The Life & Times of James B. Hall, Ph. D.

by Leone B. Cousins

NOVA SCOTIA LAND SURVEY INSTITUTE
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Foreword

This introduction really begins where Dr. Hall’s biography leaves off — with the accounts of his testamentary bequest and of his death shortly thereafter — though it was almost thirty years before his vision of things began to take substance.

In 1958, money from the capital trust set up by Dr. & Mrs. Hall became available to pay for the first building the N.S. Land Survey Institute ever occupied as its own quarters. At that time a regular annual payment commenced as well from the second Hall trust fund which provided monies to defray operating and maintenance costs.

Some seventeen years later, in the spring of 1975, the Institute moved into larger quarters which were made necessary by the increase in enrolments and an expansion of the range of programs offered. As a consequence of this change, the annual maintenance payment from the Hall bequest was directed more specifically. This money now supports the J. B. Hall Library which forms part of the Institute. All concerned are certain the Halls would have approved.

In the summer of 1978, it seemed to me that some record of Dr. Hall’s achievements ought to be drawn up to commemorate him. Although I should have known better, I was naive enough to think I could get things underway and finally completed without myself becoming too involved with the whole affair. Perhaps if someone other than Mrs. Leone Banks Cousins had undertaken the work, things would have turned out that way. I’m just as glad, though, that they didn’t.

When first approached to undertake the necessary research and writing, Mrs. Cousins made it quite clear that though she was very interested, she manifestly was much too busy on other commitments. But things usually have a way of working out for the best; before long, having thought about it some more, she concluded she could rearrange her schedule.

Mrs. Cousins brought a wealth of genealogical knowledge to her task, and this helped greatly in the work of finding and interviewing people who had recollections of Dr. Hall. She also possesses the skill and resourcefulness of a good detective. And she writes of her subject with sympathy and understanding. Her talents have turned what in the hands of another might have been a rather dry, mechanical biographical sketch, into a warm and human account of the life of a very remarkable man.

J. F. Doig
Principal
Nova Scotia Land Survey Institute

Lawrencetown, N.S.
11 July 1980
When approached to research and write an account of the life of James Barclay Hall, Ph.D., I declined. I felt that it would be a tedious somewhat involved undertaking; and being occupied with several other projects, I doubted that I could spare the time necessary for the research. The idea was discussed on a second occasion, and it was then I became intrigued with the idea of a man, a blacksmith by vocation, who at age 23 could neither read nor write becoming Ph.D., a noted educationalist and author, and proficient in various related fields. Dr. Hall was at the same time a public-spirited native son and long-time resident of the Village of Lawrencetown. A teacher myself by profession and a loyal native of our Annapolis Valley, I could scarcely refuse the request, so I tentatively agreed to attempt the necessary research, with the end in view of writing a limited biography of Dr. J. B. Hall.

I never had occasion to regret my decision. Where to begin was the first problem! I had heard of Dr. Hall, of course, as indeed who in our close-knit Annapolis Valley had not! His name was familiar to the residents of Paradise, where I had grown up and graduated from the local high school, but actually my only personal memory of Dr. J. B. Hall was of sitting before him, quaking in my slippers, when at fifteen years of age, I wrote the MPQ Exams in Bridgetown High School. I worried, what would be his assessment of my paper on Education and Educational Methods? I didn’t give a thought to the man himself!

Since Dr. Hall had been an educationalist and a member of the teaching staff of the Provincial Normal School, I would get some information from the records of the PNC, in Truro, and the Dept. of Education, Halifax. That’s what I thought! I couldn’t have been more mistaken. The former hadn’t a single line on James Barclay Hall, Ph.D., and a member of the Faculty for 32 years! A letter of enquiry to the latter department drew a blank, also.

At the same time an enquiry of Boston University produced a reply in the negative. (I have since learned, by sheer coincidence, that James B. Hall, M.A., was the very first student to receive a Doctorate in Philosophy from Boston University, that Faculty having been first set up in 1877.)

Having found exactly nothing from these logical sources of information, I concluded that my only hope was to begin the research here in our Valley where everyone knows everyone else. I would, therefore, begin in Hall’s native Village of Lawrencetown. I looked around. Whom should I interview first?

With a little push from Col. Doig I timidly approached Dr. Frank Morse, another well-known native son. He had lived for a number of years in Dr. Hall’s former home and as a long-time resident of the village would have at least some youthful memories of J. B., as well as a knowledge of his various activities locally, from older residents, or so I reasoned. So my first interview was with Dr. Frank. It proved to be very productive. I learned of several personal incidents re J. B. which made my subject appear warm and human to me. My interest grew after I had spent some time with Miss Ethel Shaffner, who as a neighbour and friend, had very personal memories of J. B. and Clara which she shared with me. After these interviews you might say, “I was on my way!”
Progress was slow, however, and without the concrete assistance and moral encouragement of Col. Doig, I might have become discouraged. He, himself, found various items, bits from scrapbooks and family papers, while I searched my family scrapbooks, Belcher’s Farmers’ Almanac, and any likely source available.

Weeks and months passed, and after numerous letters, several visits to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, to the Vaughn Library — Acadia University, I had collected and assembled quite a substantial quantity of material on the life and activities of Dr. J. B. Hall. I drew up my first rough draft just eight months after I had begun the research. (It seemed like eight years).

By this time, I was deeply involved. Having taught in the Halifax city schools for more than twenty years, as well as an evening class in Adult Education, I had in addition taught for several years in Europe, and so was interested in Dr. Hall’s lifelong dedication to his profession as a teacher.

Since I am at present actively involved in the Valley Literacy Council, which seeks to promote elementary education of the illiterate, I naturally felt a certain rapport with Dr. Hall’s urge to broaden the field of education in his home surroundings. So I continued my quest for information regarding his activities along these lines. It was very gratifying to learn of his early adult evening classes.

There were additional interviews, usually productive, through the valley. I sent letters of enquiry as far afield as Ontario and Alberta, which bore fruit, and thus continued to add to my potpourri on the life of J. B. Hall.

Finally it became evident that we had exhausted every available source of information and must, therefore, consider our research concluded. So with a last nudge from my “mentor” and after fifteen months of research, I submitted my final version of the life of James Barclay Hall, Ph.D., as herewith.

Starting from zero, as we had, the end product of our endeavour might well stand as a concrete example of the practical application of the motto of the Normal College class of 1911.

"Follow, follow, thou shalt win."

I am most grateful to all those who helped me through their interest and cooperation in my search for information. Col. Doig was materially helpful and always supportive of my endeavours.

Thanks are due Mr. Walter K. Morrison for the reproduction and enlargement of the photo of Dr. Hall from the Provincial Normal School photo of the graduating class of 1911 and to Mr. Fred Fiske who provided the photo.

A debt of gratitude is due Donna L. Bent and Judith A. Foster of the Survey Institute for their patience in typing and retyping the successive drafts of the manuscript. Thanks girls!

Leone Banks Cousins
Kingston, Nova Scotia
June 30, 1980

V
James Barclay Hall was born in the Village of Lawrencetown, Annapolis County in 1843, the same year that the Post Office was established there.

He was the eldest son in the family of seven children of John and Caroline Sarah (Longley) Hall.

Of English ancestry, the Halls arrived at Annapolis Royal from Massachusetts in 1760 and settled in Lower Granville just east of the Old Scotch Fort and today’s Habitation. The family was prominent in the community and in the commercial life of the area and conducted an extensive mercantile and shipping business. The family owned a wharf, built ships and were proprietors of an “Entertainment House”—as the hotels and coach stops were called in the early days. They owned and operated one of the first vessels in Granville, the Hall. They were also among the early farmers.

The Longleys were of English ancestry as well. Israel arrived with his family from Groton, Massachusetts and settled in the Belleisle district. Three of his sons moved to
Paradise, while Israel Jr. remained in Granville. Asaph, the third son, was the father of Caroline Sarah. Her brothers were Avard (MLA, MP) and Israel, who became the father of Hon. James Wilberforce (MLA and Attorney-General of Nova Scotia 1886-1905). J. Wilberforce was also author of several books. It is likely that Wilberforce was an influence and example for James B. Hall, as they were friends in their adult life. Although six years younger, J. Wilberforce enrolled at Acadia two years prior to James.

John and Caroline Hall settled in Lawrencetown on the main village thoroughfare or Post Road, just west of the road over the river. Here they raised their family of seven children. It was a small and pretty village on the banks of the Annapolis River which was crossed by a covered bridge. There was the village doctor, the school of James Hardy in his own house, a few small stores, the Methodist meeting house, a small Sunday school class (one of the first), the Baptist church on the opposite side of the river, the Anglican Church, and the Stagecoach Inn. There was also a grist mill, a saw mill and a carding machine and, most important perhaps, the blacksmith shop. John Hall was a blacksmith and a farmer too. In the first half of the nineteenth century families had to be self-sufficient. There was a garden as well as fields of oats, barley, flax and wheat. Farm stock comprised cattle, sheep, pigs, and hens. Geese were kept for their feathers and down that make pillows and feather-beds. The women prepared the flax and wove the threads into linen. They made candles and soap, baked the bread, spun the wool into yarn and wove the cloth. There was little cash money in circulation.

John Hall's smithy was located near his house and buildings. He also had a stable and boarded and cared for the horses of one, Barnaby, who drove a coach on the line between Halifax and Annapolis. The elder Hall at one time exercised the horses for the "Pony Express", 


carrying the mail between Halifax and Victoria Beach to the waiting steamer for Saint John and the telegraph, which had reached that city at the end of 1848. The run began at Halifax on February 21, 1849, when the rider picked up the mail packet from the overseas steamer, and galloped off toward Granville. The rider changed horses every 12 miles. He sounded a horn a half mile before he reached the stop and his fresh mount would be saddled and ready. This always furnished great excitement for the villagers along the route. The rider of the rival line changed horses at Ross's Inn (next east of the present Baptist Church) at Lawrencetown, which was a regular coach stop. When the "Pony Express" reached Granville, a fresh mount would be ready at "Entertainment House", the establishment of the Hall family. Among their business enterprises was a stable; it is probable that John Hall, Sr. learned his trade at Hall's in Granville. The telegraph line reached Halifax in November, 1849 and the "Pony Express" passed into history.

By the 1850's plans were afoot to upgrade the public schools. Schools were supported by parents and government, each paying a small sum for each pupil. A school was frequently a room in the schoolmaster's house, or a plain one-room building. All ages might be found in the same room—sometimes one as old as 20 years, another as young as five. There were private schools for girls. Boys usually attended public school only in the winter, since they were needed on the farm during the planting and harvesting seasons.

Often the education of a boy was simple reading, writing, and arithmetic. The larger settlements usually had a better school; but any school was only as good as the schoolmaster!

The institutions of higher learning were Acadia College, Wolfville and Dalhousie at Halifax. Academies or prep schools were Horton associated with Acadia, King's Collegiate at Windsor, and Pictou Academy. These
were established by the Baptist, Anglican, and Presbyterian denominations, respectively. The earliest public schools were under the supervision of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which was an organization directed by the Anglican Church in England. By the 1850’s it appeared the Government at last would do something constructive for the school system. There was talk of Free Schools, paid for by taxation of property. While this was unpopular with those who had no children, or with their children already grown, it was welcome news to parents of large families. The census of 1861 showed about five-eighths of the province outside Halifax was without opportunity for, or benefits of schooling.

In February the Free School Act was introduced in the legislature. It became law in May, 1864. The province was divided into numbered sections wherever there was a need for a school, and new buildings went up quickly.

Times were changing. Confederation was fast becoming a reality, and the railroad had begun its march from Windsor to Annapolis. The first sod was turned at the crossing on the Leonard Road on July 20, 1867, by Mrs. Charlotte (Troop) Longley, wife of the Hon. Avard, MLA, Commissioner of Railways for the Province. He was an uncle of James Barclay Hall. Confederation of the four provinces—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick—had been achieved just nineteen days before. The day of the stage coach would soon be past.

About this time James B. Hall took stock: here he was 23 years of age; a blacksmith in his father’s forge, the eldest son usually following the father’s pattern, as he could rarely be spared from the home. By now the two younger brothers could easily take his place. Horses would not be important when the trains began to run. He made his decision.

“I’m going to get an education!” he declared, and hanging up his leather apron, he left the forge forever.
Back to school he went. It would be very difficult; in fact, it was sheer drudgery. There was no advanced class in the village, so what help and encouragement he received took place at the schoolmaster's desk, and that probably after school hours. James persisted. In 1869, he was ready for his first test. He would be a teacher and, therefore, must pass the entrance exam to Horton Academy, the nearest prep school. He wrote the exam, barely passing; but he was on his way. Hall must have been greatly influenced by his cousin Wilberforce Longley; the two were friends throughout their lives, and J. W. was, by now, enrolled at Acadia College.

So, in 1869, James Barclay Hall enrolled at Horton Academy Preparatory School. He never looked back. He graduated B.A. from Acadia in 1873 and M.A. in 1877. He received his degree of Ph.D. from Boston University that same year, as well.

He was now 34 years of age; a slim, handsome man—reserved but friendly and with an air of distinction. He returned to his native village as he would do for many years to come. When eventually he retired after 38 years in the field of education, he made his home in his beloved Lawrencetown. But retirement was far in the future; here and now James would do something for the young. During the preceding years he had helped and encouraged his youngest brother, Fred, in his education. Now the brothers opened a High School or Academy in Lawrencetown. It was a private school for boys; the public school had only the elementary grades. It was just about this time that the new school section had been set off and a two-room public school built. While James was operating his private school he demonstrated his concern for the welfare of the community when he joined with two other gentlemen of the village to open its first Bank. His banking interests foreshadowed a lifelong habit of care and shrewdness in monetary affairs. At any rate, this initial private venture later became the branch of the
Royal Bank of Canada which still serves Lawrencetown and district.

During the second year of the private school venture, Dr. J. B. accepted a call to the principalship of Horton Academy, and Fred continued as head of the Lawrencetown school for a time. James was only one year at Horton when he was engaged to fill the chair of “History of Education” and “Methods in Language and History” at the Provincial Normal School in Truro. He had found his niche; it was to be in the field of education. He would, for the next thirty years, encourage the young to improve the mind, and inspire the teacher to gain an understanding of the principles of the divine art of teaching.

Dr. Hall settled into life at the Normal School and in the town which contained it. He made friends—a close one being G. O. Fulton, owner and proprietor of a fine bookstore on Inglis Street. When Fulton married a young teacher, a graduate of the Normal School—Nina Amelia Fellows of Granville—on September 5, 1881, Dr. Hall was the “best man”. He was a second cousin of the father of the bride through grandparents being brother and sister. James always had an affection for the large family connection of which he was a part. He remained a warm friend of the Fultons during his years in Truro.

The public schools in Truro were associated with the Normal School to the extent that they were Model Schools in which student teachers could observe how things should be done. The founder of the Normal School, Dr. Forrester, had arranged for a kindergarten to be a model also. Dr. Hall was quite enthusiastic about the school for young children and he was instrumental in placing others in a number of schools of the province. He became Secretary of the Kindergarten Committee, and set up and participated actively in that organization for some years, promoting the adoption of the kindergarten class in schools throughout the province.
In 1883 (the same year his mother died at 72) Dr. Hall went to Europe for three months, visiting schools and universities in many leading cities. He was particularly interested in the German educational institutions, and here he got much of his driving force for kindergartens—the Germans being founders of the original system, which they named. He was also interested in German technical schools and in methods and administration of technological programs. He had the nub of an idea which would germinate and bear fruit in a tangible way, years later—a technical school for his own village.

About this time Dr. Hall, with other members of the faculty, organized the Normal School Alumni Association—from this emerged the Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces of Canada, which had its first session in 1887. It was a refresher course for teachers. The faculty was made up of educationalists (teachers and professors) from Mount Allison University, Acadia College, and the Academies of Yarmouth and Amherst, the two provincial normal schools, and one member from the school systems in Halifax and Kentville.

In 1892 the school met in St. John. There were 60 students registered, 18 from Nova Scotia. In 1893 the session was in Sackville, N.B., July 5 to July 20.

Looking at the brochure of that session, one wonders how they crammed it all into two weeks. One could only hope that the weather would co-operate, since there were three outings scheduled, and it was during "horse and buggy days." The brochure (26 pages) listed the Board of Directors:

President and Faculty of Instructors
Principal and Faculty of Normal Schools
Inspectors of Schools

The President was J. B. Hall, Ph.D.
When Summer School met in 1903, on Tuesday, July 21 to Friday, Aug. 7—a day longer—at Chatham, N.B., some of the names had changed, but Dr. Hall was still one of the faculty.

In 1889-90, Dr. Hall returned to Europe and spent a year in study and observation of educational work in schools and universities of Germany. He visited many of the schools and studied at Berlin University under Paulsen and Lazarus.

On May 9 he arrived at Jena, scene of the crushing defeat of the Prussian army by Napoleon in 1806. Jena was famous also for its Academy, and in particular for its chair of Philosophy, held by Professor Rein at this date. James B. was enrolled as a “candidate in Philosophy.” He duly received his certificate of attestation, couched in classical Latin which, in translation, reads:

At the Academy of Jena

Under Charles Alexander, Grand Duke of Saxony, Prince of Weimar and Eisenach, Landgrave of Thuringia, Marquis of Meissen, Count of the first rank of Henneberg and Lord of Blankenhain, Neustadt, and Tautenburg, as its Honorary President,

James Hall, an Englishman and candidate in philosophy, having, in my presence and capacity as prorector, confirmed his name, country, and course of studies, has promised, under solemn oath, that he will readily and willingly obey the statutes of this Academy that have been or will be issued under the authority of our Governors; that he will faithfully respect the decrees of the Senate and the decisions of our lawful judges; that he will never attach himself to any unlawful factions nor will in any way contribute to the creation of such under any pretext; and that he will never, through wicked contrivance, work anything against this university that might bring it trouble and harm. Wherefore, having been enrolled in this academic community, he has received this document in testimony thereof, sealed with the seal of
this Academy, and signed by my own hand in my capacity as Chancellor, Jena, in the year of our Lord, 1890, on the ninth day of the month of May

Wilhelm Muller
Prorektor of the Academy

On his return, Hall published an essay—a small volume entitled "Notes on the German Schools." This was an outline of his observations of common schools, and it appeared in 1890. The little book left no doubt but that education was James B.'s vocation.

In the preface he expresses the hope that his outlines might be the means of inspiring some young teachers to gain a more comprehensive knowledge of the principles on which the divine art of teaching is based.

A notation at the back of the small volume reads:

Outlines of Pedagogical Psychology
Logic
and
History of Pedagogics
by
J. B. Hall Ph.D.
Normal School
Truro

This was the projected title for his next work. It was published by William Briggs, Toronto, with the revised title:

Outlines of Psychology, Logic
and
The History of Education
by
J. B. Hall Ph.D.
Prov. Normal School
Certainly, this was a more attractive summary of its contents. The presentation was divided into three sections or chapters, each covering a topic of the title.

The third topic, History of Education, touches on various aspects of education from the Ancients, through the Greek, Roman, to the early Christian; the Middle Ages, the sixteenth century, Jesuits, philosophers of the seventeenth century, pedagogues of the eighteenth, and many learned Europeans are discussed. He closes with observations on education at that time as found in European countries such as Germany and England, and on education in the United States and Canada.

He included a table giving “approximately the percentages of illiteracy among persons over 10 years of age” in 19 countries. Hall does not state his source of reference, nor does he include a date. He begins his list with Prussia at 1.14%, Germany 4% and ends with India at 95%. The United States is recorded with 25%, but there is no entry for Canada. The Prussian entry given to two decimal places of a percentage point, suggests an acceptance of the official figure issued by the State Education Office, acquired while he was at Jena, while the other figures are doubtless estimates of one sort or another. At any rate, he gives a glowing account of education in the Dominion of Canada. One has the feeling, though, that it is a biased and selective report.

In 1891 Dr. Hall had been appointed “examiner in teaching” for Nova Scotia, and in this capacity visited the rural and urban schools. He was Vice-President of the Dominion Education Association and represented Nova Scotia in the Dominion History Competition 1895-96.

He was also a provincial examiner for the Board of Education, and for many years supervised the students who sat for their provincial exams at Bridgetown High School. His subject was Geography. Dr. Hall also supervised and graded the papers written by prospective
teachers, who were high school graduates, and required to write and pass a set of papers known collectively as Minimum Professional Qualifications (MPQ). These covered three subjects; a pass was the prerequisite for securing a Teacher's License without Normal School Training. Education and Educational Methods was the paper assigned to Dr. Hall; the other two were School Hygiene and School Law and Forms. He is listed in Belcher's *Farmers Almanac* for 1920, under Education, as Examiner for High School Geography, and M.P.Q. Subject, No. 2.

A former teacher, retired these many years, recalls that J. B. was supervisor when she sat for her MPQ Exams at Bridgetown High School in 1920. As she struggled with the unfamiliar vocabulary of Educational Methods, Dr. Hall dozed gently behind the teacher's desk. He was 78 at that time, well-known throughout the Valley, respected by one and all.

Usually James B. spent part of the summer in Lawrencetown, with his young brother Fred and their sister Bertha. In the summer of 1894, for example the reunion of the Bents took place in Paradise. On August 17, the family of Warren and Frances (Schaffner) Bent gathered at the homestead, next door to Israel Longley, brother of Caroline Sarah Hall, and the father of James Wilberforce, MLA and Attorney General of Nova Scotia 1886-1905. More than one hundred guests in the form of relatives from California to Halifax, gathered at the beautiful home and grounds which were decorated for the gala occasion. The Halls were cousins of the Schaffners, and the Longleys, cousins of the Bents.

The gathering was addressed by several of the distinguished guests, among whom were, The Hon. James Wilberforce Longley and his cousin Dr. James Barclay Hall. The latter expressed his pleasure at being present at the grand family reunion. He felt such meetings would tend to "enlarge men's sympathies and make them more
According to the *Weekly Monitor*, Bridgetown, the happy occasion came to a close with "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" and the national anthem, "God Save The Queen."

In looking through the calendar of the Provincial Normal School, Dr. Hall is first mentioned in 1889 as teacher of Language and History; in 1893, "History of Education" and "Method in Geography" were added; in 1904 he was teaching "Psychology and Civics." His name J. B. Hall, Ph.D., appears for the last time in 1910-11.

In 1901 he spent some time at Edinburgh University.

In 1903, Dr. Hall's picture was published in Truro News, May 27, with an article on the session of the Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces. The School would meet in Chatham, N.B., Tuesday, July 21 to Friday, August 7. Dr. Hall was listed as a Director. It states the "school has been growing in efficiency ever since it was established 16 years ago."

The motto adopted by the school: "Recreative, Interesting, and Educational," expresses the aims of the group.

Ambitious plans were taking shape that year! It had been suggested that "an ideal session of the summer school would be to take a trip across the Atlantic." A committee had been appointed to investigate holding summer school in the British Isles and reported, "the entire cost of such a meeting need not be more than $150.00."

Indicative of the prevailing salary scale: "The founders of the summer school were themselves all teachers and fully realized that, unless the cost was very moderate, the teachers whose special benefit was desired, would be debarred (sic) from attendance. The tuition fee for the entire course is only $3.50. The article went on to say "similar institutions for a course no fuller (sic) charge from $30 to $40."
Teachers were advised that the exceptionally moderate rates could be obtained by an early application to the local Secretary of the Summer School.

It is not known if the students made the trip to the British Isles, but, knowing the expertise of James B. in organization, we suspect that a subsequent session of the Atlantic School of Science may have been convened in the British Isles. See Annex B for the high points of the session of 1893.

In the triangular shaped invitation to the Class Day Exercises of the Provincial Normal College, class of 1911, June twenty-seventh, the Honorary President of the Institute is Dr. J. B. Hall Ph.D. and the program reads:

Farewell address Dr. J. B. Hall

Whether the farewell is to the graduates or Dr. Hall’s farewell to the Institution is not stated, but probably the latter. James Barclay Hall, Ph.D., Educator, retired in 1911.

The motto for the class that year was “Follow, follow, thou shalt win.” The words might have been said of Dr. Hall’s own career, from the day he left the forge to go to school back in his native village in 1866, to the moment his teaching days came to an end, forty-five years later.

Dr. Hall is remembered by members of the Class of 1911 as a very kind person, with a good sense of humour, who took a great interest in each of his students. Miss E. Bessie Lockhart of Wolfville writes:

Dr. Hall was a very genial gentleman. He was especially interested in “environment” and “ecology” though these are new names . . . Although he was our professor, he treated us all as equals . . . he was a real teacher.

Myrtle Neily Beaton, a native of Nictaux, and a former teacher in the Canadian West, remembers Dr. Hall
as a friendly and competent teacher, who encouraged the students to accept responsibility. Looking back 68 years she feels that there was a special rapport between Dr. Hall and the Normal students from his native Annapolis County.

At the end of a long and successful career he returned to his native village.

**Retirement Years in Lawrencetown**

With retirement an actuality, Dr. Hall returned to his home in his beloved Lawrencetown, but not to idleness. He had maintained over the years a close relationship with family and friends, and had always a deep interest in the local school.

In 1890 a pupil of the Lawrencetown school placed first in a Dominion-wide competition for an original true story. This occasion was marked by a celebration when Miss Maude Saunders was presented with the prize, a beautiful piano, bearing an engraved silver plate. The whole village turned out to do her honour at a gathering in Whitman Hall, October 30, 1890. She had placed first among 2357 entries from across Canada.

The address on this occasion was delivered by Dr. James B. Hall, following the presentation of the prize. Among other speakers was Dr. Hall’s brother John, a trustee of the school, who spoke on their behalf.

So J. B. was no stranger to Lawrencetown—a native son had simply come home. Always an enthusiastic promoter of community improvement, civic reform and progress, he now assumed an active role in the life of the village. The community was much changed from the time when he and brother Fred had opened their private High School, some forty years before. Since the arrival of the railroad in 1869 the village had grown steadily. The main street was lined on both sides by stately elms, meeting
overhead to form a leafy arch. There were sidewalks, and a new bridge spanned the river. Fine comfortable homes, with landscaped lawns and flower gardens enclosed by white picket fences, were numerous. There were churches of three denominations, with two resident clergy; there was the hotel; there were several prosperous mercantile businesses and of course the telephone and telegraph. There was also the bank of which J. B., with other businessmen, was a co-founder, and a drug store. Two doctors and a dentist had extensive practices. Everywhere there were orchards: miles of fruit trees in the surrounding countryside.

On sidings adjacent to the railroad station were five apple warehouses. Here during the fall and winter the farmers packed apples and loaded waiting box-cars for the rail trip to Halifax to be shipped to the West Indies and British Isles. Summer was the busy season, with crops and gardens to care for. Two regular express trains passed east and west six days of the week carrying mail and passengers. There were also two daily freights and, during the summer season, two “Flying Bluenose” went zipping through the Valley carrying visitors and tourists each way between Halifax and the “Boston boat” at Yarmouth. The Bluenose stopped only at the larger centers unless flagged down. Every summer visitors arrived in Lawrencetown by this means, spending the season as boarders at the village hotel or on the Bay Shore. For many years several members of a family would leave home to make a career in the United States, particularly Massachusetts, and would return to spend their annual vacation with their families in Nova Scotia. Dr. Hall’s youngest brother, Frederick, was one such emigrant.

There was also a week-end train—the one between Annapolis and Halifax. The milk train went through in the cool of the evening, picking up the milk-cans left on the station platforms by the farmer.
Trains were great company for country people. There were dozens of crossings and the engineer, by law, sounded the whistle which could be heard for much more than a mile in clear weather. Indeed one could foretell the weather by the tone of the whistle, which sounded deeper and nearer, with a drop in the barometer, forecasting rain. One could almost set one's watch by the “noon train”. Village people frequently walked to the station to mail a letter, as well as just to see who alighted from, or boarded, the train.

People walked to do their errands and shopping. Groceries were delivered by horse and wagon, and left on the kitchen table. Doors were rarely locked—day or night. Everybody in the village was known by everyone else, at least by sight. The mail was picked up at the village Post Office while exchanging the “time of day” with neighbours, en route. At twelve sharp the mill whistle sounded, which was the signal to lay down tools and go straight home to dinner which was the main meal of the day. Supper was a more leisurely affair, but promptly at six in the evening.

For amusement there were sleigh rides, parties, pie socials, and skating on the river in winter; family picnics on Ross-Hall's Island, or the Bay Shore by hay-ride, in the summer. Nearby towns observed national holidays alternately, sometimes with horse races.

Sunday was a peaceful quiet day of rest—no trains and no mill-whistle. Nearly every family had a driving-horse and a carriage, double-seated for families with children, and on fine Sunday afternoons the family usually enjoyed an outing visiting nearby friends or relatives. One had already greeted friends nearer to hand, at the morning church service.

It was an easy, relaxed, and happy way of life into which James B. Hall, with his friendly nature, fitted easily. Indeed, one looks back on this way of life with a
certain nostalgia. Just as the arrival of the railroad was followed by change, so the day of the motor-car, just over the horizon, would arrive inevitably and this way of life would be no more.

Meantime Dr. Hall, never idle for long, picked up the threads of his new way of life. This tall, spare figure, wearing a bowler hat, and carrying a walking-stick was already familiar to the residents of Lawrencetown. He was to be an important member of the community for the next seventeen years. He was interested in the schools, particularly in education of the youth—probably recalling his own youth and how he narrowly missed his own vocation, through his early years at the blacksmith’s forge.

On reflecting on the life of Dr. James B. one is struck by how this brilliant man, who had so much to offer, almost didn’t make it. His youth was sheer agony, as he struggled to master the simple rudiments of reading. At age 23, a tall, gangling and shy youth, his hands shaped by the tools of his early trade, he persevered—sometimes amid ridicule from the children in the class. On one occasion he was faced with having to pronounce the word *psalm*. He always tried, and after puzzling for a few moments: “Slam”, he exclaimed confidently—only to be humiliated by his error. However, with his brilliant intellect, rapid progress was inevitable once he had mastered the simple rudiments of language. Wasn’t it fortunate that he succeeded, for the cause of education in Nova Scotia was advanced by the energy and intellect of Dr. James B. Hall!

A departure from his usual way of life occurred soon after J. B.’s return to Lawrencetown. He was persuaded to throw his hat into the political arena. He ran on the Liberal ticket for a seat in the Provincial Legislature, representing Annapolis County in the Election of 1911. His opponent was Norman H. Phinney, of the well-known
Phinney Music Company, a life-long resident of Lawrencetown. The two candidates were friends, but the contest was on; and a serious struggle it was. When the final votes were counted, Phinney had won. James B. was not unduly disturbed. He resumed his interrupted activities, in church and community affairs. Both men were interested and active in the plan for a “Building an Agricultural Organization” in the Valley, located (hopefully) in Lawrencetown. This project would eventually be realized.

During the first years of retirement Dr. Hall made his home with his only surviving sister, Bertha, though he was not far from their brother John, and other members of the family. Hall remained a close friend of his cousin the Honourable J. Wilberforce Longley. The two enjoyed fishing and they made an occasional trip together to Albany Cross for a day or two at this popular sport.

James was active in the Lawrencetown Methodist (United) Church and was busy in a variety of community organizations where he was frequently a speaker. He was an enthusiastic promoter (if not the actual founder) of the Lawrencetown Library; he was active in the Literary Society, which was a group which convened monthly during the fall and winter months at the homes of different members. Individual members subscribed to a particular magazine; these were circulated through the group. At the meetings a programme was enjoyed by all: perhaps a one-act play or selections by the male quartette; often a debate; sometimes an address.

Dr. Hall visited the near-by schools, often addressing the classes in his easy way. He visited the new three room school in Lawrencetown which, by then included the high school grades. By 1925 a new and larger building would include the special departments of Domestic Science, Manual Training, and Music. A laboratory and a library were also included. It probably occurred to James B. that
Education had come a long way since 1866, the year he had entered the Baptist Church school (at 23) to begin his education.

The even tenor of village life was rudely shattered by World War I which broke out on August 4, 1914 and continued to November 11, 1918. Things would never be the same again! A way of life was gone forever. With the war, everyday life in the small communities was indeed changed. Nearly all men of military age, who could be spared, enlisted and went ‘off to War’. Those left behind coped with the shortages. Farmers worked harder, since other hands which formerly held the plow now carried a rifle. Everyone worked for the “War Effort”. Every community had a Red Cross organization. Concerts and drives for funds were the order of the day. School children were drilled in flag-waving marches. The women knit, quilted, sewed, and packed parcels for the Red Cross to send to hospitals and to the boys at the front. Dr. Hall was active in that organization; he had the time and the talent.

Although the war effort was top priority, local affairs were not forgotten. In the years immediately prior to the outbreak of hostilities, the government had toyed with the idea of erecting an agricultural Demonstration Building, in the fertile Annapolis Valley. It would be a sort of centre, and operated for the benefit of the farmer. Nothing had come of it. Most considered the idea as ‘election talk’. They reckoned without Dr. J. B. Hall. Always the enthusiastic promoter of any cause furthering education, whether academic or practical, he joined the valley enthusiasts and became a prime exponent of the plan for construction of a government building for agricultural purposes, preferably in Lawrencetown.

He and others worked tirelessly. After many a meeting, a good deal of politicking, and the usual pressures, Lawrencetown was finally selected as the site, right in the heart of the farming district.
Dr. Hall and other interested citizens were delighted and work began at once. It was completed during the war. Immediately it justified its reason for being. The Department of Agriculture offered short courses for farmers. The Women’s Institute promoted short courses on cooking and canning. A large number attended.

Dr. J. B. Hall was gratified. He believed one should never give up learning. He enthusiastically began to plan a gala celebration to mark the opening of the facility. This would be for school children: a United School Exhibition. It was sponsored and promoted by Dr. J. B., himself. All summer, mothers and daughters were sewing, hooking, knitting, and canning. Boys were grooming their calves, and coaxing the vegetables to grow bigger and better. A sample of every variety of fruit and vegetable was put into a pint jar, sealed and polished, and labelled ready for the great day. Miss Eileen Henderson of the Department of Rural Science, Provincial Normal College was in the neighbourhood for the summer. Her headquarters were at the Demonstration Building. She worked tirelessly, teaching canning, in the new type jars with a spring top, to mothers and daughters.

At last the great day arrived, Wednesday, September 12, 1917. It was a gala occasion for the Valley. The exhibits were many and varied, and a great credit to the exhibitors, who were the school children of the area. The emphasis was on their work. A single exhibit might have as many as 36 varieties of fruit and vegetables. Schools rendered musical numbers. There were games, swings, races, and speeches, a wonderful get-together. Prizes were awarded and the happy occasion ended with “God Save The King”. None was any happier than James B. Hall, who had fathered the whole idea.

When the building was constructed, a room had been set aside for the club-room of the Literary Society. It was finished in fine wood panelling, with a fire-place, shelves
for books, carpeted and well-lighted; it was a handsome club-room. Unfortunately the room was demolished when the building was renovated. The original, plus a dozen additional buildings including a sports arena or rink, is presently the home of the County Exhibition patronized by people from far and near. This well-known annual event grew out of Dr. Hall's first one-day United School Exhibition—Admission 10 Cents. He would see the first Annapolis County Fair and Exhibition at the Demonstration Building and grounds in September, 1927.

"Once a teacher; always a teacher", it has been said. Certainly teaching was Dr. Hall's true vocation, and always uppermost in his mind. He had a really innovative idea toward the end of the war. He conceived the idea of furthering the education of those adults who had not had the advantages of a good school in their early years.

Since J. B. rarely had an idea which was not followed by action, he promptly opened an evening class for adult men and youth of the community. The class met in the vestry of the Methodist (United) Church and Dr. Hall taught elementary arithmetic and English to a fair-sized group. Among those attending the classes were Homer and Miner Daniels and Dave Whitman from the south side of the river, and Charles Harris from Brickton.

Mr. Harris remembers the class vividly, "Dr. Hall was an enthusiastic and humourous instructor who had a personal interest in the purposes of each—and "wonderful at explaining." " It was at this period that the idea of Adult Education became popular. Several towns and communities throughout the province organized similar classes, no doubt the origin of today's Continuing Education programme.

At about the same time a committee of interested citizens, including Dr. Hall, organized the first public Library in Lawrencetown, the beginning of the present much larger facility.
When the war years with their anxieties, sorrows, shortages, and toil were a thing of the past, people picked up the threads of their ordinary lives. Many changes had come to the village.

With the Library a reality, evening classes a going concern, the Demonstration Building a real physical presence, and Dr. James B. Hall an enthusiastic promoter of all, it seemed appropriate for the citizens to make some tangible show of appreciation toward their native son.

Accordingly, at a gathering of friends and fellow-citizens, on February 17, 1919, Lawrencetown paid tribute to a distinguished son, James Barclay Hall, Ph.D. He was presented with an illuminated address, ‘as a spontaneous expression of our genuine feelings,’ and ‘a slight indication of the eminent regard and honour in which you are held’. It was signed by N. H. Phinney, L. R. Morse, H. H. Whitman, R. J. Messenger and F. G. Palfrey.

During the years since his return to Lawrencetown Dr. Hall had continued his visits to the public schools, his first love. As he went from class to class he reflected on the education provided for the youth of the province, particularly in his native county. The nucleus of a plan formed in his mind. It would reach fruition many years later.

He saw the need for some further and practical training for the youth, other than, or in addition to, the academic courses offered by High School and University. He considered something along the lines of a Vocational School, where the youth could learn skills applicable to his future life in the community, or on the farm. In all probability Dr. Hall had had this concept in his mind since his exposure to the German Technical Schools many years before.

Dr. Hall continued as Examiner of High School and Teachers’ MPQ papers written each year at the end of June! In the year 1920, at 77 years of age the name Dr. J. B.
Hall appeared among others, on the Board of Provincial Examiners for the Department of Education.

When James B. Hall was 78 years of age, a great change came into his life. He was active and in good health, but the tempo of his life had slowed somewhat. Many of his contemporaries had passed on. Less active, he had time for reflection. Perhaps he realized, 'it's later than you think', more likely he was simply lonely. For whatever the reason, early in the year he took a big step, and on January 12, 1921 Dr. James Barclay Hall married Clara (Willett) Bancroft, widow of his friend, the late Samuel Bancroft, and a distant cousin, as well as long-time friend and neighbour.

The marriage was a wonderful change for James B. For all his long life he had lived and worked for others. He had had no personal or intimate life, such as most men know. Now for the years remaining, he would be loved and cared for by a fine and gracious lady. J. B. was personally happy, and deeply appreciative of Clara's care and devotion. Soon after the marriage, one evening she passed her husband his slippers, as many a wife has done a thousand times, but the husband's reaction was unusual. At this homely act of wifely thoughtfulness J. B.'s eyes filled with tears. As he explained, 'it was the first time in his life that anyone had performed a simple act for his personal comfort as a gesture of affection.' They were happy. James enjoyed his new status, and their home was conspicuous for gracious hospitality during the next seven years.

On the marriage of a young friend, Clara made plans to host the wedding reception, following the ceremony. After lengthy preparation, everything was in readiness. The wedding party and guests arrived at the Hall residence.

Tables has been laid with flowers, linen and silver; the guests were seated, when the bell rang again. Upon
opening her front door Clara was confronted by two Micmac chiefs, clad in full regalia, feathered headdress included, and carrying several baskets. Clara knew they were not wedding guests, and explained she was occupied, and bade them “Good day”. The Indians were not to be put off, they would like to see the bridal couple and present the baskets as a gift. Always the gracious hostess, Clara was compelled to acquiesce, and opened the door wide. The Indians entered. They presented their baskets, looked for a seat, and remained. Clara hastily laid two places and the “wedding feast” proceeded.

Presently it was time for the departure of the happy couple for the honeymoon. The Ford car was waiting at the gate, decorated with white streamers and the traditional old shoe trailing behind, the good luck symbol. The bride and groom ran the gauntlet in a shower of rice and laughter, and reached their get-away car. Who should be occupying the seats, one in each front and back, but the chiefs! Nothing would budge them, so the couple set out on their honeymoon, each seated beside a Micmac chief in his feathered bonnet. Unusual to say the least. Dr. Hall was amused by the episode, and Clara’s discomfiture. It became one of his favorite stories.

The whole episode had been staged by friends of the groom. It was just another quaint custom peculiar to that era, like serenading “newlyweds”, by putting a pig in the bedroom, or the bucket from the well up the flagpole on the barn. In the earlier days they created their own fun.

James carried on his usual activities and celebrated his 85th birthday during the summer of 1928. He had not forgotten his dream of a vocational school for the youth of the County. He had often discussed it with Clara. Nothing had really been decided but he had evolved a plan which he felt would be viable, in the future.

During the summer and fall of 1928, Dr. Hall sold various pieces of real estate, including the Ross-Hall house in September (brother John had died in 1922). In the
fall, Dr. Hall fell ill, and by November it became obvious that he must finalize his plan and settle his affairs accordingly. He would not recover from this illness. His condition worsened and Clara summoned their lawyer, K. L. Crowell, from Bridgetown.

He arrived promptly at the Hall residence and the three discussed the matter of J. B.'s estate and his plan for founding a training school in the foreseeable future with the residue, having first provided for Clara during her lifetime. 'Clara was in full accord with the wishes of her husband’, Judge Crowell affirms.

Accordingly the barrister drew up the last will and testament of James Barclay Hall on November 24, 1928 A.D., T. G. Palfrey and K. L. Crowell witnessed the signature. The will directed the trustees to set up a Trust Fund of $25,000, the income from which would go to Clara during ‘the term of her natural life’, and after her death the amount of the Fund should be added to his residuary estate. He further instructed the trustees to invest the balance, over and above the amount of the Trust, in authorized securities, ‘and when the fund so invested together with the accrued interest shall amount to Sixty-five Thousand Dollars’, it should be used to found a Vocational School in the County of Annapolis. ‘... the plans, the nature of and location of which shall be decided upon by the Superintendent of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia ... and my said wife, Clara E. Hall’.

When the $25,000 mentioned reverted to his residuary personal estate, it was stipulated that this amount would be held in trust with the annual income therefrom to be used ‘toward the support, maintenance and operation of the said Vocational School.’

As events turned out, it would be thirty years before the testamentary bequest was given effect. In 1958 some $80,000 was applied to the capital cost of a building in Lawrencetown for the N.S. Land Survey Institute. The trust fund established for “support, maintenance and
operation” of the school Hall envisaged amounts to almost $70,000 and the annual income is directed to the provision of books for the Institute library.

Thus, at the close of a long unselfish life dedicated to helping others, the last act of James Barclay Hall was to advance the cause of Education—the aim and purpose of his life for 57 years.

At 5:30 P.M., November 26, 1928 his earthly life came to an end.
Annex A

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CORRESPONDENCE
Mrs. Minnie (Hall) Boland, Lawrencetown
Mrs. Mary Fancy, Librarian, P.N.C., Truro
Charles Fillmore, Truro
Boston University, Boston, Mass.
W. M. Hall, Department of Education, Halifax, N.S.
Miss E. Bessie Lockhart, Wolfville, N.S. (Class of 1911, P.N.C.)

INTERVIEWS
Mr. & Mrs. Hector Whitman, Kingston
Mr. Charles T. Harris, Bridgetown
Mrs. Marquerite Dodge, Middleton
Dr. Frank Morse, Lawrencetown
Miss Ethel Shaffner, Lawrencetown
Mr. Donald St. C. White, Lawrencetown
Colonel James F. Doig, Principal, N.S. Land Survey Institute
Mrs. Marion Porter, Bridgetown
Judge K. L. Crowell Sr., Middleton.
Mrs. Hilda (Longley) Doig, Saint John, N.B. (Class of 1911 P.N.C.)
Mrs. Myrtle (Neily) Beaton, Seven Persons, Alta. (Class of 1911 P.N.C.)
Mrs. Mamie (Gesner) Phinney, Middleton, N.S. (Class of 1911 P.N.C.)

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Last Will & Testament of James Barclay Hall
Manuscript: *History of Wilmot by Violet Jacques*, P.N.C.
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MISCELLANEOUS

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Sincere thanks to those who shared their memories of James Barclay Hall.

Annex B

The High Points of the Summer School Brochure, 1893

Some eighty-five years later the programme would have little appeal—no microphones, movie camera, nor automobile, no rock and roll, not even a debate. Education must have been a serious matter indeed in 1893.
The opening session was in the Convocation Hall, Mount Allison, President of the University delivered the address of welcome. The Sup. of Education for each of the three provinces responded on behalf of the Institute.

J. B. Hall Ph.D., President of the School of Science, delivered the opening address and (it was hoped) would be followed by Premier of Nova Scotia, W. S. Fielding, and Premier Blair of New Brunswick—Music by a select choir.

The President, Dr. Hall, received the members of the gathering at a reception, where “citizens and scientists had an opportunity to become mutually acquainted.”

The Instructors and other members of the school will lodge and board in the Institution. Ladies in the Ladies College; gentlemen in the Collegiate Academy. All will board at the same table.

This band of intelligent men and women, will meet socially around the same table from day to day, giving the school something of the aspect of a continuous picnic.

One feature of the Round Table Talks would be the “Educational Symposium,” three or four meetings during the session at which subjects of vital and practical importance will be discussed.

The work in the school was especially arranged for the benefit of those who wished to study the Natural Sciences, Music, Elocution and Literature.

Students were to be directed in collecting, classifying, naming and mounting specimens in Botany, Mineralogy and Zoology for use in their home school. Lab work, experimenting, dissecting, and taxidermy would be emphasized in the study of Natural Science.

All this, and lectures in Literature, Pedagogy and Psychology had been added the year before in St. John. There would also be the usual number of lectures, entertainments, excursions, etc., etc.

An interesting item: expense would be less this season, because of reduced tuition fee and the favorable
terms secured for board.
Believe it or not! Fees:

- Registration and one subject $2.00
- Registration and all the subjects $2.50

NOTE — Students are recommended to take three subjects.

BOARD — $3.50 per week: return tickets free or one/third.
Free, on presentation of certificates from Summer School. Student Teachers enrolled at Summer School may close their schools one week early without loss of Provincial or County Grants.

Course of Study:

**Astronomy:** Should the weather be favorable two evenings could be devoted to stargazing when Prof. Cameron would give talks on heavenly bodies — and answer all reasonable questions — Botany, Chemistry, English Literature, Elocution (the vocal exercises would take away all huskiness etc. and cure all forms of sore throat, including “clergyman’s sore throat,” etc.

**Mineralogy, Music, Pedagogy, Physics** (no reference to atomic energy or nuclear reactors, but nevertheless, “a modern view of the Physical Universe”).

**Physiology; Zoology** — B. Lab. work comprised External and Internal anatomy — the dissection of typical forms.

1. a radiate; 5. an anthropod;
2. a mollusk; 6. a bird;
3. a fish; 7. a mammal;
4. an amphibian; 8. peculiar forms (?)

The apparatus—a sharp pocket knife, a magnifying lens, a pair of small scissors—a pair of forceps or tweezers will be useful. J. B. Hall, Ph.D. (Instructor)

Text books ranged from 30 cents for a music book to Gage’s Physics text book for $1.40.
Four evenings devoted to “Round Table Talks”, among subjects “Our Great Educators” when teachers gave papers on six of the great men, seven minutes each, followed by general discussion. (Two ladies were among the six who presented papers.)

Evenings stargazing alternated with Round Table Talks, with two evenings devoted to lectures, for a change of pace. Classes began at 8 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m. Dinner from 1 to 2 p.m. All this and three afternoon excursions:

(1) Tramp over Tantramar Marshes.
(2) Excursion to Fort Cumberland and Chignecto Ship Railway.
(3) Excursion to the Joggins.

NOTE: Tantramar is rich in botanical specimens, while Blomidon, the Joggins, Five Islands, and Spring-hill are the haunts of the geologists. The ship railway is an interesting specimen of modern engineering skill. (Under construction at that time, it was never completed.)
MRS. LEONE BANKS COUSINS, a native of the Annapolis Valley, graduated from Paradise High School, the Provincial Normal College, and St. Mary's University with a B.A. in History.

She is interested in local histories and genealogies and has done research in these related fields.

Mrs. Cousins is a member of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and the Genealogical Committee of that organization. She is a member of the Canadian Author's Association, the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, the Annapolis Valley Historical Society, and the Genealogical Committee of Kings County Historical Society.

Interested in the field of Education, Mrs. Cousins is an active member of the Valley Literacy Council.

She has been a teacher in England, in the Schools of the Canadian Forces Bases in France and Germany, and travelled widely while living abroad.

She has written numerous articles for newspapers and other periodicals, and for several years wrote a column for a local newspaper.

Now retired from a teaching career after twenty years in the Halifax City School system, Mrs. Cousins resides in Kingston, Nova Scotia, where she is currently busy, in her favorite field, recording the History of old Wilmot Township.