

# The Nerepis Road Of A Century Ago Described By Gorham

Where Was Darby Gillen's Inn? What Part Did It Play In A Sunbury County Election?

(No. 8)

R. P. Gorham, B.Sc., local historian continues his historical sketches. Today he deals with the Nerepis Road of a century ago and asks, Where was Darby Gillen's Inn and what part did it play in a Sunbury County election one hundred years ago?

Mr. Gorham quotes from the writings of Edmund Ward, a Fredericton Editor of a century ago. Previous sketches by Mr. Ward have been quoted by Mr. Gorham and have been of considerable interest. Mr. Gorham who is of Loyalist stock and who is a cousin of the late Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond New Brunswick historian of note, is one of the best informed authorities on New Brunswick and Maritime history. Mr. Gorham is one of the founders of the York and Sunbury Historical Society formerly contributed valuable papers to that Society. He however, in common with several others found it necessary to withdraw from the Society some months ago.

Mr. Gorham's article is as follows: (By R. P. Gorham, B.Sc.)

In the Sentinel of January 18, 1840, Mr. Ward began the story of a winter journey to Charlotte county and Calais, Maine.

"We have just returned from a tour of the western parts of the province, and as is our custom, shall endeavour to furnish our readers with an acceptable account of the country through which we passed together with such observations as may be generally interesting.

The route to St. John during the autumn and spring when the river cannot be traversed lies along the Nerepis Valley which extends from the creek of that name near Grand Bay, upwards of twenty miles from Fredericton.

Owing to the facility and cheapness with which the passage to St. John can be effected in the summer months, this road is neglected during that season, though it must then afford a most delightful road; while it is generally avoided during the winter owing to the difficulty of passing it, that is often caused by the deep snow which the paucity of travelling permits to accumulate.

The new Nerepis road as it is termed has been but recently completed and reduces the distance between Fredericton and St. John to about sixty-five miles. It passes along one of the descents of an extensive ravine, in some places extremely steep, the abrupt precipice on the right hand exhibiting that rough, rugged and naked appearance which could only be caused by a tremendous rush of water, such as must have accrued when probably the separation took place at the Falls, and which opened another passage for the discharge of the river, when the surface of the St. John found its present ordinary level. On the left of the road, which winds along midway between the base and the summit of the mountains, are declivities extremely steep and dangerous; and the eye of the traveller can see distinctly the bed of some extensive lake or inlet of the St. John whose waters flowed between its steep and elevated shores.

There is no part of the province which presents a more forbidding aspect to the agriculturalist than the country in the vicinity of the Nerepis yet here may be seen an industrious and thriving population, and a large proportion of the produce which finds its way into the St. John market is carried thither, a distance of 30 to 40 miles by persons from that district.

The best house on the line in point of accommodation is that kept by Mrs. Mather, which is near the termination of the Nerepis road as you approach St. John, although there is no deficiency of accommodation in the other houses on the route; the charges being extremely reasonable and the attendance regular and excellent, particularly at the home of our friend Darby Gillen—a name synonymous with hospitality and whose property seemed to form a pivot upon which hung for a long time in suspense, and ultimately turned the fate of the last Sunbury election."

Local historians, here is an excellent opportunity to search out an old time tale. Just where was Darby Gillen's Inn? What was the part it played in the Sunbury County election of 1837? Who were the candidates in that election?

Mr. Ward's notes make it clear that the river was the great highway of travel both winter and summer one hundred years ago, even the stage coaches using the river ice when it was strong enough. The issue of the Sentinel from which the foregoing has been copied contained a news item about one of the coaches breaking through the ice and the occupants, Solicitor General Wolhaupter, D. Kerr, and Miss McLeod having a narrow escape from drowning.

"We would advise travellers on the Nerepis road to on no account pass Mrs. Mather's, and while there to inspect the farmyard and stables, which for neatness, cleanliness, comfort and convenience we have not seen equalled in either of these provinces, while from the windows of the house is provided a most delightful view of the Nerepis Creek, which flows near it and adds much to the beauty of the surrounding landscape."

"Soon after leaving this place the traveller emerges from the Nerepis Road and has a fine view of the Long Reach and Grand Bay; and as he passes along, of the Kennebecasis, of the bold and precipitous mountains toward Hampton Ferry and others more distant but equally imposing in that direction."

## DURHAM BRIDGE

DURHAM BRIDGE, Feb. 14—The W.M.S. of the United Church met at the home of Mrs. W. T. Esty on Thursday afternoon for their February meeting. Mrs. Warren Smith had charge of the devotional period. Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Morris led in prayer. Mrs. Wilfred Esty gave a report from the Presbyterian after the usual routine of business meeting closed with benediction. Mrs. Esty served delicious refreshments, assisted by her daughters Miss Jean and Miss Freda.

The W.M. met at the home of Mrs. James P. Barry for their February meeting. There was a good attendance. Supper was served by Mrs. Barry.

Harry Isherwood who is in the Victoria Hospital and was operated on for appendicitis, is making good recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. G. White of Marysville were visiting relatives here on Sunday.

Mrs. Kenneth McBean was summoned to Nashwaak Bridge this morning where her daughter Mrs. Bernard Pond passed away after a lingering illness.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap from Marysville were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Smith recently.

Rev. Mr. Dysart held service in the Anglican church on Sunday afternoon.

## Lower Prince William

LOWER PRINCE WILLIAM, Feb. 17—We are having much colder weather lately and the recent fall of snow has helped hauling conditions.

Mrs. Lorne Brown and son George of Lower Queensbury visited Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith several days last week.

Our teacher, Miss Thelma Jewett, spent last week end with her sister Emily, who has charge of the school at Long's Creek.

The B.Y.P.U. of the Baptist church held the weekly meeting last Tuesday evening at the parsonage when many matters of importance were taken up.

A number of our young people attended the Valentine Social last evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hood, Lower Queensbury and report a very enjoyable time.

The Church Aid intends having a sew this evening at the home of Mrs. David Burden.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hoyt were supper guests at L. T. Hoyt's last Sunday.

Frank Joslin of Queensbury is busy sawing wood in our locality. He is at Douglas Saunders' at present.

The Agricultural Society No. 38 will hold a business meeting in the Hall Saturday evening.

Miss Kathleen Joslin is visiting friends in Fredericton.

Rev. Mr. Killam held service in the United Baptist church last Sunday evening with a good attendance.

## BATHURST NEWS

BATHURST, Feb. 14—Smelt fishing season ends today and word has been received from Ottawa that there will not be any extension of time this year. Generally speaking, the fishing has been only fair.

The funeral of Joseph L. Lavigne, a respected citizen from South Bathurst, took place from the Sacred Heart Church yesterday, and was very largely attended.

Mrs. A. J. McIntyre has returned home, after visiting friends in Halifax and Truro.

Things have quieted down in Curling circles after two very busy weeks of Bonspiel. A Ladies rink is going to Saint John Tuesday. At the end of the month D. P. Connolly and his rink are going to Toronto to play in the Dominion Bonspiel.

## To Order Sprayer Tomorrow Is Report

The sprayer for the protection of the city elms, the purchase of which was authorized some time ago by the city council, will be ordered today, it was stated on good authority. The make of sprayer could not be stated, although specifications of the type recommended by R. E. Balch, Dominion Entomologist of this city for effective work on the tall trees of the city, were described in The Daily Mail some time ago. A proper sprayer according to these specifications was of 50 gallon per minute capacity under 400 pounds pressure, throwing a solid stream of a suspension of arsenate of lead. Delivery on the sprayer will be ordered for the first of April, it is believed.

## Scientists Drinking Beer and Smoking Today

(Special to The Daily Mail)

MOSCOW, Feb. 17—The Russian scientists who have been stranded on an ice floe for some time and drifting away from the Arctic Circle are today drinking beer and smoking after receiving relief from two aeroplanes which have at last reached them. The leader reported that their condition was excellent and that they could have lasted another three months.

The leader of the party also said that it was his wish to send the scientific apparatus away from the ice floe before the men went and that they would wait for the ice breaker to come to them. The latter is now ten miles away from them.

## NATIONAL FITNESS

Young Men's Christian Associations are organizations of young men in many countries demanding Christianity, and good moral characters. The object is development of physical, social, mental and spiritual improvement of its members.

The Y.M.C.A. originated in London in 1844. Mr. George Williams, a dry goods merchant invited his clerks to meet in an upper room of his warehouse to study the Bible. Gradually other young men were invited to attend. The Y.M.C.A. developed rapidly in the U.S.A. and other countries.

During the World War, the American Association took energetic grasp of needful relief measures. The movement stabilized the health and moral of the young men of the U.S.A., who when forced to military service, on landing in France found that the Y.M.C.A. had preceded them and had established centres for their comfort and care.

The Young Women's Christian Association grew out of the Ladies Christian Union in 1866. Their object too was of spiritual, mental, social and physical development. The Y.W.C.A. rendered effective service at home and abroad during the World War.

The big campaign for "National Fitness" is in progress in Britain. The idea of the Government's scheme is to co-operate with the Board of Education, the National Fields Association, the King George V Memorial Fund and other existing organizations to maintain playing fields, recreational grounds, swimming pools, camping sites, rambling and cycling hostels, recreational clubs, bowling greens, tennis courts, etc.

Participation is entirely voluntary and the public is left to choose its own activities. Many children and young people these days have to be taught to play. Trained leaders are engaged as is done by the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

The British "National Fitness" program is a peace program for the advancement of the National ideal of rhythm, poise, and a fine balance of mind and muscle.

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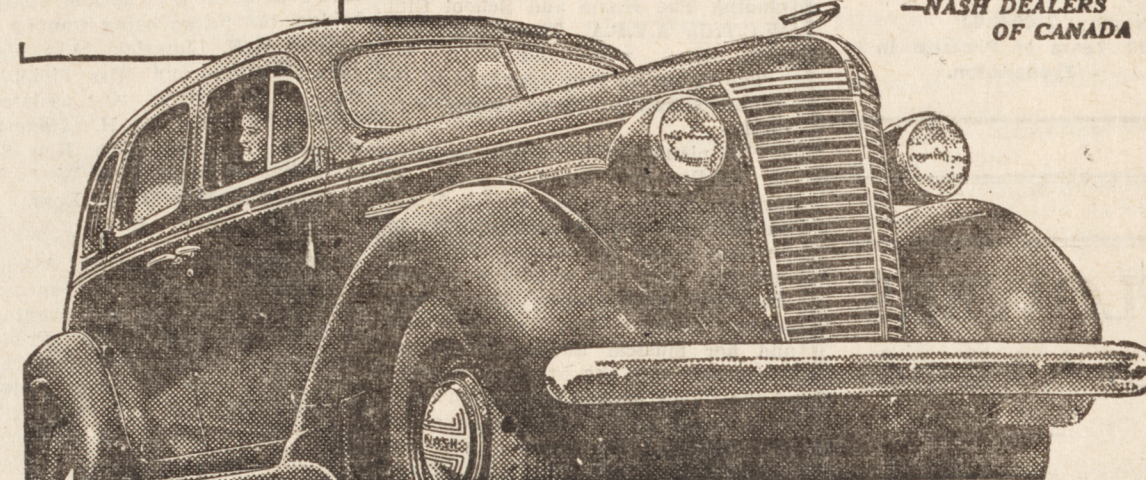


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"He bought them, of course, and has bought scores of others since. He feels that he is helping to create the designs—and so he is."



"A certain well-known designer of women's dresses learned this truth, after trying to sell her sketches to a large dress manufacturer without success. One day, she brought in half a dozen unfinished sketches. She asked the buyer to do her a little favour—to tell her how to finish them up so his firm could use them."



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"So, instead of presenting complete ideas, offer suggestions. Let the other man think out the conclusions for himself."



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