

“Woodlands” and Leggatt’s Point (with a bit of a comment on American resorts!)

Daily Witness, Montreal, Monday, August 4, 1884

“...The cottages at this place are all occupied this season – some of the most charming are three of W. Youill, Mr. Laing, and T. Ferguson at Lighthouse Point, and Messrs. Davidson, Youill and Miss Bryne at Leggatt’s Point.

The boarding houses are fairly filled. Mrs. Featherstone (Woodlands) as usual, is well patronized, and deservedly so, for the house is situated in the centre of an extensive park-like domain, interspersed with garden and forest, and which, for beauty of situation is unsurpassed by anything on the Lower St. Lawrence. The house is built on rising ground, commanding a full view of the ocean, with fir trees grouped in great natural beauty here and there, thus varying the scene. At this house are the Rev. Dr. Clark, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Hodgson and family, Mrs. Peter Laing and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Goodhugh and family, Mrs. John Laing and family, Miss Hodgson, Miss Smith, Miss McNie, Mrs. A.E. Kemp and family, Mrs. Dr. Kellock, Mrs. Farwell and family, and others. At Leggatt’s are Mrs. John Baird and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and family, all of Montreal, and others, besides visitors at some of the private residences.

The weather the past week has been delightful, really hot, and but few complaints can be heard of uncongenial temperature. Bathing in the mornings, with bonfires on the beach at night, shooting, fishing, &c, with occasional excursions to Metis Falls and the Viaduct, afford an endless variety to satisfy even the most fastidious not to omit music and dancing among the young people in the parlors in the evening.

The chief event of the week has been the opening of the new Presbyterian Church at Leggatt’s point, the services connected with which were very largely attended, and the collections liberal in the extreme. A social and garden party are arranged to come off next week, when it is expected that a goodly assemblage of residents from the adjoining county, as well as visitors, will be present. All around Metis there is quite a colony of Scotch farmers who appear to be thriving, and who possess as well cultivated farms as can be seen in any part of the Province of Quebec. ***Taken altogether, it will be difficult to find a more agreeable and pleasant place where to spend a summer vacation than Metis, especially for those who have families, and who desire relaxation from active city life, a place indeed where one can wear out one’s old clothes and not shock the sensibilities of one’s neighbours, and where the “millinery” so conspicuous at many American resorts is entirely dispensed with.***

A Delightful Seaside Retreat

The Morning Chronicle, Wednesday, August 21, 1889

Much has been written about Cacouna, Murray Bay, Little Metis &c., all of which are very attractive to pleasure seekers. There is yet another place in the Gulf which is becoming a favorite seaside residence ; not so much by those who desire a fashionable resort, as by people who prefer a pleasant retreat, where unrestrained by the conventionalities of a city, they may fully enjoy a stroll along the beach, a dip

in the soft, blue sea, or a welcome resting place either among the rugged rocks or in the shady woods.

This attractive spot, known to many as Leggat's Point, is situated midway between Grande and Little Metis, being about four miles from either of these places. St. Octave is the station on the Intercolonial Railway. The principal hotel is named "Woodlands" because of the charming surroundings. There are besides many other cottages which may be rented during the summer season. Here children are so perfectly safe on any part of the beach. The rocks, particularly those near the Manse, are grand and interesting, and the Flora is specially attractive to the botanist. "Woodlands" is capable of accommodating from forty to fifty guests, and the society here has always been select. The fare is rich in fish and cream, and the table is amply provided with viands alike wholesome for adults and children.

The visitors to the district are always the recipients of the kindest attention from the residents. The Presbyterian Church, Manse, Post Office, and a public reading room are all in the vicinity. Sir George Stephen, whose beautiful summer residence is near, takes an interest in the community and contributes liberally to the funds of the Church. Lady Stephen has also offered to the Rev. Mr. McCarter, \$50 annually towards establishing a Protestant School at the Beach.