The Collina Store, Kings Co., N.B., c1820-1969

by Sherrill (Keirstead) Chown & Barb Pearson

Reflections

By Sherrill (Keirstead) Chown

The history of the Collina Store in the community continues to be of interest to many residents living here today in the year 2010. My family roots are deeply planted in Collina soil and I continue to enjoy the rich heritage that exists in my pleasant surroundings of beautiful hills and valleys.

My Collina Family Connections



William Allen and Rachel (Sharp) Keirstead

William Allen Keirstead and Rachel Sharp are my paternal grandparents. They were married 28 July 1883 by Rev. Elias Keirstead at Collina. William Allen was a son of Francis James Keirstead and Mary Kelly, born June 10th 1859 in Johnston parish, Queens Co., N.B. William's father, Francis James, was operating a lumbering business at Kelly's Brook in Queens County at that time and had temporarily moved there from Collina. Rachel Sharp was a daughter of William Sharp and Mary Tinling, born April 24th 1866 at Collina. William Allen was both farmer and storekeeper in his home at Collina from 1883 to 1909. William and Rachel raised a family of ten children between 1885 and 1907 at their home on the New Road. Ira Ervine, my father, was born 22 Sept. 1902. Their house was probably built by the original owner Isaac Watts Keirstead about 1860. It was passed down through the Keirstead family and in 1967 Burton Francis Keirstead, William's youngest son, was honoured by the Centennial Committee of the Province of New Brunswick in recognition of this century farm.

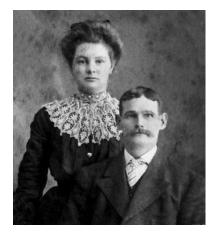
John Brown's Arrival from Nova Scotia

My maternal great grandfather, John Brown (1841-1914) came from Spencer's Island in Nova Scotia. John purchased the original Samuel Keirstead home at Collina, in 1900. My maternal grandparents joined him at Collina in 1906. George Fraser and Nettie Leutealia (Morris) Brown came respectively from Fraserville and Advocate, Nova Scotia. My mother, Ella Mae, was George and Nettie's oldest child, born Oct 11th 1907 in Samuel Keirstead's stately old home at Collina.

I have fond memories of the old homestead and the history behind this early Keirstead residence built by Samuel Keirstead circa 1830. Until recently I was unaware that Samuel had operated a store from his home for many years and that his customers included many of my early Collina relatives. A very old store Ledger has survived with customers and their accounts for the years 1851 to 1859. There are also references to earlier Ledgers and others after 1863. Samuel kept a surprisingly varied and large inventory. As one reads the purchases of these early families one can almost be in this country store shopping with them in those by-gone days.



Ira Ervine Keirstead (son of William A. Keirstead & Rachel Sharp) and Ella Mae Brown (daughter of George F. & Nettie L. Brown), Sherrill's parents, who were married Nov. 9, 1930.



George Fraser Brown & Nettie Leutealia Morris, Sherrill's maternal grandparents.

The Keirstead Family Arrives In New Brunswick, 1783

Reviewing Samuel Keirstead's store Ledger of 1851-1859 has brought back memories of the fascinating history of the early residents of this community of Collina and the surrounding areas of Irish and English Settlements, Gibbon and Keirstead Moutains, East and West Scotch Settlements, Marrtown and Bullmoose Hill. Samuel was one of the merchants of Collina who helped to shape the community's early history. His son, Alfred, also became a merchant in 1871.

Samuel's grandfather, Samuel Jr. and grandmother, Mary (Johnson) Keirstead had arrived in New Brunswick in May of 1783. They had come from Jamaica, Long Island, New York with at least six of their sons to St. John, New Brunswick at which time Kings Square was still a wilderness. Some time later a Grant of 500 acres of land was given to Samuel and his youngest son, near the Kennebecasis River in Kings County. The married son, James, with his wife Elizabeth (Shaw) Keirstead received land not far out of St. John, at Gondola Point. Isaiah and Benjamin went farther up the Kennebecasis to its tributary, the Millstream, and took up land in the Parish of Studholm. Here, when he was 27 years old, Benjamin married Jemima Bunnell, descendent of William Bunnell, who had come from England to Connecticut in 1638/9. They raised a family of eleven children on Keirstead Mountain.

On January 18th 1791, Samuel's father, Isaiah, now nearing 30 years, married Elizabeth, daughter of John and Lois Lester. Isaiah at this time must have been in Queens County as the marriage is notated in the Gagetown Marriage Records. Isaiah was born 18 Nov 1761 at Jamaica, Long Island, New York. Elizabeth was born 27 Feb 1776 at Long Island, New York and had come to Kings County with her Loyalist parents in 1783 to the Hampstead area of Queens County. By the birth of their first son in 1793 they were living on Gibbon Mountain just opposite the Thomas Gibbon farm. On December 12th, 1809 Isaiah received a land grant of 400 acres in the Millstream area. Isaiah and Elizabeth raised a family of twelve children, only one of which was a girl. They were John Isaiah, Mary, Samuel, Amenzie, Gilbert Lester, Isaiah Jr., Jasper Belding, Scotch William, Abraham, Oliver Coney, and James Dudley Keirstead. All married into local families in the area. Isaiah and Elizabeth's marriage lasted 60 years, Isaiah

living to 90 years of age and Elizabeth to age 93.

From Elizabeth Keirstead's obituary we find that Isaiah died before 1866. Actually he died in 1851. Isaiah is believed to be buried with Elizabeth at Keirstead Mountain Cemetery. On April 26th, 1866, the newspaper Christian Visitor of Saint John reported: d. 12th inst., Millstream Mountain, Studholm (Kings Co.) Elizabeth, relict of Isaiah Keirstead, Studholm, age 93. The deceased was born on Long Island, New York and came to New Brunswick with the Loyalists in 1783. She leaves two sisters (the elder of whom is 98 years of age); eight sons (the eldest of who is 75 years of age); 58 grandchildren; 51 great-grandchildren; 2 greatgreat grandchildren. Funeral service by Rev. Elias Keirstead.

Samuel and Anne (White) Keirstead, Their Store and the old Ledger

Samuel was the second son of twelve children, born on May 4th 1799 to Isaiah and Elizabeth Keirstead, and was raised on Gibbon Mountain. On Jan 17th 1827 Samuel obtained 200 acres of land below Collina Corner and the Watson Road. He built both the house his family lived in and also the Newton Sharp, later, Clinton Gillies residence. Samuel's store Ledger which begins with customers and purchases in the year 1851, has references to previous ledgers which are long gone and to those which were used in the business after 1859. He may have started his store business soon after his marriage to Anne White on Sept. 9th 1826. They were married in Hampstead, Queens County, with Anne's father and Samuel's uncle Amenzy, as witnesses.

Anne was a daughter of Thomas White, a shoemaker who arrived from England in 1817. She was only eleven years old and her mother had died in England. Thomas received a land grant of 600 acres in Norton, Springfield parish on Nov 1^{st,} 1821 with one other, Francis Best.

The store itself may have been in Samuel's house or in a small building nearby. There is a section at the back of the main house that looks even today very much as if it had been a store. There was a very large barn attached to the house as was the custom then, but has been gone for years. The inventory carried was substantial and of great variety. Samuel is listed in Lovell's Directory of 1871 as being a storekeeper in Collina, Kings Co., N.B. even though he was at that time 72 years of age. Samuel and Anne had a family of eight children between 1830 and 1849. They were:

Samuel A.W., Alfred Isaiah, George Holmes, Elizabeth Ann, John G., Amy Jane, Thomas White and Caroline Keirstead. Samuel A. W. and Thomas W. Keirstead died young.

In the 1851 census there are two servants living in the Keirstead home, 19 year old Robert Sargeson and 24 year old Amelia Wilkins. They may have also worked in the store. Perhaps Samuel's sons worked for their father as well as operating the farm. Samuel's goods probably came mostly from Saint John and the route was most likely up Belleisle Bay to Hatfield Point by Schooner or wood boat. Then there would have been an overland trek by horse and wagon or sleigh to Springfield and Collina. Train service became available to Apohaqui by 1854 but goods would have been transported overland from there. The 1851-1859 Ledger lists over 200 customers, which suggests Samuel carried on a very good business operation. There are entries where Samuel had loaned money to residents and where notes had been settled. His signature is proof of being the store proprietor.

This old, worn, Ledger is written in lovely English script and has survived due to Samuel Keirstead's daughter, Amy Jane, taking it with her to her new home in Belleisle when she married George Wellington Johnson. Her daughters, Amanda Ellada and Ida Ann Elizabeth Johnson have written their names on a page in the 1858 accounts. Their handwriting is very different from the early 1851 style.



Samuel and Anne Keirstead's home in Collina, built circa 1830.

It is not known if Samuel carried on as a storekeeper after his wife Anne passed away in 1874. In the 1881 census Samuel Keirstead is 82 years old, a farmer, and in religion a Free Will Baptist. Living in his home is an Alice Sargeson, a servant, English, 50 years old, and Wesleyan Methodist in religion. A polished red granite tombstone stands proudly in the Keirstead Mountain Baptist Cemetery inscribed, "In Memory of Ann, wife of Samuel Keirstead, born 6 Dec.1806, died 3 August 1874, & Samuel Keirstead, born 4 May 1799/died 3 August 1885." This stone attests to the high regard in which Samuel and Anne were held by their family and perhaps also to the wealth of the family.

Samuel Keirstead's Ledger, 1851-1859

Samuel Keirstead's Ledger survived in Ronald Menzies' attic for many years on the Menzies Road in Midland. He played store with Samuel's Ledger. It even survived when the Menzies' home burned in 1940. Amy Jane, her daughter Amanda Ellada, her son Duncan, and then Ronald all had a part in the survival of the old Ledger.

"Amy Jane, Samuel's daughter, married George Wellington Johnson on November 6th, 1867; by license with consent of father, by George Rodgers, missionary of Springfield; witnesses Alfred Isaiah Keirstead and Howard D. Johnson." Their daughter, Amanda Ellada Johnson, married Robert Whitfield Menzies on 13th Jan 1892. Their son, Duncan Alfred Menzies, married Florence Alberta Robertson 27th Sept 1921. Their son, Ronald Whitfield Robertson Menzies, is Samuel Kierstead's great great grandson.

Abel English, The Earliest Store Proprietor in Collina, Circa 1820~

In the beginning the first store in the community of Collina Corner was operated by Abel English circa 1820. It is not known whether Abel's store was in competition with that of Samuel Keirstead's later on, but Abel was definitely established first. Samuel's home and store were farther down the road toward Springfield. Perhaps Samuel's store later offered a greater variety of goods. Abel was the 11th child and youngest son of John and Christiana (Cogswell) English of Cornwallis, NS. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Crawford) English were married at Sussexvale on Nov 1st, 1813 and were possibly the first family to settle at what is now called Collina Corner. Abel's small store in his home also had a tavern as part of the operation. His residence was near the present day Collina United Baptist Church Hall at Collina Corner .

There was no store on the upper mountain, first called Millstream Mountain, although it was the oldest part of the settlement. Collina began to

The Collina Store

prosper due to the existence of the store in the area. People came from the Upper Mountains; later called Gibbon and Keirstead, as well as the Irish Settlement, English Settlement, Scotch Settlements and Marrtown areas, to trade and barter, for there was very little money. Collina grew rapidly in importance. Abel's daughter, Maria I. English married Seth Foster Jr. of Collina and settled there. In the 1851 Census Abel had moved to Norton parish, passing on his store to other operators, then on to Saint John where he passed away on October 8th, 1866. The newspaper Morning News reported: d. 5th inst., age 76, Abel English, late Capt. & Adjt. of 4th Battalion Kings County Militia. Funeral from his residence 84 Brussells St. (St. John) Monday 2:30 p.m.

The Collina Corner Stores Pass Through Many Hands

The store passed hands many times after Abel English's first business venture at Collina. These small stores were all situated in homes until Alfred Isaiah Keirstead, Samuel's son, built the first actual store building in 1870. Subsequent store operators in their homes were: James Howe, Abraham Johnston, William Sharp, Matthew Fenwick (who married Miss Harriett Owens, school teacher at Collina in 1860), a Mr. Scovil who was a successor to Johnston and Sharp, and John Murray to Matthew Fenwick, who moved to Apohaqui.

Matthew Fenwick's store was situated in his home where there is now a cottage and before that the former Nodwell property. For a brief time Francis James Keirstead and sons William Allen and Elias Burnham had operated this store. It burned in the May 1952 Collina fire.

James M. Gibbon (1837-1895) and wife Margaret Matilda (Keirstead) Gibbon kept a store and post office at their home. He was appointed to the rural mail service in 1868 until his death in 1895. Yearly salaries were begun as low as \$10-\$20.

Tragedy – Collina-July 26, 1895-Kings County Record

When James M. Gibbon, postmaster, left his home on Saturday morning to go to Sussex to have a growth removed from his nose, his family entertained some fears as to the success of the operation. In his journey he was accompanied by Mr. Jacob I. Keirstead. The operation was very successfully performed, however, and after spending a few hours in Sussex, they started on their return journey about seven in the evening.

Near Joseph Mitton's residence, about four miles from Sussex, the horse Mr. Gibbon was driving stumbled in descending the hill, with the result that both occupants of the carriage were thrown out. Mr. Mitton saw the accident and hastened to the scene. When he arrived there Mr. Keirstead was in a sitting position with Mr. Gibbon's head resting on his hands.

It was evident to Mr. Mitton that life in Mr. Gibbon's body was extinct, and he at once went to the nearest neighbours and told them of the accident. They, wishing to render any assistance possible, soon arrived, but nothing could be done. Coroner Burnett was sent for and he said Mr. Gibbon's neck was broken, which would cause death almost instantly. Mr. Gibbon was 58 years of age. He leaves a wife and four daughters.

New Post Mistress at the Gibbon Home & Store.



Ella May Gibbon

Hazen Folkins

Ella May Gibbon, James Gibbon's daughter, then acted as post mistress from September 1, 1895 until January 1, 1897 and operated the store. Ella May married Hazen Folkins on 7 Aug 1895. Hazen had attended the St. Martins' Academy and at this time was employed as a clerk by Alfred Isaiah Keirstead of Collina. Hazen later took over the store, going into business on his own. He was also in the employ of the Jones Brothers of Apohaqui, and later in life a manager of a store operated by the Wright Lumber Co., of Albert County. He was a director and employee of Mill Eveleigh in Sussex. For the last 15 years of his life Hazen operated a grocery store in Hampton. Ella May had died in 1906 and Hazen remarried Frances Taylor in 1912.

Looking Back At Samuel Keirstead's Store Customers And Their Purchases

Samuel Keirstead's ledger recorded his transactions in British currency, the pound sterling, the British monetary unit equal to 100 pence. The pence was a British bronze coin (d symbol), 100 make up a pound. The shilling was a British nickel alloy coin worth £.05. For example in 1972 the pound was worth \$2.40. The account book dates from 1851 to 1859 but payments were recorded as late as 1862. Accounts paid up were notated as "Settled" with the date.

Samuel Keirstead's account book revealed much information on the daily activities at the local country store, which was probably not open on Sundays! What did people purchase at the store from 1851 to 1859? How did they pay for these purchases? Did they barter with the store owner for the cost of what they owed him? Slate, a type of rock that splits easily into thin plates, was sold at the store. It may have been used for the school children's school work, and it could also be used for roofing. However there was no evidence of slate being used for that purpose in the community. One item purchased was recorded as merely 1 oz. of slate. It is interesting to speculate what the 1 oz. was purchased for and what the purchaser would produce from it. Most purchases were to meet the daily needs of the people and choices were made with great care as the early settlers had very little means to pay the cost.

Women often purchased items at the store and most would have strived to master the art of a seamstress. The family depended hugely on a woman's achievement in this area. Common purchases recorded for the women were for sewing and these purchases were made seasonally and fairly frequently. Indigo was used as dye which created a deep violet blue color. This may have been a favourite shade for women's dresses or perhaps to cover faded fabric for both men and women. Thread, buttons, black lining, calico (cotton cloth with a design printed on one side). muslin, braid, Egyptian lace, pearl buttons, batting by the roll, spools, bonnets and bonnet shapes, ribbon, hook-eyes (recorded as hook & tys), wadding (sold by sheets), glazed cotton, ticking (stout fabric used for making mattresses and pillows), thimbles and also a variety of lace and ribbon. In July 1859 a spinning wheel was purchased at the store and also a bonnet shape. The purchaser for

these was John Redstone, parish of Sussex. The spinning wheel was for his wife, Catherine, and would have been a joy for her; a fine present from her husband, John, and a good profit for storeowner Samuel Keirstead. Catherine perhaps spun a lot of wool for the storeowner as barter.

Music was a part of the earlier days as several Jews' Harps were purchased from the store. This was a musical instrument about 3 inches long consisting of a metal frame holding a thin metal strip. The frame is held in the mouth, which serves as a sound box, and the metal strip is made to twang with the forefinger, the note emitted being made to vary by altering the shape of the mouth. I remember my mother occasionally playing such an instrument.

Barter was done a great deal in those days. Bills at the store were paid by ducks, calves, eggs, (both hen and ducks eggs), lamb, turkeys, rabbits, meal, butter, shoe repairs and new footwear by a shoemaker, wool, knitting-socks, mitts, hats and more. Partridges, dried or fresh fish – herring was common, lumber sawed, schooling to a child or adult as payment, oxen work, buckwheat, skin tanning (sheep and cattle), shirts and other clothing made by some of the women. The list was long and varied over the years.

Men paid their bills in different ways. An Isaac Holmes purchased a puncheon at the store which is a cask, a liquid measure of from 72 to 120 gallons, and the cost was paid off to Samuel Keirstead for 2/3 of a day's work with Isaac's team of oxen. Another man paid his bill in the spring with four days of work by making boots and finishing all but the uppers. Potatoes and vegetables were used frequently to pay as well.

Amelia Wilkins was a servant frequently mentioned in the store ledger, age 24 in the 1851 census. She came from Nova Scotia in 1847 and was employed by Samuel. Amelia was commissioned to work a certain day a week for a period of one year for the sum of five pounds, dated November 7th, 1857.

Another servant employed by Samuel Keirstead, Robert Sargeson, was the youngest son of William Sargeson and Ann Hall of English Settlement. In the 1851 Census he was listed as a 19 year old servant, born in 1832, native to the province of New Brunswick. His father died in the early 1830's and his mother remarried to John Gamblin and had other children. The John Sargeson family lived on what was called "the Back Irish Settlement Road. John was Robert's cousin, son of Robert Hall Sargeson, born 1823 and Mary Ward, who lived on the original Sargeson grant at English Settlement. In the Irish Settlement Cemetery in the woods near Everett Bustard's home is a tombstone inscribed as follows; "Mary E., wife of John Sargeson, May 6, 1897, age 28, also her son, Charles W.H. Smith, aged one month.

According to Everett Bustard the Bustard Road ran between the Bartlett grant and the Sargeson grant. The Sargeson grant is marked on the cadastral map as the "grant to Isaac Pearson and David Murray, as the executors of Robert Sargeson Sr., who made the final payment on the property and the grant was issued to the estate. This was in the 1850's. Various Sargesons lived on this homestead from the early 1820's until after the turn of the 20th century. Robert Sargeson was closely connected to the Keirsteads all his adult life. The first link is in the 1851 Census. The second link is his first marriage, on 30 March 1854, in Chipman Parish, Queens County, N.B. to Sarah Keirstead of Chipman. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Elias Keirstead and the witnesses were James Keirstead and James Buckley.

In 1871 Robert Sargeson was again enumerated on the Samuel Keirstead farm. His sister, Alice, also lived in the Keirstead household for many years and in 1890 married their neighbour, the widower Daniel Rees. The Reeses later lived at Collina.

Robert Sargeson married again on 12 June 1881 to Ruth Riley. The minister was again Elias Keirstead and the witnesses were Isaac W. Keirstead and Alfred I. Keirstead. Ruth "Ryly" was previously enumerated in 1871 in Studholm parish with a son Warren, age 9. After their marriage Robert and Ruth lived in Goshen where they were enumerated in 1881 and 1891. Indeed they were enumerated as man and wife in 1881 before their actual marriage. I suspect they are the same people as Robert and Lucinda Sargeson, enumerated in Goshen in 1871 with son William, age 9, and lived together "common-law" for many years, since the ages and circumstances fit. No son/step-son or other children were listed in later censuses. Robert and Ruth died within two weeks of each other in February 1899. Jonathan S. Keirstead applied to administer the estate, indicating there was no will, no children and that the surviving relatives were Alice Rees and half-brothers Charles and William Gamblin.

The Back Irish Settlement Road was a continuation of the last East Scotch Settlement Grants, surveyed by an Alexander Burnett, starting on October 3, 1820. It was a large block of land comprised of approximately 14 lots in that range. From Lot #14 on the Annidale Road eastward to the English Settlement Grants was called the Back Irish Settlement and at one time is said to have thirteen families living on it. The print map of 1862 had eleven places of residence on that road, which would be about two and a half miles long. The road has been grown over for many years now but it would have originally made contact with the English Settlement (Pearsonville Road), Kings County, N.B. near the former Dr. Charles Murray residence, now the Earl Crealock farm, and directly across from the former Isaac Richard Pearson farm on the Smith Road, now owned by Jack Crealock.

Those who had contact with Samuel Keirstead and the store at Collina were varied and unique people. Dr. Christopher Wilson was a customer who often made unusual purchases; a scythe and scythe stone to sharpen the blade, black silk thread, probably used for suturing, Vermifuge, often spelled in the ledger as what appeared to be Vermifrye; Castor Oil, chamber pots, coarse and fine combs, cotton balls and dishes. Items were possibly purchased for the comfort of his patients. In some instances Dr. Wilson paid off other customers' bills at the store. Vermifuge was a medicine to treat intestinal worms. Head lice was an obvious problem as to the numerous fine tooth combs purchased.

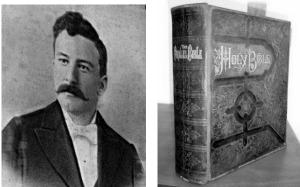
Items purchased by customers for health purposes were: lozenges, castor oil, turpentine, pain killers, liniments, Russian salve, milk sulphur, blister salve, and to have speedy relief there was John Collins. Poultices were commonly used for infections. Bread, bran and linseed oil were mixed, spread on a cloth, and applied to an inflamed area of the body to draw out infection and to act as a counter-irritant. In these times of no modern drugs, the materials at hand were combined to treat ailments and were quite effective. Samuel Keirstead's country store was stocked with goods for all the needs of the local people.

Dr. Christopher Wilson had come to Canada in 1821 from Donegal, Ireland with his wife Susanna. He had served in the Royal Navy as a Surgeon's mate. He began his practice on his farm on the Irish Settlement Road. Many children were named after him. His grant was Lot #2, a continuation of the George Kirk grant and was surveyed several times, as there was difficulty with the exact bounds of this lot at the eastern end near Collina, being part of surplus land left between the two ranges of Grants.

Dr. Wilson built the first school on his farm for his own and the children of the Irish Settlement Road area in 1830. It was a building 24 by 18 feet, the largest in the parish of Springfield. In 1844 there were 63 pupils on the Roll, all ranging in age from six to twenty-five years. The old school served the children of the area until 1873, when a new one was built on the corner of the Williams Road.

Dr. Wilson was 56 years old in the 1851 census and his wife, Susanna was 58 years old. At the time of this census the two oldest children, Rebecca and Susanna Ann were not in the household. Susanna Ann had married Benjamin Goodwin, parish of St. John, December 26th 1849; witnesses were Sarah A. Thompson and William T.S. Wilson. Benjamin was schoolteacher at the Irish Settlement School at this time.

Dr. Wilson's eldest daughter, Rebecca, was also married by 1851. She married Rev. Wesley Charlton Beals, the Wesleyan Missionary at Petitcodiac in 1859. Dr. Wilson and his family supported the Church of England but later changed over to Methodist. For many years he was the medical officer of the Kings County Militia. He died at his home on the Wilson Road and he and his wife Susanna, are buried in Bayview Cemetery, Hatfield Point.



Rev. Wesley C. Beals, and the old Bible from the Methodist Church in Irish Settlement, now in Kings Kirk Church, Belleisle Creek.

Rev. Wesley Charlton Beals' portrait is in the Wesleyan United Church at Berwick. He and his wife, Rebecca (Wilson) Beals rest in the churchyard there.

Samuel Keirstead's Irish Settlement Customers (Continued)

The names of the customers from the Irish Settlement area appeared frequently in Samuel's Ledger. Everett Bustard, who lives on the Bustard Road in Springfield, can recall the locations of the three churches located there. Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches existed at one time. In 1864 George Wilson and his wife Sarah gave the land for a burial ground and a church site. This land was on the South side of the road and to the northeast of the Wilson house, next to the present Bustard Road. Both George and his wife Sarah are buried in this cemetery. There remains only some of the stone foundation of the small Anglican Church that stood within the cemetery itself. Several years ago my husband George and I visited this cemetery with Everett Bustard as our guide. It is now wooded, concealed, and neglected.

A tombstone in the cemetery has the following inscription on it, "George Wilson, Oct. 9th, 1871, 77 years, Sarah, his wife, died July 27th, 1866, 71 years. George came form Ireland in 1818 and settled first in the Kingston area for a few years, then moved to Irish Settlement in 1828. He was a member of the Church of England all his life. The

1851 census lists George as 56 years, Sarah as 56 years, and three children living at home; Thomas, 32; Margaret, 24; Emily, 13 years. For many years the resident Anglican minister held service at their house before there was any Church in Irish Settlement.



Everett Bustard

Everett, a son of Charles Murray and Hazel E. (Price) Bustard, lives alone on the Bustard farm on the Bustard Road. George Kirk first farmed this 200 acre property upon arriving from Ireland in 1819. Everett's grandfather, Arthur Welsford Bustard, worked for Dr. Murray in English Settlement, living at his farm in 1896. Arthur named Everett's father after the doctor. Everett has a great recollection of the history of Irish Settlement, and the old cemetery there. There were in the early days no less than 17 farms with family names of McBrarity, Smith, Rutledge, Wilson, Ritchie, Muir, Gallagher, Hickson. The Ritchie road connected to Annidale, and met the Watson road at the Rutledge place. John Hickson's story is a very colourful one that Everett likes to relate.

The Presbyterian Church was located at the end of the Bustard driveway. Everett Bustard remembers attending services there years ago. The third church was the Methodist, built on the North side of the road about opposite the Irish Settlement cemetery. The three churches were in close proximity to each other. In 1929 the Methodist church was taken down to be used as material to build the new hall at Belleisle Creek, N.B. The Bible from this church found its way to a yard sale, was purchased to save it, then found its way to a new home in Kings Kirk Church in Belleisle, where it is on display.

It is not evident that George Wilson and Dr. Christopher Wilson were related but both came from Donegal, Ireland in 1818 and 1821. They apparently were friends as in June of 1874 Thomas Wilson, son of George and Sarah, was married to Mary Jane Lester, daughter of John and Mary (Foster) Lester of Gibbon Mountain. The witnesses were John Wilson and Susanna E. Wilson, son and wife to Dr. Christopher Wilson.

In the 1851 Census Dr. Wilson had two servants in his home, a male servant, James Ingram, and a female servant, Mary Rankin. James was seventeen and Mary fifteen. Their grandson, William Beals, was also there, aged 8 years, probably visiting. Springfield parish listed Ingram families in the 1851 census; John, 81 and Thomas, 60, possibly father and son. John was listed as deaf and infirm and Thomas was also listed as infirm. Thomas had six children at home, ages 14 to 3 years. The servant, James, at Dr. Wilson's home may have been a son of Thomas and Elizabeth. John entered Canada in 1819 and Thomas in 1818 settling in Springfield, Kings Co., N.B. In the 1851 census of Irish immigrants in N.B. their last name was spelled Ingraham. Thomas Ingram, Anglican, married Elizabeth Gordon on July 23, 1832. Witnesses were Christopher Wilson and Robert Smith.

Thomas had a son John and John had a son John. One of these John Ingrahams was listed in Samuel Keirstead's store ledger in 1859 as settling their debt to the store for one month's work in exchange for the amount owing to the storekeeper. A monument is placed in the Carsonville Cemetery, Kings Co., N.B. in memory of a Thomas Ingraham, who died Sept. 6, 1879, aged 92 years; also a white footstone inscribed T.I. If this is the same Ingram or Ingraham that settled in Springfield Parish his age should have been 79 years instead of 92 years.

A Rankin family is listed in Studholm parish in the 1851 census. George Rankin was an Irish shoemaker who came from Ireland in 1833 at the age of 42. His wife Mary also came the same year and was listed as six years older than her husband George of 48 years. In 1851 six children were at home; George, 23; Eliza, 20; Robert, 17; Mary Ann, 13; Eleanor R., 11; Matilda I., 8. Also a lodger was at their home by the name of John Burke aged 3 years and listed as of Irish descent. It would appear that Mary Ann Rankin was the same Mary who worked as a servant for Dr. Christopher Wilson.

George Rankin probably moved about as being a shoemaker was his livelihood. George also shopped at Samuel Keirstead's store at Collina. One purchase was for some stockings, perhaps for his wife Mary or his four daughters.

Many of the early store customers of Collina rest in the Irish Settlement burial ground marked by tombstones now hidden in the woods. These inscriptions were personally taken from the existing stones a few years ago:

- 1. L.G. Isabel, wife of Henry Gordon, died April 5 the, 1886, 52 years.
- 2. Alexander Burnett, March 29th, 1865, 74 years.
- 3. John Hickson, died March 10th, 1922, 86 years.
- 4. John W. Hickson, May 16th, 1879, age 12 years & 6 mos. Son of John and Mary Hickson. (John W. died when he fell into in to a lime pit (kiln) where lime stone was burned in powder.)
- 5. James Ritchie, Dec. 8th, 1902, 64 years.
- 6. George Kirk, Apr,17th, 1911, 81 yrs. 6 mos. , his wife, Isabelle, June 3, 1910, 80 years.
- 7. Mary, wife of Michael Carle, died Dec. 26th, 1882.
- 8. Henry G. Gordon, died Mar. 2, 1903, age 43
- 9. George Wilson and wife Sarah
- 10. Mary E. wife of John Sargeson and her child, Charles, W. H. Smith, aged 1 month

According to Everett Bustard the last burial in that cemetery was of Fred Hickson, in 1940. Other burials not marked by tombstones were given; Bill Ritchie, Unk Small, James or Thomas Williamson (1 or 2 burials), Folkins, Caleb Northrup (stillborn, 7 sons), 1 lot Bettenson, Mrs. John Bettenson, (John married twice), Bustard, MacFadyen, McBriarty. These names are those of customers of Samuel's store between 1851 and 1859.

Patrick Driscoll came from Ireland in 1830. He was 40 years old in the 1851 census and he lived in Springfield Parish of Kings Co., N.B. Patrick was a Roman Catholic and his wife Eleanore came to Canada in 1832 from Ireland. Eleanore's religion was listed as Anglican. They were obviously married in Ireland and in 1851 the census records five children in the home; Mary, age 15; Charles, age 13; John, age 11; Jeremiah, age 9; Patrick, age 5 years.

Patrick purchased a fair amount of pain killers from the Collina store and a lot of tobacco. He was listed as a farmer but perhaps he had added health problems in his life as well.

The son Charles married an Ann Lockhart, parish of Norton, on September 19, 1865; no witnesses given. He would have been about 28 years old when he married. His sister Mary Driscoll married a Matthew Murphy, both of Belleisle, parish of Springfield on July 10th, 1862. The witnesses were Michael and Catherine McCurdy. Mary Elizabeth would have been about age 26 when she married. Jeremiah Driscoll, parish of Studholm married a Letitia O'Neill, also of Studholm Parish on March 21, 1864. Witnesses were Sarah Murphy and Patrick Driscoll.

John Driscoll, Springfield, married Agnes Mercer, Studholm, spinster, license #5728, with consent of parents, Wed. 21st Nov, 1877, by James H. Talbot, witnesses J.L. Talbot and A.N. Arnold. Both John and Agnes signed with a mark. The youngest child Patrick was married on Feb. 3rd, 1881, at the age of 35 years. He was living in Norton parish and a Mary Scott also from Norton were wed by license by James Gray, witnesses were John Mercer and Sarah E. Mercer.

Another Irish name that was a part of history in the local area was the Michael Gallagher family. Michael entered New Brunswick in 1817 settling in Springfield, Kings Co. He came from Donegal, Ireland and was a Roman Catholic and was 52 years old in the 1851 census. His wife's name was given as Giles. She was also 52 years of age and arrived with her husband in 1817. A second crop failure in 1822 would have been a time of hardship for these families trying to farm on land that was wild and unproductive. Michael was listed as a landowner and a farmer.

An Ann Gallagher purchased items at Samuel Keirstead's store. Perhaps a daughter named Susanna was the above customer. Some items she purchased were; a towel, wash bowl, sheet paper, cotton balls, and alum. In 1851 a family of four was listed in the home; Francis, a teacher, age 27, born in N.B.; John, age 21, born N.B.; Susanna, age 19, born N.B.

A Michael Gallagher married a Mary Mulholand, both of Norton, N.B. on September 10th, 1858. Witnesses were JohnMulholand and Ann J. McCarron. If this was the same Michael Gallagher he would have been 59 years old when he married the second wife.

Another Gallagher family was listed in Springfield, Kings Co., N.B. Census. Francis, age 75 was listed as infirm in the 1851 census. His wife, Sarah, was only 58 years of age. They had one daughter, Ann, age 22, a native of N.B. living with them at the time and also three grandchildren: James Donaghue, age 19; John Donaghue, age 17; and Mary Donaghue, age 15; all born N.B. Probably Donaghue should have been spelled Donahue, an error with the added "g".in the name. Donahue was a common Irish name. A Mary Donahue purchased items at Samuel Keirstead's store at Collina as well. She probably was the granddaughter "Mary Donaghue" in the 1851 census mentioned above.

A tombstone at St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Cemetery at Wards Creek, Kings Co., N.B. is inscribed as follows: 'In memory of Ann, wife of John Gallaghrew died Sept. 1st. 1896, aged 74 years. A native of Parish of Kilsorell County Armagh Ireland.

The Redstones of Northrup Settlement, Snider Mountain were also customers of Alfred's store. John Redstone had married Catherine Rouse, parish of Sussex, 16 September 1836. Witnesses were H. James Gosline and Walter Biggar. In the 1851 census John was 39 years old and of English origin, listed as a farmer and having arrived in Canada in 1817. Catherine was 33 years old and born in Canada. Their children were listed as: James, age 14, George age 11, Mary age 9, William, age 6, and Richard age 3. Another son, John Eslia would be born in 1857. The family lived in Northrup Settlement in the back area of Snider Mountain. John Redstone Sr. 1811-1887 and Catherine 1816-1877 are buried in Snider Mountain Baptist Cemetery. James and Richard with their wives Elizabeth Ann (Smith) and Sarah Elizabeth (Shanklin) are also buried there and their son, John Eslia (1857-1922) and his wife. Israel Hartley Keirstead who lived on Gibbon Mountain married Laura Annie Redstone on 20 May 1891. She was a daughter of James Samuel Redstone and Elizabeth Ann Smith.

Customers from Snider Mt. were: William Ganong, John Gregg, John Long, Jacob Snider, Deborah Gregg; English Settlement: Alexander McFarland, David Muir, Hugh Smith, Jonathan Smith, Eliza and Isabella Smith; Fenwick: John Chown, George Kelly, Oliver Kelly, George Keirstead, Gilbert Keirstead, Robert Keirstead, Archibald McFarland, Matthew McFarland, William McKnight, Robert Williams, John Lester; Jordan Mt.; Ruth Marr, Charles Marr; Bull Moose Hill; Daniel Benson, Henry DeLong, Timothy Northrup, Gamaliel Northrup; Springfield; James Crawford, Benjamin Fairweather., James Scovil, William Best, John Coy, Isaac Coy; Collina; Elias Keirstead, Samuel Foster, David Kincaide, Charles Vincent, Isaiah Holmes.

Collina in 1888 – The Kings County Record

Notes and Commentary from Kings County Record compiled by Ernest Friars:

November 2nd, 1888, "Three roads meet at Collina, Apohaqui, Belleisle, and English Settlement. The village contains: one store, harness shop, shoemaker's shop, wheelwright shop, two black-smith shops, one barber shop and one Temperance Hall.

Mail is dispatched from Collina on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by James Gibbon, post master. On the English Settlement Road, ¹/₂ mile from Collina is the Baptist Church. Rev. Brown of Sussex preaches fortnightly here. A fine school house is at Collina. The division of the Sons of Temperance meets every Thursday.

The First Store Building At Collina Corner

The first store building at Collina was built about 1870 by Alfred Isaiah Keirstead, a son of Samuel and Anne (White) Keirstead who kept store there until his death in 1895. His obituary in the Kings County Record on March 15, 1895, was recorded that "he ran a successful mercantile business for twenty-five years."



Amy Nichols Scovil

Alfred Isaiah Keirstead

Alfred Isaiah Keirstead, the second son of Samuel and Anne, was born June 10th, 1833 in the Keirstead home in Springfield Parish as this area of Collina was then known. Alfred possibly worked in his father's store while growing up and learned the business. Alfred I. and his brother George Holmes Keirstead had an account in their father's Store

Ledger in 1857-1858. They may have been operating the farm for him. On July 13th, 1860 Alfred Isaiah married Margaret Ann McDonald, a daughter of Allan McDonald of Brunswick, Queens Co., N.B. Their only son, William Alfred Stanley Keirstead, was born June 17th 1861. Margaret Ann died soon after.

The 1861 Census lists Alfred Keirstead as a farm proprietor living at Springfield next to his parents and siblings. He was listed with a son William, age 1, but no wife. They were listed as a separate family, but could have been in the same house as his parents and siblings as the census in 1861 didn't list households or house types like they did in 1851 and 1871. On March 21st 1863 Alfred had been appointed a Justice of Peace for Kings County.

The 1871 Census lists Alfred and son Stanley living in Studholm parish. Alfred is listed as a merchant so this certainly fits with his store starting at Collina in 1870. Lovell's 1871 Directory lists him as a storekeeper at Collina as well.

On Nov. 28th, 1888, Alfred Isaiah married Amy Nichols Scovil, daughter of James John Micheau and Charlotte Ann (Greenslade) Scovil, born Feb 16th 1850. The Kings County Record reported: "A quiet wedding was celebrated Wednesday afternoon at the residence of J.M. Scovil, Exmouth St., Saint John in which the contracting parties were A.I. Keirstead, councillor of Studholm , Kings Co., and Amy N. Scovil d/of J.J.M. Scovil of Springfield. Rev. A.J. Creswell, rector of Springfield was the officiating clergyman. W.G. Scovil, brother of the bride, was best man and Miss Edith Hutton of St. Stephen, bridesmaid.

Alfred Isaiah was a strong Tory opponent while his brother-in-law, George G.G. Scovil was a Liberal. They both were elected in 1877 as the first Kings County Councillors. Just imagine the conversations that occurred at the country store at Collina around the old wood stove in the year 1877! Besides being a store operator, Alfred was Councillor A. I. Keirstead of the law firm of McKeown & Keirstead of St. John.

Twin daughters were born to Alfred Isaiah and Amy on June 28th 1893 at Collina. One daughter, Kathleen Scovil Keirstead, survived. She married Earl Fredericks on Nov. 7th, 1927 at Grace Church, Utica, New York.

The Collina Store

On March 15th.1895 The Kings County Record reported:

"Our painful duty today is to chronicle the death of Counc. A.I. Kieirstead, which sad event took place at his home in Collina, Studholm (Kings Co.) at an early hour Friday morn. Mr. Keirstead's illness began on Sunday eve, the first symptom of which was a severe pain in the right ankle. After a short time a similar affliction seized his right wrist and for two days the pain in the ankle and wrist were very severe. After that the severity of the pain somewhat subsided, but the disease, rheumatic fever, seemed to be steadily moving towards a fatal termination. Mr. Keirstead was twice married, his first wife being Maggie McDonald d/o Allan McDonald of Brunswick (Queens Co.). This Mrs. Keirstead died about 34 years ago leaving a son, Stanley Keirstead, now of Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Keirstead several years after married Miss Amy Scovil, a sister of G.G. Scovil, M.P.P. who, with a daughter, survive him. Mr. Keirstead for many years served his county as a member of the Municipal Council. The funeral took place Monday afternoon at the cemetery, Belleisle Creek under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance, of which order deceased had been a member for upwards of forty years. Rev. A.J. Creswell of Springfield performed the last sad rites."

An auction Sale was reported in the Kings County Record on April 12th, 1895. Recently in 2010 it was recorded a second time in David Henderson's weekly column "Looking Back". The article read as follows: "The residence of the late A. I. Keirstead at Collina will be the scene of a very extensive sale on the forenoon of Tuesday, April 16th. 1895. A great lot of farm stock and farming implements of kinds, good piano, almost new, will at the same time be offered for sale, and as the stock in the store will be disposed of at the same time, some genuine bargains may be expected."

On Nov. 23, 1895 the Daily Sun of Saint John reported that Mrs. Keirstead widow of A.I. Keirstead, Collina (Kings Co.), has moved to Hampton where she will reside in the future.

Alfred's store was later purchased by the Jones Brothers of Apohaqui and operated by Hazen Folkins, manager, with clerks; George Pearson of Pearsonville, and Albert McLeod of Collina. The store was later purchased from the Jones Bros. by William A. Keirstead and C.H. Horton.

Amy died in 1945 at Collina and was buried at St. Simon and St. Judes Cemetery in Belleisle Creek with Alfred.



The Sons of Temperance Hall, Collina Corner, Kings Co., N.B.

The Collina Store Carries On!



Community Life - The Store Collina Store Charles Horton, General Merchant, 1914-1944

William Allen Keirstead operated a small store at his home on the New Road for a short period of time and he together with Charles H. Horton, his son-in-law, purchased the store at Collina Corner from the Jones Brothers. They continued to work together for about five years and then C.H. Horton continued on alone from 1914 to 1944. The Hortons spent 35 years living up over the store and the store was sold back to the Jones Brothers in Apohaqui in 1944 when the Hortons moved to Saint John, N.B. The store remained idle for a short period of time. George Baxter took it over for a few months, followed by Arthur Pearson. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown operated the store until the early 1950's when they sold the business to George Keirstead.



Charles Henry Horton, 13 Sep 1875 – 26 Aug 1967 Florence Gertrude Keirstead, 13 Jul 1889 – 11 Sep 1957

Obituary-Charles H. Horton

The death of Charles H. Horton, 30 GlenView Avenue, Saint John East, occurred at the Saint John General Hospital after a period of failing health. He was in his 92nd year. Born at Keirstead Mountain, he was the son of the late William and Ann (Tinling) Horton. He had resided in St. Johnsbury, Vt. for 30 years and received his education at the St. Johnsbury Academy. Returning from the United States he operated a general store at Collina; with W.A. Keirstead 1909-1914, then solely until 1944.



George

Keirstead, 22 Aug 1902 – 30 Jul 1993 Erna Eliza Hayes, died 1980

Obituary-George Lloyd Keirstead

George Lloyd Keirstead passed away at the Sussex Health Center July 30th, 1993 at the age of 90. He presently lived at the McCullough Special care Home, Midland, formerly of Sussex, N.B. and Morrisburg, Ont. from 1953-1981. His birthplace was Keirstead Mountain. He was born on August 22nd, 1902. Predeceased by his wife Erna Eliza (Hayes) in 1980, his father William H. Keirstead of Marrtown, his mother Grace Leah Lloyd of Chipman, one sister, Evelyn Muir, one son John Henry, one great grandson, Derek. Survived besides two daughters, Myrtis, Mrs. Angus McLean of RR#1, Sussex and Ada, Mrs. James Casselman of Ottawa, Ontario.Several nieces and nephews, grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

George Lloyd Keirstead operated the Collina Corner Store from 1949-1953. He delivered groceries in a panel truck. He sold the store to Percy Long in 1953.

Peddlers Come With Their Goods!

Local families also had access to various peddlers who circulated among the areas at times. One was a Jewish man from Saint John, N.B. by the name of Louie Isaacs. He drove his horse and a covered wagon loaded with dry goods, staying at hospitable homesteads at night. Joseph Sharpe lived above the Snider Road toward Collina from 1930 until his death in 1947. Prior to that Joe Sharpe and his wife Ethel lived on the left side of the road as you turn down the Snider Road. The home was built on the foundation of the former Peter Folkins homestead. Joe had a butcher shop and peddled fresh meat by horse and an express wagon to homes in the community.

Another weekly peddlar in the area was storeowner Clayton Myers of Sussex, N.B. His vehicle was loaded with grocery items which helped a great deal in the community while the store remained closed for a time.

In later years Bill Gray and his brother, Donald Gray, delivered fresh meat and some groceries to the Collina area and surrounding neighbourhoods on a weekly basis. Don was from the Midland area and he butchered his own animals so the meat was always fresh and sales were good. The dogs at each homestead always had a tasty bone passed to them from Don's hand which made this man well liked by the canine community. Mike Owens from Lower Millstream, Kings Co., N.B. also delivered groceries for several years in the Collina area. George Keirstead continued the store business at Collina for four years and he also delivered groceries in the area in his Ford panel truck.

The Collina Store's Life Ends in 1969

The last store owners were Mr. and Mrs. Percy Long who operated their business from 1953 until 1963. Percy served with the 104th Battalion in World War I. He enlisted in 1915 and was overseas when his son, Myron, was born. His son died

Llovd

shortly after he returned home. Percy was gassed in the war and he suffered from the effects of this for the remainder of his life. Ida lived with Percy's parents, Fred and Lillian Long while Percy was overseas. Percy and Ida lived for a few years at Cambridge, Mass. USA from 1929 to 1933. They lived at Collina in the present day Douglas Mitton residence until 1953.

Percy purchased the Collina store at the Corner from George Keirstead in 1953 and he and Ida lived over the store until his death in 1963. Ida (Small) Long was a daughter of James Edwin Small (1858-1941) and Isabella Caroline Gamblin (1860-1930).

Ida moved to the former Melvina Mercer house and lived there the remaining seven years of her life. Ida's ancestors rest in the Small Cemetery, Highfield, Queens County.

The Small Cemetery, English Settlement (Highfield), Queens Co., N.B.

Located on the Thompson Road in Highfield, Queens County, in the woods past the Murray MacDonald home. Established1850. Restored 1998 by the Muir family.

- 1. Thomas Small 1788-1852, his wife, Jane Saunders, 1789-1851 2 stones.
- John C. Small, 1823-1890, Sarah T. his wife, 1842-1915 Ida (Small) Long's great uncle. Their children; Sarah E.; 1865-1867; Morley H. 1872-1921; Amy E.T, 1881-1910.
- 3. Susanne Grace, wife of Francis Proctor, July 16th, 1881
- 4. Francis P. Proctor, Dec. 3, 1891
- 5. David Muir, 1902-83 years; Children; Jessie F. 1867-7 yrs.; Susanna C. 1867-9 yrs.
- 6. Mary S. wife of David Muir, 1890-73 yrs.

Memories of the Collina Corner Store!

The Collina Store is gone and so is a landmark of the community. How well I remember the store interior, the long shelves of supplies, the glass filled jars of candy and gum, the "store cowboys" who came to sit and share laughter, conversation, or a game of checkers by the cosy wood burning stove. How tempting the chocolate bars looked enclosed in their glass compartment, but five cents was a lot of money and most children tasted very few of these delights. The pop cooler yielded its cold bottles of beverage at seven cents a bottle (later raised to eight cents), and the bottle tops were saved for the local school to be used as counters for the Grade One class. Percy and Ida always made you feel welcome, often extra treats were given to the school children. I can still hear Percy saying as we entered the store on our way to school in the morning, "Good morning! Are you full of vim, vigor and vitality this morning?" One especially kind gesture of the Longs was that they would split a popsicle for sale. We could purchase a half portion for only three cents. A popsicle-half tasted so good on the way home from school.

The store had a special charm of its own. How I would love to go through its doors once more and enjoy that friendliness and warmth that was within. In reality I cannot go back to this precious store of yesterday but my memory shall once again open those doors, enjoy a popsicle-half, and listen to the laughter of the "store cowboys"!



Evelyn Grace Brown and Ella Mae Brown, Sherrill (Keirstead) Chown's aunt and mother in front of the Collina store in 1927.

Sources

- 1. Book-"Facial Expressions of Home" by Sherrill (Keirstead) Chown
- 2. Book-"A Light In The Valley" by the Historical Committee of the Collina United Baptist Church
- 3. Book-"Echoes of the Past From the Millstream and Surrounding Areas"
- 4. Yesteryear, Kings County, New Brunswick, Marriage Register B, by Ruby Cusack.
- 5. Springfield Parish Land Grants of Some Scottish and Irish Settlers, by Ernest G. C. Graham.
- 6. Kings County N.B Marriage Registers C&D by John R. Elliott. ♠
- 7. Samuel Keirstead's Store Ledger of 1851-1859
- 8. Patricia (Horton) Konings, Dr. Greg Haley, John Elliott.