

## HISTORY OF (FOLLY) GLENHOLME, NS.

Written by Mrs Edna Morrison in 1958

*Edited and added (in Italics) by Lester Settle May 2004.*

[The Native and French Era's] *Alex F. Flemming, descendent of the first British settler in Glenholme, [James Flemming] writing of the village July 14, 1921, at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Erskine Presbyterian (now United) Church describes the early history of Indians and French at Londonderry (Glenholme) as follows: "Previous to the arrival of the French, [about 1690], Londonderry had been occupied by Indians as a hunting ground [particularly in Debert area]. Very little is known of the location of their villages [more recent archaeological findings have identified a site on the Debert plains which goes back 10,600 years! The Micmacs, the immediate predecessors of the Acadian French were established in the area for at least 2000 years.]*

*One place where there was a settlement of Indians was situation on a brook interval on East Folley Mountain [note the spelling!], where remains of numerous campfires were found when the place was brought under cultivation many years ago. About twenty ago [c. 1900] a stone was found there, which very much resembles a pagan idol, as is so claimed to be by the finder. Our French predecessors came to Londonderry [Folley, Folly, Glenholme] and were in possession of this part of the country for about [60] years before their expulsion. They had prosperous settlements at [present day] Masstown, Lower Debert, and Little Dyke; also a small village of six or seven families up Folley River, three and a half miles from Glenholme."*

*The Acadian name most associated with Glenholme is "Longuepee"; Vincent and Madeline (Rimbault). Vincent lived in Port Royal for a short time and then moved to Grand Pre, then to Cobequid ( at Glenholme) where he lived with his family for 30 years. Vincent was born in France in 1671; a sailor, he arrive in Port Royal about 1689 and married Madeline Rimbault in 1691 at Port Royal. Children born to Vincent and Madeline were Louis, born about 1692 ; Madeline, born 1696; Marie born about 1698; Elizabeth born about 1700; Marguerite born about 1701; and Cecile born 1702 — all at Ville Longuepee of Cobequid (Glenholme). Maps of the 1750's shown six homes and an Acadian cart-path passing through Ville Longuepee. They had dykes along the Folly [or Folley] River. "The French had a road from Glenholme up Folley River, over the Cobequid to Remsheck (now Wallace) and a branch up the road from Folley Lake North Eastward to Tatamagouche."*

*The published genealogy of the Longuepee family of Cobequid records that Louis, the son of Vincent, had seven children and in 1753 or 1754 he and his family decided to leave Glenholme because they were afraid of being caught and deported by the English. They followed the river (probably the Chiganois) as far as Tatamagouche and then by night and fishing boat crossed over to Isle Royale ( now Prince Edward Island), landing near present day Charlottetown. March 9, 1759 Louis and three of his children departed for St Malo, France, where their son, Louis, died. and was buried August 16, 1760. Louis became a farmer aide at Gouesmere France, died and was buried June 5,1763 in St. Servan, France.*

*" It may be of interest ..... to know that one of the Acadians is buried in the Folly Village Cemetery. She was born at Masstown, was one year old at the time of the expulsion and was*

*carried by her mother (who escaped from the British Soldiers) through the woods to Tatamagouche. Many years later she returned to Masstown, the place of her mirth. In later years she married Richard Dunn and settled on Folley Mountain in 1806, being the first family to settle at that place, where she died in 1844, aged 90 years. [There is no record of her burial in Folly Village Cemetery, it may be she was buried in Folly Mountain Cemetery. - LMS]*

*Mrs. Elizabeth Flemming, still living in her 90<sup>th</sup> year, [in 1921] well remembers that old Acadian woman.”*

**[ First British Settler] The first man of British descent to settle in this community was Mr. James Flemming, who came here about 1762, from Londonderry, New Hampshire, but originally of Londonderry, Ireland.**

**[First Called Londonderry] The community was then named Londonderry, after Londonderry Ireland, James Flemming’s native land. The Post Office and Custom House were also called Londonderry, as well as all the out-lying districts, all part of Londonderry Township. The Township in those days consisted of lands West of Chiganois River, North about 8 miles, and following the Bay Shore as far as Economy Point and including the villages of Masstown, Lower Debert, Debert, Folly (Later Glenholme), Great Village, Portaupique, Bass River and Lower Economy. A region of about 100,00 acres , granted October 30, 1765. The center point of the township was where the church was located, Londonderry, later called Fawleigh, Folley and Folly. The Polling districts still go by that name, Upper, Middle, and Lower Londonderry, this community being the former, “Upper Londonderry”.**

**[Railroad] When the Railroad was built the station nearest to Londonderry (now Glenholme) was called “Londonderry” and the mail used to go to the wrong place as this is where the Londonderry Post Office was located; so this community changed it’s name to FOLLY VILLAGE. This name was chosen because the community had been called “Flemming’s Folly!”**

**[Name “Folly”] The story [which I think is folk-lore and not accurate!] behind that name is this: One time some friends of James Flemming came to visit him when he was trying to cultivate some rather poor soil. He remarked to them. “It’s folly to try to farm were.” So when Londonderry Station took over the name Londonderry, the name of “FOLLY” stuck with the residents here.**

**[Glenholme] In 1909 a petition was circulated by a native of Folly Village who had returned to his birthplace from NOME B.C. It was very embarrassing to those who went away from the Village to live in another place to be asked from where they came and have to answer ‘FOLLY VILLAGE’. They would probably be asked if it was a Village of Fools!!**

*(It should be noted that on early maps (eg. 1864) the spelling was “Fawleigh”, a Irish word meaning: “Picturesque, a place of dells, hills and streams” There is actually an area in*

*Ireland by name of “Fawleigh” It is my opinion, that this was likely the original spelling, but pronounced like “folly” and therefore this less desirable name became the customary way of speaking and spelling what should have been a beautiful word and title for a village such as is being described. Documents written for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Erskine Church, Glenholme, in 1921, use the spelling “Folleigh” in describing the village, the River and Folleigh Mountain. See in particular the paper given by Alex. F Flemming.)*

[*Poem on name change*] When the petition was circulated to have the name changed there was considerable discussion as to what the name should be. This is best told in the words of a poem written by Mr. William Morrison at the time the change was made.

[*The Poem*]

**“CHANGING THE NAME OF FOLLY”**

*By William Morrison*

*(Items in brackets added by Settle)*

**It was in the month of January  
The year of nineteen nine,(1909)  
There was a cause a great commotion  
In this little town of mine.**

**Strangers often wonder,  
And said it was a shame.  
That such a pretty village (*Fawleigh*)  
Had such a foolish name,**

**In former years it had a name  
With which we were content; (*Londonderry*)  
It was changed when ICR was built,(*Folly*)  
But not by Parliament.**

**Over thirty years we’ve borne it,  
The simple name of Folly;  
But now we’ll start petitions  
And we’ll change it too “by golly”!**

**So they drew up a petition,  
To our Nova Scotia House;  
To change the name of Folly  
And that started all the touse.**

**Some wish to call it Derry  
To perpetuate the fame  
Of our brave old early settlers,  
And the homes from which they came.**

But the word went through the village,  
Sometimes open, sometimes sly.  
We want to have the name change,  
But no Irish need apply.

Some thought the name of Brighton  
Was the proper one to use,  
But it seems the one of Glenholme  
Is what the people choose.

Though we bow in meek submission,  
Yet we'll thank the man from Nome, (*Nome, B.C.*)  
That carried around the petition,  
That will make it's name Glenholme.

Now all our lads and lassies  
In whatever land you roam,  
Do not hail from Folly Village.  
But the more sensible, Glenholme !

**[Ship Building]** At one time Glenholme was a very prosperous Ship Building Community and can boast of a goodly number of Captains and brave Seamen. There were at one time three Ship Yards; one just below the Folly River bridge belonging to the Urquhart's; one across from the Church, probably owned by the Faulkners; and another on the same read near the Point. (Little Dyke)

**[Captains]** Among the sea Captains were: William George, Fred and Duncan Urquhart; Frank Morrison; David and A.D. Faulkner; Alexander and David Corbett; Hedley McDougall, and Charles E. Fulton. Mr. Fulton was born in Lower Debert on a farm now owned by Marten Smith. He was Master of the vessels, Flora, Euroa and Queen Elizabeth. He sailed the seven seas for forty years without a ship wreck and died *Nov.15, 1924* at his home in Glenholme, (*Age 76 - and is buried in the Folly Village Cemetery with the emblem of an anchor on his grave stone.*) leaving a widow and three sons. Captain Hedly McDougall lost his life at sea. His wife resided in Glenholme and while her health permitted was Postmistress of the local Post Office.

**[Other Sea Goers]** Alexander Urquhart was a ship builder. Irvin Little and also John and Allan Urquhart were Mates on vessels sailing from Glenholme. Mrs. John Urquhart made a small model of a vessel in which he (John) sailed around the world. He also sailed around Cape Horn seven times. He held a record of fishing every summer in the Cobequid Bay for over Forty years and lost his life *July 1938 at 64 years of age while fishing in the Bay.* It was presumed he was caught in the rope while working with his nets and was dragged over board; his body was washed ashore several days later, *and is*

*buried in Folly Village Cemetery.*

[*Ferry Service*] A ferry was run from Little Dyke to Maitland by Mr. Alexander McDougall Stewart for twelve years. (*Mr Stewart is buried in Folly Village Cemetery 1864 - 1935*) This ferry carried freight and passengers, but was discontinued in 1925 when cars became popular. Many a pleasant evening was passed by young people who went across to Maitland to dances and parties on this ferry.

[*Politicians*] When the Fifth General Assembly of N.S. met in Halifax, June 6, 1770, Captain John Morrison was elected by acclamation for the Township of Londonderry until 1771; the first to represent Londonderry in Provincial Legislature. "*He was tall and spare, never bowed with age; was a great walker, when riding he sat in the saddle like an officer; a fine looking man, an eloquent speaker, full of wit and ready with a retort on all occasions*" He died in 1816 aged 91 years. "*A grandson, the Hon. Thomas F. Morrison, 1855-1863 and 1867-1874; also represented the North District of Colchester and became Immigration Agent for NS and a member of the Legislative Council. He was the one who introduced the vote by ballot in the Ballot Bill of 1870, and was appointed to the Legislative Council for three years during the time Hon. W. S. Fielding was Premier. (From Alex F Flemming's address 1921)"*

Mr. James Smith (*Son of Rev. David Smith*) was elected to represent Londonderry in the Assembly in 1785 for a period of four years, then he moved to Middle Stewiacke. Other Representatives were Robert McElhinney, 1790-1800; Samuel Chandler, 1800-1804 James Fulton, 1805-06; James Flemming, 1811-1826; John Weir Sr. 1827-1836 and again in 1848-1851; G. W. MacLellan, 1836-1858, dying suddenly while attending the House; Hon. A.W. MacLellan, son of G. W. MacLellan, was elected in 1856 to succeed his father until 1867 (Confederation) when he was elected to the House of Commons in Ottawa; here he was in charge of Intercolonial Railway, was appointed to the Senate in 1869, but resigned in 1882 and was re-elected to the House of Commons, a member of the Privy Council, Minister of Marine and Fisheries 1882 to 1887; became Post Master General in 1887 until 1888 when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of NS until his death in 1890. Hon Charles N. Cummings was also born at Folly Village and engaged in business with his father and in ship building. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1894 until his death in 1911. Hon George E. Faulkner who began as a country store clerk and later a teacher at Halifax Business College, elected to House of Assembly for Halifax in 1906, reelected in 1911 and 1916; was speaker of the House in 1910 until 1920.

[*Doctors*] The Village of Glenholme (*Folly*) can boast of several doctors: Edward Bruce Urquhart, of Folly Village who went to Boston, studied medicine and died there a young man; Robert F. Crowe, son of Thomas and Esther (Barnhill) or (Crowe), practiced medicine in Glenholme (Folly) following 1840, (he died Oct, 1844 at 39 years of age, and is buried in Folly Village Cemetery) and whose small daughter, Tryphena (died at 6 months) is also buried (Sept 25, 1840), as well as Mrs. Crowe, (Rebecca Martin), who died July 6, 1843 at 33 years of age. Dr Robert Crowe was born at Debert in 1805, educated at the University of Pennsylvania. He practiced in Truro for only a short time when his health began to fail and he wished to return to village of Folly. He was very popular, although he

had some striking eccentricities; e.g. he had his coffin made and brought to the house some time before he died. When he moved from Truro to Folly Village he followed his coffin which was conveyed in another carriage. Dr. Samuel Muir from River John moved to Truro and took of Dr Crowe's Truro house and Practice.

According to the Miller Book, another daughter of Dr. Robert F. Crowe survived and married Thomas McCulloch of Halifax, (President Presbyterian College and Dalhousie University? ) Dr. Miller, native of Lr. Debert who was a distinguished physician in Saint John, NB; others were: Dr. Harvey Smith, Dr. Seymour McKenzie, Crow McIntyre, and Freeman Sinclair. One of the most noted doctors was Dr . E. Ross Faulkner, MD, CM, FRCS. Graduating from Dalhousie Medical school in 1901, practiced in Mahone Bay and later as a Specialist in New York.

Lloyd K. Smith, a local historian of Londonderry, in a paper to the Colchester Historical Society 1954-1957, tells of L H Wheaton who resided in Folly Village 1900, married to Nettie Corbett. *"He was not a doctor, but a businessman who was out to relieve the suffering of humanity. His place of business was the building on the corner of No. 2 and 4 highways, now occupied by Morris's Gas Station. Wheaton made and sold to merchants and doctors 'Wheaton's Home Comfort Remedies'. His Comfort Headache Powders had a ready sale and were a comfort to many people."*

Smith also tells of the well known Doctor of Debert, Dr. Homer Crowe: *"He practiced in a wide area and traveled by horse and buggy or sleigh. He maintained a stable of good horses, but used mostly a grey mare which needed little reining. There seemed to be an understanding between horse and doctor and this faithful beast always brought him home in spite of no driver. The doctor would be fast asleep. Not only was he a disciple of Hippocrates but also of Bacchus, and he found it necessary to imbibe freely. Often he arrived to administer his medicine when he seemed to be in no state to do so, but it was said by many of his patients that they would rather have him drunk than any other doctor sober!*

*Calling one evening on a patient on the Wallace Road near Glenholme (Folly), the patient seemed very much concerned and he asked Dr. Crowe if he would live. The doctor asked the patient how old he was and he said 84. The doctor said, 'you surely don't want to live any longer'!*

*On a stormy night, driving by horse and sleigh from East Village the horse took a short cut It is probably that the road was bad with too much snow but the railroad bed presented an easy path and with the doctor asleep, the horse started down the track to the high bridge. At the bridge the horse didn't hesitate and when coming to the end of the bridge on the East Mines side, the runner slipped off the end of the sleeper and made a bump and woke up the sleeping doctor."*

[Lawyers] Of the legal profession there was Alfred G. Morrison, who was admitted to the Bar in Dec. 1882; he was the son of the Honorable T. F. Morrison and was noted as a platform speaker and Advocate. He died suddenly in Feb. 1917. Mr. Jacob Edward Corbett was another Lawyer; he was admitted to the Bar in 1892; shortly after beginning practice he contracted tuberculosis and went to Colorado where he died after years of patient suffering.

**[Clergy]** Glenholme can also boast of her clergy (ministers) born here: David Flemming, Thomas Brown Layton, Henry Crawford, B. K. McElmon, Frederick Vance, James and Daniel Morrison, and Jacob Layton. Rev. Jacob Layton was born in 1840 and was ordained to preach in the Presbytery of Truro in 1869; his first charge was Coldstream where he was the first minister. In 1875 he married Margaret, daughter of Rev. James Smith of Upper Stewiacke. He was called to Bermuda in 1876 but returned to Nova Scotia in 1879 and was pastor at Elmsdale for 17 years. He and Mrs. Layton retired in 1919 and came to live on the old homestead at Glenholme. *Sept. 16, 1931 he died at 91 years of age in the same room in which he was born.*

**[First inducted Presbyterian]** Glenholme has the distinction of having the first called and *Clergyman in Canada* Presbyterian minister in all of Canada, *as well as one of the first church Presbyterian church buildings.* The first church was built in 1969 and Rev. David Smith was called from Hope Park Church, St. Andrews in Scotland where he had been minister for 8 years (1763 to 1771) (their second minister) . *Smith was born in 1732 and studied under the leadership of James Fisher, a disciple of Ebenezer Erskine who led a reform movement in the Church of Scotland until his death in 1754, which James Fisher continued. Rev. David Smith was designated as a Missionary for Nova Scotia following the death of his wife in 1767 Agnes Speir ( daughter of a sea captain and Mary Hogsheart of Paisley, Renfrew) in Scotland. In August 1769 he received a call from the Church in Londonderry N.S. which he accepted. He preached his last service to the congregation of Hope Park, St Andrews on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1770, leaving Greenock, Scotland June 1771 with his two older sons, James and David, arriving in late June or early July 1771. He was the first Presbyterian Minister to be inducted in Canada at Londonderry, N.S. July 18, 1771. He died March 25, 1795 and is buried in Folly Village Cemetery. Scott Smith, one of his descendants lives in Londonderry and is a member of Erskine United (Presbyterian) Church.*

**[The first churches.]** The first church was a log structure on the same site as the present church. The second church was built while Rev. John Brown was minister, between 1795 and 1848. It burned and the present church building was erected in 1865, *remodeled and modernized in 1981 and still serving the people of the community in 2004.*

**[ Two historic Chairs]** Two chairs that belonged to Rev. John Brown are in use on each side of the pulpit today. In 1937. Sunday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, a chair once owned by Mr Brown was placed on the pulpit platform, the gift of John Noble Crowe, of New Jersey, a native son of the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge, which includes Glenholme. Mr. Crowe is a great-grand son of the Rev. John Brown. Another chair, matching, had already been presented to the church by Mrs. Florence Flemming, a great-grand daughter of Mr. Brown. The chairs are probably one hundred and fifty years old ( *now 217 years old, and still in weekly use!* ) and they add dignity and charm to this historic church. *They were brought from Scotland by Rev. Mr. Brown and once were part of the family furniture in the Brown home.*

**[Church lights.]** *In 1932 electricity came to Glenholme The Church, Manse and Hall were wired. The chandelier in the church, that had been installed for oil lamps in 1896, was turned*

*upside down and the oil lamps replaced with electric lights.* Dec. 1943, Erskine Church received a substantial contribution from Mrs. Florence Hallett and Mrs. Laua Hallett, to be used to install electric lights for the choir, organ and pulpit in memory of the late Harry Hallet. Further donations from other friends will be used to wire the church for the lights. During the years that Harry and Mrs. Hallett lived in Glenholme they were members of the choir and took active part in all community affairs and were always ready to help in any cause for the public good. *On September 14, 1945 a service was held to dedicate the Choir Lights.*

[*Teachers*] Each community has it's school house, and Glenholme was no exception. The first school was situated near the place where the late R B Layton home was. Later the school was purchased by Mr Charles Cummings and used as a store. The new school was built to the West of the Church as a one room school, later on when the number of pupils increased a primary room was added. The first teachers were disbanded soldiers who knew very little about teaching; sometimes no better educated than some of the pupils. It is said, one day in the lesson they came to an unfamiliar word and the teacher said, "that's a hard word Tommy, you will have to skip it"! The first qualified teacher was Mr. Thomas Morrison. Others were: John Cummings Sr.; Thomas S. Delaney; Dickie Corbett; Jonathan Cummings; David Little.

Teachers educated here and taught elsewhere were: Etta J. Yuill; Susan Corbett; Suther S. Vance; Albert West (Great Grandson of Rev. John Brown); James Arthur Dawson (Son of Rev. Wm. Dawson, minister of Erskine Church). Early teachers were a Mr. David Creelman and his sister who taught around 1870. The story is told of the teaching days of Thomas Morrison, two of the boys were fighting, Mr Morrison asked them to stop, one boy said "I will if he will give me the piggan. A piggan was a container for water one stave higher than the others, that it might be used as a handle.

[*Business Men*] The list of business men from Glenholme and area is very long, but to mention a few who were residents and businessmen of Glenholme: Charles N. Cummings, merchant; E.F. Morrison, merchant; William Smith, farmer and lumberman; David L. Urquhart, Merchant.

In 1900 the Folly Village Creamery Company commenced operation under the leadership of E C Flemming who was also involved and secretary of the Lower Onslow creamery established in 1891. In 1920 Folly Village Creamery was purchased by T D Blaikie of Great Village who consolidated the Creameries at Great Village of Folly Village, Economy, and Bass River and produced bother butter and cheese. Motor transportation now made it possible to serve all the area with one Creamery at Great Village. The Folly Village Creamery was closed.

[*Community Stores*] The community store of Mr John Cummings lasted the longest; his son Charles took over the business. Store keepers following the Cummings were S.W. Morrison, A.W. Cummings, Flemming & McLean, Andrew Boyd, E. A Pye and W.E. MacDonald. The store burned while Mr. Macdonald was operating it and was rebuilt. The store was purchased by Mr. E. L. Cruickshanks and later in 1947 by Mrs.

**Marion L. Madden, finally closing in the 1960's. Other stores in Glenholme were run by Joe Crow and a Mr. Dickie. Mr. Dickie's store was opposite the John Fraser Hotel and burned in 1926.**

**[Hotel] A hotel was own and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Fraser until the death of Mr. Fraser in 1918. The hotel was a regular stage coach stop. Mr Fraser was ably assisted by Miss Sarah Gallager, who later took over a Frank Fulton's Hotel in Bass River after the first world way. Fraser's Hotel in Folly Village was a popular place for sleighing parties and noted for its meals. The property was purchased by Rev. Hugh Upham, later by the Simpsons and Harringtons.**

**[Creamery] A creamery was operated a number of years by the Creek just below the Clarence Rutherford ( now Gordon's) property.**

**[Blacksmith's] A number of blacksmith shops were in operation. The first one by Flemming Layton, then Jonathan Morrison; the latest by Lorenzo Rutherford at the Glenholme corner (Inter-section of Wallace Road and Highway # 2). At Rutherford's death ( 1921) Mr. Irvine Morris took over the business. When cars became more popular he turned the blacksmith shop into a garage and service station which he operated until his death in 1966.**

**[The Manse] Rev. Ebenezer E. Ross (Minister in Glenholme 1849 - 1876) built the first manse, which he sold to Stern Vance and was destroyed by fire. He then built a second manse which he sold to the congregation and served until 1963 when it was sold and a new manse located at Masstown. Rev. Ebenezer Ross also named the church at Folly, (Glenholme), "Erskine", after Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, a noted Sottish preacher of the eighteenth century, who was the prime mover in the founding of the Secession Church in Scotland, of which the early ministers of Erskine Church were members.**

**[War Services] The history of Glenholme mus record the brave lads (and lassies!) Who went overseas to fight for their country in the two World Wars, 1914 - 1918 and 1939 - 1945. Several made the supreme sacrifice in 1914-1918, (Charles Urquhart, Gordon Fletcher, Wallace Bowers, Homer Reid, John Gray.) Those who returned are: Frank Ellis, Roland Urquhart, Hedly Murray, John Carrier, and Perley Reid.**

**Those who served in the Second World War are: Harold Taggart, Maxwell Wyllie, Snowden Halliday, Lloyd Morrison, Arthur, James and Donald Blair, Ian Ross, Charles Cameron, Howard Weatherbee, Howard Rushton, and three Fulton brothers. While all who served came back, some have scars to prove that it was not rosy. Snowden Halliday was injured by shrapnel and taken prisoner, he spent some time in a German hospital. Arthur James received burns to his hands in an explosion while in the Air Force in Debert and was hospitalized for months. Maxwell Wyllie was on a boat leaving for overseas that was struck by a torpedo and received injuries that brought on tuberculosis; he spent many months in hospital.**

**If some of our ancestors were to pass through our village today they would not regret that they took the name “folly” from the community. They would see signs in every direction of changes and improvement from the telephone and electric lights to the paved highways; the nicely painted homes, green lawns, well kept school house (demolished in 1978 to make a parking lot for the church), church and cemetery; then the new Trans Canada Highway, wider bridges, not to forget the newer type cars.**