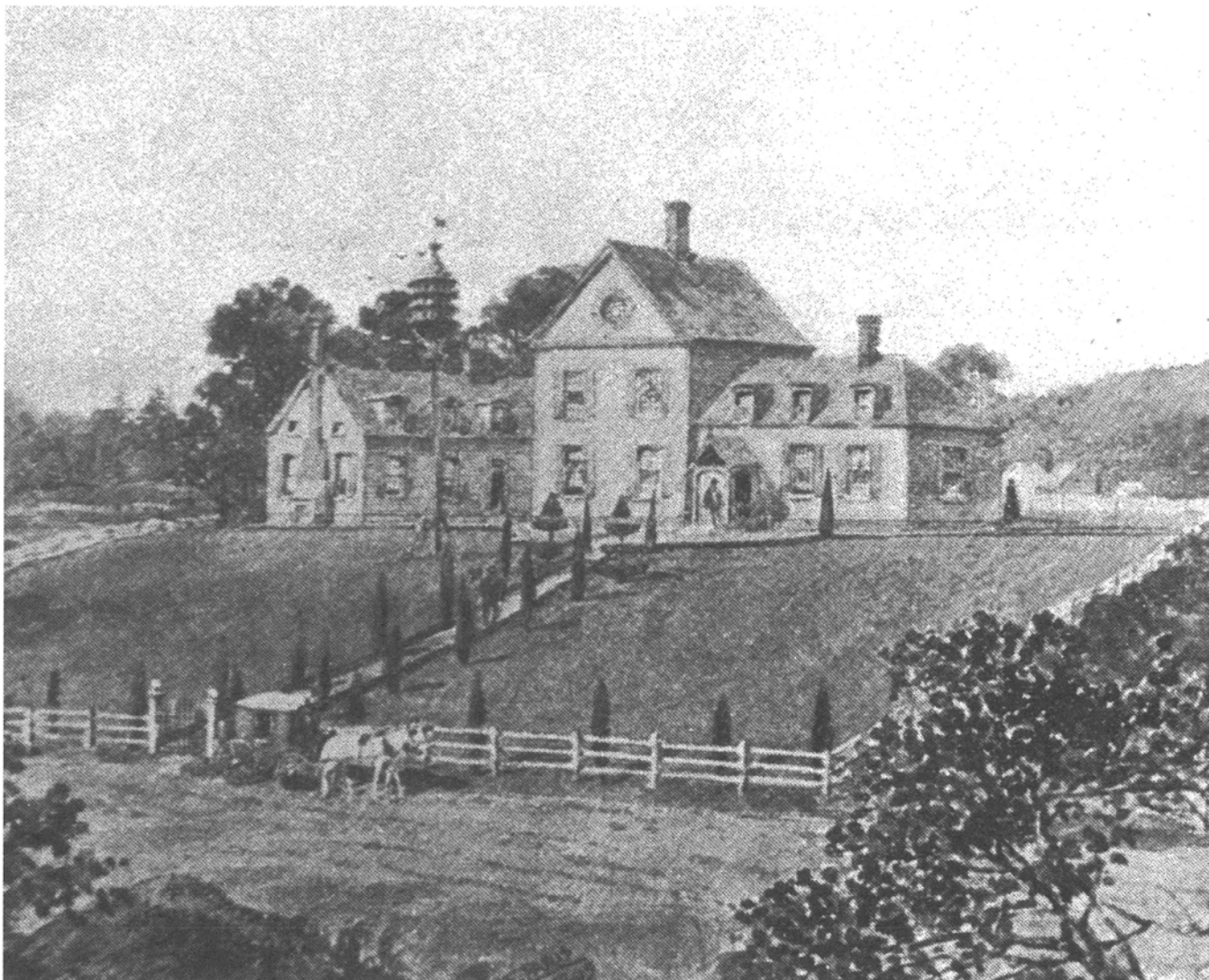


# The American Scene



**“Cobbs Estate,” site of America’s first private school for deaf students in Chesterfield County, Va. (1815-1816)**  
*The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives*

**T**he history of Canada’s deaf people is closely tied to that of their counterparts in the United States. Many of the events that have affected deaf people in the U.S. between the late 1700s and the present day also have had an impact on deaf Canadians. For example, schools for deaf children in the United States educated Canadian deaf children as well. This was fairly common until Canada established its own schools for deaf students. Many of the teachers who taught in these early Canadian schools had received their training in American institutions. The beliefs and actions of the pioneers in deaf education in the United States set a precedent for later educational

opportunities for deaf people in Canada. The stories of these Americans and their contributions to deaf people in North America are an integral part of Canada’s deaf heritage.

## Early Attempts to Educate the Deaf in the United States

The earliest documented effort to teach deaf people within North America was made in 1679 by Philip Nelson, a hearing resident of Rowley, Mass. He tried to teach speech to a 10-year-old deaf boy named Isaac Kilbourn. In some communities at that

time, being able to make a deaf person speak was considered evidence of witchcraft. Had his efforts been successful, Nelson might have been considered in league with the devil and put to death. However, when questioned by authorities, Kilbourn neither spoke nor heard, and Nelson's life was spared.<sup>1</sup>

Several other attempts by hearing people to educate deaf individuals in the U.S. occurred after Nelson's. In 1774, on the plantation of a Colonel Daingerfield near Fredericksburg, Va., a man named John Harrower taught a class of local children, including a deaf boy named John Edge. It is believed that this 14-year-old boy was taught primarily through writing. Unfortunately, Edge remained in Harrower's class for only six months, and nothing more is known of him.<sup>2</sup> In 1793, Dr. William Thornton (b. 1761; d. 1828), a 1784 graduate of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, wrote a work entitled *On Teaching the Surd, or Deaf, and Consequently Dumb, to Speak*. (Thornton also headed the first U.S. Patent Office and designed the nation's first capitol building in Washington, D.C.) In 1807 in the state of New York, the Rev. John Stanford assembled a small class of "deaf-mute" children within the New York City almshouse, where he worked as a clergyman. Due to administrative changes, however, this class was discontinued a short time later.

## Early Advocates

One of the earliest advocates for formal education of deaf children in the United States was Francis Green (b. Aug. 21, 1742; d. Apr. 21, 1809), a hearing resident of Medford, Mass., who lobbied actively for the establishment of an academic institution for deaf children. He pursued the matter in memory of his deaf son, Charles (b. 1772; d. Aug. 29, 1787), who had drowned after falling out of a small boat in Halifax, N.S., one year after completing his education at the Braidwood Academy for the Deaf and Dumb in Edinburgh, Scotland (1780-1786).<sup>3</sup> As the parent of a deaf child, Green believed strongly in the importance of educating deaf children, and he wrote articles on this subject that were published (mostly in 1803) in such Boston newspapers as the *New England Palladium*. He also translated into English the Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée's work, *Institution des Sourds et Muets*. Parts of this work were published in the *New England Palladium* in 1803.<sup>4</sup>

Green asked Massachusetts clergymen to provide him with statistics on deaf children in the state. He hoped that these figures would be reported in sufficient numbers to justify establishing a school for the children.<sup>5</sup> His efforts failed, but his work did attract the attention of other prominent New Englanders who, in 1817, helped finance the opening of North America's first free and permanent public institution for the deaf at Hartford, Conn.

## First Private School

The first documented private school for deaf children was an expansion of a family school started late in 1812 in "Bolling Hall," the Goochland County, Va. home of Col. William Bolling (b. 1777; d. 1845). Col. Bolling had two "deaf-mute" children,

William Albert (b. 1797; d. 1884) and Mary (b. 1808; d. Unknown). He also had two deaf brothers, John (b. Jan. 31, 1761; d. Oct. 11, 1783) and Thomas, Jr. (b. July 1, 1766; d. Feb. 11, 1836), and one deaf sister, Mary ("Polly") (b. Jan. 27, 1765; d. Apr. 12, 1826), all three of whom were educated at the Braidwood Academy for the Deaf and Dumb in Edinburgh prior to 1800. They are considered the first three North American-born deaf children to be formally educated (Green is the fourth).

Col. Bolling was reluctant to send his two deaf children to the school in Edinburgh that his brothers and sister had attended. His efforts to seek educational opportunities for them on American soil were to no avail until John Braidwood (b. 1784; d. Oct. 24, 1820), the grandson of the founder of the Braidwood Academy, arrived in the United States in February 1812. Braidwood hoped to establish a school for deaf children in the U.S. Col. Bolling began corresponding with the newcomer, urging him to establish his school in Virginia. At about the same time, Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell, a prominent Hartford surgeon and father of a deaf daughter (Alice), contacted Braidwood and invited him to become instructor at a new school for deaf students being proposed for New England. However, Braidwood indicated that he preferred to locate his school in Philadelphia, Pa., thinking that such a site would attract deaf pupils from both the northern and southern states. So he declined the invitations of both Col. Bolling and Dr. Cogswell. By May of that year, however, Braidwood switched the planned location for his school (which he called the "Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and for Removing Impediments in Speech") to Baltimore, Md. Ultimately, Braidwood's plans fell through, and neither site was chosen.

In the fall of 1812, Col. Bolling unexpectedly received a letter from Braidwood, who was being detained in "a debtor's prison" in New York City.<sup>6</sup> Stranded without money and friends, he asked for Bolling's assistance in bailing him out and, in return, promised to come to Virginia to provide an education for his deaf children.

From 1812 to 1815, Braidwood tutored Bolling's children, William Albert and Mary, in the Goochland County family home. After Col. Bolling's mother died, the school moved to her house, a mansion called "Cobbs Estate" in Chesterfield County, Va. (on the north side of the Appomattox River approximately nine miles [14 kilometres] south of Petersburg). The first (and only) term opened on March 1, 1815, with William Albert and four hearing male students from local aristocratic families attending. (Mary remained in the Goochland County home, tutored by "Polly," her deaf aunt.) The school at "Cobbs Estate" closed a year later, a victim of Braidwood's continuing problems with alcoholism. He later became associated with a Rev. John Kirkpatrick, who had established a school for deaf children in Manchester, Va. Under Braidwood's tutelage, Kirkpatrick gained knowledge in working with this population and assumed the superintendency of the small school in 1818. Braidwood apparently continued to have problems with alcohol. He died in Manchester, Va. in 1820, "a victim of the bottle," and was buried in a pauper's grave on October 26 "in the Masonic lot, under the windows of the old building in which he had taught."<sup>7</sup>

## Noted American Institutions

### First Permanent Public School

North America's first permanent and publicly supported institution for deaf children opened its doors on April 15, 1817 in Hartford, Conn. Classes were first held in rented rooms in the Old City Hotel on Main and Gold streets. Within a year, the school moved into a house at 54 Prospect Street, and the hotel continued to serve as residence facilities. Originally known as the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons (1817-1819), it was also the earliest known public school for handicapped children in the Western Hemisphere. In 1820, the Connecticut Asylum changed its name to the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. The next year, it moved to larger facilities at 690 Asylum Avenue (named for the American Asylum), where it remained for the next 100 years. Since 1897, it has been known internationally as the American School for the Deaf, and is now located at 139 North Main Street in West Hartford.



**Site of the American School for the Deaf (1821-1921)**

*Courtesy of American School for the Deaf (Hartford, Conn.)*

### America's First Deaf Teacher

Louis Laurent Marie Clerc (b. Dec. 26, 1785; d. July 18, 1869) of France was North America's first deaf teacher of the deaf. He has been called "The Apostle to the Deaf-Mutes of the New World."<sup>8</sup> His many contributions to the field of deaf education have inspired generations of deaf people, especially those who have chosen the teaching profession. Clerc was born in LaBalme les Grottes, Dauphiné, France (42 kilometres east of Lyon), to Joseph François Clerc (who was the village mayor and justice of the peace) and Elizabeth (née Candy) Clerc, the daughter of a notary public in the canton of Crémieu. When he was a year old, Clerc fell into an open fireplace. Due to the severe burns he received, he became very ill with a fever. His parents believed that he became profoundly deaf and lost his sense of smell as a result of this incident. Clerc was badly burned on the right side of his face; the resulting scar inspired his name-sign among the Deaf community, formed by brushing the tips of the index and middle fingers downward twice against the right cheek.

In 1797, Clerc, then 12 years old, entered the Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets (the National Institution for the Deaf and Dumb) in Paris. This school was under the direction of Abbé Roch Ambroise Cucurron Sicard (b. Sept. 28, 1742; d. May 10, 1822), successor to the school's famous founder, Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée. Clerc's first teacher was Jean Massieu (b. 1772; d. July 22, 1846), a deaf man who later became his colleague and lifelong friend. Together, they gave exhibitions to publicize the work of the Institution Nationale. By 1815, Clerc had completed his education

and had become a tutor of deaf students. A year later, he was promoted to teaching an advanced class at his alma mater.

In early 1815, during political turmoil in France, Sicard, Clerc, Massieu, and Armand Goddard (a young deaf pupil from the Paris school) took refuge in London, England. They supported themselves by giving public exhibitions several times a week, demonstrating the French methodical signs used with deaf students. On July 10, 1815, at the close of a lecture held at the London Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, they met Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. Gallaudet was an American who had arrived in England a month earlier to learn about methods of teaching deaf children, with the view of establishing a school in Hartford, Conn. Sicard invited Gallaudet to visit his institution in Paris whenever the turmoil in France ended. In the early spring of 1816, Gallaudet went to Paris. There he received a cordial welcome at the Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets, where he took lessons from Sicard, Massieu, and Clerc. A few months later, homesick and low on funds, Gallaudet decided that it was time to return to America. He earnestly entreated Clerc to accompany him, arguing that he would "... be a living proof that what has been believed impossible — the education of those born deaf — is indeed possible," and that Clerc could "... guide me in arranging the instruction, aid me in providing it, serve as a model for the pupils, and create enthusiasm for education among the uneducated deaf!"<sup>9</sup> After further persuasion, Clerc finally agreed to come for three years to teach deaf students and train other instructors.

*(Continued)*

Circumstances leading to the founding of the Connecticut Asylum began with a little girl named Alice Cogswell (b. Aug. 31, 1805; d. Dec. 30, 1830). She became deaf from “spotted fever” (an old name for modern-day spinal meningitis) at the age of two and a half. Her father, Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell (b. Sept. 28, 1761; d. Dec. 17, 1830), was reluctant to send her to Europe for her education, so he sought ways to start a school for deaf children within the state.

Under Dr. Cogswell’s influence, the clergymen of Connecticut agreed to conduct a census of deaf children in their communities. This survey, conducted between 1812 and 1815, disclosed that at least 80 deaf children were without

schooling of any type.<sup>10</sup> On April 13, 1815, an historic meeting of wealthy New Englanders, parents, and friends of deaf children took place in the Cogswell home. The group developed a proposal to establish an educational facility for deaf children in the area. Those in attendance enthusiastically and unanimously approved this proposal. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (b. Dec. 10, 1787; d. Sept. 10, 1851), a neighbour of Cogswell who had shown an interest in Alice’s education, was selected to travel to Europe (at the community’s expense) to study the best methods for teaching deaf children. Gallaudet stayed in Europe from May 1815 to June 1816. When he returned to the United States, he brought with him a deaf Frenchman named Laurent Clerc.

### *America’s First Deaf Teacher ... cont’d*

Clerc and Gallaudet left for the U.S. on June 18, 1816. While sailing across the Atlantic Ocean on the *Mary Augusta*, Clerc spent much of the 52-day journey learning English from his companion. In return, he tutored Gallaudet in French Sign Language and in the methods used in France for teaching deaf children. Together, they altered a number of signs to conform to English language customs prevalent in the New England states at that time. The pair arrived in New York City on the 9th of August, and immediately began a seven-month lecture circuit of New England to arouse public interest and collect funds for a new school for deaf children.

On April 15, 1817 in Hartford, Clerc and Gallaudet opened the first permanent institution for deaf children on this side of the Atlantic — the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons. On May 3, 1818, Clerc married Eliza Crocker Boardman (b. Aug. 22, 1792; d. May 17, 1880) of Whitesborough, N.Y. She was an orphan who had become deaf in early childhood, and was one of the first group of pupils to be enrolled at the Connecticut Asylum. Four of their six hearing children survived infancy. Despite his plans to stay only three years, Clerc established permanent residence in the U.S. following his marriage, and visited his homeland only three times — in 1820, 1835, and 1846.

For many years, Clerc trained deaf and hearing individuals as teachers. Most, if not all, gained prominence as school founders, superintendents, principals, and teachers. One of these individuals was Ronald MacDonald (b. Feb. [day unknown], 1797; d. Oct. 15, 1854), a hearing man from the province of Québec (then called Lower Canada). In June 1831, MacDonald opened the first Canadian school for deaf children in the city of Québec.

In 1828, Clerc began teaching the American Asylum’s first Canadian student, seven-year-old, born-deaf Charles F. Langevin of Québec City. Sometime prior to April 1830, Clerc travelled to Canada with Langevin, who was returning home to visit his parents. (Langevin later became a student at MacDonald’s school shortly after it



**Laurent Clerc in his retirement years**

*Gallaudet University Archives*

opened in June 1831.) In writing of his visit in a letter to MacDonald dated March 29, 1830, Clerc indicated that “although I am a stranger to them [the French Canadians], I consider them as my brothers and sisters.”<sup>11</sup>

At the age of 73, after 41 years of teaching at the American Asylum (1817-1858), Clerc retired with a pension. His later years were spent mostly in the school’s library and reading rooms, although he did some light travelling as well. On June 28, 1864, he had the honour of being one of the speakers at the inauguration of the National Deaf-Mute College (now Gallaudet University) in Washington, D.C. On July 18, 1869, just 14 months after he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, Clerc died peacefully at the age of 83 years and seven months. He is buried in Hartford’s Spring Grove Cemetery (Section I). ■

As soon as they arrived, the two began a seven-month lecture tour throughout New England to generate public interest and financial support for the establishment of an institution for deaf children in the area. As a result of their efforts, Gallaudet and Clerc — along with Dr. Cogswell — opened the first permanent institution for deaf children in North America.

## Growth of Residential Schools

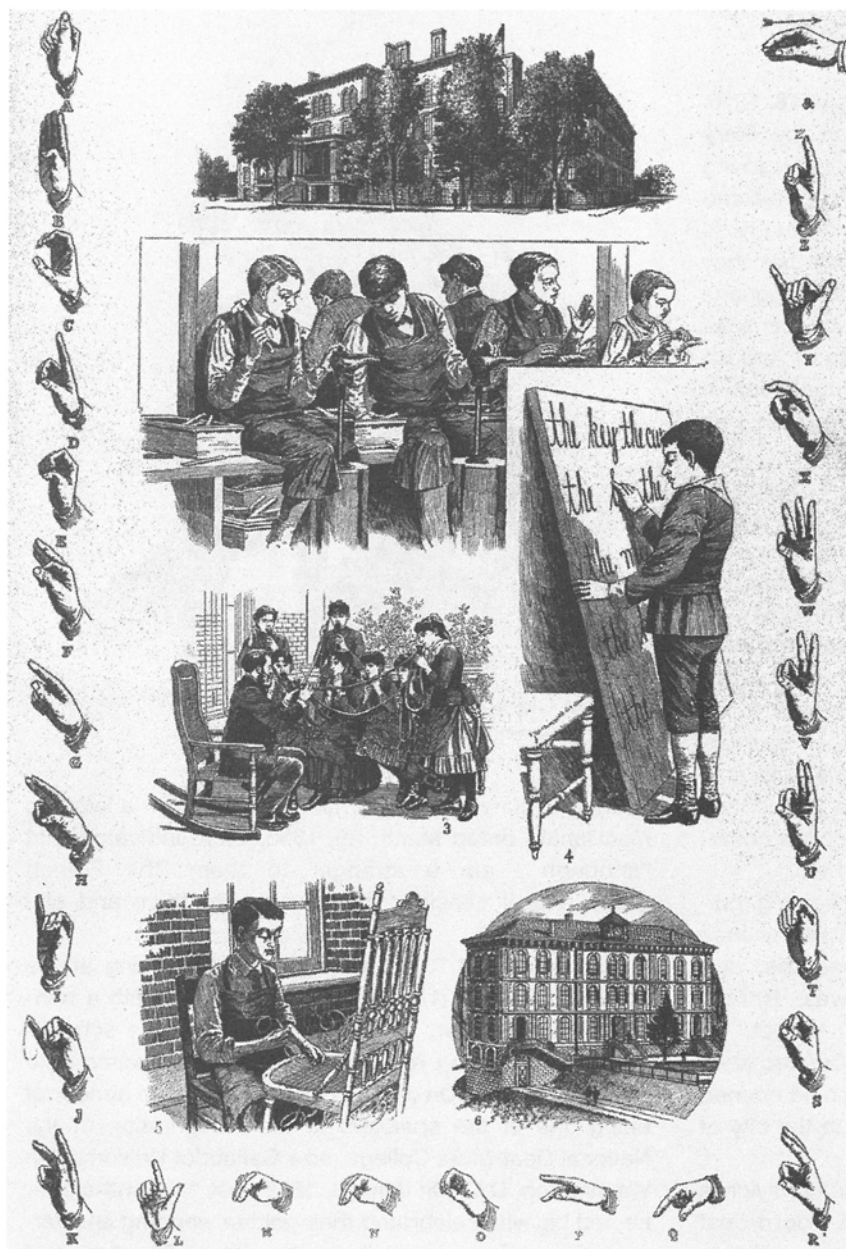
After the opening of the Connecticut Asylum in 1817, other states soon began to seriously embrace the educational movement for deaf children and opened their own state schools. Among the first of these new institutions were the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New

York City in 1818; the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Philadelphia in 1820; the Kentucky Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb in Danville in 1823; and the Ohio Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Columbus in 1829. By the turn of the century, there were 57 residential institutions, 40 public day schools, and 15 denominational and private schools in operation in the U.S. By 1899, Canada had seven residential institutions: one each in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Manitoba, and three in Québec.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to Charles F. Langevin at the American Asylum, other deaf pupils from Canada were in attendance at these early American institutions. Listed below are some of the other Canadian students who attended the American Asylum between 1828 and 1850 (information in parenthesis indicates age at admission and years of attendance):

**New Brunswick:** John Drury, Saint John (age 21, 1831-1833); Emma Ann Berton, Fredericton (age 24, 1839-1844); John B. Burpe, Fredericton (age 12, 1842-1847); **Nova Scotia:** Emeline Gurtridge, Horton (age 9, 1839-1841); William S. Sanford, Cornwallis (age 17, 1841-1846); Archibald Allison, Windsor (age 11, 1843-1848); Donald (age 14, 1844-1846, who died at the institution), Christina (age 11, 1844-1850) and Alexander Campbell, St. Paul's Island (age 11, 1845-1848); and Elizabeth Crane, Horton (age 11, 1845-1850); **Ontario:** James Mair, Lanark (age 12, 1835-1840) and John G. Spragge Jr., Toronto (age 9, 1850-1855); **Québec:** William S. Herron, Montréal (age 9, 1844-1849, later a pupil at the New York Institution from 1861-1862).<sup>13</sup>

The New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City registered 17 Canadian pupils between 1821 and 1853: **Québec:** Mary McVey, Isle aux Noix (near Montréal) (age 9, 1821; remained only two months); James Paterson, Québec City (age 14, 1838-1844, who had been a pupil at Canada's first school for the deaf when it opened in 1831); Charles Pitt, Québec City (age 12, 1847-1852); Esther Ann Foord, Stanstead (age unknown, 1847-1848); Otis Powell, Bolton (age 21, 1850-1852); Margaret Hanley, Montréal (age 10, 1852-1854); George Robert Burbridge, Rowdon, Leinster County (age 22, 1852-1853); and Henry Dennie Reaves, Montréal (age 9, 1853-1865); **Ontario:** Thomas Bigger, Queenston (now a section of Niagara-on-the-Lake) (age 22, 1830-1834); Jane Latham, Toronto (age 8, 1833-1839); Martha Dewitt Buck, Orilla (age 17, 1844-1849); Annie Maria Perry, Cobourg (age 9, 1847-1852); Andrew Patterson, Streetsville (age 14, 1847-1854); John McDonald, Grayscreek (age 21, 1847-



Common occurrences at the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (Mar. 29, 1890) / Courtesy of Marguerite Glass-Englehart (Washington, D.C.)

1853); and Patrick Rowan, Bytown (now Ottawa) (age 9, 1849-1857); **New Brunswick:** George and James Taylor, Saint John (age 9 and 11 respectively, both 1846-1850).

The New York Institution's register of pupils also listed 14 additional Canadian pupils admitted between 1854 and 1865 — 12 had come from "Canada West" (Ontario), one from "Canada East" (Québec), and one from Nova Scotia.<sup>14</sup> At least three of the early Canadian pupils at the school made a name for themselves in later years. Marguerite (Margaret) Hanley (b. Sept. 9, 1842; d. Mar. 16, 1860) was the first deaf woman in Canada to become a nun. She took her vows shortly before her death.

Henry Dennie Reaves was the school's first Canadian graduate to later teach at the New York Institution (1865-1883). Annie Maria Perry (b. Mar. 28, 1838; d. Dec. 23, 1938) is believed to have become Canada's first deaf female teacher. She was appointed to the teaching staff at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville shortly after it opened in October 1870.

In 1854, the Ohio Asylum reported that it had admitted only one Canadian student since its inception in 1829. This pupil was John Sheriff of Chatham, Ont. (age 11, 1848-1852), who became a coach-painter upon leaving school.<sup>15</sup>

## The Gallaudet Pioneers

Three of the most prominent hearing men in the history of deaf people are Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and two of his sons, Thomas and Edward Miner Gallaudet. The Gallaudet family left a rich legacy not only in the United States, but in Canada as well. To a large extent, their influence shaped the course of history for deaf people on the North American continent.

### Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet

The venerated Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (b. Dec. 10, 1787; d. Sept. 10, 1851) was co-founder of the first permanent and publicly supported institution for deaf Americans (Hartford, Conn., 1817). His name has been



Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet *Gallaudet University Archives*

memorialized in many ways — in a statue, street name, postage stamp, school building, organization, Little Paper Family, sawmill town (now abandoned) between Indianapolis and Franklin, Ind., and even a U.S. cargo ship.<sup>16</sup> The present-day Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. was named in his honour as well.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., Gallaudet was the eldest of 12 hearing children born to hearing parents, Peter Wallace Gallaudet and Jane (née Hopkins) Gallaudet. He was 13 years old when the family moved to Hartford in 1800. After finishing his college preparation at Hartford Grammar School in 1802, he attended Yale College (now Yale University) in New Haven, Conn. for a total of five years (A.B., 1802-1805; M.A., 1808-1810). He then attended Andover (Mass.) Theological Seminary for two years (1812-1814), where he was ordained as a Congregational minister. In 1813, Gallaudet, home from his theological studies, stood under an elm tree watching an eight-year-old neighbour, Alice Cogswell, at play with some hearing children. He noticed that she was using simple gestures and did not seem to be fully communicating with her playmates. This scene inspired Gallaudet to try to communicate with the deaf girl by writing "H-A-T" on the ground and showing her his own hat as an example. Alice caught on quickly.

Her father, Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell, was thrilled at the thought that his deaf daughter could learn to read. For some time, he had wanted to open a school in Connecticut, so Alice would not have to be sent to Europe for her education. Cogswell asked Gallaudet to become her tutor and to consider opening a school for other deaf children as well. After much thought, Gallaudet agreed to the idea, and travelled to Europe in May 1815 to learn the best methods for teaching deaf children. In England, Gallaudet met with disappointment and defeat when the three English schools for deaf children — London Hackney, London Old Kent Road, and Birmingham (all controlled by the Braidwood family) — refused to share their secret of the oral methods for free. Fortunately for Gallaudet, he was invited by the Abbé

*(Continued)*

*The Gallaudet Pioneers ... cont'd*

Roch Ambrose Cucurron Sicard to visit his Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets in Paris, France. There, Gallaudet received training in deaf education from two deaf teachers, Jean Massieu and Laurent Clerc. For the duration of his stay, he rented a furnished room in the Faubourg Saint-Germain, not far from the Institution.

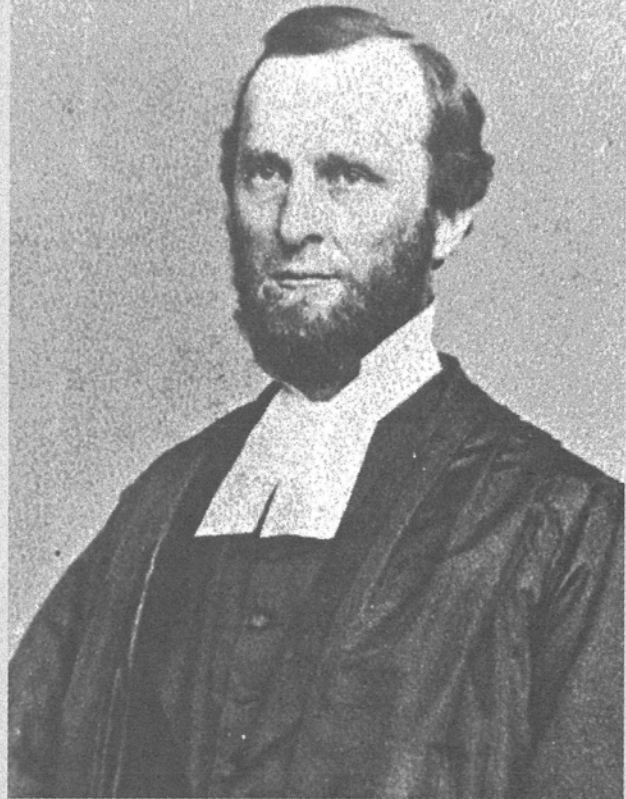
On June 18, 1816, Gallaudet and Clerc left Paris for the United States on the ship, *Mary Augusta*. Ten months later, on April 15, 1817, they opened the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons. Among the first seven deaf pupils admitted on opening day was 11-year-old Alice Cogswell. The 15th pupil enrolled that same year was 19-year-old Sophia Fowler (b. Mar. 20, 1798; d. May 13, 1877) of Guilford, Conn., whom Gallaudet married on August 29, 1821. They raised eight hearing children (four sons and four daughters). In 1830, Gallaudet retired as the founding principal of the American Asylum, a position he had held for 13 years (1817-1830). He devoted the rest of his life to religious studies and other reform causes. He also wrote articles relating to the education of deaf people, in which he defended the use of sign language for classroom instruction. He passed away quietly in September 1851 at the age of 63 years and nine months, and was buried in the Gallaudet family plot (Section #3) at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

**The Reverend Thomas Gallaudet**

The Reverend Thomas (no middle name) Gallaudet (b. June 3, 1822; d. Aug. 27, 1902), less renowned than his father and younger brother, was a 19th-century pioneer of the Episcopal ministry to deaf people in the larger cities of the United States.<sup>17</sup> Referred to as the Apostle of the Deaf, he is also recognized for his efforts in promoting the use of sign language in the nation's churches for deaf congregations.

Born in Hartford, Gallaudet studied in his hometown at Washington College (renamed Trinity College in 1845), where he received two degrees (A.B., 1838-1842; M.A., 1845). For a year (1842-1843), he taught public school in Glastenbury and Meriden, Conn. His life's work among the deaf began in September 1843 when he became a teacher at the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City (1843-1858). Like his father, Gallaudet married a born-deaf woman, 20-year-old Elizabeth R. Budd, a former pupil at the American Asylum (1834-1845). Their wedding took place on July 15, 1845.

During his leisure hours, Gallaudet studied theology privately and devoted himself to religious work among the city's deaf people. On June 16, 1850, he was ordained a deacon and became assistant to the rector at St. Stephen's Church in New York City. Three months



**The Rev. Thomas Gallaudet**  
*Gallaudet University Archives*

later, he started a Bible class for deaf people in the church's vestry. On June 29, 1851, Gallaudet became an ordained Episcopal priest in a ceremony held at Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. On October 2, 1852, he founded St. Ann's Church for Deaf-Mutes in New York City, the first church established for deaf people in North America. In 1858, Gallaudet resigned from teaching at the New York Institution to work as a full-time minister to deaf people. At Trinity College's 1862 commencement exercises in Hartford, he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology (S.T.D., later called a Doctor of Divinity degree [D.D.]). On May 2, 1900, Gallaudet College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) "in recognition of his long successful labors in the moral elevation of the educated deaf."<sup>18</sup>

Gallaudet was an indefatigable traveller throughout the United States and abroad for his entire life. In the summer of 1886, on his last extended missionary journey to the state of California, he met Thomas Widd (b. Aug. 4, 1839; d. Dec. 5, 1906), a deaf Englishman who had moved to Canada in 1867 and to Los Angeles in 1882. Widd had founded and served as first principal of the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes (now Mackay Center for Deaf Children) in Montréal, Québec, from 1870

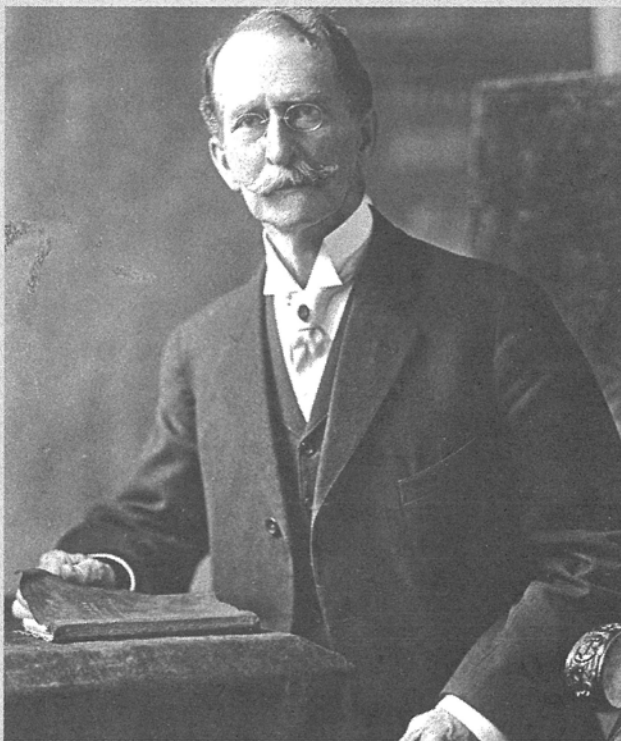
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*The Gallaudet Pioneers ... cont'd*

until he took a leave of absence in 1882 (officially resigned in 1883). At their meeting in California, Gallaudet convinced Widd to perform mission work among deaf Episcopalians in Southern California as a licensed layreader (a role Widd accepted and continued until his death in 1906). Gallaudet died in the summer of 1902 at the age of 80 years and two months, and was buried in Hartford at Cedar Hill Cemetery in the Gallaudet family plot.

In the *Proceedings of the 17th Meeting of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf*, T.F. Fox wrote the following about Thomas Gallaudet:

*A devout Christian, an untiring worker for the welfare of humanity and especially of the deaf, of a sweet and gentle disposition and a pleasant humor, earnest in his faith and broad in his sympathies, he was universally esteemed and loved, but was especially dear to the adult deaf of America, to whose interests he devoted his life.*<sup>19</sup>



**Edward Miner Gallaudet** *Gallaudet University Archives*

**Edward Miner Gallaudet**

Edward Miner Gallaudet (b. Feb. 5, 1837; d. Sept. 26, 1917) was a key player in the 1864 founding of Washington, D.C.'s National Deaf-Mute College (now Gallaudet University). He was appointed its first president and continued in that capacity for 46 years (1864-1910).

Gallaudet was the youngest son in the family. He completed his high school education in 1851 at the age of 14. Shortly after his father's death that year, Gallaudet began working as a clerk in the Phoenix Bank of Hartford. He had not planned to follow in his father's footsteps as a teacher of deaf pupils, and instead wanted to become a businessman. However, when the bank job began to bore him, he quit and entered Trinity College in Hartford. In December 1855, five months before his college graduation, Gallaudet began teaching deaf children at the American Asylum. Jared A. Ayres (b. circa 1814; d. Feb. 24, 1886), a fellow teacher, mentioned that the idea of a college for deaf people was being discussed by a few educators and other interested citizens. This concept caught Gallaudet's attention. The two men discussed the possibility of such a school in depth, but decided that the venture would not be possible unless some philanthropist appeared on the scene to endow the institution. Unhappy with the administration at the American Asylum, Gallaudet contemplated entering the ministry — as his father and oldest brother had done — with the prospect of becoming a missionary to deaf people in China. His plans changed when he was offered a lucrative position in a Chicago bank in the spring of 1857. He accepted the job offer and resigned from his teaching position at the American Asylum.

An unexpected letter from Washington, D.C. dated May 14, 1857 was delivered to Gallaudet just days before his planned departure for Chicago. Amos Kendall, a wealthy philanthropist and politician, asked him to consider becoming superintendent of the new Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. Gallaudet realized that this might be his opportunity to establish the college for deaf people that he and Ayres had discussed. He shared his ideas with Kendall, who readily agreed to support the proposed plans for a college. In return, Gallaudet accepted the superintendency of the Columbia Institution. On July 20, 1858, Gallaudet married Jane Melissa Fessenden (b. Oct. 16, 1837; d. Nov. 23, 1866) of Hartford, a childhood hearing friend. They had two daughters, Katherine and Grace, and a son, Edward LeBaron, who died shortly after birth. On December 22, 1868, two years after the death of his first wife, Gallaudet married Susan Denison of Royalton, Vt. She was the hearing sister of James Denison, the first deaf teacher and first principal (1869-1909) of the primary department (later Kendall School) at the Columbia Institution. Gallaudet and his second wife had three sons (Denison, Edson, and Herbert), and two daughters (Eliza and Marion).

On April 8, 1864, a congressional bill that allowed the Columbia Institution to grant degrees was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. The National Deaf-Mute College officially came into existence on June 28, 1864, and Gallaudet's dream to establish a college for

*(Continued)*



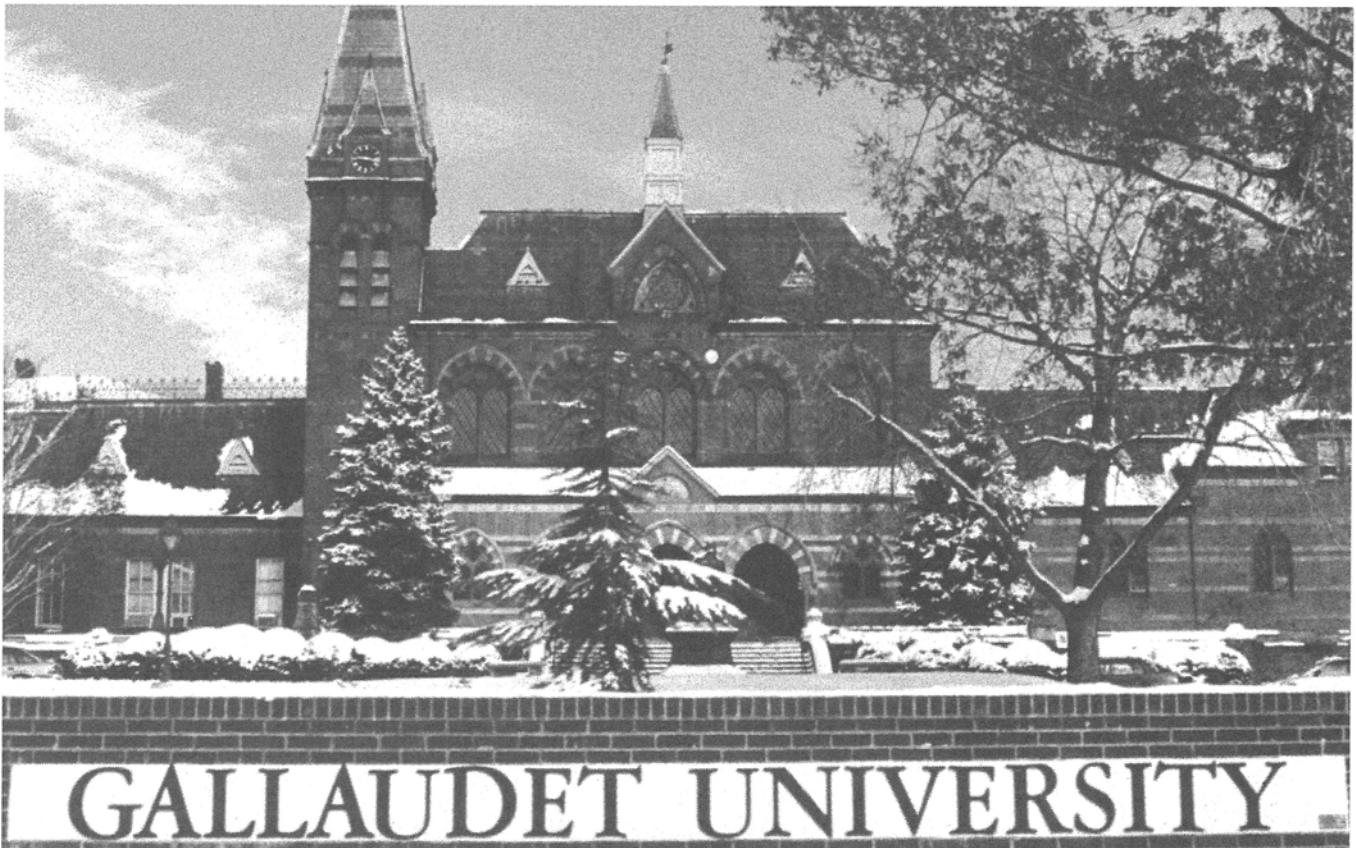
*The Gallaudet Pioneers ... cont'd*

deaf adults became a reality. By September, the first deaf students began to arrive. During the rise of strict oralism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Gallaudet was a leading advocate in North America and throughout the world for the combined system (manual-oral method) in educating deaf people. His primary opponent in this area was Alexander Graham Bell.

Gallaudet received the following honorary degrees: Master of Arts (1859) and Doctor of Laws (1869) from Trinity College in Hartford; Doctor of Philosophy (1869) from Columbian (now George Washington) University in Washington, D.C.; and another Doctor of Laws (1895) from Yale University in New Haven, Conn. In 1912, the government of France conferred upon him the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur "in recognition of his long and successful labors in the cause of the education

of the deaf."<sup>20</sup> The Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf and Dumb, which was founded in 1850, elected Gallaudet to serve as its first president after the group's incorporation in 1895. He continued in that capacity until 1917. Gallaudet was also a trustee of George Washington University and Howard University (both in Washington, D.C.).<sup>21</sup>

Following his retirement in 1910, Gallaudet returned to his place of birth (Hartford) to spend his remaining years. He had looked forward to the July 1917 centennial celebration of the American School for the Deaf (1817-1917) that his father and Clerc had founded. To everyone's disappointment, however, he was unable to attend "on account of failing strength."<sup>22</sup> Instead, his friends visited him at his residence. Two months later, Gallaudet died peacefully at the age of 80 years and seven months. He, too, was buried in the family plot in Hartford. ■



**Chapel Hall, an historic landmark and one of the oldest buildings on the Gallaudet University campus**

*Courtesy of Dorothy L. Smith (Burlington, Ont.)/Photo Credit: Chun Louie (Washington, D.C.)*

## Gallaudet University

Formally opened on June 28, 1864 in Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University remains to this day the world's only accredited liberal arts institution of higher learning for deaf students. It draws students from all over the United States,

Canada, and many other countries. Canadian students began attending the institution in the 1880s and continue to be a vital part of the university's life today.

## History

In early 1856, a small school for deaf and blind children was set up in a house on G Street in the District of Columbia, near the U.S. War Department. Enrolled in the school were five orphans who had been brought from New York by their guardian. Several local children also attended classes there. A few months later, the guardian deserted the children, and the school closed. Several prominent residents of Washington, D.C., including Amos Kendall (b. Aug. 16, 1789; d. Nov. 12, 1869), became involved in the children's welfare. Kendall was appointed by the courts as legal guardian of the five orphans, who formed the nucleus of what was to become the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. Kendall provided the property for the new institution by donating two acres of his northeast Washington estate, "Kendall Green," (including a house near his own residence). The nation's Capitol Building is only a mile (1.6 kilometres) from the site. On February 16, 1857, the United States government approved Kendall's request for an official Act of Congress to incorporate the Columbia Institution and provide annual grants for its maintenance and tuition.

The Columbia Institution officially opened its doors on June 13, 1857. Twenty-year-old Edward Miner Gallaudet, the hearing son of the esteemed Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (co-founder of the first permanent school for the deaf in the United States), became the school's first superintendent. His deaf mother, Sophia (née Fowler) Gallaudet (then a widow), became matron. During the first year, 12 deaf and six blind children were admitted. In 1864, the Columbia Institution was divided into two departments: the primary department and the collegiate department. In 1865, blind children attending the Columbia Institution were transferred to the Maryland Institution for the Blind in Baltimore, and the words "and the Blind" were removed from the corporate name of the Columbia Institution. At the same time, the name of the collegiate department was changed to the National Deaf-Mute College. In 1885, the primary department was renamed the Kendall School for the Deaf, in honour of Amos Kendall. In May 1894, the National Deaf-Mute College changed its name to Gallaudet College in honour of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (not Edward Miner Gallaudet as many have erroneously believed). On October 24, 1986, almost a hundred years later, it was renamed Gallaudet University.

## The Kendall School for the Deaf

The Kendall School for the Deaf, as it was known from 1885 until its name changed again in 1970, had several components through the years. From 1885 to 1969, it was composed of a primary component that included both elementary and high school classes, plus a one-year college preparatory division (transferred to the college in the 1950s). On September 22, 1881, the primary department of Kendall School received its first Canadian student, Wellington John Bateman (b. Oct. 9, 1860; d. Mar. 1, 1902) of Shediac, N.B.<sup>23</sup> Deafened at seven months of age from scarlet fever, he had received his pre-college

education at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. (1873-1879) and the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1879-1881). Due to ill health, Bateman was forced to leave Kendall at the end of the school term in June 1882. He later became a successful photographer in Halifax. His hearing sister, Juliana (Julia) R. Bateman (b. Oct. 22, 1856; d. Sept. [day unknown], 1935), was a teacher of the deaf for many years at the Halifax Institution (1881-1904); the New Brunswick School for the Deaf, Lancaster (1904-1906); the Minnesota School for the Deaf, Faribault (1906-1910); the Idaho School for the Deaf in Gooding (1910-1912); the Newark Day School for the Deaf in New Jersey (1912-1913); and the Arizona School for the Deaf in Tucson (1913-1927).

The Kendall School's "introductory class" offered college preparatory courses for students who needed further academic work to meet the requirements for admission to Gallaudet College. Canadian students who were admitted to this college prep class between 1887 and 1950 and were later accepted at Gallaudet include the following (dates in parenthesis indicate approximate years at Kendall): **Ontario:** Michael James Madden (who was living in Texas at time of admission [1887-1888]); Alfred Harper Cowan (1889-1890); John Alexander Braithwaite (1895-1896); Alexander David Swanson (1895-1896); Margaret Hutchinson (later Pickard) (1896-1898); Arthur Hall Jaffray (1901-1903); Elsie Violet Christian Burke (later Pilgrim) (1910-1913); **Québec:** Adam Sproat Hewetson (1897-1898); Solomon Schwartzman (1943); Diana Geraldine Patricia Berman (1948-1949); **Manitoba:** Charlotte Helen Jameson (later Bell) (1906-1907); Archibald Wright (1906-1907); Muriel Jean McShane (later McDonald) (1918-1919); Annie Ethelwynne Nicholson (later Sutherland) (1915-1918); Kathleen Victoria Fleming Stinson (later Staubitz/Riley) (1918-1919); Pauline Pearl Nathanson (later Peikoff) (1930-1931); Cecil Nathanson (1939-1942); **Saskatchewan:** Archibald Howard McDonald (1906-1907); Rachel Madeleine Irene Stephenson (later Christie) (1913-1914); **Newfoundland:** Marion Rosa Moore (later Mitton) (1929-1930).

Responsibility for the high school component was transferred from the Kendall School to the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) in 1969. A year later, the historic Kendall School was transformed into a national demonstration site and its name changed to the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (KDES). It is one of two demonstration schools now located on the Gallaudet University campus. With the creation of MSSD, the Kendall School ceased its secondary program after almost one hundred years and began to concentrate exclusively on elementary and pre-school-age deaf children.

## The Model Secondary School for the Deaf

The Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD), also a demonstration school, was created by an Act of Congress (Public Law 89-694). The legislation was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 15, 1966. The purpose of the school was to provide high school education for

deaf students and to serve as a demonstration site for innovative educational materials and programs for use with deaf adolescents. MSSD primarily serves students from the Mid-Atlantic Region (which includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia), but also admits teenagers from other states if space permits. The first students — all from Washington, D.C. — arrived in January 1969 and attended classes in temporary facilities on the Gallaudet campus. MSSD began its first full academic year on September 8, 1969, with a total enrolment of 80 students. Most were from the local area, but 21 were from out of town and were temporarily housed in a dormitory on the Catholic University of America campus. Construction of the permanent facilities for MSSD was completed in the fall of 1976. The first director of the school was Doin E. Hicks (b. Nov. 11, 1932), a hearing man who had been principal of the Arkansas School for the Deaf in Little Rock (1960-1964). The first principal was Mervin D. Garretson (b. July 25, 1923), a deaf man who had also served in that capacity at the Montana School for the Deaf in Great Falls (1950-1962). MSSD currently has an enrolment of approximately 350 students, most of whom live on campus. The school celebrated its 25th anniversary in early October 1994.

## Birth of a Collegiate Institution

During the U.S. Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a congressional bill (on April 8, 1864) to authorize the Columbia Institution to grant college degrees to deaf individuals.<sup>24</sup> At a ceremony held in the District of Columbia's First Presbyterian Church on June 28, 1864, the National Deaf-Mute College was publicly established as a collegiate department of the institution, with Edward Miner Gallaudet as its first president (1864-1910). Among the speakers at this event were Laurent Clerc, the famous deaf Frenchman, and John Carlin (b. June 15,



**I. King Jordan, current president of Gallaudet University**  
*Gallaudet University Archives*

1813; d. Apr. 23, 1871), a well-known deaf portrait artist who had graduated from the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (1821-1826). At the June 28 ceremonies, Carlin also received the college's first conferred degree, an honorary Master of Arts.

The first deaf person to earn a Baccalaureate degree from the National Deaf-Mute College was Melville Ballard (b. July 31, 1839; d. Dec. 15, 1912) of Fryeburg, Maine, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1866. Alto May Lowman (b. Oct. 31, 1869; d. June 17, 1912) of Leitersburg, Md. was the first deaf female to receive a degree from the institution (Bachelor of Philosophy, 1892). She was one of the first six deaf women formally enrolled in the fall of 1887 when the institution began admitting women again.<sup>25</sup>

In May 1894, the National Deaf-Mute College changed its name to Gallaudet College in honour of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (not Edward Miner Gallaudet as many have believed).

The next female graduate was Agatha Mary Agnes Tiegel (later Hanson) (b. Sept. 14, 1873; d. Oct. 17, 1959) of Pittsburgh, Pa., who became the second deaf woman to graduate from Gallaudet, and the first to complete the full collegiate course of studies. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1893, and was valedictorian of her class. She



**First group of women to be admitted to the National Deaf-Mute College after 1864 (photograph taken in 1887 or 1888)**

*Gallaudet University Archives*

championed “equal education for women, whether hearing or deaf. Her main cause was higher education for deaf women, for whom far fewer opportunities and encouragement were available.”<sup>26</sup>

Since its inception in 1864, Gallaudet University has had eight presidents: (1) Dr. Edward Miner Gallaudet (b. Feb. 5, 1837; d. Sept. 26, 1917), 1864-1910; (2) Dr. Percival Hall (b. Sept. 16, 1872; d. Nov. 7, 1953), 1910-1945; (3) Dr. Leonard Marvin Elstad (b. Feb. 8, 1899; d. June 27, 1990), 1945-1969; (4) Dr. Edward Clifton Merrill, Jr. (b. Jan. 29, 1920; d. Jan. 26, 1995), 1969-1983; (5) Dr. William Lloyd Johns (b. May 25, 1930), 1983; (6) Dr. Jerry Carlton Lee (b. Nov. 21, 1941), 1984-1987; (7) Dr. Elisabeth Ann Zinser (b. Feb. 20, 1940), 1988 (president for five days); and (8) Dr. Irving King Jordan (b. June 16, 1943), 1988-present.

## Two Momentous Events: Deaf President Now (DPN) and The Deaf Way

Two events occurred in the waning years of the 1980s that are still referred to as turning points by deaf Canadians (as well as by deaf people in other countries around the world). Both events — Deaf President Now and The Deaf Way — took place on the Gallaudet University campus.

The 1988 appointment of Gallaudet University’s seventh and first woman president, Dr. Elisabeth Ann Zinser, triggered a week-long campus protest by the students, faculty members, and alumni because she was not deaf. Banding together in a “deaf civil rights movement,” they vehemently demanded that a deaf educator be named to the post. The protest began on March 6 when Gallaudet’s Board of Trustees announced the selection of Zinser, a vice-chancellor at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, to fill the post of Dr. Jerry Carlton Lee, a hearing administrator who had left in January of that year to work in private industry. Zinser was chosen over two deaf candidates, Dr. Harvey Jay Corson (a 1964 graduate of Gallaudet, the first deaf superintendent of the Louisiana School for the Deaf in Baton Rouge since 1977, and a Gallaudet trustee since 1984) and Dr. Irving King Jordan (a 1970 Gallaudet graduate and dean of Gallaudet’s School of Arts and Sciences since 1986). Corson was eliminated in the first-round selection process, leaving Zinser and Jordan to compete for the final vote. Zinser won by a vote of 10-4, with all of the board’s deaf members and one hearing trustee voting in favour of Jordan.

During the momentous DPN event (March 6 to 13), students emptied the classrooms. They moved school buses to the entrance gates and let the air out of the tires, effectively closing off the campus. They chained the doors of the administration building. Tents were pitched near the main gate on Florida Avenue for a round-the-clock vigil. Campus organizations set up food stands. Effigies of Zinser and Jane Bassett Spilman (the board’s chairman) were burned. Students and sympathetic faculty and staff waved a sea of signs supporting the “Deaf President Now” (DPN) movement. Yellow buttons and blue stickers reading “Deaf Prez Now” were widely distributed. The



**Gallaudet students make their demands known at a rally at the U.S. Capitol**

*Photo credit: Chun Louie (Washington, D.C.)/Gallaudet University Archives*

protesters marched to the Capitol, the White House, and the Mayflower Hotel in downtown northeast Washington, where the board was holding its meetings. The Gallaudet students’ fight for a deaf president was broadcast daily on North American television networks. The story was also transmitted by international news agencies to other countries. As a result, the non-violent protest attracted the attention of many deaf and hearing supporters, some of whom flew to the nation’s capital to join in the activities.

Coordinated by four Gallaudet students, all of whom have deaf parents, the historic week-long struggle led to Zinser’s resignation on March 11.<sup>27</sup> Two days later, Jordan was selected as Gallaudet’s eighth and first deaf president of the 124-year-old institution. His appointment was a milestone that fulfilled the dreams of many deaf people from all walks of life. The event raised their self-esteem and broke down some cultural barriers. *Gallaudet In The News*, a 418-page compilation of newspaper clippings from around the world that chronicled the “Deaf President Now” movement, was published later that year by Gallaudet’s Office of Public Relations. In 1989, another book, *The Week The World Heard Gallaudet* by Jack. R. Gannon, appeared in print.

In this dramatic fashion, Dr. I. King Jordan became the

University's eighth president and the first deaf president in the history of the institution. His first trip to Canada as president of Gallaudet took place less than three months later (June 1988), when he was given a whirlwind two-day tour of Toronto as guest of the Canadian Hearing Society. Dr. Jordan also met with students, their parents, and the staff of the three provincial schools in Ontario, who gathered at the Ernest C. Drury School in Milton for his presentation. (Since DPN, deaf people throughout the world have begun to make their opinions known through social protest. Canada, too, has seen its share of demonstrations by the Deaf community in recent years. Some of these are chronicled in later chapters.)

One year after the appointment of its first deaf president, Gallaudet University again became the centre of attention for deaf people throughout the world, when it hosted The Deaf Way International Conference and Festival (July 9-14, 1989). This week-long event in celebration of the language, history, culture, and arts of deaf people around the world, attracted in excess of 6,000 people from 81 countries.

*Over 350 interpreters worked to provide access to conference and festival activities, including 16 plenary sessions, 45 symposia, and over 200 smaller workshops, panel discussions, demonstrations, and individual paper sessions.... The conference took place during the mornings and early afternoons, followed by Festival activities throughout the late afternoons and evenings, where hundreds of Deaf actors, poets, mimes, dancers, magicians, storytellers, and other deaf artists performed and exhibited their works on seven different stages.... At the end of every evening, the International Deaf Club, an enormous tent accommodating up to 1500 people, was the site of entertainment, reunions, and new friendships in the making.<sup>28</sup>*

Among the Canadians giving presentations at the conference were Roger Carver, then editor of the *Canadian Journal of the Deaf* and coordinator of the Western Canadian Centre of



**Clifton F. Carbin (far left) presents a plaque to The Deaf Way co-chairs — Merv Garretson, Carol Erting, and Jane Norman — and Gallaudet University president I. King Jordan, on behalf of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf. This 1991 presentation was sponsored by the Gallaudet Canadian Club.**

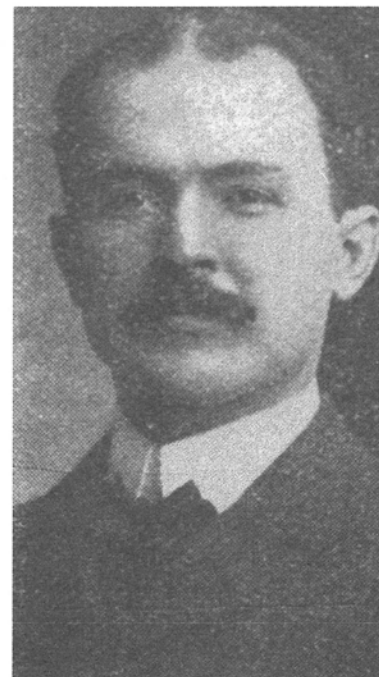
*Photo credit: Chun Louie (Washington, D.C.)/Gallaudet University Archives*

Specialization in Deafness at the University of Alberta; Tanis Doe, a Ph.D. candidate in educational foundations at the University of Alberta; and four presenters from the province of Québec (Arthur LeBlanc, editor of *Voir Dire* and board member of several organizations in Québec; Hélène Hébert, teacher of deaf children who had been involved in a dictionary of LSQ; Jean Davia, then Director General of the Association of Deaf Adults in Québec; and Mireille Caissy, former vice-president of the Québec Centre for Hearing Impairment). More than 100 deaf Canadians attended the historic event. On February 28, 1991, the Gallaudet Canadian Club arranged an award ceremony for The Deaf Way co-chairs. Dr. Clifton F. Carbin, a deaf Canadian who was then holder of the Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet, presented the co-chairs with a plaque from the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, to honour "Gallaudet University's role in the worldwide event celebrating deaf culture."<sup>29</sup> In 1994, the Gallaudet University Press published *The Deaf Way: Perspectives from the International Conference on Deaf Culture*, a 907-page book containing approximately half of the papers presented at The Deaf Way event.

## Foreign Students

On September 21, 1867, the National Deaf-Mute College admitted its first deaf foreign student, Henry Frederick D'Boisville Reid (b. May 18, 1849; d. Dec. 22, 1924) of London, England, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1872. Michael James Madden (b. Mar. 20, 1871; d. Unknown) was recorded as the first deaf Canadian to attend the school. He was admitted in 1888. Madden was an alumnus of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1877-1882), the Texas Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Austin (1882-1887), and Kendall School (1887-1888). (He was a resident of Castroville, Tex. at the time of acceptance.) In 1893, he also became the first known deaf Canadian citizen to graduate from the college. Following his graduation, he taught at the Ontario Institution for seven years (1898-1905).

The first two deaf female Canadians to be enrolled at, and graduate from, Gallaudet College attended during the same time-span (1898-1903). They were Annie Lavina MacPhail



**Michael James Madden, first Canadian to graduate from the National Deaf-Mute College (1893)**

*The Canadian Mute/Gallaudet University Archives*



**1903 Gallaudet College graduation picture**

*Gallaudet University Archives*

**Back row:** A.S. Hewetson, Montréal, Québec; M. Hutchinson, Toronto, Ont.

**Front row:** E.M. Gallaudet, president of Gallaudet College; A.L. MacPhail, Hamilton, Ont.

(b. Jan. 31, 1878; d. Aug. 3, 1959), a former resident of Hamilton, Ont., and Margaret Hutchinson (b. Feb. 10, 1879; d. May 4, 1936) of Toronto, Ont. Both received Bachelor of Arts degrees. MacPhail had been a pupil at the Ontario Institution (1886-1894) and the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City (1896-1898). Following her graduation from Gallaudet, she taught at several schools, including the Oregon School for Deaf Mutes in Salem (1905-

1906); the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (renamed the Manitoba School for the Deaf in 1912) in Winnipeg (1906-1940); Winnipeg's Wolseley Day School for deaf children (1940-1943); and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at Edgemont in Pittsburgh (1945-1951). Hutchinson was also an alumna of the Ontario Institution (1886-1896) and had attended Kendall School (1896-1898). No further information has been found about her background, except that she married a Mr. Pickard in February 1923, and lived on Rhye Avenue in Toronto for many years.

## Canadian "Firsts" at Gallaudet

The following Canadians achieved "firsts" when they enrolled at Gallaudet (some attended the school when it was still called the National Deaf-Mute College). The first Canadians on the campus came from Ontario, but soon other provinces were represented at the Washington, D.C. institution. Some Canadian students left before completing their studies, primarily because of insufficient financial support, while others remained until they received their degrees.

Moving province by province (from west to east), the following includes a brief chronicle of Canadian "firsts" at Gallaudet. (Yukon and Northwest Territories have never had their own schools for deaf students. Deaf children from these areas have usually attended one of the provincial schools in either British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, or Manitoba.)

## British Columbia

The province of British Columbia did not establish a permanent school for deaf students until 1922. Prior to that time, deaf children travelled some 2,232 kilometres by train over the Rockies and across the prairies to attend Manitoba's provincial school for the deaf in Winnipeg.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>THOMAS WOOD</b> b. Apr. 8, 1902; d. Nov. 13, 1986 (from Vancouver)	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1913-1921).	First deaf male resident of British Columbia to attend Gallaudet.	1922-1923 Degree: None	See Chapter 15: SPORTS, "Amateur Ice Hockey (Thomas Wood)."
<b>JEAN WINNIFRED PATERSON</b> b. Nov. 9, 1909; d. Apr. 20, 1972 (from Vancouver)	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1918-1929).	First deaf female resident of British Columbia to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1929-1934 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1934	Taught at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1934-1940). She married Hubert Joseph Sellner of Comfrey, Minn. on Aug. 10, 1940, and left Canada to teach at the Minnesota School for the Deaf in Faribault.
<b>JOHN WAYNE SINCLAIR</b> b. Apr. 4, 1944 (from Vancouver)	Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1949-1962).	One of the first two deaf male residents of British Columbia to graduate from Gallaudet; one of the first two deaf male graduates of Jericho Hill Provincial School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet (shares these distinctions with Henry Vlug, see below).	1962-1966 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1966	Received a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Gallaudet (1966-1968). He has been associated with the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick since 1968 (teacher, 1968-1973; supervising teacher, 1973-1974; assistant principal, 1974-1991; associate principal, 1991-1992; teacher, 1992-present). His wife, the former Mary Lynn Lally (b. June 11, 1943) of South Orange, N.J., is also a 1966 Gallaudet graduate, and has taught at the Maryland School since 1967.

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>HENRY VLUG</b> b. Oct. 4, 1944 (from Powell River)	Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1956-1962).	One of the first two deaf male residents of British Columbia to graduate from Gallaudet; one of the first two deaf male graduates of Jericho Hill Provincial School to graduate from Gallaudet (shares these distinctions with John Wayne Sinclair, see above).	1962-1966 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1966	In 1986, he became Canada's third deaf lawyer on record, and first deaf lawyer admitted to the bar. See Chapter 9: OCCUPATIONS, "Lawyers."
<b>ELLEN JOYCE HUGHES</b> b. June 1, 1945 (from Port Coquitlam)	Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1953-1954 and 1958-1963); Queen Mary School, Vancouver, B.C. (1954-1958).	First deaf female graduate of Jericho Hill Provincial School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1963-1967 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1967	Lived in Ottawa, Ont. for several years with first husband, Stephen Mirsky (Gallaudet graduate, 1967). She taught at Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf (1976-1993). She received M.Ed. degree from New York University (1985). Her second marriage was to a hearing man, Ben Rusi. Currently, she works for Sooke School District No. 62 in Greater Victoria (B.C.) area, and is also part owner of Western Captioning Service Ltd. (Closed Captioning Production & Decoder Sales) in Vancouver.

## Alberta

Like British Columbia, students from the province of Alberta first received their education in Winnipeg, Man., some 1,357 kilometres from home. After the Manitoba School for the Deaf closed in 1940 during World War II, the Alberta students were transferred to the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-

Mutes in Montréal, Québec, an additional distance of 2,408 kilometres. This practice continued until 1955, when the provincial government of Alberta opened its own school in Edmonton.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>LUCY MURIEL CREIGHTON</b> b. Apr. 18, 1901; d. Unknown (from Edmonton)	Local public school in Edmonton (1909-1912); Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1912-1919).	First deaf female resident of Alberta to attend Gallaudet.	1919-1920 Degree: None	Born in Vancouver, B.C. Other information not available.
<b>MILWYN WILLIAMS</b> b. June 19, 1914 (from Calgary)	Local public schools in Calgary (prior to 1930); Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1930-1931).	First deaf male Albertan to attend Gallaudet.	1931-1933 Degree: None	Was a fruit grower in Ladysmith, B.C. (1934-1939); worked at DeHavilland Aircraft Factory (1940-1941), and at a machine gun plant in Windsor, Ont. Also was copy editor for <i>The Toronto Star</i> (5 years); diamond driller near Red Lake, Ont.; newspaper editor in Sioux Lookout, Ont.; proofreader for McLean Hunter; desk editor on the <i>Financial Post</i> ; and factory welder in Toronto (20 years). In the 1970s, he worked for the Canadian Hearing Society converting and installing old TTYs in Ontario. In 1948, he married the former Ruth Marion McKittrick of Orangeville, who had attended the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1931-1938); the couple currently lives in Victoria, B.C.

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>HERMAN WILLIAM JOHNSON</b> b. Nov. 13, 1923 (from Kitscoty)	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1937-1940); Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1940-1941).	First deaf male Albertan to graduate from Gallaudet.	1941-1946 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1946	Married a hearing woman, the former Josephine Mayerh Ofer (d. 1990) in November 1950. He worked as a bundler and machine operator at Hinde and Dauche (now West Virginia Paper Co.) in Chicago, Ill. (1946-1983); currently retired in that city.
<b>JUDITH MARYLIN KVARNBERG</b> b. May 20, 1940 (from Warburg)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1946-1956); Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton (1956-1958); Warburg (Alta.) High School, (1958-1961).	First deaf female former student at the Alberta School to attend Gallaudet.	1961-1963 Degree: None	Later attended Golden West College in Huntington Beach, Calif. (Associate of Arts degree, 1973-1975); San Fernando Valley State College (now Calif. State Univ. of Northridge), Northridge, Calif. (B.A. degree in Child Development, 1975-1977). She currently lives in San Diego, Calif. as Jeri Adams.
<b>GARY NORMAN ANDERSEN</b> b. Apr. 19, 1943 (from Lloydminster)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1949-1955); Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton (1955-1962).	First deaf male graduate of the Alberta School to attend Gallaudet.	1962-1963 Degree: None	Currently employed in Edmonton as a technologist for the Department of Environmental Protection, Government of Alberta (since 1966).
<b>MARILYN JANE BEAL</b> b. June 17, 1945 (from Calgary)	Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1950-1954); Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1954-1956); Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton (1956-1963).	First deaf female Albertan to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female graduate of the Alberta School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1963-1968 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1968	Worked as bibliographer for the Calgary Board of Education's Media Service Centre (1968-1980) and simultaneously as a postal clerk at the Calgary Mail Processing Plant (1976-1980). She received a Master of Education degree from Western Maryland College, Westminster (1983). Her teaching experience includes substitute and temporary teacher in Calgary (1984-1989); the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1985-1987 and 1989-1993); and the Provincial School for the Deaf, Burnaby (B.C.) School District No. 41 (since 1993).
<b>ANDREW JAMES MURISON</b> b. Mar. 5, 1944 (from Calgary)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1950-1955); Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton (1955-1963).	First deaf male graduate of the Alberta School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1963-1968 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1968	Worked as a jobber/order clerk in Calgary, Alta. (1971-1985), where he still resides.

## Saskatchewan

The province of Saskatchewan had two schools for deaf children: the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf (Regina, 1915-1916), and the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf (Saskatoon, 1931-1991). The latter was renamed the R.J.D. Williams

Provincial School for the Deaf in 1982. As was the case with British Columbia and Alberta deaf children, Saskatchewan's deaf students were originally sent to Manitoba for their education.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ARCHIBALD HOWARD McDONALD</b> b. July 30, 1888; d. Aug. 29, 1972 (from Fort Qu'Appelle)	Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, Winnipeg (1895-1905); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1906-1907).	First deaf male Saskatchewanian to attend Gallaudet; first deaf male resident of Saskatchewan to attend Gallaudet.	1907-1908 Degree: None	See Chapter 8: DEAF SETTLERS IN WESTERN CANADA, "Saskatchewan Deaf Homesteaders (Archibald ["Archie"] Howard McDonald)."

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>RACHEL MADELEINE IRENE STEPHENSON</b> b. June 7, 1897; d. Apr. 28, 1977 (from Saskatoon)	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1908-1913); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1913-1914).	First deaf female Saskatchewanian to attend Gallaudet; first deaf female resident of Saskatchewan to attend Gallaudet.	1914-1915 Degree: None	See Chapter 7: ORGANIZATIONS, "Regional Organizations (Rachel Christie, First Female WCAD President, 1954-1957)."
<b>PETER DOUGLAS STEWART</b> b. Nov. 8, 1904; d. Dec. 6, 1972 (from Regina)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Regina (1915-1916); Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1916-1923).	First deaf male resident of Saskatchewan to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf former student at the Saskatchewan School, Regina to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1923-1928 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1928	See Chapter 9: OCCUPATIONS, "Correspondence Teacher."
<b>JEAN MARGARET JOHNSTON</b> b. June 19, 1915 (from Mitchellton)	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1924-1931); Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1931-1935).	First deaf female graduate of the Saskatchewan School, Saskatoon to attend Gallaudet.	1935-1937 Degree: None	Married Stanley Albert Patrie of New York, a graduate of Gallaudet (B.Sc., 1936), in June 1937; husband taught at schools for the deaf in Baton Rouge, La. (1938-1941), Columbus, Ohio (1941-1942), and Rochester, N.Y. (1943-1970). Couple currently resides in San Diego, Calif.
<b>BUNO COLLIN FRIESEN</b> b. May 16, 1929 (from Rosthern)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1935-1947).	First deaf male graduate of the Saskatchewan School, Saskatoon to attend Gallaudet.	1947-1950 Degree: None	A native of Victoria, B.C. Currently lives in Federal Way, Wash.
<b>GAYLE ANNE STEWART</b> b. Dec. 15, 1934 (from Regina)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1940-1941 & 1946-1953); Ontario School for the Deaf, Belleville (1941-1946).	First deaf female resident of Saskatchewan to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female graduate of the Saskatchewan School, Saskatoon to graduate from Gallaudet.	1953-1958 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1958	Taught at state schools for deaf students in South Carolina (1959-1960), Rochester, N.Y. (1960-1964), Baton Rouge, La. (1964-1974), and Danville, Ky. (1974-1978). She married John Louis Deville, a 1961 Gallaudet graduate, and has been a full-time librarian at the state school for deaf students in Danville since 1978.
<b>ALLARD ALEXANDER THOMAS</b> b. Nov. 20, 1946 (from Regina)	Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1953-1965).	First deaf male graduate of the Saskatchewan School, Saskatoon to graduate from Gallaudet.	1965-1970 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1970	After Gallaudet, he returned to Regina, where he became a programmer/analyst for the Saskatchewan Government Systems Centre (1970-1987). Next, he worked for SaskComp as a systems analyst (1987-1988), and as an analyst when SaskComp merged with Westbridge Computer Corporation (1988-1991). Since 1991, he has worked for Information Systems Management Corporation as a project manager (in internal accounting) and as an applications analyst.

## Manitoba

Until British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan established their own schools for deaf children, the provincial school for the deaf in Winnipeg, Man., had the responsibility of edu-

cating not only its own students, but also those from the three other western provinces.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ARCHIBALD WRIGHT</b> b. Jan. 19, 1888; d. Nov. 28, 1958 (from Winnipeg)	Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, Winnipeg (1893-1905); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1905 [3 months]; 1906-1907).	One of the first two deaf Manitobans to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Charlotte Helen Jameson, see below); first deaf male resident of Manitoba to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male graduate of the Manitoba Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1907-1912 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1912	See Chapter 11: THE PRINTED PAGE, "Literary Works by Deaf Canadians (Archibald Wright, Writer)."
<b>CHARLOTTE HELEN JAMESON</b> b. Oct. 22, 1889; d. Dec. 13, 1970 (from Carman)	Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, Winnipeg (1893-1905); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1905-1907).	One of the first two deaf Manitobans to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Archibald Wright, see above); first deaf female resident of Manitoba to attend Gallaudet; first deaf female graduate of the Manitoba Institution to attend Gallaudet.	1907-1909 Degree: None	Married Walter Dake Bell (b. Dec. 24, 1888; d. Nov. 30, 1975) from Alabama, ex-Gallaudetian (class of 1911). The couple lived in Birmingham, Ala. (1913-1919), Toronto, Ont. (1919-1928), and Oshawa, Ont. (1928-1970s).
<b>ANGELA JEAN PETRONE</b> b. Dec. 14, 1947 (from Winnipeg)	Isbister School, Winnipeg, Man. (1953-1955); Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1955-1965).	First deaf female Manitoban to graduate from Gallaudet.	1965-1970 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1970	A native Winnipegger; comes from a Deaf family. Additional information can be found in Chapter 21: A FEW THINGS MORE, "Canadian Recipients of the Quota International's 'Deaf Woman of the Year' Award." In March 1978, she married Roman Michael Stratiy, a hearing man originally from Region Chertkov, Ternopol, Ukraine.
<b>JOYCE ELAINE REMPEL</b> b. Feb. 10, 1952 (from Winnipeg)	Winnipeg (Man.) Day School for Deaf Children (1958-1965); Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1965-1971).	First deaf female graduate of the Manitoba School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1976-1981 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1981	Took office practice and bookkeeping courses at St. Paul Technical College in St. Paul, Minn. (1971-1973). For two years before being admitted to Gallaudet, she worked as an accounting clerk for Borger Industries and Greensteel Industries, both in Winnipeg, Man. In 1991, she received her M.Ed. degree from Western Maryland College, Westminster. She has been a teacher at the Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg since Feb. 1992. In 1982, she married Edmund Burke Nagle, who received his education at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1954-1968) and Gallaudet (B.Sc., 1969-1975).

## Ontario

Ontario currently has three provincial schools for deaf students. The oldest is the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville (its former names were the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb [1870-1913], and the Ontario School for the Deaf [1913-1974]). In 1963, the province established its second school — the Ernest C.

Drury School for the Deaf in Milton (which for 11 years was known as the Ontario School for the Deaf, Milton [1963-1974]). The third provincial school — the Robarts School for the Deaf in London — officially opened in 1974 (some students started attending classes in 1973).

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>MICHAEL JAMES MADDEN</b> b. Mar. 20, 1871; d. Unknown (originally from La Salette, Norfolk County)	Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1877-1882); Texas Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Austin (1882-1887); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1887-1888).	First deaf Canadian to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male former student at the Ontario Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1888-1893 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1893	Taught at the Ontario Institution (1898-1905). He moved to Nashville, Tenn. where he was engaged as an accounting clerk for many years. Married a deaf woman, Mary G. Schutz of Evanston, Ill., in September 1907.
<b>ALFRED HARPER COWAN</b> b. Mar. 3, 1872; d. May 12, 1949 (from London)	Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1880-1889); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1889-1890).	First deaf resident of Ontario to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male graduate of the Ontario Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1890-1895 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1895	Married Eliza Louisa James (b. Apr. 27, 1873; d. Feb. 3, 1949) of Oshawa, a graduate of the Ontario Institution (1881-1891). He worked as a postal clerk in London until retirement in 1937; buried in Cowan family plot (section C, plot 108) at London's Mount Pleasant Cemetery. His hearing father was once mayor of London, Ont.
<b>ANNIE LAVINA MacPHAIL</b> b. Jan. 31, 1878; d. Aug. 3, 1959 (from Hamilton)	Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1886-1894); New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, New York City (1896-1898).	One of the first two deaf female Canadians to attend and graduate from Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Margaret Hutchinson, see below).	1898-1903 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1903	Taught at the Oregon School for Deaf Mutes, Salem (1905-1906); Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (renamed Manitoba School for the Deaf in 1913), Winnipeg (1906-1940); Wolseley Day School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1940-1943); and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Pittsburgh (1945-1951). She was married to Joseph Reginald Cook (b. Feb. 17, 1868; d. Aug. 14, 1918), a graduate of the Ontario Institution (1882-1888).
<b>MARGARET HUTCHINSON</b> b. Feb. 10, 1879; d. May 4, 1936 (from Toronto)	Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1886-1896); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1896-1898).	One of the first two deaf female Canadians to attend and graduate from Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Annie Lavina MacPhail, see above); first deaf female graduate of the Ontario Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1898-1903 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1903	Married in February 1923 to Edward Chester Pickard of Mount Forest, Ont., a graduate of the Ontario Institution (1880-1889). They lived at 50 Ryhe Avenue in Toronto for many years.
<b>DIANNE ELIZABETH MARJORY HODGINS</b> b. Aug. 24, 1951 (from Guelph)	Public schools (prior to 1967); Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1967-1969).	One of the first three deaf graduates of OSD, Milton to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Roman Jonas Kazragis and Janice Marilyn Kavosi); first deaf female graduate of OSD, Milton to graduate from Gallaudet.	1969-1973 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1973	Received Master of Education degree from Western Maryland College, Westminster (1975). She became the first deaf teacher at the Ernest C. Drury School, Milton (1974-1975), and is currently a teacher at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, St. Augustine (since 1975).

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ROMAN JONAS KAZRAGIS</b> b. July 15, 1950 (from St. Catharines)	Ontario School for the Deaf, Belleville (1956-1966); Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1966-1969).	One of the first three deaf graduates of OSD, Milton to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Dianne Elizabeth Marjory Hodgins and Janice Marilyn Kavosi); first deaf male graduate of OSD, Milton to graduate from Gallaudet.	1969-1974 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1974	Received Master of Education degree from Western Maryland College, Westminster (1976). He taught at the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Little Rock (1976-1981), and currently teaches at the New York State School for the Deaf, Rome (since 1981). In August 1975, he married the former Colleen Amanda Giansanti, a graduate of the Rochester School for the Deaf, Rochester, N.Y. (1952-1966), Gallaudet (B.A., 1971), and Western Maryland College (M.Ed., 1976).
<b>JANICE MARILYN KAVOSI</b> b. Nov. 17, 1951 (from Woodstock)	Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1966-1969).	One of the first three deaf graduates of OSD, Milton to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Dianne Elizabeth Marjory Hodgins and Roman Jonas Kazragis).	1969-1974 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1974	Received Master of Education degree from Western Maryland College, Westminster (1975). She taught at Whitney Magnet High School, Chicago, Ill. (1975-1976), and California School for the Deaf, Riverside (1976-1980); currently teaches at Venado Middle School, Irvine, Calif. (since 1980).
<b>SANDRA JEANNE REID</b> b. Nov. 22, 1957 (from London)	Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1963-1973); Robarts School for the Deaf, London (1973-1975).	One of the first three deaf graduates of the Robarts School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Elizabeth Mechtilda Wiendels and Scott Richard Burch); first deaf female graduate of the Robarts School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1975-1980 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1980	Received Master of Education degree (1981) from Western Maryland College, Westminster. She has been a teacher at the Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton since 1982. She was married in 1989 to Kenneth Alfred Bradley, who is deaf and received his education at several local schools in Ontario as well as the Davison School, a private oral school in Atlanta, Ga. (1963-1969).
<b>ELIZABETH MECHTILDA WIENDELS</b> b. Apr. 3, 1958 (from Denfield)	Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1963-1972); Sir Adam Beck Collegiate, London (1972-1973); Robarts School for the Deaf, London (1973-1975).	One of the first three deaf graduates of the Robarts School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Sandra Jeanne Reid and Scott Richard Burch).	1975-1976 Degree: None	Was employed at London Public Library and Museums (1988-1992); currently a homemaker in London. She has a 15-year-old hearing daughter, Tanya.
<b>SCOTT RICHARD BURCH</b> b. Nov. 23, 1956 (from London)	Lorne Avenue Public School, London (1961-1963); Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1963-1973); Robarts School for the Deaf, London (1973-1975).	One of the first three deaf graduates of the Robarts School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Sandra Jeanne Reid and Elizabeth Mechtilda Wiendels); first deaf male graduate of the Robarts School to attend Gallaudet.	1975-1977; 1991-1994 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1994	Currently lives in London.
<b>ALAN LOUIS CHEIFETZ</b> b. May 7, 1959 (from Windsor)	Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. (1963-1971); Ontario School for the Deaf (OSD — now Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), Milton (1971-1975); Robarts School for the Deaf, London (1975-1979).	First deaf male graduate of the Robarts School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1979-1984 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1984	Has worked for the Federal Government in the vicinity of Toronto, Ont. as an accounting clerk in the Department of Veterans Affairs (1984-1992); as finance assistant within the Public Service Commission (1992-1995); and currently as an accounts clerk/cashier with the DVA. He is married to the former Barrie Sandra Hoffer of Winnipeg, Man., who also attended Gallaudet (B.A., 1985-1990). The couple resides in Thornhill, Ont.

## Québec

This province has provided educational institutions for deaf students from both francophone and anglophone families. French-using deaf students attended either the boys' school (Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets [1848-1978] or the girls' school (Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes [1851-1975]), both in Montréal. Deaf children from English-

using families in Québec attend a third institution in Montréal — the Mackay Center for Deaf Children (known at its founding in 1870 as the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes [1870-1878] and later as the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes [1878-1960]). This school also accepted students from other provinces (e.g., Alberta, 1940-1955).

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ADAM SPROAT HEWETSON</b> b. Sept. 25, 1878 d. Unknown (from Montréal)	Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1888-1897); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1897-1898).	First anglophone deaf male resident of Québec to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male graduate of the Mackay Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1898-1903 Degree: Bachelor of Philosophy, 1903	Originally from Port Elgin, Ont.; moved to Riverside, Calif. soon after graduating from Gallaudet. He studied at Agricultural College in Cornell, Calif. (1907-1908); became an orange grower and farmer in Pachappa Hill Groves near Riverside; later worked as an orange tree pruner and tree doctor for Delano Fruit Co. in Delano, Calif.; last known occupation in September 1948 was as a licensed tree specialist.
<b>GEORGETTE EMMA DUVAL</b> b. Feb. 22, 1907 (from Montréal)	Public school in St. Regis Falls, N.Y. (1913-1915); Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes (ISM), Montréal, Québec (1916-1920); Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, St. Augustine (1921-1928).	The earliest known francophone deaf female former student at ISM (girls) to attend Gallaudet.	1928-1929 Degree: None	Born in Montréal, Québec. After leaving Gallaudet, she worked at the Louisiana School for the Deaf in Baton Rouge before her 1931 marriage to Arthur Edward Spears (d. 1944) of Chicago, Ill., a 1928 graduate of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Delavan. She currently lives in Tamarac, Fla. with second husband, Alexander Fleischman (b. Feb. 22, 1921), who received his education at both PS 47 in New York City, N.Y. (1929-1937) and the New York School for the Deaf in Fanwood (1938-1941). The couple was married on April 14, 1946.
<b>ELIZABETH ANN LISTER</b> b. Mar. 13, 1928 (from Matane)	Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1935-1947); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1948-1950).	First anglophone deaf female resident of Québec to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female student from the Mackay Institution to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1950-1955 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1955	Attended Germain School of Photography, New York City (1955-1956). She taught at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, Spartanburg (1956-1957); was a physical education teacher and dormitory supervisor at the American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, Conn. (1957-1959); worked as a photographer for the Hispanic Society of America (1960-1976). In January 1960, she married William Charles Siebert, a hearing professor in the Department of Education (Industrial Arts) at New York University; currently lives in Bernardsville, N.J.
<b>JULIE ÉLAINE ROY</b> b. Nov. 21, 1948 (from Montréal)	Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes (ISM), Montréal, Québec (1955-1964).	First francophone deaf female resident of Québec to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf graduate of ISM (girls) to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1969-1973 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1973	Learned English at a local private school and at the Mackay Center for Deaf Children, Montréal, Québec (1968-1969). She taught at Polyvalente Lucien-Page C.E.C.M. in Montréal (1974-1992); currently employed at CEGEP du Vieux Montréal (1992-present). See Chapter 11: THE PRINTED PAGE, "Books Written or Compiled by Deaf Canadians ( <i>Langue des Signes Québécois-1</i> )."

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>JOSEPH WILLIAM GERARD SERGE GARIÉPY</b> b. Dec. 20, 1949 (from Montréal)	Parochial and private schools in Montréal, Québec (prior to 1960); Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (ISM), Montréal (1960-1968).	First francophone deaf male resident of Québec to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf graduate of ISM (boys) to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1970-1975 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1976	Learned English at Mackay Center for Deaf Children in Montréal, Québec for one year (1969-1970). After leaving Gallaudet, he became a sub-teacher at his alma mater, the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets, for a few months in 1976. He later studied at Western Maryland College in Westminster (M.Ed., 1977-1978), and then went on to teach at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and the Blind in Talladega (1978-1979), Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe (1979-1984), Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1987-1989), and South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind in Spartanburg (1989-present). Married in May 1976 to a deaf American, the former Suzanne Denise Pifer.
<b>ANDRÉ LAURENT THIBEAULT</b> b. May 30, 1962 (from Québec City)	Co-ed kindergarten class at the Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes, Montréal, Québec (1967-1968); Institut des Sourds de Charlesbourg (ISC) near Québec City (1968-1977); Polyvalente de Charlesbourg (1977-1981); Ste-Foy College near Québec City (1981-1986).	One of the first two francophone deaf students to enrol in the English Language Institute at Gallaudet (in 1987) (shares this distinction with wife, Andrée Martine Gagnon, see below); first francophone deaf male student from the ISC to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male Québécois to graduate with a Master's degree from Gallaudet.	1988-1992 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1992  1992-1994 Degree: Master of Arts, 1994	Since 1994, he has worked at Gallaudet as a research assistant in the Gallaudet Research Institute's Culture and Communication Studies Program. Married in 1987 to Andrée Martine Gagnon, a francophone deaf woman from the province of Québec (see below). During Gallaudet's 1994 Commencement, he taught U.S. President Bill Clinton (who was the keynote speaker) the sign for "friend" in Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ).
<b>ANDRÉE MARTINE GAGNON</b> b. Jan. 21, 1961 (from Québec City)	Institution Catholique des Sourdes-Muettes, Montréal, Québec (co-ed kindergarten class [1965-1966]; elementary [1966-1969]); Institut des Sourds de Charlesbourg (ISC) near Québec City (1969-1977); Polyvalente de Charlesbourg (1977-1981); Ste-Foy College near Québec City (1981-1987).	One of the first two francophone deaf students to enrol in the English Language Institute at Gallaudet (in 1987) (shares this distinction with husband, André Laurent Thibeault, see above); first francophone deaf female student from ISC to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female Québécoise to graduate with a Master's degree from Gallaudet.	1988-1993 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1993  1993-1995 Degree: Master of Arts, 1995	Completed her Master's degree in August 1995 at Gallaudet. In 1987, she married André Laurent Thibeault, a francophone deaf man from the province of Québec (see above).

## Prince Edward Island

Deaf students living in Prince Edward Island have never had a residential school in their home province. They have always

had to attend local hearing schools or travel to other provinces (e.g., Nova Scotia) for their education.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>IRVIN STEWART MacDONALD</b> b. May 5, 1940 (from Montague)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1946-1957); Baddeck (N.S.) Rural High School (1957-1960).	First deaf male resident of Prince Edward Island to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1960-1964 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1964	Born and grew up in N.S., but by the time he entered Gallaudet, he was a resident of P.E.I. He has another degree from Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. (B.Ed., 1969). He recently retired from teaching at the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf (later Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority - Resource Centre for the Hearing-Impaired), Amherst, N.S. (1965-1994). He was married in 1968 to the former Donna Comeau, a hearing teacher of deaf children. The couple continues to live in Amherst.
<b>ETHELENE SADIE ELLEN MacEACHERN</b> b. Apr. 19, 1942 (from New Argyle)	One-room school-house in farming village of New Argyle, P.E.I.; Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, P.E.I. (1959-1962).	First deaf Prince Edward Islander to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female resident of Prince Edward Island to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1962-1966 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1966	After Gallaudet, received training as a medical technologist in the School of Medical Technology (1966-1967) at Franklin County Hospital, Greenfield, Mass. She married Barry Lee Copeland in August 1967, a 1951 graduate of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Philadelphia. The couple currently lives in Columbia, Md.

## New Brunswick

Although New Brunswick had three short-lived schools for deaf children (New Brunswick Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Saint John and Portland [1869-1890], the Fredericton Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and

Dumb [1882-1902], and the New Brunswick School for the Deaf in Lancaster [1903-1918]), most of its students have been educated in the two Nova Scotia schools (in Halifax, 1856-1961, and Amherst, 1961-1995).

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>PATRICIA ANNE STEWART</b> b. Apr. 20, 1939 (from Dalhousie)	Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1945-1955).	First deaf New Brunswicker to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf female resident of New Brunswick to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1955-1960 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1960	Was employed as a library cataloger at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton (1960-1982) -- she retired early due to blindness (Usher's Syndrome) -- and has since taken up gardening in a 9'x13' greenhouse attached to the back of her home. In July 1965, she married George Ian Brown (b. Aug. 6, 1934; d. May 5, 1995), a former student at the British Columbia School for the Deaf (later renamed Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf) in Vancouver, B.C. (1940-1948). Her husband was a staff photographer for <i>The Daily Gleaner</i> in Fredericton, N.B. (1960-1986).
<b>KATHERN BERNICE GELDART</b> b. Apr. 10, 1947 (from Moncton)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1953-1961); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1965); Edith Cavell School in Moncton, N.B. (1965-1966) and Moncton High School (1966-1967).	First deaf female New Brunswick former student at the Interprovincial School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1967-1972 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1972	Has earned two Master's degrees — one from Western Maryland College, Westminster (M.Ed., 1975), and one from Gallaudet (M.Sc., 1990). She currently teaches at the Alberta School for the Deaf, Edmonton (since 1975). She is married to George Ross Lawrence, who attended the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon (1948-1956) and the Alberta School for the Deaf (1956-1958).

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>DOUGLAS NORMAN CASEY</b> b. Jan. 20, 1950 (from Saint John)	Public schools in Saint John, N.B. prior to 1961 and after 1966; Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1966); Saint John Vocational School, a hearing high school (1969-1970).	First deaf male resident of New Brunswick to attend Gallaudet; first deaf male New Brunswick former student at the Interprovincial School to attend Gallaudet.	1970-1971 Degree: None	On Feb. 14, 1986, married Donna Elizabeth Anne Hamilton of Bible Hill, N.S. (near Truro), who was a student at the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst, N.S. (1963-1974). The couple currently lives in Porters Lake, N.S. (near Dartmouth), where he used his carpentry skills to build their unusual geodesic dome-shaped home.
<b>LYNNE RICE</b> b. July 23, 1950 (from Saint John)	Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1956-1957); Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Saskatoon (1957-1969); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1969-1970).	First deaf female New Brunswick graduate of the Interprovincial School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1970-1972; 1974-1977 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1977	Lived in Saint John, N.B. for two years (1969-1971). Her studies at Gallaudet were completed while she was a resident of Saskatchewan. In 1978, she returned to the Maritime provinces, and currently resides in Dartmouth, N.S.
<b>JEAN PAUL JOSEPH LeBLANC</b> b. Jan. 19, 1958 (from Petite Aldouane)	École Petite Aldouane (N.B.) Premier Étape (1964-1968); École Secondaire Deuxième Cycle (1968-1973) and École Secondaire Premier Cycle (1973-1974), both in Richibucto (N.B.); Atlantic Technical Vocational Centre (1974) and the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf (1974-1975), both in Amherst, N.S.	First deaf male Acadian resident of New Brunswick to attend Gallaudet; first deaf male New Brunswick graduate of the Interprovincial School to attend Gallaudet.	1975-1977; 1978 Degree: None	Took one semester in Marine Biology at Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. (1979 — was unable to continue due to the lack of proficient interpreters in the area). Moved to the following cities: Vancouver, B.C. (1979-1980), Edmonton, Alta. (1980-1994), and Victoria, B.C. (1994 to present). Once owned a trophy shop in Alberta. He is currently setting up a chicken farm on 19 acres of leased land in Finlayson Arms near Malahat in the Highland District (about 25 minutes from Victoria).
<b>PAUL DEREK HARVEY</b> b. Mar. 1, 1967 (from Quispamsis, near Rothesay)	Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, Montréal, Québec (1970-1984); Atlantic Provinces Resource Centre for the Hearing Handicapped, Amherst, N.S. (1984-1987).	First deaf male resident of New Brunswick to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male New Brunswick graduate of the Atlantic Provinces Resource Centre to graduate from Gallaudet.	1987-1993 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1993	Worked as a residential counsellor at the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority - Resource Centre for the Hearing-Impaired, Amherst, N.S. (1993-1994). Moved to Coquitlam, B.C. in August 1994. He is currently taking non-credit courses at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and plans to pursue a Master of Education degree at Western Maryland College in Westminster.



## Nova Scotia

Beginning in 1856, the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax (commonly known as the Halifax School for the Deaf since 1913) accepted students from the three Maritime provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island), and the British colony of Newfoundland (which

became a province in 1949). When the Halifax School closed in 1961, the students were transferred to the newly opened Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst, N.S.

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>MARVEN LeROY SPENCE</b> b. June 22, 1933; d. June 19, 1968 (from Springhill)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1944-1948); Springhill (N.S.) High School (1948-1951).	First deaf Nova Scotian to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male resident of Nova Scotia to attend and graduate from Gallaudet; the earliest known deaf male former student at the School for the Deaf in Halifax to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1951-1956 Degree: Bachelor of Science	See Chapter 5: SCHOOLS IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES, "Marven LeRoy Spence, Deaf Educator."
<b>NEIL JOSEPH DOUCETTE</b> b. Nov. 23, 1933 (from New Edinburgh)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1944-1949); high schools in Weymouth, N.S. (English/French courses) and Church Point, N.S. (French courses) (1949-1951 and 1951-1953 respectively).	First deaf Acadian resident of Nova Scotia to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1953-1957; 1958-1959 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1959	Taught at the Louisiana State School for the Deaf, Baton Rouge (1959-1974) and the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf (later Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority - Resource Centre for the Hearing-Impaired), Amherst, N.S. (1974-1994). He married the former Anna Mae Colligan, a hearing woman from Louisiana. Doucette is currently retired and lives in Amherst.
<b>RODA EMILY DOLA</b> b. Sept. 28, 1940 (from Halifax)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1948-1957); Halifax Ladies' College (now Armbrae Academy) (1957-1960).	First deaf female resident of Nova Scotia to attend Gallaudet; the earliest known deaf female former student at the School for the Deaf in Halifax to attend Gallaudet.	1960-1962 Degree: None	Originally from Fort Chimo, Labrador. She currently lives in Ottawa, where she was employed by the Federal Government as a librarian in the Department of Northern Affairs and Resources; also worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance (4 years); Travel Bureau; Taxation Revenue; and Statistics Canada (7 years).
<b>DONALD JAMES McCARTHY</b> b. June 8, 1951 (from Kemptown)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1958-1961); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1969).	First deaf male graduate of the Interprovincial School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1969-1974 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1974	Worked as a dormitory counsellor/substitute teacher at Crotched Mountains Center in Greenfield, N.H. (1974-1975); physical education teacher/coach at the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf, Vancouver, B.C. (1975-1989); executive director of the Canadian Deaf Sports Association (1989-1991); Host Family under Connect Society (formerly Association for the Hearing Handicapped), Edmonton, Alta. (1991-1994); and currently as part-time director of the Alberta Association of the Deaf in Edmonton. He married the former Jane Marie Studer from Ohio, who also is a graduate of Gallaudet (B.Sc., 1974). The couple has two deaf children, Roni and Jan.

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ELIZABETH DOULL</b> b. Nov. 2, 1949 (from Halifax)	Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass. (1954-1959); Cambridge Public School (1959-1963), Broadview Public School (1963-1965), and Nepean High School (1965-1966), all in Ottawa, Ont.; Halifax Ladies' College (now Armbrae Academy) in Halifax, N.S. (1966-1970).	First deaf female resident of Nova Scotia to graduate from Gallaudet.	1970-1974 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1974	Currently employed as an instructor in the Deaf Academic Upgrading/Literacy Program at Nova Scotia Community College, Halifax (since 1994). Prior to this, she had a long career as a teacher, ASL instructor, researcher, field worker, and project coordinator at various Halifax locations (e.g., Halifax City Continuing Education; Schwenker & Associates; Coordinating Council on Deafness of Nova Scotia; Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians). She received a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. (1987) and worked as a case manager, rehabilitation counsellor, and social worker. She has been a dedicated volunteer researcher of archival material related to the Maritime provinces for <i>Deaf Heritage in Canada</i> .
<b>IVA VAUGHN ARENBURG</b> b. Nov. 6, 1944 (from Halifax)	Jordan Falls (N.S.) Public School (prior to 1956); School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1956-1961); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1964).	One of the first two deaf female graduates of the Interprovincial School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Arlene Donna Burris, see below); first deaf female graduate of the Interprovincial School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1974-1979 Degree: Bachelor of Arts, 1974	Currently lives in Port Perry, Ont. with her hearing husband, Fred Walker (married in 1983). In the spring of 1981, they co-founded the Oshawa Deaf Centre (now Durham Deaf Services) in Oshawa, Ont. At the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf in Toronto, Ont., she worked as assistant to the vocational training director (1988-1989), and assistant to the seniors' department director (1989-1991). In May 1995, she began her duties as director of the vocational training department.
<b>ARLENE DONNA BURRIS</b> b. July 12, 1956 d. June 22, 1977 (from Tatamagouche)	Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1962-1974).	One of the first two deaf female graduates of the Interprovincial School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Iva Vaughn Arenburg, see above).	1974-1977 Degree: None	A lover of sports, was on the Canadian volleyball team that won a bronze medal at the 1973 World Summer Games for the Deaf in Malmo, Sweden. Her life ended as a result of a 1977 car-pedestrian accident in Halifax, N.S. The "Arlene Burris Memorial Bursary" was established (1) to further a deaf student's college education, and (2) to further studies by a hearing individual working with deaf people.

## Newfoundland

The first provincial school for Newfoundland's deaf students was opened in 1964 in St. John's. Prior to the opening of the Newfoundland School for the Deaf, students were custom-

arily sent to the province of Nova Scotia (Halifax, 1856-1961, and Amherst, 1961-1964) for their education. Some also attended school in Montréal, Québec (Mackay Institution, 1947-1964).

NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>MARION ROSA MOORE</b> b. Oct. 13, 1904; d. Aug. 16, 1983 (from Heart's Content)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1918-1929); Kendall School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C. (1929-1930).	First deaf Newfoundlander to attend Gallaudet; first deaf female resident of Newfoundland to attend Gallaudet.	1930-1933 Degree: None	Married Leander Mitton (d. 1988), a deaf instructor of carpentry and cabinet-making at the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec (1934-1946 and 1949-1954).

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NAME	SCHOOLS ATTENDED	DISTINCTION	YEARS AT GALLAUDET	OTHER INFORMATION
<b>ROBERT ERNEST ROCKWOOD</b> b. June 23, 1941 (from St. John's)	West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney (1947-1948); Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Mount Airy (1948-1950); St. Michael's School (hearing) (1953-1958), St. John's, Nfld.; Memorial University in St. John's (1958-1959).	First deaf Newfoundlander to graduate from Gallaudet; first deaf male resident of Newfoundland to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1960-1964; 1966-1967 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1960	Was born in Woody Point, Nfld. His hearing father was the first head of the Newfoundland School for the Deaf in St. John's (1964-1965). At present, he lives in Nepean, Ont. with his deaf wife, the former Edythe Mariene Caldwell (b. Nov. 7, 1938), native of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. and a graduate of the Ontario School for the Deaf, Belleville (1944-1958) and Gallaudet (B.Sc., 1959-1964). Since 1967, he has been employed as an economist for Statistics Canada in Ottawa, Ont.
<b>JUDY DAVINA CROCKER</b> b. Apr. 20, 1948 (from Georgetown Bay)	School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S. (1955-1958); Mackay Center for Deaf Children, Montréal, Québec (1958-1961); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1965); Newfoundland School for the Deaf, St. John's (1965-1968).	First deaf female resident of Newfoundland to graduate from Gallaudet; one of the first two deaf graduates of the Newfoundland School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Myles Murphy, see below); first deaf female graduate of the Newfoundland School to attend and graduate from Gallaudet.	1968-1973 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1973	Has taught at the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1973-1979), and the Newfoundland School for the Deaf, St. John's (1979-present). She married a hearing man, William Shea.
<b>MYLES KEITH MURPHY</b> b. Aug. 21, 1950 (from St. John's)	Mackay Center for Deaf Children, Montréal, Québec (1956-1961); Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf, Amherst, N.S. (1961-1965); Newfoundland School for the Deaf, St. John's (1965-1968).	One of the first two deaf graduates of the Newfoundland School to attend Gallaudet (shares this distinction with Judy Davina Crocker, see above); first deaf male graduate of the Newfoundland School to attend Gallaudet.	1968-1971 Degree: None	Currently works as office manager at the Newfoundland Coordinating Council on Deafness, St. John's (1982-present).
<b>PAUL WALLACE LeDREW</b> b. Oct. 23, 1964 (from St. John's)	Newfoundland School for the Deaf, St. John's (1970-1983).	First deaf male graduate of the Newfoundland School to graduate from Gallaudet.	1984-1990 Degree: Bachelor of Science, 1990	Has lived in the province of Ontario since June 1991, where he became an instructor in the Deaf Education Centre at George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology, Toronto. His late mother, the former Gwendolyn June Burry, went to the School for the Deaf, Halifax, N.S., and his late father, Wallace Phillip LeDrew, attended the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes, Montréal, Québec. See Chapter 20: SILENT NO LONGER, "Deaf Rights in Employment" for information on his deaf sister, Barbara Sophie LeDrew.

## Honourary Degrees

Gallaudet has conferred honorary Master of Arts degrees (M.A.) on the following Canadian individuals: (1) 1869: James Scott Hutton, hearing principal of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Halifax (1857-1878 and 1882-1891); (2) 1883: Edwin Allan Hodgson, formerly of Peterborough, Ont. and deaf founder of the National Association of Deaf-Mutes in the United States; (3) 1893: Robert Mathison, hearing superintendent of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1879-1906); (4) 1914: Sylvia Lee (née Chapin) Balis, a deaf teacher at the Belleville school (1890-1929); (5) 1934: Thomas Rodwell, hearing superintendent of the Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1923-1935); and (6) 1950: David Peikoff of Toronto, a long-time national deaf activist for deaf rights.

Five Canadians — two deaf and three hearing — have received honorary doctoral degrees from Gallaudet. By all accounts, the first was David Peikoff of Toronto, who was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree (LL.D.) in 1957. The same honorary degree was also awarded in 1989 to Clifton Francis Carbin of Vancouver, B.C. (then executive director of the Deaf Children's Society of British Columbia [1982-1991]). Receiving honorary Doctor of Letters degrees (Litt.D.) were: (1) 1960: the Hon. Senator Cairine Reay (née Mackay) Wilson (a hearing politician who made history when she became the first woman appointed to the Canadian Senate in February 1930); (2) 1965: Charles Elliott MacDonald (hearing son of deaf parents), who was superintendent of the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in Vancouver, B.C. (1935-1967); and (3) 1967: Joseph George Demeza, hearing superintendent of the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1953-1979).

## The Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies

The Powrie V. Doctor Chair of Deaf Studies (PVD Chair) was created in 1971 in memory of Dr. Powrie Vaux Doctor (b. Aug. 7, 1903; d. July 31, 1971), a former hearing member of the Gallaudet faculty (1928-1971) and assistant editor (1940-1947)/editor (1948-1968) of the *American Annals of the Deaf*. To date, there is only one Canadian among the 17 deaf and hearing people who have received this prestigious appointment — Clifton Francis Carbin (b. Jan. 5, 1946), a Gallaudet graduate (B.A., 1971; LL.D., 1989), also received his education at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1954-1966), and Western Maryland College (M.Ed., 1974). Carbin was the first recipient whose work concentrated on historical investigation.<sup>30</sup> During his one-year tenure in the PVD Chair (1990-1991), he continued his research on the book, *Deaf Heritage in Canada* (a project of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf), which you are now reading.

## Alumni Association

The Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) was founded on Kendall Green on June 27, 1889 during the Third Convention of the National Association of the Deaf. It was incor-

porated under the laws of the District of Columbia in 1908. As of December 1994, this association has 54 active and 11 inactive chapters, three of which are outside the United States — Alberta chapter, Canadian chapter (inactive), and Nippon chapter in Japan. In its history of elected officers, David Peikoff of Toronto, Ont. is the association's only deaf Canadian alumnus on record to hold official positions. He was 2nd vice-president for one term (1939-1942), 1st vice-president for two terms (1947-1950 and 1950-1953), and president for three terms (1954-1957, 1957-1960, and 1960-1963). When an Alumni Centennial Fund Drive was established at the 24th Triennial Reunion in 1960, Peikoff accepted the chairmanship (1961-1966). As a result, he left Canada in early January 1961 for Washington, D.C., where an office was established for him in Gallaudet's Hall Memorial Building. He called his fundraising campaign the "greatest cause on earth" and successfully raised over half a million dollars for three separate purposes — a graduate doctoral fellowship fund, a cultural fund, and an alumni house fund. Peikoff was also director of Gallaudet's Alumni Affairs (1961-1966).

*The Gallaudet Alumni Bulletin* (known as the "GAB" for short) was created to bridge the communication gap between Gallaudet and its alumni. Peikoff and his deaf friends volunteered to print the early issues of this bulletin in Toronto at no charge. The first edition rolled off the presses on May 1946 at the Northern Miner Press Limited, 122 Richmond Street West, the same company that provided free access on weekends to print the Ontario Association of the Deaf's *OAD News*. In 1954, publication of the alumni bulletin was moved to Kendall Green, and in 1966, its name was changed to the *Gallaudet Alumni Newsletter* (better known as the "GAN"). Peikoff served as editor for one year (1966-1967). In the fall of 1994, the GAN merged with *Gallaudet Today*, a quarterly magazine published by the university.

In 1949, on Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet Day (December 10), the first Canadian Chapter of the Gallaudet College Alumni Association was inaugurated in Toronto. Most of its members were scattered from coast to coast. Sixty-year-old Charlotte Helen (née Jameson) Bell (b. Oct. 22, 1889; d. Dec. 13, 1970) of Oshawa, Ont., a former student at the Manitoba Institution (1884-1904), Kendall School (1906-1907), and Gallaudet (1907-1909), became the first liaison officer between the chapter and the alumni office at Gallaudet. For the last two decades or so, this chapter has been inactive.

Charmaine Letourneau and Macklin Youngs, both members of the Gallaudet graduating class of 1970, inquired about the possibility of forming an alumni chapter in the province of Alberta as early as January 1971. However, it was not until September 1976 that the Alumni Association at Gallaudet approved the establishment of an Alberta Chapter. The following individuals were elected founding officers on October 4, 1976 (dates in parentheses indicate year of graduation from Gallaudet; "ex" indicates that the person left before graduating): Charmaine Cecile Letourneau ('70) as president; Carole Sue Bailey ('75) as vice-president; Wanda (née Vintinner) Warick (ex '79) as secretary; and Robin David Buckry ('74) as treasurer. Their liaison officer was Jo-Anne Marie Robinson ('72).

## The Polly Peikoff Service to Others Award

On October 23, 1986, the day before Gallaudet College became Gallaudet University, the alumni association announced the establishment of the “Polly Peikoff Service to Others Award.” This tribute honours Pauline (“Polly”) Pearl (née Nathanson) Peikoff (b. Sept. 17, 1913), a native of Canada who was educated at the Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg (1921-1930), Kendall School (1930-1931), and Gallaudet College (1931-1932 [Class of 1936]).

Known to people associated with Gallaudet as the “walking alumni encyclopedia,” she was employed in the alumni office for a total of 23 years (1963-1986). Included among her many roles were assistant to Jack R. Gannon (then director of the Alumni Relations and executive secretary of the association) and assistant to her husband, David Peikoff (then director of development).<sup>31</sup> Her involvement in Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA) reunions ensured that the events would run smoothly, and that everyone would feel welcome



“Polly” Peikoff (circa 1950s)

*The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives*

and comfortable. Even after retirement, she has continued to serve the alumni office as a volunteer on a regular basis.

As the saying goes, “behind every successful man is a woman,” and this is true of the Peikoff family. As the wife of a well-known political activist, her contribution to the Deaf community was often “behind the scenes,” supporting her husband in his activities in Canada and as president of Gallaudet’s alumni association (1954-1961). When the couple moved with their two hearing daughters to Washington, D.C. in 1961, she brought to the Gallaudet campus the same energy and quiet dedication she had devoted to the Canadian Deaf community. “Publicity-shy ... whose way of doing things has always been quietly, without fanfare,” Peikoff has been described as a woman with a “can-do” attitude who has quietly dedicated her life to “service to others.”<sup>32</sup>

## The Gallaudet Canadian Club

The Gallaudet Canadian Club was founded on October 18, 1967 with 50 members. The founding officers were Marilyn Jane Beal ('68) of Calgary, Alta., president; Clifton Francis Carbin ('71) of Espanola, Ont., vice-president; Charmaine Cecile Letourneau ('70) of Smith, Alta., secretary; and James LeRoy Kvarnberg ('70) of Warburg, Alta., treasurer. Dr. David Peikoff ('29) was the club’s first advisor. The Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) accepted the Canadian Club of Gallaudet as an affiliate on January 24, 1968. The Canadian Club was the sixth affiliate organization within the CAD. Letourneau was elected by its members to represent the club on the CAD board of directors. Today, this club still follows its original purposes at Gallaudet: “(1) To get acquainted with other Canadian students on the campus, (2) to broaden the interests of Gallaudet College by encouraging other deaf students in Canada to consider attending, and (3) to encourage all Canadian students to return to their country upon graduation from Gallaudet.”<sup>33</sup>

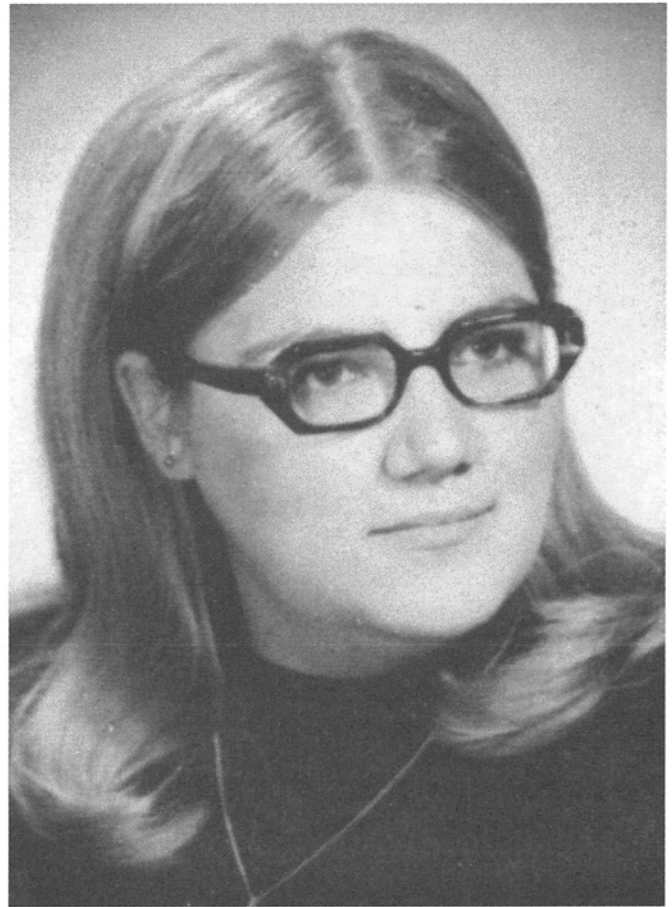
## Faculty and Staff

The earliest known Canadian to teach at Gallaudet College was a hearing man, Isaac Allison (b. 1871; d. Feb. 12, 1940) of Woodbridge, Ont. He went to high school in Port Perry, Ont. Allison taught on Kendall Green for 46 years (1894-1940). Gallaudet students describe his signing style as angular and jerky, but always animated and enthusiastic. He was the master of shop (1894-1911), an instructor of engineering (1904-1911), and departmental head of natural science and electrical engineering (1911-1940). Other Canadians to teach at the school include Edward Marshall Wick and Donald James Kidd, both deaf (their backgrounds can be found elsewhere in this book).



**Elizabeth A. Lister**

1955 *Tower Clock*/Gallaudet University Archives



**Charmaine C. Letourneau**

1970 *Tower Clock*/Photo reproduction credit: Burlington Camera Ltd. (Burlington, Ont.)

## Canadian Students' Involvement in Campus Activities

For many years, Canadian students have been an integral part of the Gallaudet University community in social activities, campus politics and publications, and sports. One of the four founders of the Delta Epsilon Sorority at Gallaudet was Elizabeth Ann Lister ('55) of Matane, Québec. This sorority was founded on April 24, 1953. Another women's group, originally known as the Chi Omega Psi Sorority, was founded on May 7, 1970 by two students, one of whom was Canada's Charmaine Cecile Letourneau ('70) of Smith, Alta. Starting with 15 charter members, Chi Omega Psi grew steadily. On October 24, 1987, it changed its name to the Delta Phi Epsilon International Sorority (first as a colony at Gallaudet and then, on May 4, 1988, as a full chapter member).

In addition to sorority life, Canadians were involved in politics and college publications as well. Two Canadians served as student body government presidents: Edward Marshall Wick ('62) of Brooklin, Ont. (1961-1962) and Patricia Anne Shores ('85) of Edmonton, Alta. (1983-1984). The university's year book, *The Tower Clock*, had three Canadian editors-in-chief: David George Mason ('63) of Edmonton, Alta. (1963), John Allen Hemingway ('76) of Hamilton, Ont. (2nd semester,

1976), and Nancy Jean Hart ('92) of Aurora, Ont. (1991). Two Canadians edited *The Buff and Blue*, the student newspaper: David Peikoff ('29) of Winnipeg, Man. (1928-1929) and Flora Agnes Clark ('58) of Shillington, Ont. (1956-1957). The 1974 publication of *The Gallaudet Almanac* was compiled by Peikoff and two Americans.

Canadian wrestler Joseph Pierre Alphonse Sevigny (b. Oct. 27, 1938) of Beaupré, Québec attended the college for six years (1955-1961; B.Sc., 1961). He trained with his fellow Gallaudet athletes in preparation for the August 1961 World Summer Games for the Deaf, held in Helsinki, Finland. Sevigny represented Canada at the games and won a silver and bronze medal.<sup>34</sup>

In the fall of 1966, a group of Canadian students formed an ice hockey club on the campus. The club joined the Washington Metropolitan Amateur Ice Hockey League (a member of the Potomac Ice Hockey Association). Comprised of Gallaudet students and some hearing amateur players from the local area, the team competed against other university and amateur teams within the Washington-Baltimore areas. Twelve members of the original team were Canadian. After they graduated, the ice hockey club became inactive until another group of Canadian students revived it in 1977 for a few years.



### Gallaudet's ice hockey team (1969)

1969 Tower Clock/Photo reproduction credit: Burlington Camera Ltd. (Burlington, Ont.)

**Front row** (left to right): Gerald Zimmer, Richard Colosimone, John Burton, David Carson, Bruce Ullett, Macklin Youngs

**Back row** (left to right): Aleksander Brill, Jr. (manager), Jerry Tolin (hearing), William Conley, Gerald Richardson, Joe Kirk (hearing), Clifton Carbin, William Gregory, Eugene Mio (hearing player/coach)

## The National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Gallaudet University is not the only major post-secondary institution for deaf students in the United States. In 1965, the U.S. Congress passed a bill that created the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). The idea for such a technical school dates back to the 1930s when Peter Niklas Peterson (b. June 20, 1868; d. Apr. 23, 1964), a deaf vocational instructor at the Minnesota School for the Deaf in Faribault, proposed such an institution in *The Vocational Teacher* journal.<sup>35</sup> NTID, the first technical college for deaf students in the world, is located on the campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology in

Rochester, N.Y. The bill that made NTID a reality (Public Law 89-36) was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Students attending NTID's program of studies can prepare for careers in accounting, data processing, applied art, photography, architectural drafting, and medical laboratory technology, to name a few of the more popular majors. Deaf students may also take classes within the Rochester Institute's other academic areas, such as the Schools of Business, Engineering, Graphic Arts and Photography, and Applied Sciences. Support services at the school include sign language and oral interpreters, tutors, manual and computer-assisted notetakers, assistive listening devices, and other technology that enable deaf students to more fully participate in classes with their hearing peers. NTID's first director was Dr. D. Robert Frisina (b. Feb. 14, 1925), who had previously served as dean of the graduate school at Gallaudet College. Frisina was director of NTID for 10 years (1967-1977), and was succeeded by Dr. William Eugene Castle (b. Sept. 5, 1929), who held the position until his retirement at the end of

### Four of the first Canadian students at NTID in 1990

Photo reprinted courtesy of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, N.Y.)

**Left to right:** Lynn Winklemairer, Tammy Vaters, Paula Knight, and Joanna Karp.



December 1994. Both Frisina and Castle are hearing educators.

NTID did not accept students from outside the United States until 1990. That fall, the first Canadian students (15 in number) arrived in Rochester to attend classes. One of these students, Emmett A. Hassen from Balzac, Alta., was awarded the first S. Richard Silverman Scholarship the next year. Hassen was studying applied art at the time.

## National Association of the Deaf

The United States' National Association of the Deaf (NAD) was founded in the summer of 1880 through the untiring efforts of a deaf Canadian citizen, Edwin Allan Hodgson (b. Feb. 28, 1854; d. Aug. 13, 1933), who had moved to New York City in 1876.<sup>36</sup> In the mid- to late-1800s, deaf Americans were becoming increasingly alarmed by conditions in their country. They felt that sign language, the employment of deaf teachers, and the existence of residential schools for deaf students were being threatened by hearing educators, parents, and influential individuals (such as Alexander Graham Bell) who supported oral education in residential schools. Members of the Deaf community discussed ways to protect their cultural interests and language rights, but they had no formal mechanism for expressing their concerns on a national level.

The *Deaf-Mutes' Journal (DMJ)* of June 26, 1879 published an editorial entitled "Shall We Have A National Deaf-Mutes Convention?" The article was written by Henry Clarkston Rider (b. Dec. 14, 1832; d. May 16, 1913), a graduate of the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (1846-1855) and later the founding superintendent (1884-1902) of the Northern New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Malone. Favourable responses to the article poured in to the *DMJ*, but very little action was taken until January 1880, when Hodgson (then a printing instructor at the New York Institution [1876-1928] and editor of the *DMJ* [1878-1931]), began to vigorously pursue the matter. Because of the interest aroused by his editorials, articles, and advertisements in the *DMJ*, Hodgson is credited with being the catalyst that led to the first National Convention of Deaf-Mutes in Cincinnati, Ohio (August 25-27, 1880). Most of the 250 to 300 deaf attendees from more than 29 states were "teachers, school founders, principals, businessmen, and other leaders holding various positions."<sup>37</sup> The convention objectives were "... to bring the deaf-mutes of the different sections of the United States in close contact and to deliberate on the needs of deaf-mutes as a class by themselves."<sup>38</sup> The meeting was chaired by 70-year-old Edmund M.

Booth (b. Aug. 24, 1810; d. Mar. 24, 1905) of Anamosa, Iowa, a graduate (1828-1832) and former teacher (1832-1839) at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (now the American School for the Deaf) in Hartford, Conn. Following a three-day exchange of ideas and opinions among the delegates, the National Association of Deaf-Mutes came into being. The term "mutes" was dropped in 1889. The NAD was incorporated in Washington, D.C. in 1900.

At first, Canadians were considered "associate members," and thus not allowed to vote or hold office in the organization. At the 13th Convention of the NAD in Detroit, Mich. (August 9-14, 1920), George William Reeves (b. Apr. 25, 1876; d. Sept. 12, 1953) of Toronto asked that deaf Canadians be admitted as full members of the association. A graduate of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1885-1894), Reeves pointed out that "we are deaf, we are all human beings, we should all work together (hand in hand and arm in arm) for the common good of all the deaf [in North America]."<sup>39</sup> It was not until the 21st Convention, held in Cleveland, Ohio (July 3-9, 1949), however, that the delegates unanimously voted to accept deaf Canadians as full members in the NAD. In the history of NAD, two deaf Canadians had been elected to its executive board. Edwin Allan Hodgson, formerly of Peterborough, Ont., was corresponding secretary (1880-1883), president (1883-1889), board member (1889-1893), and secretary (1893-1896). David Peikoff of Toronto was 1st vice-president (1955-1957) and 2nd vice-president (1952-1955 and 1957-1960). Peikoff was the first and so far only Canadian admitted to NAD's honourable order of the *Knights of the Flying Fingers* when it was established in 1957. Two Canadians were among the 28 deaf delegates at the 1957 Fulton (Mo.) Conference on NAD Reorganization during the NAD's 24th Convention (July 21-27). The Ontario Association of the Deaf was represented by George Murray Brigham (OAD president, 1956-1958), and James Edward Atkinson (OAD director, 1956-1958), both of Ottawa. Donald Maxwell Simonds of Toronto, then OAD secretary (1956-1958), was the only Canadian observer present. The 28 delegates and 26 observers were dubbed "The Fulton Tontine" in 1974.

The NAD took over responsibility for *The Silent Worker* when it resumed publication in September 1948. This magazine was later renamed *The Deaf American* (September 1964 to Fall 1989). The organization also publishes a newspaper called *The NAD Broadcaster*, which began in June 1979, and *A Deaf American Monograph* (begun in 1990 and edited annually by Mervin D. Garretson) on subjects of concern to the Deaf community.

### Edwin Allan Hodgson, NAD Founder

Born in Manchester, England, four-year-old Edwin Allan Hodgson emigrated with his family from the British Isles to Peterborough, Ont. in 1858. He first attended a private school and later was a student at the

Peterborough Union Grammar School. He matriculated at a local college with the intention of becoming a lawyer. While there, he became fairly proficient in Latin, Greek, and French. In 1872, while visiting Toledo, Ohio, Hodgson was hospitalized following an attack of cerebro-spinal meningitis. He recovered, but was left com-

(Continued)



*Edwin Allan Hodgson ... cont'd*

**Hodgson in uniform at the New York Institution (1898)**

*Representative Deaf Persons/Gallaudet University Archives*

pletely deaf. A second misfortune struck the family that year — his father died, and Hodgson had to end his scholastic career to seek an immediate means of support. At the age of 18, he began studying the trade of typography and press work.

He was ashamed of his hearing loss and believed that he was the only deaf person in the world. Hodgson left Peterborough for the United States in 1876; he found employment as a printer in a New York City firm with a monthly salary of \$95. To his astonishment, he soon discovered that there was another deaf printer working for the same company, but in a different department. After meeting him, Hodgson felt that he had nothing in common with this deaf man, calling him “a different kind of animal.”<sup>40</sup> Later, however, he realized that his earlier ideas about deaf people and deafness were wrong. Hodgson visited the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City for the first time during the 1876-1877 school year. It was a surprise to him when he was hired to establish and assume control of the new printing department, as well

as to become the school's first printing instructor. He accepted the job, but planned on staying at the New York Institution for only one year before returning to Canada. In fact, Hodgson continued for a total of 52 years of faithful service (1876-1928) until his retirement.

Although he once had held a low opinion of deaf people, Hodgson later completely reversed his stand and became a staunch supporter of the Deaf community. Most historians support the claim of George William Veditz (b. Aug. 13, 1861; d. Mar. 12, 1937), a deaf teacher at the Colorado School for the Deaf (1888-1905) and the seventh president of the NAD (1904-1910), that Hodgson was “the father and founder of the National Association of the Deaf.”<sup>41</sup> While Hodgson was a printing instructor at the New York Institution, he also served for 53 years (1878-1931) as the accomplished editor and publisher of the *Deaf-Mutes' Journal*, a very popular and widely read newspaper of its day. In it, he promoted the idea of establishing a national association for deaf persons.

Hodgson was elected as the second president of what was then known as the National Association of Deaf-Mutes (1883-1889). The organization sent him as a delegate to the 1888 World Congress of Deaf-Mutes in Paris, France. Hodgson attended nearly every convention and important meeting held by the American Deaf community. He

was also a vestryman at St. Ann's Church for the Deaf in New York City for more than 35 years, and served as a trustee of the Gallaudet Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Recognizing his many achievements, the National Deaf-Mute College (now Gallaudet University) in Washington, D.C. conferred upon Hodgson an honorary Master of Arts degree in 1883. Six years later, on June 26, 1889, Hodgson was back on the college campus as the “orator of the day” during the unveiling of the Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell statue, created by Daniel Chester French, an eminent hearing sculptor.

Hodgson was a visiting delegate at the Third Biennial Convention of the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association in Toronto (June 21-23, 1890). He came to pay his last respects to a long-time friend of his, Samuel Thomas Greene (b. June 11, 1843; d. Feb. 17, 1890), the co-founder of the association and first deaf teacher in the province of Ontario. Hodgson died in August 1933 of a cerebral hemorrhage while vacationing in Worcester, Mass. with his daughter and grandson.<sup>42</sup> ■

## Alexander Graham Bell

Admired (primarily by hearing people) as the inventor of the telephone, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell (b. Mar. 3, 1847; d. Aug. 2, 1922) is also remembered — at least by many deaf people — for his controversial views regarding education, sign language, and deaf intermarriages. He claimed to be a friend of deaf people, but his teachings and his attitudes helped perpetuate a negative image of the North American Deaf communities, where he is still considered by many to be “an enemy” of deaf people. Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, to Melville and Eliza (née Symonds) Bell. His earliest exposure to deafness was through his mother, who lost most of her hearing during childhood and used an ear trumpet to carry on conversations. His father was a pioneer of Visible Speech, a system (not originally designed for deaf people) that used written symbols to describe oral sounds. A.G. Bell’s first teaching experience with deaf children occurred on May 21, 1868 at a private school run by Susanna E. Hull in London, England. While working there, he discovered that his father’s method was useful in teaching four little deaf girls (age six to eight) to pronounce a number of words.

To avoid the fate of his two brothers, who had died from tuberculosis, Bell moved to Brantford, Ont. with his parents in 1870. In April of 1871, he entered the U.S. for the first time, travelling to Massachusetts to demonstrate his father’s teaching method at the Boston Day School for Deaf-Mutes, a public oral school founded in 1869 (renamed the Horace Mann School in 1877). His demonstrations were repeated in March and April of 1872 at the exclusively oral Clarke Institution for Deaf-Mutes in Northampton, Mass. and in May and June at the combined manual-oral American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Conn.<sup>43</sup> Ironically, Bell had acquired sufficient sign language skills by this time to sign to the American Asylum’s graduating class of 1872.<sup>44</sup> Bell then returned to Boston, the centre of financial and industrial commerce at that time. There he opened his own private school for deaf children (1872-1875), became professor of physiology and elocution at Boston University (1873-1877), and conducted telegraph experiments. The families of two of his deaf pupils — five-year-old George Thomas Sanders (b. circa 1867; d. Aug. 12, 1938) and 15-year-old Mabel Hubbard (b. Nov. 25, 1859; d. Jan. 3, 1923) — played roles in shaping his career.

In 1872, Thomas Sanders, a leather merchant of Salem, Mass., hired Bell to teach his young son to speak. Bell lived with the family for two years. Aware of Bell’s belief in the possibility of sending speech over a telegraph wire, Sanders provided him with a basement laboratory for his experiments, and in the early fall of 1874, offered to help finance Bell’s experiments in return for a share in patent rights. A similar offer was made by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a Cambridge lawyer and Mabel’s father. Bell accepted both offers, and a corporate agreement called the Bell Patent Association was drawn up and signed on February 27, 1875. Bell patented his telephone invention in 1876 when he was 29 years of age. The Bell Telephone Company came into existence on July 9, 1877. Two days later, Bell married Hubbard’s deaf daughter, Mabel.

Sanders was the treasurer of the new company and one of the four partners (with Hubbard, Bell, and Thomas A. Watson [Bell’s assistant]).

In the winter of 1878-1879, Bell moved to Washington, D.C., where he became friends with Edward Miner Gallaudet, the founding president of the National Deaf-Mute College. In 1880, the college conferred upon Bell an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) degree.

Thanks to the telephone and some other inventions, Bell became financially independent and was able to devote much of his time to the cause of oral education and the establishment of day schools for deaf children. Two of his papers, *Upon the Formation of A Deaf Variety of the Human Race* (1883) and *Fallacies Concerning the Deaf* (1884), started an enduring philosophical split with his friend, Gallaudet. Bell argued that the intermarriages of deaf people should be “discouraged” to avoid a “deaf-mute race.” He was convinced that such marriages resulted in deaf children. He also recommended that sign language, deaf teachers, and hearing/deaf school segregation be eliminated. Bell believed that sign language separated deaf people from the rest of society, but speech skills would allow them to participate and appear “normal.” He wanted all deaf people to learn to speak.

*You may ask why it is that with my high appreciation of this language [sign or “gesture-language” as Bell calls it], as a language, I should advocate its entire abolition in our institutions for the deaf.*

*I admit all that has been urged by experienced teachers concerning the ease with which a deaf child acquires this language, and its perfect adaptability for the purpose of developing his mind; but after all it is not the language of the millions of people among whom his lot in life is cast. It is to them a foreign tongue, and the more he becomes habituated to its use the more he becomes a stranger in his own country.<sup>45</sup>*

E.M. Gallaudet, a strong ally of the combined oral-manual method, disagreed with Bell’s theories. The education of deaf students in North America became a battleground between the oralists and manualists, a controversy that has persisted for more than 100 years. Bell presented lectures and published his arguments, papers, and treatises in his efforts to promote oralism in North America and abroad. In 1890, together with a number of prominent oral teachers in schools with deaf students, he founded the American Association for Promoting the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf (renamed the Volta Speech Association for the Deaf in 1948, and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf in 1953). In 1895, using funds from his 1880 Volta Prize for the invention of the telephone, he had a neo-classic yellow-brick and sandstone library constructed on the corner of 35th and Q Streets in northwest Washington, D.C. This building, which Bell named the Volta Bureau, continues to serve as the Association’s headquarters and as one of the world’s leading information centres on deafness.

Bell’s death on August 2, 1922 at his summer home in

“Beinn Bhreagh” (“Beautiful Mountain”), near Baddeck, N.S., marked the passing of a world legend. Inventor, scientist, and teacher, Bell once wrote, “recognition of my work for and interest in the education of the deaf has always been more pleasing to me than even recognition of my work with the telephone.”<sup>46</sup> However, his emphasis on the oral method to the exclusion of sign language in the educational system remains unforgiven by most members of Canadian and American Deaf communities.

## The Volta Bureau

The Volta Bureau grew out of Bell’s efforts to trace occurrences of deafness through genealogical records. As he collected more and more written information, he hired John Hitz (who had previously been the Swiss consul to the United States in Washington, D.C.) to catalogue the records and serve as librarian. The collection was renamed the “Volta Bureau” in the late 1880s, and Hitz became the library’s first superintendent. In 1889, the Bureau began publishing a journal originally called the *Association Review* (renamed the *Volta Review* in 1910). In 1895, the massive collection was moved from Bell’s home to the new building in northwest Washington. The American Association for Promoting the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, founded by Bell in 1890, was also housed there. Over the years, the Volta Bureau published a number of works on deafness, among them some of the writings of Dr. Edward Allen Fay, editor of the *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb* and Gallaudet College professor (1865-1923), whose articles often contradicted Bell’s claim. In 1909, the association founded by Bell (now known as the Alexander Graham Bell Association) took over the Bureau. Today, the Volta Bureau is one of the leading centres for information on deafness.

## A Deaf Variety of the Human Race

Bell’s 1883 paper, *Upon the Formation of a Deaf Variety of the Human Race*, sparked a ferocious debate on whether deaf persons should marry each other. Many people, both on the North American continent and abroad, questioned Bell’s theory that the intermarriage among deaf persons would create a “deaf-mute race.” Bell was not the first person to speak out on the subject of deaf offspring produced by intermarriage among deaf persons, however. In 1847, the Rev. William Wilcott Turner, an 1819 Yale graduate and educator at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, published an article in the *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb*, one paragraph of which was briefly devoted to the dangerous spread of hereditary deafness. Twenty-one years later at the First Conference of Principals of American Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb (May 12-16, 1868), he presented a paper entitled *Hereditary Deafness*. In it, he reported statistics on the likelihood of congenitally deaf couples producing deaf offspring. Turner raised the question of whether or not these marriages should be discouraged.

By the 1880s, Bell, too, had become concerned with what appeared to be an increasing incidence of deafness. Seeing no medical cure in the near future, he became deeply interested in

studying the “hereditary tendency to transmit deafness,” hoping to discover a means of preventing the conception of more deaf children.<sup>47</sup> He examined the official records from six of the larger state institutions for deaf students (in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Texas) and believed he had discovered a pattern of deaf children born into families with deaf parents. One of his tabulations, for example, showed that in a total enrollment of 5,823 pupils in those six institutions, 1,719 pupils (29.5 percent) had deaf relatives. He also wrote “... of the 2,262 congenital deaf-mutes, more than one-half — or 54.5 percent — had deaf-mute relatives...”<sup>48</sup>

Bell’s findings were originally released when he presented a paper, entitled *Upon the Formation of A Deaf Variety of the Human Race*, at the National Academy of Sciences in New Haven, Conn. (November 12, 1883). He presented the same paper a year later at the Fifth Conference of Principals of American Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb in Faribault, Minn. (July 9-13, 1884). Based on his research, he concluded that the continued intermarriage of deaf to deaf individuals would become a calamity, both to their offspring and to the world in general.

Although he acknowledged that his data was far from complete, Bell was convinced that deaf births could be stopped by discouraging deaf adults from marrying each other and having children. The educational system of the day, he said, encouraged deaf persons to intermarry by providing an environment in which deaf people could meet and mingle. He quoted Turner who, in 1847, said: “... before the deaf and dumb were educated, comparatively few of them married.”<sup>49</sup> Bell added the comment, “... intermarriage (if it existed at all) was so rare as to be practically unknown.”<sup>50</sup> He then extended the blame for this intermarriage trend to include such other 19th-century phenomena as the growth of deaf clubs and associations of deaf people, the influence of deaf newspapers, and the increased use of sign language as a means of instruction, all of which Bell believed encouraged the formation and continuation of a “deaf variety” of mankind.

Shortly after Bell’s memoir was published in 1884, copies were delivered to members of the United States Congress, the superintendents and principals of Canadian and American institutions for deaf children, and other interested parties. A journalist from the Associated Press glanced hastily through a copy taken from the desk of a congressman. Believing that “it was a memorial praying for the adoption of laws to prevent deaf-mutes from marrying,” he telegraphed this news to other Associated Press stations throughout the country.<sup>51</sup> This resulted in front-page newspaper headlines that enraged and frightened the Deaf community. In a day or two, a corrected statement was issued, but it was printed in small type buried among other newspaper text and went unnoticed by most readers. Bell never advocated the enactment of laws prohibiting intermarriage, for reasons clearly stated in his memoir. Nevertheless, many deaf people continued to be alarmed by his ideas. They also reacted angrily to Bell’s suggestion of eliminating sign language, deaf teachers, and residential schools. Many school authorities, both hearing and deaf, questioned his theories, and many conducted their own investigations.

One Canadian figure who challenged Bell's theories was Robert Mathison (b. Jan. 9, 1843; d. July 30, 1924), hearing superintendent of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (1879-1906) in Belleville (then the largest Canadian residential school for deaf children). In 1888, Mathison reported that none of the 661 children who had attended his school had a deaf parent. Further, of those who had left and intermarried, none had produced deaf offspring. The *Toronto Globe*, in referring to Mathison's findings, stated that the intermarriage among deaf adults would not bring into the world children of a "deaf-mute race," and that deaf children usually come from "hearing and speaking" parents.<sup>52</sup> No doubt Mathison's school, like other Canadian and American institutions, did have an isolated number of deaf children of deaf parents. It is not known why they were not included in his statistics. Perhaps he felt the extremely small numbers were statistically insignificant, as did some of the other administrators who disputed Bell's findings. For example, Dr. Phillip Goode Gillett (b. Mar. 24, 1832; d. Oct. 2, 1901), superintendent of the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb at Jacksonville (1856-1893), reported that only two percent of the 1,886 students and alumni at his school had deaf parents. Another administrator stated that of 119 students attending his school, only two were the children of deaf parents. Canadian organizations for deaf people also scoffed at Bell's claims. On September 21, 1904, at a meeting of the New Brunswick Deaf-Mutes Association in Saint John, Frederick James Titus Boal (president of the organization) presented a paper entitled "Will Deaf Marriages Result in Deaf Offspring?" Boal reported on the 14 deaf couples in the province of New Brunswick, none of whom had deaf children.<sup>53</sup>

In 1898, Dr. Edward Allen Fay (b. Nov. 23, 1843; d. July 14, 1923) attempted to calm the fears of deaf people and put an end to the emotional debate with his 528-page document, *Marriages of the Deaf in America*. Published by the Volta Bureau, his treatise represented one of the most extensive studies on the subject of intermarriage ever conducted. Fay, a hearing man, was editor of the *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb* (1870-1920) and a professor at Gallaudet College for 58 years (1865-1923).<sup>54</sup> In his 1898 document, he analyzed the marriages of 4,471 deaf people between 1801 and 1894 in Canada and the U.S. Only 8.67 percent of the children born to two deaf parents were found to be deaf themselves, a much lower percentage than Bell claimed. Despite this evidence to the contrary, a few people still believe Bell's theory that intermarriage between deaf individuals produce deaf children.

## National Fraternal Society of the Deaf

The National Fraternal Society of the Deaf evolved from an organization founded by a group of hearing men. In the last decade of the 19th century, the Coming Men of America, a fraternal order for young men in their teens, began to emerge on the national scene in the United States. Its purpose was to "inspire high principles of patriotism, honor, and manhood."<sup>55</sup> Some 4,500 small lodges from coast to coast affiliated with this

organization, and when it folded in 1907, membership exceeded 100,000. This innovative movement penetrated the Michigan School for the Deaf at Flint in the 1890s, where some of the older boys organized McKinley Lodge No. 922 of the Coming Men of America. A frequent topic of discussion at their meetings was the difficulty these young men and other deaf people faced when trying to purchase insurance. In those days, insurance companies (mistakenly) considered deaf people to be high-risk, accident-prone individuals with shorter lifespans than hearing people.<sup>56</sup> Deaf applicants were often denied coverage, and those who were insured were discriminated against by having to pay a higher-than-average premium. Such practices were understandably of great concern to the Deaf community.

During the school's 1898 alumni reunion, 13 deaf members of McKinley Lodge No. 922 were commissioned to study the possibility of organizing low-cost insurance protection for deaf people. Peter Nicholas Hellers, Jr. (b. Jan. 9, 1879; d. Feb. 19, 1951), a native of Detroit and a 1897 graduate of the Michigan School, was elected chairman of this research group. He was asked to report back their findings at the next reunion. During its alumni meeting in 1901, members of McKinley Lodge met in the Honor Cottage on the Michigan School campus. Those present considered and adopted plans for the formation of what became the Fraternal Society of the Deaf (the forerunner of today's National Fraternal Society of the Deaf). The founding date was June 14, 1901. Heller was elected first grand president



1924 NFSD Division Charter — Toronto No. 98  
Courtesy of Roger P. McAuley (Scarborough, Ont.)

(1901-1903) and was issued Certificate No. 1. Two months later, on August 12, 1901, this fraternal society was incorporated under the Not-for-Profit Act of Illinois by the Secretary of State. Active enrolment of members, which was then limited to deaf male adults, began the following month. The Society's initial focus was on providing burial benefits to its members.

The first few years of the Society's existence were a struggle. Many of its pioneer officers had little or no experience in the insurance business. They worked out of their homes and received no compensation. Nevertheless, two years after its founding, the Fraternal Society of the Deaf held its first national convention in Chicago, Ill. Other conventions (now held every four years) have taken place in major cities throughout the U.S. and Canada. By 1905, the old Fraternal Society had approximately 200 members and eight divisions. On December 2, 1907, the Society was reorganized, renamed, and incorporated as the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (NFSD). It was classified as a fraternal beneficiary society under the laws of the State of Illinois. That same year, the membership jumped to 800, assets reached \$6,000, and the Society hired its first full-time salaried officer.

The National Fraternal Society's bi-monthly newsmagazine, *The Frat*, was first issued to members in June of 1902. Subscription cost at that time was 50 cents per year or five cents per copy. The magazine suspended publication in 1907, but the NFSD maintained columns in other magazines, notably *The Silent Worker*. Publication of *The Frat* began again in August 1911 and has continued to this day. News about Canadian "fraters" is included in this magazine.

For many years, membership in the NFSD was limited to deaf males. It was not until 1937 that deaf women were permitted to form social auxiliaries, but they still had no voice in the management of the Society's affairs. Finally, on January 2, 1951, they were admitted for regular insurance membership. The first all-female division was established in Danville, Ky. and was awarded Certificate No. 130 on July 1, 1952. Insurance coverage for deaf children began in 1963. Coverage for hearing children whose deaf parents were members of the National Fraternal Society began in 1967. The first agents training program was introduced in Chicago in 1968.

In the early days of the NFSD, Canadian members had no divisions of their own, and paid their dues to various divisions across the border, chiefly in the state of New York. On March 1, 1924, the first Canadian division of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf came into existence when a charter was granted to 30 initiates in Toronto, Ont. John Tyler Shilton (b. Aug. 28, 1884; d. Nov. 1, 1950) was elected president of the new Toronto Division No. 98. The month before, Shilton had emphasized that the "National Fraternal Society of the Deaf itself had gone to great trouble and expense to extend to the Deaf in Canada the hand of brotherhood, and to show their appreciation they should work together, pull together and put their shoulders to the wheels together to make the Society a real success in Canada."<sup>57</sup> At its 10th Triennial Convention (July 11-15, 1927) in Denver, Colo., Shilton had the honour of becoming the first Canadian elected to the Grand Division board, in the capacity of 4th vice-president (1927-1931). He



**George W. Reeves, Canada's first NFSD chief agent (1924-1927)** *The Frat/Gallaudet University Archives*

later attained the position of 2nd vice-president (1931-1943). With the establishment of a Canadian division of the NFSD came the country's first chief agent — George William Reeves (b. Apr. 25, 1876; d. Sept. 12, 1953) of Toronto.

Six new Canadian divisions of the NFSD were established between 1931 and 1945, two in Québec and four in Ontario. Those in Québec were Montréal No. 117 (founded July 24, 1934; suspended Jan. 31, 1938), and Montréal No. 118 (founded July 25, 1934). In 1931, about 15 anglophone Protestant and Hebrew deaf people in Montréal were called to the home of Julius Stern (b. Oct. 28, 1902; d. May 16, 1990), a graduate of the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1909-1925), to form a Montréal Division of the NFSD. This group was not formally chartered until July 25, 1934, however, when NFSD Grand President Arthur L. Roberts (1931-1957) presented it with Division Certificate No. 118. A day earlier, the all-French Catholic Division No. 117 of the same city was founded. Due to church restrictions, the all-French group disbanded on March 31, 1938, and most of its members soon joined Division No. 118. Thus, Montréal Division No. 118 became the first NFSD Division in North America to be bilingual. Antonio Chicoine (b. Dec. 17, 1899; d. Feb. 13, 1975), a deaf resident of Montréal, was chief agent for Québec (1934-1937). Joseph Gilles Guy LeBoeuf (b. June 8, 1933), a former student at the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (1940-1950), held that position from 1972 to 1994.

New divisions in Ontario included Hamilton No. 120 (found-



**Inauguration of Vancouver, B.C. Division No. 166, May 1979** *Courtesy of Jacques Y. Custeau (Richmond, B.C.)*

ed Sept. 12, 1938; disbanded Jan. 1, 1946); Kitchener No. 121 (founded Aug. 1, 1938; disbanded Jan. 1, 1953); Ottawa No. 122 (founded Aug. 1, 1938; disbanded Jan. 1, 1940); and East Toronto No. 123 (founded Oct. 1, 1938; disbanded Jan. 1, 1940). Hamilton Division No. 120 was formed in the Orange Hall on James Street. Its first officers, all deaf, were Norman L. Gleadow (president), J. Taylor (vice-president), C. Russell Manning (secretary), and M.J. Moreland (treasurer). After Ottawa Division No. 122 folded in 1940, that city was without an NFSD division for 31 years. Donald Maxwell Simonds (b. Jan. 24, 1915), a product of the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1922-1933), is credited with laying the groundwork that led to the creation of Ottawa's second NFSD chapter, Division No. 157. A charter was granted to its 22 founding members on March 20, 1971. Robert Henry McMullan (b. June 30, 1928), who attended the School for the Deaf in Halifax, N.S. (1935-1944), became the first president of the division. The other first officers were: vice-president Kenneth Joseph Searson (b. Oct. 14, 1936), a graduate of the Ontario School for the Deaf at Belleville (1942-1956); secretary Roda Emily (née Dola) Manuel (b. Sept. 28, 1940), who attended the School for the Deaf in Halifax, N.S. (1949-1957), the Halifax Ladies' College (1957-1960),<sup>58</sup> and Gallaudet College (1960-1962); and treasurer Hector Anthony MacLean (b. Dec. 18, 1944), an alumnus of the School for the Deaf in Halifax, N.S. (1952-1961) and the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst, N.S. (1961-1965).

Vancouver No. 166 became the West Coast's first NFSD division when it was chartered on May 5, 1979. The division's 40 charter members held an inaugural banquet and dance in St. Edmunds Parish Hall in North Vancouver, B.C. The first president was Jacques Yves Custeau (b. Sept. 24, 1940) of Richmond, B.C., who had attended the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (1948-1959) in Montréal, Québec. A long-time staunch "Frater," he had introduced the idea of forming a

division in the west. Diana (née Bain) Dewar (b. June 23, 1932), a graduate of the British Columbia School for the Deaf in Vancouver (1939-1950), was chief agent for British Columbia (1979-1985). Custeau took over Dewar's position in 1986.

David Peikoff served as 2nd vice-president of the Grand Division of the NFSD from 1943-1947. He was Canada's chief agent for only a year (1959-1960) before moving to Washington D.C. In 1971, the Grand Division elected Roger Patrick McAuley (b. Mar. 11, 1926; d. May 28, 1988) of Toronto Division No. 98 to a newly created position as grand vice-president for Canada. Deafened at the age of 17, McAuley was of French-Irish descent and was bilingual in French and English. He served as Canada's chief agent for 27 years (1961-1988). George Washington Corbett (b. Oct. 22, 1913) of Toronto Division No. 98, a graduate of the Manitoba School for the Deaf (1925-1933), was McAuley's deputy chief agent for 16 years (1961-1977). He was followed by John Douglas Potts (b. Nov. 24, 1939), also a member of Toronto Division No. 98, who served from 1977 until November 1994. Potts is a product of the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1953-1958) and Gallaudet College (1958-1959).

Residents of Toronto were proud to have their city chosen as the first Canadian site to host a NFSD event — the 13th Quadrennial Convention of the Grand Division of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (July 10-15, 1939). Held at the Royal York Hotel, this large convention attracted some 3,000 delegates and visitors from all over the U.S. and Canada. It was masterminded by George W. Reeves, Canada's first chief agent and the convention's chairman. Forty years later, this national convention was held for the second time in Canada, at Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel (July 15-21, 1979). In 1969, the first National Fraternal Society workshop for the training of Canadian field representatives as agents was held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Toronto (November 8-9). In 1974, during the Golden Anniversary of Toronto Division No. 98, the



**Beauty contest held at the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, Toronto, Ont. as part of the 1939 NFSD convention**  
 Courtesy of Allison and Jessie Pye (Halifax, N.S.)

NFSD’s Grand Division board held its semi-annual meeting for the first time ever on Canadian soil (June 7, 1974) at the same Toronto hotel. That same year saw the culmination of a three-year fundraising effort to erect a fully equipped cabin on the grounds of the Ontario Camp of the Deaf in Parry Sound, Ont. The cabin was dedicated by the National Fraternal Society Grand President Frank B. Sullivan (1967-1984), and today is known as “The Frat Cabin.”

The National Fraternal Society of the Deaf has supported educational achievement for its members for many years. Each year since 1970, the Society has awarded a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond (increased to \$50 in 1980) to the outstanding boy and girl graduate of every American and Canadian school for deaf children who chooses to participate in the Society’s program. In 1973, the NFSD established cash scholarships to its members or to sons and daughters of its members. The first deaf Canadian recipient (in 1975) was Jo Anne Stump of Montréal Division No. 118, who at that time was pursuing her master’s degree in the Leadership Training Program at California State University, Northridge.

At the 22nd Quadrennial Convention of the Grand Division of the National Fraternal Society in New Orleans, La. (July 20-26, 1975), Toronto Division No. 98 received the 1974 Division of the Year award. In 1984, the four Canadian Divisions still in operation (Toronto No. 98, Montréal No. 118, Ottawa No. 157, and Vancouver No. 166) jointly donated

a beautiful plaque for the Home Office in Mount Prospect, Ill. The plaque’s purpose was two-fold. Called the Dr. Frank B. Sullivan Award, it honoured the retirement of the man who had dedicated 39 years of service to the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf. Secondly, it was to be used to enshrine the past and future winners of the Canadian Frater of the Year award. (In addition to receiving recognition as Canadian Frater of the Year, several deaf Canadians have also been inducted into the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf’s Hall of Fame since it was established in 1973.)

The National Fraternal Society of the Deaf continues to insure deaf Americans between birth and 60 years of age, as well as their relatives and others involved in the field of deafness, regardless of race, creed, or gender. Insurance currently in force exceeds approximately \$30 million, compared to the \$279.94 of insurance coverage for its 90 members in 1903. The Home Office is located at 1300 W. Northwest Highway in Mount Prospect, Ill. However, as of December 1994, the NFSD decided to pull out of Canada because of “the increasing cost of doing business there.”<sup>59</sup> Former Canadian divisions of the NFSD are still in operation but are now considered divisions of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America (CFU) of Pittsburgh, Pa., which has assumed the role of the NFSD in Canada.<sup>60</sup> Life insurance policies for Canadian members have remained in effect, but are now part of the CFU organization rather than the NFSD.

**National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, CANADIAN CHIEF AGENTS [As of December 1994]**

TERM	NAME	BIRTH/DEATH	AGE ONSET OF DEAFNESS	EDUCATION
1924-1927	George William Reeves Toronto, Ont.	Apr. 25, 1876/ Sept. 12, 1953	6 years old	Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1885-1894)
1927-1950	John Tyler Shilton <sup>1</sup> Toronto, Ont.	Aug. 28, 1884/ Nov. 1, 1950	Infancy	Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville (1891-1899); University of Toronto (1904-1909)
1950-1959	John Farmer Gotthelf Toronto, Ont.	Dec. 30, 1901/ Aug. 21, 1990	1-2 years old	Mississippi School for the Deaf, Jackson (1906-1918); Gallaudet College (1919-1921)

(Continued)

(Continued from previous page)

TERM	NAME	BIRTH/DEATH	AGE ONSET OF DEAFNESS	EDUCATION
1959-1960	David Peikoff <sup>2</sup> Toronto, Ont.	Mar. 21, 1900/ Jan. 28, 1995	5 years old	Manitoba School for the Deaf, Winnipeg (1906-1917) Gallaudet College (1924-1929)
1961-1988	Roger Patrick McAuley <sup>3</sup> Scarborough, Ont.	Mar. 11, 1926/ May 28, 1988	17 years old	Kenogami <sup>4</sup> Catholic High (1931- 1943); Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets, Montréal (1944)
1988-1994	Nanci Eileen (née Ayton) Hooey Agincourt, Ont.	Aug. 21, 1947	8 years old	Ontario School for the Deaf, Belleville (1961-1964); Gallaudet College (1964-1966)

<sup>1</sup> Fourth Grand Vice-President, 1927-1931; Second Grand Vice-President, 1931-1943    <sup>2</sup> Second Grand Vice-President, 1943-1947

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Grand Vice-President, 1971-1988    <sup>4</sup> Currently annexed by Jonquiere, Québec

### National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, HALL OF FAME [As of December 1994]

The Hall of Fame was established in 1973 to recognize members in the United States and Canada who have made exceptional contributions to their divisions and to the community in general. Their names are placed on an Honour Roll which hangs in The Arthur L. Roberts Memorial Library in the Society's Home Office in Mt. Prospect, Ill. Deaf Canadians inducted to the NFSD Hall of Fame include the following persons.

YEAR	NAME	DIVISION
1973	Silas Bowman Baskerville* David Peikoff* Joseph Nathan Rosnick* John Tyler Shilton* Noah Teitlebaum*	Toronto No. 98 Grand Officer Toronto No. 98 Grand Officer Montréal No. 118
1977	Roger Patrick McAuley*	Grand Officer
1981	Maureen Mitchell Donald	Vancouver No. 166
1992	John Douglas Potts	Toronto No. 98

\*Deceased

### National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, CANADIAN FRATER OF THE YEAR [As of December 1994]

This award was established in 1984 to recognize outstanding contributions made by a Canadian member to his/her division, the community and/or to the Society. Printed below are the names of winners currently listed on a plaque known as The Dr. Frank B. Sullivan Award. This plaque was donated to the Home Office by the Canadian divisions in 1986.

YEAR	NAME	DIVISION
1981	Ada Maureen (née MacDonald) Baskerville	Toronto No. 98
1982	John Cushing Ivay	Toronto No. 98
1985	Donald James McCarthy	Vancouver No. 166
1986	John Douglas Potts	Toronto No. 98
1987	Mary (née Wojcichowsky) Hargreaves	Vancouver No. 166
1988	Roger Patrick McAuley*	Toronto No. 98
1989	Lawrence Evan Grant	Vancouver No. 166
1990	Jacques Yves Custeau	Vancouver No. 166
1993	Hubert Louis Greene	Toronto No. 98

\*Deceased

## Summary

Trends and events that affected deaf people in the United States during the 1800s and 1900s had an impact on deaf people in Canada as well. Some of the 19th-century deaf Canadians who had studied in American schools returned home and became leaders in the Canadian Deaf community. A few of the hearing teachers who had been trained in these early institutions south of the border were influential in steering the direction of education for Canada's deaf children. And organizations

founded by deaf people in the United States often influenced the directions taken by Canadians, as they founded their own organizations. The next 19 chapters discuss in detail Canada's efforts to educate its deaf students in their homeland; the actions of these deaf students after they left school and began to establish themselves in occupations, organizations, families, and churches; and the interests, concerns, and accomplishments of individual deaf Canadians as they shape (and are shaped by) events in their everyday lives.



# Early Educational Efforts and Short-Lived Schools



**General school room at the Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (1898)**

*15th Annual Report of the Fredericton Institution/Gallaudet University Archives*

**E**ducation for deaf people in Canada began through the visionary efforts of a few individuals, some hearing and some deaf. As was pointed out years later, “It is no small task to do pioneer work of this kind, to break through the wall of public prejudice, and to demonstrate to be possible what most people believed to be impossible.”<sup>1</sup> The first school for deaf Canadians was established in 1831 in the province of Québec. Soon other provinces followed Québec’s example and set up their own schools (many of which stayed open only a few years). Interest in deaf education began to grow, and more families tried to enrol their children in the few existing schools. Unfortunately, they sometimes met with disappointment, because children who lived in the province where the school was located had priority for admission into the often overcrowded facilities.

Most of the earlier schools were established in the more populated eastern provinces. Over time, the population distribution changed, bringing new challenges for the education of Canadian citizens. By 1897, British Columbia and the North-West Territories (a huge area that included what is now Yukon Territory, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories) were described as being “on the eve of an unprecedented development; both of them possess potential wealth

almost beyond computation; to both there will flow during the coming years a steady stream of immigration; and now is the time to lay broad and deep foundations, such as will secure to every child a liberal education.”<sup>2</sup>

## Early Schools for the Deaf in Québec

The first Canadian school for the deaf was founded in the province of Québec, and opened on June 15, 1831.<sup>3</sup> Prior to this time, well-to-do Canadian families had no educational options for their deaf children except hiring private tutors or sending the deaf students to Europe or the United States for their schooling. The enrolment records at the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City, for example, showed that nine-year-old Mary McVey from Ile-Aux-Noix (near Montréal), Lower Canada (now Québec) was the first Canadian to be admitted in 1821.<sup>4</sup> The American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Conn. accepted its first Canadian pupil — seven-year-old Charles F. Langevin of Québec City — in 1828.<sup>5</sup> Deaf children

from families that could not afford to send them abroad usually received no formal education at all.

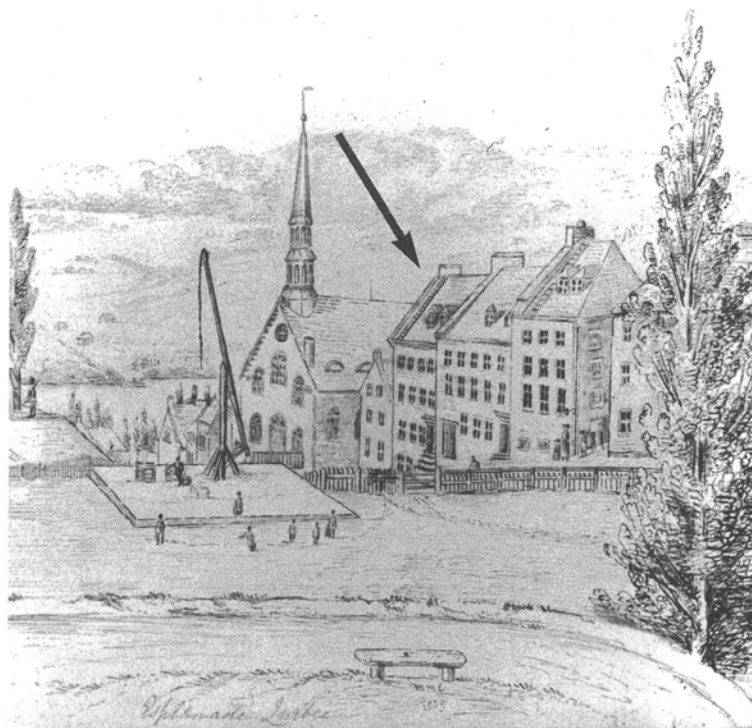
In late 1829, the Education Committee of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada decided that the province needed an institution for its “deaf and dumb” children. It was not until March 2, 1830, however, that a potential headmaster was found in Rivière-du-Loup-en-Haut (now Louiseville), Québec.<sup>6</sup> Ronald MacDonald, a hearing man then teaching in an Anglo-Catholic school for hearing boys, was asked if he would be willing to undertake the management of the proposed institution, after he received some training in the United States. MacDonald agreed to the proposal if several conditions could be met, including sufficient provision for his family during his absence and his appointment as principal of the new school when he returned. By March 26, his terms were accepted by the Education Committee, and he was given an initial sum of £300, a large amount of money in those days.<sup>7</sup>

In June 1830, MacDonald visited the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Philadelphia and the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. He then spent a year at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. While there, he was taught by Laurent Clerc, a famous deaf Frenchman who, with Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, had co-founded the first permanent school for the deaf in the United States in 1817.

## MacDonald’s School

On June 15, 1831, Ronald MacDonald opened Canada’s first school for deaf students at 39, rue d’Auteuil, a street on the Esplanade in the city of Québec.<sup>8</sup> The government paid Joseph Hamel, the owner of the house, a total of £72 per year in rent.<sup>9</sup> Ten students — seven boys and three girls, ranging in age from five to 26 — were in attendance the first year. Their names are unknown, except for one: 17-year-old Antoine Caron who later became MacDonald’s assistant teacher. (MacDonald also referred to Caron as the “monitor.” The use of this term would suggest that MacDonald was familiar with Monitorial education, a very disciplined and rule-oriented educational approach originated in England by Joseph Lancaster.) MacDonald advertised in local newspapers to attract more students to the new school. For example, in the March 31, 1832 edition of *Le Canadien*, he wrote a brief article to inform “parents and guardians of deaf-mute children, aged 10 years or more,” of a “grant offered by the legislature to a certain number of poor deaf-mutes” for educational expenses.<sup>10</sup>

By the second year (1832-1833), the school had moved to a neighbouring house owned by a Mr. Dasilva.<sup>11</sup> Rented for the same price as the first building, Dasilva’s house was more spacious and ideal for instructional purposes. In the ensuing months, MacDonald’s school ran into financial difficulties, but managed to remain open. The number of students increased to 17. The 10 boarders were Charles F. Langevin, Marie Dagneau, Mary MacBain, Marie Bureau, John MacBain, Olivier Gingras, and Leon Routier, all of Québec City; Antoine Caron of Rivière-du-Loup-en-Haut; Susanne Boisvert of Trois-Rivières; and Pierre Berthiquime of Montréal. The seven commuting stu-



First Canadian school for the deaf, located at 39, rue d’Auteuil, Québec City (building identified by arrow)

National Archives of Canada #C-838/M.M. Chaplin, 1839

dents were Catherine Connor, Jude Letarte, Henry Grant, James Paterson, Louis Morin, and Francois and Jean Lefève.<sup>12</sup>

MacDonald remarked that the boarders were progressing much more rapidly than the students who went home every evening. However, he was dissatisfied with the results of both groups. The school did not have enough books and supplies. Students were admitted at different times during the year, which caused some to miss important lessons. In an effort to resolve the latter problem, MacDonald refused admission to new students for a period of time. Another difficulty encountered by the school was the June 1832 cholera epidemic, which killed 3,800 people in Québec City and 4,000 in Montréal. Most of MacDonald’s students returned home and stayed there during the epidemic. Those who remained at the school were examined daily by a local physician, Dr. Séguin, who provided his services free of charge. Fortunately, none of them contracted the disease.

Apparently, the school moved again prior to November 1835, because by that date it was occupying a house on St. Henri Street owned by a Miss Gauvreau.<sup>13</sup> During the 1835-1836 school year, MacDonald again wrote to the Education Committee of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada asking for more funds to support his school. On March 8, 1836, the Québec government turned down his request. The legislature was faced with a proliferation of schools requesting funding, and decided that MacDonald’s school should become privately funded through tuitions.<sup>14</sup> Without the government’s financial support, MacDonald was forced to abandon his efforts; he permanently closed his school that year.

## Ronald MacDonald, School Founder

The history of Canada's first school for the deaf, which opened in 1831, would be incomplete without a biographical sketch of its hearing founder, Ronald MacDonald (b. Feb. [day unknown], 1797; d. Oct. 15, 1854). MacDonald was born in Priest Pond, Ile Saint-Jean (now Prince Edward Island) to Anglo-Catholic parents, John and Margaret (née MacKinnon) MacDonald. In October 1812, he was recruited into the priesthood by a local missionary, who sent him to a seminary for boys in the city of Québec, Lower Canada to further his education. It was there that he learned the French language. On October 5, 1817, MacDonald was accepted to study for the priesthood at the grand seminary of Québec. However, he soon renounced his theological studies.

By 1821, MacDonald had entered law school. He supported himself mostly through English/French translation work and by teaching at an English Catholic school in Saint-Roch, a suburb of Québec City. On April 16, 1822, while still a law student, he married Louise Lavallée. They had four children, but their three sons died at a very early age, leaving only a daughter. (Mother and daughter later died in a fire at Québec's Théâtre Saint-Louis on June 12, 1846.) Soon after marrying, MacDonald found that his income was insufficient to support a family. He decided to quit law school and work full-time as a teacher in Saint-Roch. He later moved to Rivière-du-Loup-en-Haut, where he taught young boys for three years (1826-1829).

On March 2, 1830, MacDonald agreed to consider opening a school for deaf children in the province of what was then

called Lower Canada. He left for the United States in early June 1830 to visit similar schools and to be trained by Laurent Clerc. He then returned to the city of Québec and opened Canada's first school for deaf students on June 15, 1831. Students from both anglophone and francophone families were admitted and were taught in whichever language was used in the home.<sup>15</sup> Because of financial difficulties, he terminated the operation of the school in late spring of 1836. Following the school's closing, MacDonald again taught hearing students for a while. Then he started working in the newspaper trade, first as editor for *The Québec Gazette* (1836), and then for the *Montréal Daily Transcript* (1836-1837). From April 10, 1837 to March 16, 1838, he was employed as a printer for the weekly publication, *La Populaire*. In early 1842, MacDonald was appointed editor-in-chief of *The Québec Gazette*, but left in November of that year to join *Le Canadien* (1842-1847) in a similar capacity. When the owner's sons took over the management of *Le Canadien*, MacDonald was asked to leave, and he returned to work for *The Québec Gazette* (1847-1849). Two years later, he was reinstated as editor of *Le Canadien*, when one of the sons became sole proprietor.<sup>16</sup> MacDonald died in October of 1854. He has been described as a great journalist, a good writer, a competent teacher, and a conscientious and honest man.<sup>17</sup>

## Collège Saint Hyacinthe

The second attempt to start an institution for deaf students in Canada was made by a hearing Catholic priest, Father Jean-Charles Prince (b. Feb. 3, 1804; d. May 5, 1860). In the fall of 1836, Prince, then superior of the Seminary Collège in Saint

## Canada's First Deaf Teacher

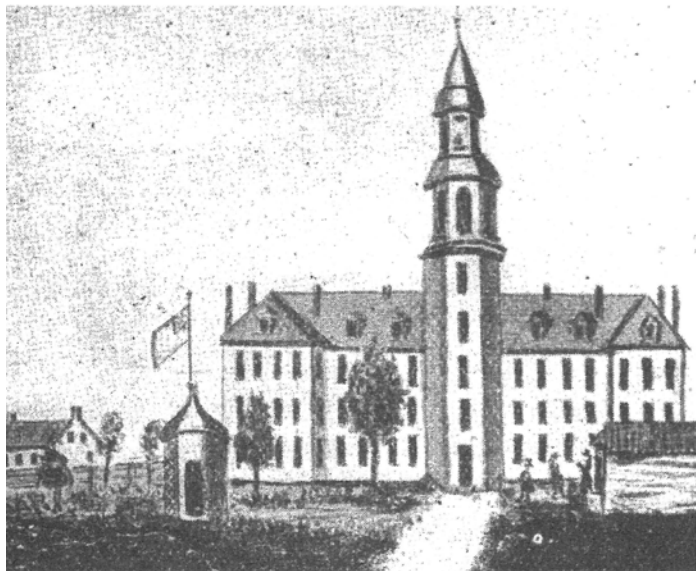
By all accounts, the first deaf person to teach deaf children in Canada was Antoine Caron (b. Nov. 6, 1813; d. May 11, 1847) of Rivière-du-Loup-en-Haut, Québec. His teaching career began around 1833. There is little documentation about Caron's background. For example, it is not known how, and at what age, he became deaf. Reports indicate that he was one of the original students to enrol when Canada's first school for the deaf opened in the city of Québec, Lower Canada, on June 15, 1831.<sup>18</sup> At that time, he was 17 years and seven months of age. Around 1833, Caron, who was described as a bright and quick student, became assistant teacher to the school's founder, Ronald MacDonald, a hearing Anglo-Catholic. Caron, whose native language was French, used both French and English to teach the younger children and those who were less gifted. He continued teaching there until the school closed in the late spring of 1836.

The Seminary Collège in Saint Hyacinthe, Québec, opened a small school for deaf children in the fall of 1836, and Caron was hired as its principal and tutor. An imposing figure — tall and thin and always dressed in a long brown robe — he taught reading and writing

through sign language. In his spare time, he was often seen walking or studying with another of the teachers, a Mr. Joseph Lamothe, who apparently was helping him in his private study of theology. Some people believe that Caron hoped to become a priest.<sup>19</sup> However, he never finished this private training because he found himself without a job at the end of 1839, when the school for deaf children in St. Hyacinthe closed due to lack of funds.

Caron left for the United States in 1840 with one of his students, a man named Gaumon, in search of better employment.<sup>20</sup> It is not known what happened to him during his absence from Canada. Some time around July 1844, his name reappeared on the Canadian scene, when a Québec City newspaper announced that Caron and Jules Letarte had won "a prize of eloquence."<sup>21</sup> That same year, Caron, by then a theological student at the Séminaire du Québec, was summoned by Father Charles-Iréné Lagorce, pastor of Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu Church (1844-1848) in Chambly, Québec, to teach religion to two deaf adults in his parish. In ill health, Caron returned home to Rivière-du-Loup-en-Haut, where he died in May of 1847, at the age of 33 years and six months. ■

Hyacinthe, Québec, started a self-contained class for deaf boys at his institution. He appointed Antoine Caron, a former deaf student taught by Ronald MacDonald, to serve as principal and tutor.



**Collège Saint Hyacinthe in Québec, site of Canada's second school for deaf students (May 1837)**

*L'Ami des Sourds-Muets/Gallaudet University Archives*

No official documents relating to the school's existence, the educational methods used there, or student enrolment have been found. However, some personal notes — written in different hands — still exist, and indicate that Prince wrote to the Québec government in 1837 for funding; received some annual newsletters from the Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets in Paris, France; and received a congratulatory letter from Abbé Holmes, a Parisian, who stated how wonderful it was for Prince to be “teaching the deaf to hear and the mutes to speak.”<sup>22</sup> One note, written by a Mr. Papineau (a former theological student of the Collège [1839-1840]), described the reactions of new deaf students in September 1839, who observed three older students of Caron's (Reeves, Gaumon, and an unidentified third pupil) signing and exchanging stories as they laughed with each other.<sup>23</sup> A final note relating to the September opening of the 1839-1840 school year described Prince's ceremonial speech, in which he made reference to a shortage of teachers for deaf children despite favourable conditions at the school. Several weeks later, the school was faced with financial difficulties — the students were not able to pay for their lodgings, and the school could not pay its teachers' salaries. Provincial and charitable funds were not forthcoming; as a result, the school permanently closed its doors at the end of December 1839.

## Sainte-Marie-Beauce

There was yet another venture to open a school for deaf children in Québec, this time in the mid-1880s in Ste.-Marie-Beauce. Documentation of its history is too cursory and poorly written to provide any substantive information, but the

*Reports of the Public Instruction of the Province of Québec* for 1885-1886 and 1888-1889 mentioned the school. Its name disappeared from the 1890-1891 and subsequent reports, and it is believed that the school ceased to exist during that time.<sup>24</sup>

## Early Education of Deaf Students in Nova Scotia

Francis Green (b. Aug. 21, 1742; d. Apr. 21, 1809), a resident of the province of Nova Scotia (“transplanted” from the United States), appears to be one of the first people in North America prior to 1800 to have made formal arrangements for the education of his deaf child. Before the beginning of the 19th century, Canada saw an influx of United Empire Loyalists, most of whom had been born or were living in American colonies and had supported Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). One such loyalist was Green, a hearing Bostonian by birth, who had received part of his education in Halifax, N.S. and who still held the commission of ensign with the Halifax 40th Regiment. As the Revolutionary War began, Green decided that life in Boston might be unpleasant for a supporter of England. He accompanied other British Loyalists to Halifax in March 1776, with his “three (motherless) infants and three servants.”<sup>25</sup> After New York City was captured by the British army the following spring, he left Halifax to make his home in New York. By the fall of 1780, Green and his children had departed for England.

One of his American-born children, Charles Green (b. 1772; d. Aug. 29, 1787), had been profoundly deaf since infancy. While his father and sister lived in London, England, young Green was sent to an institution for the deaf and dumb in Edinburgh, Scotland to be educated by the noted Thomas Braidwood (b. 1715; d. Oct. 24, 1806). This child became the fourth (and not the first as many have erroneously claimed) “educated deaf-mute” of North American birth.<sup>26</sup> Following two visits to the Braidwood Academy in May 1781 and September 1782, Green was so pleased with his son's progress that he later wrote and published a small treatise entitled *Vox Oculis Subjecta* (“Speech Conquered by the Eyes”) in 1783, one of the first (if not the first) documents on deafness written by a North American. His pamphlet included an account of Braidwood's school. With its publication, Green became known as one of the earliest advocates for the education of deaf children in North America. He later wrote articles on the subject which were published in Massachusetts newspapers.

In June 1784, a year after peace had been restored between Great Britain and the United States, the senior Green returned to Halifax. Charles remained abroad to complete his schooling. During his stay in Halifax (1784-1797), the elder Green served as high sheriff of the County of Halifax “to superintend the streets for the safety and protection of the people, for the town was crowded with soldiers, sailors from transports and men-of-war as well as refugees, and riots were frequent and there was no police force.”<sup>27</sup> On May 19, 1785, he married for the second time in St. Paul's (Canada's oldest Anglican church still standing, founded in 1749). In later years, Green was joint treasurer

of Nova Scotia (1793-1794), and in 1794 became justice of the Court of Pleas. After six years of instruction (1780-1786) in Edinburgh, Charles joined his father. A year later, at the age of 15, he drowned while hunting wild fowl from a small boat in Coal Harbour, near Halifax. "Had he lived, perhaps he, with the help of his father and friends, would have started a school for the deaf in Halifax."<sup>28</sup>

During the first half of the 19th century, no formal attempts were made to open any institutions for the education of deaf children in Nova Scotia (nor in the other two Maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, or in the British colony of Newfoundland — which did not become a Canadian province until 1949). However, records indicate that several deaf children from the Maritimes were sent to the United States and Scotland for their education during this time. For example, of the 13 deaf pupils from Canada registered at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford between 1817 (the year of its inception) and May 1851, seven were admitted from Nova Scotia (one each in 1839, 1841, and 1843, plus two each in 1844 and 1845). Three came from New Brunswick, one each in 1831, 1839, and 1842. One of the New Brunswick students died at the institution in 1846. Financial support for their education, according to the school's register, came primarily from "friends."<sup>29</sup>

The less wealthy Nova Scotians with deaf children often had to petition the provincial legislature for assistance to send their children away to school. One of the first petitions was submitted in 1844 by the father of James (also known as Archibald) Allison of Windsor, age 11, who had been attending the American Asylum since 1843.<sup>30</sup> Another petition that year was from James Stephens, who asked for money to send his son, Campbell Sutherland Stephens, to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Glasgow, Scotland. The boy was admitted to that institution as Pupil No. 301 on February 11, 1845.<sup>31</sup> On February 22, 1849, the elder Stephens again petitioned for funds to continue sending his son to the Scottish school. Several of the boy's letters were presented with this petition, as proof of the success of his education thus far. On January 30, 1852, Donald MacDonald petitioned on behalf of his son William (then 20 years old) for assistance to attend the Hartford school. The Stephens and Allison boys were each granted £20 annually by the government.<sup>32</sup> MacDonald received £25. Stephens later went on to become a newspaper publisher in Windsor and Canning, N.S.<sup>33</sup>

Soon other families began to make similar requests for educational funding. Most of the petitioners were poor or had large families to support. Often these people were illiterate; the petition would be written by another person, signed with an "X" by the petitioner, and witnessed by individuals who knew the petitioner. One father, who lived with his 12 children on Argyle Street in Halifax, won annual grants for the five who were deaf and were pursuing their education outside the province.<sup>34</sup> On January 10, 1856, Susan Kelly, a Halifax mother, submitted the following petition to "the Honourable, the House of Assembly in General Legislature Convened":

*The petition of Susan Kelly of Halifax, Widow, Humbly she-*

*with [sic] that your petitioner is a widow left with three young children, the youngest of whom is only five years of age. That her oldest child, Francis Kelly, is deaf and dumb and under twelve. That your petitioner is unable, of herself, to place her said deaf and dumb son in such an Asylum as will afford an opportunity for him to learn sufficiently to enable him to support himself hereafter. That in her afflicted and indigent situation, she applied to your Honourable House at the last session for assistance in placing him at such Asylum at which time a generous grant of twenty-five pounds was made by your Honourable House for such purpose and with such grant she has placed her said boy at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Worcester, Massachusetts where he had been now nearly a year, and she is informed he is making rapid progress in his education.<sup>35</sup> That your petitioner, while most grateful for the kindness thus shown to her, is once more compelled to ask aid of Your Honourable House to grant her a further sum of money so to enable her to keep her said boy at the said Asylum for another year at which time she thinks he will be fit to put to a trade. Your petitioner therefore prays Your Honourable House take her humber [sic] petition into consideration and to make her such grant of money as it may be thought her case may require. And your petitioner as duty bound will every pray, Susan Kelly (X - her mark)<sup>36</sup>*

Even though the mother (or the person writing the petition for her) may not have been correct in the name of the school her son was attending, apparently the Legislature granted her request for financial assistance, because on February 14, 1857, she submitted another one:

*To the Honourable, the House of Assembly in General Legislature convened. The Petition of Susan Kelly of the City of Halifax, Widow, Humbly Shewith [sic] that your petitioner is the mother of Francis Kelly, a Deaf and Dumb boy of thirteen years of age who is at present at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Hartford, Connecticut, United States. Your Petitioner applied to Your Honourable body during the last and previous sessions and obtained, through your kind considerations on each occasion, twenty five pounds to his maintenance in the above institution. The said, Francis Kelly, is making excellent progress in his education and is also learning the trade of a Tailor. And, your petitioner has no doubt that in two years more he will be so advanced in his studies and also in a knowledge of the trade he is learning as to be able in a great measure to support himself. Your petitioner is a poor widow with two other small children to support. And, she trusts that your Honourable Body will again extend the same assistance to this poor Deaf and Dumb boy as has been granted during the past two years. And, you petitioner as in duty bound, will ever pray. Susan Kelly (X - her mark) [witnessed by 17 signatures]<sup>37</sup>*

According to reports and petitions found to date, at least 13 deaf Nova Scotian children received financial assistance from the provincial legislature to be educated in the United States: William MacDonald, Edward Gully, William Sanford, and William Odber Barnaby of Digby; Francis Kelly of Halifax; Mary Jane Musgrave, Ellen Musgrave, and Charles Collins Morse of Bridgetown; James Allison of Windsor; Mrs. Mercy

Gorhan's daughter (name unknown); and Thomas Murphy's three children (names unknown). Other students from the province also attended schools in the United States and abroad, with their fees paid by their families or "friends." It was not until August 1856 that two deaf men from Scotland opened a small school for deaf children on Argyle Street in Halifax, which was taken over by the provincial government of Nova Scotia a year later. Its history is detailed in Chapter 5.

## Early Schools in New Brunswick

Scandal and mismanagement seemed to plague the first three educational establishments for deaf children in New Brunswick. The founder of the first accused the founder of the second with acts of malicious mischief; later, others would add charges of criminal misconduct. The third school was accused of being mismanaged.

### The New Brunswick Institution for the Deaf and Dumb: Saint John and Portland

The New Brunswick Institution for the Deaf and Dumb grew out of a one-room "Evening and Sunday School" for deaf adults, organized in 1873 in the city of Saint John by Alfred Henry Abell (b. Oct. 18, 1852; d. Unknown). Abell, who had become totally deaf from scarlet fever in January 1858, had been a student at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. for five years (1860-1865). In a letter dated February 11, 1874, Abell wrote that he "opened the School on the 6th of November [1873] in Room 12, third flat Ritchie's Building" on Princess Street.<sup>38</sup> By the next year, attendance included 11 adults in the evening school, six in the day school (four females between the ages of 10 and 15, plus two adult males who worked in a mill part of the year), and another five in the academic class held on Sundays (which was also attended by some of the day and evening students). Two other deaf students were being provided written instruction to use at home, and another four were "expected to be in some day."<sup>39</sup> Abell wrote several letters to the provincial government asking for financial assistance for his school. He stated that "it is my intention to introduce by some means into the Legislature an act entitled 'the St. John Deaf and Dumb Compulsory Educational Act' with the view of getting power over some parents of some mutes who are compelled to work for their parents ..." and were not permitted to go to school.<sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, he wanted to move to larger facilities and hire another teacher.<sup>41</sup> Abell also complained that the Ritchie's Building facility was unhealthy. "The privy arrangements in Ritchie's Building are of the worst description as to be very displeasing to all those concerned with the school. The water there is not proper nor can be considered healthy so we have to get that fluid daily from the street pumps."<sup>42</sup>

In late 1874, at the request of parents who did not want to send their deaf children to the Halifax school, Abell expanded

his "Evening and Sunday School" to include a boarding establishment for deaf children. This new institution, called the New Brunswick Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, opened in a building on Peter Street on November 1, 1874, with Abell as principal.<sup>43</sup> The school was funded by a small appropriation from the provincial government and by private donations that Abell solicited. The Peter Street site soon became too small, and the school relocated to a larger house at 21 St. James Street.<sup>44</sup>

In 1876, the evening school was discontinued, but the day and boarding school continued to grow. By the next year, the New Brunswick Institution was flourishing, with 52 pupils and a staff of two teachers. Unfortunately, on the 30th of June, 1877, the "Great Fire" destroyed much of the city of Saint John, including the school. A new site was later found on Beaconsfield Road in the Fifth Ward of the city of Portland, just outside Saint John.

Despite a lack of funds, the New Brunswick Institution reopened in September 1879, but with only four pupils.<sup>45</sup> One reason cited for the low enrolment was lack of public confidence in the school's founder. This was the result of a "discreditable quarrel with his wife, which was the occasion of proceedings in court" in 1878.<sup>46</sup> Abell and his first wife, the former Alberta Lowell Gardner of Moncton, N.B. (a hearing woman), were married on March 22, 1876. According to divorce proceedings instigated by Mrs. Abell in 1883, their marriage was sometimes harmonious but often violent. She claimed that her husband had beaten her on several occasions (once breaking her nose), after which she would leave him and return to her father's home in Moncton. Later, the couple would reconcile, and she would return until the next beating. The incident referred to above, which resulted in a court appearance, occurred after Mrs. Abell had left for her father's house the first time. She claimed that she had been apprehended on the highway by Abell and several other men hired to help him abduct her, was "forcibly dragged back to the house of said Alfred H. Abell ... was stripped of all her clothing except her chemise and drawers" (in the presence of several male witnesses who were students at the school), and was forced to remain in this condition until police officers arrived at the Abell home and arrested her husband.<sup>47</sup> Abell was convicted and fined \$50 plus court costs. However, his fines were waived for "good behaviour." Initially, the resulting publicity may have had adverse effects on his school, but soon the incident was forgotten and the enrolment began to rise again.

The September 22, 1882 issue of *The Daily Sun* of Saint John, N.B. published an article by Abell informing the readers of the Institution's newest location (which was on a rising knoll on Howe's Lake Road, two kilometres from the city). The three-story institution had 33 rooms, a student body of 22 pupils, and a five-person staff consisting of the principal, a matron, an assistant teacher, a cook, and a servant. He assured the readers that his wife, "a hearing and speaking woman," would "take great pleasure" in leading tours of the premises.<sup>48</sup> The article in *The Daily Sun* also mentioned that Abell had been "carrying on this work alone, unaided by the Legislature," but anticipated the receipt of a grant to help defray the cost of operating the school.<sup>49</sup>

By May of 1886, controversy openly erupted between Abell's New Brunswick Institution in Portland and another school for the deaf that had opened in 1882 in the city of Fredericton, just 103 kilometres away. Abell claimed that vandals had attempted several times to burn his institution. He blamed authorities at the Fredericton school for the arson attempts. Soon thereafter, Abell was shot in the neck but survived, and later two of his students were wounded in separate incidents. He blamed the Fredericton school for these troubles as well, and apparently vowed to take action. Three young men who were walking near the New Brunswick school were shot at, allegedly from someone inside the school.<sup>50</sup> Looking back on the incident some years later, an article printed in *The Globe* of Saint John, dated December 9, 1901, alleged that Abell had actually stationed some of his students

*as sentries in the woods, each man with a gun, and the unsuspecting stranger who wandered by stood an excellent chance of getting the top of his head shot off. There were several narrow escapes. One of the liveliest episodes in connection with this institution was when Capt. Rawlings, chief of the Portland police, stormed the deaf mutes' fortress under cover of darkness and after a brilliant sortie succeeded in capturing it and making prisoners of its gallant but misguided defenders.*<sup>51</sup>

Abell accused Albert Frederick Woodbridge, the founder of the rival school, of instigating the acts of aggression against the New Brunswick Institution. He believed that the goal was to close his school, so the pupils would be forced to transfer to Woodbridge's Fredericton Institution, which would in turn receive increased funding from the New Brunswick provincial government. The police investigated Abell's frequent complaints, but turned up no evidence that substantiated his claims.<sup>52</sup> Shortly after the New Brunswick Institution ended its 16-year operation in 1890, Abell moved to the United States. He and his second wife, a deaf woman named Charity Leeman (or Leaman), lived in a rented house at 56 N. Ashland in Worcester, Mass. until 1915, at which time their names disappeared from the city's directories.<sup>53</sup>

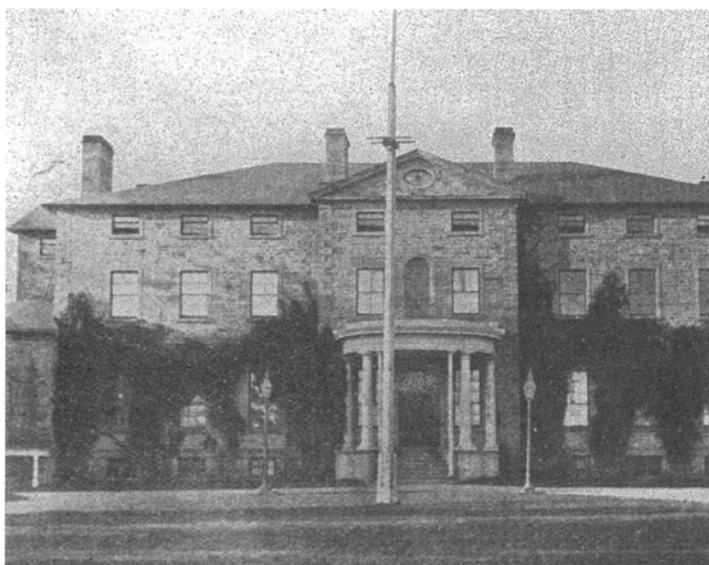
## The Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb

The province's second school for deaf children was the Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, which opened on September 1, 1882 in Fredericton, N.B. with an enrolment of six pupils. This school was established by Albert (also known as Alfred) Frederick Woodbridge (b. circa 1843; d. Oct. 15, 1921), a hearing immigrant from the British Isles who had been principal at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S., for four years (1878-1882).<sup>54</sup> From the moment of the new school's beginning, officials at the Halifax Institution and Alfred Henry Abell (the deaf principal at the New Brunswick Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Portland) expressed opposition to its existence. They felt there was no need for yet another school in the area. Woodbridge explained his rationale for establishing a second institution in

New Brunswick in his September 29, 1882 letter to the editor of *The Daily Sun* of Saint John: "From the past history of the St. John School, and the crowded state of the Halifax Institute, the necessity has become year by year more and more apparent for the establishing of a good Provincial Institute for the deaf and dumb of New Brunswick."<sup>55</sup>

In September 1882, the committee charged with finding a site for the school selected the Hawthorne Hill residence of Senator George Botsford (not far from the present-day site of the University of New Brunswick).<sup>56</sup> The building was leased and furnished to receive the school's first six deaf students. The method of instruction at the Fredericton Institution was a combination of the oral system and sign language. Two deaf teachers were known to be employed there. William Odber Barnaby (b. 1840; d. Unknown) of Digby, N.S., who was educated at the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Conn. (1855-1860) and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. (1860-1862), was the first deaf person to begin teaching there, around 1886. He resigned in the fall of 1889 to take a position in Boston.<sup>57</sup> Ernest Edwin Prince (b. May 2, 1872; d. Sept. 3, 1940), an alumnus of the school in Halifax (1878-1882) and the Fredericton Institution (1882-1888), taught at the latter for 14 years (1888-1902) and also worked after school hours as the supervisor of boys. There is also a report of a "Mr. Beal, deaf-mute assistant Supervisor of boys in the Institution at Fredericton, N.B.," but no further information has been found on him.<sup>58</sup>

From its beginning, the institution was plagued with misfortune. On March 25, 1883, a scant eight months after it opened, disaster struck this young school when it was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, none of the pupils was injured, and some of the furniture was saved. The 117-acre site, with its magnificent view of the Saint John River, was immediately secured by a \$500 investment, with the intention of erecting a



**The Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb (1898)**

*15th Annual Report of the Fredericton Institution/Gallaudet University Archives*

new school there when funds eventually became available.<sup>59</sup> Meanwhile, temporary quarters were found at an unoccupied residence called “The Uplands,” a few minutes’ walk from Hawthorne Hill.<sup>60</sup> In June 1886, Abell filed charges against Woodbridge, his hearing son (Norman), and a colleague, George Ernest Powers (a hearing nephew of Mrs. Woodbridge), claiming that the trio had tried to set fire to his school a month earlier. Abell’s claim was backed by several witnesses, but a government commission found no hard evidence to substantiate Abell’s claims, and the charges were dropped.

During the diphtheria epidemic of early September 1887, the male students at the Fredericton Institution were isolated in a cottage below the school’s orchard. Barnaby, one of the deaf teachers, became responsible for sending meals down to them three times daily and keeping them quarantined from the female students. Despite his efforts, pupils of both sexes eventually contracted the disease. The main school building was turned into a temporary hospital for six or seven weeks, with most of its furniture moved onto the playground to make room for beds.<sup>61</sup>

Construction on a new institution at the original site on Hawthorne Hill did not begin until the spring of 1889. In addition to the educational facility, barns and other outside buildings were also built. By September 1891, the new Fredericton Institution was ready to accommodate up to 60 pupils.

One of the new barns burned down in September 1894. Three years later, on September 13, the main school building was completely destroyed by “an incendiary fire” and was never rebuilt.<sup>62</sup> The Fredericton Institution then relocated to Government House, a large stone building at St. Ann’s Point, which it occupied for the remainder of its existence. The Institution’s misfortunes continued. On May 26, 1902, *The Daily Telegraph* of Saint John, N.B., with the support of James Harvey Brown (b. 1857; d. Mar. 14, 1929), a well-known Saint John tea merchant and hearing father of a deaf son, Chester Berry Brown (b. Aug. 18, 1883; d. Feb. 26, 1940), brought unspecified criminal charges against the Fredericton Institution before the attorney-general.<sup>63</sup> Woodbridge attempted to deflect Brown’s activities by sending the following letter to parents:

*The management desire [sic] to caution parents of the pupils attending the institution against a man named J. Harvey Brown, who has called on several of the parents and tried to injure the institution by spreading lying stories about it. Brown is a slanderer and a back-biter and his statements are a tissue of lies and without foundation. If he should call on you it would be well to show him the door at once, as several have already wisely done.*

*Signed: A.F. Woodbridge, Superintendent, June 19, 1902* <sup>64</sup>

The school closed at the end of its 1901-1902 term in June and never re-opened. A government inquiry to investigate the seriousness of Brown’s allegations began on July 2, 1902, headed by Commissioner J.H. Barry. The defendants were Woodbridge, his wife and sons (Norman and Howard), and George Ernest Powers, the school’s collector. The commission

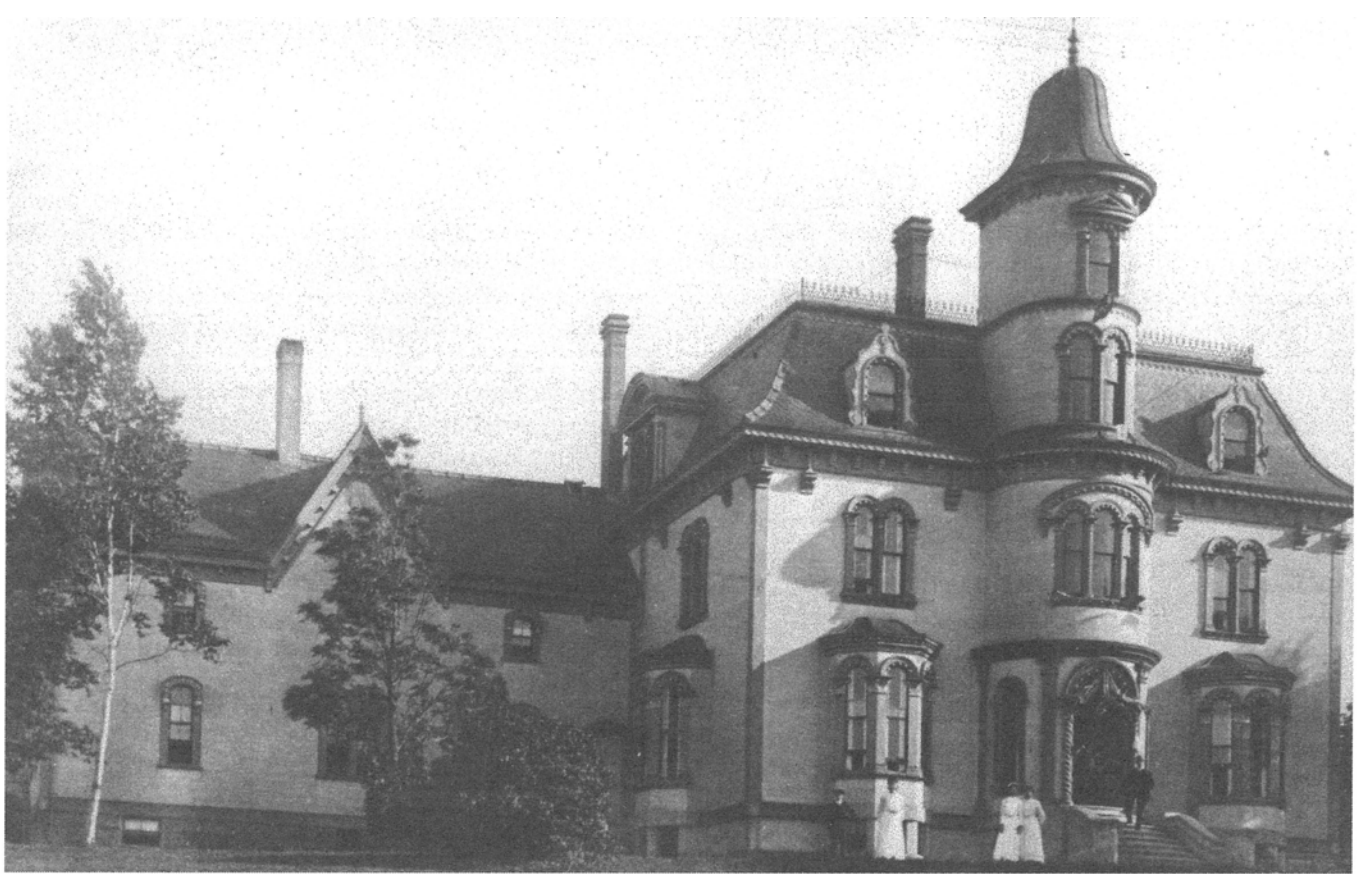
found enough evidence to bring charges, and a trial was held. *The Daily Telegraph* covered the trial, which revealed, among other things, the totally confusing condition of the financial records of the institution (the blame for this seemed to be shared by Woodbridge and Powers, as well as government officials responsible for inspecting the institution and auditing the books — neither task having been accomplished carefully nor on a regular basis). Some of the allegations as reported in the newspaper were based on hearsay and faulty memories. For example, under cross examination, one witness reported that he had only “a vague recollection of hearing of pupils running away from the institution ...” and of hearing “about the harsh treatment to the children in 1895.”<sup>65</sup>

When Woodbridge took the stand in his defense, he made statements that did not help his cause. He admitted that for years he had kept his personal money and that of the institution in the same account, rather than in separate accounts. Audits showed that during this time the institution’s financial records contained discrepancies that could not be resolved. Woodbridge said that in 1897 “the books were burnt,” and the figures for that year’s receipts came mostly from his memory.<sup>66</sup> Further testimony revealed that Woodbridge was paying taxes on his private property from institution funds. The reporter covering the trial remarked that “the witness [Woodbridge] had never received any instruction in bookkeeping, and did not seem to be adapted for that kind of work.”<sup>67</sup> (Ironically, in later testimony, Woodbridge revealed that “the pupils were taught ordinary book-keeping in the school” and that he “was the instructor.”)<sup>68</sup>

Another incident that was brought out during the trial pertained to a female student who had become ill at the institution and later died. There seemed to be some question as to the amount and quality of treatment she had received during her illness. It turned out that the witnesses against Powers and the four Woodbridges “all gave evidence showing that those charged had been guilty of gross immorality and misconduct with pupils at various times, and that many of the inmates were subjected to inhuman treatment by the matron, Mrs. Woodbridge.”<sup>69</sup> This conclusion seems to be based partly on the suspected treatment of the student who had died, and on observations that several students were being used as servants at the school.

On January 17, 1903, Woodbridge, his sons, and Powers were charged by the jury of the York Circuit Court “with criminal and immoral conduct.” Mrs. Woodbridge, the institution’s matron, was charged with cruelty to deaf pupils.<sup>70</sup> By the time warrants for their arrest were sent out, however, the Woodbridges had crossed the border into the United States, and Powers was in England on his honeymoon. It is not known if they ever returned or were ever arrested. There is a grave marker for the elder Woodbridge in a Fredericton cemetery, so it is possible that he did return some years later (although sometimes gravestones are erected for individuals whose bodies are buried elsewhere). The closing of the Fredericton Institution in June 1902 forced at least 20 deaf pupils from New Brunswick to enrol in the school in Halifax the next fall. At about the same time, a campaign began to establish a new school for deaf children in Lancaster, N.B.





**The New Brunswick School for the Deaf on Lancaster Heights, 1903-1918**

*Courtesy of Saint John Association of the Deaf (Saint John, N.B.)*

## The New Brunswick School for the Deaf, Lancaster

After scandal closed the Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in June 1902, the lack of a provincial school prompted James Harvey Brown (the same New Brunswick citizen who had previously pressed charges against the Fredericton Institution) to campaign for the establishment of the New Brunswick School for the Deaf at Lancaster (now a part of the city of Saint John). Brown, the “wealthy proprietor of the Atlantic Lithographing and Engraving Co.,” had personal knowledge of the educational needs of deaf children.<sup>71</sup> His son, Chester Berry Brown, had attended the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec (1890-1893) and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. (1893-1901). At about the same time that the elder Brown began lobbying for a school, the New Brunswick Legislature enacted a law “that every deaf child should be educated at the expense of the Province, and the sum of \$165 per capita was granted for this purpose.”<sup>72</sup> The law did not provide for the acquisition of buildings for a school, however.

In August 1903, the Jewett mansion, originally built as a private residence in 1869 and purchased in 1884 by the Baptist Educational Society, was sold to Brown and a group of wealthy individuals for \$90,000. Large enough to accommodate about 40 deaf pupils, this combined residential and educational building stood on some 15 acres of land on Lancaster Heights overlooking both the Saint John Harbour and the Reversing Falls at the mouth of the Saint John River.<sup>73</sup> Two months later, on the first of October 1903, the

New Brunswick School for the Deaf officially opened. The management of the school was placed in the hands of a board of directors, which operated under government supervision.

Ernest Edwin Prince, a former deaf pupil and teacher at the recently closed Fredericton Institution, was appointed to a teaching position at the New Brunswick School (1903-1906). Shortly afterwards, J.A. Weaver, a hearing man who had been trained in England and had taught at the Halifax Institution for some time, was hired as principal. He introduced the pure oral method and stopped the practice of hiring deaf teachers. Some parents and deaf people in the community were disappointed with this new approach to educating deaf children, but could do nothing to alter the educational method imposed by Weaver. By December 1903, only four of the province’s deaf pupils were attending the Halifax Institution; the rest were enrolled in the New Brunswick School in Lancaster.

Evidence of mismanagement began to appear in 1904. The principal and one teacher were dismissed. One report stated that “while the public at large have believed a Board of Directors to be behind the management, the institution is really as much a one man affair as was the Fredericton school.”<sup>74</sup> Another article in *The New Freeman* newspaper stated that “an institution so mismanaged, of course, deserves no public financial assistance and should receive none.”<sup>75</sup> By 1908, the New Brunswick School had fired its fifth principal in four and a half years. The school continued to receive negative publicity throughout its existence. For example, in a letter to the editor of *The Deaf Canadian* dated July 3, 1915, a former pupil criticized the wealthy owners of the New Brunswick School for the

lack of adequate fire-escapes. He pointed out that the building was situated on a high hill with a scarcity of water and some distance from a fire station, and could burn down in no time. He expressed the opinion that the money recently spent on painting the building would have been far better spent on fire safety, and urged the New Brunswick School to adopt a "Safety First, not Looks First" approach.<sup>76</sup>

Two other deaf teachers are known to have worked at the institution in addition to Prince — Jessie Skelly MacFarlane (b. Nov. 21, 1868; d. Nov. 23, 1952), a graduate of the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1877-1885), and Edith Mable Nelson (b. Sept. 26, 1890; d. Apr. 20, 1942), an American who attended schools for deaf students in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and California. MacFarlane taught in Lancaster for 12 years (1906-1918) and was reported to be especially good with beginners.<sup>77</sup> Nelson, who received both a B.A. (1914) and M.A. (1916) degree from Gallaudet College, worked at the New Brunswick School for only two years (1916-1918).<sup>78</sup>

The New Brunswick School closed its doors permanently in December 1918, partly because of a scandal concerning alleged sexual abuse of its pupils.<sup>79</sup> The historic wooden building was sold to the federal government and served as the site of Lancaster Military Hospital until it was demolished in the early 1950s. No other schools have been established in New Brunswick for its deaf children. Since early 1919, most of the deaf students from New Brunswick have been sent to the Halifax Institution or to its successor, the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority – Resource Centre for the Hearing Impaired in Amherst, N.S. (more commonly known as the Atlantic Provinces Resource Centre for the Hearing Handicapped [APRCHH]).

## The Rise of Deaf Education in Ontario

### Earliest Attempts

The earliest expression of concern for deaf people in Upper Canada (now Ontario) was documented shortly before the beginning of the 19th century. In 1793, an Act of the Upper Canada Legislature was passed to authorize town wardens to collect statistics "on certain characteristics of the population which were thought to be associated with dependency."<sup>80</sup> Although a count of the deaf citizens was included, educational facilities for deaf children were not taken into consideration at that time.

During the first half of the 1800s, it was common for well-to-do parents to send their deaf children south of the border for an education.<sup>81</sup> The Ohio Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Columbus had its first and only Canadian pupil admitted in 1848, 11-year-old John Sheriff of Chatham, Ont., who lost his hearing from a fever when he was five years old. He remained at the school for four years before becoming employed as a coach-painter. One of the 13 Canadian pupils attending the American Asylum for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Conn. between 1817 and 1851 came

from Upper Canada. James Mair of Lanark, Ont. was admitted in 1835 at the age of 12 and left the school five years later. Between 1818 and 1865, the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in New York City had 31 Canadian pupils, 19 of whom came from Upper Canada.<sup>82</sup> Annie Maria Perry of Cobourg, Ont., a pupil at the New York Institution for five years (1847-1852), was recruited in the fall of 1871 as the second deaf teacher at the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville.

On January 10, 1838, in response to a petition from about 300 residents of the Eastern District, a Select Committee of the Upper Canada Legislature was appointed "to take into consideration the propriety of establishing an Asylum within this Province for the care and instruction of Deaf and Dumb."<sup>83</sup> Very little was done about this until another petition from 107 residents of the same district was read in the Upper Canada House of Assembly on December 19, 1839. The second petition was first referred to a new Select Committee and then to another legislative committee, the Committee on the Whole on Supply. On January 21, 1840, a resolution of the second petition was made by the Upper Canada House of Assembly that "there be annually granted to Her Majesty the sum of six hundred pounds (£600) to enable Her Majesty to pay the like sum for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the Deaf and Dumb of this Province, by establishing Schools for their education, to be raised by assessment on the ratable [sic] property in several Districts of this Province."<sup>84</sup> At the same time, the Select Committee was ordered to draft a bill regarding this issue. After three readings of the bill (January 27, January 31, and February 4), the vote was as follows: YEAS, 14; NAYS, 28, and the bill was defeated. The proceedings of these meetings did not reveal the reason for this defeat.

A few years later, in keeping with a growing concern regarding social welfare and public education for all children (including those who were deaf and blind), more Canadians in Upper Canada became vocal about their desires for government-supported educational institutions. By this time, the economic situation for Upper Canada had stabilized sufficiently for people to turn their thoughts to making the country more industrialized and profitable. Education was seen as one way to reduce crime and dependency on the dole, and provide more citizens who could contribute to Canada's continuing growth.

### The First Two Institutions: Toronto and Hamilton

The credit for originating deaf education in Ontario belongs to John Barrett McGann (b. Dec. 25, 1810; d. Jan. 22, 1880). McGann, a hearing Irishman, who immigrated first to New York City in 1854 and obtained employment as a writing clerk at the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. He travelled to Toronto the following year, where he taught in the Toronto Grammar School. One day, while walking along a Toronto street, he stopped a young deaf boy from throwing a brick at a young girl. This chance encounter with a deaf child led McGann to wonder about the number of deaf children in the



**John Barrett McGann**

*The Deaf Mutes of  
Canada/Gallaudet University  
Archives*

area who were lacking an education. After making some inquiries, he discovered about 30 such children within the city limits. In the spring of 1858, McGann gathered together a group of prominent Toronto citizens to establish the Society for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and of the Blind.

This society founded the Upper Canada Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (also known unofficially as the Toronto Institution for the Deaf and Dumb).

McGann was appointed headmaster, and on June 22, 1858, he opened the first class in a spare room at the Phoebe Street School in the city. Four children were enrolled on the first day. Dr. Beverley Morris (hearing) served as superintendent of the school. By October, there were 19 pupils in attendance. A larger room was soon acquired in the Old Grammar School building on Jarvis Street. The principal of this school, Dr. Charles Howe, was the father of a deaf child (Charles James Howe [b. June 8, 1855; d. Aug. 6, 1895]) who eventually joined McGann's classes. He and his wife (Jane Hester Howe) were deeply interested in the education of deaf people and were instrumental in providing McGann with classroom space. McGann wrote that he "entertained a heartfelt gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Howe for their many acts of kindness to myself and pupils during the time we occupied the room in the old grammar school buildings."<sup>85</sup> Enrolment continued to grow, and about two years later, a new building had to be found to accommodate the school. On May 1, 1860, a former boys' boarding school with a large garden on Queen Street West became the home and the school for Ontario's deaf children. McGann took charge of the educational department. To raise funds for the institution and to arouse interest on behalf of deaf children, demonstrations of the pupils' work were shown throughout the province. That year, financial support came from various county councils and the Ontario Legislature. Admission fees for the day pupils were \$20 per year; parents of residential pupils paid \$140 per annum. Thirteen boarders and six day pupils were enrolled when the school opened at its new site. In September 1861, Superintendent Morris also admitted four blind students to the institution.

To be able to communicate better with deaf people, McGann took private sign language lessons from a deaf woman in Toronto. As he explained in his February 1, 1860 report,

*Miss Latham, an educated deaf-mute lady of this city, did render me valuable assistance in teaching me a more elegant system of sign-language than that which I had known. Indeed, I may in some measure attribute my success in having evoked so much public sympathy to the agency of the sign language.*<sup>86</sup>

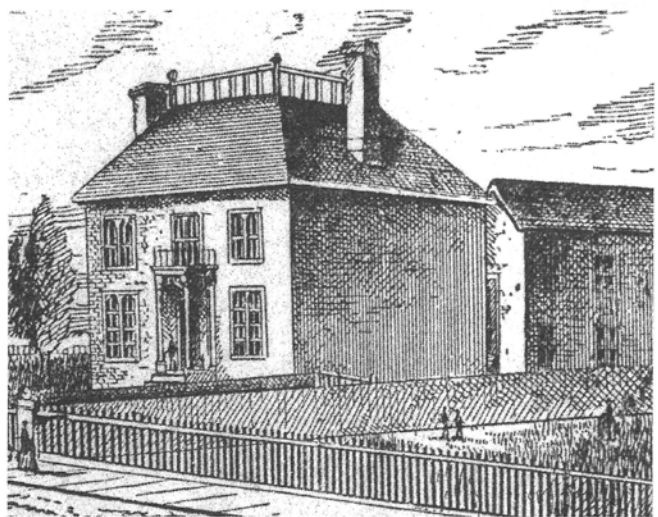
Interestingly, McGann did not advocate using sign language in the classroom, stating that his teachers ignored "intoto the nat-

ural and conventional sign language in the process of instruction."<sup>87</sup> Instead, he endorsed speechreading, fingerspelling, and the use of written English as the instructional techniques at his school.

He soon found it impossible to work in harmony with the superintendent, who, "anxious to make a large profit, supplied the boarders with food of the coarsest kind, ill cooked and on a limited scale."<sup>88</sup> So McGann resigned and opened a school of his own on Little Richmond Street, moving the students from the old school on Queen Street to the new one (which he continued to call the Upper Canada Institution). The county council eventually withdrew its support from the Queen Street facility, and transferred their grants to the Upper Canada Institution under the principalship of McGann. The Queen Street facility closed soon thereafter.

Assisted by two of his daughters (hearing) and with the confidence of the public, McGann soon had the school on Little Richmond Street on firm financial footing. When the number of pupils became too large, he rented an additional house on Brock Street to be used as a dormitory for the boys. Once again, the public school trustees granted McGann the use of a pleasant and spacious school room in the Phoebe Street School for classes. By the time school closed for summer vacation in 1864, the number of pupils had increased to 33, with another 30 applicants on a waiting list for admission.

Meanwhile, other concerned citizens of Upper Canada had been submitting petitions to the legislature for additional help. For example, between 1861 and 1864, a number of petitions calling for a permanent provincial "Institution of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Children of Canada" were read in the Upper Canada House of Assembly and the Legislative Council.<sup>89</sup> The only formal action taken was to provide an annual legislative grant-in-aid, ranging from \$950 to \$3,000, to McGann's school. In response to McGann's pleas for a permanent provincial institution, the Upper Canada House of Assembly appointed a Select Committee on March 7, 1864 "to enquire and report as



**The third location for the education of Ontario's deaf children was the Queen Street School in Toronto (the first site to use an entire building for classrooms and dormitories)**

*The Deaf Mutes of Canada/Gallaudet University Archives*

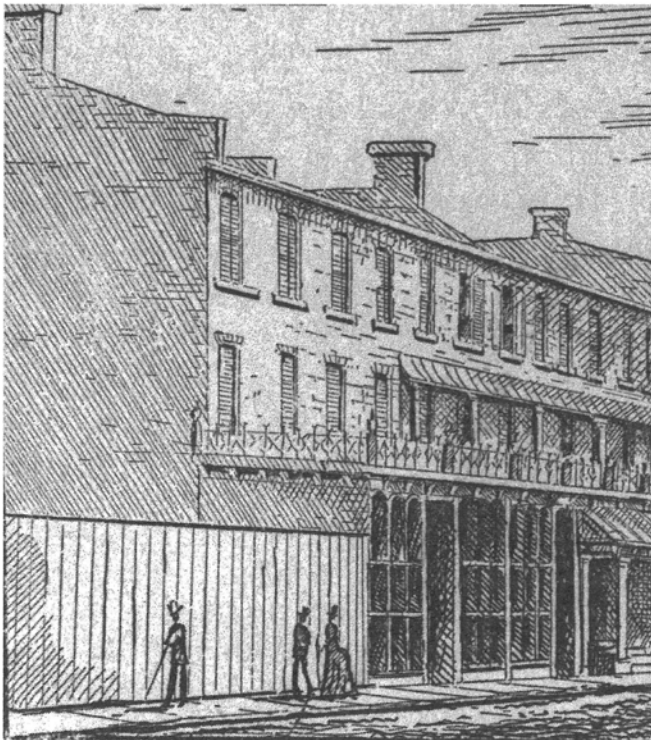
to the best mode of providing for the Instruction of Blind Persons and Deaf Mutes in this Province.”<sup>90</sup>

At the end of the summer of 1864, McGann’s school relocated to Hamilton, Ont. Renamed the Hamilton Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, it opened in the Florence Building on King Street, with 47 deaf children and two additional teachers (a few blind students also attended). The Florence Building was run down and in need of repair. Deaf boys were assigned to renovate and repair the premises as part of their training in painting, carpentry, and glazing. McGann reported that

*the boys have done in a workmanlike manner, one thousand, three hundred and eighty square yards of whitewashing, converted two thousand, eight hundred feet of lumber into a school-room, dining-room, kitchen and store-room furniture, made a new roof over kitchen, containing eighteen square yards; repaired and shingled roof over schoolroom, repaired 50 window sashes and 23 blinds, and put in 82 panes of glass. They have done the work for which contract was put in for \$600, the material of which cost but \$70.<sup>91</sup>*

A photograph of the students, taken in the fall of 1865, shows J.B. McGann “in his familiar dignified attitude, looking with pride on his pupils whom he loved so much.”<sup>92</sup> This photograph was taken “in an enclosed yard outside the new school, known as Florence Block, on King Street, and the photographer was Mr. John Milne. The photo was taken twice, first, as directed by the late Supt. Mr. McGann, the pupils looking straight at the camera; and secondly when told to do as they pleased, most of them were in the act of talking...”<sup>93</sup>

While in Hamilton, McGann wrote several impassioned let-



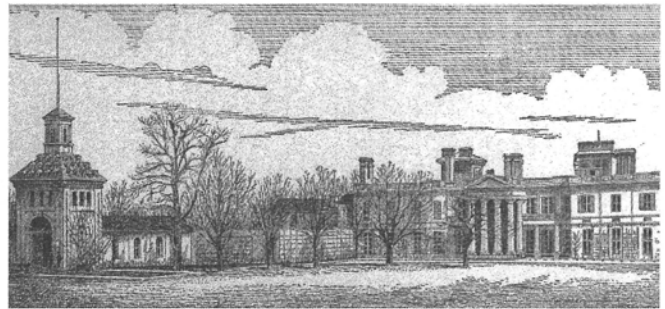
**Florence Block**

*The Deaf Mutes of Canada/Gallaudet University Archives*

ters to the Ontario Legislature, urging the politicians to undertake the support and care of a school for all of Ontario’s deaf children. His motivation was to provide deaf students with an opportunity for both knowledge and spiritual salvation. In his last appeal, he remarked that

*the mothers of 800 deaf mutes cry aloud to the Executive Government to give their children the means by which they may have the power of expressing their thoughts and feelings and thus enable them to share in the intellectual enjoyment common to all, and know ‘the length and breadth and depth of Christ’s love which passeth knowledge.’<sup>94</sup>*

Because of lack of space for additional pupils at the Florence Building facility, the Hamilton Institution moved in the summer of 1866 to Dundurn Castle, a palatial residence built by Sir Allan Napier MacNab, a pre-Confederation prime minister (1854-1856).<sup>95</sup> The huge facility with its ample



**Dundurn Castle once housed the Hamilton Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, 1866-1869**

*The Deaf Mutes of Canada/Gallaudet University Archives*

grounds, beautiful view, generous fruit gardens, and luxurious flowers was a paradise for the children. Because the building needed extensive repairs, it was rented to McGann with the understanding that it would be restored. The pupils did most of the repair work — apparently just in time for a visit by Prince Albert, who declared that Dundurn Castle was “an exact copy of the smallest of the Queen’s palaces in England.”<sup>96</sup> The maximum number of deaf pupils in attendance at any one time at Dundurn Castle was 81. Nineteen county councils contributed to the support of 53 of the pupils, with the fees for the others paid by their parents and friends. The total expenditure for 1866 was \$7,272. Financing the operations of the school was always a concern. The citizens of Ontario often balked at being taxed to support a school for deaf students. McGann had to remind them that their hearing children attended free schools that were funded in part by taxes paid by deaf people.<sup>97</sup>

In October 1866, the Rev. Dr. Egerton Adolphus Ryerson (b. Mar. 24, 1803; d. Feb. 18, 1882), a hearing Methodist minister and superintendent of education for Upper Canada (1844-1876), was directed by the provincial secretary to visit schools in America and Europe to study the methods they used to educate deaf and blind children. He visited as many institutions for deaf students as possible, and his report (completed in May 1868) contained recommendations for a provincial institution. He



**Deaf (and several blind) pupils and staff at the Hamilton Institution (Florence Block on King Street) (1865)**

*Courtesy of Dundurn Castle, Department of Culture and Recreation, City of Hamilton*

presented his report to the Upper Canada House of Assembly on November 19, 1868. Impressed by the information, the legislature appropriated \$85,000 for the construction and furnishing of a permanent institution for deaf students, with an annual grant of \$20,000 to \$25,000 for operating expenses. By April 1869, the city of Belleville, some 180 kilometres east of Toronto, was chosen as the permanent site for the new school. Work on the buildings commenced at once. Dundurn Castle was scheduled to be sold in the spring of 1869, so two adjacent houses on Main Street (Nos. 29 and 30) temporarily accommodated the Hamilton Institution until the construction of the new school at Belleville was completed. Limited space forced one class to be located in the Emerald Street residence of McGann's daughter and son-in-law (Euphemia and J.J.G. Terrill, one of the male teachers at the school). This house was known as "Earlham Cottage." It burned to the ground a year later, "through the ignorance and carelessness of a deaf-mute boy, who placed some hot ashes in a pail in the stable."<sup>98</sup>

The Hamilton Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb closed in the early summer of 1870, and the new provincial institution at Belleville was ready to receive staff and pupils in October of that year. Because of his age, McGann declined an offer to be its new superintendent. He preferred to continue as a classroom teacher, a position he held until 1878 when he retired. McGann died two years later. On November 1, 1882, the Deaf community of Ontario erected a stone monument over his grave in the Belleville Cemetery, in appreciation for his dedication to the province's deaf children.<sup>99</sup>

## Early Education of the Deaf in Newfoundland

The Island of Newfoundland became a self-governing British colony in 1855, but did not become a Canadian province until 1949. Isolated politically from the rest of Canada for nearly a century, Newfoundland did not always follow the trends seen in the other provinces. This can be seen in the history of its approach to the education of its deaf residents. In the period from 1845 to 1935, the census reported the following number of deaf Newfoundlanders (children and adults): 39 (1845), 111 (1857), 120 (1861), 102 (1884), 159 (deaf only, 1891), 136 (both "deaf and dumb," 1891), 308 (deaf only, 1901), 175 (both "deaf and dumb," 1901), 354 (1911), 339 (1921), and 649 (1935). In spite of these statistics, educational facilities for deaf children were not available on the island until 1964.

Being deaf on Newfoundland during the 1800s could have dire implications. According to newspaper reports of the day, parents were often ashamed of their deaf offspring, and either ignored them or sent them off to the country to work. Many people did not believe that these children could be educated. To awaken public sympathy, community leaders painted grim pictures of what lay ahead for the uneducated deaf person. For example, in the August 9, 1876 issue of the *Times & General Commercial Gazette*, a Newfoundland newspaper, a religious leader is quoted as saying that "without education, the deaf mute can mostly have no better prospect than that of neglect and destitution, of wasted faculties of a stunted moral and intel-

lectual growth, of a stagnant, profitless, joyless and hopeless existence."<sup>100</sup> In the years that followed, limited educational options for a few deaf Newfoundlanders became available in England or other countries, but over time each of these proved unreliable. The few foreign deaf schools that were at one point willing to take out-of-country children eventually filled up with their own students, and had to set limits on the number of Newfoundlanders they could accept.

James Scott Hutton, a hearing principal of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S., was among the first to express concern about the lack of educational opportunities for the deaf children of Newfoundland. Beginning in the late 1850s and continuing through the 1860s and 1870s, he repeatedly petitioned the colonial government of Newfoundland to require its inspectors of schools to report the names and ages of deaf children to him, so they might be sent to his school in Halifax. Churches of all denominations were asked to supply this information as well. Hutton offered free education if families could not cover the fees. On November 29, 1873, James Gardiner (sometimes spelled as "Gardner") of Trinity Bay (b. Nov. 29, 1856; d. Unknown) became the first deaf Newfoundlander to take advantage of the offer from the Halifax Institution.<sup>101</sup> Congenitally deaf, he was 17 years of age when he was admitted to the school as Pupil No. 161, and almost 24 years old when he completed his education in July of 1880.<sup>102</sup> In 1876, Gardiner received the "highest number of good marks in the school."<sup>103</sup>

Following an exchange of letters with local parishioners, the colonial government, and school authorities, Hutton finally visited Newfoundland for the first time in the summer of 1876. The steamer *George Cromwell* took him and two of his best deaf students from Halifax to St. John's, the capital city of Newfoundland. He wanted to awaken "an interest in the deaf mutes of that island, for whose welfare nothing had hitherto been done."<sup>104</sup> The trio visited towns and outposts such as Conception Bay to demonstrate the merits and advertise the availability of the Halifax Institution. At the town meetings, Hutton explained the school program, and his students demonstrated their writing, speaking, and signing abilities, as well as their general knowledge. The crowds were receptive to Hutton and his protégés. The tour ended with approximately \$550 in contributions and a new annual grant-in-aid of \$500 from the colonial government. Some deaf adults even expressed interest in what the school in Halifax could offer them. One 36-year-old deaf man, Archibald Pelly, told Hutton that he had never had an opportunity to learn to write, and asked whether it would still be possible. Hutton replied that he thought Pelly would be quite capable of learning, but, because he was an adult, he might find it difficult to be confined to a classroom with young children.<sup>105</sup>

Two deaf Newfoundland cousins, William John England (b. June 29, 1860; d. Unknown) and Hannah England (b. Feb. 28, 1859; d. May 7, 1877), both from St. John's, returned to Halifax with Hutton and his two model students. Unknown to anyone, Hannah was suffering from the early stages of tuberculosis. During the 1876-1877 school year, her disease progressively worsened, but when arrangements were made to send her

home, she refused to leave the Halifax Institution. When school officials realized that they probably would be able to give her better care than she would receive at home, they allowed her to stay. She died a month before the start of summer holidays in 1877.

By December 31, 1877, the Halifax Institution records indicate that five Newfoundland students were in attendance. These numbers remained somewhat constant for the next 25 years. Most of the students came from impoverished homes and were dependent upon the school for their tuition and upkeep. For almost 25 years after Hutton's 1876 tour, the colonial government maintained its yearly grant-in-aid of \$500 to the Halifax Institution. Near the turn of the century, however, the school petitioned for an increase in governmental support to help defray the costs of the large number of charity cases. In response, the grant-in-aid was raised to \$1,200 per annum. In the early 1900s, the number of deaf Newfoundlanders at the Halifax School for the Deaf (renamed in 1913) slowly increased. Fifteen students were accepted in 1914. The number of students coming from the three Maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island also continued to grow. By 1926, the Halifax School no longer had enough room to accommodate all of the out-of-province applicants. Those turned down for admission were put on waiting lists, sometimes for as long as two years.

The general economic collapse in Newfoundland in 1934 during the Great Depression further complicated the education of its deaf children. The colonial government abruptly ended its yearly grant-in-aid to the Halifax School, and the only children who continued there were those whose fees were paid by their well-to-do families or by charitable organizations. The 1942 school records show that four Newfoundland students were supported by the Newfoundland Department of Public Health and Welfare, two by the Newfoundland Kinsmen Club, and one by the Junior Red Cross of Newfoundland.

Compulsory education became mandatory in Newfoundland in 1943. However, finances were not available to send all of its deaf children to the Halifax School, and despite the number of children on the island, only eight more students were added to the Halifax rosters. These were chosen in a subjective, haphazard manner with the final selection depending on approval from the Newfoundland Kinsmen Club. The Newfoundland Department of Public Health and Welfare allotted an extra \$4,000 towards deaf education. By 1947, the facilities at the Halifax School were becoming very crowded, and a maximum of 20 slots were allocated for Newfoundland students. The Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec, accepted some of the overflow. Two years later, a total of 40 Newfoundland students were receiving an education — some at the Halifax School and some at the Mackay Institution.

The old, crowded Halifax School closed its doors to all Newfoundland students in 1958. Alternative arrangements were made to send up to 60 deaf children from Newfoundland to the Mackay Institution. All but five who applied were admitted. Two children were too young to attend, and three were turned down for medical reasons. However, by 1961, the Mackay Center for Deaf Children (renamed in 1960) found

itself unable to accept any more Newfoundland students as well. Fortunately, the new Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf at Amherst, N.S. (which opened following the close of the Halifax School in 1961), agreed to take 66 of the 71 Newfoundland applicants. The remaining five were put on a waiting list. Because the Interprovincial School had been built with funds mainly from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, school authorities maintained that deaf children from those provinces had first claim to its resources. These arrangements continued on a temporary basis for about three years while a decision to establish a school for deaf children in Newfoundland was being made.

The year 1964 heralded a new era in the history of deaf education in Newfoundland, exactly 15 years after it joined Canada as a province. With the opening of its own residential school for the deaf at Fort Pepperell near St. John's, the education of deaf Newfoundlanders was finally independent of the vagaries and charity of other provinces.

## Early Schools for Deaf Students in British Columbia

### British Columbia School for Deaf Mutes, Victoria

The first school for British Columbia's deaf children opened in Victoria, the province's capital, on September 12, 1888. Known as the British Columbia School for Deaf Mutes (and the Blind), it was located in comfortable quarters at 113 Chatham Street under the principalship of a hearing teacher of the deaf, John Imrie Ashcroft (b. June 21, 1858; d. Nov. 29, 1891).<sup>106</sup> Because of ill health, Ashcroft had been obliged to leave the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec, to seek the warmer climate of the Pacific coast. From February 1888 to July 1888, he taught in the deaf department at the Washington School for Defective Youth in Vancouver (renamed the Washington State School for the Deaf in 1906) before arriving in Victoria. When he became principal at the British Columbia School, his hearing sister travelled from Belleville, Ont. to assist him.<sup>107</sup> Four pupils were present on opening day. Attendance later increased to eight, including several from the state of Washington (then a United States territory). The building was divided into classrooms, dormitory space, dining room, and kitchen, and had a spacious playground outside.<sup>108</sup> Ashcroft's teaching methods included the use of sign language, plus written English and articulation based on what was called "Bell's Method."<sup>109</sup> It was hoped that once the school had won the support and sympathy of the public, a larger institution would be built within the city to include pupils from all areas of British Columbia. However, the provincial legislature failed to approve a February 1889 appeal for a grant-in-aid to the school, and it closed its doors permanently after only one year's existence.<sup>110</sup> Ashcroft returned to Montréal to marry, and he and his wife then became joint

superintendents of the Mackay Institution (1889-1891).

In 1894, nine years after the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed, deaf children from British Columbia began to attend the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg, some 2,230 kilometres away. However, there were only a limited number of spaces available at that school. This fact, plus the great travel distance involved, led a majority of British Columbia parents to keep their deaf children at home, where they received no formal education at all. By 1897, only three girls out of the province's 25 to 30 deaf children were being sent to Winnipeg by the provincial government of British Columbia at public expense.<sup>111</sup> By the turn of the century, parents of deaf children and friends of these families began once again to urge the legislature to erect a school for the province's deaf children. Unfortunately, their efforts were to no avail. Subsequently, they began writing to other Canadian schools for the deaf in the hope that their children would be accepted there. A resident of Bella Coola, B.C., for example, wrote a letter in the summer of 1897 to the superintendent of the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville. The letter reads:

*There is in this valley an eight year old boy who is deaf and dumb. As he is very bright and intelligent and his parents are anxious to send him to school, kindly let us know if you accept him at your Institution, and in case you cannot, then to give us a suggestion as to what we might do for him here at home.*<sup>112</sup>

Despite this appeal, the child was denied admission, either because of the lack of room or provincial restrictions on enrolment. Many other deaf children in British Columbia experienced a similar fate.

### Victoria School for the Deaf and Dumb

Ten years after the closing of Ashcroft's school, a second attempt was made to educate deaf children within British Columbia. On August 24, 1899, Miss Helen Willard Merritt, a hearing teacher who was visiting Victoria on a trip around the world, met John and Annie Campbell, the parents of Isabella (b. Nov. 14, 1890; d. May 17, 1969) and Jane (b. July 23, 1894; d. Nov. 10, 1964), "two little girls unable to speak or hear."<sup>113</sup> Although she had no previous teaching experience with the deaf, Merritt immediately began to work with the two girls. Encouraged by her results and realizing that there were other deaf children who could benefit from her instruction, she decided to postpone her travels and open a school.

Merritt had a meeting on September 18, 1899, with the city school superintendent and several influential Victoria citizens. Four deaf children were also present.<sup>114</sup> A city council grant of \$50 and the promise of donations from individuals enabled Merritt to rent a classroom in the Ancient Order of United Workmen building on Yates Street. One week later, on September 25, the Victoria School for the Deaf and Dumb opened with six students in attendance.<sup>115</sup> In November 1899,



**Jane and Isabella Campbell in 1899**

*Courtesy of Diana (née Bain) Dewar (Vancouver, B.C.)*

Merritt petitioned the provincial government to stop paying \$300 per annum for each of the five deaf students sent to the Manitoba Institution. She claimed she could provide a similar education (including speech training) within the province for these children, if the British Columbia government would grant her the money that they were currently paying to the Manitoba provincial government. The November 7, 1899 edition of *The Daily Colonist* (a Victoria newspaper) published a letter written by Merritt and addressed “To the Taxpayers and Citizens of British Columbia and Residents of Victoria especially.”<sup>116</sup> The letter outlined her proposal and solicited the support of the general public in her endeavours. Her proposal to the government was not seriously considered, however. In late August-early September 1900, Duncan Wendell McDermid (a hearing man who was then principal of the Manitoba Institution [1890-1909]), paid a visit to the city of Victoria and met with the provincial superintendent of education. It was eventually decided that the Manitoba Institution was better equipped to provide a proper education and, in the long run, it would be more economical to continue sending deaf children to Winnipeg.<sup>117</sup> With no financial support from the government, Merritt’s school met the same fate as the previous one in the province, and was forced to close in early September 1900.

The development of a permanent school for deaf children in British Columbia did not become a reality until late 1914, when a deaf woman who had been educated at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S., encountered her former teacher in Vancouver. The results of this fortunate meeting are detailed in Chapter 6.

## Saskatchewan’s First School for the Deaf

Prior to the formation of the province of Saskatchewan in 1905, a number of deaf children from the North-West Territories began attending the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg.<sup>118</sup> This was not a universally accepted solution, however, as evidenced by letters and articles that were printed in the *Regina Standard* in 1894. The issue of contention centred around money and the possible division of the large North-West Territories into smaller, separate provinces. Government leaders and taxpayers had to consider which was more cost-effective — paying to send deaf children to school in Manitoba, or building new schools for them in various sections of the North-West Territories (without knowing how this area eventually would be divided).<sup>119</sup> The politicians chose the school in Manitoba; by early 1914, there were 28 deaf pupils from Saskatchewan making the trip to Winnipeg. That year, the Manitoba School for the Deaf (renamed in 1912) raised its tuition fees, charging students coming from other western provinces an additional \$200 per nine-month term (an increase from \$300 to \$500 for each child). Relations between the two provinces became strained as a result, and Saskatchewan responded to this political and financial pressure by opening its own school. In a letter to Manitoba’s minister of public works (who supervised the Manitoba School), Saskatchewan’s minister of education stated:

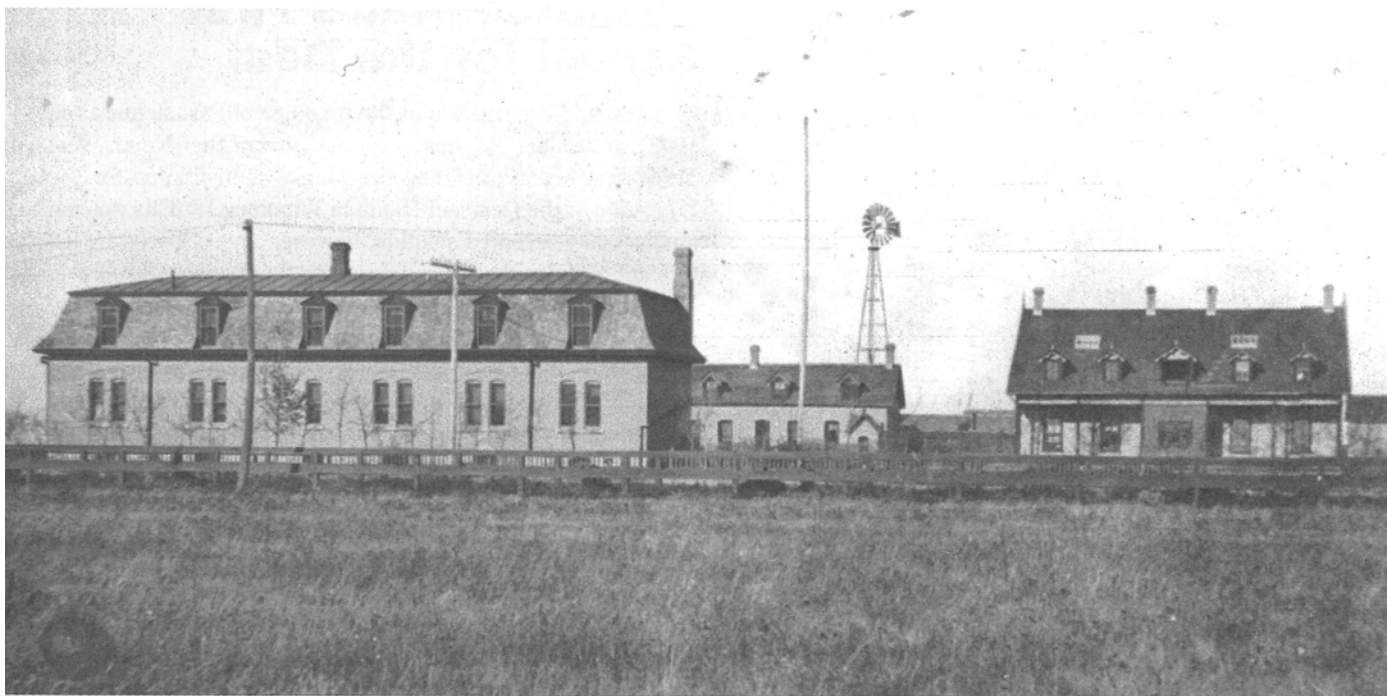
*... it will be impracticable for us to resume the system of sending our deaf and dumb children to the Manitoba Institution which system was working along quite satisfactorily until a year ago when immediately following the Manitoba elections ex-Premier Roblin very curtly notified us that we must in future pay a substantially higher rate for our pupils .... as Sir Rodmond Roblin positively declined our proposal for a conference on the question, we simply had no recourse but to establish a school of our own.<sup>120</sup>*

On November 4, 1914, the superintendents of the Department of Neglected Children and of Education in Regina, Sask. were instructed to immediately start a provincial school for deaf children within the city limits, and to hire a principal, matron, and teaching staff. Their first task was to visit a number of schools for deaf students in Canada and the United States to see how they were set up.

### The Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Regina

On December 8, 1914, the Saskatchewan government officially announced that Thomas Rodwell (b. May 24, 1880; d. Mar. 27, 1949), a hearing teacher with experience in deaf education, had been appointed superintendent of the soon-to-be opened school. His yearly salary was to be \$1,500. Rodwell had previously taught at the Glasgow and Doncaster Schools for the Deaf in Scotland and England respectively, the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1907-1909), and the Minnesota School for





**Site of the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Regina, 1915-1916. (The building on the left is still standing today.)**

*Regina Public Library/Saskatchewan Archives Board, RA-15,408*

the Deaf (1909-1915). His hearing wife, the former Mary Dempsey, was accepted as the new matron, at a salary of \$500 a year. One of the first three teachers hired — Archibald Howard McDonald (b. July 30, 1888; d. Aug. 29, 1972) of Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. — had been deaf since birth. McDonald had attended the Manitoba Institution (1895-1906), Kendall School (1906-1907), and Gallaudet College from 1907 until he withdrew unexpectedly during the first term of 1908-1909. His starting salary at the school in Regina totalled \$720 for 10 months.

Two abandoned buildings on Dewdney Avenue — initially used as offices for native affairs and then as the legislative centre for the old North-West Territories — were immediately renovated to become classrooms and dormitories. On January 21, 1915, Saskatchewan opened its first school for its deaf children. The older male students built some of the furniture. Classes commenced with an enrolment of 30 pupils between the ages of seven and 20.

The Saskatchewan School for the Deaf (sometimes known unofficially as the Regina School for the Deaf) was maintained by the Saskatchewan Department of Education and was free to all deaf children of the province. The only expenses for parents were clothing and the railroad fares, for which they were charged half the usual rate. Instruction of pupils was primarily through the use of sign language (called at that time the “manual method”) and writing. Two months after the school opened, Alexander David Swanson (b. Aug. 29, 1878; d. Apr. 3, 1943), a deaf farmer from Lacombe, Alta. and a graduate of the Ontario Institution (1885-1895), Kendall School (1895-1896), and Gallaudet College (B.A., 1896-1901), visited the site and later wrote this account of his tour:

*Not being anxious to reach home early, I stopped off at Regina to*

*visit the new School for the Deaf. Scarcely had I entered the school than those little tots (they number about 35) surrounded me like sheep. If my long and varied experience on the farm does not belie me, they certainly needed some salt. There is a cluster of brick buildings set up in a square with a good sized court inside. They used to be Parliament buildings, but they look more like North-West Mounted Police barracks to me.<sup>121</sup>*

By September 1915, many applications for admission to the Saskatchewan School had to be turned down because the school was already overcrowded. This apparently led to a 1915 fall conference, held in Winnipeg and attended by governmental representatives from the four western provinces of Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba). An agreement was reached to divide up the care of children who were labelled “not normal.” Manitoba took responsibility for deaf children, Saskatchewan for the blind, and Alberta for the “feeble-minded.” British Columbia was not assigned a specific responsibility because it had already set up an independent school for its deaf children. At the end of the meeting, it was suggested that the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf be closed on June 30, 1916 and that all of its pupils reassemble after the summer holidays at the Manitoba School. Between January 1 and June 15, 1916, nine of the province’s older deaf pupils were granted early admission to the Manitoba School, because the Saskatchewan School was so full. On June 30, 1916, the Saskatchewan government officially terminated the operation of its school for deaf children.<sup>122</sup> In September of 1916, some 50 deaf pupils from the province were once again transported by train to the Manitoba School.

At about the same time, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan amended its *Education Act* to require deaf chil-



**Students and staff at the first Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, Regina (1915-1916)**

*Courtesy of Audrey (née Williams) Taylor (Saskatoon, Sask.)*

dren between the ages of eight and 15 to attend schools selected by the minister of education. Four years later, further legislation (*The Saskatchewan School Act, 1920, Section 190*) mandated compulsory education for all children. Parents — including parents of deaf children — were fined a maximum of \$20 if they refused to enrol their children in school, even if it meant sending them to a school in another province. By 1927, most of Saskatchewan's school-aged deaf children were attending

either the Manitoba School or schools in Québec.<sup>123</sup> It was not until October 1929 that the Saskatchewan government responded favourably to appeals led by R.J.D. Williams (a deaf man), who had energetically lobbied to have a new residential school for deaf students established in the province. This school was later renamed the R.J.D. Williams Provincial School for the Deaf in his honour, and its history is described in detail in Chapter 6.