From George McLennan 19 March 1962.

NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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In the spring of 1962 the Canadian Museums Association will be meeting in Halifax for the first time. In the fifteen years since the Association was begun as a small gathering in Quebec on the occasion of the meeting of the American Association of Museums there, many changes have taken place on the Canadian museum scene. In Halifax we have the development of the Citadel with its three museums, the Maritime Museum of Canada the Army Museum and the Citadel Branch of the Nova Scotia Museum. The Nova Scotia Museum has had two name changes in that time — from Provincial Museum to Nova Scotia Museum of Science to The Nova Scotia Museum, and has grown from one location to five, the other three being the Historic Houses: Haliburton, Uniacke and Perkins.

The winds of change seem to be quickening. Across Canada, new museums are coming into being and old ones are taking on a new lease of life. The Centenary celebrations and the funds made available as a result will still further stimulate this development. It is very probable that Nova Scotia will see its share of museum changes and that when the Canadian Museums Association meets here again, whether in another fifteen years or sooner, developments will exceed present expectations.

D. K. Crowdis,
Director, Nova Scotia Museum

THE ROMANCE OF THE HEATING-STOVE

by George MacLaren

Through the centuries there has been such an intimate connection between fire and the cultural growth of humanity that whatever relates to the antiquity of fire is important in tracing the history of early progress.

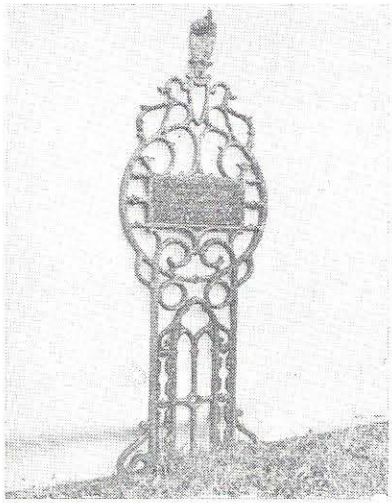
With the acquisition of fire came the problem of preserving it, and interesting examples of the ingenuity of man were evolved. First, the fire was buried and preserved in the ashes of the fire itself. Next, a type of slow-match or fire-stick was developed and later, when man worked with metals, the curfew or fire-cover was invented. The coals were raked together and collected in the chimney recess and the curfew set over them, preserving the fire till morning. Surviving curfews are of sheet brass, having perforations and with a handle.

The beating of a drum was one of the earliest methods used to tell members of a community that it was curfew time. The use of bells for this purpose is also of great antiquity, and in 1068 during the reign of William the Conqueror, the bells were rung by law at seven in the evening, so that all might cover the fire and extinguish the light. This law was repealed about 1100 by Henry I, but bells have continued to be rung for curfew until very modern times.

Symbolic and superstitious uses of fire have been common to all races and in early times the altar fires were kept sacred — the symbol of religion; but as time went on the significance gradually lessened, and finally the hearth became the centre of the home, with its hospitality and good cheer. There was once a social tradition that one must not poke a fire in a friend's home unless the friendship dated back seven years. This followed the premise that fire is sacred to the household where it burns. Throughout the centuries the lure of fire has remained one of the strongest instincts of the human race.

Earliest stove types. In very early days a heated room was called a stove, although the room was not used for living purposes but rather as a hot-house or drying room. Later, a stove was known as an enclosed fireplace, used for warming rooms and cooking. There is apparently no means of tracing accurately the earliest development of the stove but it is reasonable to assume the metal stove owed its origin either to the enclosure of the brazier, after chimneys were used to remove smoke, or to the use of an enclosed fire for metallurgical purposes.

Cast iron kettle, Crossman & Black, Amherst; muffin pan, Stewiacke Foundry.



Cast iron tombstone in Stewiacke Cemetery made at Stewiacke Foundry.

Stewiacke stove, property of A. H. Longard, Halifax.

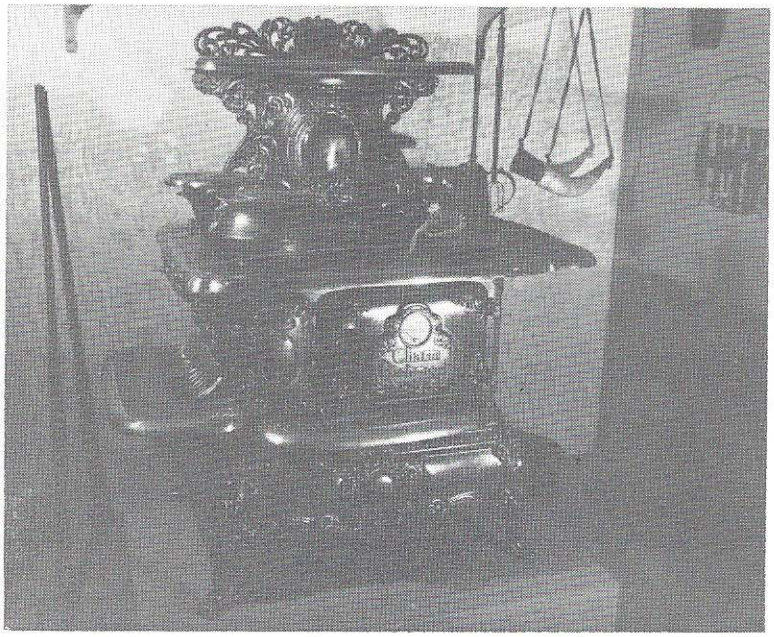
The Chinese classics point to the use of cast iron at a very early date. Chronicles of the Hia Dynasty mention cast iron swords in 1877 B. C. Most of the early Chinese castings were small, but large objects, finely cast, have been found in the Han tombs (the later Han Dynasty, 25 - 220 A.D.), among them a well-preserved cast iron cooking stove.

The interval between the Han tombs and the arrival of settlers in Nova Scotia is very great but the same necessity prevailed in China as in our own country, namely the heating of dwellings and the preparation of food.

Foundries and stoves in Nova Scotia. The first recorded iron foundry in Nova Scotia was established at Wilmot, Annapolis County in 1790. Bog iron and wood was in abundance there and it was established that 30 tons of iron could be produced per annum. Bishop Charles Inglis writes of this foundry in his *Journal* of 1789, where he records that he "proceeded to Major Bayard's, who went with me to the Nictau settlement on the South Mountain. Here is a cataract of the River Nictau. Some men from New England were busy here in erecting a furnace and forage to make iron. There is bog ore and upland ore in plenty; but rather too distanct from the furnace. I much doubt whether these men will succeed. The inhabitants at Nictau are about 15 families. They are from New England and removed here soon after the expulsion of the French Neutrals about 1757."

It was not until 1824 that another iron foundry came into existence. Joseph Potter of Clementsport went to New York to organize a company to build a foundry in this area. The company was organized in 1825 under the auspices of Dr. Charles Jackson of Boston, and an associate, Mr. Francis Alger. The former was a well- known geologist and both apparently were men of scientific attainments. The mine was situated about three miles south of Clementsport. The ore was transported on a railway using rails of maplewood, following the banks of the Moose River, with the trucks drawn by horses. It is recorded in the Newspaper *The Nova Scotian* of 1828 that "The Annapolis Iron Mining Company, having commenced at their works in Clements the manufactury of Iron, are now ready to execute all orders for castings and hollow ware of any description that may be required. From the extreme richness of the ore, and its fusions by charcoal, they anticipate that the goods manufactured by them will be of superior quality to any hitherto imported into this Province. Orders will be received by John V. Greenwood, Secretary and Treasurer, Bedford Row, No. 88, Halifax, 13th June." Some of the products manufactured were kettles, boilers and dog irons. The mine and foundry continued working until 1862 when, with technical and financial reverses they finally closed.

Franklin type stove, William Johns Foundry, Halifax, 1830. At Citadel Hill Branch, N. S. Museum.



Charm Richmond, Hillis & Co., Halifax, 1896. At Citadel Hill Branch, N. S. Museum.

During the 1820's and 30's Nova Scotia imported stoves from the United States, Great Britain and Quebec as evidenced by the following newspaper advertisements of the time:

> Just received by the Brig Trader from Greenock, and for sale by W. A. & S. Black, Halifax, 100 stoves consisting of Franklin, assorted sizes and patterns, with and without grates; single Canada, from 18 to 36 inches in length; double Canada Chamber, with and without grates; Cabin, Obelisk, Pyramid, Hot Air and Cannon.
>
> — *Halifax Free Press,* Oct. 13, 1818.

> Received from Quebec per Brig Trusty a consignment of castings from the iron works at St. Maurice and Three Rivers; 66 Canada stoves of assorted sizes and patterns for G. N. Russell, Halifax.
>
> — *Acadian Recorder,* Feb. 28, 1829.

From the St. Maurice works also came Benjamin Franklin's contribution to heating — the stove that bears his name. Because of Franklin's generosity in sharing his stove idea, foundries everywhere copied his model, boldly using their own names cast in the metal.

The next instance of stove manufacturing comes from the Albion mines, Pictou County, where in 1835 they were making Franklin, hall and square stoves. In 1871 W. F. Fraser of New Glasgow advertised that they were the first factory to go into the manufacture of stoves as a regular business in Nova Scotia. They had established as early as 1857.

During the period 1850 to 1890 many foundries were in operation in Nova Scotia situated at Windsor, Pictou, Stewiacke, New Glasgow, Halifax, Amherst, Yarmouth and Londonderry. To anyone born before the turn of the century such stove names as Waterloo, Gold Medal, Premium, Niagara and Victory bring back many pleasant recollections of times spent around these stoves.

The introduction of stoves into our pioneer homes did not receive the acclaim that one would expect for this latest scientific invention. The Rev. James McGregor wrote in 1859 that the pioneers in Pictou County would have none of those diabolical inventions called cooking stoves, which only consumed the oxygen in the air, "leaving inmates to breathe the impure residue, and are destroying the health of the young of our land, and sending fell Consumption on his destroying march through our borders." Capt. W. Moorsam in his volume *Letters from Nova Scotia, 1829,* states "There is an idea prevalent among the country people that the use of stoves is a powerful antipulmonic; so far it has not proven so, but pulmonary complaints

are more common than in former years." Even anti-stovers such as Dr. McGregor and Capt. Moorsam can never dim the memories of past generations of the boon and fellowship gained around the kitchen, hall or parlor stove on a cold Nova Scotia morning. To those of us not born yesterday it is nostalgic to reminisce with Edgar Guest as he recalls those frigid mornings when

" . . . I was roused by sudden shock
Though still to sleep I strove,
I knew that it was seven o'clock
When father shook the stove."

The most completely stove-furnished home in the Province today is Uniacke House, one of the three government-operated historic houses. Every room has its square iron stove that during the winter months must have consumed immense quantities of hardwood. In the basement kitchen is one of the well-konwn Waterloo stoves made at Stewiacke. On exhibition at the Provincial Museum, Citadel Hill, is a cooking stove made by Hillis & Sons of Halifax in 1896 and a Franklin type stove made at the William Johns foundry in Halifax about 1830.

Next came the hall or base burner, using hard coal. It was very decorative especially at night when the glow of hot coals could be seen through the many isinglass windows. This stove was very popular up to the time that hot water heating came into prominence. It has been said that during the Halifax Explosion of 1917 a great number of these stoves overturned, causing many fires.

Other products of our foundries were numerous cast iron cooking utensils, including iron kettles. It was usually the ladies' pride and joy to have a well-polished kettle singing away on the stove (some people are said to have been able to forecast the weather when the kettle sang a particular tune).

Articles still prized today are the muffin pans made at the Stewiacke Foundry — some of these are actually still in use and in at least one household Saturday is not complete without a batch of muffins made in these pans. Not only did the Stewiacke Foundry products serve Nova Scotia inhabitants in life, but in death their graves were often marked by cast iron tombstones manufactured in this foundry.

As early as 1857 the Acadian Iron and Steel Company of Londonderry and Nictaux were making cutlery — knives of various kinds, razors, scissors and domestic implements, and during the period from 1860 to the end of the century Nova Scotia was self-sufficient in ironware manufacture of a high quality. A short time ago Enterprise Stoves Ltd. of Halifax donated a Charm Richmond stove to the Provincial Museum.

This stove was made by Hillis & Co. in 1896, and had been used continuously by one family ever since that time. (It's price when new was $35.00). Apart from needing a few minor repairs it was in excellent condition.

With the advent of electricity the centre of modern day living has moved away from the warmth of the kitchen stove, and the only vestige of fire (once so vital in itself) remains in the living-room grate. The fact, however, that the Franklin stove is enjoying a re-birth of popularity indicates that there is still fascination in a flickering flame, and that man still seeks the warmth and friendship of an open fire.

Guest, Edgar A. "When Father Shook the Stove," *A Heap O' Livin'*, 1916; McGregor, Rev. James. *Memoirs*, 1859 (Dr. McGregor came to Pictou in 1786); Peirce, Josephine H. *Fire on the Hearth*, Leicester, Mass., 1950.

IRON FOUNDRIES & STOVES IN NOVA SCOTIA

1790 The first iron foundry in Nova Scotia was established at Wilmot, Annapolis County.

1827 Annapolis Iron Manufacturing Co. Kettles, dog irons and boilers.

1830 William Johns Foundry, Halifax. Franklin stoves manufactured.

1835 Albion Foundry, in connection with the Albion mines, Pictou County, established in 1827, manufacturers of Franklin, hall and square stoves. W. H. Davies, Mgr.

1843 Turner & Hill, New Glasgow, N. S. Stove manufacturer.

1855 Pictou Foundry, Pictou, N. S. Established by W. H. Davies, former manager of the Albion Foundry. In 1860 this foundry manufactured coal and cooking stoves. This company is still in operation, mostly as ship repairers. Freighters were built during World War II.

1863 Hosterman & Cooper, Iron and brass foundry, Halifax, N. S. Stoves manufactured.

1863 La Have Foundry, Bridgewater, N. S. Waterman & McMillan, Proprietors. Cooking, hall and parlor stoves. Iron railings of all designs manufactured.

1863 City Iron Foundry, Halifax, N. S. Stoves and iron railings manufactured.

1863 George Brown, Halifax, N. S. Stoves made.

1863 James Greigs, Dartmouth, N. S. Stoves made.

1863 Sibley, Caffrey & Co., Truro, N. S. Iron Fundry. In 1868-69 it became the Truro Iron & Brass Foundry making cooking stoves of various patterns including the "Niagara"; also parlor box stoves and grates. James Caffrey and Co., Proprietors.

1863 A. J. Hood, Yarmouth, N. S. Importer, manufacturer and dealer in stoves of every description, ships' cabooses, furnaces and ranges.

1863 Windsor Iron & Brass Foundry, Windsor, N. S. W. & E. W. Dimock, Proprietors. Cooking stoves of various patterns including the "Niagara"; also parlor and box stoves, grates and iron railings.

1868 Dartmouth Iron Foundry, Dartmouth, N. S. W. S. Symonds & Co., Proprietors. Steam engines, cooking ranges, ship, hall, shop and parlor stoves. At this time they advertised "We continue to import all the new designs and patterns from the United States."

1870 Alexander Robb, Amherst, N. S. Iron and brass foundry. Cooking, box and parlor stoves. Gothic grates. This company is still in operation.

1870 Halifax Stove Store, Halifax, N. S. H. A. Schwartz, successor to R. Downs & Son, agent for the following named stoves: Waterloo, Niagara, Victory, Magnolia, Ida, Delta, Putnam, Vesper, Zouave, Shamrock, Queen of the South, Gold Medal, Lone Star, California, Boston, Premium, Union Range, Patriot, Liberator, Sheridan.

1870 Burrell, Johnson & Co., Yarmouth, N. S. Cooking, parlour and shop stoves manufactured.

1871 W. F. Fraser, New Glasgow. Stoves manufactured. Established in 1857. First factory to go into stove manufacture as a regular business in Nova Scotia. Their stoves have become a household word in Eastern Canada.

1872 Pugwash Iron Foundry. $8,000 worth of stoves shipped to Cape Breton from here.

1876 Douglas, Fullerton Co., Dartmouth, N. S., Foundry. Stoves and ranges manufactured.

1877 Berwick Iron Foundry, Berwick, N. S.

1877 Clementsport Iron Foundry, Clementsport, N. S.

1877 Sibley & Co., Foundry, Stewiacke, N. S. In 1883 it was known as the Stewiacke Iron & Stove Foundry, Lower Stewiacke. Shelomith Sibley, Manager. Manufacturers of stoves, stove fittings and ploughs. The only place in the Maritimes where enamelled hollow ware was done, 1880-1881. Sold to W. H. Guild in 1886.

1877 Clish, Crowe & Co. Foundry, Truro, N. S.

1877 Richmond Foundry, Halifax, N. S. James Hillis, Manager. Cooking, parlor and hall stoves manufactured. Foundry in the Richmond area of Halifax. This is still in operation.

1878 River John Foundry, Pictou Co. J. Ainsworth, Manager.

1892 Weir & Morrison, Westville, N. S. Stoves manufactured.

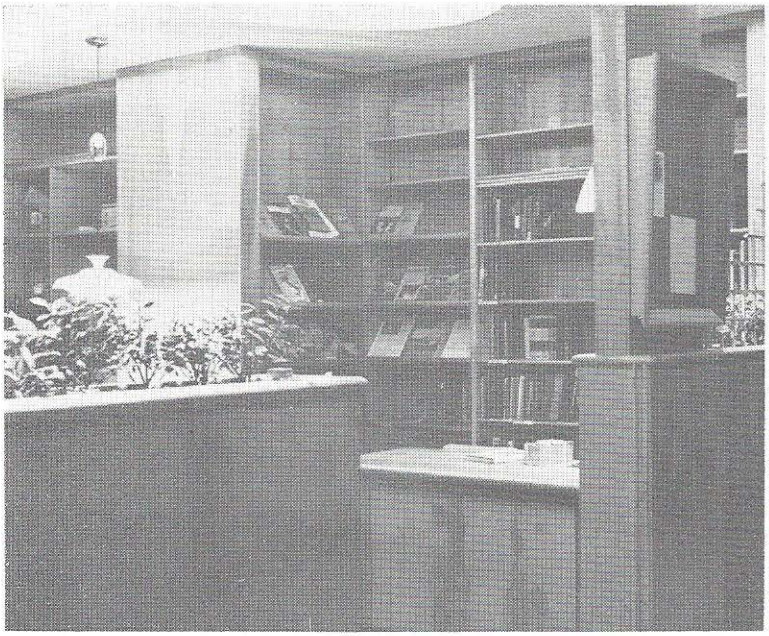
1890 - 97 Stellarton Foundry. J. D. Weir, Proprietor. Stoves and general castings.

1890 - 97 Milton Iron Foundry, Queens Co. Frank H. Wilson, Manager.

1890 - 97 Cape Breton Foundry & Machine Co., Sydney. Stoves a specialty.

1890 - 97 Dartmouth Iron Foundry. A. N. Bayne & Co., Proprietor. Stoves, hollow ware, ranges and grates.

SCIENCE SERVICE CENTRE



A new feature of the Museum, introduced during the summer months, is the Science Service Centre. Here the public may bring objects for identification, obtain information and observe some of the live specimens of small native wild life on display. The room itself was designed by staff members with indirect ceiling lighting and direct lighting over the working areas. It is

finished in natural birch, with shelves and furnishings also in birch, with contrasting table tops and chairs. In time, small collections of rocks, shells, and other natural history objects will be available for the visitor to handle and examine for himself, and the Museum Naturalist is establishing a collection of Nova Scotia flora which can be used in the identification of the province's flowers and plants. Planters at the entrance to the Centre contain local ferns and mosses, and small trees. There are aquaria and terraria to be seen and during the summer months giant water-beetles, a colony of bees, frogs and toads, various of types of snakes, red-backed mice and deer mice and several salamanders were among the live specimens. There is a small collection of popular books on natural history which may be borrowed or used for reference purposes. The staff member in charge of the Centre is Pierre Taschereau, Museum Naturalist.

MUSEUM NEWS AND EVENTS

The Museum once more set up its portable salt water aquarium at the Lunenburg Fisheries Exhibition in September, and this was again a major attraction. The aquarium, consisting of fourteen tanks displaying live native fish, was designed and is maintained by members of the Museum staff.

Mr. Crowdis was a delegate to the Resources for Tomorrow Conference, held in Montreal Oct. 21-28, 1961, where he was an English-speaking Rapporteur for the Recreation Sector at the Conference.

Edward Longard, Education Officer, was the speaker at numerous Teachers' Institutes during the fall. Institutes he attended included Middleton, Bridgewater, Spryfield, Armdale and Rockingham.

A current project of the Museum is the publication of a book on the birds of Nova Scotia by Robie W. Tufts of Wolfville, well-known ornithologist. This will be a comprehensive and well-illustrated volume. Illustrations will include those of Roger Tory Peterson, John Dick, illustrator of *A Gathering of Shore Birds* and John Crosby of the National Museum of Canada. The publication date is not definite, but will be sometime early in the new year.

Ryerson Press has recently published *Antique Furniture by Nova Scotia Craftsmen*, by George MacLaren, Curator of the Historical Branch of the Museum. This is a valuable record of provincial furniture and its makers. Many of the photographs are by E. J. Longard of the Museum staff. Mr. MacLaren is also author of *The Pictou Book*, published in 1954.

The three historic houses under the administration of the Museum had an excellent season. The three houses are: Uniacke House, Mount Uniacke, home of Richard John Uniacke former Attorney General of Nova Scotia, built in 1815; Haliburton House, Windsor, the residence of author Thomas Chandler Haliburton, completed in 1836, and Perkins House, Liverpool, built in 1766 and once the home of diarist Simeon Perkins. During the summer these had a total of over 50,000 visitors.

THE R. A. S. C., HALIFAX CENTRE

A highlight of the year was the visit of November 20th of Dr. Peter M. Millman, National President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Dr. Millman is well known in the field of astronomy and is employed by the National Research Council as head of the Upper Atmosphere Research Section, Radio and Electrical Engineering Division. He holds the position of Auroral Reporter for Canada for the International Geophysical Year and is co-ordinating the special IGY Meteor Program. Officers for the year are: Honorary President: Rev. Fr. M. W. Burke-Gaffney; President: John D. Connelly; Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. R. L. Aikens and Editor of the Galaxy: B. W. Allen.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

Regular monthly meetings were held during the winter with the main event of the past year being the annual Spring Show and Workshop, held at the Nova Scotia College of Art in conjunction with the annual meeting, where the work of members was displayed along with actual demonstrations of gem cutting and polishing. Field trips are held from time to time, and the current slate of officers is as follows: President: Ralph K. Thompson; Vice-President: Mrs. G. C. Milligan; Secretary: Mr. I. L. Wainwright; Executive: Mr. Sherman Bower, Mr. R. E. Harrington and Mr. William Take.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

The Society is continuing its special studies relating to destruction of birds by spraying of trees and other vegetation with pesticides and has given financial support to the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club to help it meet the increased cost of publishing *"The Canadian Field-Naturalist"*. The Society members are making local Christmas bird counts, and last year's winter project was a contest in photographs of Nova Scotia birds. Officers are: Dr. Harrison Lewis, President; Mr. C. R. K. Allen, Vice-President; Sylvia J. Fullerton, Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. J. W. Dobson, Editor.

Photographs by E. J. Longard and P. M. Taschereau.

Cover: Left, Richmond Silver Moon, Hillis & Sons, Halifax; right, Beehive stove, Douglas & Co., Halifax.

Museum Hours

Science exhibits, office and library, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N. S.

MONDAY to SATURDAY, inclusive	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
OFFICE HOURS	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Historical Exhibits, Citadel Hill Branch

EVERY DAY, including Saturday and Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Copies of each number of the Newsletter are available at the Museum at 10c each.