate, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and Member of the Assembly. Here, day by day, he wrote his famous diary, one of the most valuable documents in Canada, which tells in detail the story of a colonial town in the momentous years between 1766 and the War of 1812.

DESCENDANTS OF THE PILGRIM FATHERS

The Liverpool settlers were all New Englanders and many were direct descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, having come to Nova Scotia from Plymouth, Massachusetts. The American Revolution caught them in a painful position, torn between loyalty to the King and a natural sympathy with their own brethren in New England. Perkins and other men of wise humanity tried to keep their people neutral in the war, but this brought down upon them the anger of both sides. Finally their hands were forced by the attacks of American privateers on the Nova Scotia coast. Perkins armed his townsmen for self defence and in 1778 they fired the first shots, driving off a raid on Liverpool itself. From this time the war became personal and bitter. Perkins and other ship-owners who had suffered losses at American hands fitted out privateers to raid the New England coast in retaliation, and in 1780 an expedition sailed from Salem, Massachusetts with the avowed intention of "burning the nest."

The Americans landed secretly at night, took the little harbor fort by surprise and stormed along the main street towards the town. Perkins sent his servant to get a pair of muskets for the defence of his house but the Americans captured the servant and guns in the street outside. However Perkins managed to rouse his militia, who captured the American commander and forced the raiders to withdraw. When the war ended in 1783 there was an interval of ten years in which the Nova Scotians slowly rebuilt their trade; but in 1793 began the long Napoleonic Wars and Simeon Perkins never knew peace again until he died. When French and Spanish privateers destroyed their West Indian trade, Perkins and others fitted out privateers, armed them with cannon borrowed from the Royal Navy, and carried the war to the enemy in the Caribbean and along the Spanish Main.

Here in this house the little colonel interviewed French and Spanish prisoners, heard the tales of adventure from his own sea-

men in the Caribbees, organized his militia for home defence. Here he entertained royal governors, naval officers, privateer captains, and wandering preachers and visitors of every kind, always noting in his diary the things of interest about them.

FIRST VACCINATIONS IN CANADA

Here during the terrible smallpox epidemic in the winter of 1800-1801 he recorded the first use of Jenner's "kine-pox" in Canada:

"My wife, Lucy, Eliza, Eunice, Mary, Simeon and Charlotte are inoculated by Mr. John Kirk, all in the left hand between the thumb and forefinger, not in the loose skin but in the hand, by making a small incision and laying an infected thread into it about 3/8 of an inch in length. He then put on a small square rag doubled, and over that a bandage to keep it in place. My wife stood the operation very well. Some of the children were faint".

Perkins worked hard all his life, but unpaid public duties took so much of his time and thought that he died comparatively poor. In the Spring of 1812 with a new American war looming, he made his last entry in the diary, recording a training muster of the militia. He was ailing and he had only another month to live. He died on May 9, 1812, at the age of 78.

After his death the house was purchased by Captain Caleb Seely, an able and successful privateersman in the War of 1812. With the return of peace Seely became a merchant and outlived all of his fighting contemporaries, dying in 1869. Almost alone in a town bitterly hostile to Nova Scotia's entry into a union with the other Canadian provinces, the old seaman celebrated Confederation Day, July 1, 1867, by hoisting his flag to the mast-head (most of the flags in Liverpool hung at half-mast as a sign of mourning for Nova Scotia's lost independence) and dancing a hornpipe on the lawn before the house, in view of the town-folk.

One of his daughters, the wife of Moore French Agnew, inherited the house, and through her it passed to Miss Letitia Agnew, who died in 1936. The property was then purchased by the Queens County Historical Society, and in 1947 the Society deeded it to the Nova Scotia government for perpetual care and exhibition as an historic monument.

The diary of Simeon Perkins, lost for many years, was recovered by the town of Liverpool in 1897 and is now secured in a bank vault. A typewritten copy, bound in several volumes, is on view in the house. Photostat copies of the original may be seen in the Archives at Halifax and Ottawa.

Perkins' grave is just behind Zion United Church.

Prominent Digby Lady, *(Halifax Chronicle - Herald - FEB 28, 1957)* Mrs. Mary Lynch, Dies

DIGBY—Mrs. Mary Edith Letitia Lynch, widow of Thomas E. G. Lynch, passed away at her home "The Hill", in Digby on Wednesday after a lengthy illness. News of her death brought sorrow to her family and many friends in Digby, Halifax, and other Canadian and United States centres. Until 1956, Mrs. Lynch had been a regular winter guest at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax.

BORN IN LIVERPOOL

Born in Liverpool, she was the daughter of Rev. E. E. B. Nichols, D.D., and Caroline Agnew Nichols. Her only brother, George E. E. Nichols, of Halifax, predeceased her in 1933.

Mrs. Lynch was educated at Edgehill, Windsor, being a member of the first class when the school opened in 1891. She maintained an interest in the welfare of the school throughout her life.

A faithful member of Trinity Church, Digby, she was a life member of the Women's Auxiliary, serving as president for many years. She was also a member of Trinity Church Guild and had been a member of the church choir. A community activities in Digby she was one of those largely responsible for bringing the VON to Digby. She was an active member of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Over the years she held many offices in the various organizations for which she worked.

Mrs. Lynch's ancestors were United Empire Loyalists, who settled in Liverpool and Digby, and the family was connected with

many prominent citizens of the early days of Nova Scotia. It was through Mrs. Lynch's personal influence and generosity that the Queen's County Historical Society obtained their present home (known as the Simeon Perkins House), the property being the home of her maternal grandmother.

Mrs. Lynch married Thomas Edward Grindon Lynch in 1903 and resided in Digby and Halifax throughout her married life. Both the late Mr. and Mrs. Lynch were known for their fine Christian characters and generosity, both in means and time given unstintingly to the support of many worthwhile endeavours. Mrs. Lynch's numerous personal deeds of kindness and wise understanding will be greatly missed by her many friends.

Survivors include one son, G. Richard K. Lynch of Halifax, two daughters, Edith G. Lynch of Montreal, and Mary N. Plow, wife of Major General E. C. Plow, Halifax, and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be held from Trinity Church, Digby at 4 p.m., Friday, March 1, with burial in Forest Hill cemetery, Digby, Reverend H. Y. MacLean officiating.

he failed to put this in

properties went to her n

romptly wrote to Mrs. L

Prominent Digby Lady, Mrs. Mary Lynch, Dies

(Halifax Chronicle-Herald, FEB 28, 1957)

DIGBY—Mrs. Mary Edith Letitia Lynch, widow of Thomas E. G. Lynch, passed away at her home "The Hill", in Digby on Wednesday after a lengthy illness. News of her death brought sorrow to her family and many friends in Digby, Halifax, and other Canadian and United States centres. Until 1956, Mrs. Lynch had been a regular winter guest at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax.

BORN IN LIVERPOOL

Born in Liverpool, she was the daughter of Rev. E. E. B. Nichols, D.D., and Caroline Agnew Nichols. Her only brother, George E. E. Nichols, of Halifax, predeceased her in 1933.

Mrs. Lynch was educated at Edgehill, Windsor, being a member of the first class when the school opened in 1891. She maintained an interest in it until her death in 1933.

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blend with your bath

many prominent citizens of the early days of Nova Scotia. It was through Mrs. Lynch's personal influence and generosity that the Queen's County Historical Society obtained their present home (known as the Simeon Perkins House), the property being the home of her maternal grandmother.

Mrs. Lynch married Thomas Edward Grindon Lynch in 1903 and resided in Digby and Halifax throughout her married life. Both the late Mr. and Mrs. Lynch were known for their fine Christian characters and generosity, both in means and time given unstintingly to the support of many worthwhile endeavours. Mrs. Lynch's numerous personal deeds of kindness and wise understanding will be greatly missed by her many friends.

Survivors include one son, G. Richard K. Lynch of Halifax, two daughters, Edith G. Lynch of Montreal, and Mary N. Plow, wife of Major General E. C. Plow, Halifax, and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be held from Trinity Church, Digby at 4 p.m., Friday, March 1, with burial in Forest Hill cemetery, Digby, Reverend H. Y. MacLean officiating.

(Note by THR) This obituary, clipped from the Halifax Chronicle-Herald of Feb. 28, 1957, is too generous to Mrs. Lynch. Her aunt, Miss Letitia Agnew, lived in the former Simeon Perkins House, which she had inherited from her ancestor Captain Caleb Seely. She also owned a small block of wooden shops, with living quarters above, at the corner of Main and Carten streets, Liverpool.

Letitia Agnew, a spinster, was interested in the history of Liverpool, and in the Queens County Historical Society, and to various members of this Society she had promised (verbally) that the Perkins house would be bequeathed to the Society

at her death. She failed to put this in writing, and when she died in the early 1930's her Liverpool properties went to her niece Mrs. Mary Lynch, of Digby. Mrs. John Day, of Liverpool, promptly wrote to Mrs. Lynch, mentioning ^{that} ~~the~~ Miss Agnew had wished the

Perkins house to belong to the Queens County Historical Society. Mrs. Lynch replied coldly that she had put the Perkins house and the business block ("The Agnew Block") up for sale, and if the Historical Society wanted the house they would have to buy ~~it~~ it. Actually the house was in bad repair, and during these years of the Depression, real estate (even in good repair) was hard to sell for cash. Eventually Mrs. Lynch made a concession. She would sell the Perkins house to the Historical Society -- for cash only -- at a price \$500 less than the best offer she had received. (We ^d discovered ~~that~~ that her best offer, and only offer, had come from G. Cecil Day, proprietor of the weekly "Liverpool Advance". He made no secret of his intention to preserve the outward look of the house but to convert the entire interior to a modern home. He was attracted mainly by the location (it was in the genteel residential part of Liverpool) and the grounds. His offer to Mrs. Lynch was \$2,000.

Consequently, The Historical Society was able to buy the Perkins property for \$1500 cash. Immediate and urgent ~~repairs~~ repairs cost \$500, further repairs another \$500. The

Historical Society raised the \$2500 by selling debentures (mostly to its own members and interested citizens of Liverpool) each with a face value of \$100, payable on demand, and bearing interest at 5%. This debt was slowly paid off and finally extinguished in 1947, when the Queens County Historical Society gave the house and grounds to the Province of Nova Scotia, gratis, on a promise that the Provincial Government would restore the house to its original condition, furnish it, and maintain it as a historic site and museum.

DEPARTMENT
OF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

HALIFAX

April 11, 1957

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for the Simeon Perkins House copy received yesterday for use in our Perkins House booklet.

Your Perkins' story is, as was expected, nicely done and will give visitors to the Perkins Museum a clearly, concise story. *and*

I would like to have the folder similar to the enclosed Uniacke folder. The text of the Uniacke story includes 980 words. There are 850 words in your Perkins story. It seems a shame not to make use of all space available. We could without crowding use another 130 to 150 words. I was wondering if you could incorporate in your story following the first paragraph 150 words descriptive of the house itself. Even a brief description making reference to the study, living room, fire places, or whatever you think most fitting would, I believe, add to the value of the folder. If you would care to do this I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as convenient so that the completed copy will be in the hands of the printers in ample time. Another thank you for anything you do along this line.

I had a visit from Mr. Jankov, Provincial landscape designer, yesterday and made arrangements for him to go to Liverpool to sketch the Perkins' grounds. I sent a letter to Mr. Randy Day telling him that Mr. Jankov will be at the Mersey Hotel on the night of April 17. I presume Mr. Day will be conferring with you relative to this visit.

The films for the meeting of the Historical Society will be sent from here in ample time for your meeting on April 15. I regret that I will not be able to be present.

I was talking to Mr. McCaul, C.B.C., yesterday when I was given assurance that there would be TV coverage of the Perkins House. I will be getting more details later on.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Geo. E. Herman

Geo. E. Herman

April 13th, 1957

Mr. George Herman,
Dept. of Trade & Industry,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Herman,

Confirming our conversation yesterday,
the Queens County Historical Society will meet in the Navy
Room, Town Hall, on Monday, April 15th, at 8 p.m. We will
have a movie projector (16, with sound) and screen, and
you will bring the film "Gateway to the World". There will
be some business, chiefly to inform members on what has
been done and will be done this year in connection with the
Perkins house, and to settle our plans for the opening.
We won't expect you to make a speech but we'd appreciate
a few words from you with regard to the Department's plans
for the Perkins house.

If you are coming down in the afternoon
why not dine with me here at 44 Park Street? If not you
could meet me here or at the Town Hall, as you wish.
It was a pleasure to meet you again in Halifax and to know
that the Perkins matter is going forward so briskly.

Sincerely,



INDUSTRIAL AND TOURIST PROMOTION
PROVINCIAL BUILDING, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

~~DIRECTOR~~
~~EARL CLARK~~

April 26, 1957

Dr. Thomas Raddall
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Doctor Raddall:

In response to your request you should be able to get the desired costumes for the opening ceremony at Perkins House if you write to Malabar Limited, 422 Notre Dame W., Montreal, P.Q.

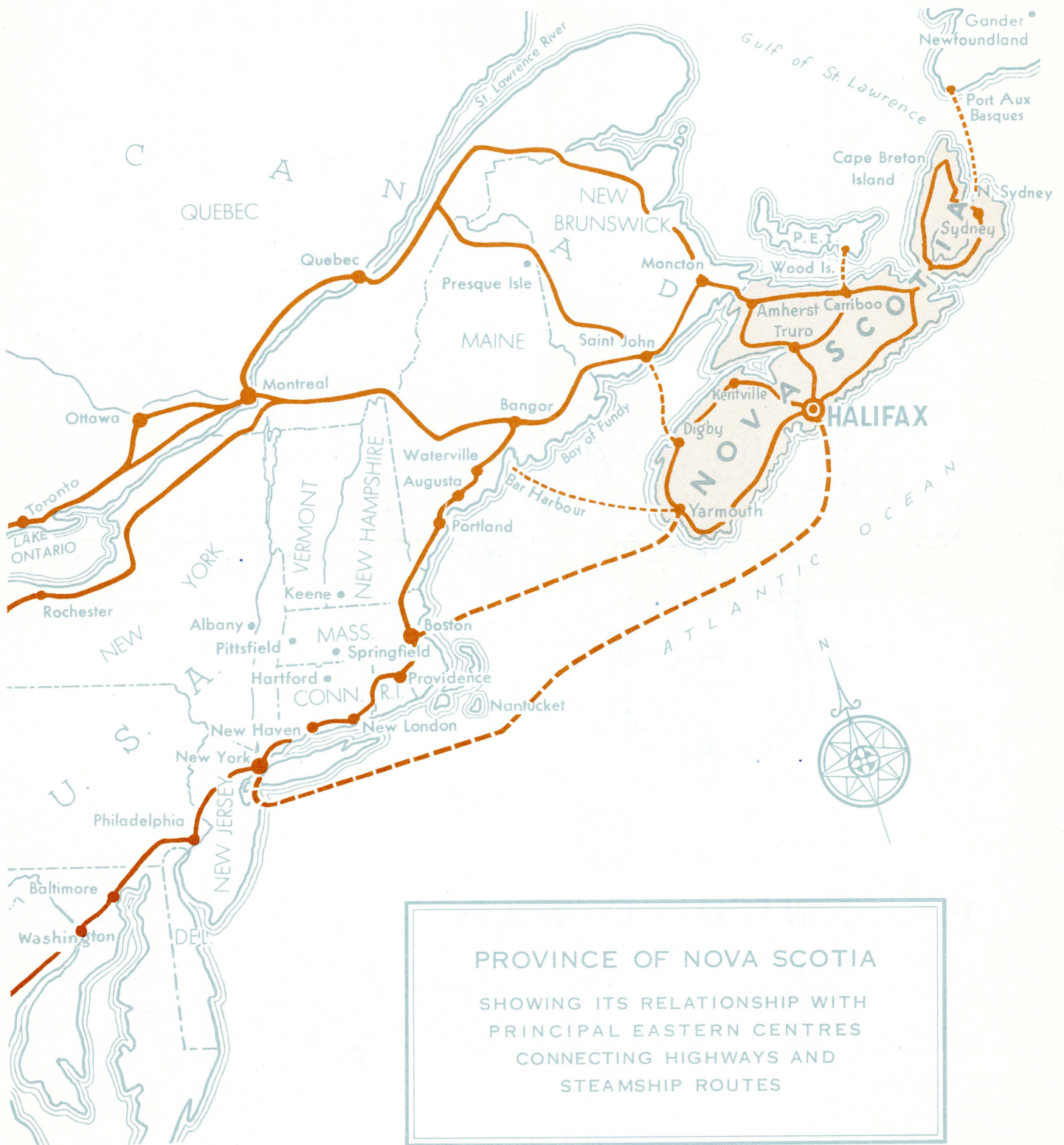
Kind regards,

Geo. E. Herman
Geo. E. Herman
Acting Director *GH*

GEH:bh

FOLLOW THE OPEN ROAD TO NOVA SCOTIA

"Canada's Ocean Playground"



Dr & Mrs. Thomas Raddall

You are cordially invited to attend the
Officers Mess, 133rd Field Battery,
Royal Canadian Artillery for refreshments
following the opening ceremony.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO BE PRESENT AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF
PERKINS HOUSE
NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT MUSEUM
MAIN STREET, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA
THREE O'CLOCK, SATURDAY AFTERNOON
THE 29TH OF JUNE 1957

E. A. MANSON
MINISTER
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

P
R
O
G
R
A
M

2.30 p. m.	Concert by Military Band of The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada	P
3.00 p. m.	Formal Opening	R
	1. O Canada	
	2. Prayer	O
	3. Ringing of Ship's Bell by Mrs. Robert L. Stanfield	
	4. Remarks by Chairman, Honourable W. S. Kennedy Jones	G
	5. Remarks, Honourable Robert L. Stanfield, Premier of Nova Scotia.	R
	6. Presentation of Perkins House key to Dr. Thomas Raddall, Honorary Curator	A
	7. Address, Dr. Raddall	
	8. The Queen	M



PUBLIC ARCHIVES
NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX, N. S.

September 11, 1957.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Tom,

I have received your letter of the 9th instant relating to your forthcoming visits to the United States and England with a view to gathering material on Lady Wentworth. Both should be most pleasant and profitable. I am pleased to enclose a "To whom it may concern" letter which I hope will be satisfactory for the purpose.

Remembering the Perkins volume of Inferior Court records now on display in the Perkins house, I should like to inquire if it might some time be possible and convenient to borrow and microfilm it, in order that a reproduction on film might be preserved here.

With cordial regards,

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Ferguson
ARCHIVIST.

CBF-wm.

September 13, 1957

Dear Bruce,

Thanks so much for the letter of introduction, which will be most useful. I've heard from Mr. D.H. Watson, who has seen some of Frances Wentworth's correspondence in collections at Sheffield and Northampton, and says the letters are most interesting.

I'll try to get the Perkins volume of Inferior Court records up to Halifax for microfilming later in the Fall -- I leave for New Hampshire in a few days. Doctor Smith, of South Brookfield, Queens County, has another book of court records kept apparently by Perkins. I'll have a chat with him at the first chance. Sorry I can't get up to the city for the Historic Sites Board meeting today; I have so much to do here.

With my deep appreciation,

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Fergusson

July 17th, 1958

The Mayor and Council,
Liverpool, N.S.

Gentlemen,

As you know, there is in the Town Hall a small copy of a portrait of Simeon Perkins, placed there many years ago. I presume the original portrait remains in the hands of some descendant of Colonel Perkins in the United States.

I write to ask if the copy, now in Town Hall, may be removed to the Perkins House, where it may be seen by the thousands of people who visit the house each year. Many of these visitors ask to see a picture of Colonel Perkins, but at the present time the house contains nothing of the sort.

Hoping for your favorable consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Honorary Curator,

Perkins House Museum.

The answer was No

September 1st., 1964.

For your records and report.

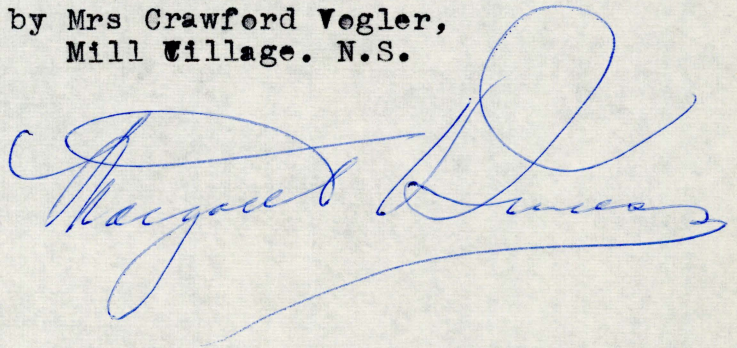
Accepted and placed in the Queens County Historical museum.

I child's leather covered trunk. Purchased in Port Medway--
I am checking to find out if it was made in the Payzant
Tannery, the More & Cowie Tannery or the Cowie Tannery.

This was donated by Mrs John N. Millar,
Saint Petersburg. Florida.

I document.. Re Officers appointed and Regulations made
during the Session of The Peace in the Co.
of Queens. 1849.

Donated by Mrs Crawford Vogler,
Mill Village. N.S.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margaret Dimes", with a large, decorative flourish extending from the end of the name.

1

Regarding the proposed republication of More's History of Queens County

April 20, 1966 A meeting of the Queens County Historical Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howland White, Park Street. About 25 people present, with President Eric Millard in the chair. Main point of discussion (which went on for two hours) was a proposal to mark Canada's bicentennial year 1967 on our part by publishing and selling a book of local history. There was a choice of:-

- (A) Assembling an anthology from More's History, the typed notes of Robert Long, the works of Miss Janet Mullins, and various others.
- (B) Republishing the History by James F. More, written in 1872 and published 1873.

Mr. Charles Kelsey and some others were strongly in favor of ~~(B)~~ (A), because More's history is very dull. T.H.Raddall pointed out that proposal (A) would involve a tremendous amount of time and care in reading over all the various books and manuscripts involved. It would be very difficult to select items that fitted together to make a cohesive whole, and the result would be a hodge-podge, of little or no value as a book of reference. More's history, while dull, and inaccurate here and there, was written by a literate man whose own memory went back to the War of 1812 and a time when some elderly survivors of the Liverpool pioneers were still available for consultation.

Mrs. Warren Keay reported that Cecil Day, proprietor of the Advance Printing Company, had he would be willing to print 1,000 copies of the More history for approximately \$1.20 per copy. This would include a paper cover. Board-and-cloth covers, as in the original, would cost considerably more.

T.H.Raddall said the Society should consider carefully the money involved. The Society at the present time had funds amounting to \$500 or \$600. The proposed book would cost at least twice that. The printer's bill would have to be paid with reasonable promptitude, while the cash returns from sales of the book might be a long time forthcoming.

After much discussion the majority of the members present decided that the Society should go ahead with a new issue of 1,000 copies of the More history. They appointed a committee to take charge of the whole matter of printing, advertising, and sale of the book:- Mrs. Jean Holden, chairman: Miss Marjorie Bain, Miss Grace McMaster, Mrs. Paul King, Mr. Reginald Dickie, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Farncombe, Miss Annie Ritchie, Mr. T.H.Raddall.

May 11, 1966 Mrs. Holden called a meeting of her committee at her home, and the above-named members were present. It was decided (a) that advertisements should be placed in the Liverpool Advance weekly or twice a month, beginning next Fall, inviting advance orders, cash with order. (b) Miss Ritchie agreed to ask the superintendent of schools in Queens County, Mr. C. Legrow, to put the matter before all teachers in Queens County, the idea being that every home should have a copy of the County history for reference. There was some discussion of the price of the book for retail purposes. It was decided that there should be no attempt to make a profit on it. It would be necessary to quote a firm price in the advertisements; therefore Mr. Day should be asked to confirm his figure for printing and binding as soon as possible. The meeting then adjourned.

August 4, 1966 Miss Marjorie Bain called a meeting of the committee on More's History. Present: Eric Millard, Mrs. Paul King, Miss Grace

McMaster, Mrs. Charles Holden, Miss Bain, myself. Miss Bain reported that she had shown to Charles Kelsey (of K. & M. Enterprises) the old photographs of Liverpool houses etc., which we hoped to use in the new printing of More's History. Kelsey said they were not clear enough to make good plates; instead he suggested that Mr. H.B. Goodridge, the artist who lives at Greenfield, might make black-and-white drawings of ~~these~~ these houses, on the spot or from the photos, which could be used in the book. The committee then discussed the whole matter of ancient houses still standing, and drew up a list of eight, in Liverpool, Brooklyn and Milton, as a guide to Mr. Goodridge. Miss Bain will discuss this list with Kelsey and Goodridge, and get a firm figure on the cost. She will call another meeting of the committee early in September, when we should start advertising the forthcoming book, giving the price postpaid, and soliciting orders in advance.

October 19, 1966 A meeting of the Society at the home of Mr. Melbourne Gardner, Brooklyn. With regard to the proposed republication of More's History, Mrs. Jean Holden was not present, and apparently considered her responsibility ended with the report on estimated costs, etc, made ~~in~~ at a meeting of the Society at Mr. Charles Kelsey's house, Port Joli, on May 17th. At that time it was stated that:-

(a) The Advance Printing Company would print the book, and include photographic plates of 4 or 5 old houses in Liverpool and vicinity, all for a price of \$1.20 per copy.

(b) K & W Enterprises would bind these copies in hard covers and cloth at a price of about 60¢ per copy. Sales tax, advertising, wrapping and mailing, would bring the total cost to about ~~\$2.50 per copy~~ \$2.00 per copy.

(c) All this is based on a firm printing and binding order for 1,000 copies. This means that the Historical Society must provide ~~about \$2,000 for the costs~~ about \$2,000 for the costs.

(d) The Society decided to proceed on this basis, with advertising in the Advance

beginning in October 1966, soliciting orders with cash, and the delivery date not later than December 31, 1966.

At the meeting on October 19th President Eric Millard stated that owing to pressure of orders, and a sudden shortage of printing staff, the Advance Printing Company could not accept the job at the present time, and could give no date when it might. Miss Bain was asked to write the Kentville Publishing Company, the Bridgewater Bulletin Printing Company, and others, to see if they would undertake the job, and at what price.

Note:- The whole idea came to nothing.

J.H.R.

At the opening of the year 1760 the affairs of France were in a gloomy state.
After nearly five years of war with Britain she saw nothing but defeat