

Mount Hope Farm Est. 1786

By Peter Lohnes UE

Mount Hope Farm, the old homestead of the Nase Family, was established in 1786.

Henry Nase wrote in his diary:

“June 1st(1786). Began my farm on Mount Hope”

“Nov. 18th. Snowed six inches. Nov. 20th. I went from Mount Hope to Beaubears Point on skates. The same night, blessed be to God, I slept in my new house”

This old home turned 225 years old last November. It is listed on the NB and Canadian Registers of Historic Places. Over its 225 years the old home has been altered only slightly. Obviously power and plumbing were included as their accessibility became available. Other features such as the ceiling heights, mouldings and doors remain as they were when first constructed. Everything served a purpose and functioned for the era in which they were constructed.

The old “Christian Doors” protect the souls within from the devil. Don’t find yourself hiding in a closet, the doors can’t help you there! Many generations of Nase children have hung stockings from the old mantles. The countless tiny tack holes can attest to that. This practice of tacking stockings to the mantles stopped long ago, yet, the marks remain. Simple board doors and partitioned rooms upstairs, low ceilings to keep in the heat and back stairways are all era specific features of the old house.

200 years ago a regiment of local NB men were gathered by General Coffin. According to Coffin’s memoirs, most of these young men were sons of men General Coffin served with in the American Revolution. These young men were the NB Fencibles, the famous “104th Regiment” who marched from Fredericton to Kingston, Ontario to help defend our country against invasion by the United States in the War of 1812. This march took place in February 1813. They marched 350 miles to Quebec in -25 F. weather, spent two weeks in a garrison, and then completed the remaining distance to Kingston for a total march of 700 miles.

In those days the route to Fredericton through our community followed the St John River, then along the Nerepis River to the Brittain Road. The Brittain Road ran inland, away from the river and potential privateer attacks, towards Evandale where the road continued along the St John River to Fredericton.

Mount Hope Farm, as family history and an old gun attest, was an overnight stop for a number of these young men as they worked their way to Fredericton. Captain Philip Nase, Henry’s son, was one of the young men the old General knew. His home, the farm of his old comrade, must have made a convenient stop, laying close to the route to Fredericton. The old gun remained with its stories at the old home for many, many years. It was never a “toy” but with its long sharp “sticker” or dagger it posed a concern to some of the adults. It was given to the NB Museum, away from curious young boys.

In light of the 225th anniversary of Mount Hope Farm and the War of 1812 the Nase Family and the Grand Bay - Westfield Heritage Committee will be hosting an open house at the old home June 10th, 2pm- 4pm. We will be providing tours of the house and some of the old family artefacts will be on display.