

Some Historical Images of Health Care in New Brunswick

Joshua Green



P194-1403: Outdoor portrait of five people affected by leprosy at Tracadie, NB, [1885–1900]. A lazaretto operated in Tracadie from 1849–1964. "Do not call before ten, do not touch anything they have been using, do not even sit down upon their chairs, above all do not inhale their breath" (Dr. A.C. Smith, resident physician at the lazaretto).

Mounted albumen print (cabinet card) by G.A. Burkhardt.

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P194-364: Studio portrait of participants of a six-week home nursing course taught by Miss Squires, a nurse from Fredericton's Victoria Public Hospital, c. 1930. Squires traveled to Marysville to give classes one night a week in a room over Alexander (Boss) Gibson's general store; the course was offered to help women cope with injured family members at home.

Mounted silver gelatin print by Harvey Studio.

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P342-1143: Albert Street School children receiving polio vaccination at the time of the opening of the Polio Clinic and Health Centre at Victoria Public Hospital in Fredericton, 1955. The previous wooden polio clinic on the Victoria Public Hospital grounds had become woefully inadequate and was publicly criticized by many, including Dr. Everett Chalmers who commented that the building was “a disreputable old shack” – but, he continued, “sometimes even good work can go on in a shack.”

Silver gelatin negative by Joe Stone.

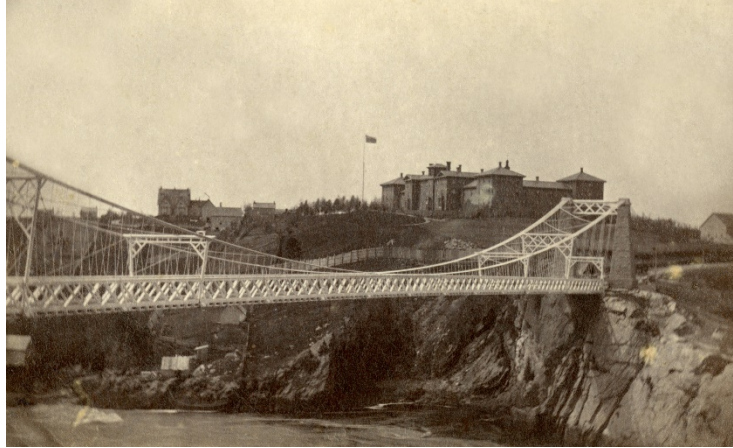
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P5-239: The corner of Queen and York Street, Fredericton, showing the area where the Provincial Normal School/Justice Building would later be built, [1865–1875]. The large stone building is the old military hospital, and the tin shop in the foreground was run by Andrew Napoleon LaForest. To the left, a building's sign is partially visible, reading "Peppers." A Thomas Peppers is listed as an Irish trader in the 1865 assessment list.

Collodion (wet plate) glass negative by George T. Taylor.

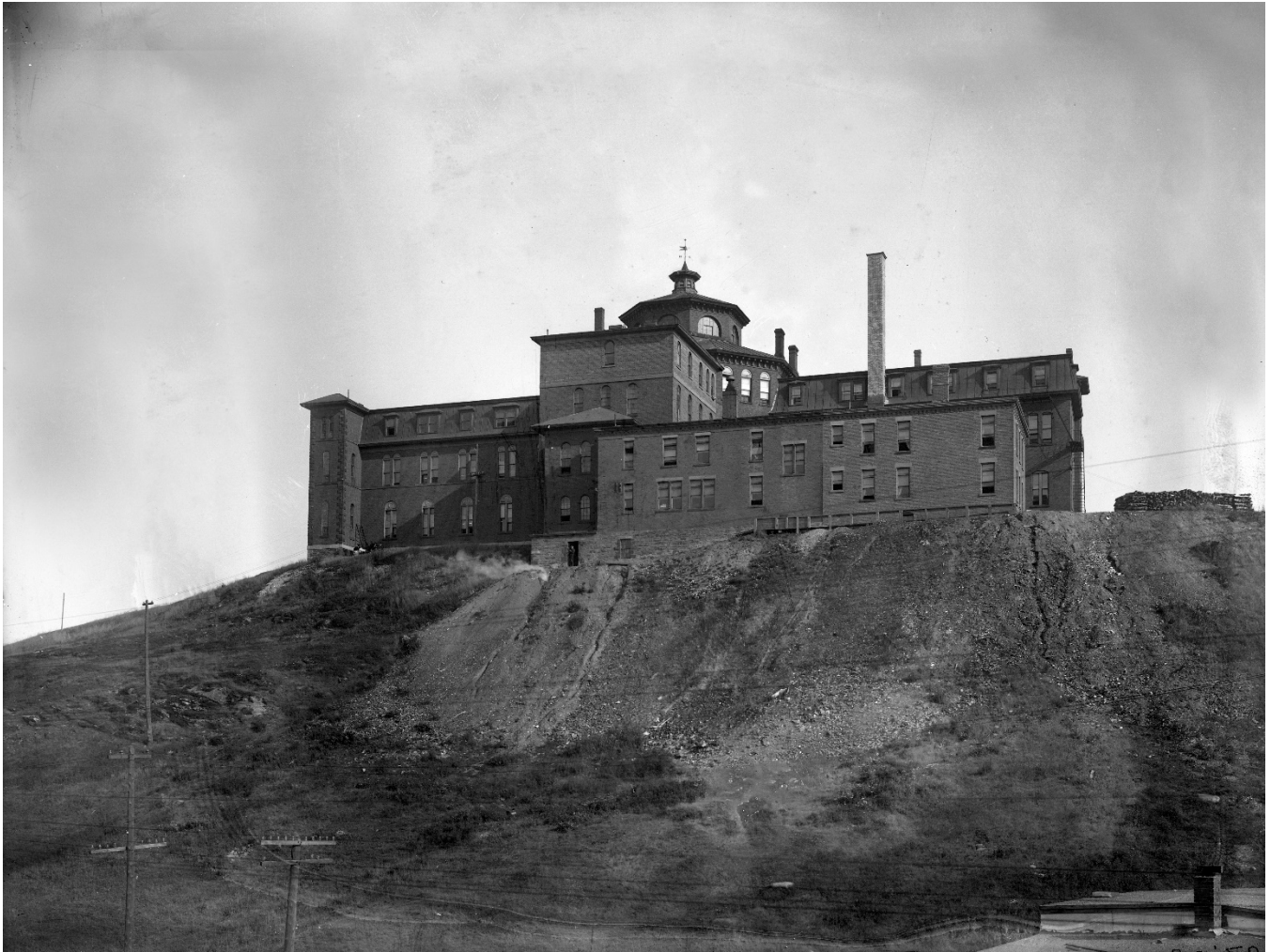
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P400-1: View across the Reversing Falls suspension bridge in Saint John, showing the Provincial Hospital (Provincial Lunatic Asylum, later CentraCare), [1860–1865]. Cornerstone laid 1847, demolished 1999. This brick building superseded an older wooden building on the same site that was constructed in 1835. A 1917 history of mental health treatment in Canada and the US proclaimed that “to New Brunswick is due the honor of having been the first of the old British North American provinces to make special provision for its insane.” Medical Superintendent John Waddell wrote in his 1874 annual report: “The view from the main front eastward command the river below the Suspension Bridge, the harbour, and the City. That to the south the Bay of Fundy, and, in clear weather, the coast of Nova Scotia; and to the north the river, with its rapids, Suspension Bridge, etc.; and the whole is a combination probably not surpassed in variety and beauty by any landscape in America... The institution will accommodate about two hundred patients comfortably, one hundred of each sex.”

Mounted albumen print (carte-de-visite).

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P210-1029: Old General Public Hospital viewed from below on City Road, Saint John, 1906. This hospital (in use 1865 to c.1930) sat between Waterloo Street and City Road until it was replaced by the Saint John General Hospital, which was spectacularly imploded in 1995. Note the seated group at left and the man in the doorway in the centre, possibly emptying dust or ashes.

Silver gelatin (dry plate) glass negative by Isaac Erb.

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P210-3098: Medical officers at Camp Sussex, New Brunswick's primary military training ground prior to CFB Gagetown, 1910. Both 8 Field Ambulance (Saint John) and 9 Field Ambulance (Charlottetown) were present in camp in 1910, as were details of the Permanent Army Medical Corps.

Silver gelatin (dry plate) glass negative by Isaac Erb.

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P210-2936: Interior of Riecker's Pharmacy in Saint John, 1911. Some of the products on display are cough syrup, Ganong chocolates, shaving brushes, tooth paste, various products from Colgate, malt milk, bromo seltzer, and medical implements.

Silver gelatin (dry plate) glass negative by Isaac Erb.

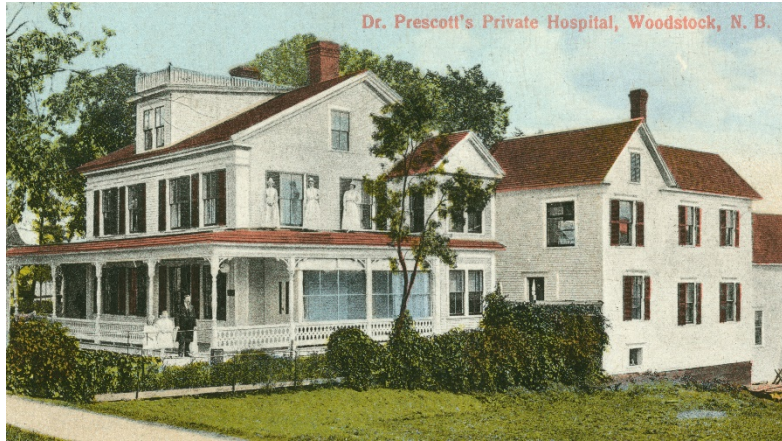
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P249-36: "A group of our new drivers on the L of C," c. 1915, shows female Canadian Army Medical Corps drivers sitting on a military truck during World War I, possibly near Le Touquet, France.

Silver gelatin print from the album of Nellie McCurdy, a WWI nursing sister with the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

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P46-561: Dr. Prescott's Private Hospital, Woodstock, c. 1916. Note nurses standing on the roof. Even into the 20th century, doctors established private hospitals throughout New Brunswick in converted hotels, private homes, and other buildings. These existed in rural and urban areas, sometimes co-existing alongside public hospitals, sometimes standing in for them in their absence. Dr. Prescott purchased this still-extant (c. 1840) home at 712 Main Street in 1909 for use as a private hospital, which he ran until 1927.

Color collotype (tinted postcard).

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Joshua Green is the Photo Archivist at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.