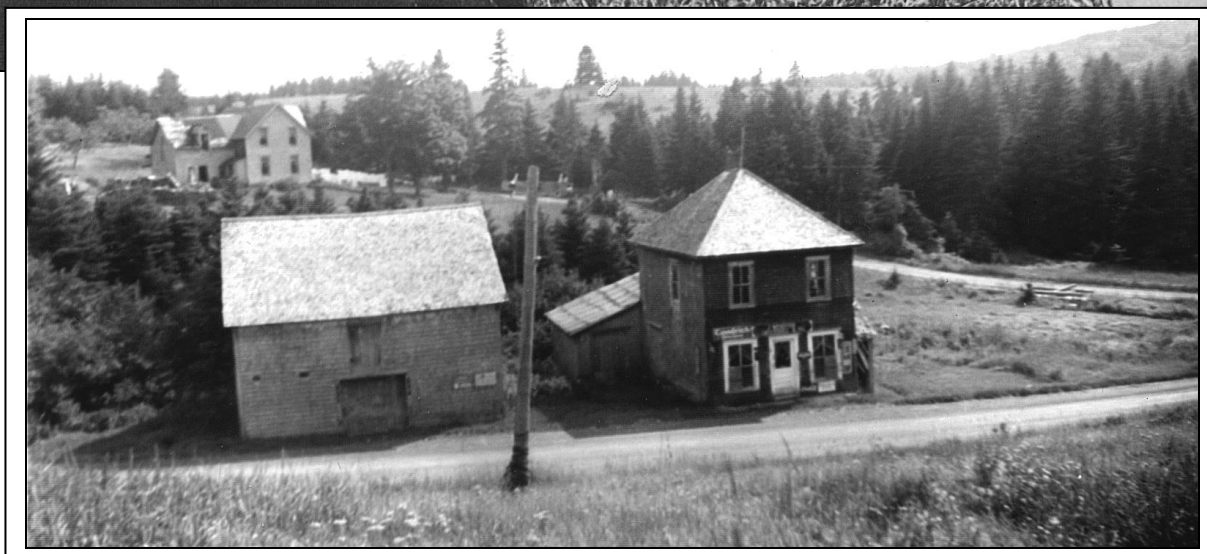


Welcome to ~Kings County Memories~
~The Newsletter of the Kings County Historical and Archival Society~
February 2009 Volume 49 No. 1 ISSN 1494-9296
"The Album" ~The Webster Family of Mechanic Settlement~



Pearl, Marion, Helen, Margaret, James A., Duncan; the "Store", Mechanic Lake Rd.



~The Mission of the Kings County N.B. Historical Society~

~To Promote and Preserve the Heritage of Our Kings County Families~

Step back into our remarkable past with a membership in Kings County Memories! ~February Feature: Mechanic Settlement & Its Early Settlers~

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~Historical Quilting Bee~

Project: “The Quilting of the Historical Quilt”
Place: The Lower Millstream United Church Hall
462 Route 880, Lower Millstream, N.B.
When: March 2, 2009, 9:30 am
Days of Quilting: Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.
Contacts: Frances Sharp 433-1257
Sheila McQueen 433-6470

~ Outside Kings County~

History Matters –Head of the Class!

News from Canada’s National History Society

Governor General’s Award Winners make history come alive for students.

They work on the frontlines, making history engaging and informative for students.

Each year, Canada’s National History Society is proud to recognize the history teachers across Canada who go beyond the call of duty in the classroom. These teachers come from different regions and school systems, but all share a dedication to their craft, and stand as examples for all of us who care about history. **This year’s award-winning teachers are:** Jean-Pierre Frigon, Quebec; Nancy Hamer-Strahl, Ont.; Bev M DenOuden, Alberta; Joe Stafford, Ont., Cathleen Anne Tenning, B.C.; Mike Ward, B.C.

From: **The Beaver~February-March 2009**

~**Mechanic Settlement**- Housewives here do not have to buy silver polish –nature provides it. At the bottom of the lake there is a substance known as diamitite, which the housewives declare serves as a good polish.~

This February issue re-visits Mechanic Settlement and its early settlers. Last August Barb Webster called me to ask if I still wanted a picture of Frances Jane (Mercer) Webster. Yes! said I, and my visit to Mechanic Settlement provided an unexpected bounty of family history. Barb, Jim Webster and I, had gotten together two years before to search for some missing links in the Webster-Mercer family tree. Helen (Webster) Bustard, Jim's aunt, had just passed away leaving all her family treasures to them. For the last few months we have been working on identifying old pictures and putting more of the story of the settlement together. Vonda Adams, Eva Haddix, and Dale Hall; all related to Hiram Webster's mother-in-law, Maria (Fowler) Sprague, are also involved in this family project. Maria is one of our "mysterious ladies". Peter Moore, of Mechanic, and Donna Gorber, are related to the early Moore's after whom the settlement was first named. From the Webster and Moore scrapbooks, the church, school records, and albums; we have been able bring to life those early pioneers and share in the drama, the hardships, and romance of the Webster, Moore, Harmer, Wortman, Yeomans, Bustard, Lockhart, Sprague, Kelly, McNair, and Connelly families as they worked to build a new Settlement in this wilderness. Watch for a Sequel featuring Alexander Moore, his family, and his "Mill" in Mechanic. **Pictures from the Webster-Moore Albums are available from me by e-mail!!** At this time I would like to thank the Soc. Members and 2008 & 2009 Newsletter Committee for their support! **Much appreciated!! Barb**

Re-Visiting Mechanic Settlement, Kings County, N.B.

In The Kings County Memories Newsletter of 1979, Harvey Dalling wrote about the early settlers of Mechanic Settlement., located 11 km ENE of Cedar Camp and 7.98 km ESE of South Branch, Cardwell Parish, Kings County. This tract included lands at the head of the Kennebecasis, Pollett and Little Rivers. Mechanic Settlement was founded by unemployed trades people from Saint John—a group of mechanics, carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and men skilled in other trades who were out of work due to the depression of 1839. They formed a Mechanics Association, mortgaged their homes in Saint John and applied for land grants in the hinterland of Kings County for the purpose of settling on farms. They numbered 237 persons with others picked up in Sussex Vale. As roads were almost unknown in Kings County, they travelled by water, and through dense forests by stage-coaches to a large tract of land lying on both sides of the County line (Albert and Kings). Only squatters were living there at that time. They settled on a chosen area where they pitched their tents, felled trees, erected log huts, and prepared to till the soil. To this locality was given the name Mechanic Settlement. Alexander Moore, in 1844, decided to follow the mechanics and became another of the early settlers of this place. Besides tilling the soil, Mr. Moore erected a grist mill with a sawmill on the Kennebecasis River flowing through his property. The mills brought the owner-operators in close touch with the neighbours in adjoining parishes and counties, with marriages uniting families in the various settlements. Peter Moore, a descendent of the early Moores, lives on Alexander's grist mill location. John Moore, oldest son of Alexander and Ann Moore, kept a diary of family life in the settlement from Oct 24th, 1874 to Dec. 29th 1876. This diary is available to be read by all. It was sent to John Moore's daughter, Mrs. W.L. Bustard, on July 30th 1934 and was typed by another family member in 1984. John recounts the daily toil, hardships, births, deaths, and weddings in these early days. A tragedy of the times was that many babies and young mothers died due to childbirth complications.

Many of these early settlers had originally come from Scotland and Ireland. Not all remained in the area as they could return to Saint John as business improved. Those industrious and adventurous people, who did stay, soon had a busy settlement with a school of fifty or more pupils, a hall in which both Orange Lodge and Temperance Lodge met, Alexander Moore's grist and sawmill, Elias Harmer's store, a blacksmith shop, and James Webster's cheese factory. Both Methodist and Presbyterian services were held in the community hall until the Bethel Presbyterian Church was built in 1897. The school, named Pollett, then Mechanic, was closed in 1943 and the church was sold and torn down in 1970. The money went to the Mechanic Settlement Cemetery Fund, located on the Donegal Road in the woods.

A very important building in the settlement was the store, located on the Mechanic Lake road at Moore's Corner. It was first owned by Elias Harmer, then sold to James Albert Webster, a son of the early settlers, William M. and Frances Jane (Mercer) Webster. William M. Webster was a grandson of Elizabeth Webster, Loyalist, who came as a widow in 1783 with one son, Edward, to settle first in Parr Town, then on a land grant in Belleisle Bay. Frances Jane was a granddaughter of Captain Joseph and Sarah Mercer, who also came as Loyalists in 1783. Her father, Joseph Jr., came to Bloomfield, married Frances Baxter, and they raised a family of 15 children. William and Frances Jane married in Norton Parish on Jan. 15th, 1846. Some time in 1855 they and three children left their home in Waterford Parish and settled in Mechanic Settlement near the then Pollett Lake. There is nothing left of the old homes and businesses in the settlement. The once-cleared farmland is now dense woods of fir and spruce.

**From the Report by the Surveyor General-Thomas Baillie
"The Statistical Return of the Mechanic Settlement For the Year 1847"**

A. Moore-Miller-1843; E. Chambers-Lab. 1845; T. Bunnell-Lab. 1844; W. Taylor-Lab. 1845; W. Graves-Jr. Lab., 1845; D. Bunnell,-Lab.; D. Jones-Cartman, 1843; W. Hall-Lab. ; B. Bell-Shoemaker, 1841; E.Y.W. Betts-Carpenter, 1843; h. Campbell-Carpenter; J. Sexton,-Lab., 1847; R. Graves-Lab., 1844; R. Budd-Lab., 1842; W. Graves Sr.,-Lab., 1841;R. Graves-Lab., 1842; A. Graves-Lab., 1845; B. Dowling-Pedlar; J. Gifford Sr.-Lab., 1847; G. McGee-Lab., 1843; J. McCawley Sr.-Lab.; J. McGee Jr.-Lab., 1843; W. Banaster-Lab; D. McDonald-Lab.; J. Robinson-Lab., 1844; J. Jonah-Lab.,1841;W. Hayward-Lab., 1843; J. Furnis-Lab., 1843; P. Malone-Lab., 1842; P. Swift-Lab., 1841; J. Curraber-Lab., 1840; J. Hayward-Lab.; M. Layden-Lab.; T. Swift-Lab; S. Cleveland-Lab., 1845; J. Martin-Lab., 1841; I. Cleveland Jr.-Lab., 1844; J. Yeomans-Lab., 1843; J. Potts-Rigger; J. Spragg-Lab., 1844; S. Teakles-Lab; J. Southers-Trader, 1841. There were 152 family members in all.

The Statistics in this report include; monies paid for farms, acres of land cleared, buildings on properties, farm animals, crops produced, estimated value of crops on hand, land and improvements, and stock. Eight farms are owned by squatters. The Report also stated that there is one Grist and three saw mills. In 1847 there are neither Churches nor schools, but 200 acres of Land are reserved for these. There is upwards of 50,000 acres of vacant unsold Crown Land adjoining. Surplus produce raised is sold to lumberers and new settlers. The amount expended by Government on roads is 234 pounds. The Grist Mill built by Alexander Moore in this Settlement, is a great accommodation to the inhabitants. There is a sawmill attached . Total Value of Alexander Moore's property is 765 pounds.

Regulations of 2 December 1842 under which the above Lands were sold, are published in the "Further Papers to Emigration", presented to Parliament , June 1847 -page 22. Signed-Thomas Baillie, Surveyor General

As the tradesmen and their families could return to Saint John when commerce improved and the depression lifted, the heads of households differ in the 1851 census and by the 1865-1866 Kings County Directory Listing.

Roots: Home Sweet Homestead: Early Settlers

~Kings County Directory~1865-1866~Mechanic Settlement~

Basken , Archibald, farmer	Malone , Patrick, farmer	Nicholson , Stephen, farmer
Basken , John, farmer	Martin , Michael, farmer	Nicholson , Thomas, farmer
Bustard , Charles, Farmer	McAfee , James, farmer	Penny , John, farmer
Carll , Lewis, farmer	McAfee , Samuel, farmer	Purtle , John, farmer
Casey , Neil, farmer	McAfee , William, farmer	Purtle , Patrick, farmer
Chambers , Edward M., farmer	McAfee , William, farmer	Smith , David, farmer
Clain , Joseph, shoemaker	McAnn , Lewis, farmer	Spragg , Asa, farmer
Elliott , James, farmer	McCarty , John, farmer	Spragg , Melbourne, farmer
Elliott , William, tailor	McCready , William, farmer	Wallace , Walter, carriage maker
Gallagher , Thomas, farmer	McNair , Francis, farmer	Webster , David, shoemaker
Harmer , George, farmer	McNair , John, farmer	Webster , William, farmer
Johnston , Archibald, farmer	McNair , Thomas	Wortman , James, farmer
Johnston , John, carriage maker	Mellon , Michael, farmer	Yeomans , Charles, farmer
Johnston , William, blacksmith	Moore , Alexander, miller	Yeomans , Thomas, farmer
	Morton , George, farmer	

~Pioneer Profiles~ Drama and Romance, Intriguing Family Lore & Secrets! ~

~William M. and Frances Jane (Mercer) Webster ~Arrival in Settlement~1855: Their Family~

Hiram b. 22 Nov. 1846, m. 13 Sept. 1873, Sussex Parish, **Jemima Budd Sprague**, b. 27 Oct 1851, Mechanic Sett.
Emily Jane b. 29 Mar. 1847, Sussex parish, married unknown.
William Henry b. 24 Jan 1850, m. 22 Jan. 1872, Sussex parish, **Sarah Ganer Dysart**, b. abt. 1848, Albert Co., N.B.
Louisa b. 1 May 1852, m. 27 Sept 1879, Penobsquis, **Lemuel Judson Beck**, b.7 Aug 1879, Salisbury, West., Co., N.B.
Elias b. 22 Oct 1855; m. 29 Aug. 1881, Hants Co., N.S., **Edith Lenore Goodwin**, b. abt 1857, Hants Co., N.S.
Josiah b. 22 Dec. 1857, Mechanic Sett.,N.B. d. 27 May 1859, Mechanic Sett., N.B.
George b. 22 Feb. 1861, Mechanic Sett., d. unmarried 30 May 1908, Norton Parish, Kings Co., N.B.
Mary Ann b. 9 June 1863, Mechanic Sett. m. 8 Dec. 1884, Elgin, Albert Co., N.B., **Robert T. McCready** b. abt. 1860
James Albert b. 22 Aug. 1866, m.1896, Tenccape, Hants Co., N.S., **Margaret Edith Rolf**, b.1 Sept. 1868,Tenccape
Minnie Jane b. 11 Aug. 1870, Mechanic Sett., 16 May 1894, **Edwin W. Graves**, b .abt. 1862, Elgin Co. N.B., m (2)
Thomas Peppers, born unknown.

William Webster: Loyalist descent: Land Grant; 28E of Cedar Camp Creek, Sussex; 100 acres; 28 Feb 1855.

Relocated his family shortly after to Mechanic Settlement, Moore's Corner, by the lake. No record of land transaction.

Weekly Record-19 March, 1897. Mechanic. Died suddenly, **William Webster**. In the morning he went to Penobsquis station, 11 miles distant, to meet a brother. While conversing with his brother at his own gate in the afternoon, he died suddenly. He was 76 and seemed in perfect health. Leaves a widow and family. Interred at the Mechanic Cemetery.

Frances (Mercer) Webster

Date: April 24 1896, County Kings, Place Sussex, Kings County Record. Mrs. Wm Webster, a respected resident of Mechanic's Settlement, died at her home at that place Tuesday, age 72 years. Seventh daughter and tenth child of Joseph and Frances (Baxter) Mercer of Norton Parish. Free Christian Baptist. Interred Mechanic Burying Ground.

Children of William and Frances Jane Webster

1. Hiram Webster, a real horse lover, lived with James A. Webster for a number of years after his wife, Jemima, died at Gladeside, Albert County. Children: Frances Louise and Herman Webster. He is remembered as an easy goer, a character. Hiram worked on the farm some, but not in the woods- that was too strenuous! James Burpee Webster had a vague recollection that Hiram had loaned some money to James A. Webster at some time (perhaps to buy the store from Elias Harmer), which is why he lived with James and was not required to do much work. The store ledgers show that Hiram bought much tobacco and was an avid smoker, asking for a smoke as his last wish at his sister Helen's home, where he died of pneumonia in 1925. He rests beside his parents, William and Frances Jane in Mechanic Cem.

2. Emily Jane Webster, born 29 March, 1847, Sussex Parish, Kings Co., remains a family mystery as yet.

3. Elgin, Albert Co., Jan. 27th~William Henry Webster, 86, one of the oldest residents of this parish, died Tuesday after a short illness. He was a son of the late William and Frances Webster, and was born in Dutch Valley. He was one of a family of 10 children, and is survived by one brother, James Webster, Mechanic Settlement; two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Peppers, Laurel, Sakatchewan, and Mrs. R.T. McCready, Leduc, Alberta; his second wife, formerly Mrs. Ruth Gifford Mitton; three children by his first marriage, Miss Fannie Webster, Boston, Mass., who cared for her father at his last illness; Mrs. A.R. Goggin, Elgin, and William Webster, Calgary, Alberta. His first wife was the former **Sara Ganer Dysart**, with whom he had seven children: **Charles, Frances, Henry, Belle, Harry, William and Annie**.

Mr. Webster moved to Elgin 68 years ago and was for many years the village carriage builder and undertaker. For a few years he was associated with his son, Harry, in making cheese here, but on the death of his son 37 years ago he sold the business. **Frances or Fanny Webster**, was a nurse with many wealthy patients in the U.S. When they would go off to Europe for the summer, Frances would return to Elgin and her family. Frances died at 86 of a heart attack at her home in Moncton. She is buried in Elgin Baptist Cemetery with her parents.

Elgin, Albert Co., N.B. Dec. 25~Elgin lost one of its highly respected residents when **Mrs. Belle (Webster) Barchard**, wife of James B. Barchard, passed away yesterday at the Saint John General Hospital. Mrs. Barchard had been ill for about 7 weeks and her death was a shock to a wide circle of friends. She had been a life-long resident of Elgin and was loved by all who knew her. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn two daughters, Elsie, and Mrs. Chester Stults, Saint John; five sons, Charles, Bertrand, and Louis, Boston; and Harry and Walter, at home; her father, William Henry Webster, Elgin, and two sisters, Mrs. Roy Goggin, Elgin, and Frances, Boston. Interment in the Un.Curch Cem. Elgin.

7June 1901 Mechanic; William W. Webster, age sixteen, 4th son of W.H. Webster, a clerk in his Uncle James A. Webster's store, left for home in Elgin en route to Kent County where he has accepted a position as a cheese-maker. **Annie (Webster) Goggin, Petitcodiac:** The death of Mrs. Annie Goggin, of Elgin, occurred in Moncton Hospital after a short illness. She was 80. A resident of Elgin for most of her life, she was a daughter of the late Henry and Sarah (Dysart) Webster. She was a member of the Elgin First Baptist Church, the Women's Missionary Society and the Ladies Guild. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Munn Parsons of Toronto; four sons, Vaughn, Vancouver; Harold and Charles, Toronto; and Ray at home. Interment was in the Elgin Cemetery with her husband, Albert Roy Goggin.

4. Louisa (Webster) Beck, widow of Lemuel Judson Beck, who died 23 Feb, 1915 in Elgin, moved to Grassville, Manitoba, with her son, William Henry Beck, in the fall of 1919. She died out there in 1928. Louisa suffered from severe arthritis. Children: Edward R., John S., William H., and Pearl Evangeline Beck; all born Elgin, Albert County.

5. Elias Webster, born Mechanic; a carpenter by trade; passed away at his home in Lanesville, N.S. early Friday morning at the age of 77 years. He had been in poor health for about a year and several weeks ago suffered a stroke. He is survived by his widow, Edith Lenore Goodwin; his sons, Roy of Maine and Clifford at Lanesville and one daughter, Mrs. Adams of Halifax. Another daughter, Mrs. Stuart, passed away two years ago. The funeral was held at the home Sunday and was largely attended by relatives and friends. Interment was in Pine Grove Cemetery at Stewiacke East.

6. Josiah Webster- June 10 1859, County Saint John, Saint John, Newspaper Religious Intelligencer d. 27th May, age 1 yr. 5 mos. 5 days, Josiah, third s/o William and Frances Webster, Mechanics Settlement (Kings Co) Burial unknown.

7. George Webster -In the 1901 Census of Norton, George is head of household, 40 years old, no family. George, at age 47 was single, a farmer in Kings County, who died of heart failure at the Provincial Hospital in Kings County on May 30th 1908. He is buried in Mechanic Cemetery with his parents, William and Frances Jane, and brother, Hiram.

8. Mary Ann Webster, called Mae, attended Pollett Lake School in 1877, age 14. Mae married Robert T. McCready of Mechanic on Dec. 8th, 1884 in Elgin. A daughter, Violet May, was born 26 June 1890. May, Robert and Violet later settled in Leduc, Alberta. In the Webster Album there is a picture of Robert T. and his horse, Grey Bess, in Alberta.

9. James Albert and Margaret Edith (Rolf) Webster; Cover Picture – From the Webster album-James and Margaret with children Marion and Helen; niece, Pearl Evangeline and son, Duncan; at the Webster home in Mechanic. James and Margaret had a family of seven children: **Harry B. m. Helen Fitzpatrick**, an artist; **Marion F. m. Percy Wood**, an avid horseman; **Frank R.**, unmarried; **Walter G.**, unmarried; **James B. m. Ethel Hughes**; **Albert S. m. Lillian Robinson**; **Helen L. m. Lewis Bustard**, farmer. **Lawrence Webster**, son of James B. and Ethel was a renowned artist, a landscape painter. Lawrence's family has the 1905 Store Ledger from Mechanic in Topsfield, Mass.

James A. Webster left the Sussex/ Elgin area and lived for awhile in Nova Scotia, marrying Margaret E. Rolf, and then returning to Mechanic for good. Eventually he bought out or inherited the shares of the farm which had belonged to his siblings. He had 8-10 head of cattle, grew grain and hay, and turnips among others. James had a cheese factory, which was his principal business before starting the store. Most of the farms in the area were small: about 150-200 acres. In Mechanic settlement, James A. ran the General Store, which was the town hangout complete with spittoons and chairs. James Burpee Webster confirmed the story previously told to Geoffrey by his mother (Constance Tocher Swan) that James A. Webster had taught her to spit!! Both James B. and Harry agreed their father, James A. Webster, was a champion spitter, no doubt as a result of his chewing tobacco habit. Harry Webster ran the store when young; then went into the woods business of his father. At that time James Burpee took over the store at age 14.

The death of **James A. Webster**, 93, occurred at the Kings County Memorial Hospital on June 8th, 1960, after a lengthy illness. He was the son of William and Frances Jane (Mercer) Webster and was born at Mechanic Settlement where he spent the greater part of his life. He is survived by five sons; Harry B., Laconia, N.H.; James Burpee, Medford, Mass.; Walter, New York City; Albert, Sussex Corner, and Frank, Sussex Corner; two daughters, Mrs. Lewis Bustard, Portage Vale, and Mrs. Percy Wood, Sussex Corner. Interment was at Sussex Corner Cemetery.

The death of **Mrs. Margaret Edith Webster**, 88, occurred at her home at Sussex Corner Oct. 10, 1956, after a short illness. She was the daughter of the late John and Catherine (Brown) Rolf, Tennecape, N.S., and was a member of the Bethel United Church at Mechanic Settlement, where she spent the greater part of her life. She is survived by her husband, James A. Webster; five sons; Harry B., Laconia, N.H.; J. Burpee, Medford, Mass.; Walter G., New York City; Albert S., Sussex Corner, and Frank R., at home.; two daughters, Helen L., Portage Vale, and Marion F., at home; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Interment was at Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Sussex Corner.

Albert Stanley Webster, 5th son of James and Margaret married Lillian **Edna Robinson** on August 5th, 1935. Born in Mechanic Settlement in 1906, Albert S. Webster had resided in Sussex Corner the greater part of his life and operated Webster's Mens Wear in Sussex. His wife Lillian Robinson, died in 1975. He was survived by four sons, James of Mechanic Settlement; William and David both of B.C.; and Donald of Florida; two sisters, Helen, Mrs. Lewis Bustard, and Marion, Mrs. Percy Wood, both of Sussex Corner; also two brothers, Harry B. and James B.

A large number of relatives and friends were saddened to learn of the death of **Mrs. Lillian Edna Webster**, wife of Albert S. Webster, which occurred suddenly at her home at Sussex Corner on the evening of Nov. 2nd. Mrs. Webster was preparing for a gathering of bridge players at her home when she was stricken. Lillian was born in Saint John on December 28, 1914, a daughter of the late Thomas Edwin and Mary Etta (Cox) Robinson. She was a graduate of the Provincial Normal School and while teaching at Mechanic School and boarding with the Webster family, she became engaged to Albert. Following her marriage to Mr. Webster, she resided in Mechanic and Sussex Corner. For many years she was actively interested in organizations and community circles. She was a member of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Sussex Corner, and took part in church work as treasurer. For many years she was a member of Royal Chapter, IODE, and she had assisted her husband in the operations of Webster's Men's Wear, Main Street Street. In more recent years she had assisted in the accounting department of Webster's Ltd. She found great enjoyment in artistic work, notably in painting with oils. She took a keen interest in gardening at her Sussex Corner home, especially with flowers, and was an accomplished bridge player. Surviving, besides her husband, are four sons; three brothers, Ralph W. Robinson, Sussex; W.E. (Joll) Robinson, Sussex Corner, and C. William Robinson, Rothesay. Albert and Lillian rest in Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Sussex Corner, N.B.

~The Family Webster~Con't ~

10. Minnie Jane Webster, born Mechanic, married **Edwin W. Graves** of Elgin, Albert Co. on May 16, 1894. Edwin, born 1862, died 11 Sept. 1897 of a ruptured appendix in Petitcodiac, N.B., when his son, Ralph Wallace was only 6 months old. He was buried in Old Elgin Cemetery, Elgin, NB. Edwin had an infusorial mud business at Pollett Lake. The mud was like clay when wet, but like a white pumice when dry. A 3' diameter pipe was hauled up to the site by a team of horses, a fire was built at both ends of the metal pipe, then mud draped over the pipe to dry out. The dry powder was used for a polishing and cleaning powder, like Ajax or Comet. Wallace's widow, Minnie Jane, remarried Tom Peppers in 1911 and had a daughter, Bessie May. Ralph W. was so angry over his mother's remarriage that he left home and went to Leduc, Alberta, to his Uncle Tom and Mary Ann (Webster) McCready's home. Ralph is dressed in an Indian Chief's regalia in the Webster Album. He was also in WWI. Ralph m. Laura Lamoureux, Al. Died 1964.

Heritage Headline!**The Mechanic General Store~Elias Harmer Sets UP Shop!**

Left an orphan at the age of 12 at Mechanic Settlement, where he was born 8 Dec. 1855, Elias assisted his brother to run the homestead farm until he was 21 years of age. The property was then divided among the heirs and after a time Mr. Harmer purchased the entire property. Elias first commenced business in a room of his home with a small stock purchased from the late Andrew McAfee of Waterford. Without capital to start with, he soon built up quite a trade, and in 1885 had increased his business to such an extent that he sold his farm to James A. Webster and built a store at Moore's Corner, Mechanic. By 1900 his boys had grown up and Mr. Harmer, who was a firm believer in Kings County, decided to get into a community where his business development would serve to open up employment for his sons, and on June 28, 1900, he purchased his Norton business from James E. Price and assumed control of it in August of that year. The Mechanic Settlement business was then sold to James Albert Webster. As a man Mr. Harmer enjoyed a reputation for honesty and integrity, of which he had just cause to feel proud. His first interest was in the welfare of his family whom he kept with him in his business. Elias married Matilda Jamieson from Upham on 24th Dec. 1878. They had ten children; Early, William, Carrie, Murray, Ada, Harry, Mildred, Augusta, Milton and Ruby.

History of Church Hill Church~Mechanic Settlement

The land for the early church was given by Robert Hutchinson and his wife. Mr. Robert Church owned land which is a part of the original, and adjoining the Hutchinson land. Registered in Book J, page 725 Albert County Records. These records show that the church was built in the year 1865. The first children baptized in the church were George Magee and Sedgwick Bayley, who later became a clergyman. The church was built by the combined efforts of all the community as a Community Church, (deed is to the Methodist Church of the land), free to all Protestant denominations to hold service in it. Among those who took a leading part in the building of the Church were: John Bayley, Alex Bayley, John Magee, Richard Magee, Charles Magee, Alex McCully, Robert Sproul, Daniel Gray, and the Carrier family. Peter Moore has a picture of this early hall (the Church was a hall) in his album. Along with the Church and the school, we have pictures of the early Bustard, Moore and Webster family homes here.

Ten years later in 1875, the Elgin Methodist Circuit was formed by taking the districts of Elgin, Pleasant Vale, Forest Glen, and Church Hill from the Salisbury Circuit and Donegal from the Sussex Circuit. Church Hill was called Mechanic Settlement until 1884 and the present Mechanic Settlement was called Moore's Corner until 1903. In the list of Church Members at Church Hill in 1880 are the following names: Bayley, Magee, McCully, Cochran, Bournes, Moore, Sheffer, Graves, Jack and McAllister. At official board meetings Alex Bayley was a leader for years. The Webster family is absent from the church records until 1936. William and Frances Jane Webster were Free Christian Baptists and may have attended the Baptist church in Penobsquis.

In the month of October A.D. 1896, a meeting was called with the idea in view of building a new church at Mechanic, as the hall had been the Church since 1865. A collection was taken at the meeting realizing the sum of \$146.59 to be used as a start of a building fund as reported by Robert L. Moore. Mr. A.H. Campbell, a student from Pine Hill College, Halifax, was in charge of the Waterford, Mechanic, and Markamville Mission field, and had at the Synod in Pictou, N.S. expressed his desire to have a church built at Mechanic. A subscription list was circulated, bringing in a sufficient amount to undertake the work. Mr. John Moore was instructed by the committee to prepare a bill for lumber. In May 1897, Mr. Campbell met with members and appointed those who would be in charge of the building of the church. They were Mr. A.H. Campbell, Thomas Moore, Elias Harmer, Richard Moore and John Moore. Trustees were appointed, and it was agreed upon to name the church as "Bethel Presbyterian Church". The records show that this church was built at a cost of \$1388.15. John Kelly and family donated the land for Bethel Church and also gave \$100 to aid in its construction. The Church, the old hall, school, and the early homes on Church Hill are now gone. The Church Records are available from the Webster and Moore records for interested relatives to view.

Book Brief: History of Waterford Parish-Presented by The Kings County Historical Society; Co-editors-W. Harvey Dalling and Ernest Friars; Secretary and Typist-Faye Armstrong Pearson. This publication provides information from previous newsletters on the following early settlements in Kings County: Waterford Village, Walker Settlement, Rockville, Cedar Camp, Chambers Settlement, Urney, Donegal, Elm Valley, and Philimunro. With Cardwell Parish right next door, we can see how the settlers of Mechanic Settlement intermarried with those in Waterford. This book is available to purchase at the Kings County Museum.

Queries: "Mysterious Ladies and Men of Kings County"

Benson, Thomas Seth: Born U.S., English descent; Medical Dr. in Studholm Parish; Bride-Judith Drake Spragg, 3 Dec 1868, Kings Co. NB. Source- PANB -Marriage Bonds (F-9098, ref. #1868-7). In the 1871 census of Springfield Parish, Judith is the youngest daughter of Jacob Spragg, married to Thomas Seth Benson, and living with her parents. She also has one child, a Forest Benson. She next married Capt. William Urquhart (Descendants of John Urquhart-1705-2001- by Verna Urquhart) on 7 Feb 1875, and had two children. When did Thomas Seth Benson die? or leave? Who were his parents? Why was he an MD here? My mother was a Benson from Belleisle Creek. I am searching for a connection to Thomas.
Bev Floyd- floyd@nbnet.nb.ca

Fowler, Maria: Born in N.B. 27 April 1824. Parents unknown. Maria attended Mrs. Nesbitt's School for Girls in Sackville in 1845. She married John Sprague, (son of George and Sophia Sprague of Penobsquis), farmer in Mechanic Settlement on Jan. 18th, 1849. She and John farmed in Mechanic until 1858 when they moved with their children to St. Mary's, Kent Co., N.B. Five children: Jemima Budd, Lavinia, Sophia Harriett, George Marshall and Hazen Wellesley. Why and how did Maria arrive in Cardwell Parish before 1849? Did she have relatives there? Was she a teacher? Maria Fowler Sprague died Dec. 12th, 1902 in St. Mary's, Kent Co., N.B. Buried in Coates Mills Cemetery, Kent Co., N.B.
Vonda Adams: ev.adams@shaw.ca

Elizabeth Webster: Elizabeth Webster, born about 1750, a widow of the Revolutionary War, arrived on the Eagle in 1783 with Company 38, with one son Edward over ten years old. She was granted Parr Town Lot #503 on August 14th, 1784. She petitioned for land in 1785 in Kings County with William Kearney and was granted 90 acres on Belleisle Bay on Sept 26th, 1786. This was one half of Lot #10 on the south side of the Bay which she shared with Anthony Reece. Her husband may have been Samuel Webster and her maiden name is unknown. There are no records of the death of Elizabeth or of son, Edward and wife Lois. Elizabeth may have died before 1815 as Edward and Lois sold her Belleisle Lot in that year. Searching for information on Elizabeth.
Anne Hill: eanne@nb.sympatico.ca

Margaret Ann Kelly: 2nd daughter to James and Mary (Mercer) Kelly, born July 12th, 1845 in Norton Parish, Kings Co., N.B. At her father's death in 1849, Margaret Ann was adopted by Edward Josiah and his wife Margaret (Waugh) Webster of Wickham, Queens Co., N.B. Edward Josiah's brother, Samuel, had married a Mercer aunt of Margaret's, so there was a family tie. Margaret Ann married William Coleman of Wickham and had 3 children; Annie, George and William. Searching for information on **Margaret Ann**, and her father, **James Kelly**, born about 1795, unknown.
Charlene Bowden: CCBowden@aol.com

Moore, Alexander: When and why did Alexander Moore leave Shinimicas/Linden N.S. and move to Mechanic Settlement, leaving parents and siblings to remain in N.S.? Searching for information on Ann Stevenson, Alexander's wife. Ann was a daughter of Robert Stevenson, Shepody Road, Kings Co., N.B. Donna Gorber; gorberde@yahoo.

~The 48th Annual General Meeting of the Kings County Historical and Archival Society~The Meeting and Christmas Dinner was held at the Hampton United Church Hall on Nov. 22, 2008 with 57 members and guests present. David Fyffe, President, acted as Chairman, and Don MacGowan, as secretary. Presentations were made to Borden McLellan, and John Elliott, in tribute to their work associated with the history of Kings County. Life memberships were presented to Sandra and Richard Thorne, and to Frances and George Sharp in appreciation of their valued and active interest in the Society. Members were thanked for their efforts in organizing the event. Reports were read and accepted. Past President, John Elliott, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Nominating Committee Report for election of Society officers and directors for Nov. 1, 2008 to Oct. 31, 2009. Bev Parlee was appointed auditor for the Society for the fiscal period of 2008-2009. Committee Chairs for this period are: Quilt-Sheila McQueen; Museum Cleaning-Lil Reid; Program-Louise Fyffe; Newsletter-Barb Pearson; Membership-Bev Floyd; Rec. Sec.-Don

MacGowan; Museum Director and Book Sales-Faye Pearson. The meeting was adjourned by Dave Fyffe, following which an auction was held of centerpieces and crafts. Fun was had by all who braved the storm to attend!