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Foundation's focus now on Student Support

By David Hunter, President,
Scottish Studies Foundation

There are times when it seems that the days are long gone when we had hundreds of people at our Annual Tartan Day event; when we had two boatloads of 250 people out on Lake Ontario on our Annual Tall Ship Cruises; when our "Oor Club" sessions were fully booked; and when we had to bring in extra chairs for attendees at our Annual Fall Colloquia.

Alas no more — and all because of the tiny but deadly organism of the type that was first discovered by Glasgow-born June Almeida who, while working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in the 1960s, used an electron microscope to reveal a virus with short spiky projections on its outer surfaces — the first sighting of a coronavirus.

Sadly, because of the virus we must now all stay physically apart from one another. But "the blood is strong" and that intangible bond between all of us in the Scots-Canadian community remains as firm as ever. And so,

in these trying times, I am so grateful for the funding that the Scottish Studies Foundation continues to receive in its support of the work that is being carried out by the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

Since the cancellation of all our in-person events we have been looking at other ways in which to attract interest and support to our cause and will shortly be presenting a series of online lectures via Zoom on a variety of topics of interest to Scots-Canadians and which will allow "attendees" to participate and to ask questions.

It is now over a year since we completed the funding of the Digital Archive Room at the University of Guelph and the ability to digitize and put items online has been especially fortuitous, given the need for professors and students to be able to work and study from home. Exciting teaching and research is being done this semester using digitized documents that will expand our knowledge of Scottish history. The University of Guelph, with unparalleled documentary collections, faculty expertise and student interest, remains the centre of such teaching and research outside Scotland.

Now, with the archive project out of the way and as we approach our 35th anniversary, our focus shifts to student financial support. Professor Kevin James, who took over the position of Scottish Studies Foundation Chair at the University of Guelph in June, is especially enthusiastic about this initiative, stressing its importance for undergraduate students, who are very energetic participants in the University's diverse Scottish Studies classes, and who are key to the continuing dynamism of Guelph's Centre for Scottish Studies.

Kevin has already established two fellowships each of which pays \$1,000 annually to students, and he would like to see the endowment of an undergraduate scholarship in Scottish Studies. This would



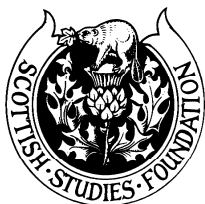
*Guelph Students on campus prior to COVID-19.
Until further notice all tuition will now take place online.*

be a first for the University of Guelph's history department and support from the Scots-Canadian community in making this a reality will be crucial.

As well as contributing to students' tuition fees, scholarships, which are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, can have a significant beneficial impact on a recipient's future. As Kevin put it... "Having an official award on a student's transcript is a reflection of their high level of performance, as well as tangible, monetary support for their studies. In a highly competitive applicant pool for further studies and for work applications, it will set them apart as having been recognized and supported financially for their academic excellence by their university. For Scottish Studies, it allows us to reach out to a new group we have not focused on — our talented pool of undergraduate scholars in history — and find ways of identifying the best and the brightest, rewarding them in a tangible way, and encouraging their studies — perhaps even guiding them in the direction of deeper research at the graduate level, related travel or employment."

By contributing, you will be helping the brightest minds achieve their full potential. All donations, great or small, will be greatly appreciated.

So thank you for your support, best wishes to you all, and stay safe.



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 45069
2482 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4P 3E3

Charitable registration
No. 119253490 RR0001
www.scottishstudies.com

Membership Secretary:
Catherine McKenzie Jansen
admin@scottishstudies.com

Newsletter Editor:
David Hunter
davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

From the Chair



This is the first report from Dr. Kevin James since his appointment last June to the position of Scottish Studies Foundation Chair and Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies in the Department of History at the University of Guelph.

As a first-hand witness to the Foundation's generous and unwavering support of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph over many years, it is an honour to work with its Board and membership in a new capacity. I still recall the excitement that attended the pledge that created the Scottish Studies Foundation Chair, and the countless activities and contributions which led to its realization. It is a great privilege to follow Professor Graeme Morton and Professor James Fraser in occupying the chair that the Foundation made possible — and to follow in their footsteps in advancing the work and profile of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

Since my appointment on June 1, 2020, I have benefitted enormously from the generosity of friends and colleagues in the Foundation and at the University of Guelph, for which I am very grateful. Thank you to Prof. Elizabeth Ewan and Prof. Linda Mahood for so energetically working in acting capacities, and to Prof. James Fraser for his leadership in previous years as Scottish Studies Foundation Chair. Professor Cynthia Neville has been a source of great support to me and the community: we are very fortunate that she is participating in the life of the Centre as an adjunct faculty member. Dr Sierra Dye, our Scottish Studies Postdoctoral Scholar, Mariah Hudec and Lisa Baer-Tsarfati have provided critical support in the Scottish Studies Office. Amy Beingessner now joins us there and we thank Mariah for superb work and wish her well as she continues her PhD studies at Guelph.

Through the Foundation's support, I am in a position to undertake a number of initiatives to support our students and advance teaching and research at a time when these tasks have been reconfigured in the interests of public health on campus. The Centre for Scottish Studies has:

1. *Established a multi-disciplinary advisory council to generate ideas and offer feedback on new projects;*
2. *Funded a summer student, Brenna Clark, to work with my colleague Prof. Susannah Ferreira and the McLaughlin Library's Archival and Special Collections team, led by Melissa McAfee and Ashley Shifflett McBrayne, on the Scottish land charters, which Prof. Ferreira is using for teaching and research across a range of courses in the year ahead;*
3. *Established a fund to support strategic acquisitions by Archival and Special Collections in the area of Scottish Studies, to strengthen our world-renowned holdings;*
4. *Established two \$1,000 undergraduate fellowships connected to the Centre for Scottish Studies to attract the best students working in Scottish history; and*
5. *Agreed upon a framework in collaboration with Chief Librarian Rebecca Graham to support a visiting scholar grant, when conditions permit.*

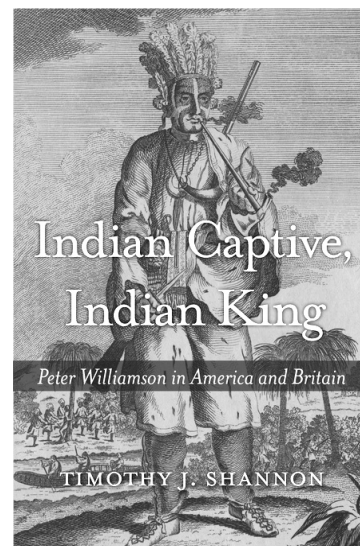
I have had very fruitful discussions with colleagues at universities in Scotland and Canada, Scottish government representatives, community partners, alumni and students who are keen to participate in the life of the Centre for Scottish Studies in creative new ways. Over the course of those discussions, I have identified some critical strategic areas of research and teaching focus, which I hope will involve the participation of the community:

1. *Teaching and research on our priceless medieval land charters;*
2. *A programme of research and teaching focussing on tourism and travel in rural landscapes, which is my area of research interest;*
3. *Collaborations with partners nationally and internationally to highlight the value of our Jacobite collections;*
4. *Projects which explore Scottish food history, which build on the University of Guelph's global leadership in Scottish and food research; and*

5. *Programmes of research on business and economic histories which explore the global Scottish imprint and examine entrepreneurship, innovation and resilience, as part of a wider exploration of "Global Scotland."*

Regrettably, the Fall Colloquium cannot take place due to public-health restrictions, but we are hopeful that a Spring Symposium will feature Prof. Timothy Shannon (Gettysburg College) and Prof. Tanja Bueltmann (University of Strathclyde), the Frank Watson Book Prize winner (*Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson in America and Britain* [Harvard University Press, 2019]), and McKenzie Lecturer respectively. The Spring Colloquium may take place by means of virtual communication: we will know more in the fall. Our staff, and especially post-doctoral scholar Dr Sierra Dye, are taking the lead on the *International Review of Scottish Studies* and are participating very actively in the life of the Centre.

It is a pleasure to return to the Board of Directors of the Scottish Studies Foundation after a decade and a half, and after having observed how the Foundation has supported countless students and advanced Scottish research. Thank you to the Foundation for tireless support over many years. I am privileged to hold the chair that the Foundation endowed, honoured to work with you again in this new capacity, and dedicated to supporting your ongoing initiatives and reciprocating the commitment you have demonstrated to me, to my colleagues, and to Scottish Studies scholars over many decades. Best wishes to you all.



This year's Frank Watson Prize goes to the book that tells the story of "Indian Peter," the Aberdeenshire boy taken to Philadelphia and sold for £16 in 1743.

June Almeida — discoverer of the first coronavirus

By Dr. Lara Marks

June Almeida has recently attracted a great deal of media attention in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis as the person responsible for the first visualization of a human coronavirus. Yet this barely scratches the surface of her achievements. Leaving school at the age of 16, June managed to forge a major career based on her outstanding skills in electron microscopy. This she did in the midst of bearing a daughter and raising her as a single parent following divorce. June's pioneering advances in immune electron microscopy put her at the forefront of many key breakthroughs in virology in the 1960s and 1970s.

June was the eldest of two children born to Jane Dalziel Hart (née Steven) and Harry Leonard Hart. Her mother was born in Glasgow and her father in London. The couple met when Harry moved up to Glasgow to work as a bus driver and Jane was a shop assistant. With her parents having little money, June was born and raised in a flat on the second floor of a tenement building on Duntroon Street in Dennistoun, a respectable working-class neighbourhood near the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. In 1940 the family was struck by tragedy when June was ten years old. They lost her brother to diphtheria. He was just six years old. His death left a lasting impression on June, helping to ignite her interest in the biological sciences.

June was driven by a passion for knowledge from an early age and was a voracious reader of classics, fiction and nonfiction. After attending Alexandra Parade Primary School, June went to Whitehill Senior Secondary School, where she received an excellent Scottish State education. She shone academically, and particularly enjoyed science. In 1947 she was awarded the Whitehill School's science prize. Despite June's strong academic ability and her dream of going to university she was unable to do so because her family lacked the financial means and she had no means of getting a grant to support her. This meant that she had to leave school at the age of 16 to seek work.

After completing her Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate, in 1947, June trained as a laboratory technician in the department of histopathology at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, a large teaching hospital. Paid a salary of 25 shillings a week, June quickly became adept at using the microscopes to analyze tissue samples. The technique proved

a perfect extension for the strong photography skills she had learnt as a teenager.

As well as giving her a wage, the job at Glasgow Royal Infirmary provided her with the time to study and in 1952 she obtained the technical qualification, Associate of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology (A.I.M.L.T.).

In 1952, at 22 years old, she moved with her parents to London and was hired by John W.S. Blacklock, a professor of pathology at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, to become his laboratory technician and research assistant. Like June, Blacklock had spent time at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. His expertise was in diagnostic tissue pathology, particularly tuberculosis, and he had a strong reputation as an enthusiastic teacher and for his attention to detail.

It was in London that she met her first husband, Enrique Rosalio (known as Henry) June, a Venezuelan artist who came to England in 1926 as a teenager. The two of them married in December 1954. They both shared a love of classical music and enjoyed playing the recorder together. In search of a better life, the couple decided to emigrate to Canada two years after marriage and settled in Toronto.

Once in Toronto she took a job at the newly opened Ontario Cancer Institute (OCI). Affiliated to the University of Toronto, the Institute was Canada's first dedicated cancer hospital. While originally trained in histopathology, the only vacancy on offer to June at the Institute was to work with the electron microscope. She took on the position of technician and research assistant with Allan F. Howatson, an immunologist with expertise in electron microscopy in the Division of Biological Research.

Little did June realize on joining Howatson how much electron microscopy would shape the rest of her career. First developed by Ernst Ruska and Max Knoll, two German scientists, in 1931, the electron microscope provided a means to study the structure of a wide range of biological and inorganic specimens at a much higher magnification than previous microscopes. Seven years later, James Hillier and Albert Prebus, two scientists based at the University of Toronto, managed to adapt the German prototype to create a more compact device that was much cheaper and more effective for undertaking biological research — one able to produce an image 7,000 times the size



June Almeida using a Philips EM300 electron microscope at the Ontario Cancer Institute in the 1960s. Credit: Joyce Almeida.

of the object being investigated, a magnification three times more powerful than contemporary optical microscopes.

With no prior experience of electron microscopy, she successfully mastered the technique. The first project she undertook with Howatson used the electron microscope to study cells growing on a glass surface. Soon after this, they used it to investigate the relationship between viruses and cancer, an area that was just beginning to gain scientific traction.

In 1960, when June was 30 years old, she gave birth to their baby daughter, Joyce, and returned to work soon afterwards because she and Henry could not afford to be without her salary.

Being in Canada at a time when there was less emphasis on formal academic degrees than in the UK, June was rapidly promoted to the position of junior scientist and encouraged to pursue her own independent research.

In 1962 she published several papers as lead author. These contained observations about the molecular structure of several viruses, including verruca vulgaris (the virus of the common wart), rabies virus and varicella (chickenpox) virus. In many cases this was the first time their shape and properties had been seen. The beautiful pictures June produced of these viruses with the electron microscope depended upon good sample preparation. This took a lot of fine-tuning and many hours of fiddly work. As Kenneth McIntosh, one of her

contemporaries put it, "It took attention to detail, not just with the eyes, but preparing the materials, everything had to be exactly right."

June quickly grasped that the morphological patterns of viruses revealed by the electron microscope provided an important tool for the classification of viruses. In 1963 she wrote a paper setting out a potential virus classification framework.

By 1963, June's micrographs had appeared in several major scientific publications and she had been promoted to assistant lecturer and research associate at the OCI. Indeed, her career was very busy, being called upon to give numerous presentations both locally and at scientific conferences abroad. Her innovative methods soon attracted the attention of Tony Waterson, a virologist, who by chance happened to visit Toronto in 1964. He had a forte for electron microscopy and had just been appointed to the chair of microbiology at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School in London. Waterson invited June to become his scientific assistant on a grant from the Medical Research Council. Waterson's offer was highly fortuitous because June's husband Henry was anxious to return to the United Kingdom.

It did not take long, however, for Henry to regret the decision to leave Canada. June refused to move yet again but Henry returned to Canada, leaving June behind to single handedly bring up their daughter who was just seven years old. She had to do this while continuing her demanding job. It was the point just when her career was really taking off. Not having much in the way of money, June was luckily able to call upon her parents' help with childcare. (She and Henry divorced in 1967.)

June arrived at St Thomas's in 1964, just as Waterson and Robert Curran, a newly appointed professor of pathology, were in the midst of reconfiguring a department based on one run for many years by Ronald Hare, a bacteriologist who, back in the 1920s, had worked on antibiotics with Alexander Fleming.

The first electron microscope appeared in the department just after June arrived on the scene but getting access to it was not easy because Curran regarded it as his preserve and anyone who wanted to use it needed his permission beforehand. This, however, did not deter June who frequently used it when he was not around. Being very determined and not one to stand on ceremony, June saw no reason to follow Curran's rules. While a source of annoyance for Curran, there was nothing he could do about it because of her forceful personality.

June eventually got her own electron microscope, made by Siemens, which meant she no longer had to worry about protocol. Over the course of the next three years June

continued to advance her skills and establish her expertise in the area. Her talent soon came to the attention of David Tyrrell, the head of the Health Common Cold Research Unit in Salisbury. He had been wrestling for a number of years to visualize a virus that he and his team had isolated from throat swabs and nasal washings taken from boarding school boys (aged 12-17) suffering from the common cold.

Although Tyrrell and his colleagues had managed to cultivate small quantities of the virus, labelled B814, they did not have an electron microscope to see it. On hearing about June's abilities from Waterson, Tyrrell decided to send her a collection of organ tissue samples in bottles to investigate. The samples were infected with a variety of well-known viruses, including influenza, as well as B814 and another virus called 229E isolated from the respiratory tracts of medical students at Chicago School of medicine who had the common cold.

On putting the samples under the microscope, June quickly noticed that the B814 virus had an almost similar shape to that of influenza viral particles. What made them distinctive was their viral particles displayed short spiky projections on their outer surfaces. This gave them the appearance of a solar corona, which led June, Tyrrell and Waterson to call the new group "coronaviruses," derived from the Latin word *corona* meaning crown or halo.

Initially, the collaborators struggled to find a journal that would accept the new finding. This was because reviewers judged June's micrographs of the B814 virus to be just poor images of influenza viral particles.

Eventually June and Tyrrell managed to get their work published in 1967. A year later the journal *Nature* reported that an informal group of virologists had recognized the name "coronaviruses" for a new group of viruses.

Despite having helped to identify the first human coronavirus, June made little of it at the time and quickly moved on to looking at other viruses. This was because for a long time virologists regarded coronaviruses as no more than a curiosity because of their unique molecular structure. They were also not considered of much interest because most were associated with the common cold in humans, a condition usually associated with only mild symptoms and which was self-limited. It was only much later, with the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002, that their significance was fully grasped for human health.

In 1967, June and her colleagues produced the first immune electron micrograph of the rubella virus. This had become a matter of urgency following the outbreak of a pandemic of rubella that swept through Western Europe and America between 1963

and 1965, leaving thousands of infants with tragic congenital deformities. The clear pictures of the rubella virus produced by June and her team, helped pave the way to a better understanding of how it worked with the immune system.

After spending three productive years at St Thomas' Hospital, June moved with Waterson to the Hammersmith Postgraduate Medical School in 1967 where she was appointed a research fellow in the department of virology. June's first years at the Hammersmith were taken up with investigating the hepatitis B virus, a highly infectious pathogen linked to acute and chronic liver disease that frequently causes premature death.

For many years, June did not need a formal university degree for her work, but by the end of the 1960s it was clear that her future career would be hampered without one. In 1970 she completed an M.Phil thesis with London University. A year later she was awarded a DSc on the submission of her strong scientific publications.

By 1970 June had risen to become Senior Lecturer at Hammersmith but left in 1972 when she was recruited by the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Beckenham, Kent, to help in their development of diagnostic assays and vaccines for different viruses, including hepatitis B.

In 1982 June married again. Her second husband was Phillip Gardner, a fellow clinical virologist who helped to demonstrate the immunofluorescence technique for the rapid diagnosis of many viral infections, especially those of the respiratory tract. They both took early retirement in 1984 and moved to a house in Bexhill, a seaside town in East Sussex in south east England which they originally discovered on a short holiday.

Phillip Gardner died in 1994 and in her later years June enjoyed taking care of her two granddaughters during school holidays for her daughter, who qualified as a consultant psychiatrist, and continued to occupy her inquisitive mind by learning computer skills and teaching herself the flute. She also embraced digital photography and kept up a strong involvement in local community life and kept busy until she died at home from a heart attack in 2007.

Thanks to Dr. Lara Marks for permission to use material from her research into the life of June Almeida. Dr. Marks is Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge and Managing editor of WhatisBiotechnology.org

Pioneer Life in the Ottawa Valley in 1833

Andrew Russell and his wife Isabella with their three children left Scotland in May 1832 and arrived in McNab Township, Ontario in October 1832 near present day Braeside. Andrew wrote this letter to his mother which was published in "Chamber's Edinburgh Journal" in the year 1833. Andrew's mention of M'Nab refers to the controversial 13th chieftain of the McNab clan (see page 6).

MY DEAR MOTHER—You'll no doubt have passed many an anxious hour about us since we left you, and I am sure it will afford you the greatest pleasure and consolation to hear that we are all in the very best of health, and in all likelihood, in a short time, to have in this country every comfort we could desire.

I might have written to you sooner, but could not have done it so satisfactorily, for it is little more than a month since we were finally on our own land, and in our own house. We had about eight weeks passage from Leith to Quebec; but, upon the whole, as comfortable as one as we could expect in so crowded a vessel. We left Quebec, the same day we arrived, by the steamer for Montreal, where we remained five days, waiting the sailing of the track boats through the Lachine Canal.

We had steam navigation to Bytown [now Ottawa], a distance of 120 miles from Montreal, and then, partly by land, but mostly by canoes, a farther distance of 50 miles, to this township, where we arrived in the middle of August.

I met with a warm and hospitable reception from M'Nab. We remained with him until I fixed upon a lot of land, where there was a small clearance, and a house; but we had not been on this lot more than a month, when the former occupier made his appearance, and claimed the lot as his. He had verbally given it up, but as he held the location ticket, we were obliged to leave it, and accepted the invitation of our then next neighbor to remain with him until we fixed upon another lot. This person was then in the midst of his harvest, and we gave him what assistance we could, and were thus gaining a little knowledge of the customs of the country, and, at the same time, becoming better acquainted with the nature of the land. I was cautious in fixing upon another lot, and went through the greater part of the township before I did so. I at last selected the one upon which I am now sitting. This lot is what is here called a *Brule*, a French term, but completely adopted here, meaning a place that has been burnt. A *Brule* is the

wildest place of the forest. I have retained the name, and, in compliment to my mother, have prefixed her maiden name. It is customary for the settlers to give their lot a name, and it behooved me to do the same.

It frequently happens that fires arise in the woods in this country; and seven years ago, six miles long by three broad, of this township, was under fire, which has consumed a good deal of the timber; but the most of it is only killed, and in the course of a few years, a great part of the hardwood is thrown down, and the underbrush springing up. My *Brule* formed part of this burning, and last autumn it was again under fire, so that now there is scarce a living tree upon the lot, and a deal of the timber consumed, and in many places of the rear there is scarcely a stump left; and I may have 20 or 30 acres under crop next spring, if I can procure a yoke of oxen and seed.

I have hitherto spoken only of the lot I hold free; but upon settling on land here, two things are to be particularly considered, that is firewood and water. I have plenty of excellent water on this lot. About the centre of it there is a fine running creek, that neither freezes in winter nor gets dry in summer; but I had no growing firewood, and the common estimate is that a settler should retain for that purpose from 20 to 30 acres of growing wood. In these circumstances, it became necessary to obtain this; and as the chief held the lot in the rear of the one I have been speaking of in his own hands, he agreed to let me have it on the same terms as his other settlers—that is, after three years, to pay him a barrel and a half of flour per 100 acres; and as there is about 140 acres of this lot adjoining the other one, also burnt in the same manner; but there is a point of it which the fire did not reach, that is within 500 yards of my house, which in a year or two I will have to resort to for firewood. The soil of this lot is somewhat like the other, and the finest part of it runs down to and overhangs the lake, commanding a fine view of the lake and opposite shores of Lower Canada. The lake opposite me is from one to two miles broad.

The fire of 1831 left the greater part of my free lot quite bare; but in the course of last summer there sprung up a weed called Indian kale, the same plant that is cultivated by you as a garden flower, with which it is completely covered, and interspersed with young trees, which have already attained the height of two to three feet. Accidents have



Chats Rapids on the Ottawa River by Philip John Bainbrigge

never happened to any of the settlers from these fires, as they never encroach upon the clearances. Where fire had run, or where a clearance has been made, and then left in a state of nature for four or five years, as was the case with six or eight acres of the lot I settled on first, there sprung up in the greatest profusion currants, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, plums, and white clover, which it appears are all indigenous to this country.

In a few years this will become a valuable situation, as the summer after next it is expected a steamboat will ply daily from Bytown to about 20 miles above this township. We saw this vessel building when on our way up, and she was finished in time to make a few trips last year to the Chats Rapids, 10 miles below us.

These rapids have been surveyed, and a canal of three or four miles will be cut next spring, to avoid them; so that, in the course of another year or two, we will have a continued chain of steam-boats from Montreal to about 20 miles above us. This township is as yet in its infancy, although it has been settled for about 10 years. The settlers are only between fifty and sixty, and being mostly from the Highlands, and without capital or experience as farmers, they have made but little progress. Settlers in a new township have many and great difficulties to contend with at first, but the worst of these are now over here, and we may expect to make henceforth rapid improvement. Within the last two or three years, more enterprising men have settled on the township. Two or three of the old settlers who have lots on the lake, have gained money by keeping taverns, where there is a very considerable trade from the number of lumbering parties on the Grand River [now Ottawa River] and the Madawaska; and among the recent settlers are two Stirlingshire men, who keep a store, and are erecting extensive saw-mills at the mouth of the latter. These mills are nearly ready to

commence operations, and, when ready, they commence the erection of a flour mill, a great want here at present, the settlers having to go to the neighboring township to get their flour made.

Most of the settlers who have been here a few years are in comfortable circumstances; for the last season or two, they have been able to procure the use of a yoke of oxen, by rearing them or otherwise, and have now from ten to thirty acres under crop. In addition to the yoke of oxen, they have in general from two to six milch cows, one or two couple of young steers, two or three young cows, half a score to a score of sheep, and a few of them have a horse or two, and pigs, and plenty of the finest poultry. During six months of the year, these animals cost them nothing, but are turned into the woods, where they feed luxuriantly, each settler's cattle generally keeping by themselves, and commonly take a circuit of three or four miles round the clearance. The only inconvenience of this is the trouble of searching for the cows to be milked twice a day, or for the oxen, when they are wanted for work. The most docile cow has a bell put round her neck, and by the sound of this, or by their track they are traced, for they have generally to be searched for, seldom coming home of themselves; and every man's cattle are allowed to graze where they please, except where the land is fenced, and a settler fences only his cleared land. The crops cultivated here are principally wheat, Indian corn and potatoes, with a little beer, rye, oats, peas, and turnips, as well as pumpkins, which are generally grown among the Indian corn.

Many of the settlers take only half a lot, that is 100 acres, and are entitled by their location ticket, as soon as they have done the settlement duties, namely, cleared 5 acres per 100, to claim a patent deed at their own expense, which cost about £2, and this entitles them to vote for a member of Parliament. There is a general meeting of the township held annually, on the first Monday of January, when all matters relative to the internal government of the township are agreed upon, and where we elect assessors, tax-collector, town-wardens, path-masters, town-clerk, etc., and at which M'Nab votes only as an individual, and has no control over the settlers, except as a justice of the peace.

In our patent deeds, government retains the precious metals, and the white pine and oak; but the two latter they do not prohibit us from cutting, and, if they cut them, they pay us for them at the customary rates.

In clearing land here, and getting on with operations, they have chopping bees, logging bees, raising bees, etc. A man generally chops his own timber, that is, cuts it down into such lengths as a yoke of oxen can pull, and what from four to five men can pile up — (all underbrush and small timber, such as

he and his family can manage, they pile up and burn); and when this is done, he fixes upon a day, and acquaints his neighbors around him, according to the extent of the land he has to log, five men being necessary to a yoke of oxen, and these are able to do about an acre a day; so that, if he has four or five to log, he requires as many yokes of cattle and men accordingly, and on these occasions they are usually very punctual in attendance. He entertains them well at these times, having killed a sheep, or a cow, or ox, or perhaps pork or venison, with always tea or grog. At a raising, again, they muster in the same manner, about a dozen of men being necessary to put up a house, with a yoke or two of oxen, to drive in the timber, after it is cut and ready. The person we resided with, and one of his sons, assisted me in cutting the timber for my house, which occupied us for about a week; and when this was done, I acquainted my nearest neighbors of the day I had fixed on to get it put up, the whole of whom attended, to the number of thirteen, and put it up the same day.

A log house makes a very comfortable dwelling, being even warmer than a stone-house, when properly finished. Mine is built of white pine, and covered with barwood and ash scoops, and is 30 feet by 18 over the walls. The trees selected for a house are generally about a foot in diameter, and as the trees, from their growing thickly together, are straight, and without branches to within a short way of their top, you can get a cut of 30 feet off such a tree of nearly the same diameter at both ends, and these they very neatly dovetail at the corners, which makes a very strong building which lasts a great many years. A number of newly erected houses are covered with shingles, that is, the wood of the white pine cut exactly like the slates on your house, and look as well and are very durable. For this sort of assistance on the part of your neighbors, you just pay them back in the same way, by assisting them when they call upon you. I have been at several of these bees, and a great deal of work is generally got through with.

At the loggings, I was much struck with the docility and great usefulness of the oxen, which are generally yoked in pairs, and will scramble through among logs with a very heavy draught, with the greatest ease and patience, where you could scarce believe they could escape without broken legs, and where horses would be useless, and are equally, if not more, obedient to the call of their driver than the horse. They are equally useful in the sleigh, the plough, and the harrow. In the lower province they yoke them by the horns, but here they place the yoke over the back part of the neck and front of the shoulder. A yoke of good oxen, six years old, when they become fit for the work cost about £20. Bye the bye, the horses of

Canada's Feudal Laird

Archibald McNab was the 13th chieftain of the McNab clan from the Loch Tay region in Scotland. In order to escape heavy debts, he fled to Upper Canada where he negotiated for land along the Ottawa River so that he might bring his clansmen from Scotland as settlers. He was empowered by the government to assign up to 100 acres per family and was granted personally 1200 acres which could be increased upon completion of the development of the settlement.

In 1825 eighty-four settlers were met on their arrival by McNab and his piper. From there, they travelled by boat or walked through the bush for three weeks until they reached their new settlement at Chats Lake.

Under McNab, they endured many hardships. Provisions were scarce, and had to be carried long distances for the first three years. The already impoverished Scots were hounded for interest payments required on any money spent on their behalf and then forbidden the right to work outside McNab's "serfdom."

Young children in the settlement came close to starvation; meanwhile, the Laird gave lavish parties financed by the money flowing in as income from his large timber interests. Petitions were drawn up by the settlers and sent to public bodies but McNab's strong support of the Family Compact, the ruling oligarchy of the time in Upper Canada, caused their pleas to fall upon deaf ears.

At the time of the Rebellion of 1837, McNab was appointed "Laird Colonel of the 20th Battalion of Carleton Light Infantry". But his own clansmen, fearing that McNab would gain even more power over them in a time of military service, refused to serve under his command.

Finally, the Crown Lands Agent at Perth was appointed to investigate, and, after surveying the settlers, concluded that all charges against McNab were valid. McNab, sensing trouble ahead, quickly offered to sell his lands to government for £9,000 but in the end he settled for £2,500.

The government began issuing Crown grants to the settlers, removing the Laird's feudal powers. His fortunes continued to dwindle, though he tried suing his clansmen for his losses, he was unsuccessful, and returned to Europe and died in 1860 in France.

this country astonish me. I saw some in Montreal equal to any I have ever seen in my life; even the carters about the wharfs drive horses that your gentlemen would be proud to see in their carriages.

The Grand River at this season is a most interesting scene. It is while the river is frozen that the principal part of the traffic between the different parts of the country takes place, and the sleighs are seen moving in all directions on the ice; those drawn by horses always at a trot and frequently at a gallop, even with a load; one of the horses having a string of small bells around his neck to announce their approach.

This is the season, too when our land roads are best, and land travelling is now also excellent. The climate of this country is not so terrific as is frequently supposed by you; we have, no doubt, very keen frost, perhaps keener than with you, and it is more constant and continued; but we have also fine thaws when the weather is mild and pleasant; and even during our keenest frosts, we have through the day generally fine clear sunshine, the sun being much more powerful at this season here than with you; and our day is about two hours longer in winter, and two hours shorter in summer, than yours; and it is principally in the night that the severity of the frost is felt.

But you will, no doubt, think it is a dreadful thing to live in this thinly-peopled country, and so far from neighbours! I thought so, too, before I experienced it, but now, I assure you, I find myself more at ease than ever I felt in a town, and we are scarce ever a day without seeing some of our neighbours, or without invitations to go to see some of them; but these we seldom accept, having always so much to do at home; and we are always welcome guests at the chief's (he is always called the Chief, or M'Nab — to call him Mr. M'Nab would be thought highly derogatory), and I am never down that way but I am invited to dine with him. Indeed, there is a spirit of hospitality here which is quite unknown at home, and in travelling through the country there is scarce a house you enter where you are not invited to partake of their bed and board, without money and without price. We have just now invitations from two of the settlers that I formerly alluded to, who are storekeepers, one of whom is also an extensive lumber-merchant, and who at first worked as a lumberer himself — from the one, to a ball he is to give in a few days; and from the other, to take a drive in his sleigh on the river, and to visit some of the settlers on the opposite shore.

The wild animals of this part of the country are the bear, the wolf, the fox, the marten, the minx, the skunk, the musk-rat, the porcupine, and squirrel. The first of these seldom or never acts but on the defensive;

the wolves are seldom seen, but sometimes heard at night, and rarely molest any of our domestic animals, as the woods are swarming with deer, upon which they principally prey. The lesser animals I have named now and then carry off the poultry; but the most of the settlers allow them to roost in the open places and breed in the fields, and they are of course quite exposed to attack. The chief told me that, in one season, he had seventy turkeys carried off, and he at length discovered that the culprit was a huge old wolf, that sheltered himself a little way from his house.

Deer are so numerous that you seldom pass through the woods without seeing them, except at this time of the year, when the cold forces them into the swamps for shelter. Some of the settlers have killed from twenty to thirty of these animals this season. Their flesh is, I am told, much superior to that of the deer in Scotland. I never tasted venison at home, but here I think I never tasted anything finer, being as fat and juicy as veal or mutton. We have hares, which at this season become white, but only about half the size of yours; one of these I shot a few days ago, which weighed about 4 lbs., and made excellent soup. We have also partridges, nearly approaching in size to your pheasants, of which a great many are killed. When you come upon them, they generally take to the tree, and are easily shot.

We can pass through the woods here at all times with perfect safety; and the settlers think no more of passing from one part of the township to the other in the night than they do in the day; and boys of six or seven will go in search of their cows for a good many miles round their clearance, where they are acquainted, without the least danger; the greatest hazard is in going into a part of the wood where one is not well acquainted, especially if the sun is not seen, for then you are just as apt to go in the wrong as in the right direction.

The whole surface of the land here is covered with wood, except the meadows formed by the beavers. These are, in extent, from a few acres up to 50 or more, and are spread here and there throughout the whole township, and furnish the settlers with excellent winter feeding for their stock.

Some of these meadows are as lovely spots as I ever saw, their margins being generally fringed with the beautiful dark green foliage of the evergreen, balm of gilead, and the spruce fir, whose tops tower above the surrounding wood. The beavers are now entirely extirpated, the Indians considering them as their peculiar property, and always destroy the whole of them as soon as a township is surveyed. These meadows are every year losing their beauty, as the dams and canals of the beavers are being choked up with alder willows and

other plants; but many of the stumps of the trees, cut down by these wonderful creatures to form their dams and embankments, are still to be seen; and it is worthy of remark, that in chopping down a tree we exactly follow their mode of doing it.

The sowing season commences about the middle of May; and those settlers who have not oxen of their own, and cannot obtain the use of them, just hoe and rake in their seeds in a very tedious and insufficient manner. Seeds are continued to be put in till the end of June and beginning of July, potatoes being the last and by this time the full crops of wheat and rye are becoming ready for the sickle.

On our best land we will sometimes have a return of 30 bushels of wheat for each bushel sown, but generally not more than 20. Farm servants get from £24 to £30 a year, and their board. Women get £12. Sheep are a very profitable stock, and thrive well. Wool sells readily at 2s. 6d. per stone. My land, from its lying high and dry, is well adapted for this sort of stock; and I may have, in two or three years, 40 to 50 acres in grass, besides 20 or 30 for other crops, having at least this much land upon which there is not a living tree; and although, in many parts of this land, dead stumps and withered trees are standing, these would be no impediment to harrowing in the timothy and white clover, which would cut for hay, or be made pasture, as might be thought expedient; but if I am not able to overtake this, the land will of course again become every year wilder.

This is a very healthy part of Canada, sickness of any kind being very rare; and fever and ague, which are very common over about the great lakes are here quite unknown. But we have neither church nor school in this township; many of the young people are growing up without even learning to read; and, in return for the attention and kindness which have been shown to us by our neighbours, I have undertaken to give their children lessons in reading and writing, during an hour of the day, along with my own. I have about a dozen sometimes in attendance; and although some of them have nearly two miles to walk, they are seldom a day absent.

We have very few mechanics here; indeed I know of none, except two smiths, who have also land; one shoemaker, and a tailor employed by the storekeepers, who receives twelve dollars a month, and board, but this man is generally half the week drunk.

In my opinion no man can do wrong in coming to this country who is industrious and sober, and who is not amply remunerated for his labour at home; for it is beyond all doubt that the Canadas have as great natural advantages as the United States and are running the same race in prosperity, and greatness. ■

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