

*The
Story of Hillandale*

and

A Walk Out Back



By

"Annie"

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Lillian Camp

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IND. 201

Hillandale (formerly called Ballantine then changed to Woolastock and a few years ago, changed to Hillandale), popular summer resort 14 miles from Saint John on C.P.R. It extends from Backland Road to Westfield Wharf.

The names of residents of Hillandale, when first city family moved out to spend the summer were: O'Donnell, Willett, Ballentine, Finley, F. Brundage, Wm. Brundage, Geo. Crawford, Squire Buchanan, Hewson, N. Lister.

The first Methodist Church, now United, was built on Lowery property on lot between road and railroad (opposite where present church is). The Church was too small and it was taken down. Mr. Lowery gave the lot where a new Church was built seating capacity 150. This Church was destroyed by fire in 1921 and a new Church and schoolroom was built in 1922. The present pastor is Rev. F. H. Littlejohn. The bell on the new Church was placed there in 1922, in memory of Mr. Charles Hutchings, by his widow Mrs. Annie (Seymour) Hutchings. Her death occurred a few months ago—1947. Many other memorials have been placed in Church in memory of former members.

Rev. A. D. McCulley was pastor when first of city families moved to Hillandale.

Jim O'Donnell farmed and when city folks moved to Hillandale and Ononette, he looked after their gardens. Many saplings planted by him, have grown into beautiful trees. He died in 1901 and property was purchased in 1902 by Mr. Beverley R. Macaulay. He remodelled the house. The Macaulay family occupied it for many summers.

Mr. Macaulay owned 4 more summer cottages. All of the houses were destroyed in the Westfield Fire, 1921. The Macaulay house was rebuilt and is owned and occupied in

summer by Mr. Macaulay's daughter and her family, Mrs. Percy Howard and Mr. Howard and son, Capt. Beverly Howard and wife.

Mr. G. R. Willett and family owned and occupied a house and farm he purchased between 65 or 70 years ago from Mr. Lowery. Mr. Willett was patentee for the "Willett Washing Machine". Mr. and Mrs. Willett's daughter, Jennie, married George W. Crawford and their daughter, Frances Crawford married Rev. Garfield Bruce, pastor of United Church, Donkin, Cape Breton. Rev. and Mrs. Bruce have one son, David.

Willett property was sold to Mr. Fred Flewwelling and family, who later sold to Mr. E. R. Machum, property now owned by Mr. L. V. Lingley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lingley and two daughters live in large house built 18 years ago, with spacious grounds, a short distance from where Willett house stood. (Willett house was destroyed by fire in 1921). Mr. Lingley's farm has a fine herd of high priced pure bred cattle. He also has four saddle horses. Many of the young folk enjoy a canter on these spirited horses out the "Bridle Trail" and on out the Backland Road, which is a lovely spot. Mr. Lingley owns four other houses on his property, one occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harper. Another occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Kierstead and family. Mr. Lingley purchased Mrs. F. T. Barbour's house after Mr. Barbour's death a few years ago. He also purchased a large section of woodland and abandoned farms in backlands.

Mr. E. R. Machum in 1898 purchased lot on Willett property and built a summer home which he and his family occupied until it was destroyed by fire. He rebuilt and house was destroyed in Westfield Fire 1921, rebuilt in 1922. He and his daughter occupy it at present. The Machum family have been permanent residents of Hillandale for over forty years. Mr. Machum owns a bungalow which was not destroyed by fire in 1921.

Late Chief Justice H. A. McKeown purchased lot and built summer home (also on former Willett property). Mrs. McKeown, at present living in Ottawa, comes to cottage for part of season.

Mrs. Church and family purchased lot overlooking the river, from Mr. Willett and built house which they occupied many summers. It was purchased by Mr. W. L. Robson. He and his family occupied it until 1921. It was destroyed in Westfield Fire. It was rebuilt and occupied in summer by Mr. Robson's daughter, Miss Dorothy Robson.

Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Lister's property changed ownership a few times. It was destroyed in Westfield Fire. The lot was sold a few years ago to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Spear of Saint John. After Mr. Lister sold his property, he bought lot near Westfield Station and built large house. He and his family occupied it for a number of years, sold it to Mr. C. E. L. Jarvis. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. Eric Thompson and family. Mr. and Mrs. Lister are living in Woodstock.

The Finley "Homestead" changed ownership several times. Late W. S. Stephenson owned it and two other houses on same property time of Westfield Fire. Finley "Homestead" was not destroyed in fire and it is now owned and occupied by Mr. F. E. Daniels and family. Mr. Stephenson rebuilt other houses and they are owned at present (1947) by Mr. W. Tippitts.

Mr. R. A. Finley built a very fine home on lot overlooking river. He and his family occupied house until 1921 when it and a smaller cottage were destroyed in Westfield Fire. They rebuilt an up to date house. Mr. Finley passed away two years ago. Mrs. Finley and daughter, Miss Dorothy occupy house. Another daughter, Mrs. Roy McKenzie of Nerepis spends the winter with her mother. Mrs. Finley's son, Oscar lives in Malden.

Mr. R. T. Ballentine owned a large house which he and his family occupied and a smaller house with store and an

apartment. The store was conducted by Mr. Ballentine's son, Harry until his death in 1901 and then it was conducted by Mr. Ballentine's daughter, Miss Minnie until the Westfield Fire which destroyed the two houses and barns.

The large house was rebuilt with store and Post Office in same building. House is occupied by Miss Ella Ballentine. Other members of Ballentine family are Mrs. Harry Gale and daughter, Catherine, Young's Cove. Miss Minnie Ballentine passed away in 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kirkpatrick and family were among the first of city folk to move to Hillandale. They purchased lot from R. T. Ballentine and built a house which was destroyed in Westfield Fire. They rebuilt. House was sold to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gregg after Mr. Kirkpatrick's death in 1936.

Mr. Geo. Calkin and family built house on lot also purchased from Mr. Ballentine around year 1900. House was sold about twenty-eight years ago to Mrs. G. R. Willett and daughter who occupied it for a few years, sold it to the "Westfield United Church" for a "Manse.". It was destroyed by fire 1921, rebuilt in 1922. Occupied at present by Rev. E. Littlejohn.

Mr. J. Willard Smith purchased building lot from Mr. R. T. Ballentine and built two houses overlooking the river. Mr. Smith and family occupied one of the houses in summer time. He "Let" the other house to summer folk. Both houses were destroyed in Westfield Fire 1921, were rebuilt. Both year round houses. They are owned by Mr. Smith's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gregg. Mr. and Mrs. Gregg and son Arthur occupy one of the houses in the summer season.

Mrs. Wm. Brundage and two daughters owned and occupied house on lot adjoining property where Telephone Exchange is now located. There was a fine orchard and very beautiful Balm of Gilead trees along the front of property and

beds of Forget-me-not. Dr. George Melvin and family spent many summers in apartment in Brundage house. After Mrs. Brundage's death, the daughters (Ida and Sarah L.) moved to Idaho. House was destroyed by fire and lot was sold a few years ago to Mrs. George Rathburn.

Mr. John Keeffe of Saint John purchased from Mr. Joe Hewson, house and lot which was formerly owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gregg. Mr. Keeffe and family spent many summers in Hillandale. Mr. Keeffe's daughters, Misses Eileen and Kathleen occupy cottage in summer.

On this same property Mrs. George Rathburn owns house, part of which is used as Telephone Exchange. Mr. Boone owns other cottage on same property, formerly owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miles. Mr. Miles was an artist.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Brundage owned house on opposite side of road.

Mr. LeBaron Jones purchased lot and built an apartment House known as "Seven Gables". He sold to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Pipes who kept a hotel for a number of years. It is owned now by Mr. Geo. Nobles. On same property Mr. Harold Rising built a large house, at present owned by Mr. A. C. Puddington. The Puddington family spend their summers in Hillandale and winters in Florida. The old Brundage house was destroyed by fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hutchings purchased a lot from Mr. Geo. W. Crawford (Deacon) over 30 years ago, built house which they occupied for several summers. House is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Puddington.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hoyt and family purchased George W. Crawford's house a few years ago and occupy it in summer.

Other homes on Crawford property are Mellingers, Galbraith and Michaelsen. Mr. Michaelsen conducts a grocery store.

Mr. Geo. W. Crawford resides with his daughter and son-in-law, Rev. Garfield Bruce and Mrs. Bruce in Donkin, C.B.

Squire Buchanan and family owned and occupied large house near Westfield Wharf. They conducted what was then called "An Open House" where the travelers from up through the country on way to Saint John, could rest their horses and have a good substantial meal and in winter time, the teams drove on ice at Westfield Wharf and continued on it (crossing South Bay) to Saint John. The custom of driving the ice had to be abandoned, owing to milder winters. Squire Buchanan taught school in Westfield a few years.

When summer folk moved to Hillandale, Mr. Buchanan's widow and son James were living in part of house and the rest of house was rented to suburbanites. Many will recall the familiar figure of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sears who with their family spent several summers in Buchanan house.

Mr. and Mrs. James Baxter purchased Buchanan property after Mrs. Buchanan died. Baxter family lived several years in house.

Mr. George Crawford Sr. and family owned and occupied house across the road from Mr. Baxter's house. Mr. Crawford's house was destroyed by fire and Mr. Baxter purchased the lot and built a house which is occupied by Mr. Baxter's son, J. Rulof Baxter and family. Mr. J. Rulof Baxter was in Air Force in recent war. His daughter, Miss Shirley Baxter has the distinction of being the first aviatrix who has taken her training in Saint John. (The first aviatrix in Saint John Mrs. Shelfoon (nee Daphnee Patterson had her training in Montreal). Mr. J. Rulof Baxter owns Buchanan house and property where mill stood near Westfield Wharf. He has a few cottages occupied by the following families: Buckley, Short, Parfitt, Marshall, Slamn and Michaelsen.

Another house on Buchanan property was owned and occupied in summer by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jarvis. The

present owner is Mr. Robert Lewis. He and his family have remodelled it and made a permanent residence.

The "Westfield Ferry" crosses the river from near Westfield Wharf to the landing near where the "Prince's Elm" stands. Many beautiful drives through the country may be taken by crossing on the ferry.

School teachers who taught in Westfield School in early days were Mr. Ward, Mr. Edgar, Squire Buchanan and John W. Caulfield. Writer has in her possession Morse Geography published in 1852. It was used in Westfield School when Mr. John W. Caulfield was the teacher.

Descendants of Mr. Caulfield living in Westfield at present time are his daughters, Mrs. R. A. Finley, Mrs. Matthew Armstrong and Miss Ida Caulfield. Also his son, Urban V. Caulfield and his grandson, G. R. Caulfield, operator at Westfield Station C.P.R.

Hillandale like Ononette has lovely flower gardens, a profusion of bloom from the Golden Daffodils (chivalry) peeps its head above the ground after the winter snow, until the frost-tipped Hydrangea (Booster) in autumn. Many are the flowers from all the gardens that are sent to cheer the sick in homes and in hospitals.

"More fragrant grows the path of life
If we strew Lilies as Laurels all the way."

Since writing above—Mr. A. M. Gregg and Mrs. D. W. Puddington have passed away.

A Walk Out Back

INDIANA

A POPULAR WALK TO THE "STEPHENSON HILL" BACK OF ONONETTE AND HILLANDALE

Leaving the Westfield Highway at the foot of the Backland Road, up Sand Hill we pass Mr. Linus Seeley's cottage. On both sides of the road there is a fine growth of Birch, Maple, Fir, Spruce and Poplar, etc. Not as many large trees as there were before the Westfield Fire. A short distance out the road, on the right hand side, a road takes you in a short distance to Long Lake and Smith Lake. These lakes are surrounded by low hills covered with a low growth of evergreens. In days gone by, on a perfect moonlight night in winter time, these hills echoed of merry laughter and song from skaters on their glistening blades on the smooth surface of ice or from sleighing parties on Backland Road.

Once again, this winter of 1947, the air was full of singing and laughter from two sleighing parties on Backland Road.

Leaving the lakes behind us, we trip along the road until we come to the "Creek Bridge". We stop here to admire the woods and stream a short distance along the stream, the beavers have built dams, a wonderful piece of work. In open season this year, a number of very fine beavers were caught. Mink, Martin, Otter and Muskrat make their homes near the stream. Bear, Deer, Moose, Fox and Rabbits are found in the woods. A large Bobcat was caught this winter in one of Mr. Otty Keith's traps. A number of years ago, Taylor and White operated a stave mill at Creek Bridge.

We continue our walk straight along the road till we come to the end of this two-mile jaunt and we climb "Stephenson Hill" to view the country around. On a nice clear sunny

day you can discern the coastline of Nova Scotia. From the hill you look down on what in days gone by was a small settlement of about 12 families. These settlers made their living by lumbering and farming. Saint John was their nearest market. Prices were very low in those days, eggs 12 cents per dozen, butter 20 cents per lb. and beef 4 and 5 cents per lb. by the quarter. In case of sickness a doctor would have to drive from Saint John, a distance of 14 miles. (One deed of property dates back to 1850).

These settlers attended Church at Hilldale and Westfield Beach. There was a neat School House and many were the scholars that were taught their "3 R's" in that school House (that nestled on the hillside) who made very prominent citizens in after years.

In the springtime the May flowers may be found in sheltered spots. Later on many of the spring flowers will be found in the fields and here and there along the road Snow Drops, Crocus, White and Blue Violets and Dog Tooth Violets, Trillium, Ladys Slipper or Fisherman Basket. Also (in season) Cherry, Bilberry, Rowan, Hawthorne trees in bloom, dotted among the evergreen. Blueberries and Raspberries are plentiful.

Many birds are busy building their nests, Robins, Cardinals, Chick-a-dee, Oriole, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Grass Hopper Sparrow, Moose Bird and later the Swallow and Cedar Wax Wing Phoebe Bird and Old Tom Peabody sounding their names. At night Owls and Whippoor-Will fill the air with their call. Native Partridge and Hungarian Partridge and Pheasants are quite plentiful.

There are numerous lakes in all directions, seen from Hill. In westerly direction Loch Alva which is 9 or 10 miles long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles wide. Smaller lakes are Sherwood, Labrador, Eable, West Lake and Augur. In northwesterly directions are Turtle, Duck, Ogden, Little John and Robinson. Northerly direction, Nigger Brook, McNulty and Nigger Lake. In southerly direction Belvedere and Nelson Lakes.

Nice speckled trout may be caught in smaller lakes and streams. The land locked Salmon Trout may be found at the head of Loch Alva.

Americans had large Club House near the head of Loch Alva and for many years parties of Americans would arrive by train at Westfield Station. Mr. G. W. Crawford Sr. would meet them with large buckboard and span of spirited horses and take them to Club House, a distance of 6 miles. This Club House was destroyed by fire summer of 1904. Fire swept from Kable Lake back of Nerepis to Musquash in a few hours.

Winter after this disastrous fire, Inglewood Lumber Co. has 12 lumber camps on shores of Loch Alva. The lumber was cut and hauled to bank of lake by oxen. Many of the young people from Westfield and Saint John enjoyed a trip out to the lake with Capt. J. McCordock. There was a very good road from Westfield to the head of Loch Alva, a distance of 5 miles and then down the lake 9 miles, calling at most of the camps on way along. Little did the older settlers think, when viewing Loch Alva, that such power would be derived from it to light the country around. Also power that so many modern conveniences may be used in the homes.