

**"The views in every direction are enticing":
Campobello Island as a summer resort, 1880-1910**

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"The views in every direction are enticing": Campobello Island as a summer resort, 1880-1910

From 1881 until roughly 1910 the island of Campobello was a summer resort area catering to the elites of the Northeastern United States. Although the Island is Canadian territory, a part of the province of New Brunswick, most of the land during this time was owned by the Campobello Land Company, an American syndicate "composed of several well-known Boston and New York gentlemen."¹

This company purchased the island from the widow of Captain John James Robinson-Owen, a descendant of the original landholder, Captain William Owen.² They immediately set about turning a small, isolated island off the coast of New Brunswick into a summer resort which would be remembered chiefly as the "beloved island" of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States from 1933 until 1945.

Who were the members of this company? How did they attempt to shape and promote the island in their efforts to make a profit? What were the features of the small "summer colony" which developed here? And, why did it disappear? Some of the answers to these questions are easy to find, while for others one can only hypothesize.

Hotels

The first hotel built specifically for summer residents was the Owen, built by the Campobello Company in 1881 (See figures 1-3). Ground was broken for the hotel on Tuesday 7 June, 1881, and construction was pushed ahead so fiercely that by late August of the same year it was open for guests.³ Located on an outcropping of land locally known as Deer Point, the hotel was connected to the old house of Admiral Owen by a covered walk.

The Owen, so called in honour of the old Admiral to whom the island belonged, and whose library is transformed into a business office, is Swiss in style.... After entering your name at the office, you wander

outside along a piazza by the dining room, with its high stained glass windows, its Queen Anne mantels and its little chestnut dining tables, through a covered walk, up to the broad piazza of the hotel, whose elevation is so high that you look over pine trees down to the water, across to Eastport and out toward little glimpses of the Canadian shores.⁴

With room for over four hundred guests, the Owen was joined the next year by the Tyn-y-coed -- "meaning, in Welsh, 'house in the woods,'"⁵ -- and, in 1883, the Tyn-y-maes⁶ (See figures 4-7).

It is difficult to trace the ups and downs of the Owen's fortunes, but there is very little doubt that it was not continuously successful during its years of operation. Indeed, it was not open during the 1885 season⁷, and seems to have remained closed until 1893, when it was sold and re-opened.⁸ It is uncertain how long it stayed open, for, absent from the social columns, it changed hands again in 1900, was renovated, and operated by J.J. Alexander, among others, until 1908, when it was leased to the corporation which purchased the island from the Campobello Company, the New York-based Campobello Island Corporation.⁹ It was in operation as the "Inn" until at least 1915, -- the name change denoting a "high-class" hostelry¹⁰ but was apparently closed and torn down at some point between then and 1920.¹¹

The Tyn-y-hotels did not last even that long. Although they were, for the most part, successful, they were apparently closed after the season of 1907. Newspaper reports indicated that, with the exception of 1885, the Tyn-y-coed was often busy: "The Hotel at Campobello is in full blast" (July 3, 1890); "Everything is booming on Campobello, the Tyn-y-coed having a big run of guests" (July 21, 1892); "The Tyn-y-coed is having a rushing time" (July 20, 1893); "Visitors at Campobello are numerous this season, and the Tyn-y-coed is enjoying a large run of guests" (August 5, 1897); "they are doing as well as any year since it opened" (August 9, 1900).¹² By 1908, however, it was gone from the social columns, and the next available reference indicates demolition.

In its heyday, what was the Tyn-y-coed like? It was described as a "fine model hotel ... pleasantly situated near the water's edge, on a bluff seventy-five feet above the level of the sea."¹³ Its amenities included a large parlor, dining-hall, card rooms, and broad piazzas on all sides. Basically, it was "provided with all the comforts of a refined home."¹⁴ In fact, the Campobello Company consistently attempted to portray these hotels as "summer homes," rather than simply places to sleep. From the beginning, the company attempted to take the role of a gracious host, rather than simply an innkeeper. Its aim was to create hotels which were

attractive, picturesque, and refined in all their appointments,--in fact, *homelike*; so that one may enjoy all the freedom of a wild, out-door, camping-out life, and yet, after a day of exploration or rock-climbing, come back to a *home*, and a good supper well cooked and well served.¹⁵

Another brochure describes the Tyn-y-hotels as

pleasant summer homes, with bright, sunny bed-rooms with open fires for those who wish them. The parlors are cosy and comfortable, where one can chat, read or play whist, before huge open fires. The table appointments are tasteful, and the food is well cooked and well served.¹⁶

Well served, indeed! Note how part of being "at home" for the intended market of the Campobello Company was having the food well cooked and well served -- by someone else. Clearly an upper-class attraction, in the early seasons the proximity of the Owen and the Tyn-y-coed enabled "calls to be made and returned the same day." In those same days, the separation of the hotel guests from outsiders was also promoted as an attraction: "Unconsciously you feel foreign and titled when a sentinel swings open the gates for your admission and closes them quickly to the public of small boys, Indians and loungers."¹⁷

This separation was clearly enforced in the first seasons (witness the announcement that "only guests of the hotel and persons arriving by the steam launch

'Admiral,' will be allowed on the Owen grounds. Picnic parties will not be permitted on the adjoining grounds."¹⁸ Furthermore, the residents of the island were themselves objectified into a part of the scenery: "there are about thirteen hundred tenants, most of them industrious and thrifty."¹⁹ Later, however, this fervent zeal for the isolation of the guests appears to have faded.

Campobello Company and Cottagers

The Campobello Company (See Figure 8) was founded by Alexander S. Porter, of Boston, in 1880 or 1881, and purchased the island in June of 1881. It had a capital of one million dollars, and was organized as follows:

Incorporators: Francis B. Beaumont, Henry L. Higginson, Edward C. Pike, Alexander S. Porter, Quincy A. Shaw.
President: Samuel Wells
Treasurer: Francis B. Beaumont
General Manager: Alexander S. Porter
Directors: Samuel Wells, of Boston; Francis B. Beaumont, of Boston;
George A. Goddard, of Boston; Alexander S. Porter, of Boston;
Edward E. Chase, of New York.²⁰

Its goal was first to establish hotels on the island, but the real challenge was to "establish a cottage life on the island." Selling the land one lot at a time would, of course, increase the value of their investment. The land was surveyed by Professor F.W. Dean of Harvard College, divided into lots of two to six acres, and, by 1883, some had been sold (apparently including, of course, one to James Roosevelt of New York).²¹

The company did not merely concern itself with building hotels and cottages, however. It also worked to shape the island's social conditions to those more appropriate for a summer resort. One of its first acts was to let the islanders know that, as the new landholder, it would not accept any trouble from them. As Alexander S. Porter explains, in a letter to the company's New Brunswick solicitor,

We have built a lock up on Campobello island and I write to ask what legislation, if any, is necessary to enable us to use it. I hear that the legislature is in session. Also, I beg to inquire if we can have the dog tax increased so as to lessen the number now kept on the island.²²

Islanders were accustomed to letting their livestock wander freely on the island -- this would never have done in a summer resort, so the company offered to fence pastures at its own expense. This aside, the company rapidly began selling cottage lots: the first lots were sold in September 1882, and they began to go quickly. At least fifteen were sold before the end of the year.²³

According to Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells,

the first cottages, which were finished in 1884, were those of James Roosevelt, Esq., of New York, and Samuel Wells, Esq., of Boston. Dr. Russell Sturgis, of Boston, Travers Cochran, Esq., of Philadelphia, Alexander Porter, Esq., and Gorham Hubbard, Esq., of Boston, Alfred Pell, Esq., of New York, Mrs. Hartman Kuhn, of Boston, and L.L. Prince, Esq., of St. Louis, ... each successively built summer residences on the Island.²⁴

The activities of the cottagers, and their comings and goings, were as newsworthy as the hotels. One can, looking at period newspapers, discover that "Dr. Sturgis and family arrived on Saturday 10th," or that "Mr. and Mrs. Gorham Hubbard, of Boston, Mass., arrived this week to occupy their beautiful cottage for the summer months."²⁵ Often, though, the male head of the household was only able to stay with the family for brief visits; a former summer resident recalls how her father could only visit for a week at a time.²⁶

The cottagers, far from the isolated nobility originally envisioned by the new-style lairds of the Campobello Company, were a part of island life. They donated funds for a library, raised money for a church hall, and, on occasion, even socialized with the locals. "The cottagers and permanent residents of Welshpool had a grand picnic at Welshpool on Wednesday last. There were canoe races, gasoline boat

races, dory races and a swimming match that attracted much interest ... In the evening there was a dance in Owen Hall."²⁷

The cottages remained occupied long after the Tyn-y-coed and Tyn-y-maes were demolished. By around 1930, in fact,

[a] large part of the island, including many of the most eligible cottage sites, is owned by a group of summer residents, who wish to preserve its simplicity and beauty, but will be glad to welcome congenial newcomers who wish a summer home which includes the existing advantages ... but without fashion, display or excitement.

These summer residents included:

Dexter P. Cooper, Engineer of International Repute
Gorham Hubbard, Banker, Boston
Stanley Parker, Architect, Boston
The Misses Porter, Boston
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor of New York
Mrs. James Roosevelt, Hyde Park, New York
George W. Norris, Governor, Federal Reserve Bank, Philadelphia
Dr. W.A.R. Chapin, Springfield, Mass.
Reginald K. Shober, Philadelphia
Miss Elizabeth Harper, New York
Mrs. Lawrence Prince, St. Louis
Col. Sir Martin Archer-Shee, London
John M. Gallagher, Philadelphia
Mrs. Clarkson Fowler, Hartford
William M. Patterson, Attorney-at-Law, New York
Mrs. Bartlett S. Johnston, Baltimore
Dr. De Witt Castler, Baltimore
H. Morton Merriman, New York
Russell Sturgis, Boston
Leonard T. Dyer, Greenwich, Conn.
Frederick B. Adams, New York.²⁸

Travel

How did one get to Campobello, in the days before the Franklin Delano Roosevelt bridge which today crosses the narrow passage between the island and Lubec, ME? The first stage was to get to Eastport, and the second, to travel from Eastport to Campobello Island.

In the late nineteenth century, the major methods of transportation for long distances in North America were the railways and steamships. Both could be used to get to Campobello. In 1882, one could take an International Steamship Company steamer from Boston to Eastport four times each week. It was a 25-hour voyage. One could also catch a train of the Eastern or the Boston & Maine Railroad from Boston to Portland, and then catch the steamer, reducing it to a 15-hour sea voyage. One could also continue on the railroad to St. Stephen, then take a steamer or a carriage down the river to Eastport.²⁹

By 1891 the trip was shorter: it only took eighteen hours on the steamer from Boston to Eastport. Alternately, one could take the train to St. Andrews, NB, a thirteen hour journey, and then, after spending a night there, catch a one and a half hour steamer ride to Campobello. Travelers from New York could also take a 43-hour steamer trip to Eastport.³⁰

By 1930, access was much simpler. Campobello was within 12 hours of Boston, and "[a] New Yorker can leave his city after business hours and get to Campobello in time for a late breakfast the following morning."³¹

Once Eastport was reached, there were various ways to get to Campobello. The hotels ran steam launches; once one arrived in Eastport it was only a ten minute sail to the pier at the Owen, and another five minutes to the Tyn-y-coed. The "Emmet" was, for over ten years, the launch used.³² Sometimes people were met by islanders with their own boats and taken across, and there were also connecting steamers that stopped at Campobello as part of a larger circuit which included places like St. Andrews and Grand Manan.³³

Why Campobello?

The question "Why Campobello?" can be asked twice; once of the promoters who chose to develop the island, and once of the people who chose it as a destination for their holidays. In response to the first, there is, of course the cynical answer: the land was inexpensive, it had been for sale for a number of years, making it a buyer's market, and they were out to make as much money as possible. Although it may sound glib, this is correct, since only some of the early investors built cottages on the island. Uncertain sources indicate that Alexander S. Porter's father, after a visit to the Eastport area in 1879, told his son that that region had the potential to be a successful summer resort.³⁴ Although the company talked about how it was "in no sense a hotel-company. Its aim is rather to introduce this beautiful island -- hitherto forbidden ground -- to the world,"³⁵ their speedy sub-division of the land into cottage lots indicates that they were probably equally concerned with the potential for profit.

The latter question, determining the motivation of the summer visitors, is more difficult to answer. An interview with Bunny Hodgeson, granddaughter of Gorham Hubbard, who bought a cottage lot in 1891³⁶, indicated that it was, first of all, a very scenic spot, it had the two hotels, and it was supposedly the greatest place to get away from hay fever.³⁷ To evaluate this answer, we can look at the activities centering around the hotels, the idea of Campobello as a picturesque location, and its possible therapeutic appeal to sufferers of hay fever and other late-nineteenth century physical and psychological ailments.

Activities

The proprietors and promoters of Campobello as a summer resort dreamed up plenty of activities to entice prospective summer visitors to their hotels. Judging from the early beginnings of the cottages, obviously enough of these activities, coupled with

less concrete stimuli, were enjoyable enough to induce people to return again another year. Just what did one do at Campobello?

This very question was answered by the Campobello Island Company in an 1891 brochure. Their brief description is worthy of reproduction, if only because it is so concise:

As Campobello is about ten miles long, from two to three miles wide, and covered with a dense growth of trees, it may readily be supposed that there are beautiful drives and walks in all directions. Those who are fond of horseback riding will find the roads and bridle-paths at Campobello, delightful. There is plenty of good sailing, boating and fishing, with skillful skippers who may be hired by the hour or day. Birch-bark canoes, with Indian guides, may be engaged at reasonable rates. There are several good tennis courts in the hotel grounds; billiard and pool tables, and bowling alleys in connection with the hotel. In fact, one can always find pleasure and occupation at Campobello.³⁸

Needless to say, the pleasure and occupation was enjoyed in the company of one's own social equals. Golfing was added later, and there were indoor pursuits as well (See Figures 9 and 10).

These delightful roads and bridle-paths led all over the island. Some of the more picturesque destinations and drives included the North Road, Head Harbour, Mill Cove, the White Rocks, Nancy Head, Schooner Cove, Herring Cove, Meadow Brook Cove, the Fitz-William Road, Raccoon Beach, Liberty Point, Owen Head, Cranberry Point and Friar's Head.³⁹ One could wind down "muddy, corduroy foot-paths [to] small shining coves," or, in a buggy, "travel the 'Queen's Highway' through sunlight and shade, and drink from the cold spring which supplies the hotels with its clear, sparkling water."⁴⁰

Water-related activities -- sailing, boating, fishing, and swimming, were equally stressed. Cottagers often had their own yachts -- including, of course, that of the Roosevelts, noted by a local newspaper: "Another large and fine yacht has been added to the fleet which the summer visitors have here for pleasuring in. She is

owned by Mr. James Roosevelt and is called 'Half Moon.'"41 If they were simply staying at a hotel, they could always hire a boat, with a local captain, and if necessary, crew, for as long as necessary. One could even hire a dory, "with a stout-backed fisherman at the oars ... at a trifling cost."42 Fishing encompassed both fresh and salt-water angling; in the bay, one found abundant cod, pollack, haddock and halibut, while there was good trout fishing on the island itself.43 Swimming, too, was possible, but the waters of Passamaquoddy Bay are, and were notoriously frigid: "If one cares for bathing, he will find the water quiet and cold; to many persons the physical reaction is exhilarating, , but the bathing, like everything else, is regulated by the tides." Later promoters were more honest, explaining that the water off Campobello was cold, "a bracing tonic to the hardy swimmer, but too chilly for lazy bathing."44 When combined with tennis and golf, it becomes easy to see why those who could afford to would leave the cities for the outdoor pleasures of a summer resort.

The Picturesque

To the delights of the Victorian summer season were added the pleasures of a Victorian landscape, itself promoted as an attraction to lure visitors to Campobello. The scenery was picturesque, which meant (for Victorians) that it offered "irregularity, variation, decay and wildness in 'natural' appearance as sources of aesthetic pleasure."45 Beginning in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the British had discovered that scenery was something one could gaze at with delight. Residents of industrial cities could benefit from spending time elsewhere and viewing nature. This led to the development of what John Urry calls "'scenic tourism' and an appreciation for magnificent stretches of the coastline."46 Indeed, the view of the Tyn-y-coed receives a prominent place in much advertising literature.

Its seaward view embraces a wide sweep of ocean, broken only by the purple cliffs of Grand Manan; shoreward the hilly towns of Eastport and

Lubec are in the view, which also holds the Denny's River and the famous St. Croix with varied vistas of Passamaquoddy reaches through forest-crowned islands that intercept it.⁴⁷

Devotees of the picturesque, following the practice of viewing nature as a series of subjects composed for painting, would find many pleasant sights on and about Campobello Island (See Figures 11 and 12). Undoubtedly, wrote one early copywriter, "[n]o section of the East Coast, conceded the most picturesque stretch of the Atlantic Seaboard, can surpass the island-studded waters of Passamaquoddy Bay in rugged beauty." Described as a "panorama of green and purple distances,"⁴⁸ the bay, (and the islands) were often judged to have "great natural beauty,"⁴⁹ and Campobello itself was "a little world of soft green shades, of hidden coves and bald rocks, of far stretching woods and lonely fisherman's huts."⁵⁰ These huts were filled with something equally picturesque: a genuine 'folk', touted as another of the Island's attractions:

The native population, descended from the tenants of the Owens, lords of the manor until a generation ago, are unspoiled by the incongruities which mar the crowded resorts, and retain an old-fashioned simplicity and courtesy.⁵¹

Mrs. Kate Gannet Wells, in her turn-of-the-century historical sketch of Campobello, includes directions for "the most lonesome and picturesque drive," depicting the "fishing boats, brilliant with the red flannel shirts of the men," and describing how "you will never forget the view."⁵²

Therapeutic Tourism at Campobello

The summer visitors were not merely pulled to Campobello, though -- they were pushed by physical and psychological problems -- these problems, diseases thought to be peculiarly focused on the elites, were of special significance to Campobello.

Physically, they were often afflicted by the catarrhal symptoms of *hay fever*, while psychologically they suffered *neurasthenia*, a turn-of-the-century disorder often thought to be limited to the upper classes.

The first complaint that drove people to St. Andrews was hay fever. Who were the sufferers of this dread disease? Strangely enough, and as in the case of neurasthenia, they were recruited from the elite. *Catarrhus aestivus*, or hay fever, was first investigated scientifically by Charles Harrison Blackley (1820-1900), a Manchester physician. He was not the first person to suspect a causal relationship between pollen and hay fever, but he was the first to prove it existed.⁵³ One of the most interesting features of his analysis of hay fever was his conviction that it was solely an upper-class affliction, the scourge of the educated and the Anglo-Saxon. "Hay-fever is said to be an aristocratic disease, and there can be no doubt that, if it is not wholly confined to the upper classes of society, it is rarely, if ever, met with but among the educated,"⁵⁴ argued Blackley. According to him, most writers were agreed on this point, and accepted that "that condition of the nervous system which mental training generates is one which is especially favourable to the development of the disorder."

What choice, then, was available for the sneezing sufferer? As, of course, around the turn of the century, there were no antihistamines available at the corner drugstore, other cures were required. Blackley offered one practical suggestion for alleviating hay fever: "A sojourn at the sea-side is one of the best modes of palliating and often curing the disease for the time." More pertinently (from a Campobello perspective) Blackley added, "it is not every sea-side district that gives the hay-fever patient relief." It should have "the form and character of a small island or narrow peninsula." Since pollens are wind-borne, it was (Blackley urged)

... a matter of importance in selecting a retreat for the hay-season to find one where the prevailing winds are from the sea ... where the patient can be continually near the water, and if possible a place where the shore is

backed with high cliffs, because these act as a sort of screen when a land wind is blowing.⁵⁵

Campobello fit the bill almost perfectly. Thus, hay fever was a heaven-sent scourge, and the promoters were quick to elaborate on the island's status as a hay fever-free zone. In its earliest circulars, the Campobello Company pointed out that "[i]t will no doubt be a matter of interest to many people to know that at Campobello one may find absolute relief from HAY FEVER. Ample evidence is at hand to prove it beyond question."⁵⁶ There, no one "greet[s] you with a *hay-fever* look."⁵⁷ Twenty-five years later, the owners of The Inn were still pleased to announce, in bold type, that on Campobello Island there was "No Hay Fever."⁵⁸

The second health problem relieved by a "sojourn at the seaside" was neurasthenia. It was, according to George Miller Beard, the physician who published the first major work on the subject, not a mental disease. No, it was an organic ailment, "a physical, not a mental state." It did not come from "emotional excess or excitability." Instead, the symptoms resulted from "nervous debility and irritability."⁵⁹ Beard described neurasthenia as a condition, most severe in the Northeastern United States, that had evolved during the nineteenth century, caused by *modern civilization*,

To appreciate neurasthenia, it is necessary to look at antimodernism, a diffuse movement affecting the educated and affluent members of North American society in the closing years of the nineteenth century. This movement was essentially a recoil from modernity. As explored by T.J. Jackson Lears, antimodernism was socially and intellectually significant even though it often paradoxically coexisting with support for material progress.⁶⁰ Though Lears's work concentrates primarily on the United States, antimodern sentiments were spread among the educated and affluent on both sides of the Atlantic. Lears's specific focus on New England is particularly appropriate to this study, since it was members of the New England elite who first promoted Campobello as a summer and health resort and were among its first tourists.

According to Lears, antimodern sentiments resulted from a profound cultural crisis, caused by the rapid urbanization and industrialization of parts of eastern North America during the nineteenth century.⁶¹ Antimodernism was not a clearly formulated intellectual doctrine, but rather a kind of impulse, a recoil. It glorified 'authentic' experience in its rejection of urban, material civilization. Antimodernists sought the vanishing ideals of rural culture. For them, if neurasthenia was a product of modern urban life, then surely the solution was the rural experience.

Promoters of Campobello clearly recognized the nebulous yet potent attractiveness of the antimodern Other, and the tone of their advertisements confirms Lears's sense of antimodernism as a general cultural condition: one writer explained that Campobello was a place which provided "provincial quiet, gentle restorative to an overstrung race."⁶² The Learsian overtones are obvious. The overcivilized, nervous bourgeoisie needed to return to the tranquillity of rural life. The easiest way for them to do this was to go out into the unspoiled countryside, and on Campobello Island, this was a condition easily fulfilled. There were many trips into the unspoiled countryside for summer visitors: they could "walk or drive through serried rows of spruce and fir trees to Herring Cove, and see the cliffs of Grand Manan, and breathe the real salt air."⁶³ Best of all, they could do all this without a factory in sight.

Rural areas were attractive to antimodernists in other, less directly therapeutic ways. The spacious nature of the outdoors signified a release from the institutional and physical constraints of modern capitalist society. On Campobello, as we have seen, the island's promoters stressed the unobstructed views offered by the landscape. Tyn-y-coed, the primary destination for summer visitors, stood "seventy-five feet above the level of the sea, and near the water's edge," and one was exposed to the "wild scenery of the Bay of Fundy."⁶⁴

It was not only the surroundings that differed from modern capitalist society.

Life on a small rural island was almost set in another world, distant from that in the city. A promotional brochure for The Owen argued that a Campobello vacation provided "a perfect sense of freedom from business cares, ... the fir woods impart a most exquisite sense of rest with their balmy odors."⁶⁵ Furthermore, the idea was that all this tranquillity could be enjoyed in the company of others of one's social class. This rural experience was not the solitary hiking or wilderness camping of the twentieth century. There was still interaction with one's peers and associates, but escape from those who were less fortunate. The year-round residents, while not, perhaps, of the same social class as the visitors, were always properly respectful to them. The more restful aspects of the city elites' culture was also available to nourish their bourgeois sensibilities in the country. One could attend a piano recital, perhaps participate in amateur theatrics, or simply lounge on a verandah with a good book. Although the cure for neurasthenia clearly did not require abandoning civilized pleasures, it might require getting back in touch with rusticity. Males were promised the additional bonus of enhanced virility — masculinity being "an absolutely indispensable remedy for the artificiality and effeteness of late nineteenth-century urban life."⁶⁶ Fishing, for men, offered a restorative, rural pleasure. At the turn of the century, fishing was excellent on Campobello: as one advertisement, published in a New Brunswick tourist booklet put it, there was "golf, tennis, shooting and fish galore."⁶⁷

However much neurasthenia stalked the middle class, it was not alone. It was allied with other "functional nerve-maladies," including hysteria, sick-headache, inebriety, and insanity. Still, commentators agreed that in the United States, neurasthenia predominated in the metropolitan areas of the Eastern Seaboard. In addition, educated business and professional men, and their wives, were those most likely to be bedridden with nervous prostration. Doctors drew the obvious conclusion: more civilized individuals were the most susceptible to these new varieties of nervousness; therefore, it resulted from overcivilization.

Fortunately for resort developers, however, almost anybody might see themselves -- or hope to see themselves -- in descriptions of the disease and its sufferers. People who were "striving for honor, or expecting eminence or wealth" were much more likely to suffer from neurasthenia. The well-to-do, the intelligent and those in the "higher reaches of business" were the people who were threatened.⁶⁸ The identification of these people as sufferers of neurasthenia is not surprising, especially since Beard's patients were also primarily urban, educated and upper-class. He proscribed a number of treatments for them involving cannabis, alcohol, caffeine, alcohol, opium, good food, cod liver oil, electrotherapy, arsenic, and rectal injections of beef juice.⁶⁹

Patients confronted with such a formidable range of interventions might well gravitate to the simple rest cure as a less intrusive, more convenient substitute. Originally absolute rest was essential, but Beard quickly adjusted his position, and for some patients moderate exercise was encouraged. The sort of rest needed was not bed-rest, but consisted rather in making "every day a Sabbath," free from the demands and stresses caused by modern civilization.⁷⁰ Patients predictably rather liked this form of therapy, and Campobello was, briefly, able to capitalize on their feelings.

Climate

Finally, there was the climate which drew people to Campobello. In the days before air-conditioning and widespread refrigeration, even the wealthiest neighbourhoods of urban centres often became unbearable during the summer months. Why not, then, head north to the seashore, where the temperatures were lower and the humidity less oppressive? The average temperature at Welshpool for the month of August, 1882, taken at 2:30 every afternoon, was 67 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁷¹ Described as "exceptional--almost unique," the climate at Campobello (as at other

resorts in Maine and New Brunswick) was enough to draw summer visitors from the south

To summarize the attractions of Campobello, we have a small advertisement remaining from the *Montreal Herald*, summer of 1902. It reads as follows:

CAMPOBELLO, N.B.

-Island laying off Passamaquoddy Bay, three by eight miles in extent. Great historical associations, now owned by American syndicate, who have made it into summer resort of first rank; connected by ferry with Eastport; splendid boating and sea fishing; attractive hotels.

-Points of Interest.--Promontory of Eastern Head, Glen Severn Lake, Lovers' Lane, lighthouses and the rock called "Friar's Head."

-Hotels.--Owen, J.J. Alexander, \$2 day; Tyn-y-coed, \$4 day; Tyn-y-mais, \$4 day.⁷²

A summer resort of the first rank, yes, at one time it was. Yet, by 1920 the hotels were gone, and only the cottagers, people who had liked the island enough to invest in land and buildings, remained. What happened?

The End of A Summer Resort

There are a number of possible explanations for Campobello's failure as a resort destination. Some can be rejected quickly; others seem to be plausible. Whatever it is, the *Eastport Sentinel* was hoping for "the beautiful island of Campobello to regain its prestige as a summer resort" in the autumn of 1907.⁷³ The Tyn-y-coed and Tyn-y-maes closed after the season of 1907, just twenty-six years after the island became a resort.⁷⁴ The Inn hung on for at most ten more years, then it too closed. When compared to its neighbour, St. Andrews, which remained a summer resort until the Second World War, it becomes even more puzzling.

The first, most obvious answer, is that the character of tourism changed, leaving Campobello as an unfashionable relic of days gone by. This was suggested by William A. R. Chapin, a summer resident, in his 1960 work *The Story of Campobello*. It is true that the age of automobile tourism was beginning, albeit slowly, and it is a possibility. In 1909, however, St. Andrews' flagship hotel, the Algonquin, had the most successful season in its history, creating plans to build an addition.⁷⁵ It remained successful until well into mid-century, which, as a comparison, tends to cast doubt on this explanation.

Another answer commonly advanced is the presence of a fertilizer plant in Eastport, which at times polluted the air and water near the hotels. Entitled: "The Atmosphere is Rich," it goes on to say that:

It is rumoured that the promoters of the Campobello summer resort threaten to bring suit against the city of Eastport unless something is done to close up the fertilizer factory at the South End. Several guests, who engaged rooms at the different hotels across the harbour, were obliged to shorten their stay on account of the sickening odor which greeted them with every gust of wind from the south and west. The beautiful scenery of Passamaquoddy is still delightful to look upon, but the atmosphere--oh, horrors!⁷⁶

Perhaps this could be a part of the explanation!

Another possibility, this one suggested by Bunny Hodgeson, was that one summer the weather was just appalling, and that finished them off: "There were forty days of fog one year, and no one ever came back. They didn't make reservations and that was it."⁷⁷ Indeed, after examining the weather records for the summer of 1907, one can see that this idea, too, has some merit. According to the meteorological reports from the weather station at Eastport, in July 1907 there were 7 clear days, 13 partly cloudy days, 11 cloudy days, and 14 days upon which more than 0.01" of precipitation fell. In addition, fog was seen on 25 days: July 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,12,15, 16,17,18,19,20,21, 23,24,25,26, 27,29,30, and 31. This was followed by an August which had 4 clear days, 14 partly cloudy days, 10 cloudy; days, and 10 days upon which more than 0.01" of precipitation fell. When combined with the 17 days which had some fog, August 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,10,12,13,17,18,21,22,24,25 and 26,⁷⁸ one can see how some of the guests would be discouraged by the climate at their holiday destination. Remembering that the average temperatures were generally in the mid-60 degree range at the best of times, a summer of rain and fog becomes pure misery.

Another explanation is suggested, again, by comparisons to St. Andrews. Tourism-dependent businesses in Saint John complained, in 1904, that the Canadian Pacific Railway discriminated against them when it came to passenger rates. The C.P.R., which owned the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews by that time, charged passengers \$12.00 for the trip from Montreal to St. Andrews, but \$21.50 to go from Montreal to Saint John! Without this sort of support, Campobello, which, as you will recall, was at least 12 hours from its sources of visitors, could easily have been vulnerable to factors such as rising transportation costs or even inconvenient scheduling by the steamship and railway companies.

The most likely answer, overall, is that a combination of these factors, and perhaps even others, led to the closing of the hotels. They were never strikingly successful, the Owen/the Inn changing hands often and opening irregularly, and the

Tyn-y-hotels also being sold in 1886 and again in 1907, that time never to reopen. Still, it must be remembered that, even if the hotels were but fleeting, the "summer colony" which occupied the cottages was much longer lived, eventually purchasing much of the island in 1928 and controlling the land until after the Second World War. Among the Hubbards, Roosevelts, Adamses, Princes and others, the Campobello Company's plan -- to "inaugurate a social cottage-life, where those who come to pass the summer may enjoy a quiet and retired life, made wholesome by the soft yet bracing air, never too hot, and seldom too cool" -- was more successful than the Company itself ever was.

Endnotes

¹Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, (Boston: A.C. Libby & Sons, 1891), p.2. Ganong Collection, New Brunswick Museum Archives (NBMA), 917.1533 C198ca.

²Janice Harvey, "Proprietors, Roosevelts and Scoundrels: For two centuries, Campobello's story has been one of foreign control," *Island Journal*, (1994?), p.33. Charlotte County Historical Society Archives (CCHSA).

³*The Bay Pilot*, (June 16, 1881, p.2, c.2), CCHSA, and *Campobello Island*, (Boston: Campobello Company, 1882), p.3. Legislative Library (LL).

⁴Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, (Boston: Heliotype Printing Co., 1882), p.2. Ganong Collection, NBMA, 917.1533 C198.

⁵*ibid*, p.4.

⁶Kate Gannett Wells, *Campobello: an historical sketch*, (1893; Boston: n.p., 1900?), p.34. NBMA, FC 2495 C35 W44. Tyn-y-maes probably means "house in the field," but I have found no primary source to confirm this. It was also known as the annex to Tyn-y-coed.

⁷*Bay Pilot*, (July 30, 1885, p.2, c.3).

⁸*St. Andrews Beacon*, (June 15, 1893, p.3, c.5).

⁹*St. Andrews Beacon*, (May 8, 1900, p.3, c.3), (July 18, 1901, p.4, c.1-2), (June 2, 1904, p.3, c.5), (June 18, 1908, p.3, c.1).

¹⁰*St. Andrews Beacon* (June 18, 1908, p.3, c.1).

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- ¹¹Primary source material was again, difficult to find. W.A.R. Chapin's *The Story of Campobello* (1960), UNB [Fredericton] Library (Special Collections), FC 2495 C35 C43 1960, indicates that it was gone before 1920.
- ¹²*St. Andrews Beacon*, p.3, c.5, p.3, c.4, p.3, c.6, p.3, c.5, p.3, c.5.
- ¹³*Sea-Coast Resorts of the Atlantic Coast*, (International Steamship Company, 1892), pp.29, 117. MC 51, CCHSA.
- ¹⁴Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, p.4.
- ¹⁵Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, p.5.
- ¹⁶Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1891, p.6.
- ¹⁷Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.1.
- ¹⁸*Bay Pilot*, Aug. 11, 1881, p.2, c.3.
- ¹⁹Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.6.
- ²⁰Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.6.
- ²¹In doing a title search of the conveyances of land from the Campobello Company to the various persons who purchased cottage lots, there is oddly enough no mention of either James or Sarah Delano Roosevelt. It is possible than by looking at the plan of lots to be found in the Campobello Public Library, and comparing it to the list of lots purchased in Appendix 1, the name of the landholder could be found. Alternatively, of course, the Roosevelts may simply have been missed in the title search.
- ²²Letter, Alex S. Porter to George Grimmer, March 30, 1882, Grimmer Papers, NBMA, F3-7.
- ²³Registry of Deeds, land conveyance information, books 33-35.
- ²⁴Wells, p.34.
- ²⁵*St Andrews Beacon*, June 15, 1893, p.3, c.5, June 18, 1896, p.3, c.3.
- ²⁶Interview with Bunny Hodgeson (née Hubbard), interviewed in St. Andrews, NB, August 6, 1995.
- ²⁷*St. Andrews Beacon*, Aug. 20, 1908, p.2, c.4. Obviously, simply because the participants were divided into "cottagers" and permanent residents," there was still a gap between the two groups.
- ²⁸Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island -- An Ideal Summer Resort*, (c.1930). From the collection of B. Hodgeson.
- ²⁹Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, 1882, pp.4-5.
- ³⁰Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1891, pp.3-4.
- ³¹Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, 1930.
- ³²Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1883, p.1.

C.W.

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- 33 Frances Porter, "Later Campobello History," n.d. Manuscript from Joan Lord, Welshpool. Advertisement for "Str Viking," *St. Andrews Beacon*, July 4, 1901, p.4, c.1.
- 34 Frances Porter, "Later Campobello History."
- 35 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.4.
- 36 New Brunswick Registry of Deeds, Deed # 1219, Book # 45, pp.462-463. Transaction date: 31 August 1891, deed registered 12 September 1891.
- 37 Interview with Bunny Hodgeson, St. Andrews, NB, August 6, 1995.
- 38 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1891, pp.5-6.
- 39 Wells, *Campobello: an historical sketch*, pp.38-40.
- 40 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.3.
- 41 *St. Andrews Beacon*, August 2, 1900, p.3, c.6.
- 42 Pamphlet -- *The Inn, Campobello Island*, c.1909.
- 43 Pamphlet -- *The Owen*, c.1900.
- 44 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1883, p.3, and Pamphlet -- *The Inn, Campobello Island*, c.1909.
- 45 Stephen Copley and Peter Garside, "Introduction," *The Politics of the Picturesque: Literature, landscape and aesthetics since 1770*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), p.3.
- 46 Urry, *The Tourist Gaze*, p.20.
- 47 *Sea Coast Resorts of the Atlantic Coast*, p.31.
- 48 Pamphlet -- *The Inn, Campobello Island*, c.1909. Author's collection.
- 49 Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island -- An Ideal Summer Resort*, p.2.
- 50 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1882, p.1.
- 51 Pamphlet -- *The Inn, Campobello Island*, c.1909.
- 52 Wells, *Campobello -- An historical sketch*, p.37.
- 53 Geoffrey Taylor and Jane Walker, "Charles Harrison Blackley, 1820-1900," in *Clinical Allergy*, (Volume 3, 1973), pp.103 and 108.
- 54 Blackley, *Experimental Researches*, p.7.
- 55 Blackley, *Experimental Researches*, pp.199-200.
- 56 Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, 1882, p.8.

-
- 57 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1883, p.2.
- 58 Pamphlet -- *The Inn, Campobello Island*, c.1909.
- 59 George M. Beard, *American Nervousness: Its Causes and Consequences*, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1881. Reprinted New York: Arno Press, 1972), , p.17.
- 60 T.J. Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920*, (New York: Pantheon Books, 1981), pp.xiii-xvii.
- 61 David W. Noble, *The Progressive Mind, 1890-1917*, (Chicago: Rand McNally and Company, 1970, p.1.
- 62 Pamphlet -- *Campobello Island*, 1882, p.9.
- 63 Pamphlet -- *Campobello*, 1883.
- 64 *Sea Coast Resorts of the Atlantic Coast*, p.29.
- 65 Pamphlet -- *The Owen*, c.1900.
- 66 Higham, "The Reorientation of American Culture in the 1890's," pp.80-81.
- 67 *New Brunswick Canada 1912*, NBMA, 917.5 N.B. Tourism Pamphlets, F1-3.
- 68 George M. Beard, *A Practical Treatise on Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia), Its Symptoms, Nature, Sequences, Treatment*, (1888; New York: E.B. Treat and Company, 1905. Reprinted New York: Klaus Reprint Company., 1971), pp.255-56.
- 69 Beard, *Nervous Exhaustion*, p.52.
- 70 Beard, *Nervous Exhaustion*, p.184.
- 71 Pamphlet, *Campobello*, 1883, p.5.
- 72 From the *Montreal Herald*, reprinted in the *St. Andrews Beacon*, July 3, 1902, p.2, c.3.
- 73 *Eastport Sentinel*, September 4, 1907, p.3, c.6.
- 74 There were, obviously, no brochures published to announce this fact. Title searches, however, indicate that the Island changed hands at this point, and when coupled with the absence of any mention of these hotels in any social column, including lists of summer visitors published in, for example, the August 20, 1908 issue of the *St. Andrews Beacon*, it becomes fairly certain that they were closed for the last time after the summer of 1907.
- 75 *Eastport Sentinel*, September 29, 1909, p.3, c.3.
- 76 *St. Andrews Beacon*, August 22, 1901, p.3, c.2.
- 77 Interview, August 6, 1995.
- 78 *Eastport Sentinel*, August 4, 1907 and September 11, 1907.

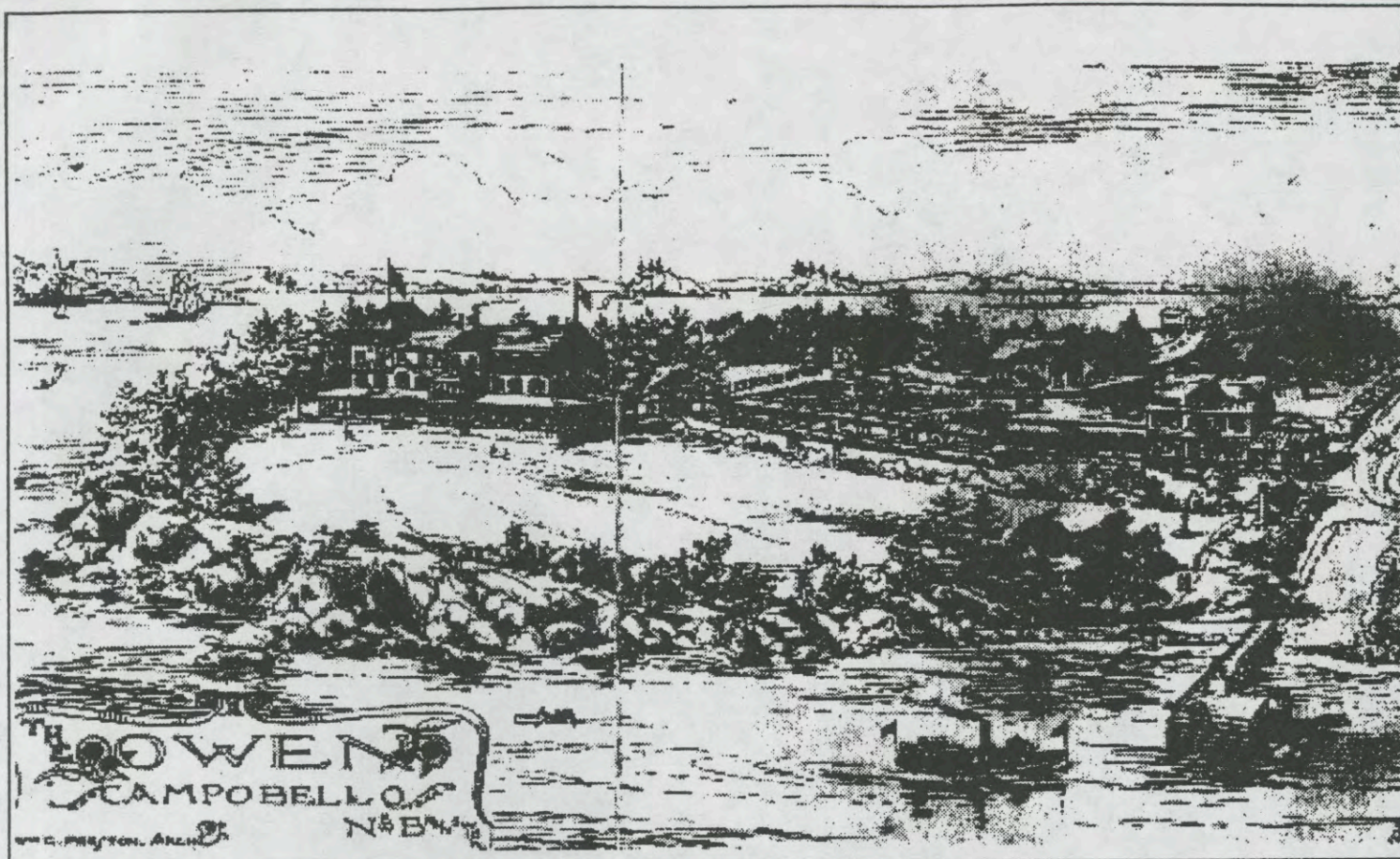


Figure 1 - The Owen Hotel, 1882. Source: Resource #33.

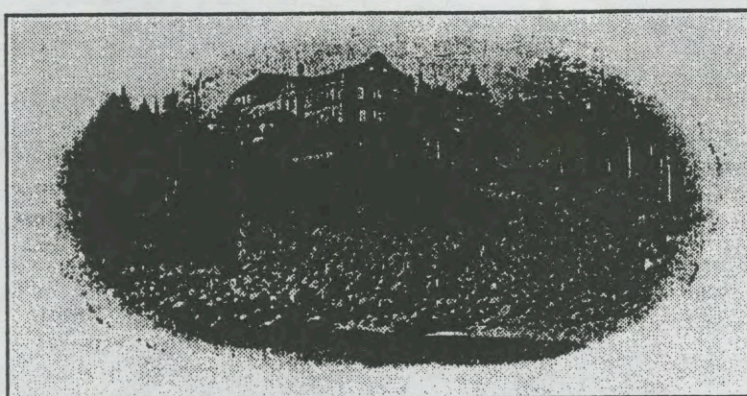


Figure 2 - The Owen Hotel, c.1900. Source: Resource #32.

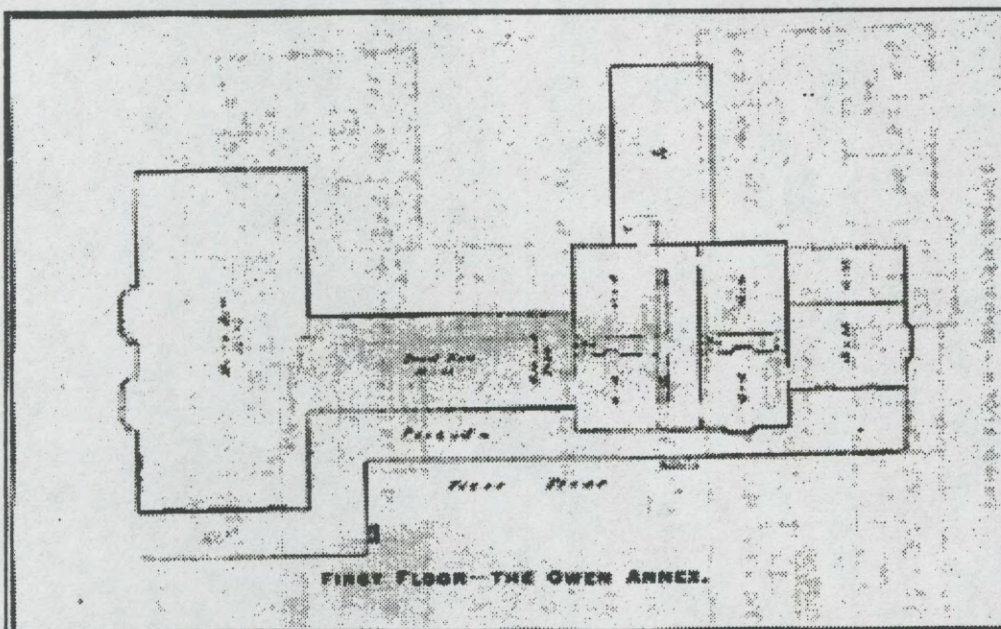
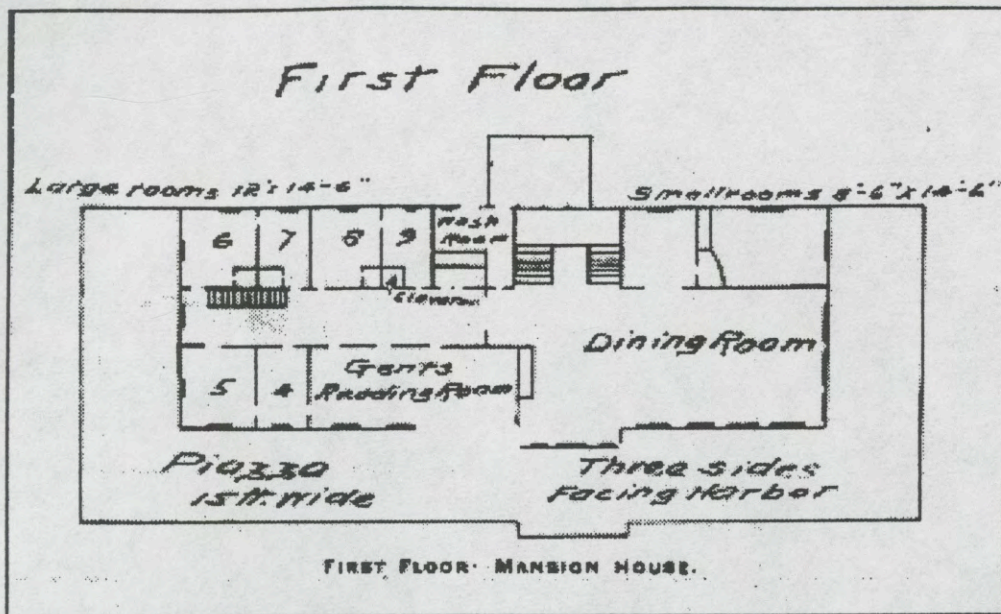


Figure 3 -Floor Plans of The Owen Hotel, c.1900. Source: Resource #32.

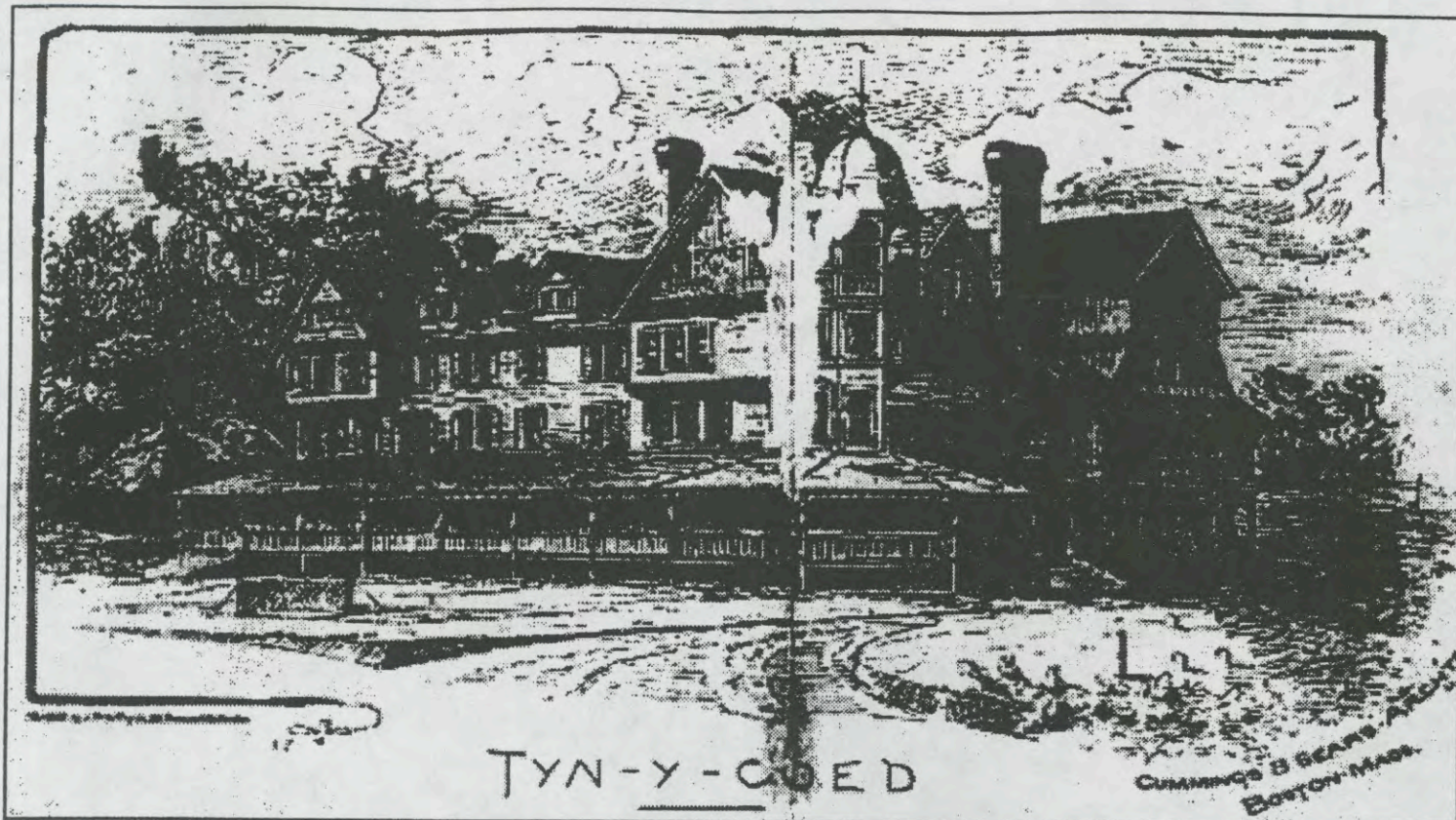


Figure 4 - Tyn-y-Coed, 1882. Source: Resource # 33.

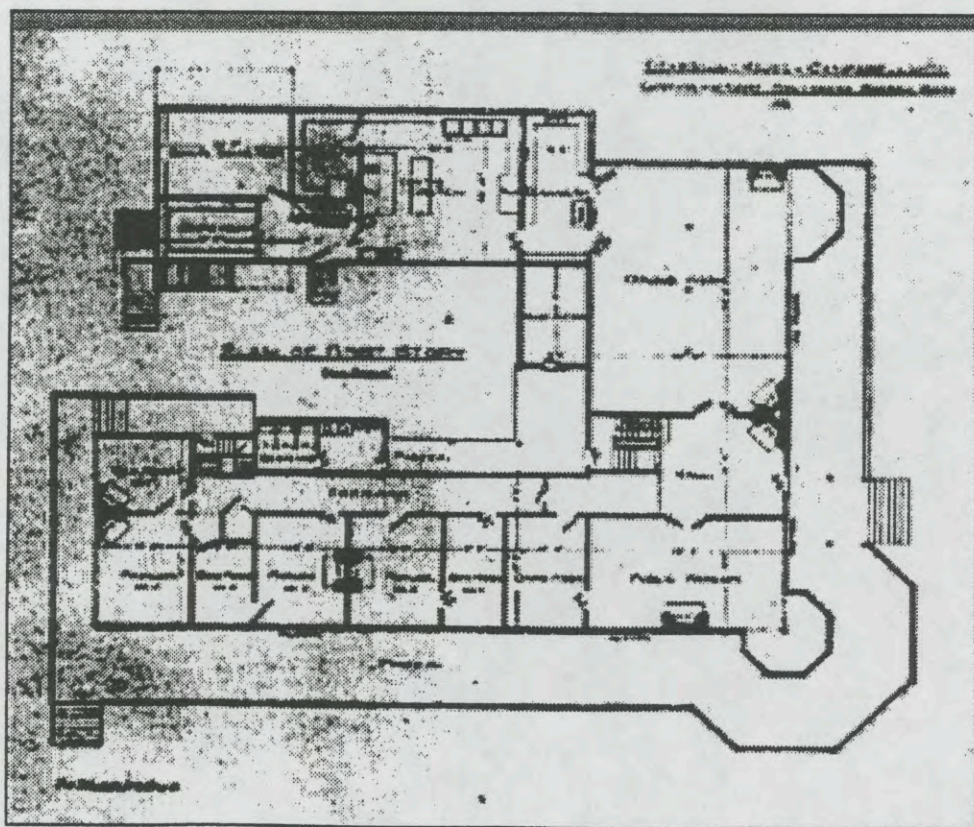


Figure 5 - Floor Plan of Tyn-y-Coed, 1882. Source: Resource #33.

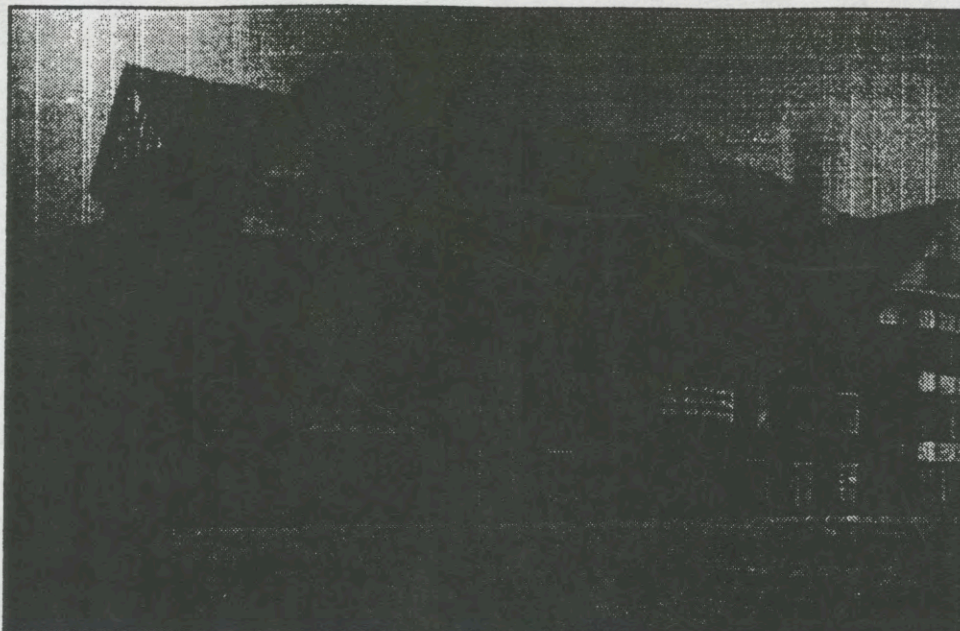


Figure 6 - Tyn-y-Maes, n.d.. Source: Charlotte County Archives.

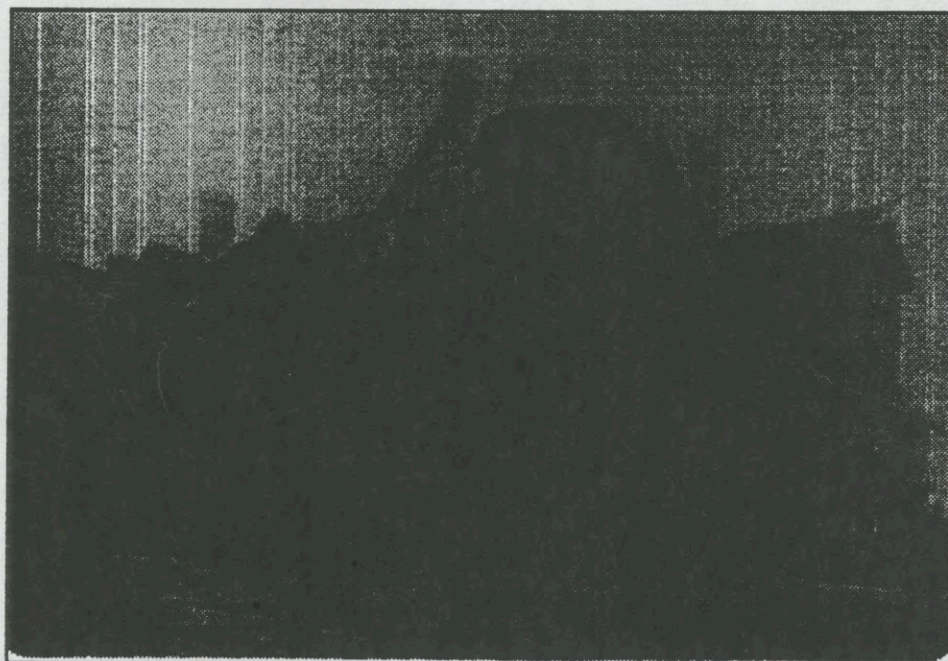


Figure 7 - Tyn-y-Coed, n.d.. Source: Charlotte County Archives

Office of The Campobello Co.

Figure 8 - Letterhead of the Campobello Company. Source: Resource #6.

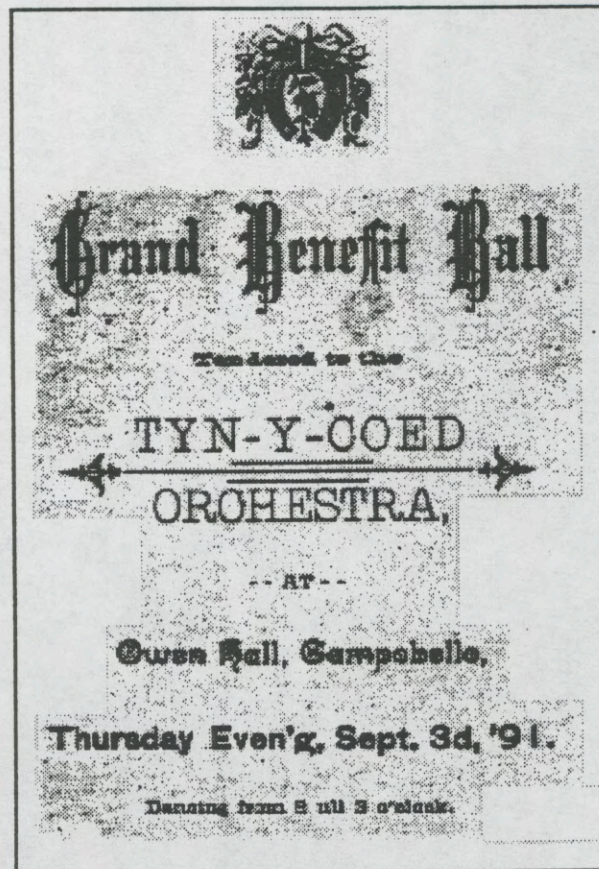


Figure 9 - Dance Card. Source: Resource # 16.

PIANO RECITAL

BY

Mr. Sigismund Stojowski

AT THE INN
CAMPOBELLO

Wednesday afternoon, August ninth
at half-past three o'clock

PROGRAM

Beethoven, ... Chopin, ... Liszt, ... Stojowski, ... Radzewski, ...	Sonata Appassionata Ballade Nocturne Etude Valse Etude de Concert Amourette de Pierrot Theme varie
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Mapes & Hensley piano used

Figure 10 - Leaflet for a recital. Source: Resource #18



Figure 11 - Friar's Head. Source: Resource #33.

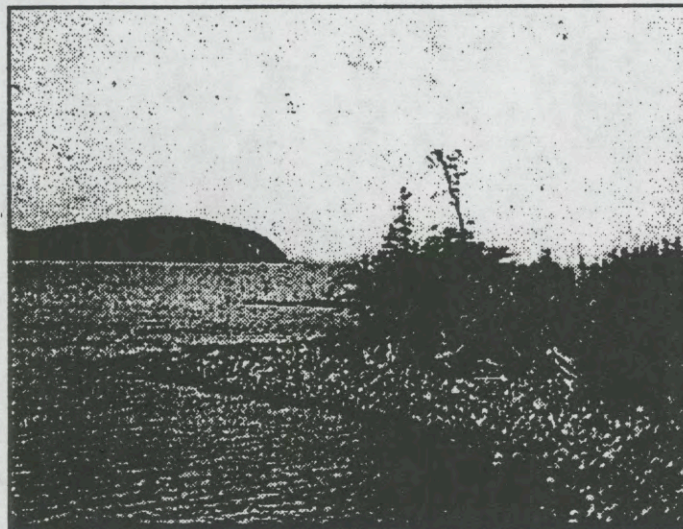


Figure 12 - Herring Cove. Source: Resource # 40.

Appendix 1 - List of Resources

1.
letter, F.B. Beaumont to George S. Grimmer, 8 February 1882.
Grimmer Papers, F1-24 (1).
New Brunswick Museum Archives (NBMA)
2.
letter, F.B. Beaumont to George S. Grimmer, 15 February 1882.
Grimmer Papers, F1-24 (2).
NBMA
3.
letter, F.B. Beaumont to George S. Grimmer, 6 March 1882.
Grimmer Papers, F1-24 (3).
NBMA
4.
letter, Alex S. Porter to George S. Grimmer, 5 September 1882.
ill - letterhead of "The Owen"
Grimmer Papers, F8-24
NBMA
5.
letter, F.B. Beaumont to George S. Grimmer, 31 January 1882
ill - letterhead of "Office of the Campobello Company"
Grimmer Papers, F3-7
NBMA
6.
letter, Alex S. Porter to George S. Grimmer, 30 March 1882
ill - letterhead of "Office of the Campobello Company"
Grimmer Papers, F3-7
NBMA
7.
Excerpt from Kate Gannett Wells, *Campobello; an historical sketch* ["New and Enlarged Edition"], (1893; Boston: [n.p.], 1900?), pp.34-46.
FC 2495 C35 W44
NBMA
8.
New Brunswick Canada 1912
917.15 N.B. Tourism Pamphlets, F 1-3
NBMA

9.

New Brunswick Canada 1915

917.15 N.B. Tourism Pamphlets, F 1-3

NBMA

10.

New Brunswick Canada's Unspoiled Province

no date, but Roosevelt was Governor of New York at the time of publication.

N.B. Tourism Pamphlets, F2

NBMA

11.

Campobello, (Boston, 1891).

Ganong Collection, 917.1533 C198ca

NBMA

12.

excerpt from Chapin, W.A.R., *The Story of Campobello*, 1960.

illustrations: photo, Tyn-y-coed Hotel and Annex, Admiral Owen's Carriage in Front of the Hotel, c.1900, "The Inn," The Owen Hotel.

FC 2495 C35 C43 1960.

Special Collections, UNB library - Fredericton.

13.

Campobello, (Boston, [nd, probably 1882]).

illustrations: cover with logo, photo, The Owen, photo, Tyn-y-coed, climate charts.

Ganong Collection, 917.1533 C198

NBMA (but they're very protective of it).

-also available at Campobello Public Library, Welshpool, museum room, large glass-fronted cabinet, bottom shelf, top of centre pile.

14.

Cow Bell, Campobello, August 20, 1885.

illustrations: masthead.

-available at Campobello Public Library, Welshpool, museum room, large glass-fronted cabinet, bottom shelf, top of centre pile.

15.

Plan of House Lots on Campobello Island, Jan. 1882.

-CPL, museum room, on wall to left of entrance.

16.

Dance Card, "Grand Benefit Ball," Tyn-Y-Coed Orchestra, at Owen Hall, 1891.

-CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.3.

17.

Menu, The Owen Dining Room, October 20, 1897.

[note: judging by the date, this may not be a summer menu, but the food may or may not be the same.]

CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.10.

18.

Card, Piano Recital, at The Inn, Campobello, August 9, ????.

CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.11.

19.

Card, The Owen Hotel, nd.

CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.12.

20.

Ad, for Campobello Island from a New York paper, nd.

CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.16.

21.

Cartoon from "Life [?]," New York, July 29, 1886

CPL, Scrapbook (Grayish "Photo Album"), p.3.

22.

Photo, "Campobello's First Golf Caddies," nd.

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.12.

23.

Photo, "Ferry Emmet 1888 Lubec, Eastport and Campobello."

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.17.

24.

Photo, "Ferry Slip at 'Tyn-y-coed' 1882"

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.18.

25.

Photo, "Hubbard Gate 1884"

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.18.

26.

Photo, "Sidewheeler - The Admiral, 1882, St. John, Campobello & Grand Manan"

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.20.

27

Photo, "The Aurora, 1895, St. John, Campobello & Grand Manan"

CPL, Scrapbook (Pinkish "Photo Album"), p.21.

28.

A.C. Morton, "The Little Canadian Island in 'Quoddy Bay Knows Frank from His Days in the General Store Forum," ns, nd.

CPL, Scrapbook (Reddish "Scrap Book"), p.1.

29.

W.V. Wallace, "Campobello, the President's Favourite Island," *The Providence Journal*, [June 1933].

CPL, Scrapbook (Reddish "Scrap Book"), p.5.

30.

Cover of pamphlet on "The Owen," Campobello Island, N.B. and photo of "'Inn' at Campobello", nd.

CPL, Museum Room, small display cabinets, the one on the right.

31.

Plate showing "The Owen"

CPL, Museum Room, small display cabinets, the one on the right.

32.

Pamphlet, "The Owen Campobello Island, N.B.", nd., [1900?]

illustrations: cover photo of "The Owen," map of Campobello Island, fishing fleet, Herring Cove Beach, Dance Hall, floor plans 1-4, advertisements on transportation to Campobello.

915.1533 ??

Legislative Library, Fredericton.

33.

Campobello Company, *Campobello Island*, 1882.

illustrations: drawings of The Owen, of Ye Old Friar, Tyn-y-coed, Friar's Head, floor plans, map of Campobello Island.

34.

Harvey, Janice, "Proprietors, Roosevelts and Scoundrels," *Island Journal*, ...???

Charlotte County Historical Society Archives, St. Andrews, NB. Ask the archivist.

35.

Dixon, Chester Allen. "Land Company Buys Campobello 75 Years Ago," *The Fundy Fisherman*, 19 December 1956.

Vertical File - Campobello Island

CCHSA

36.

Excerpt from *Sea Coast Resorts*, (International Steamship Company, 1892).

illustrations: advertisement for Tyn-y-coed.

MC 51

CCHSA

37.

Photo, "Dismantling of Early Hotel, Welshpool, 1912."
Collection of Joan Lord, Campobello.

38.

Photo, "Tyn-y-coed Hotel, late 1800s, Welshpool, Campobello."
Invitation to "Grand Annual Ball, Sept. 4th, 1896."
Collection of Joan Lord, Campobello.

39.

Manuscript, 1 page, "Later Campobello History written by Francis Porter."
Collection of Joan Lord, Campobello.

40.

Brochure, "A Glimpse of Campobello."
Collection of Joan Lord, Campobello.

41.

Newspaper article, "F.D.R.'s Personal Letters ... 1905-1928."
Collection of Bunny Hodgeson, St. Andrews.

42.

Brochure, "Campobello Island An Ideal Summer Resort."
Collection of Bunny Hodgeson, St. Andrews.

43.

Newspaper article, "Equity Sale."
St. Andrews Bay Pilot, September 9, 1886, p.3.
CCHSA

44.

Newspaper articles.
Bay Pilot, Sept. 8, 1881, p.2, c.7.
Oct. 13, 1881, p.2, c.4.
Nov. 24, 1881, p.2, c.6.
St. Andrews Beacon, July 4, 1901, p.4, c.1.
July 4, 1901, p.4, c.1.
July 18, 1901, p.4, c.1-2.
Aug. 20, 1908, p.2, c.4.
June 17, 1909, p.3, c.5.

Appendix 2 - Stories re Campobello from the St. Andrews Newspapers, 1881-1910

The Bay Pilot

June 16, 1881, p.2, c.2.

"... the new steam yacht of the Campobello company dashing to and fro across the line"

"Ground was broken Tuesday 7th inst. for the first Hotel at Campobello to be called 'The Owen.' Henry W. Newcomb of this place [Eastport] has been employed as the company's superintendent of building, under the direction of W.G. Preston of Boston as architect. It is expected that some rapid work will be done and that 'The Owen' will be opened to guests during July. As many men will be employed as can work to advantage.

"The Owen" is located on the grounds adjacent to the late residence of Admiral W. F.W. Owen, on Deer Point, ~~and our readers who are acquainted with the locality~~ and our readers who are acquainted with the locality can imagine how beautiful the views are in every direction.--Sentinel.

June 25, 1881, p.2, c.2.

"--The Island of Campobello has finally passed out of the possession of the 'Owen' family. The purchase money TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, was paid over to Chief Justice Allan (Trustee of the Estate) at Fredericton on Monday last."

Aug. 4, 1881, p.2, c.3.

"--The foundation for the pavilion and observatory at Friar's Head, Campobello, erected by the new proprietors of the island, is completed and the building will be erected immediately."

Aug. 11, 1881, p.2, c.3.

"--Mr. Spring, lessee of the 'Owen Hotel' Campobello, gives notice that only guests of the hotel and persons arriving by the steam launch 'Admiral,' will be allowed on the Owen grounds. Picnic parties will not be permitted on the adjoining grounds."

Sept. 22, 1881, p.2, c.4.

"Some parties have been negotiating for the purchase of the Wilson estate on this island, one small lot has changed hands at \$150. The purchasers intend to erect either a hotel or cottages for summer residences. The Owen and Wilson estates originally embraced all the soil of the Island.

Sept. 29, 1881, p.2, c.4.

"Campobello Correspondence."

"MAMMON A MAGIC WAND.--A few weeks ago, the Owen Mansion and its accompaniments stood in all their primeval grandeur, commemorative of and sacred to the memory of the noble family which death and other circumstances have borne away from their Island home. Magical is the transformation which the whole place has passed through under the renovator's hand, which has plucked up trees, shrubs and plants, which flourished so long under the skilful management of the faithful gardener,

Mr. W. McGowen. And on their site, beside the old homestead, has sprung up a stately mansion with all the first-class and modern appurtenances of a hotel for the comfort and convenience of its five-score guests, like the phoenix, out of the ashes of its cremated parent. Truly money is the great lever that moves the world."

Oct. 13, 1881, p.2, c.3.

"The "Owen" Hotel at Campobello is closed for the season."

Oct. 27, 1881, p.2, c.3.

"It is currently reported that Mr. Owen Parker, of Friars Bay, has sold his property to the Campobello Company for (\$4,000) four thousand dollars. He has the use of the garden and house during his life.

Nov. 3, 1881, p.2, c.2.

"At a meeting of the Campobello Company lately held in Boston, the general manager, in his report stated that the company had erected and opened the past season a fine hotel known as the "Owen," built roads, piers and bridges. Plans were exhibited of the proposed new buildings. Several of the stock holders spoke of their visit to the Island of Campobello of which they gave glowing accounts."

Nov. 10, 1881, p.2, c.5.

"Your correspondent interviewed one of the men, who has been to work at the Pool, and received the following information: "They intend to raise a barn for the Company this week sixty feet long, by twenty-five feet wide, two and a half stories high. It is to be finished with a French roof. They want twenty men. they intend to employ the men on the Island. My informant told me this was the wish of the company, and they wanted the foreman to carry that wish into effect as much as possible.

Mr. Porter has a residence for himself under course of construction. The architect was here last week drawing the plans for it. It is to be ninety feet long by forty feet wide.

They have layed out the ground for another hotel; it will have what is termed three fronts, each front to be one hundred feet. It will not be commenced until the spring, they have so much work on hand right now."

Dec. 8, 1881, p.2, c.4.

"A gentlemen informed me a short time ago that one of the capitalists of the Island offered to advance him money to open a brick kiln at Harbour Delute, but the gentleman declined the offer not having a practical knowledge of the business. No doubt the demand for brick on the Island, arising from so many buildings being erected, will cause the clay that has laid latent so long to be utilized and brick making become one of the great paying industries of the Island, making remunerative employment for many men, and yielding a large profit to the capital invested in it.

...

Mr. Porter has bought a lot of land on the Wilson estate, consisting of 2[5?] acres from Mr. Fulton Nash for the sum of (\$2200) twenty-two hundred dollars situated at a place known as Bull Dog Beach."

Dec. 22, 1881, p.2, c.3.

"Road making has been numbered among the industries of the Island since the Campobello Company has come into possession.: -- -- --Mr. W. Lank is making a road for the Company from Harbour DeLute to Schooner Cove. Two of the Henderson boys are making one from what is called the Union Road to Mill Cove."

April 20, 1882, p.2, c.2.

--Mr. F.L. Barker, the new landlord of the Owen and Tyn y coed houses, was in town last week to make preparations for the summer season at Campobello. He informs us that a large number have engaged board for the season at this resort, and that he could have rented several cottages had they been built.--Eastport Sentinel

June 1, 1882, p.2, c.4.

"The "Owen" Hotel at Campobello is to be opened to-day. We wish it success."

c.6.

"Mr. I. Newman is building a large ice house at the Pool for the Campobello company. It is evident they intend to keep things cool on the Island."

Sept. 14, 1882, p.2, c.2.

"The "Owen" at Campobello close about the 15th inst. and the "Tyn-y-coed" October first."

c.3.

"It is currently reported that another hotel will before long be built at Campobello, and that a number of cottages will be built on the island for occupation by parties who have purchased building lots."

June 25, 1885, p.2, c.2.

"The Tyn y coed Hotel, Campobello was opened for the reception of guests yesterday."

July 30, 1885, p.2, c.3.

"It appears that all the reports that a large summer business was being done by the Campobello Hotels have been erroneous. The Owen House will probably not be opened during the season, and there are only 40 or 50 people at the Tyn-y-coed. Over exclusiveness has injured Campobello as a summer resort.--Calais Times.

August 5, 1886, p.2, c.3.

"The St. John Globe asks:--

What has become of Campobello as a watering place? Once it was in everybody's mouth. Now we scarcely hear of it. What is the matter?

Because St. Andrews is out of the fog.

--Bay Pilot.

xxxAug 19, 1886, p.3, c.3. arrivals record

September 9, 1886, p.2, c.2.

"The Campobello Company"

"We desire to call the attention of our readers to a notice in this issue relating to the affairs of the above named company, which if unexplained is quite likely to be misunderstood. This season has been a very successful one for the company, the number of their patrons having been greater than ever before, and their prospects are so bright and so hopeful that they are led to seek additional financial and other facilities and advantages by means of a reorganization, and propose to obtain the same in the way indicated in the notice preferred. There are many strong and satisfactory reasons for believing, that at no very distant day, the Island of Campobello will become one of the favourite and best patronized resorts on the Atlantic coast, many building lots having been already sold and several cottages erected. Having in contemplation the enlargement of the Tyn-y-coed hotel, the company have engaged the services of Messrs. Cummings and Sears, of Boston, who are now preparing plans, estimates, &c., for that purpose.

St. Andrews Beacon, May 16, 1889, p.3, c.1.

"The Campobello hotels--the Tyn-y-coed and Tyn-y-maes--will be open for summer visitors on the 1st of July. The hotels will be under the management of Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Barker, who have managed them for several seasons. The outlook for this season is promising."

June 12, 1890, p.3, c.6.

"The hotel outlook is bright, and the cottages are already filling up."

June 19, 1890, p.3, c.4.

"From present appearances Vanderbilt may carry the "billy" at the Tyn-y-coed this season. It would certainly be advantageous to the Campobello Co. if he does."

July 3, 1890, p.3, c.5.

"The Hotel at Campobello is in full blast, and the cottages are rapidly filling up. A larger number of people will come to the island this year than last, if the weather is at all propitious."

June 25, 1891, p.3, c.4.

"The hotel Tyn-y-coed is beginning to look lively. Mr. Stevens, the steward, has arrived with some others. Mr. Barker, the proprietor, has been here and gone again. He thinks this will be the best summer they have had since he has had the hotel.

July 16, 1891, p.3, c.4.

"There are about 60 guests at the Tyn-y-coed

June 23, 1892, p.3, c.5.

"The Sturgis cottage on Campobello is now occupied for the summer.

Col. William L. Chandler, the late manager of the Aspinwall Land Company, has been elected a Director of the Campobello Island Company, together with Messrs. F.B. Beaumont, A.S. Porter, George A. Goddard, Samuel Wells and H.L. Higginson."

June 30, 1892, p.3, c.1.

"The help for the Campobello hotel arrived on Tuesday by boat."

July 7, 1892, p.3, c.4.

"The Tyn-y-coed hotel, Campobello, under Manager Smith's watchful care, is doing well. This is Mr. Smith's first hotel experience 'down-East.'"

July 21, 1892, p.3, c.4.

"Everything is booming on C, the Tyn-y-coed having a big run of guests."

Sept. 8, 1892, p.3, c.4.

"The summer houses on Campobello are shortening sail for the balance of the season.

The Tyn-y-mas annex to the Tyn-y-coed is closed. The season has been fairly profitable for the Campobello Co. We understand an architect from Boston has been engaged making plans for a new hotel to take the place of the Owen which is to be torn down, the new house will have about three hundred rooms. Tenants who have hitherto held the land under the impression it was their own from a long occupation without being called on to pay rent, are to be evicted and those whose leases have expired will not be able to renew."

June 15, 1893, p.3, c.5.

"Dr. Sturgis and family arrived on Saturday 10th.

...

The Owen property has again changed hands. Messrs. Lord and Wells were here last week with a couple of gentlemen, and it is understood that one of them purchased the property and intends opening the Owen hotel as soon as possible.

...

The Misses Cochrane arrived at the Cochrane House on Monday, 12th.

July 20, 1893, p.3, c.6.

"The Tyn-y-coed is having a rushing time. There are eighty guests, being more, for this season of the year, than any other season since running. There is some little indignation felt among the help. The most of the help this year are from Boston, thus throwing quite a number out of work.

...

All of the cottages are open and there is talk of two new ones being built."

1894

June 7, 1894, p.3, c..1.

"The Tyn-y-coed at Campobello, opens for the season on July 1st, with Mr. John A. Sherlock of Hotel Abbotsford, Boston, as manager.

Aug 7, 1894, p.3, c.4.

"The Tyn-y-coed has something over a hundred there at present, with numbers coming and going every day.

Sept. 13, 1894, p.3, c.1.

"The Tyn-y-coed hotel, Campobello, closed on Monday. A number of the guests took refuge under the hospitable roof of the Algonquin, where they will remain some days.

1896

June 18, 1896, p.3, c.3.

"Mr. and Mrs. Gorham Hubbard, of Boston, Mass., arrived this week to occupy their beautiful cottage for the summer months.

Dr. Russell Sturgis and family arrived last week from Boston to reside for the summer months."

July 7, 1896, p.3, c.4.

"The Tyn-y-coed hotel at Campobello is in full blast under the management of Mr. Sherlock."

1897

August 5, 1897, p.3, c.5.

"Visitors at Campobello are numerous this season, and the Tyn-y-coed is enjoying a large run of guests."

1899

July 6, 1899, p.3, c.1.

"The Campobello summer hotels and boarding-houses have opened, and all the indications point to a more successful season...."

-some people lunched at the Tyn-y-coed, thus it was open.

1900?

May 8, 1900, p.3, c.3.

"...Since the new proprietors have taken charge of the "Owen," a new stage has been built..."

July 12, 1900, p.3, c.6.

"The summer visitors are fast arriving, the houses Owen and Tyn-y-coed are open and well equipped for their accommodations."

August 2, 1900, p.3.

c.1.

"The Campobello hotels are being well patronized."

c.6.

"Another large and fine yacht has been added to the fleet which the summer visitors have here for pleasuring in. She is owned by Mr. James Roosevelt and is called 'Half Moon.'

August 9, 1900, p.3, c.5.

"What with the Owen and the Tyn-y-coed we are having more than a full share of summer visitors. At the first of the season there was some fear of the Tyn-y-coed not opening on account of a number of its old patrons not coming here and going to the Paris exhibition instead. But they are doing as well as any year since it opened.

The Owen, so far, has not had a great many permanent guests, but numbers of excursionists and many up river people visit for a few days or for dinner.

...

Another cottage has been added to the group by the Tyn-y-coed, that of Mr. Prince of St. Louis--costing something in the vicinity of six thousand dollars."

August 30, 1900, p.3, c.5.

"A pleasant entertainment was given in the Owen Hall, on Friday evening, by a company of summer visitors, the Misses Porter and their brother playing a good part. Music and singing and dancing made up an excellent programme."

1901

July 4, 1901, p.3, c.1.

"Campobello summer cottages are filling up. Messrs. Porter, Hubbard and Cochran are among those who have begun the season in their elegant cottage homes."

July 18, 1901, p.2, c.3.

"Then, on the island of Campobello, where fashion and society have set their seal, there is much that is pleasing and attractive,--delightful surroundings, good boating, bathing and fishing, smooth roads for cycling or driving, romantic nooks upon the shore, and, to crown all, a wealth of historic associations. There are also good hotels and boarding houses, adapted to the length of any purse."

xxxJuly 18, 1901, p.4, c.1-2, advertisement for the Owen.

xxxJuly 4, p.4, c.1., ads for steamships.

August 22, 1901, p.3, c.2.

"The Atmosphere is Rich

It is rumoured that the promoters of the Campobello summer resort threaten to bring suit against the city of Eastport unless something is done to close up the fertilizer factory at the South End. Several guests, who engaged rooms at the different hotels across the harbour, were obliged to shorten their stay on account of the sickening odor which greeted them with every gust of wind from the south and west. The beautiful scenery of Passamaquoddy is still delightful to look upon, but the atmosphere--oh, horrors!--News.

August 29, 1901, p.3, c.6.

"A very successful entertainment was given in the Owen hall on Tuesday evening to a large audience, under the management of Messrs. Porter, Hubbard, the Misses Cochran, Porter, Gen. Page and many more of the summer visitors, for the purpose of raising money to erect a public hall in the upper district."

1902

July 3, 1902, p.2, c.3.

[from the Montreal Herald]

CAMPOBELLO, N.B.

Island laying off Passamaquoddy Bay, three by eight miles in extent. Great historical associations, now owned by American syndicate, who have made it into summer resort of first rank; connected by ferry with Eastport; splendid boating and sea fishing; attractive hotels.

Points of Interest.--Promontory of Eastern Head, Glen Severn Lake, Lovers' Lane, lighthouses and the rock called "Friar's Head."

Hotels.--Owen, J.J. Alexander, \$2 day; Tyn-y-coed, \$4 day; Tyn-y-mais, \$4 day.

The Beacon, June 18, 1903, p.3, c.3.

"The season at Campobello promises to be gay. The Tyn-y-coed will again be under the management of Fred F. Jones, of Boston, who has been so popular with the visitors to the island during the past three years; the Owen, thoroughly renovated and improved, will be opened this season by J.J. Alexander, who has already booked a large number of guests. It is stated that all the cottages will be open this year.

May 5, 1904, p.2, c.5.

"The Tyn-y-coed will reopen under lease to Fred. E. Jones, the former manager, who is also running the Buckminister in Boston.

June 2, 1904, p.3, c.5.

"Preparations are being made for the coming season at the hotels and cottages, and the yachts have been brought from their winter quarters to receive their usual coat of paint and varnish. ...

Mr. Alexander of the Owen is looking forward to a good summer's traffic. His hotel looks gay, and the grounds are being put in order and everything points to a prosperous season.

June 16, 1904, p.2, c.1.

"St. John people are complaining that the C. P. R. is discriminating against them in the matter of passenger rates. The rate from Montreal to St. Andrews is \$12, while \$21.50 is quoted for St. John.

1908

June 18, 1908, p.3, c.1.

"Hotel Owen at Campobello, for some years successfully conducted by John J. Alexander, Esq., has been leased to the Campobello Company and will soon be opened under the new management. The name of the hotel is to be changed, and will hereafter be known as "The Inn," a familiar name throughout England for high-class hostelryes."

July 2, 1908, p.3, c.6.

advertisement -- "THE INN, CAMPOBELLO. Open from June 1st to October 1st.

August 20, 1908, p.2, c.4.

arrivals at the Inn

- indicates that Tyn-y-coed may have been closed

1909

xxxJune 17, 1909, p.3, c.5.

August 26, 1909, p.3, c.1.

"The Campobello Island Corporation has acquired control of the Lord and Wells properties on the island. "

June 30, 1910, p.3, c.2.

"The Campobello Inn, situated so delightfully on the Island opposite Eastport, will open to-morrow, July 1. The hotel has been greatly improved since last season, and the prospects for a successful season are good."

xxx c3-4 ad, article.

Appendix 3 - Cottage Lots Purchased from the Campobello Company, 1882-1886

Charles C. Jackson and Frank Jackson	Lot 95a	23 Sept. 1882
Eleanor S. Anderson and Amy Cope	Lot 94	23 Sept. 1882
J. Shipley Newlin	Lot 93	23 Sept. 1882
Henry C. Snow	Lot 71	23 Sept. 1882
Susan B. Cabot	Lot 8	30 Sept. 1882
Susan B. Cabot	Lot 7	30 Sept. 1882
Susan B. Cabot	Lot B	30 Sept. 1882
Susan B. Cabot	Lot D	30 Sept. 1882
Susan B. Cabot	Lot C	30 Sept. 1882
Edward E. Chase	Lot A	02 Oct. 1882
George A. Gardner	Lot 88	01 Sept. 1882
George A. Gardner	Lot 90	23 Sept. 1882
George H. Lyman, Jr.	Lot 86	23 Sept. 1882
George H. Lyman, Jr.	Lot 87	23 Sept. 1882
Catherine B.G. Wells	Lot 92	23 Sept. 1882
Henry Whelin Jr.	Lot 68	01 Dec. 1882
Nathalie E. Bayliss	Lot 112	18 Sept. 1883
Esther M. Murdoch and Dora L. Murdoch	Lot 79	07 Nov. 1883
Nathanial S. Shalen	Lot 95	31 Oct. 1884
Russell Sturgis III	Lot 98	09 Nov. 1883
Russell Sturgis III	Lot 99	09 Nov. 1883
Russell Sturgis III	Lot 100	09 Nov. 1883
Russell Sturgis III	Lot 101	09 Nov. 1883
Russell Sturgis III	Lot 102	09 Nov. 1883
Olivia McKee Munson	Lot 70	30 Oct. 1884
Emma Rogers	Lot 114	26 Nov. 1884

Although the conveyances are available for land transfers after 1886, the land is no longer identified by its number on the plan of land of the Campobello Company.