

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the Congregations of Religious Women in Canada, their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des congrégations de religieuses au Canada,

leur mission en matière de soins de santéainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

# Centernary The Sisters of Chatham, NB 1869-1969

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Centenary
The Sisters

of
Chathan, th. B.

1869 - 1969



# THE TOWN OF CHATHAM OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

It is not often that one has the opportunity to bring greetings to an organization which has made such a significant contribution to our area, and to know that such greetings have the complete support of all citizens. The One Hundredth Anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters in Chatham, N. B., which we are celebrating in 1969, is one such occasion.

Our Sisters came to Chatham one hundred years ago and established among us a hospital and school. Their work in these institutions over the years has, in one way or another, touched the lives of almost every family in the Chatham area. We remember with the Sisters the hard times and the good times. In the hard times, we had no choice but to remain; the Sisters remained with us in a spirit of Christain dedication. This spirit has been manifested to a high degree by our Sisters in their 100 years in Chatham.

On behalf of the residents of the Chatham area, ! express our deep appreciation to the Sisters for their many years of unselfish service among us. We hope they will be with us for many years to come and continue their good works in our community.

What The

MAYOR



# Message from Sister O'Keeffe, R.H.S.J. Provincial Superior

It is a privilege to offer you my sincere congratulations and prayerful good wishes on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in Chatham, New Brunswick. The tiny seed planted by the Foundress, Mother D'Avignon and her three companions, Sisters St. Louis, McGurty and Vitaline, has truly become a great tree.

Throughout the past century many dedicated sisters, devoted priests and zealous lay people have contributed to its growth. As the years passed by the tree developed three main branches: St. Michael's Academy, Hotel Dieu Hospital, and Mount St. Joseph. These three institutions have served three very important groups in Chatham, namely, the children, the sick, and the aged.

Even though present day trends in health, education, and welfare may modify the contribution of the sisters in the above-mentioned areas, I am confident that the Religious Hospitallers of the future will serve Christ and His brethren with the same spirit of dedication as have those of the past and the present.

As we join in the Centennial Celebrations, let us offer our gratitude to God for all the graces of the past one hundred years, and let us go forward into the next century with a great spirit of faith in God and optimism for the future.

May our Divine Lord bless abundantly all those who have shared in the apostolate of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in Chatham, New Brunswick.



#### IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

To the valiant Foundresses of the Hotel Dieu of Chatham, our Sisters Davignon, McGurty, Saint Louis and Vitaline;

To all the Religious Hospitallers who have succeeded them;

To His Excellency Most Reverend James Rogers;

To all the collaborators, religious and laity, who permitted this work to take root, to live and to expand.

It is a great honour for the entire Congregation to render homage to our dear Sisters of Chatham on the occasion of the Centenary of their Hotel Dieu. Every Hospitaller of St. Joseph wishes to make her own the hymn of praise addressed to the Lord for the many bounties showered upon this apostolic work during its existence of ONE HUNDRED YEARS. We need to join forces to make an adequate thanksgiving for the generous labor accomplished in your three Institutions, for the many successes achieved, for the countless graces and blessings granted to the Hotel Dieu, the second house of our Congregation to be founded on Acadian soil.

We would like to offer you, dear sisters, our best wishes and sincere congratulations for your contribution in assisting mankind to grow and develop. Your history records many memorable dates since July 16, 1869 when four Sisters of heroic and invincible courage first came to these parts.

The present album relates many glorious facts in its precious pages which I would like to mention briefly: the evident great spirit of faith and sacrifice of the pioneers; the hard work and dire poverty of the early years; the tender lov-

ing care extended to thousands of patients; the hundreds of children educated and prepared for the future; the new foundations started from the humble seed sown by brave souls.

To the memory of the foundresses and benefactors, to the memory of the Bishops and Clergy, to the memory of the Hospitallers who brought this work to a successful and glorious Centenary we sing

#### TE DEUM LAUDAMUS!

To our dear Sisters of Chatham we offer a tribute of thanks, joy and affection. May your work continue to flourish and may the next century see even greater progress in health, welfare and education.

Mother Marie de la Ferre. R. N. S. J.
Superior General

This book is dedicated to

Bishop James Rogers
who called us here
100 years ago

to

Sister Davignon

Sister St. Louis

Sister Vitaline

Sister McGurty

who answered the call

100 years ago





There is something mysteriously

beautiful about a dead tree

- as it stands no longer resisting

the winds that strip its bark

and twist its trunk . . . .

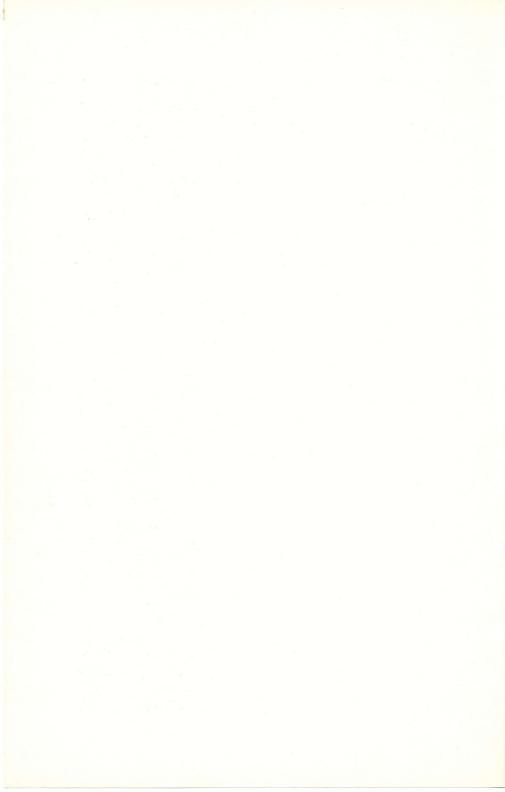
In sunshine - rain - - or snow

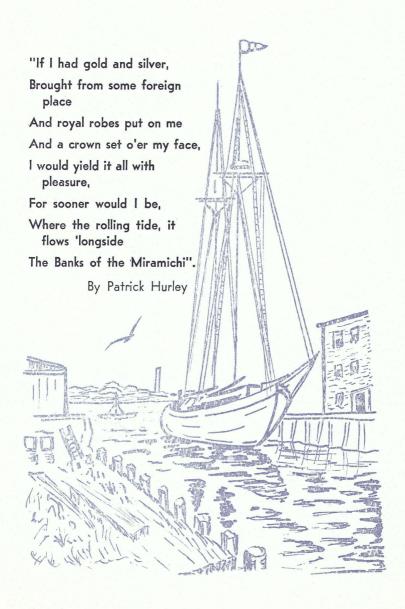
it seems to suggest a power

long after life has gone.











### Miramichi's Historic Background

#### By Dr. Louise Manny

Pronouncing the name "Miramichi" is a problem to those who make its acquaintance in print for the first time. It is accented on the first and last syllables. The last syllable is pronounced "shee". Miramichi, however pronounced, is said to be the oldest Indian place-name still in use in North America, but no one knows the derivation of the word.

The name is used for the river, for the whole district around the river, and for the sea ports. It is probably a Montagnais Indian word, meaning "Micmac Land". Alas! since the Montagnais hated the Micmacs, Miramichi also means "Country of the Bad People". We have three Micmac reservations on our river — Burnt Church, Eel Ground, and Red Bank. Our Indians are a gentle and friendly people; their language is beautiful and expressive — enthusiasts say it equals in subtlety the ancient Greek.

Miramichi has a long tradition. Some writers think we were Leif Ericsson's Vinland. Bretons and Basques used to come here for the fishing, long before we ever appear in recorded history in 1534, when Jacques Cartier sailed this way, and perhaps landed at Escuminac.

In the 17th Century, the district was part of the great seigneury of Nicholas Denys de Fronsac, trader in fish and furs.

There are few records of Miramichi in the early 18th century. But we know there were Acadian settlements on the river — some were destroyed by expeditions sent by General

Wolfe after the Fall of Louisbourg in 1758.

Our first English-speaking settler was William Davidson, an ambitious Scot, who, with his partner, John Cort, got a fishing grant in 1765, of 100,000 acres, including Beaubair's Island and land extending up both branches of the river. Davidson exported fish and furs, and later masts for the King's Navy. He built in 1773, a 300-ton schooner, the MIRAMICHI, which was the second sailing vessel built in New Brunswick.

William Davidson's grave may be seen at the Enclosure (the former Wilson's Point), where Lord Beaverbrook has restored the oldest burying ground on the river, as a memorial to the early pioneers.

About 1790 Newcastle was made the Shire Town.

In 1800, Francis Peabody, from Maugerville on the Saint John river, founded the town of Chatham. He named it in honor of William Pitt, the friend of America, for the Peabodys were New England people.

In 1820, Samuel Cunard sent his two brothers, Henry and the spectacular Joseph, to Chatham, to found a branch of S. Cunard & Co. of Halifax. They lived there in great splendor until the Miramichi firm failed in 1848, with a crash that almost ruined the Cunard Line.

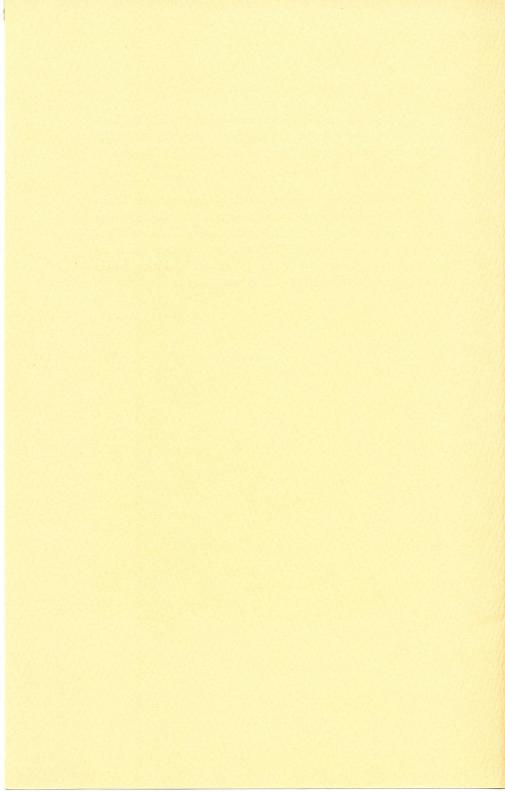
In 1825, the great Miramichi Fire, the largest in area that ever devastated any country, laid waste six thousand square miles, including Newcastle and Douglastown, and the surrounding territory. It destroyed the magnificent pine forests which had furnished masts and square timber to Britain for over fifty years. The masting industry was at an end, but the trees on the unburned area, and the juniper which sprang up after the Fire, furnished material for shipbuilding.

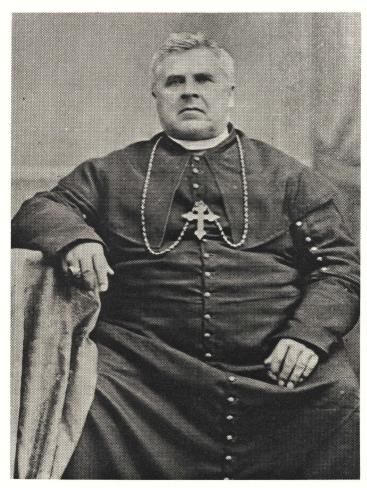
About fifty small ships had been built before the Fire,

but now larger ones were constructed.

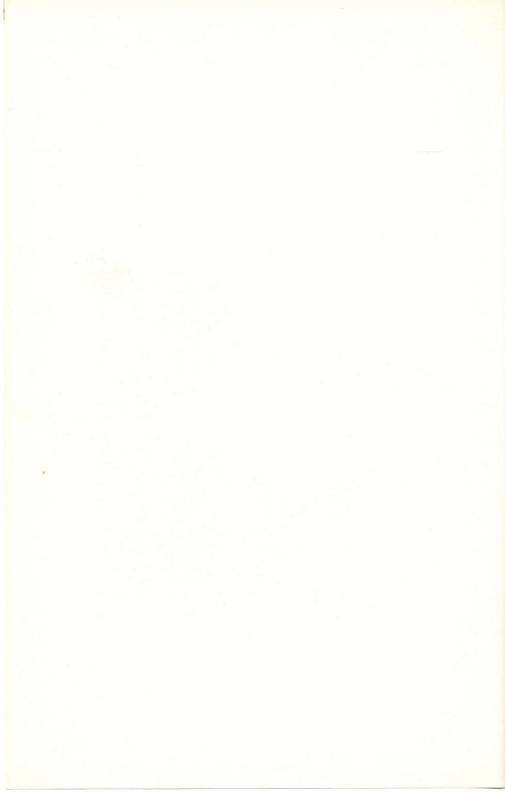
Johnson & Mackie built the INDIAN QUEEN in Chatham, the vessel that rivalled the Saint John-built MARCO POLO, and once or twice beat the MARCO POLO's time to Australia.

Peter Mitchell, a Father of Confederation, and Minister of Marine and Fisheries in Canada's first Cabinet, was born in Newcastle. John M. Johnson, another Father of Confederation, was a native of Chatham. Lord Beaverbrook spent his boyhood here — the Manse in which the Aitken family lived is now the public library of Newcastle.





Bishop Rogers



# The Girst Bishop of Chatham

RT. REV. JAMES ROGERS, D.D.

#### News Item 1910

Right Reverend James Rogers, D.D. the first Bishop of Chatham was consecrated August 15, 1860, when the province was divided into two dioceses. A native of County Donegal, Ireland, he was born July 11, 1826, being the eldest child and only son of John Rogers and Mary Britton, both natives of that part of Ireland. In the year 1831 his family emigrated to Halifax where the youth received a good general education. On the completion of this, he decided to study for the Church and completed his theological studies at the Sulpician Seminary, Montreal. He was admitted to tonsure and minor orders at Halifax, August 25, 1850, and to sub-deaconate on the following day. At the Grand Seminary, Quebec, he was ordained deacon by Archbishop Bourget, June 14, 1851, and he was ordained priest by Archbishop Walsh at Halifax, July 2, of the same year. The first few years of his ministry were spent at Halifax in various missions in the counties of Digby, Annapolis and Cumberland and for two years, 1857-8, he labored in the Bermuda Islands where he put underway the erection of the first Catholic Church ever built there. In 1859 he was appointed secretary to Archbishop Connolly, Halifax, and at the same time, to a professorship in St. Mary's College, Halifax, in which institution, prior to his ordination, he had held a similar position.

When New Brunswick was divided into two dioceses, Dr. Rogers was named as the first Bishop of the new diocese of Chatham. At the age of 34 years and in his ninth year as priest, Dr. Rogers was consecrated Bishop, August 15, 1860,

by Archbishop Connolly, His Lordship Bishop Sweeney, St. John, being present at the ceremony, the consecration taking place at Charlottetown. From that date he entered with zeal on the difficulties which faced him in the newly erected diocese and he continued unremittingly until the infirmities of age made necessary his retirement. His diocese covered a wide stretch of territory embracing all the heavily wooded and sparsely settled districts in northern New Brunswick, but he was not daunted by the obstacles in his path. In his long episcopal career, he never spared himself and hardships could not prevent him from zealously attending to his duties at all times and everywhere. A notable evidence of his good works was the bringing of the Sisters to take charge of the lepers at Tracadie, then in a deplorable condition, and the support he lent to the establishment of the Hotel Dieu at Chatham, an institution which, last year, observed its golden jubilee and stands without a peer in eastern Canada.

In the summer of 1877, His Lordship attended the eighteenth centenary celebration of the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul and the canonization of the Japanese martyrs held at St. Peter's, Rome. He also visited Rome at other times and was one of the prelates who attended the Ecumenical Council held at Rome, December 8, 1869. In 1899 he applied to Rome for assistance in his episcopal work and Rev. T. F. Barry, V. G., Bathurst, was selected as Coadjutor Bishop with the right of succession. The consecration of Father Barry took place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, St. John, February II, 1900, and on November 12, Bishop Rogers retired from active work and Bishop Barry made his formal entry into the pro-cathedral.

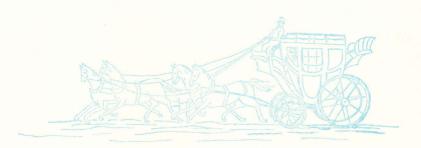
Bishop Rogers' career in the priesthood was long and active, covering a period of 52 years, in 43 of which he wore the mitre and in 42 of the latter, he administered the affairs of the diocese.

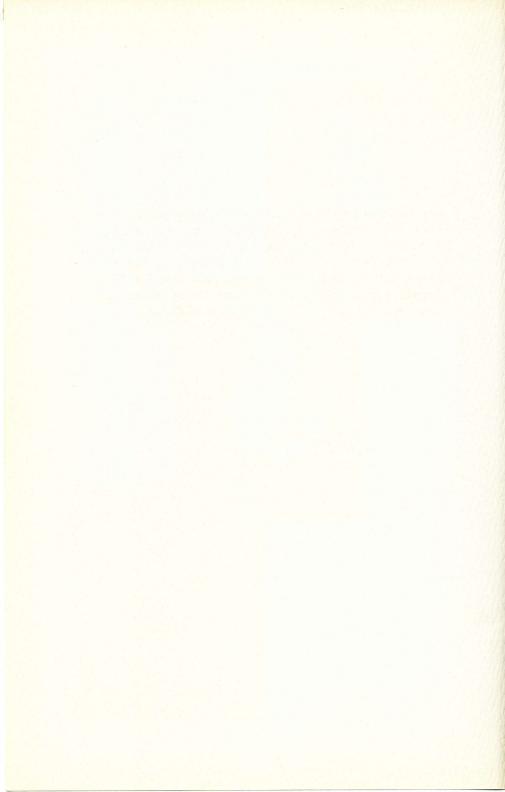
He was considered one of the ablest men in the Canadian hierarchy, particularly notable for his zeal and piety

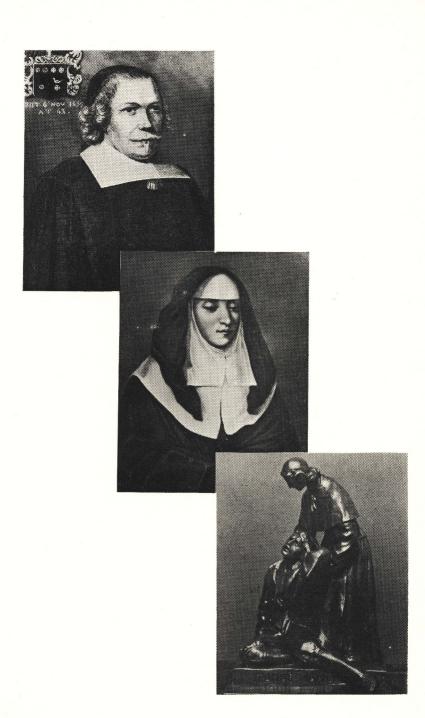
and men there are who love to tell of his kindness and humility. The work of our pioneer Bishops who accompanied the blazers in the forests, saw the wildness grow into cities or towns and raised the symbol of salvation far and near, is a matter of history, and the works they have performed and the things

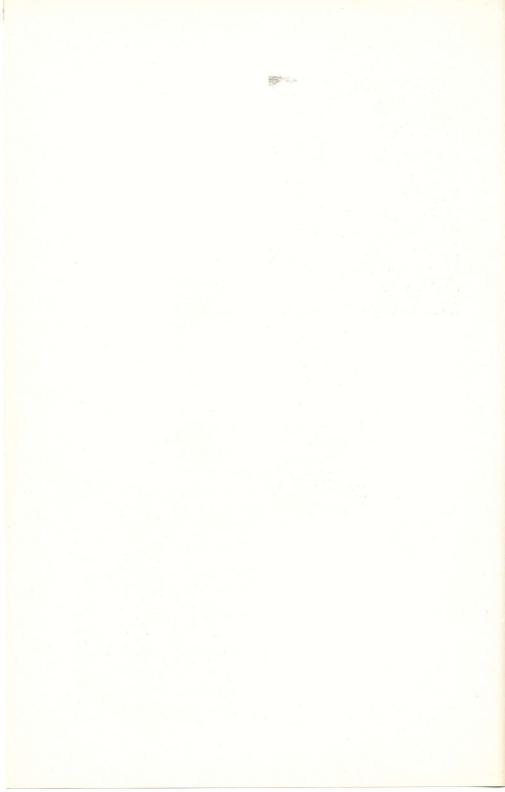
they have accomplished are the most fitting tributes and

monuments of their devotion to the cause of Christ.









Every era has its needs, which are reflected in "the signs of the time". Every sign has an interpreter who reveals a vision, and as this vision becomes clear, a plan is conceived. When the plan is realized, a leader is born. Our time is troubled and uncertain. The signs are apparent in the world, in our country, in our work, yes, in ourselves.

Our time is troubled and uncertain as times have been in the past, but we dare to dream our dreams, as those before us have done, and as will those who follow us.

Jerome le Royer de la Dauversiere, our Founder, had a vision. His vision was simple. He saw a need, and knew that only a group of dedicated persons could accomplish it. And the Hospitallers came into being.

Jerome le Royer was a married man with a family; a layman of 17th century France. He shared his hopes with a young attractive woman, Marie de la Ferre, who became our Foundress and first Mother Superior.

The vision of Jerome le Royer was clear, and Marie de la Ferre's task specific. Their hope was to found a Christian Community dedicated to the needs of the time, highly flexible, and completely available.

In fact, our community was founded for the mission of New France. Consequently, the nucleus of dedicated young women under the direction of Marie de la Ferre, was prepared for the ardous task of caring for the poor and sick on Montreal Island.

A confraternity was formed in LaFleche, France, in 1636, and after negotiations with civil and ecclesiastical authorities, a new congregation was formed in 1643. Jeanne Mance arrived in New France, Montreal Island, in 1642, to establish a hospital and assume administrative and nursing responsibilities. Three sisters of the Congregation arrived in 1659, but Jeanne Mance continued in her administrative post until her health failed. Jeanne Mance is an example of strength and courage, and has the distinction of being the first laynurse and administrator in Canada.

## The Inspiration

Dream things that never were and ask why not? —

- Jerome le Royer
  - Marie de la Ferre
    - Jeanne Mance
- Bishop Rogers
  - Mother Davignon
    - All of us

#### The Dedication

The person who can make a dream a reality is truly great when mankind benefits

"I have made an alliance with my chosen" Ps. 89

For many of the sisters of Chatham

the alliance

- has been fulfilled
  - continues
    - what of the future?

#### Theme

The mooring ring

Symbol of

- arrival

- security

- commitment

Symbol of

- continuity

- evolution

- eternity

The steamer called "Secret"

- past

- present

- future

Because "Secret" means life

— as it was

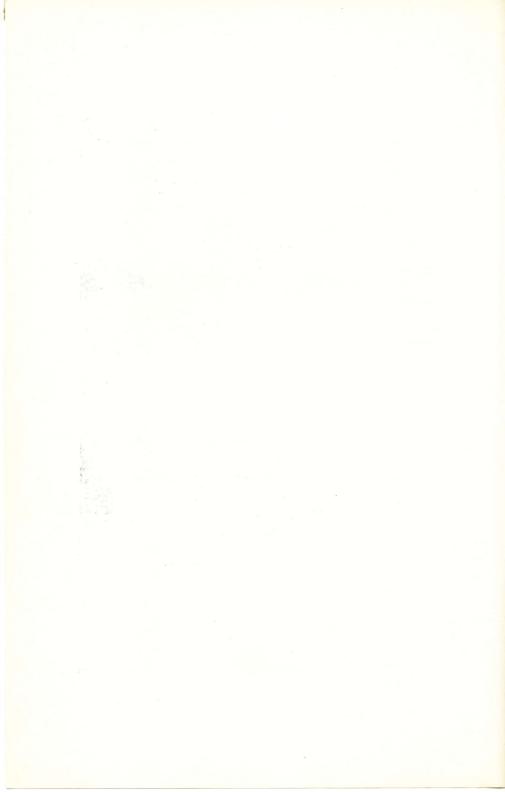
- as it is

- as it will be

Dream Things That Never were and ask
Why Not?



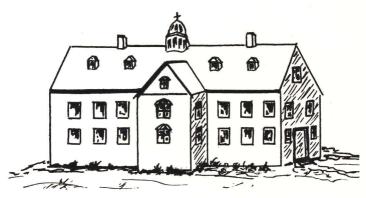
"I bave made an alliance with my chosen" Ps. 89 Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph 1869 - 1969 Chatbarr, N.B.





This house has many memories

- I Presbytery for first resident priest
- 2 Episcopal Residence of Bishop Rogers 1860
- 3 First Hotel Dieu of Miramichi 1869 1870
- 4 St. Joseph Preparatory School 1919; Moved to present site 1931; Renovated 1962
- 5 Landscaped and renovated as a museum for centenary 1969



Second Hotel Dieu 1870 - 1876



### There is a season for everything -

- a time for every occupation under heaven,
  - a time for giving birth
  - a time for dying,
  - a time for planting.
  - a time for uprooting what has been planted.
  - a time for knocking down,
  - a time for building,
  - a time for tears,
  - a time for laughter,
  - a time for mourning,
  - a time for dancing.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes?

Ecclesiastes Ch. 3

# The Beginnings

The history of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph of Chatham, N. B. is replete with adventure, hardship, success, and heroism. On July 16, 1869, "after three days voyage (aboard the steamer 'Secret') our Mothers set foot upon the soil of their adopted country, where sacrifices of all kinds awaited them" . . . . (annals). The day after their arrival, they set to work preparing the first Hotel Dieu of Miramichi. In the first eighteen months, 100 patients were treated in hospital, as well as 1000 out-patients. Doctor Stafford Benson, a well respected physician of the community, tended the sick, gratis.

Very often food and fuel were scarce. The Annals relate story after story of privation. "Our fare was frugal. Fresh meat was conspicuous on the daily menu by its absence, this delicacy being ours only when friends of the sisters procured it for us. The ordinary viands were fish, salt pork, and corned beef. Butter was not often passed . . . . while sugar was a luxury. The cold . . . was perhaps the hardest of all . . . to endure in these days of first beginnings. Often sleep was driven away in a too engrossing search after a little warmth" . . . (annals).

Even after moving into the third Hotel Dieu in 1876, we read in the records that "conditions were much the same". Wood and water had to be carried to the third flat by the sisters. There were thirty-nine stoves in the establishment, and the sisters who sat up at night with the sick, had to watch the

fires.

In 1887, six sisters fell victim to tuberculosis and died. Within the next two years, a summer house was provided for relaxation, the water pump was moved from outside into the kitchen, a furnace and hot water heating system were installed. These conveniences greatly reduced the labors of the sisters, and as is noted in the annals, after 1890 the sisters' health improved.

The sisters from Montreal were not accustomed to living outside the cloister, and the circumstances during their first years in Chatham were such that regular monastic life could not be observed. Because of the strictness of their rules these conditions caused them some misgivings and sacrifice.

In 1876, however the sisters realized their dream for a regular monastry when they moved into the convent adjoining the third Hotel Dieu.





Third Hotel Dieu 1876 - 1913



# The Hospital

The First Hospital, an unpretentious building of 25' x 36' served as the presbytery of the first resident priest, and in 1860 became the Episcopal Residence of Bishop Rogers. The sisters occupied it from July 1869 until July 1870. This small building was used in 1903 as a civic hospital during a diphtheria epidemic, and in 1919 it became St. Joseph's Preparatory School for boys. It was moved to its present site in 1931, renovated in 1962, and is presently serving as a museum for the Centenary Celebrations of 1969.

The second Hotel Dieu was constructed under the direction of Bishop Rogers and consisted of a wing adjacent to the then existing church. It was occupied by the sisters from July 1870 until 1876. The building was destroyed by fire in 1878.

The third Hotel Dieu was an elaborate building of "T" shaped construction. The building was almost a self-contained unit. There were gardens and orchards at the rear; kitchen and laundry facilities in the basement. The chapel and priests' quarters occupied a central position accessible from all parts of the building. Between 1876 and 1913, it served as a hospital; from 1917 to 1937, as a nurses' residence; and at different times it housed employees, boarders from the Academy, nursing assistants, senior citizens, and other persons or groups, as necessity dictated. The building was finally demolished in 1963.

The annals record many incidents and improvements

that took place in this historic building, the remains of which, in part at least, rest beneath the present Hotel Dieu Convent and adjacent lawns.

As previously mentioned, there were improvements in the multi-purpose building from time to time, and we note that in 1889 the basement was finished.

On April 10, 1902, the hospital was incorporated under "The Sisters of the Hotel Dieu of Chatham, N. B." In this year as well, the town obtained water service and upon request, the hospital was supplied free of charge.

In 1905 the vacated school apartments were renovated, and converted to serve as part of the hospital. For some time the sisters were aware that an operating room was needed, but funds were low due to school construction. However, in 1909, a donation of \$15,000. was received, and in 1910 the sisters turned the sod for the fourth Hotel Dieu on Lobban Avenue. By the time of the opening in 1913, the cost had mounted to \$87,000. for about 70 beds.

A new steam laundry was installed in 1917, at an expense of \$6,868. In this same year the School of Nursing was opened with six students graduating in 1920.

April 25, 1920, was the inauguration of the Hospital Aid which continues to serve the hospital.

Hotel Dieu passed the inspection of a doctor chosen by the American College of Surgeons, and obtained standardization. That is, the hospital provided the requirements considered necessary to give adequate health care.

In 1923, a central heating plant was installed, providing greater comfort in all buildings of the establishment.

In May 1924, a Social Service Department was opened, the hospital employing a V. O. N. Nurse. Each day, accom-

panied by a student nurse, she visited the poor sick. Unfortunately, the hospital could not continue to pay the expense involved, so in an effort to maintain the much needed service, the sisters applied to the town for support. The Town Council was not prepared to support this undertaking, thus it was discontinued. Again in 1968, a study was made to inaugurate a Social Service Department, and although the need was present, the resources were not. History repeats itself.

The Nurses Alumnae was established in 1927.

In 1922, Sister Walsh and other keen, knowledgeable religious in the hospital field were making a study of the conditions within the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, with a view to establishing a Maritime Association. This was accomplished in the 1920's, thus bringing to the Maritimes, the distinction of being the first area in Canada to organize, and the first area to pass C. H. A. standardization.

The Nurses' Home begun in April, 1936 was completed in February, 1938. In March a house-warming and "Silver Tea" were held to celebrate the opening.

Because many of the patients in the hospital didn't need active treatment, it was decided in 1948 to turn St. Michael's Academy into a Chronic Hospital. St. Michael's was renovated and re-named Mount St. Joseph, receiving chronic cases in 1949, with the formal opening February 15, 1950.

Due to increased government involvement in hospital affairs, it was necessary to establish a Lay Advisory Board for the hospital in 1949. A new laundry was constructed in 1949, and a School for Nursing Assistants was opened.

In 1950, the Red Cross provided free blood transfusion service to all hospitals requesting it.

The sod was turned on May 8, 1956, and excavation

begun May 30, 1956 for the proposed \$1,141,425. hospital wing. The opening of the wing took place in 1958. The fourth Hotel Dieu was renovated at this time, bringing the bed capacity to 127.

The last few years have witnessed rapid progress in health care. The challenge remains to give comprehensive and dedicated service to the persons confided to our care.



4th Hotel Dieu 1913



## The School

The first intention of Bishop Rogers was to have the sisters engage in education, but being a hospital order, Montreal declined. The Congregation of Notre Dame agreed to teach in Chatham, but this plan was abandoned when it became evident that Chatham could not support two communities.

So it was, in 1871, aided by sisters from Montreal and by Miss Quinlan, who offered her assistance, that the Academy came into being. Classes opened Oct. 2, 1871 with thirty day-pupils and two boarders in attendance.

The Academy began to improve and thrive. Pupils from S. M. A. distinguished themselves as apt students receiving various honors and provincial awards. Many continued their education by attending Normal School, often returning to teach at S. M. A., while some entered the religious community. The enrollment in 1889 was two hundred and six.

Miss Quinlan worked tirelessly with the sisters until ill health forced her retirement in 1890, almost twenty years after the school opened.

In 1902, the stone building, presently Mount St. Joseph was opened and served as an Academy until 1948.

Summer courses were held in the Grammar School in 1903 with sister teachers in attendance. Then, as now, they found the time was limited to adequately assimilate the content of the lectures. By this year the school enrollment had

increased to 230 day-pupils and 30 boarders.

The music department was enlarged, a domestic science department established, physical education incorporated and by 1916 a \$867. rink was constructed for the boarding pupils who numbered almost 80.

Overcrowding in the school in 1919 necessitated the moving of the high school to the former St. Joseph's ward of the vacated hospital wing. The Academy continued to prosper.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Academy was celebrated and the Alumnae Association was formed in 1921.

It was not until September, 1930 that excavation began for the new school. The site was the same as that occupied by the college that burned in 1919. Classes opened on September 9, 1931.

A fire at the Exhibition Buildings on September 24, 1936 caused a great deal of concern as the sparks and burning embers fell around the Boarding School. A fire started in the attic and before it could be controlled a great deal of damage was done to the contents of the rooms. No one was injured.

An outbreak of infantile paralysis delayed the opening of the school until October 12, 1937.

The Commercial Department in existence for some years, increased its enrollment in 1949, when Miss Mary Ryan joined the teaching staff.

In 1955 the studios were converted into classrooms and the Auditorium was remodelled.

The Academy continued to graduate well educated pupils, many of whom received honors and who through the years continue to give great credit to their Alma Mater.

It became increasingly necessary to upgrade educational standards and thus several of the sisters went each year to summer school, in order to procure B.A. and B.Ed. Degrees. And this progress continues as it has over the past 100 years.



New Wing of Hotel Dieu 1958



One hundred years of continuous service to suffering mankind bespeaks an illustrious past. But our beginning goes back well over three hundred years to a man named Jerome le Royer. Jerome le Royer had a dream and it came true. Bishop Rogers saw his aspirations realized. We too must strive to have our hopes materialise.

Indeed, one hundred years of continuous service to mankind bespeaks an illustrious past, but dreams do not come true by looking back — they come true by looking forward.

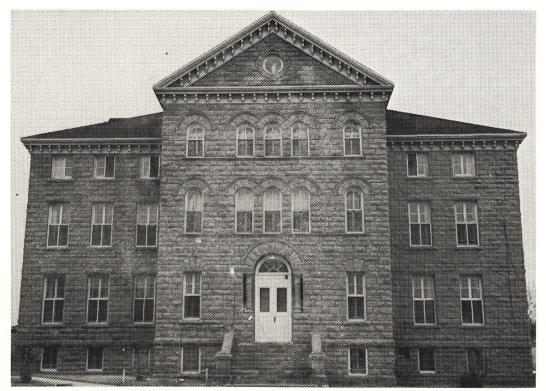
During the lifetime of most of us, certainly during the last decade, there has been a tremendous consolidation of scientific advances, and hospitals have become essential institutions through which society can enjoy the full benefits of modern medicine. But it is imperative that we look over the entire scope of health care and focus our attention on where we are going, and less on where we have gone. Through the vehicle of the hospital, health care will be increasingly extended into the community, the hospital thus being looked upon as a community health service center.

Everything is changing — occupations, opportunities, businesses, the very definition of what it means to be a leader, or even a human being. One writer put it this way: "Only those who have the ability to detect change the instant it happens — understand its trend and its consequences — realize its dangers, and its opportunities — will survive". And so, the roles and contributions in the giving of health care must be studied. The main problem for hospitals today is to be dependent on other organizations and agencies, and yet maintain autonomy and the right to decide what forms their services shall take in order to meet local wants and needs. It is clear that as health problems of the people change, so must

the institutions devoted to their health. We look to our governments and associations to help institute and improve various techniques in promoting health interests at all levels, relating specifically to the needs and people of our day. If we hope to meet these needs, we must co-ordinate, and to co-ordinate we must plan. In planning we must face the perplexing problem of obtaining sufficient numbers of adequately educated and properly motivated health workers so that we will be able to assure our public of the highest quality of health service.

Church related health facilities have a unique opportunity and special obligation today. Christian service to the suffering must express itself in genuine Christian charity, or it is not worthy of its name. In our service to the sick, we must concentrate on the two great values — the physical and the spiritual. On the physical, to alleviate as far as we can, physical pain and suffering; on the spiritual, to lessen the anguish of the emotionally afflicted, and help them on the way to eternal salvation.

I believe that every individual and every organization needs a dream goal. This is a personal goal which one establishes for oneself or one's enterprise. Do you think mine is the "impossible dream"? Personally, I find no challenge or reward in a static situation involving solely the preservation of the status quo. This, to me, is an impossibility, today or in the future. Furthermore, I find no personal fulfillment, no sense of contribution in a situation which permits no daring to dream "the impossible dream", and striving for its accomplishment.



St. Michael's Academy 1902 - 1948 Mount St. Joseph 1949 -





The Gleaner, Chatham, N. B.

July 19

The children of St. Michael's Female Academy, taught by the ladies of Hotel Dieu, gave a musical and literary entertainment in Saint Michael's last Wednesday evening. It was attended by His Excellency, the Governor General, a suite and a large audience composed of the most respectable persons from all parts of the County. The stage was fitted with care and good judgment, and the children being tastefully arranged, presented a very beautiful sight. The entertainment embraced a variety of vocal and instrumental music, dramatic representation, declamations, etc., and reflected great credit on both teachers and pupils. At the conclusion of the entertainment the scholars exhibited specimens of their work in painting, drawing, and plain and ornamental needle-work. The specimens showed the care and skill with which the children are taught, and proved clearly that it is no longer necessary to send young ladies abroad that they may obtain a thorough and polite education.

## 1969

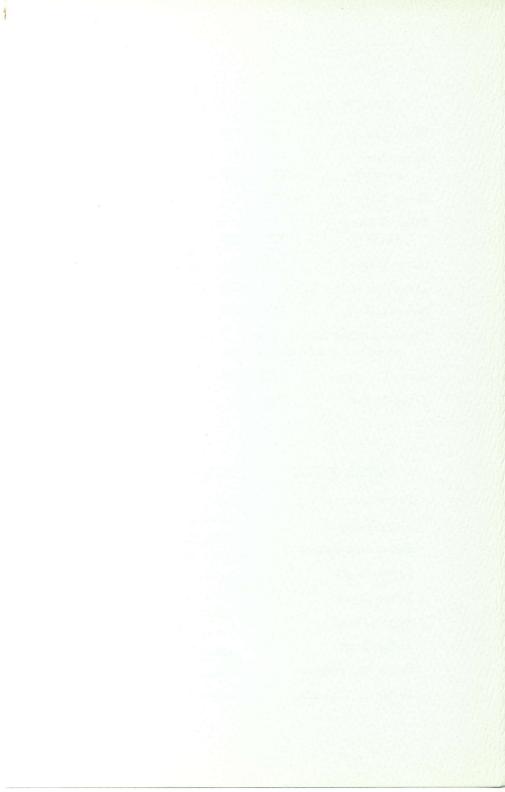
How changed the educational programme! Now it IS continuous progress, non-graded school, individual time-tabling. Pupils in the public schools of New Brunswick are given an opportunity to follow any course that will prepare them to enter the competitive world of today — any course that ties in with their ability and their taste. We call it "Equal Opportunity".

All down the years, from the little "Red School House" opened in 1872, St. Michael's has witnessed a changing programme, always expansion-wise. From the tiny mustard seed planted in that year has grown the lofty oak with its spreading branches reaching out and leaving its gentle influence on countless young people, not only of the immediate area, but also of those on the distant horizon.

Without detailing here all the changes, let us note only that it is rather significant that in this centennial year of 1969, St. Michael's is undergoing a unique metamorphosis. As of June of this year, the Junior and Senior High classes have made their exodus to the temporary new complex of School District No. 10; and next September, St. Michael's will revert to an elementary school — history repeating itself.

Nostalgic? Yes, for we feel that a part of our very selves has been wrenched from us; but we know it is for the good of our students, and we shall follow them in their new field of endeavor. May the new seed planted in this Centennial Year grow to fruition and bear abundant fruit in the years to come.





#### BISHOPS 1860 - 1968

Bishop Rogers 1860 - 1903

Bishop Barry

co-adjutor 1900 - 1903

Bishop Barry 1903 - 1920

Bishop O'Leary

Auxiliary 1914 - 1920

Bishop Chiasson 1920 - 1943

Diocese moved to Bathurst 1938

Bishop LeBlanc 1943 - 1959

Diocese divided; Miramichi area joined to St. John diocese 1959

Bishop Leverman 1959 - 1968

Bishop McNeil 1969 -



### PARISH PRIESTS

Father Barry

Msgr. Varilly

Father John Bannon

Father Knight

Father Joyner

Msgr. O'Keeffe

Father Burns

Father W. Wallace

Father L. McFadden

#### RESIDENT CHAPLAINS

Father B. J. Murdoch

Father John Ryan

Father E. Grant

Father G. Harrington

Father J. McKinnon

Father C. Gautreau

Father H. Reinsborough

Father J. Smith Father King

Father J. McKinnon

Father R. McKenna

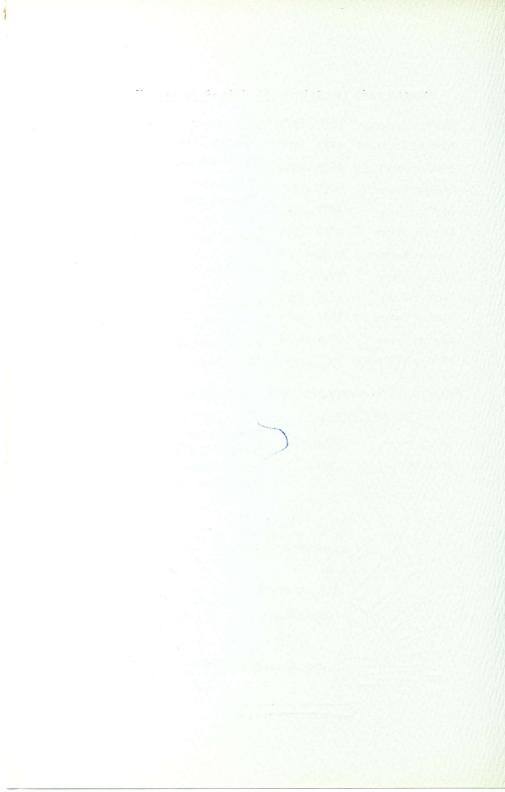
#### COMMUNITY LEADERS OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Mother Davignon	1869 - 1873	Mother Mary of the	
Mother Raymond	1873 - 1879	Sacred Heart	1929 - 1935
Mother Sirois	1879 - 1885	Mother McElwee	1935 - 1938
Mother Renaud	1885 - 1891	Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart	ne 1938 - 1944
Mother Kane	1891 - 1897	Mother Dunn	1944 - 1947
Mother Walsh	1897 - 1903	Mother Borden	1947 - 1949
Mother Kane	1903 - 1909		
Mother Dwyer	1909 - 1915	Formation of the	Generalate 1949
Mother Kane	1915 - 1921	Sister Burns	1949 - 1955
Mother Dwyer	1921 - 1924	Sister O'Keeffe	1955 - 1956
Mother Kane	1924 - 1927	Sister 'McKenzie	1956 - 1959
Mother O'Keeffe	1927 - 1929	Sister Borden	1959 - 1961

### Formation of the Communities of St. Michael's and Hotel Dieu 1961

ST. MICHAEL'S		HOTEL DIEU			
Sister Troy		1961 - 1967	Sister	Borden	1961 - 1962
	юу		Sister	O'Keeffe	1962 - 1965
Sister Fi	tzpatrick	1967 -	Sister	Coderre	1965 - 1968
	•		Sister	Shannon	1968 -







## The Foundations

"The story of this foundation is so closely connected with that of Tracadie and their wants are so linked together that it is impossible, without breaking the chain, to relate the incidents of the Hotel Dieu of Chatham, at least in its early days without touching upon those of Tracadie.

Our house, in the thought of its prudent founder was to be a home for the devoted missionary Sisters of Lazaretto at Tracadie, should adverse circumstances ever necessitate their leaving it". (Annals)

The foundation at Tracadie continued over the years and celebrated its one hundredth anniversary last year, 1968. Chatham Hotel Dieu survived the years also. We have mentioned already the privations of the first years and the progress of the hospital and school over one hundred years.

There are interesting incidents recorded in the pages of time that relate specifically to the Sisters themselves.

In September 1869, the first postulant was received into the community and in October two sisters arrived from Montreal, increasing the number in the Community to seven.

On August 18, 1872 the novitate was opened with six postulants received. By 1903 there were forty-one sisters (although at times the number was greater than this). Up until the formation of the Generalate in 1949 the houses were autonamous and postulants were admitted to each house with the idea that they would remain there for the rest of their

lives. After the Generalate formation, the government of the Congregation changed, with the postulants and novices going to a central novitate. In those days, before the Generalate, the foundation of a new house was considered a missionary activity — not so much that the sisters were entering a new environment, but rather that they were leaving for a time the security of the Cloister.

A crisis arose in 1871 when Bishop Rogers proposed to transfer the Chatham foundation to Bathurst. Bishop Rogers considered the move would be beneficial, but the sisters after consultation, serious thought, and prayer, stood on their conviction that they should remain in Chatham.

Father MacDonald of Campbellton appealed to the Hospitallers for teachers to found a school in his diocese. On October 2, 1888, Sister Doyle and Sister Fenity, along with four sisters from Montreal, left for Campbellton, where a school was opened on October 24, 1888. The school, in the loft of a back kitchen, which was described as a "cheerless attic", was occupied by the sisters for eighteen months before moving into a new building. Every beginning bespeaks sacrifice with a strange blend of humor and providence.

"Saved by the bell" is a common expression, but it may be said of our sisters of Campbellton, they were saved by a cow. The Sisters had recently acquired a cow as a gift and the cow being lonesome for her own, bellowed pitiously. A young girl assuming the cow to be hungry, went home to tell her aunt. The aunt took a collection of money to the sisters to buy hay for the cow. Poor old Bossy had been stabled for the night and well fed.

But "The gift was very opportune, for the previous day a gentleman came asking our good Mother remittance for a debt due him. Not a cent had we, still our good Mother Gendrons said, "If you call tomorrow I shall be able to pay you", and so she was, with the money so providently received".

(Annals).

Sister Doyle returned home from Campbellton in 1903 and Sister Fenity returned in 1912. As a foundress and Superior of Campbellton she was heartbroken when a great fire destroyed much of Campbellton as well as the hospital and school. The foundation was re-built and continues to serve the area.

The first foundation, that this house assumed full responsibility for, was established in New London, Wisconsin in 1929. Father O. Kolbe invited the sisters to come and on February 11, 1929 Sisters Murdoch, Dwyer and Hickey set out on their journey.

Not only were they leaving their home and their province, but also their native Canada. The well equipped hospital was set up in a home but provided no sleeping accommodations for the sisters. The Sisters of St. Agnes of that Community provided lodging for the Hospitallers for two years.

In 1930, Sisters MacIntosh, Varrily and MacDonald went to New London. Land was purchased and a new hospital erected, which opened March 19, 1931.

Two names stand out in the New London Annals of true and trusted friends of the foundation — Mrs. Small — Doctor Pfieffer — both gone now, but the hospital lives on. Recently a 100 bed Senior Citizens Home has been acquired and is operated by the Hospitallers in New London.

"In May of 1932, Doctor Lambert of Antigo (Wisconsin) wrote us re the taking over of Langlade Memorial Hospital of that city, distant about 80 miles from New London". (Annals).

"On January 3, 1933, Sister MacIntosh and Sister Martin left . . . . New London for Antigo. Our Sisters stayed two months with the Franciscan Sisters of Antigo until

quarters at the hospital were ready for occupancy. A generous priest donated one thousand dollars for furniture and the firms of Antigo advanced \$60,000. worth of furniture so that the hospital could be opened on March 21, 1933. In the first six months 483 patients were treated.

The hospital in Antigo is still in operation and plans are underway to expand facilities. Antigo is a pleasant Wisconsin city, near skiing resorts and popular as a place of retirement.

"In June 1939 a letter had come from the Municipality of Olds, Alberta asking our community to operate a small hospital in their town". (Annals).

There was no further correspondence until May 1940, when another appeal was made to the sisters. It seems there were problems obtaining assistance from the Alberta Government. A letter of May 17, 1940 seemed to assure assistance for the sisters if they came, so on July 2, 1940 Sisters Borden, Kenny and Doran left for the mission in Olds.

Great disappointment greeted the sisters upon their arrival at Olds. The situation was so complex that it was impossible to take over the hospital.

The sisters went to Edmonton, where finally they found accommodation with the Grey Nuns at the General Hospital. They worked at the hospital for their board and gained much valuable experience.

It was not until September that the offer of a hospital at Barrhead materialized; terms were agreed upon and on November first the sisters took over the administration.

After two years at Barrhead, Sister Borden appealed to Chatham for help necessitated by growing needs of the hospital.

In 1944 Sister Christina returned to Chatham because

of an eye condition that was diagnosed as glaucoma and she could not return. Sister Jimmo then went to Barrhead to replace Sister Christina. The hospital prospered through the seven years of the sisters administration. The debt was paid and the foundation promised to continue to expand.

Unfortunately the number of sisters available to staff the Chatham hospital and school was insufficient to allow anyone to transfer to Barrhead. Consequently the hospital at Barrhead was handed over to its new administrators in January 1947.

Although the mission at Ocoa, Dominican Republic is not a foundation of this house, four of its members have served there. Sister St. Mary Joseph was one of the first sisters to go and is presently teaching sewing and cooking to the young women. Sister Borden has very recently returned, after devoted service to the sick in the hospital and clinic. Sister Mary Hurley has been there just over a year contributing her talents to the mission activities. Sister Helen Burns spent one summer in Ocoa as a replacement while the missionaries gained some much needed rest. The pattern repeats itself — man helping man to help himself.

"What does a man gain from the efforts that he makes," Ecclesiastes.

This question asked many years ago, can still be asked to-day. In searching for an answer a thought presents itself. Probably it is best that the answer is known to God alone.

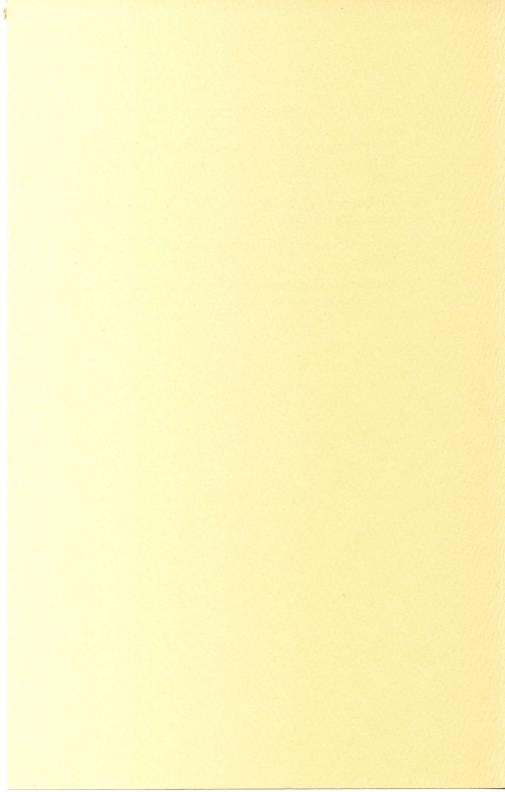


#### **KEY TO SISTERS' PICTURES**

- I Sister Borden
- 2 Sister Borden in Ocoa, Dominican Republic
- 3 Sister McIntosh
- 4 Sister Clark
- 5 Sister Genevieve, Sister Emily
- 6 Sister Alice Smith
- 7 Sister Dwyer
- 8 Sister Ryan, C. N. D., Newcastle; Sister McElwee
- 9 Sisters Woods, Hendrix, Sheahan
- 10 Sister La Billois
- 11 Sister Kane
- 12 Sister Parenteau, Sister O'Keeffe
- 13 Sister Shannon
- 14 Sister Clarissa Donovan
- 15 Sister Overvelde
- 16 Sister Kenny
- 17 Sister Robichaud
- 18 Sister St. Michael
- 19 Sister Waddleton
- 20 Sister Rideout, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart
- 21 Sister La Porte
- 22 Sister Jimmo
- 23 Sister McGurty one of the founding Sisters
- 24 Sister Troy
- 25 Sister Kathleen Doyle
- 26 Sister Fidelis, Sister McElwee
- 27 Sister Martin
- 28 Sister Mary Anne-touriere
- 29 Sister Dunn
- 30 Sister Aloysius
- 31 Sister Connors
- 32 Sister Sanford
- 33 Sister Hurley Ocoa, Dominican Republic
- 34 Sister Skidd
- 35 Sister Doucet, Sister Harriman
- 36 Sister MacDonald

- 37 Sister Dionne
- 38 Sisters Jean, Hackett, Murdoch
- 39 Sister St. Joseph
- 40 Sister Albert
- 41 Sister Burns
- 42 Sister Mary Joseph Ocoa, Dominican Republic
- 43 Sister Hammond
- 44 Sister MacKenzie
- 45 Sisters Hickey, Varrily
- 46 Sister Fitzpatrick
- 47 Sister Coderre
- 48 Sister Doyle
- 49 Sister MacLaughlin
- 50 Front left to right —
  Sisters Winslow, Robichaud, Hickey, Shannon, MacPherson
  Back left to right —
  Sisters Epps, Gaffney, DesRoches, Mann, McNeil, McGrath





## KEY FOR PICTURES

- A. A photocopy of correspondence with Mr. Arsenault of Summerside, P. E. I., who was a patient at H. D. H. in 1909.
- B. The first page of the ledger for the H. D. H. Community begun July 26, 1869.
- C. A page from the first accounts book, listing supplies and prices.
- D. A collection of pictures depicting education at St. Michael's Academy and H. D. H. School of Nursing.

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HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL CHATMAN, NEW BRUNSWICK

Navember 5, 1960,

Mr. Authory Armenault. 334 Convent Street. Summerwide, P.S.I.

Sear Mr. Armenault

This will seksowiedse your letter of Cotober 23 with thanks. It will be sufficient for you to may the amount of the account without interest. Since ac ting a time has elasped from the jetsering of the second, we will get the \$PR\_OF in an account we are netting us as a "contempt your". In July of valoue the Sisters will have been doing heart all work in Chathan for 100 years,

Yours may truly.

Sister E. Kacharan Administrator.

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HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL COLUMN TARAK WITH BRICKSHOCK

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COMMENSANT .

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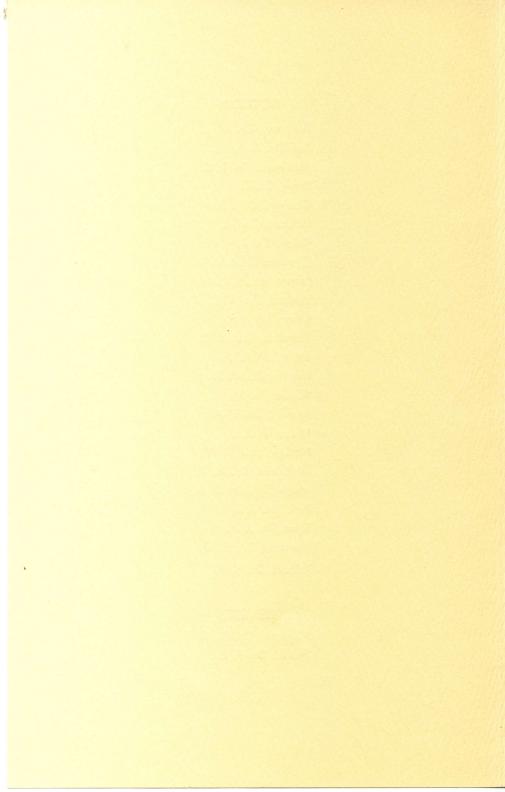
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## **DOCTORS**

Babineau, Dr. M. J. Bell, Dr. J. A. M. Boudreau, Dr. D. J. Byrne, Dr. T. Cowie, Dr. A. S. Delaney, Dr. M. Dolan, Dr. R. Giovanetti, Dr. J. L. Harriman, Dr. P. M. Howatt, Dr. W. B. Keays, Dr. J. F. Kingston, Dr. M. D. Leger, Dr. L. P. Loggie, Dr. W. S. Majka, Dr. M. Marvin, Dr. B. A. Moar, Dr. J. D. McKay, Dr. W. W. McKenzie, Dr. R. B. MacMillan, Dr. J. A. I. Park, Dr. J. E. Ryan, Dr. J. A. Vaughan, Dr. H. G. Wilson, Dr. F. G.

## **DENTISTS**

Hayward, Dr. C. A. Sproul, Dr. F. E.



Dr. A. J. Losier



Dr P. F. Duffy



Dr. J.B. WacKenzie

The names and pictures on these pages can at best, be only a partial recognition of the dedicated persons who have served the Hotel Dieu as physicians and surgeons over the past 100 years





Lt. to Rt. Back row: De tr. Paquir, Dr. A.C. Blanchard De H. J. Cameron . Pront row: Dr. J. C. Duffy Dr. P.J. Losier , Dr. L.A. Aubé, Br. E. Ozcap



Dr.E.H.Freeman



Dr.R.H.Morrissey



Dr. E. B. Losier

It has given me much pleasure to compile this small book.

An attempt has been made to include as many as possible within the limits of these pages. I realize that many persons are not mentioned, but please do not feel forgotten. Many events are not recorded here, but these too are in the written history in the annals of the Congregation, and in the minds and hearts of those who remember.

To all the wonderful people who have done so much to make this publication possible may I say, "Thank you, thank you very much".

A Sister of the Congregation of Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, who has had the privilege of getting to know the people and events of Miramichi.

