

## INTERESTING SKETCH FROM AN OLD DIARY REFERS TO OLD COUNTRY FAMILIES

### The Hagermans, Merrithews, Brownes, Tapleys, Prices, Parents and Munroes Amongst Those Mentioned

Miss Nellie Forman of Stratford, Ont. is in the city for a visit at the home of Mrs. F. W. Barker 114 Brunswick Street. Miss Forman is making her first visit to the home of her ancestors and is hunting up old connection with members of her family of bygone days.

Miss Forman is a granddaughter of James Forman and his wife Annis Skidmore Brown who left Bear Island in 1834 to settle near Tapletown Ontario. Annis Skidmore Brown was the second daughter of William Chandler Brown. The latter was a son of Zachariah Brown who was an officer in the British Army in the American Revolution. After the Revolution Zachariah with his wife mentioned above removed from the State of Connecticut to New Brunswick and settled in the parish of Burton. His farm was next to the court house and jail at Burton. Several of the family were born near the Nerepis not far above Saint John. Many of the family are laid to rest in the old cemetery at Burton to which place they later removed from the Nerepis. Several of the older generation at Burton remember the family.

Later on the family moved up river and settled in the vicinity of what is now Bear Island, during the War of 1812. Members of the family of that day were made militia officers and were connected with the raising of a regiment to send to what was then Upper Canada. They were connected with the Imperial Army then stationed in the barracks here.

The records of the Forman and Brown families which are in the possession of Miss Forman contain many interesting incidents regarding the early Loyalist settlers and of those who later came to these parts. These records mention the Hagermans, the Munroes, the Prices, the Formans,

the Brownes, the Tapleys and several other families well known in this section of the country. In these records special reference is made to Burton and places throughout Bear Island, Queensbury and Southampton.

Of interest to many families throughout York and Sunbury Counties is a sketch of the life of Mrs. Annis Skidmore Browne Forman whose ancestors came to these parts from Connecticut after the close of the Revolutionary War and who first settled in Burton immediately below the Burton Court House. Later some members of the family moved up the river to the vicinity of Bear Island. Many residents of this section are connected with the Browne and Forman families.

#### The Sketch

The sketch is as follows: Annis Skidmore Browne second daughter of William Chandler Brown and Elizabeth Price. He was the second son of Zachariah Browne who was an officer in the British Army in the American Revolution. After the revolutionary war Zachariah Browne with his wife, Annis Skidmore, removed from the state of Connecticut, adjoining Canada and moved to New Brunswick and settled on the River St. John in the Parish of Burton two miles below the Oromocto River. His farm was next to the jail and Court House and the Freemason's Lodge. Zachariah Browne and his five sons were all Masons: Converse Browne, William Chandler Browne (my father) Josiah Browne, John Browne, Zachariah Browne. Annis S. Browne was born June 22nd 1798 on the River St. John in New Brunswick at a place called the Nerepis. Coffin's Manor, not far from the city of St. John opposite Carleton. We soon moved to Burton, Sunbury County. Near Grandfather Zachariah Browne adjoining his 500 acre farm is the oldest cemetery in New Brunswick where my forefathers are laid also two of my children, Willie and Leonard Conklin. (N. B. In the summer of 1935, in June, my cousin George Roxburgh, son of Annis Skidmore Browne's youngest daughter Sarah, his wife and I her grandchildren visited the old cemetery where we found the grave of our grandmother's sister Frances Shirley and her husband's also. The cemetery was sadly neglected, grass so tall it was difficult to walk about. We also visited the jail and Court House, where we met an elderly lady, eighty years of age who remembered grandmother's brother Zachariah, who had inherited the east part of the five hundred acre farm. His descendants had all left New Brunswick she said.

When a child of eight she lived in Wakefield, a new part of that country of New Brunswick. There were old settlers there all Dutch, plain good religious people. Our nearest neighbor had a large family of boys and girls, some of them older than I was. She would coax mother to let me go to their meetings and at last my mother consented. They had no church, no minister, no creeds or Articles of Faith. My parents lived to be old, father 80 and mother 84. The family living next to us prospered as did that community and their descendants are there yet. How these people came there or when I do not know. I think before I was born. I do know that they were Dutch from Holland. They ran a small grist mill where they ground wheat corn and all the other grains that were raised in the neighborhood. When I was eleven years old my parents let me go to live with my Grandfather Zachariah Browne. I was named for his wife (Annis Skidmore) and I never lived in Wakefield again never saw any of those people again. Grandfather had named me and after his wife died wished to bring me up. He was very careful of me and my conduct. Grandfather never married again and his two eldest sons living at that time William Chandler (my father) and Josiah were both married with two or three children. Josiah married Nellie Munroe. They moved up the River St. John and settled in a new part of the country one brother on each side of the river. Grandfather lived at the old homestead at Burton where he died at 77 years of age. The American War soon broke out in 1812. My father and his brother were both

made militia officers the first in that place. Others were sent to them had a general training to raise an army to send to Canada (Ontario and Quebec). There were men sent to my father from the standing army at Fredericton to drill the new soldiers. After all were ready they were sent to Upper Canada, Toronto, then called Little York. Grandfather's oldest son named Converse was married but died young leaving four little boys John, Bernard, William and Converse. All lived to be men of families but now they are all dead. Uncle John Browne married Nancy Tapley. They were both living in 1875 and each nearly one hundred years old. They lived many years in Indian town part of the City of Saint John.

After Grandfather's death I went home to my father who lived then on Bear Island Settlement. I married James Forman on April 8th 1819. He was nine months my junior. We had twelve children. Eight grew to manhood, and womanhood My husband died May 23, 1844. I then married William Hislop, February 24th 1845 nine months after James Forman's death. My age was 47. William Hislop died June 1st 1861.

James and Annis Forman left their native home in New Brunswick and moved to Canada in the year 1834 before McKenzie's rebellion. They settled first in Saltfleet eleven miles from Hamilton, Ontario. In the winter of 1836 they moved to Burlington Beach. There James Forman died.

Grandfather James Forman married Abigail Conklin of Long Island, Conn. before the Revolutionary War, and moved to New Brunswick and settled in the neighborhood of Bear Island. His son afterwards married Annis Skidmore Browne.

My grandfather Edmund Price (maternal grandfather of Annis S. Browne) was born in Wales and married Jennie Webb born in the State of New Jersey. She lived to be one hundred years old. Grandfather died some time before her. From New York the Prices moved to New Brunswick before the Revolutionary War in the States. They settled on the river St. John on the north side called "the Long Reach" at the head of "The Mistake." His descendants now own land there. It was there that Polly their oldest daughter was lost in the woods or stolen by the Indians at fourteen years of age. The people who came to New Brunswick after the Revolution were called refugees

and because the Prices were there before that they were called the old inhabitants.

#### At Bear Island

Polly Price was the eldest of four at the time she was lost, viz. Polly, George, Allen and Edmund. After that they had James, John Nennis, Dolly, Phoebe, Polly, Jerusha, Deborah, Betsey, Mary Jane and Peggy or Margaret. Dolly married a Hovey, Phoebe a Menzie, Deborah a Williams, Letsey Price William C. Browne, Mary (Polly) a Pennington, Jane a Terrell and Peggy a Cliff.

In 1873 aged seventy-five years I moved to Michigan where I expect to end my days with my youngest daughter Sarah Roxburgh. Now I can look back and say, "Few and full of sorrow have been the days of my pilgrimage. I was seventeen years old when my grandfather died and four years after I married James Forman aged twenty years. Old Mr. Forman gave my husband fifteen acres of his land and built him a nice frame house and a blacksmith shop and a new set of tools. That is what we had to begin married life with. There my eldest son Jacob Gilbert was born. We lived there until my second child was born. All this time my father lived two miles above us on the opposite side of us at the head of Bear Island at Queensbury. My father left four hundred acres all in a block. My brother now owns the old homestead. Price, Zachariah and Dennis. After living four years at our first little home we sold out and bought one hundred acres up the river, two miles above my father's farm. Here my husband built another shop and continued with his blacksmith trade.

#### At Burton

We lived there three years sold out again and moved down river to Burton fourteen miles below Fredericton. Here we took the jail and the Court house and the ferry in Sunbury county adjoining my Grandfather Browne's old home. His son Zachariah still lived on the old homestead. His brother, my Uncle John lived nearby. We kept the court house and jail three years, then moved from there to St. John city at the month of the river emptying into the Bay of Fundy. My husband worked at his trade here in the shipyards. We stayed here about three years, then moved up the river and lived there three years. About this time my son Cornelius was born. We then moved to Bear Island where both our parents lived. We settled here amongst our nearest relatives, built a new blacksmith shop. My husband worked at his trade again, just adjoining Captain John Hagerman's farm. He was a brother to Cornelius Hagerman that my son was named for. At this place my children George and Elizabeth were born. After awhile we moved back to our

first home on the old Forman farm. The old people were both dead. We did not stay here long. My husband then went to Canada to join his only brother Jacob who had gone three years before Jacob's wife's people had gone there before him. Her father was old Nathaniel Tapley. Jacob married his daughter Betsey. My husband left New Brunswick in the fall of 1833. I came to him the next year.

#### An Ice Jam

The winter after, he left my own little home (our first home) and went to Fraser Island to keep house for my two brothers, Price and Chandler Browne. They had rented the whole of Fraser Island as a great farm. It lay about the middle of the River St. John. It was three miles long and one mile wide. This island was beautiful, lots of green grapes, ploughed fields, some beautiful elm and maple trees and dotted all over were butternut trees. There were large plots of all kinds of hardwood for firewood. The ground was clean, and level as a floor. Now at the beginning of winter as my brothers were preparing to go to the lumber woods, they had gone with their boats down the river to Fredericton for their winter supply to take to the woods. I was left alone on the island with my little children. This was in November 1833. There came a cold spell of weather and froze up the river (the head begins at Grand Falls and it empties into the Bay of Fundy at St. John City). Then there came a thaw and the ice broke and started to move and came in a jam. Then it heaped mountain high and stood still. There was danger of the ice jamming over the island and when it would move again. If it had it would have taken everything before it, buildings, cattle, and my children would have perished with it. My eldest boy Jacob was on the mainland going to school and boarding with his aunt Betsey Hagerman. She lived nearly opposite to where I lived on the island. My father and mother lived near by her. We could almost call across but not quite; no human being could get to us to relieve us in the jam, but there came a warm rain and the ice moved quietly down the river as the jam had broken below. Next day after the jam broke the ice was beautiful, breaking down the river. Next morning there was very little ice to be seen. By noon the river was clear. I took my children out on the bank where my people could see us. There were lots of settlers on both sides of the river. The children with me were Cornelius, George and Elizabeth aged 6, 4 and 2. As soon as the ice was all out of the river our friends and neighbours all came over in boats to see us and were thankful to find us all safe. We had fine weather for a time. All this happened in one week. I was not much

frightened while the ice was jammed. I used to take the children and walk out where our friends could see us. My brothers came home as soon as they could in two or three days. Their boat had been sunk with the ice, but they got home all safe. Then the people came across again and all went to work drying the goods that had got wet in the boat such as the blankets and all kinds of winter wear. They spread the things out in the sun the weather being beautiful. I got dinner for all that came, the women helping me. While we were on the island alone we had everything to make us comfortable, two good cows and plenty of other things. Soon after this the winter set in, the river froze up again and all went and came on the ice. I was left alone again with the children. The eldest boy Jacob stayed with me now and skated over the river to school.

Speaking of the trip from New Brunswick to Ontario a hundred years ago Mrs. Forman said "My husband went to Ontario. We received letters only when some person was coming to New Brunswick. He wrote us asking us to join him in Canada as others were going to Canada from New Brunswick. I left New Brunswick in August when my daughter Frances was only five months old and I never returned. I never saw one of their faces again. Jessie Churchill told me to be ready on the 19th of August that he would call for us as he came down the river with his friends in the boat. My friends and neighbours were gathered to see us off. They followed up to the river and then bade us farewell. In those days there was no postal service between New Brunswick and Ontario, and the only way we received letters was when somebody was coming from New Brunswick. We were three families fourteen persons in all moved from Bear Island down the river to Fredericton and from there to Saint John then across the Bay of Fundy to Eastport where we took a sailing vessel for New York then on a steamer we went up the Hudson River to Albany and then took a canal boat over the Erie Canal thence by steamer to Toronto from there we went by boat to Hamilton and from there by team to our destination Taylortown, a place named for my brother-in-law. The families that left Bear Island for Ontario included Nathan Churchill's family, John Snider's, and our own. The journey took four weeks.

(Special to The Daily Mail)

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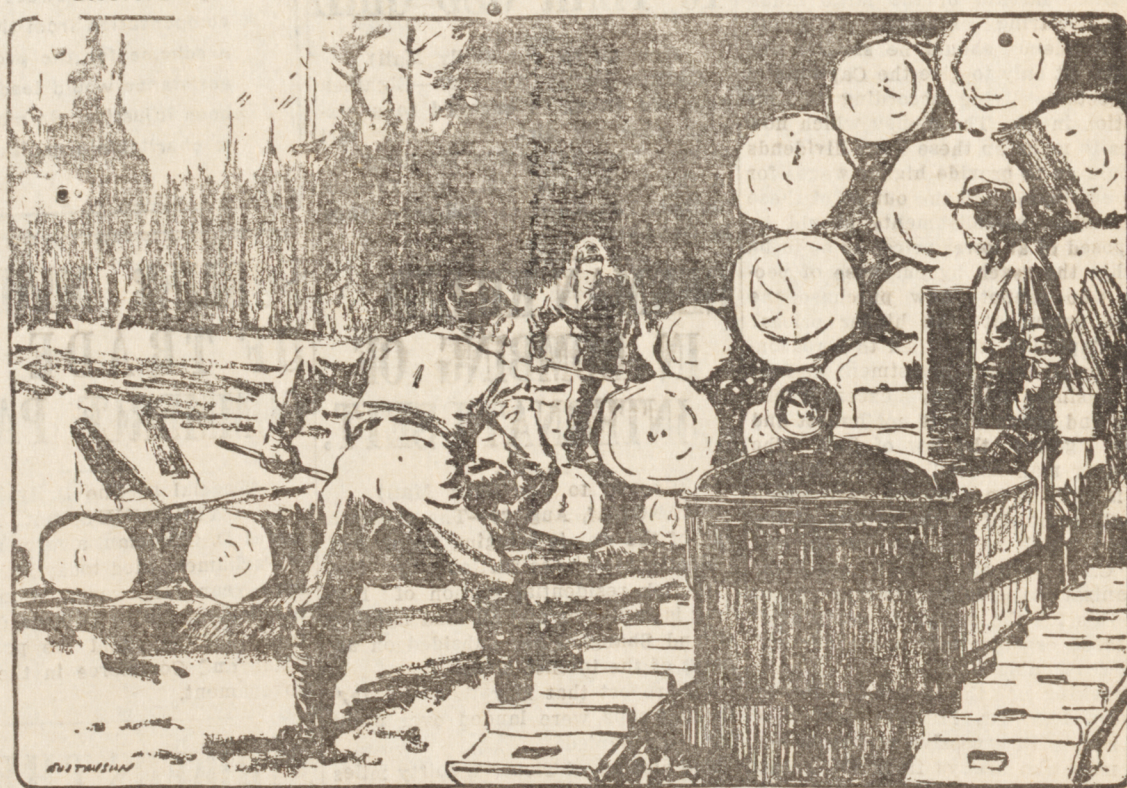
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#### CANADA

#### THEIR INDUSTRIES...AND THEIR BANK



### THE FOREST INDUSTRIES

The forest area of Canada on which there is timber of merchantable size is larger than the total area of France and Germany combined; the standing timber on this is estimated at 274 billion cubic feet. An area of even greater extent is covered with young growth.

This vast reservoir of wood is the source from which Canada drew wealth in excess of \$110,000,000 in 1934 (the latest figures available) in the form of primary products such as:

- raw material for saw-mills, pulp mills, wood distillation, charcoal plants;
- logs, pulpwood, bolts, etc., for export;
- firewood, railroad ties, posts, poles, fence rails, mining timbers;
- maple sugar, balsam gum, resin, casahuate, tanbark, moss, etc.

The total value of manufactured products made principally from raw materials of forest origin was \$404,435,948. Forest products in 1936 afforded an excess of exports over imports—\$158,560,000—very important to Canada's international trade.

The Bank of Montreal has co-operated with every activity of the forest industries—assisting in every phase of production and marketing. The Bank has had the privilege of financing a large share of the export business of these industries. Thousands of workers are depositors, sharing in the safety and facilities of the Bank with their employing companies.

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