

The Cassidys of Cassidy Lake

www.cassidys.ca/history

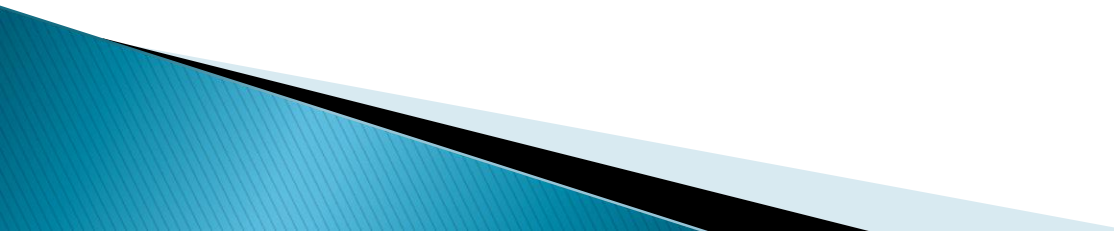
A presentation to the Kings County Historical Society

March 22, 2014

Brian Cassidy – bpc@unb.ca



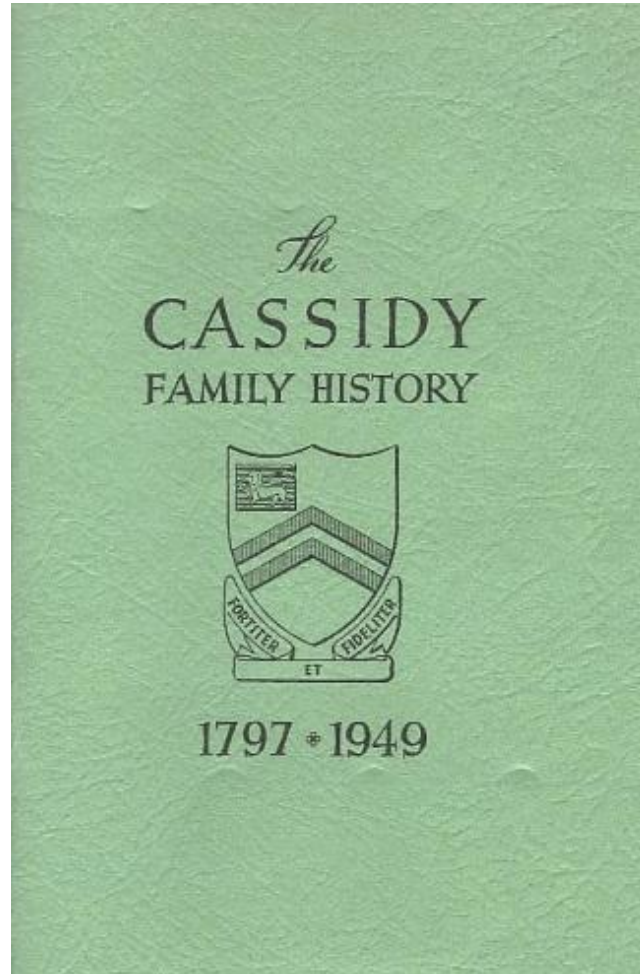
Agenda

- ▶ Irish Roots 1797–1819
 - ▶ Migration to Canada and Cassidy Lake 1819–1823
 - ▶ Life at Cassidy Lake 1823–1954
 - Farm
 - Church and Cemetery
 - Cheese Factory
 - ▶ Cassidy Lake reunions and family gatherings
 - ▶ Future research, travels and projects
- 

The View from Hwy 865 – August 2012



The Little Green Book – 1949



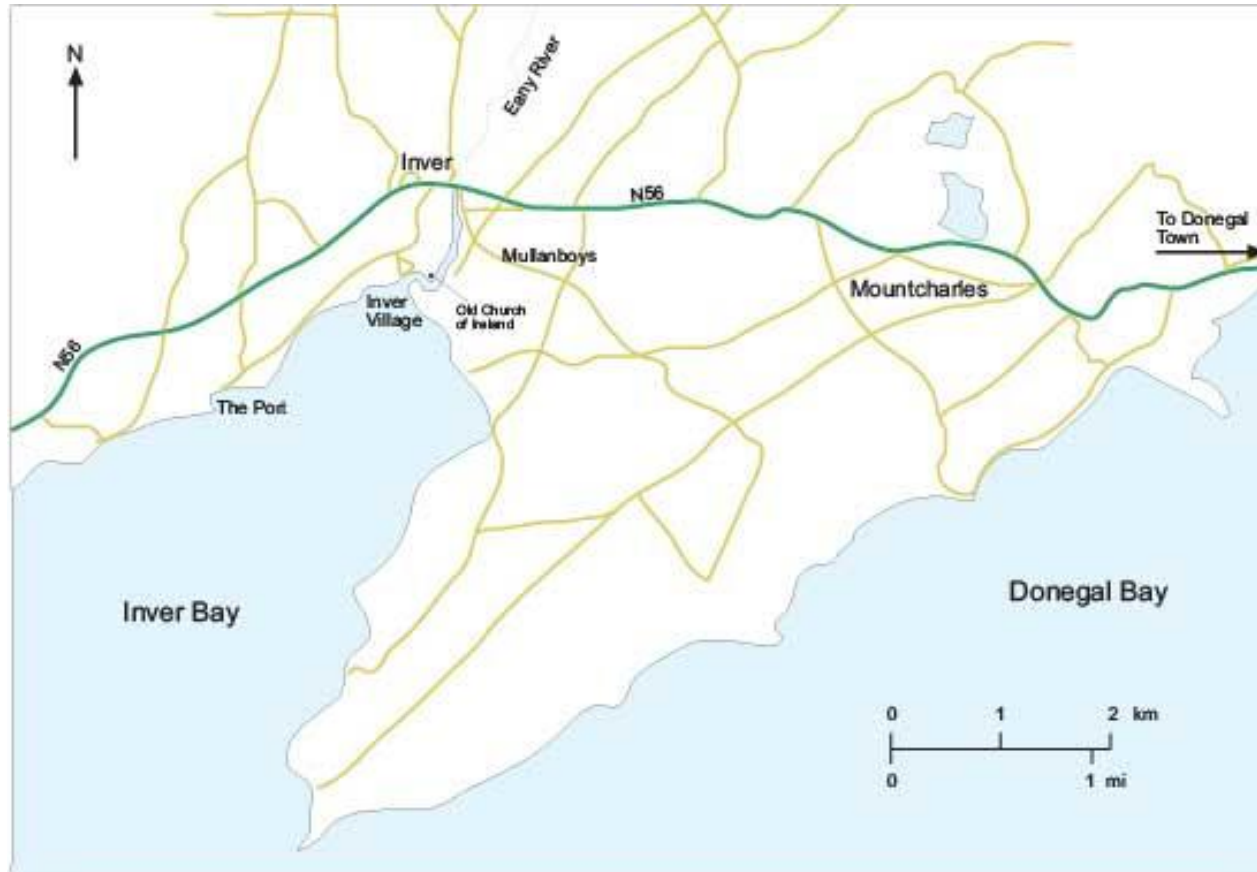
Paternal Pedigree for Bruce, Peter and Brian

- ▶ Bruce (1938), Peter (1941) and Brian Cassidy (1943)
 - Stanley Bernard Cassidy* (1912–1993)
 - Robert Allen Cassidy* (1879–1965)
 - Francis Edward Cassidy* (1834–1927)
 - William Cassidy* (1797–1886)
 - *Buried in Cassidy Lake Cemetery

Irish Roots



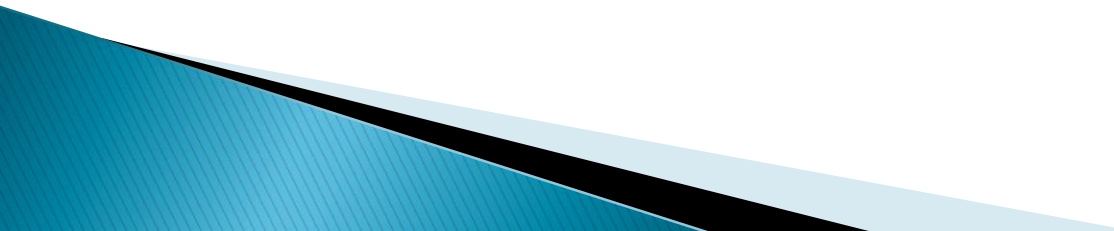
Map of Inver Area



The Port of Inver – 2000



William and Jane's Path to Cassidy Lake

- ▶ 1819 – William and Jane travel by ship from Londonderry, Ireland to Saint John, NB
 - ▶ ~1820 – Shepody Land Grant (research needed)
 - ▶ 1823 – Family of 4 move to the south side of DeForest Lake (near Norton)
- 

Cassidy Lake Area Crown Grants

- ▶ 1815 – DeCourcy Crown Grant
 - Sold to Elijah Baxter December 1815
- ▶ 1815 – Sam DeForest Crown Grant
- ▶ 1819 – George Baxter Crown Grant

The DeCourcy Crown Grant – 1815

Abolished at Sarum and B. H. H.
Parishes of Hampshire and Sussex,
Kings County.

New Brunswick.

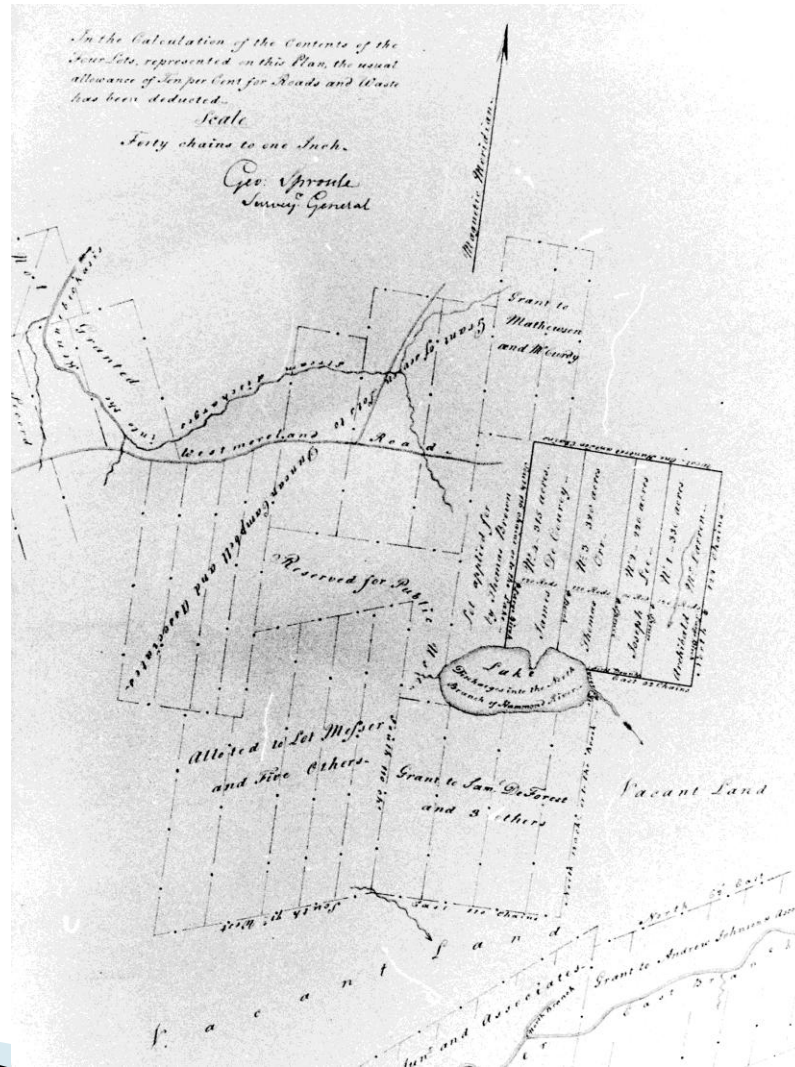
George

J. J. Smyth

the third by the force of field, the British King
arm of Great Britain and Ireland, King, to provide for the South, to
do all to whom these things shall come, meeting, have to
that we, of our great grace, retain knowledge and more
action, have given and granted, and will do by these presents, for the next
years and thereafter you and your heirs, heirs and assigns, that we, the King,
the King, the King and James De la Roche, in warranty, that is, unto each of
them, and unto each and every of their several and respective heirs and
a league, we and by the several divisions, grants, etc., since our jewels
have after we received, the King's or the King's, containing in the whole
we thousand one hundred and twenty five acres, more or less, with the usual
allowance of ten per cent for waste and waste; that is to say, unto the said
Abolished, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
thirty acres, unto the said King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
and unto twenty acres, unto the said James De la Roche, the King's, the King's,
thirty three hundred and twenty eight acres, and unto the said James
De la Roche, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
the said, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
ing and being in and near a small lake, about two or three miles and a quarter
of a mile from the South of Hampshire, near a Port, which lake
discharges into the a Port, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
about the said Port, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's, the King's,
and is situated and bounded as follows, to wit, a beginning in the
County

[illegible]

Crown Grant Map – 1815



The DeCourcy Petition - 1814

James DeCourcy

21st Oct. 1814

26th Sept. 1814

10th 10/-

1004 To His Honor Major General
George Stracy Smyth President of His Majesty's Council
and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick
Esq. The Memorial of James DeCourcy
Humbly Sheweth
That your Honors Memorialist
is an Irishman by Birth - is thirty one Years of Age & has
a Wife and one Child - that being brought up to farming
Business he came out to Nova Scotia about two Years since
with a view to become a Settler in this Country - but having
been accommodated with Land in that Province he lately
came over to this - and having explored the Land in the
Vicinity of the Grant to Duncan Campbell and others
on the Waterville Road - Therefore prays your
Honor in Council will be graciously pleased to grant him
a Lot or Term of three hundred Acres with one hundred
and twenty rods front between the Lot granted to John
Campbell in the said Grant to Duncan Campbell Esq.
and a later Survey for Archibald M^r Larrin & others
and to be bounded westerly on the Lot Surveyed for Thomas
Orr in said Survey - And your Honors Memorialist
as in Duty bound will ever pray &c.
Hampden Kings County
September 23rd 1814 James DeCourcy

Kings County, N. B. Do Certify that the within Memorialist
James DeCourcy personally appeared before me this 23rd Sept. 1814
and stating himself to be a Stranger in this Province and not being
able to procure a Certificate to this Memorial - Requested he might
be sworn to the facts as within stated - and being duly sworn
on his Oath solemnly declares that the Statement within made with
respect to his Age Family removal &c. is the Truth and
nothing but the Truth before me Daniel Michener
Just^{ce} Com^{rs} - P. R. C.

I do further Certify that the Consistency & appearance
of the within memorialist is favorable - or I shall not admit
into his Petition
O. M. W.

26th Sept. 1814 The situation applied for in this
Memorial is Vacant

C. J. G. G. G.

DeCourcy Petition Text

- ▶ To his Honor Major General George Stracey Smyth, President of his Majesty's Council and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick.
- ▶
- ▶ The memorial of James Decourcy Humbly Showeth
- ▶
- ▶ That your Honor's Memorialist is an Irishman by birth – is thirty one years of age & has a wife and one child – that being brought up to farming business he came out to Novascotia about two years since with a view to become a settler in this country – but not having been accommodated with land in that Province he lately came over to this – and having explored the land in the vicinity of the grant to Duncan Campbell and others on the Westmoreland Road – therefore prays your Honor in Council will be graciously pleased to grant him a lot or farm of three hundred acres with one hundred and twenty rods front between the lot granted to John Campbell in the said grant to Duncan Campbell and a lots survey for Archibald McLarrin & others and to be bounded westerly on the lot survey for Thomas Orr in said survey – and your Honor's Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.
- ▶
- ▶ Hampton Kings County
- ▶ September 23, 1814

James DeCourcy

William's Initial Purchase at Cassidy Lake

- ▶ Jan 3, 1823 – 150 acres from Elijah Baxter
- ▶ Price £40 (New Brunswick currency)

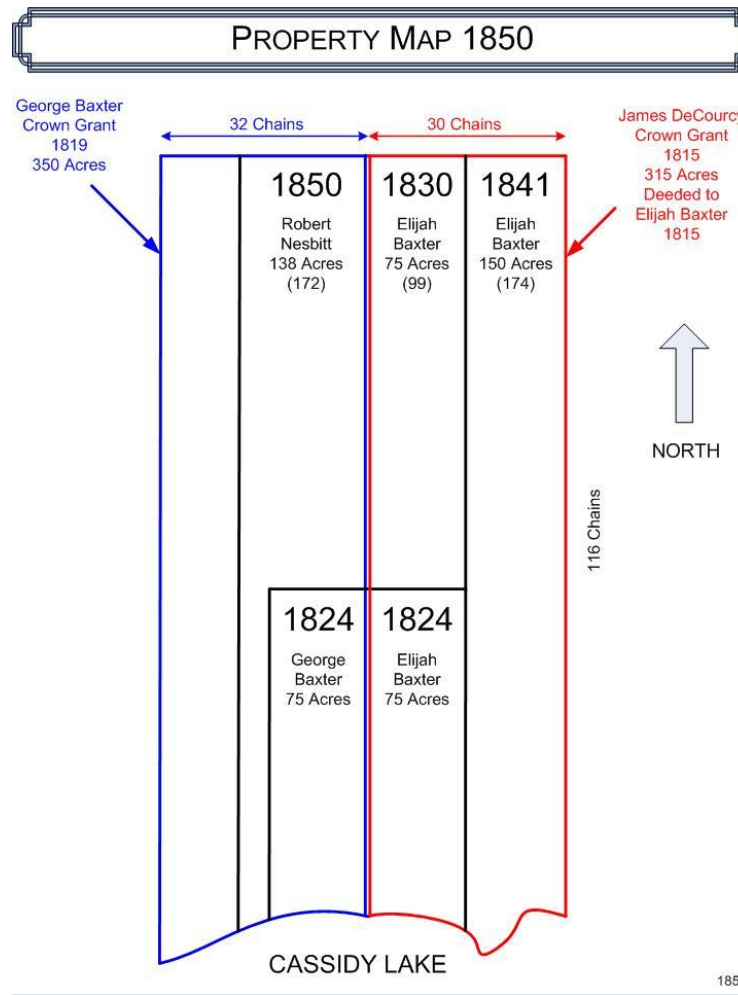
This Indenture made this third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three, between Elijah Baxter Yeoman of the Parish of Porton in the County of Kings and Province of New Brunswick of the one part, and William Lafady Carpenter of the Parish of LaSce in the County & Province aforesaid. Witnesseth that the said Elijah Baxter do engage to sell unto the said William Lafady a certain Tract of Land for the sum of forty Pounds of New Brunswick, pointed as follows, to wit on Elijah Baxter and so Price on hand granted to George Baxter from thence to extend back to complete the amount of 150 Acres. The said sum of forty Pounds the said Elijah Baxter do agree to take out in Carpenter's Work in the specified time of six years, but the last four years the said William Lafady do agree to pay the said Elijah Baxter with Interest. The said William Lafady do engage to give the said Elijah Baxter Carpenter's Work to the amount of six Pounds & fifteen Shillings annually to the end of the six years viz to the year 1830 which work is to be performed in a workmanlike manner. But if the said William Lafady can perform the work required by Elijah Baxter in a less given time, then

the said William Lafady shall be at full liberty to demand of the said Elijah Baxter a good and warranty deed, in which the said Elijah Baxter do bind himself, his heirs Administrators or Assigns for the fulfilment of the same as soon as the said William Lafady shall have performed the above conditions. And the said William Lafady do bind himself, his heirs Administrators, or Assigns for the fulfilment of the within stipulations. Elijah Baxter and William Lafady, each and both of them, do severally for themselves do bind themselves in the sum of One hundred & fifty Pounds of New Brunswick Currency on the non-performance of the above Contract. In Witness whereof the said Elijah Baxter has set his hand and seal this 3^d day of January 1823.

Elijah Baxter
Wm Lafady
Jas Jackson
James L. Taylor
Wm Cassidy

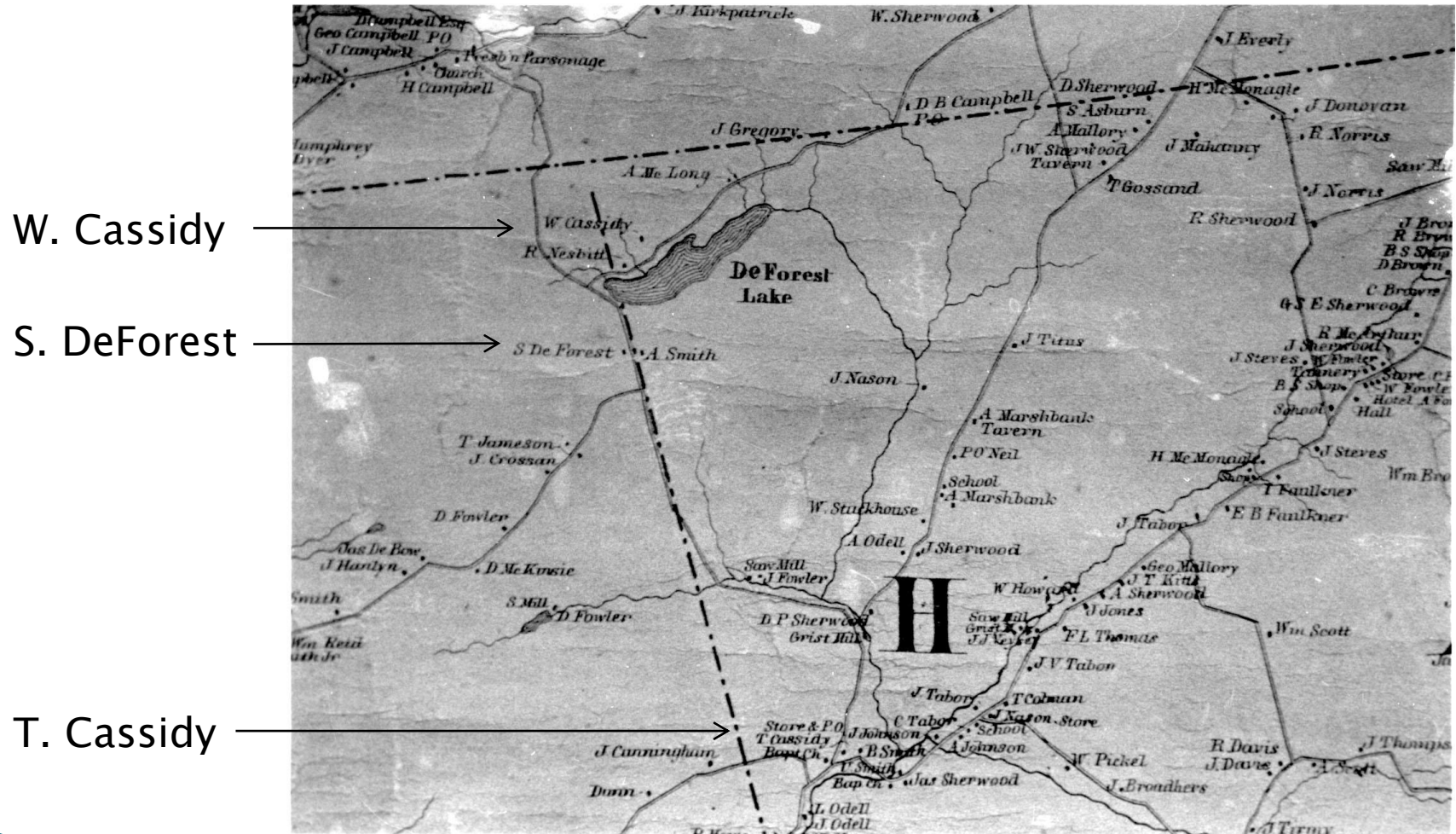
Note
William's
Signature

William Expands His Property 1823–1850

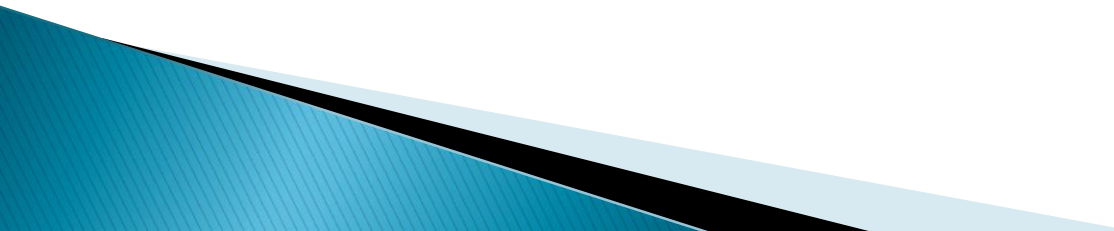


~595 acres at its
largest extent

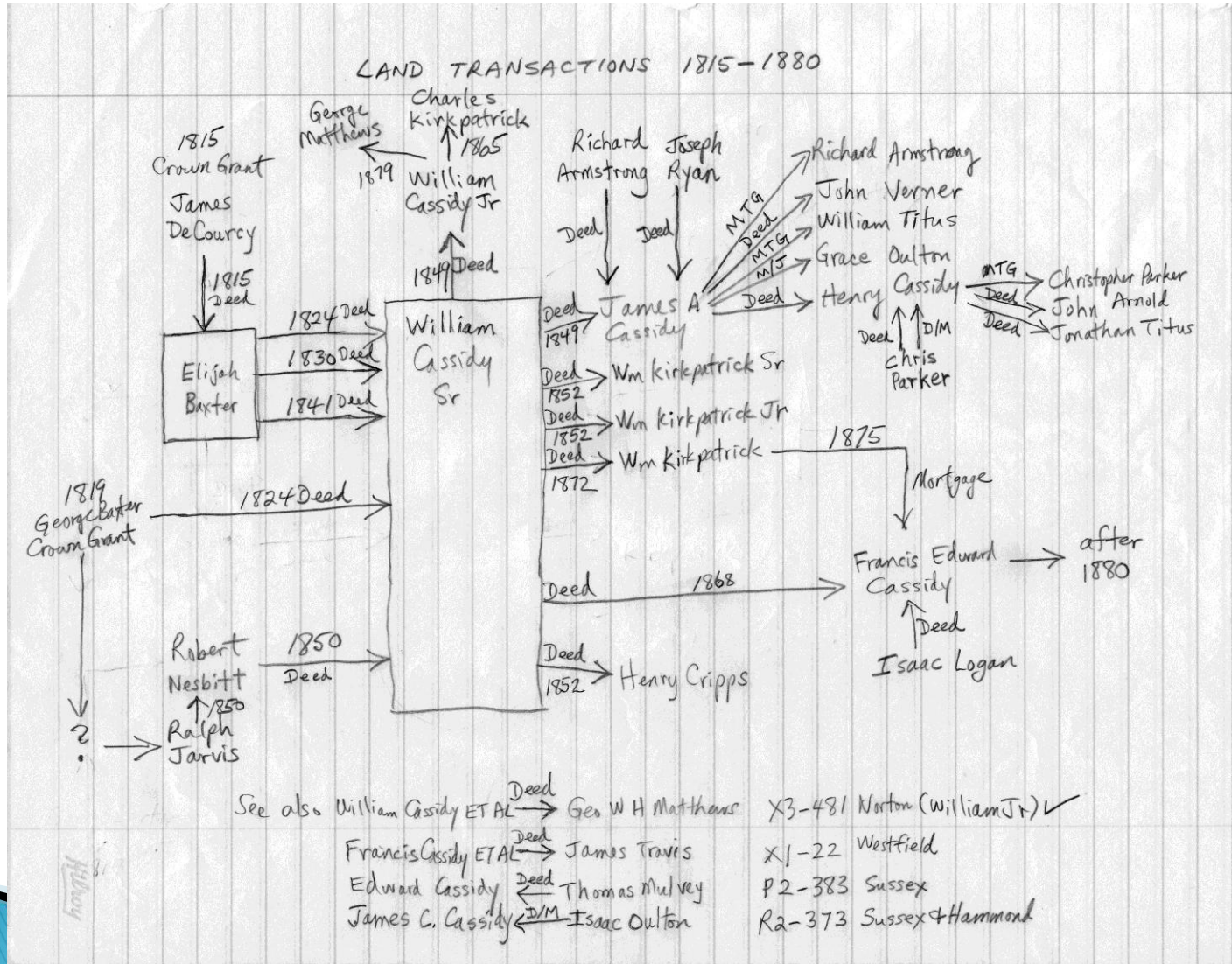
Map of Cassidy Lake Area 1862



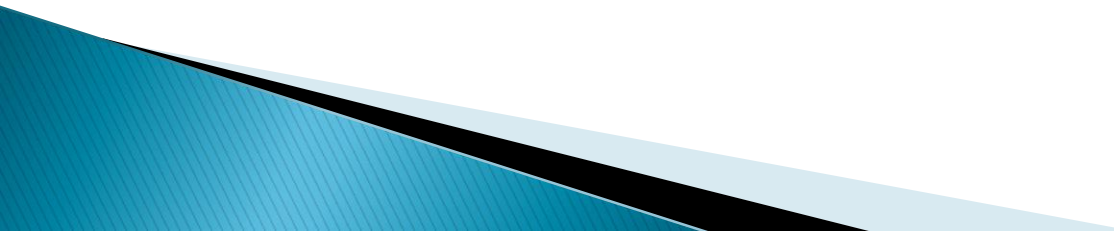
William Sells his Property

- ▶ 1849 – 80 acres – William Cassidy Jr
 - ▶ 1849 – 80 acres – James Cassidy
 - ▶ 1852 – 62.5 acres – William Kirkpatrick Sr
 - ▶ 1852 – 32.5 acres – William Kirkpatrick Jr
 - ▶ 1852 – 10 acres – Henry Cripps
 - ▶ 1868 – 250 acres – Francis Edward Cassidy
 - \$2000 (Canadian currency)
 - ▶ 1872 – 80 acres – William Kirkpatrick
- 

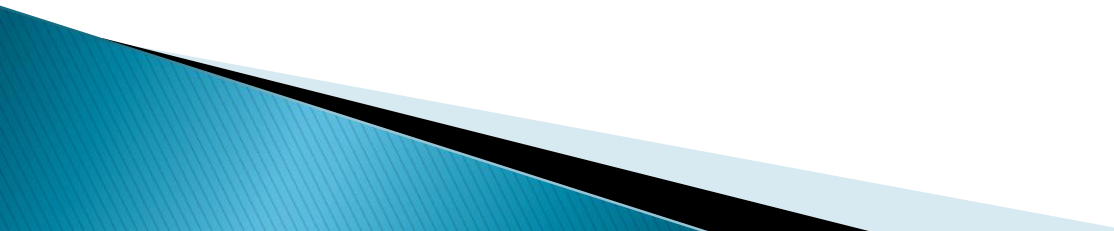
The Tangled Web of Land Transactions



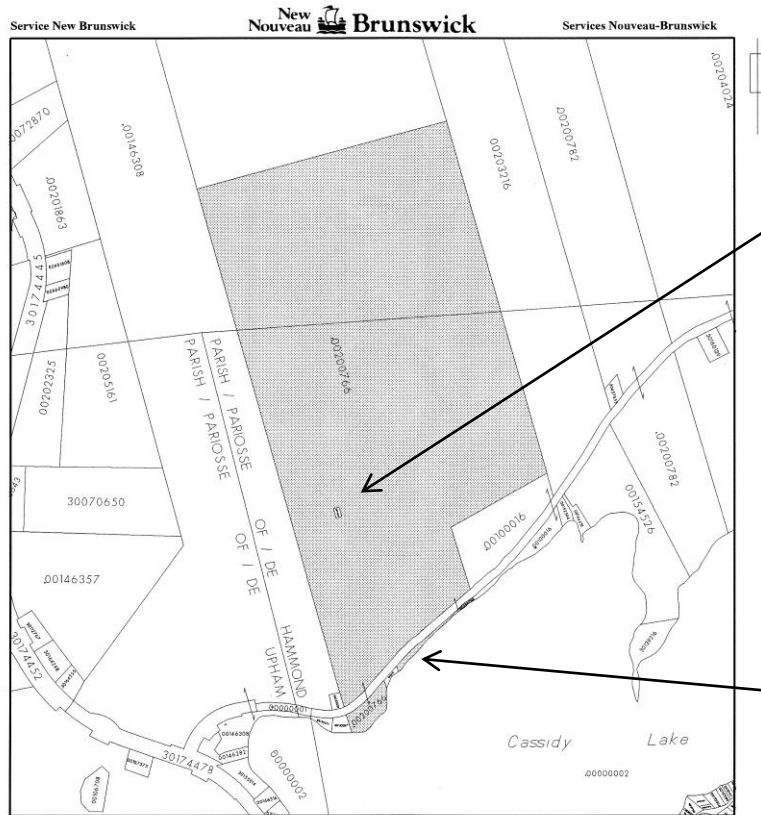
Main Farm Transactions

- ▶ 1860 – William Cassidy to Francis Edward Cassidy
 - ▶ ~1920 – Francis Edward to Robert Allen (deed not yet located)
 - ▶ 1952 – Robert Allen sells 125 acres in 2 sections to son Gordon
 - ▶ 1954 – Main farm vacant as Robert Allen and Edythe retire to Fredericton. Farm contents sold at auction
 - ▶ 1962 – Robert Allen to Stanley and Elsie Cassidy (~193 acres)
 - ▶ 1993 – Stan Cassidy dies. Elsie becomes sole property owner
 - ▶ 2012 – Elsie Cassidy to Paul Cassidy (Vancouver)
- 

2013 Formal Property Survey

- ▶ NB PID 200766
 - ▶ Survey shows 149 acres vs 193 acres as indicated by Service NB property diagram
 - ▶ Discussions ongoing regarding the northern property boundary
- 

NB PID 200766



The Cassidy Lake Cemetery
(PID 30174296) is located
fully within this property

Francis Edward Cassidy
Memorial Church
PID 00152413

© SNB/SNB

Scale
Échelle 1 : 10000

0 200 400 600 metres

Date printed / Date imprimée
Time/L'Heure

Tuesday, September 09, 2003
12:55:16 PM

While this map may not be free from error or omission, care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality. This map is a graphical representation of property boundaries which approximate the size, configuration and location of properties.
Bien que cette carte ne soit pas exempte d'erreurs ou d'omissions, elle a été préparée avec soin afin d'assurer la meilleure qualité possible. Cette carte n'est qu'une représentation graphique des limites des biens-fonds dont elle ne saurait être utilisée pour faire des descriptions juridiques ni pour calculer les dimensions ou faire des titres.

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Aerial Photo 1945



Aerial Photo 1962



Aerial Photo 1984



Aerial Photo taken from Peter's A36 Bonanza – August 3, 2001



Aerial Photo taken from Peter's A36 Bonanza – August 3, 2001



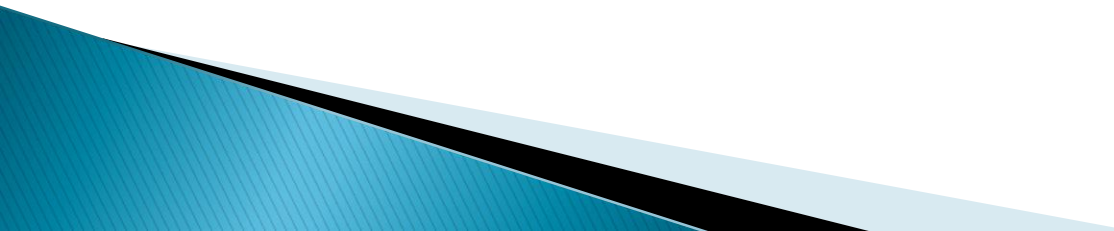
Aerial Photo taken from Peter's A36 Bonanza – August 3, 2001



Aerial Photo taken from Peter's A36 Bonanza – August 3, 2001



A Thriving Community 1823–1954

- ▶ Homestead with detached single car garage
 - ▶ Large barn (about 100 feet long)
 - Cattle (25 stalls) and horses (4 stalls)
 - Hay mow
 - Milk separator room
 - Carpenter's workshop
 - Ice shed
 - Two seat outhouse
 - ▶ Church – 1883
 - ▶ Cemetery – ~1850
 - ▶ Cheese factory – 1902
 - ▶ Grist mill and saw mill
 - ▶ Maple sugar camp
- 

Homestead 1912



Homestead ~1940



Homestead from the air ~1950



Homestead 1953



The Clover Hill Cheese Factory

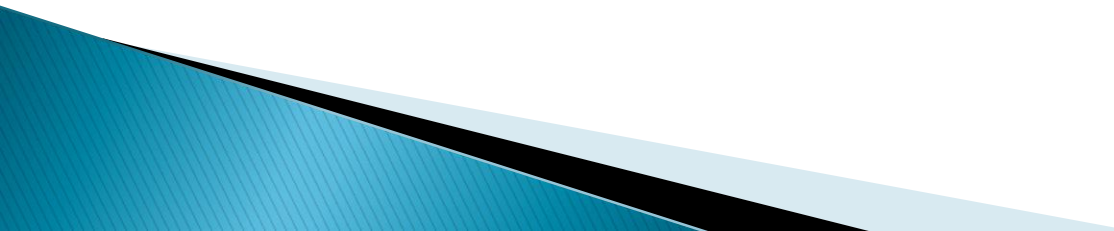
- ▶ Built in 1902 and active for about 30 years



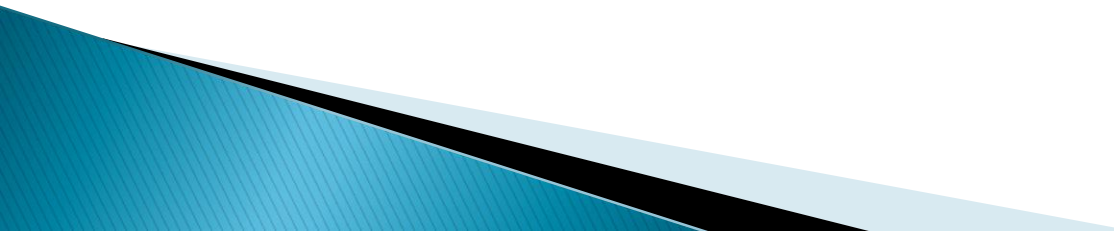
Carpenter's Workshop 1949



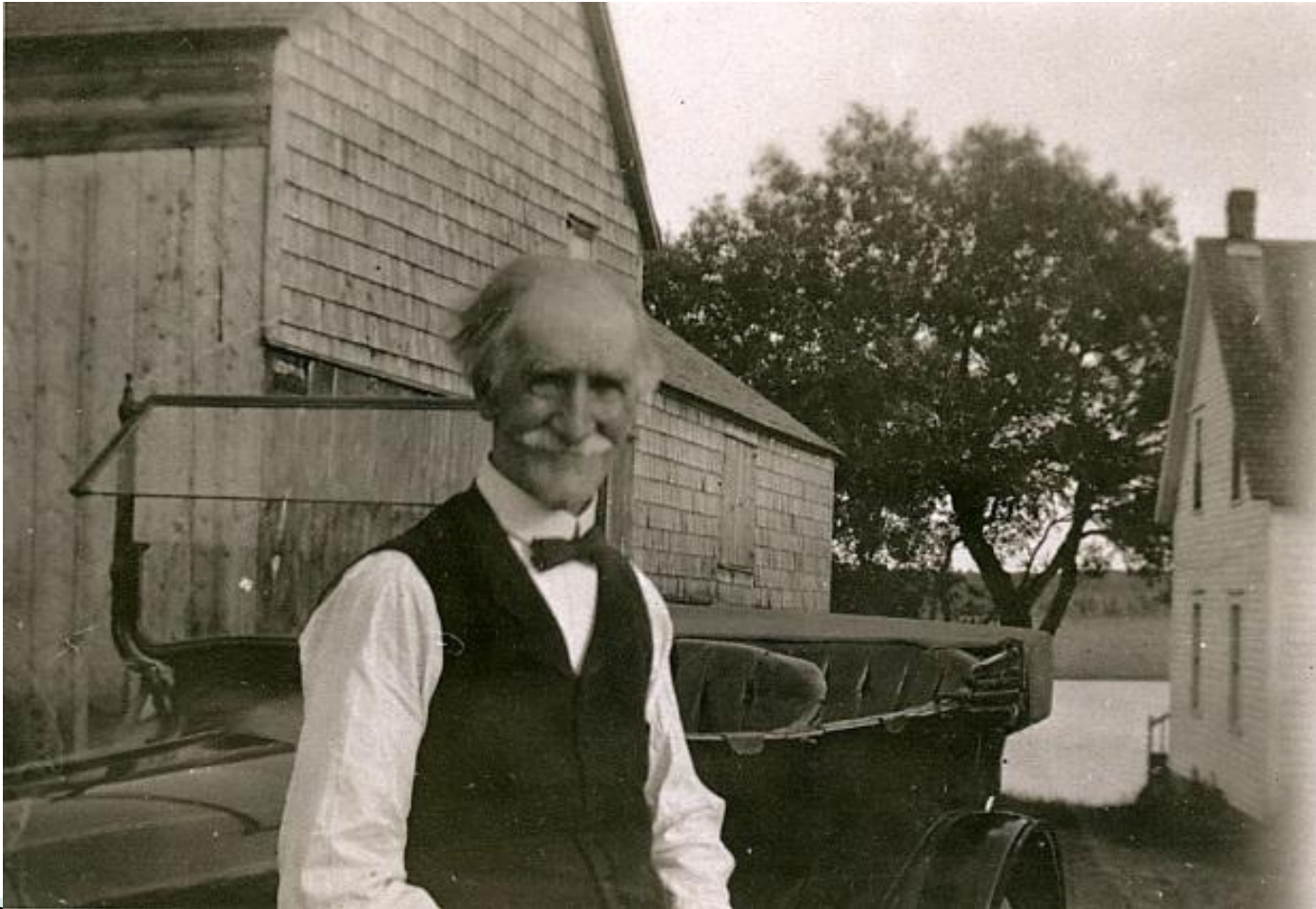
Cassidy Lake Church

- ▶ 1883 – Built by Francis Edward Cassidy and other family members (including William) and members of the community
 - ▶ Known as the Clover Hill Methodist Church
 - ▶ 1890 – Church and cemetery deeded to the Methodist church. This deed grants public access to the cemetery through the Cassidy farm
 - ▶ 1925 – Becomes United Church of Canada property
- 

Cassidy Lake Church

- ▶ 1949 – Major renovation and rededication as the Francis Edward Cassidy Memorial Church
 - ▶ 1949 to 1953 – Major family reunions
 - ▶ 1977 to present – Annual church service held for family, friends and community members. Normally held the second Sunday in August
- 

Francis Edward Cassidy ~1925



Francis Edward Cassidy Memorial Church – 1985



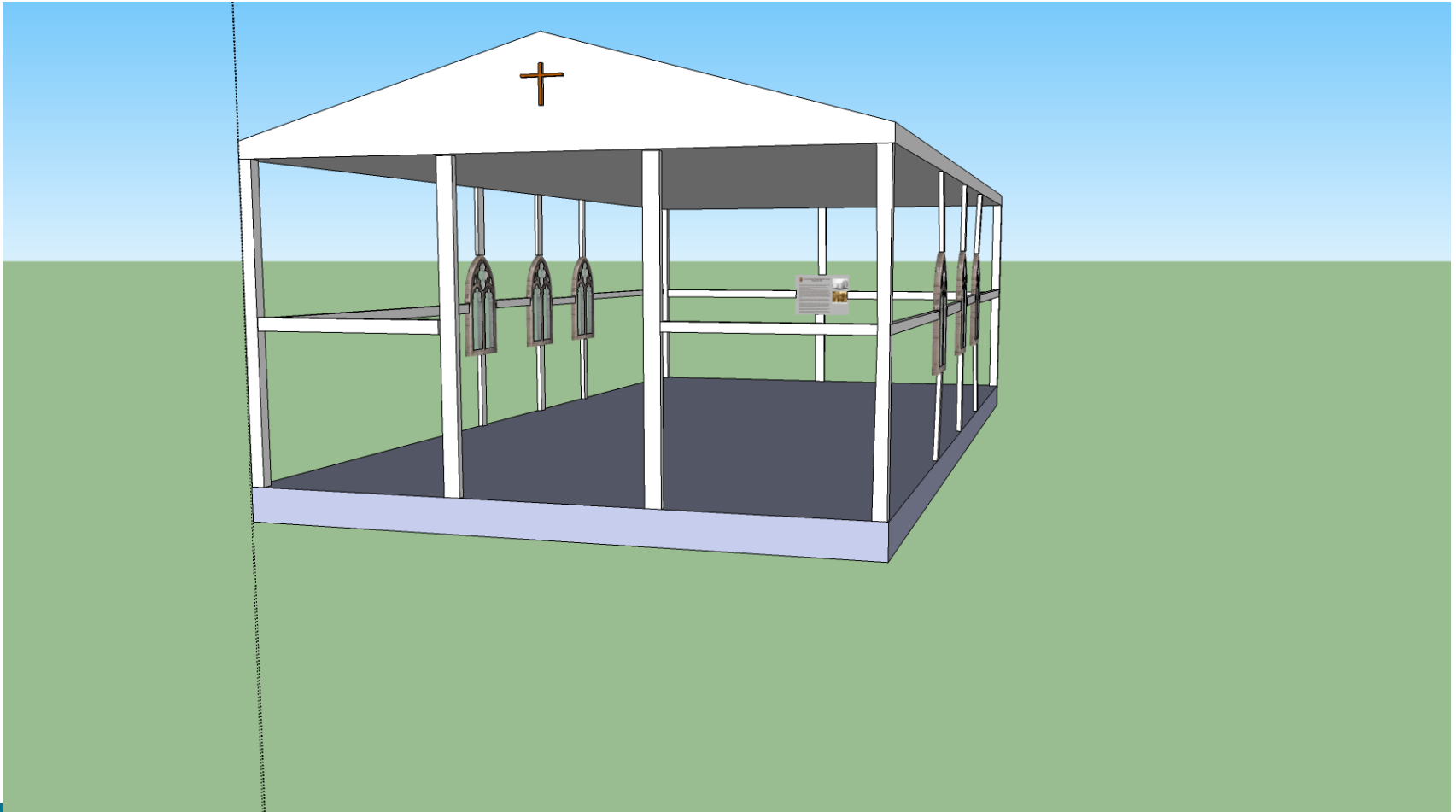
Church Interior – August 2007



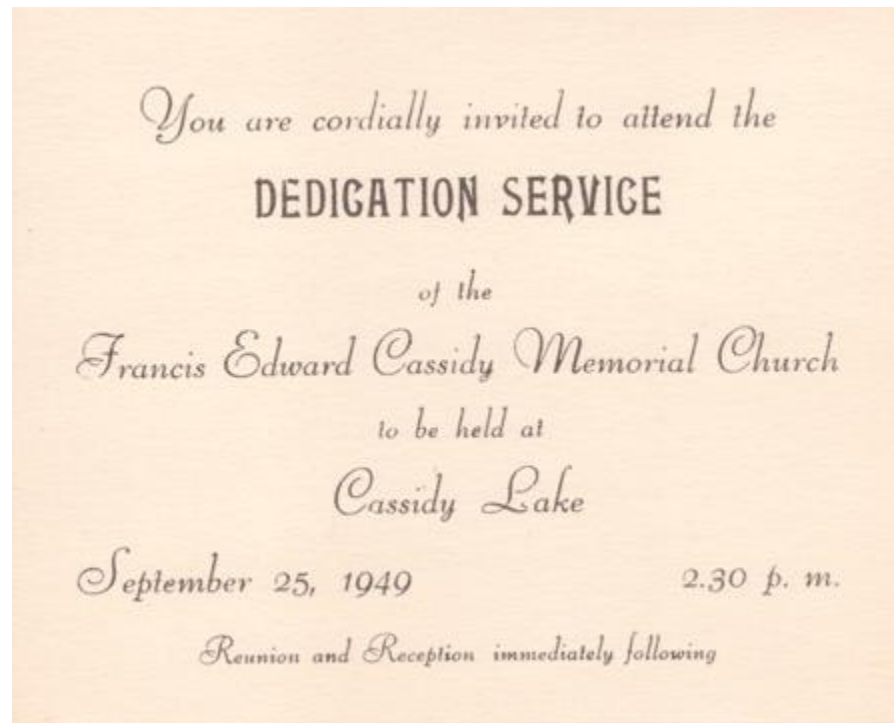
Cassidy Lake – The view behind the church – August 2007



The church's future is uncertain



Family Reunions and Community Gatherings began in 1949



1949



1953



1953



1954



1961



1989



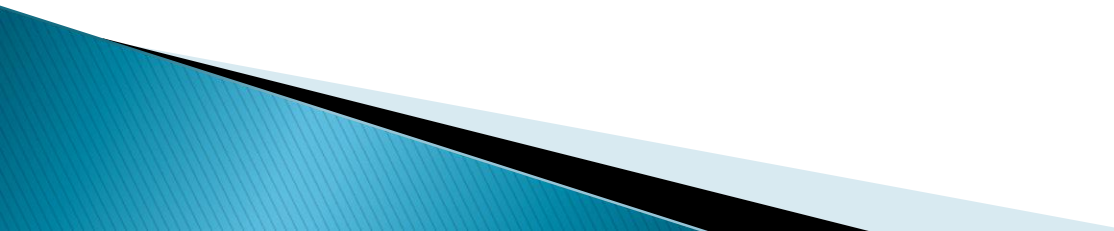
1993



2007



Cassidy Lake Cemetery

- ▶ Established about 1850
 - ▶ Located on a grassy knoll near the homestead
 - ▶ Good view of the lake initially but not since 2000
 - ▶ Oldest documented grave
 - Jemime Cassidy – 1851 (age 6) – William and Jane's last (12th) child
 - ▶ Most recent burial
 - John Stockdale – 2010
 - ▶ One lake drowning – Ronald Avines – 1933 (age 12)
- 

Cemetery ~1957



Cemetery 1983



Cassidy Lake Cemetery – Aug 2010 (William & Jane's Gravestone)



Cassidy Lake Cemetery – Aug 2013



Cassidy Clan at Cemetery

Aug 2013



Recently Discovered Photos

- ▶ In 2013, after sorting through a mountain of slides taken by Stan Cassidy in the 1950s and 60s, a number of excellent quality colour slides of the Cassidy Lake homestead and family reunions were discovered. Here is a sample:

Cassidy Lake 1953



Cassidy Lake – View from the homestead – 1953



View from the homestead – 1954



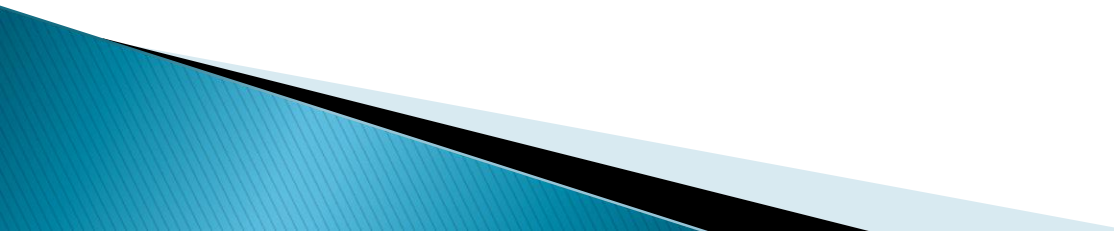
Homestead 1954



Robert Allen and Edythe Cassidy 1954



What's Next for Peter and Brian?

- ▶ Work with the United Church to determine the future of the Cassidy Lake church and cemetery
 - ▶ Property research
 - Cassidy Lake after 1880
 - Saint John and Shepody properties
 - ▶ Kings County census and other records
 - ▶ Cassidy Lake Church video – project begun in 2013 – expecting release in 2015
 - ▶ Cassidy Clan Gathering in County Fermanagh, Ireland – Held every 3 years – Next one July 2014
 - ▶ Other Videos
 - Cassidy people with interesting life stories
 - Cassidy family roots in Ireland – shoot our own video!
 - ▶ Maintaining the family website is an ongoing activity. The current project is a restructuring of the file archive.
- 

Credits

- ▶ Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick
 - Thanks to ICCANB (www.newirelandnb.ca) for providing much of the information regarding the early immigration of Irish settlers to New Brunswick
- ▶ New Brunswick Provincial Archives
 - PANB (www.archives.gnb.ca) has been an invaluable source of information especially with regard to land records, petitions, crown grants and maps