

INTERESTING SKETCH OF CITY HALL OF FREDERICTON GIVEN AT MEETING OF HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Our City Hall of great excitement. He had been seen going in but not coming out.

Three buildings have stood on the site of our present City Hall,—the tank house, so called, the first City Hall, and the present building.

The first building was a small two-story wooden structure with a belfry and bell on top. The ground floor was used as a store and the room above for public meetings. There the Presbyterian denominations held their first meetings and later the Temperance Society used the room and the building became termed "Temperance Hall". Adjoining at the rear the town weigh scales were sheltered in a shed, and here the hay was brought up the hill from the ferry. The heavy weights of the scales were in an underground cavity or tank. (There was a second tank house combined with a fire station at the head of Waterloo Row, to weigh the hay coming from the lower ferry.) This first building remained until 1867 when it was pulled down to make way for the first City Hall.

The plans of our first City Hall are credited to William Crowdon, a military engineer, who was sent from England in 1838 as "Inspector of Works," to take charge of the erection of the Officers' Quarters and the stone barracks. The building was of brick and covered as much ground as the present edifice. In the basement was the police court, the lockup, the market, and at the rear a liquor store. The civic offices were above and a lecture hall took up the third floor. At the entrance two flights of steps led to a landing, somewhat similar to the entrance of the present Customs' House. This building was burned on the night of the Aldermen's Election in 1874, the fire catching from an overheated ram down stove, forgotten in the day's excitement. My father, C. W. Beckwith, City Clerk at the time, happened to be passing and noticed a light inside the building. Watching it for a minute he saw it was a fire. When he got back from pulling the rope of the fire-bell he had to crawl in under the smoke in order to reach his office to get out all papers of any importance. Leaving by a different door he put the papers in the safe of a store across the square and coming back found the crowd in a state

that people living in the neighborhood were forced to keep their doors and windows closed."

First Council

On March 27th, 1849, a town council and mayor were appointed. Ten councillors were elected from whom the councillors themselves chose the Mayor. The name "aldermen" was not used until 1863.

The town councillors were:

Wellington Ward—W. H. Odell, Geo. Lee, Jr.

St. Anne's Ward—H. Garcelon, A. T. Coburn.

Carleton Ward—F. W. Hatheway, Spofford Barker.

Queens Ward—Johns S. Coy, J. Simpson.

King's Ward—Chas. Fisher, James Robb.

J. Simpson, chosen as Mayor, came to Fredericton in 1829 to edit the Royal Gazette. The home he built for himself on King Street is now occupied by Mr. H. W. Woods.

W. H. Odell, Senator Odell, was a grandson of Honorable Jonathan Odell, first Provincial Secretary. The house and farm buildings of Senator Odell are still standing above the public park in what was once a beautiful estate.

George Lee, Jr., a graduate of King's College, was a grandson of Captain Joseph Lee of the New Jersey Volunteers and a brother of Rector Charles Lee of Fredericton.

Harvey Garcelon and Abram T. Coburn were merchants. H. Garcelon lived at the upper end of Queen street. A. T. Coburn was influential in starting the Commercial Bank.

Fred W. Hatheway was the largest owner in the "Hatheway Line" of steamers (our first steamers) the "Forest Queen" and "Ann Augusta." Ann Augusta was the name of Mrs. Hatheway. F. W. Hatheway later removed to Saint John.

Spofford Barker built the Barker House, and himself lived on George Street in the house just below that of James Biggs. The Barker Loyalist homestead still stands at Bakers Point.

John S. Coy, a man of means, built and lived in what is now called the Coy Block, the brick building at the lower corner of Queen and Regent Streets. There Amasa Coy, father of John S. Coy, presided over the "Fredericton Bank," a savings bank. John S. Coy's father and that of A. T. Coburn came from Manguerville.

Charles Fisher, later Judge Fisher, was Premier and Attorney General of

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New York State man is accused of China threatens to break off diplomatic relations with Japan. The car and then deliberately running over reasons seem obscure, but there may her. And some people say the women have been something personal in one like this cave-man stuff. of Tokio's remarks.

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