

# NEWSLETTER



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*Thank you for reading!*

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	(506) 455-6041
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## PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

As the new President of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the new season of the Fredericton Region Museum.

I also wish to thank, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, all of our members and supporters for their unflagging support of the Museum during these last four years when COVID restrictions and renovations to Officers' Square seriously reduced the number of visitors.

We are thankful too to the City of Fredericton, as well as to other levels of the government, for their unwavering financial support during these difficult years. Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the Board and Committee Chairs and members for their unwavering commitment to the Society and Museum. Thank you all.

One of the other challenges we faced was the move of our Executive Director, Melynda Jarratt to the New Brunswick Military History Museum. We would like to thank her for her excellent leadership over the last several years.

The search for a new Director was difficult, but we are thrilled to have Alena Krasnikova as our new Executive Director to provide the steady hand and creative leadership needed. We are also thankful for the work of Museum Intern Liam Hemmings and for all of the other staff and volunteers who do such amazing work. We deeply appreciate all of you.

In April we all experienced the amazing total eclipse of the sun, an event marked at the Museum "Eclipse 2024 Open House"; we had an amazing turnout of visitors for this event which included tours of the Stanton Friedman exhibit by then President Hal Skaarup.

## Summer 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Curator-Led Tours,  
Thursdays, June 27 –  
August 29, 6-7 pm

Picnic concerts on the  
balcony, July 12, 19,  
August 16, and 30, 12-1 pm

Canada Day Celebrations

Black Heritage Walking  
Tour, July & August

Artist Residencies, July &  
August

News From The Front,  
1944: Musical  
Entertainment with  
Frantically Atlantic,  
Wednesdays, June 26 –  
August 28, 1-1:30 pm

Concerts by MEKA String  
Quartet, Fridays, July 5,  
26, August 2, 9, and 23, 12-  
1 pm

Froggy Weekend, July 19 -  
21

New Brunswick Day  
celebrations, August 3 - 5

New Brunswick Goes to  
War Exhibit Opening,  
August 8

Stanton Friedman  
Weekend, August 24 - 25

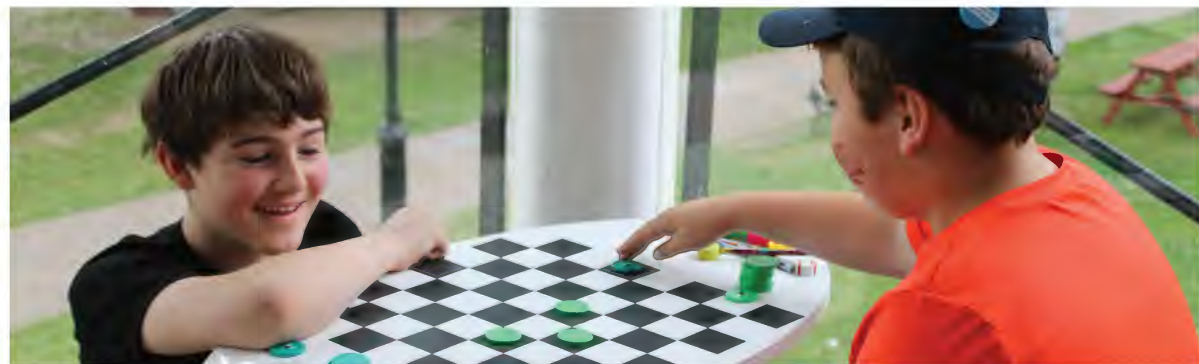
We are excited that the renovations to Officers' Square are, more or less, complete. This will greatly enhance the Museum as a historical and cultural centre of the city and the region. We will be able to utilize (and rent out) the balcony space for even more events and as an outdoor locale to present the history of the area to visitors.

Inside the Museum you will find fascinating exhibits, old and new. Thanks to our extremely hard-working volunteers, led by Cynthia Wallace-Casey, chair of the Exhibits Committee, Patrick Proctor, chair of the Collections Committee, and Doug Hall, who is our lead builder, we have new exhibits to see as well as refreshed familiar ones. For example, there is a new exhibit in progress celebrating New Brunswick's Asian Heritage.

Thanks to Jennifer Dow, the "Our Black Heritage" walking tour is returning on August 1; it is also being developed as a virtual exhibition that people can take using their mobile devices. In August Jennifer will be Guest Curator of "We Were Here: A Portrait of New Brunswick's Black Community" exhibit on loan from the UNB Art Centre.

This summer we will also have an Artists-in-Residence program again; Froggy Weekend (the Coleman Frog, one of our highlights) on July 19-21; the opening of the New Brunswick Goes to War exhibit opening on the 80th anniversary of the Gothic Line advance in Italy; and so much more. Stay tuned for all of the excitement!

So do join us at the Museum, and also consider joining our Society if you are not already a member; the membership fee is very reasonable, and provides free entry as well as other benefits. Thank you all for your interest and support!

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## Anqi Fang, New Membership Chair

Anqi has been an enthusiastic volunteer at the Fredericton Region Museum since October 2023 and, following the Annual General Meeting in April 2024, now proudly serves as the Membership Chair.

Anqi holds a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Management Analytics from the University of New Brunswick and a Master of International Sustainable Tourism Management from Monash University. She brings a diverse background in guest services, customer relations, and operational management, having worked in various roles across Canada, Australia, and China. Passionate about community engagement and cultural preservation, she is dedicated to promoting the museum's mission and fostering a welcoming environment for all visitors.

In her role as Membership Chair, Anqi aims to leverage her extensive experience to enhance member engagement. She plans to implement innovative strategies for membership growth, organize special events for members, and develop programs that encourage active participation from the community. Her background in management analytics allows her to use data-driven approaches to understand member needs and improve their overall experience.

Anqi deeply values the community spirit that has formed around the Fredericton Museum, focusing on preserving local history. She is committed to strengthening this sense of community by initiating collaborative projects with local organizations, schools, and cultural groups. Her enthusiasm for cultural preservation drives her efforts to create educational programs that highlight the rich history of Fredericton and engage visitors of all ages.

Anqi's dedication to the museum's mission and her passion for fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment make her a valuable asset to the Fredericton Museum. She looks forward to continuing to serve the museum and its members, helping to preserve and celebrate the unique heritage of the Fredericton community.



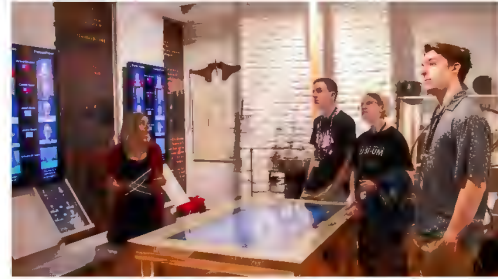
## Membership Benefits

Our members enjoy a range of exclusive benefits, including:

- Unlimited admission to the Museum
- A complimentary copy of our annual publication, *Officers' Quarters*
- Invitation to all special events
- Discounts on rentals
- Free guided tours

Your continued support helps us preserve and share the rich history of our region.

## Community News & Summer Events



### Curator-led tours

Experience the past come alive every Thursday from June 27th to August 29th at the Fredericton Region Museum. During the Garrison Night Market evenings, join our expert-led guided tours from 6pm to 7pm. Led by curators and knowledgeable guides, each tour will delve deep into one of our 13 captivating exhibits. Gain unique insights and uncover hidden stories from Fredericton's rich history. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to explore our heritage firsthand!

**June 27th - August 29th**



### Picnic concerts

Join us at noon on the following Fridays for musical performances on the balcony of the Fredericton Region Museum:

- June 27
- July 12 & 19
- August 16 & 30

Frantically Atlantic will enchant us with a variety of musical tunes on the theme "We'll Meet Again". As part of your museum visit, enjoy a picnic on the balcony provided in partnership with The Squeeze (pre-ordering required - call the museum in advance). Come together to savor a musical picnic experience!

**June 27th - August 30th**



## Community News & Summer Events



### Canada Day Celebrations

Join the Fredericton Region Museum this Canada Day, July 1st, for a day filled with exploration and excitement. From 10:00am to 5:00pm, its doors will be wide open for an engaging celebration. Dive into history with guided tours, embark on thrilling scavenger hunts, and test your knowledge with Canada Day-themed trivia designed for all ages. It's a day of family fun you won't want to miss!

**01 July 2024**



### News From The Front, 1944: Musical Entertainment with Frantically Atlantic

Travel back to 1944 and experience "News from the Front" with Frantically Atlantic. Through the eyes and ears of radio, your broadcasting hosts will serenade you with music from the 1940s, interspersed with updates on our NB Regiments fighting in Italy. Join us every Wednesday from June 26 to August 28, from 1 to 1:30 pm.

**June 26 - August 28**



## Community News & Summer Events



### Artist Residencies

This July and August, visit the museum and engage with our Artist-in-Residence. Discover a unique opportunity to witness artists at work across various media, offering a hands-on experience and workshops. Immerse yourself in the creative process and gain insights into the diverse forms of artistic expression taking place within our walls.

**July & August**



### Crow Murder Mystery

Discover "The Crow Murder Mysteries", an interactive series where you become the detective, using your deduction skills to solve intricate mysteries. Starting July 1, 2024, each chapter, including one set in the Fredericton Museum, complete with police reports, coroner's reports, and newspaper articles, challenges you to unravel the clues and reach the correct conclusion. Available in PDF and audiobook formats, this engaging experience encourages community involvement and enjoyment of the mystery-solving process. Follow updates and new clues on social media. Ask our staff for more details!

**29 July - 11 August**

## Community News & Summer Events



### Lunchtime concerts by MEKA String Quartet

Join on Fridays at noon for a special performance on the balcony of the Fredericton Region Museum. The MEKA Youth Quartet will offer a heartfelt tribute to the Royal Canadian Regiment in Fredericton and their courageous call to duty in South Africa back in 1899. Plus, as part of your museum visit, enjoy a picnic on the balcony (pre-ordering required - call the museum in advance).

Don't miss out on this moving series of performances, happening on July 5, 26, August 2, 9, and 23.

**05 July - 23 August**



### Froggy Weekend

Get ready for an enjoyable weekend at the Fredericton Region Museum from July 19th to 21st, celebrating Fredericton's Coleman Frog. In honor of our local legend, we've prepared activities for kids, including face painting, a froggy quest, activity tables, and more. All ages are welcome to join in the fun! Don't miss out!

**19 - 21 July**



## Community News & Summer Events



### New Brunswick Day celebrations

Join us at the Fredericton Region Museum for New Brunswick Day celebrations, August 3 to 5. Let's celebrate the rich heritage and vibrant present of New Brunswick together. Dive into history with guided tours, embark on challenging scavenger hunts, and discover your own DYK (did you know) moments. Don't miss out on this exciting weekend! See you there!

**03 - 05 August**



### New Brunswick Goes to War Exhibit Opening

Mark your calendars for the grand opening of our latest exhibit at the Fredericton Region Museum - "New Brunswick Goes to War". As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Gothic Line advance in Italy, and Fredericton's connection to the brave New Brunswick soldiers who served both in Italy as well as at home. Step into the shoes of our local heroes and immerse yourself in their experiences, stories, and relationships. Don't miss this chance to honor their legacy and learn about our Fredericton's rich wartime history. See you there!

**8 August**



## Community News & Summer Events



### Celebrating Stanton Freidman

Join us at the Fredericton Region Museum for New Brunswick Day celebrations, August 3 to 5. Let's celebrate the rich heritage and vibrant present of New Brunswick together. Dive into history with guided tours, embark on challenging scavenger hunts, and discover your own DYK (did you know) moments. Don't miss out on this exciting weekend! See you there!

**24 - 25 August**



### Celebrating Madhu Verma

Explore our latest exhibits, co-curated with the New Brunswick Asian Heritage Society. Discover artefacts from the collection of Madhu Verma, a remarkable woman with a rich history. Despite obstacles, her impactful work in multiculturalism has earned recognition from federal and provincial governments, including the Governor General's Medal. Join us to celebrate her legacy and contributions at the Fredericton Region Museum.

**July & August**



## Staff Profile Highlights



**Zachary Poitras**, a graduate of École Sainte-Anne, is back for his third summer at the FRM. Born in Fredericton, he has a strong interest in the history of his city and province, aiming to deepen his knowledge of his hometown. In September, he will begin studying sociology at Dalhousie University in Halifax. This summer, Zachary will serve as our museum cataloguer, researching and identifying artifacts, while also offering bilingual guided tours to museum visitors.



**Connor Fraser**, who is approaching their two-year milestone at the FRM, is a UNB student originally from Antigonish, NS. Having relocated to Fredericton three years ago to pursue a B.A. in French, Connor is involved in collections work—photography, artefact accessioning, and conducting tours in both English and French. Their passion for history is driven by a profound interest in Acadian heritage and enriched by nearly 15 years of experience as a Celtic Highland Dancer.



**Elizabeth Wiley** is a graduate from UNB with an honour in Classical Studies. This fall, she plans to attend UBC to do a Master degree in Museum Education. Last year, Elizabeth worked for Kings Landing documenting their indigenous basket collection. In the fall and winter of 2023, she was an intern archivist for the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, working in the Special Media department documenting and cataloging photographs. This summer, Elizabeth is working as the Communications Officer at the museum and is excited to share New Brunswick's history with the visitors.



**Liam Hemmings** moved to Fredericton in September 2021 from his hometown of Victoria, British Columbia, transferring universities in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts at the University of New Brunswick. He graduated with distinction in May 2023, and began volunteering at the Museum a month later. He later became Museum Intern, and has worked on a variety of projects, most notably being the ongoing upgrade of the Museum's Second World War exhibit. He is passionate about history, and enjoys reading and swimming in his free time.



**Jasmine Gidney** graduated St. Thomas University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, and a Bachelor of Education. She will join the FRM team this summer as an Education officer. She has a passion for history and education, and looks forward to her first summer at the museum!

## Staff Profile Highlights



**Zoé Leroux-Blain** is the new Young Canada Works museum intern at the Fredericton Region Museum. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Costume Studies with a minor in History from Dalhousie University, followed by a Master of Arts in Museology specializing in textile collection management and conservation at Université de Montréal.

Previously, Zoé worked as a collection's assistant at Les Impatients in Montreal, a non-profit organization aiding people with mental disabilities through art. She also served as a programming and collections assistant at Pointe-à-Callière, Montreal's Archaeology and History Complex. Last summer, she completed an internship at the Centre national du costume et de la scène (National Center for Costume and Scenic Arts) in France.

Zoé is enthusiastic about exploring the textile collection at the Fredericton Region Museum and looks forward to delving into New Brunswick's rich history.



## Volunteer Spotlight



**Wasim Dia** has been integral to the museum's daily operations and special events. His background includes receiving the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Scholarship for a Business Administration degree at October 6 University, and later a DAAD scholarship for a Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Control at the German University in Cairo. Currently pursuing a master's in Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo through the Tomorrow's Leaders fellowship (TLG), Wasim brings a wealth of experience in Finance, Accounting, and supporting migrants and refugees through NGO work in Egypt.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to **James Benson** for his invaluable contributions to the archival transcription project, **Joan Fenety** for helping to enrich our oral history collection, and **Shiva Ebrahimi** for her work on exhibit research and design. Their dedication and expertise have greatly enhanced our efforts to preserve and present our cultural heritage.

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## Featured recent acquisitions



### Sophia (Beckwith) Marsh: A New Portrait in Fredericton's Museum Collection

We are very pleased to announce that the Fredericton Region Museum was recently gifted an outstanding portrait, attributed to A. G. Hoit, of Sophia (Beckwith) Marsh (1802-1851). Sophia was born in Fredericton, the daughter of Planter (pre-Loyalist) Nehemiah Beckwith and Julie-Louise Lebrun de Duplessis. She was the great-grandmother of Ella Duff Good, whose husband (G. Alvah Good) and father-in-law (Frank A. Good) were founding members of the Society and museum.

Born into a family of wealth and privilege, Sophia Beckwith's life was not without heartache, since her father drowned under suspicious circumstances when she was 13 years of age. Sophia and her sister, Julia C. Beckwith, left Fredericton sometime soon after, eventually taking up residence with their widowed aunt, Elizabeth (Lebrun de Duplessis) Ferland, in Kingston (Upper Canada). In 1824, Sophia married John Lothrop Marsh II (1796-1853), a native of Wakefield, NB. Their marriage took place in Quebec City, in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, with witnesses being Sophia's sister, Julia C. Hart, and brother, John A Beckwith. That same year, Julia published her first book, *St. Ursula's Convent, or the Nun of Canada*, making her Canada's first novelist.

By 1842 Sophia and John Marsh had returned to Fredericton, where they were raising eight children. John was a successful merchant in the city and is credited with establishing the first steam-powered sawmill in Fredericton in 1845, the Beckwith Marsh Mill, located on the west end of Queen Street (present-day 215 Queen).

By July of 1846, the Marsh mill was sawing 50,000 board feet of deals a day (Squires, 83). One of Sophia's sons, John Lothrop Marsh III, became a Fredericton's police magistrate; while one of her daughters, Sophia Adelaide, became the mother of Major General Hugh Havelock McLean (Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick from 1928 to 1935).

This portrait of Sophia (Beckwith) Marsh is attributed to well-known New England portraitist Albert Gallatin Hoit (1809-1856), who visited Fredericton in 1837, 1838, and 1848. During those visits, A.G. Hoit completed several portrait commissions, some of which are now in the collection of the Fredericton Region Museum. Although we cannot be certain when the artist completed Sophia's portrait, he does leave some fascinating clues about life in Fredericton. During the fall of 1848 he enjoyed the hospitality of Colonel George Shore and his wife Ariana (Saunders), who was herself an avid artist:

I am staying at the house of Col Shore, with whom and his family I formed a very intimate acquaintance when here before – On my arrival here they insisted upon my taking up my abode at once with them as in my then delicate state I was hardly comfortable at the indifferent hotel at which I was staying... Theirs is one of the finest families here and Col S. one of the leading men of the Province – Mrs Shore is quite an amateur artist and a great lover of Painting (Rosenfeld, 53).

Albert G Hoit established his place of business in Colonel Shore's home (today known as the Bliss Carman house on Shore Street), as well as in another location that was about one mile away in the city

I have a horse brought to the door at 7 o'clock and ride for an hour – then breakfast. After breakfast take my sittings on the portraits 'til one o'clock – then take lunch – then I am carried up to town where I work 'til after 5. They then send for me and I get home in time for dinner which is served at 6 o'clock (Ibid, 53).

This portrait donation from the collection Dr. Ella Duff Good represents a very generous gift to Fredericton by Patricia and Heidi Good. It also represents a fine addition to the museum's current collection of five other confirmed Hoit portraits: Benjamin Wolhaupter (1969.3510.1), Asa Holly Coy (1969.3517.1), Sarah Peters Wetmore (1969.51.1), Letitia Ann Smith (1980.15.1), and Mary Ann Coy (1969.2208.1). We will be seeking assistance for restoration work later this fall.

Cynthia Wallace-Casey, PhD  
Curator Emeritus,  
York-Sunbury Historical Society

#### References:

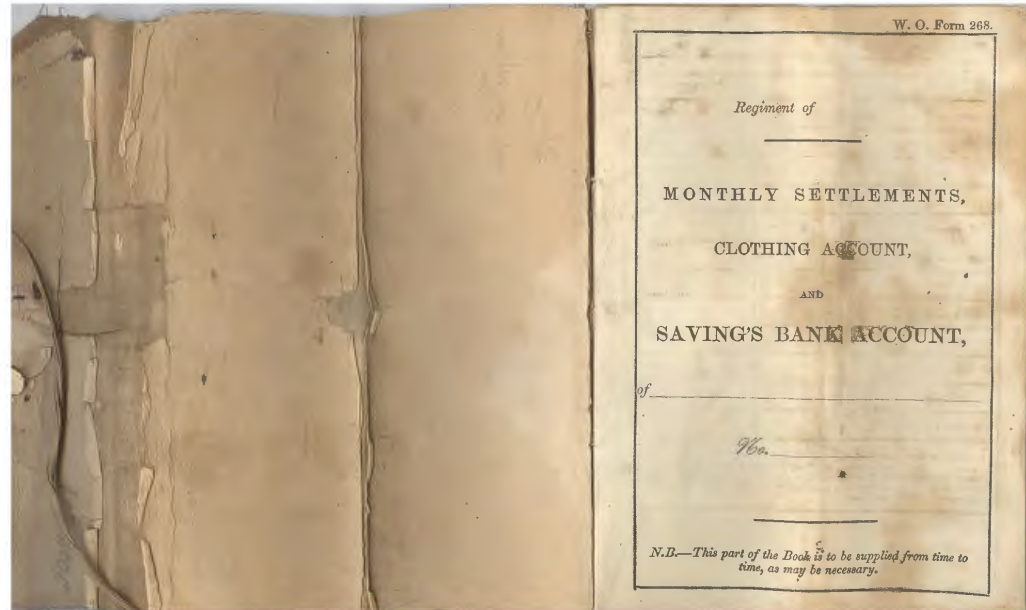
Ancestry.ca

Rosenfeld, Roslyn. Albert Gallatin Hoit, 1809-1856. The Canadian Paintings. University of New Brunswick Art Centre, 1991.

Squires, Austin. History of Fredericton: The Last 200 Years. Centennial Print, 1980.  
Maxwell, Lillian. "The First Canadian Born Novelist" The Dalhousie Review, 31.1 (1951): 59-64.

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## Featured recent acquisitions



### Soldier's Record Book – 1300 Pte. Giles Osgood, 1/22nd Regiment of Foot

This "Soldier's Record Book" is a very interesting and scarce document although every soldier had one. Not many have survived! The cover page reads "Monthly Settlements, Clothing Account and Savings Bank Account". There is a separate section for the Pay Account. While a copy of a soldier's records was held by the unit, this was the soldier's personal copy. It served as a backup to the unit records, a very useful thing in a time when fires, shipwrecks and countless other misfortunes could destroy the unit records.

The document is wrapped in linen for protection and contains several printed pages. It starts with general information. There is a section that emphasises the need to keep this book safe because it provides a record of the "proper settlement of Pay, Allowance and Clothing" and could be used after discharge to verify a number of things such as a Pension. Clearly, a very valuable document. It lists the rewards for good conduct, pension benefits, extra rewards for meritorious service, etc. The book was printed by Ford & Tilt, London, for Her Majesty's Stationary Office in 1861.

It was issued to 1300 Private Giles Osgood. He joined the 1st Battalion, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment on 23 January 1864 in Bolton, Hants, England. His age is given as 18 years and 10 months. He was 5 feet, 6¼ inches tall with a fair complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. His former trade was baker. It also states that his father (Henry) was living and that he had been living with his brother, William. He was single and attended the Church of England.

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment had been stationed in Malta. It left there on 23 March 1866 aboard the SIMOON and arrived in New Brunswick on 18 April. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel F. P. Harding. According to family information, Osgood had not been in Malta. Instead, he was part of a draft of reinforcements from England. Their ship landed in Saint John at 1:00 am on 4 May 1866. They moved on to Fredericton under the leadership of Sgt. Gregory, arriving there on 7 June. The Fenian Raid alarum had just ended and so the battalion had an uneventful stay in New Brunswick. However, they were here for Confederation in 1867.

Osgood's book records the receipt of his monthly pay for the years 1864 to 1869. He acknowledged the receipt of a clothing issues of a tunic, trousers, boots, chako (hat) and other items. Osgood took his discharge from the army in Fredericton on 15 May 1869. The battalion was going to leave for Cork, Ireland on 26 May 1869. He was required to pay compensation as he had not finished the full term of his enlistment. Family information states that he paid £20 for this, quite a sizeable sum of money at the time. He did receive some money back from the army for boots and other clothing hat would have been issued in October. This, plus the £5/10/4 in his Savings Account would have offset this charge somewhat.

Why did he decide to leave the army? He had met a young lady, Margaret Ann Lafferty, and decided to stay in New Brunswick. They were married in Saint John on 2 May 1872. He was a baker there. Unfortunately, his place of employment and home were destroyed in the Great Fire of June 1877. At some time after this, he returned to Fredericton and was employed as the custodian at the University of New Brunswick.

They had five children, two sons and three daughters. Their youngest son, Giles, served as a Lieutenant in the 26th Battalion, CEF. He was killed in action on 15 August 1917 during the attack on Hill 70 and is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. Giles Osgood died in 1907 and is buried Forest Hill Cemetery, Fredericton. His wife, Margaret, joined him in 1922.

This is a very rare document that sheds light on the life of a private soldier in Fredericton in the late 1860s. We are indebted to his family for donating it to the York-Sunbury Historical Society. An interview with the donor can be found here: Fredericton Region Museum. (23 August 2016). Giles Osgood Account Book. YouTube.

Gary Campbell,  
Exhibits Committee member,  
York-Sunbury Historical Society