

A History of the Glassville Settlement



**Researched & Edited by the
Pioneer Senior Citizens Club**

To David and Joanne

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FOREWARD

It has been said that a country that forgets its past does not have much of a future. It is important that the history of the early settlements of this province be recorded in some detail when the information about events and people is still available and when those who can recall events, or at least recall stories told by the first settlers, are still with us.

The history of the Parish of Aberdeen and of Glassville, the central village, settled in the early 1860's, is quite typical of the story of early development; it is a good example of the history of the early growth of rural New Brunswick. Although there are fewer people than there were at the turn of the century, the area is a thriving community and contrasts favourably with many settlements, some of which have been abandoned.

"Time marches on." Circumstances and events have changed our way of life but Glassville has survived. Transportation - paved roads, automobiles, railways -, power machinery, electrical power, central schools have all contributed to making the old ways obsolete. Many of the farms formerly keeping five or six families in comfort are now operated by two or three men, with increased production, using modern machines and better methods.

This book will add to the stories of similar settlements as a useful and interesting account of the efforts, successes and tragedies of our forebears who developed this country.

Those who brought about the completion and publication of this book deserve our gratitude and thanks.

R.J.L. March 25, 1990

Robert J. Love,
Retired Dean,
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INTRODUCTION

“Unto the hills around do I lift up,
My longing eyes.” - J. Campbell.

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
From whence cometh my help.” -Psalm 120.

The hills were there when the settlers arrived. They are there now and will be there forever. This is the story of the Glassville Settlement, the story of the people who made new homes among the eternal hills. We will recall the early years, the middle years and the recent past. It is a story of people; how they met adversity and prosperity, how they survived and thrived, how they helped to make New Brunswick and Canada a new home land. It is also a story of disappointment and tragedy, death on the log drives and in the woods, young mothers unable to obtain proper care in time, young men the victims of farm accidents. Above and around them are the hills, ever present and eternal.

The story continues; life is better now. No one drowns on the log drive. Log drives have ceased. Expectant mothers are within minutes of hospitals, the same hospitals where victims of farm and industrial accidents are treated. There is still hard work on the farms, in the woodlots, and the farm home, but the back-breaking work has been eased by electricity and modern machinery. There are no longer any pupils trudging miles to the local school; school buses pick the children up and return them to their homes. Trips to the grocery store, the blacksmith shop, the grist mill were very time consuming by horse and wagon or horse and sleigh. The automobile changed all that. Good roads, open all year, have replaced the dirt roads of yesteryear.

The Church has been there from the very beginning. The new settlers brought their “Kirk” from Scotland. As the community grew and developed, other settlers came and brought their Christian faith as practiced by other denominations. Tolerance and respect for one another has prevailed. The Churches remain, eternal as the hills, ever present in time of need.

Local, Provincial and National Government is a dominant presence in the lives of all of us. From the very beginning there had to be government involvement; surveying the area for settlement, laying our roads, building bridges, establishing mail service, setting up school districts, maintaining Law and Order. Governments are still very much involved in the day to day affairs of everyone. Some people like to govern; most are content to be governed. Every community has its fair share of people belonging to each group.

The story will be told as it unfolded. Background information has been obtained from many sources. Museums, libraries, archives and government agencies have been combed. Church and school records have been studied. Maps and drawings have been reproduced. Photographs have been borrowed. Family records have been a gold mine. Many people have contributed time and talent to the project. The project has been undertaken by the Pioneer Senior Citizens Club, to recall and preserve the story of the people who have lived and worked in the Glassville Settlement. Their Memorial, the eternal hills.

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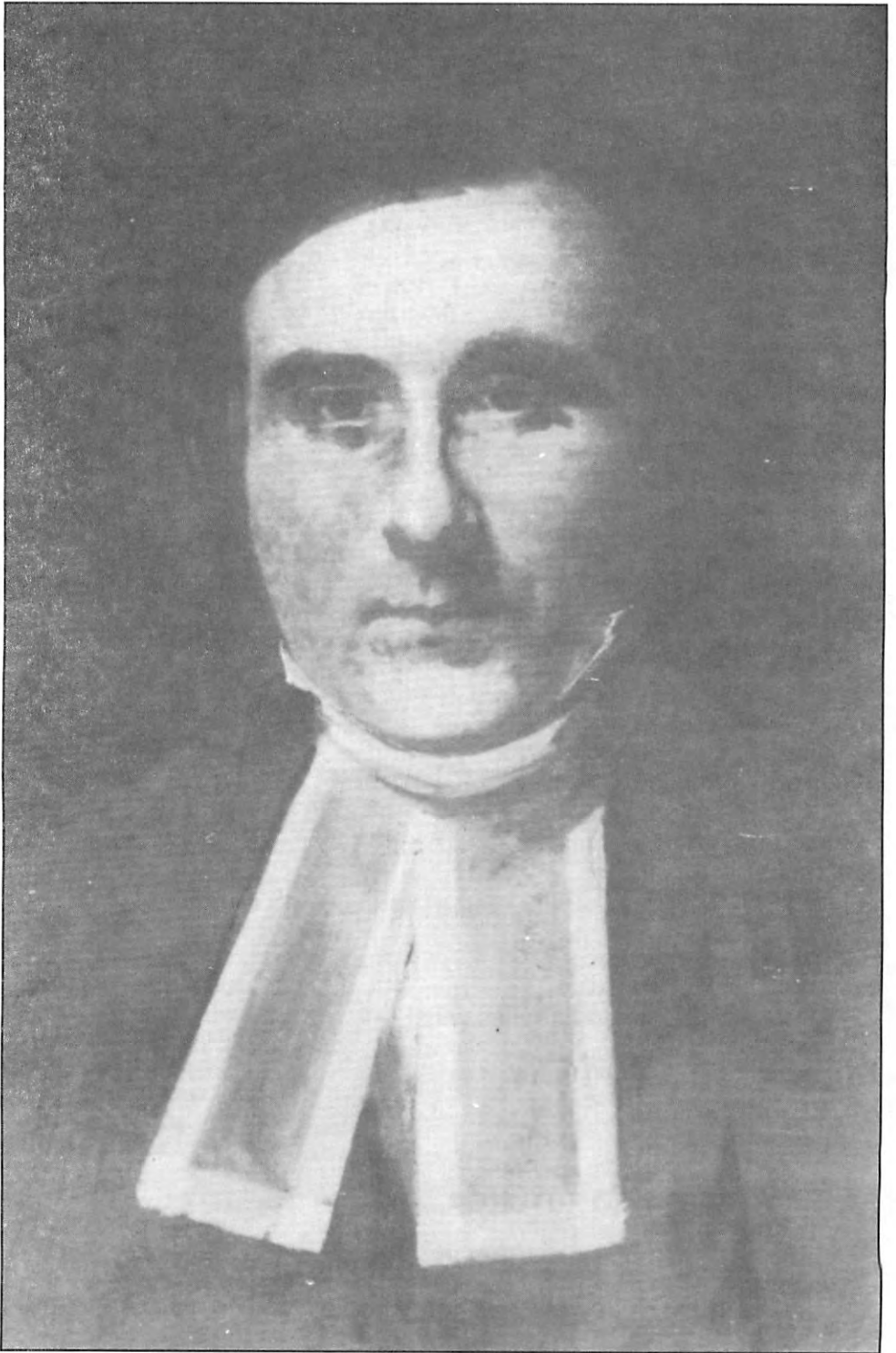
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Rev. Charles Gordon Glass, M.A.

THE FOUNDING

Rev. Charles Gordon Glass

Who was this man who gave his name to the Glassville Settlement? He was born in Scotland, educated at the University of Aberdeen and ordained as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland. He came to New Brunswick and served as the Presbyterian Minister at Prince William, in York County, for three years from 1854 to 1857. New settlements were being opened up throughout New Brunswick. The potato famine in Ireland, exploding populations in England and Scotland made emigration necessary. Rev. Mr. Glass was located at Prince William, on the St. John River above Fredericton, in an area settled by Loyalists. Part of his flock were settlers, in the new settlements away from the river. The settlers and the new settlements must have stirred the social conscience of this young minister.

He remembered the young men and women in his native Scotland, who could never aspire to any future other than being tenant farmers. Here were opportunities for anyone willing to work hard. One of his near neighbours was Squire Jones, who lived in an elegant stone mansion. Another neighbour, Capt. Joslin, had a large frame house. Across the river the Hagerman Family occupied a large, two story house. All three of these houses survive, and are now located in the King's Landing Historical settlement.

In the back settlements, Harvey and Stanley, where he would be present for Communion Services, Rev. Mr. Glass could see new settlements in the formative stages. He could see land clearing in progress, settlers' log cabins, log cabin schools, and settlers hard at work on land that would be theirs to pass on to their children.

During his three year stay in Prince William, Rev. Mr. Glass would learn how land could be obtained for settlement, and where land was available. He was always a man of vision, seeing the need for better schools. His Church had to be firmly established in New Brunswick, and he was one of the group of Clergymen and Laymen sponsoring an Act to Incorporate the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick.

Two of his projects were undertaken at about the same time; the founding of a settlement for Scots immigrants in New Brunswick, and the founding of a Collegiate School, in Woodstock. Our interest is in the Glassville Settlement. The Collegiate School was built and did operate for several years.

Government bureaucracy, then as now, presented many obstacles for the unwary and trusting petitioners. Land was available for settlement, under certain terms and conditions: the land would have to be surveyed and divided into hundred acre lots, an access road and settlement roads would have to be laid out, some accommodation would be needed for the settlers, and on and on. First things first, the site had to be selected and a survey made.

By chance two other clergymen were seeking land for their followers at this time: the Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John, the Rev. John Sweeney,

and Rev. Charles Knowles, a Baptist Minister from Yarmouth County, in Nova Scotia. None of these Men of the Cloth had any knowledge of the wilderness lands of New Brunswick, so it can be assumed that all three accepted the advice of the Surveyor-General of New Brunswick. Three tracts of land were reserved for the settlers to be recruited by these three applicants. When or how they were named is not clear. Each bears the name of the sponsor: Johnville, Glassville and Knowlesville. The three settlements adjoin each other, on the East side of the St. John River, in northern Carleton County.

The survey was made in 1859 and 1860, by James Hartley, of Woodstock. Rev. Mr. Glass returned to Scotland to recruit settlers. Whether or not he was properly or thoroughly briefed by the Surveyor-General and his Staff, on the terms and conditions under which land would be granted, is unclear. Some confusion arose. The Surveyor-General appears to have allowed potential settlers access to the tract before the "Glass Settlers" arrived. The settlement is referred to as Glassville by James Hartley, the name it has borne ever since.

The "Glass Settlers" set sail from Greenock, on May 9, 1861, on the barque "Irvine". After a rough voyage they arrived at Saint John, June 26, 1861, and went into quarantine on Partridge Island. Four persons died at sea, and there were seven cases of smallpox on board ship. By mid-July they were released from quarantine and were proceeding upriver by river steamer, the "Antelope", to Woodstock.

This may have been an advance party; some of the "Irvine" passengers never did make it to the Glassville Settlement. The first group was welcomed to Woodstock by fellow Presbyterians and other citizens. Rev. Mr. Glass was among the welcoming party, as recalled by Mrs. Elspet McKenzie many years later. At this time Rev. Mr. Glass was fully occupied with his Collegiate School Project, an institution that would absorb his time and energy for the next ten years.

Rev. Mr. Glass had little further contact with the Glassville Settlers. He was fully occupied as Principal and Administrator of the Collegiate School. When the New Brunswick Schools Act was passed in 1872, the Collegiate School was taken over by the Woodstock School Board. Rev. Mr. Glass moved to Montreal and returned to pastoral duties, as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church. The Glass Family has maintained contact with Glassville. Money has been donated to a scholarship fund, and many students from Glassville have received assistance from this fund. The Presbyterian Church was established in the new settlement, and has flourished. The settlers found the land of opportunity. Their trials and tribulations will be dealt with in the following pages.

As a classical scholar Rev. Mr. Glass would not need anyone to translate the inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, referring to Sir Christopher Wren:

"Si monumentum requiris, circumspice."

"If you would see his monument, look around."

The Land

In 1860, New Brunswick was a land of vast forests, rushing streams and new farms. It had been part of the ancient French region of Acadia. The French had established a few settlements along the coast, mainly along the mouths of the large rivers. The natives came down these rivers to trade, first with the French, and later the Americans from New England and adventurers from the British Isles.

After 1763 the French influence disappeared, leaving the region to be developed by migration from New England and the British Isles. The Maugerville settlers came from New England, after 1760. During the next twenty-five years there was another great confrontation in North America, the American revolution. Large numbers of refugees, the Loyalists, came to the shores of the Bay of Fundy. The City of Saint John was born during the summer of 1783. The Province of New Brunswick was created in 1784.

During the next half century, settlement followed the river valleys. The St. John River system was a natural thoroughfare to the interior of the new Province of New Brunswick. The wind was the only source of power, other than oars, poles and paddles, to propel boats along this natural inland waterway. Wind and tide would help to get boats as far as the mouth of the Nashwaak, into Grand Lake and up the Kennebecasis and other tributaries in the lower reaches. For over 150 years the St. John River was the most important artery of commerce and development in the new Province.

The Napoleonic Wars in Europe created a market for forest products in the British Isles. The Royal Navy needed mast timber, which grew in abundance in New Brunswick. A market developed for sawn lumber, the first export of manufactured goods. The early settlers in New Brunswick were familiar with water powered mills. New Brunswick had plenty of rivers and streams with undeveloped power sites. It wasn't long before wooden ships were being built, loaded with locally produced lumber, and sailed to the British Isles where the lumber could be sold for cash. If the ship wasn't sold, it was quite often filled with immigrants and sailed back to New Brunswick.

The New Brunswick forests provided the stimulus to the economy which continues to this day. The early lumbermen roamed the forests seeking stands of timber suitable for cutting for the existing markets. They may have used oxen in the early days, but the horse soon replaced the oxen in the woods operations. The logs had to be cut and hauled to the nearest stream where they could be floated to tidewater. These logging roads sometimes developed into settlement roads for future settlers. Supplies came upriver in tow boats. Farm produce was purchased along the way, to feed the men and horses in logging camps. Farmers' sons worked in the logging camps and the stream drives.

By the middle of the nineteenth century New Brunswick had absorbed a large number of immigrants, mostly from the British Isles. Most of the land was still in forest, a condition that continues to the present day. The earlier settlers had brought a great deal of land into agricultural production, mainly along the

rivers. New farming communities were opening up, generally adjacent to an older farming community. Land was being surveyed for new settlements in various parts of the Province. There was no such thing as a soil survey, the eye of the land surveyor or the promoter of the new settlement was all that was required to determine the suitability of the new area for settlement. Existing roads were extended to reach the new areas being opened up. The new settlers could and did establish links with the older settlements. There was much to learn; the transition from the British Isles to New Brunswick was a major cultural shock. Not the least problem was the harsh New Brunswick winter.

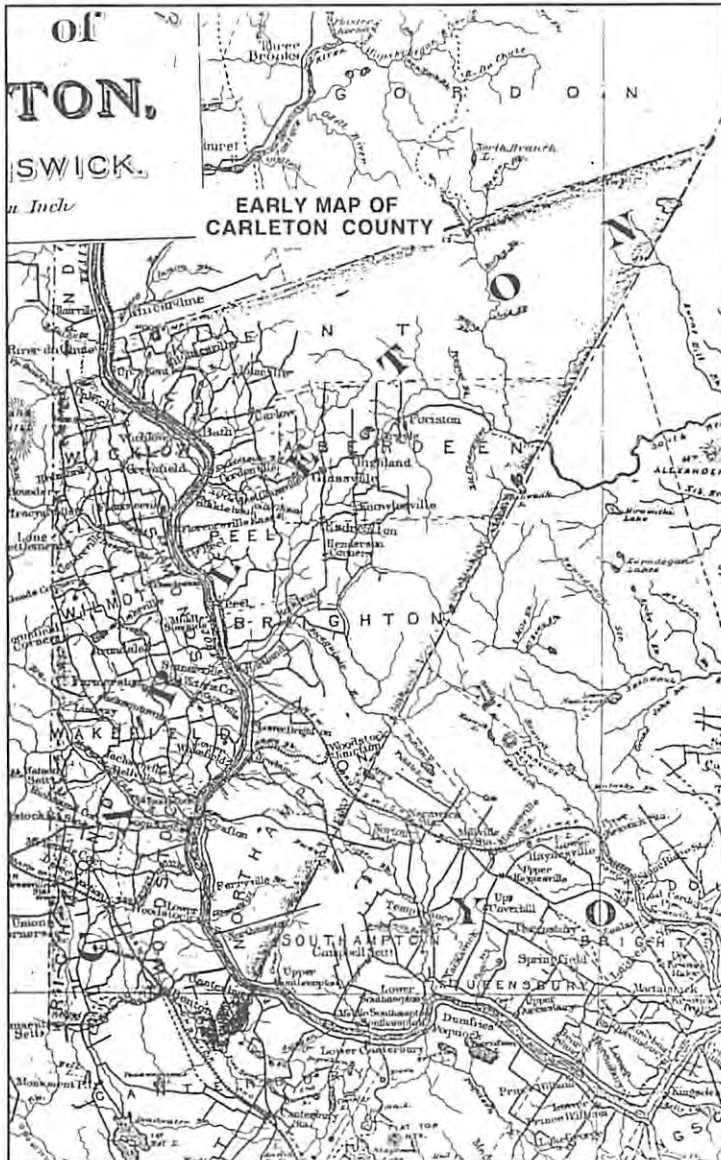
The Homeland

Our story concerns a farming community, and the people who came to this community to carve new homes from the forest of New Brunswick. Many of these pioneer settlers came from the British Isles, and we should consider the conditions in the rural districts there during the first half of the nineteenth century. Much of the farm land was owned by absentee landlords. The land was worked by tenant farmers. The tenant farmer had little hope of ever owning the land he worked. Tenants could be evicted, more or less at the will and pleasure of the landlord. The rural population was on the increase during the nineteenth century. Farming methods were improving slowly, but most of the work was still done by hand;

"This night his weekly toil is at an end,
Collects his spades, his mattocks, and his hoes."

Burns

The real incentive to seek a new home in a new land was the prospect of owning his own land, to be the master of his own destiny. Thousands made the decision to brave the wide sea and seek a better lot for themselves and their families. There were other reasons, of course, but in the main they wanted to be free of the landlord. It was, probably, the most important decision made in a lifetime.



The Site

The land comprising the Glassville Settlement was dense forest in 1860, for the most part. In all probability the pine trees, or the best of them, had been cut by the lumbermen. There were plenty of trees left; spruce for building houses and barns, hardwood for fuel, cedar for shingles, pine for windows, doors and trim, There were brooks and streams, the Shiktehawk being the largest. Most of the land was suitable for farming. There was and is some outcropping rock, where it would be impossible to clear the land for the plow.

There were swamps, some of which could be drained. There were steep slopes and a generous supply of rocks. All in all it was a typical block of undeveloped New Brunswick forest land. The summer season, while shorter than in the "Old Country", was long enough for cereal grains to mature. Vegetable and root crops did well. The rainfall was evenly distributed, good for hay and pastures. Food could be provided for man, his flocks and herds.

Farmers were prospering in the older settlements. Hay and oats were needed in the lumber camps, and the men thrived on beef and pork. Butter and eggs were exchanged for items not produced on the farm. Most of the farms were pretty well self-sufficient. Wool was produced on the farm and made into yarn and cloth. Buckwheat was ground at the local grist mill. A vegetable garden was a must. An apple orchard was found on every homestead. There was game in the woods and fish in the streams. Best of all there were no game keepers, as in the "Old Country". The maple trees were tapped in the spring.

There was a joker in the pack; the land had to be cleared of trees and stumps. Land clearing was a new venture; in the "Old County" most of the trees had been cut hundreds of years before. The newcomers had to learn to use the axe and saw; tools not used much in the homeland. A new skill had to be learned, and the mosquito and black flies had to be endured. The land surveyed for the new settlement is drained, in part, by the Shiktehawk Stream, which flows into the St. John River at Bristol. The remainder of the settlement is drained by the Cold Stream, a branch of the Becaguimac, which flows into the St. John River at Hartland. The Shiktehawk has two branches, coming together in the middle of the settlement. There are small branches as well; Bell Brook and Green Brook running into the main Shiktehawk, Burke Brook, Black Brook and Carroll Brook running into the North Branch of the Shiktehawk, and Lee Brook and Johnston Brook running into the East Branch.

The Cold Stream almost by-passed the Glassville Settlement, but its tributaries, Beaver Brook and Dry Brook, drain the southern part of the settlement. Mill sites were highly prized in pioneer communities. The best site nearby was on the Cold Stream, a site that had been developed before the settlers arrived.

The land is hilly, the northern part of the settlement has the highest hills, up to elevation 1650 feet, and the roughest terrain. Both branches of the Shiktehawk Stream are at or near elevation 1,000 when they flow into the settle-

ment. By the time the Shiktehawk Stream leaves the settlement, it has dropped to elevation 500 feet. It is a fast flowing stream, not suitable for canoes. It was a log driving stream, having sufficient volume, in freshet season, to float logs to its mouth, or to sawmills on the lower reaches. None of these streams were navigable in the sense that goods could be conveyed up or down stream by boats.

The Lumbermen

The lumbermen established temporary camps, wherever there was good cutting. These lumber camps would have been located along the main river initially, and then, later on, along the main tributaries. In such locations supplies could be brought to the camps by tow-boat. As the camps moved back into the hinterland, supplies had to be moved from the tow-boat landings to the logging camps by tote team, over tote roads. There was a thriving tow-boat business on the St. John River until the railroad reached Edmundston in 1877.

The tow-boat was developed to transport goods and people on the upper reaches of the St. John River and its larger tributaries. Wind driven vessels could operate in the wide estuaries and on all sections of the lower river. Tow-boats, drawn by horses, were used to move goods through the canals of Europe and the British Isles. The tow-boat was a first cousin of the canal boat, with significant differences. Tow-boats operated on stretches of the river where there was considerable current and rocky shore lines. River levels would fluctuate widely between spring and fall. Horses had to pull the boats with long rope lines. A crewman would have to keep the boat away from the rocky shore, in water deep enough to float.

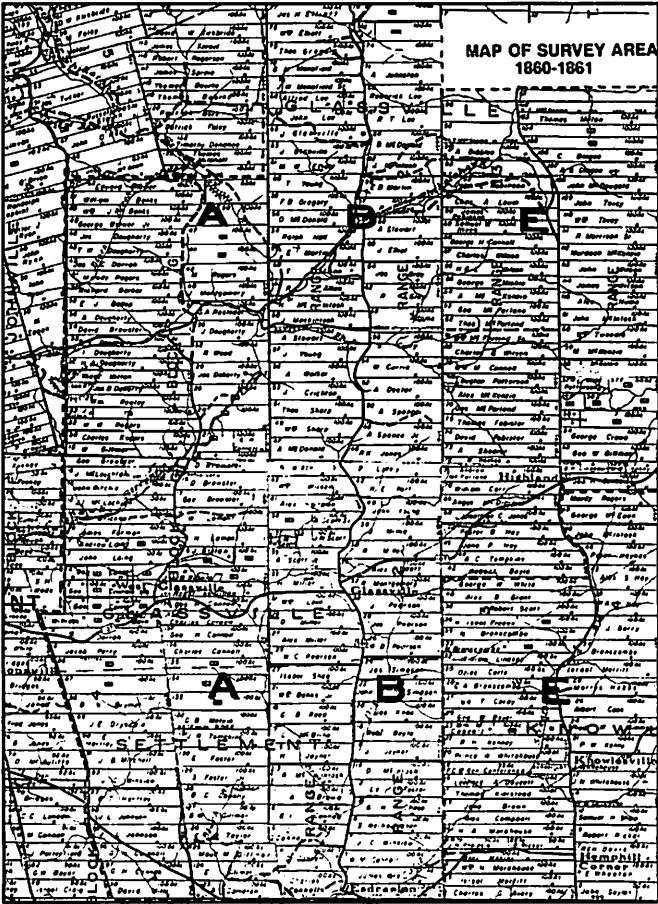
The big lumber operators would maintain tow-boats, to move supplies upriver to the area where cutting was being done. Independent operators were plying the river with their tow-boats, picking up whatever business was available. Tow-boats would move down river with the current, with the horses on board having a well earned rest. There would be landings and storehouses all along the river, where supplies could be stored waiting to be toted to the lumber camps.

Tote roads were rough trails leading to the lumber camps. The verb "to tote" seems to be a North American addition to the English language; it means to convey or transport. The word is mainly used to denote the transport or movement of supplies to logging camps. The noun "toter" usually refers to the teamster who made the trip from the supply depot to the lumber camp. A "tote road" and a "hauling road" referred to two entirely different types of road. The tote road would wind over hill and dale, generally following the most direct route. The hauling road was laid out with gentle grades, generally following brooks or streams, until it reaches a point where the logs could be landed, to wait for spring and the log drive to tide water.

The tote road leads back to civilization. It would be used year after year, reaching farther and farther back into the forest. These tote roads developed into a network, the nucleus of our present highway system. Surveyors, hunters

and trappers, timber cruisers and others used these tote roads. We may be sure that by the time the Glassville Settlement was organized, there were tote roads crisscrossing the area chosen for settlement. Hauling roads would have existed, generally following the streams until the streams could be used for log driving. The tote roads started in the settlement and extended back into the wilderness. As the settlement extended, the settlers came on the existing tote roads.

The Glassville Settlement sits astride "Brown's Portage" or the "Miramichi Road." The St. John River and the South Branch of the South-West Miramichi River are about fifteen miles apart on a line running from present day Bristol to Foreston. The lumbermen used this road to bring supplies to their logging camps from the St. John River settlements. The productive farms along the St. John River produced hay and grain, beef and pork. The farmers raised horses, and rugged sons. The tote road soon became a well travelled route. Local blacksmiths shod the horses, built the logging sleds and made the chains and other gear.



The Survey

The New Brunswick Government authorized the survey of a block of land, comprising 10,000 acres, for the future Glassville Settlement. The surveyor chosen for this work was James R. Hartley, D.L.S. His Survey Plan is dated June 1, 1860. The chainmen for the survey were W. H. Carman and John Stockford. No mention is made of the axemen or other members of the survey crew.

In 1861 Surveyor Hartley is surveying more land for the Johnville and Glassville Settlements. He surveys a block of land lying North and West of the first Glassville tract, and South and East of the first Johnville tract. The Survey Plan for the 1861 survey is dated Dec. 20, 1861. The Plan covers 15,900 acres for the Johnville Settlement. No further surveys were made to add additional land to the Glassville Settlement. The area surveyed for the Glassville Settlement comprised approximately 18,000 acres. Over the years settlers improved and obtained Crown Grants for more than sixteen thousand acres of land. About 1,000 acres, in the northern part of the surveyed portion, were never granted. This is the roughest and most rugged section of the Settlement. It is also the most remote and least accessible area. It is also at or above elevation 1400 feet above Mean Sea Level. When contrasted with the general area around the village of Glassville, at elevation 700 feet, this more remote area has a climate disadvantage.

The lots surveyed contained 100 acres, for the most part, with frontage on a settlement road. There were three parallel roads, known for generations as the West Glassville Road, the East Glassville Road and the main Glassville Settlement Road with its northern prolongation becoming the Centre Glassville Road. These roads were not straight, although the base or rear boundary lines run in straight lines. It is a tribute to Surveyor Hartley's skill as a surveyor that these settlement roads have been in use for over 125 years with very little change in alignment.

The lots vary in width, due to the settlement roads following the easiest grade up and down the hills. The length of the lots vary somewhat for the same reason. In general, the lots on either side of the settlement road are approximately the same length.

THE YOUNG COMMUNITY

The Growing Settlement

The New Settlement was born in the year 1860. The Hartley survey has been completed and new settlers are awaited.

The area was, by then, criss-crossed by logging roads. The best known was Brown's Portage, which began at Bristol and extended to the headwaters of the Miramichi. It was probably passable for wagons in the summer. Other roads