

CONFEDERATION-----CAPSULE HISTORY-----POSTAL HISTORY

All stories have beginnings, and most have endings. Confederation continues living new every day. In 1617 Samuel de Champlain for France, researched the eastern part of North America, particularly the St. Lawrence River. He brought with him the first settler in New France, my Great Grandfather, 14 generations removed, Louis Hebert, his wife, Marie Rollett and three children. Louis Hebert was given 10 acres of land in spring, 1617, by the French Government. He was an apothecary, and cultivated plants and herbs to treat soldiers and sailors plus natives, and future settlers. He also grew grain while his wife became the first teacher and worked with native children and future residents



LOUIS HEBERT



MARIE ROLLETT

The Colonial Era included British Colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia (Cape Breton) Isle St. Jean(St. John Island) renamed Prince Edward Island, after Queen Victoria's father, fourth son of King George III. Prince Edward lived 10 years in Quebec and the Maritimes and returned to England in 1800. He married in 1818 and had one child, Victoria, born may 24th 1819. She ascended the throne in 1827. She reigned between 1827 and 1901. In 1751 Wolfe defeated Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham (Quebec City). In 1763, France ceded all it's North American colony to Britain following the Seven Year War, retaining ports in Newfoundland. Great Britain managed Canadian Post Office Affairs (1763-1851)

HISTORICAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS

A number of people had an impact on the development of Canada. These pages will introduce some very important figures in our history, who are not Fathers of Confederation. Their impact is not lessened but provide interesting contributions to our history. As we turn pages we find brilliant people who we should honour as well as the Fathers.

Pre-eminent is Her Majesty Queen Victoria, deemed by historians as a Mother of Confederation. Some wives and daughters who attended the conferences to participate in various parties and to support their husbands and fathers, at parties and balls and kept diaries, or as in the case of Ann (Nelson) Brown, received correspondence from her husband George Brown commenting on proceedings, which she saved and are a part of the historical record in the Canadian Archives. Her letters to her husband, encouraging his participation, and speaking lovingly to him, were mostly destroyed, as George didn't want to share her endearments with the public.

Other people who contributed were politicians who supported the work that brought about growth and change from the various Assemblies that governed the British Colonial Provinces. These deserve a chapter in this collage of Canadian History.

FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

There are a number of lists of Fathers of Confederation. Generally there are 33 names that appear on most lists. Added in 1927 on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are three men who attended the London Conference that brought about the final document signed by Queen Victoria. John A. Macdonald who represented the Province of Canada (East-West) at Prince Edward Island and Quebec, appointed Hewitt Bernard as Secretary, to record the meetings. There are very little records in the archives. However the original painting by Robert Harris of Prince Edward Island in 1883 did include Hewitt Bernard.

After the fire that destroyed a part of the House of Commons in 1916, also destroyed the painting so in 1964 the government in anticipation of the 100th birthday of Canada Commissioned Rex Woods to redo a version. He took the time to add the three members recognized in 1927 and also added a portrait on the wall on the right, of the original artist Robert Harris.

In my opinion, the Governor General of the former Province of Canada, and The First Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, Viscount Charles Monk did yeoman work with the preparations for the London Conference and then with the British Government of the Day, and Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He also contributed to the two meetings before London, in Charlottetown P.E.I. and Quebec City.