

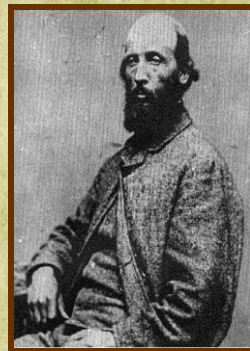
On the twenty-eighth day of October, 1844, a letter to the editor appeared in the pages of The Acadian Recorder, making Fenerty's discovery known to the world.

*For The Acadian Recorder
October 26, 1844*

Messrs, English & Blackadar,

Enclosed is a small piece of PAPER, the result of an experiment I have made, in order to ascertain if that useful article might not be manufactured from WOOD. The result has proved that opinion to be correct, for-- by the sample which I have sent you, Gentlemen-- you will perceive the feasibility of it. The enclosed, which is as firm in its texture as white, and to all appearance as durable as the common wrapping paper made from hemp, cotton, or the ordinary materials of manufacture is ACTUALLY COMPOSED OF SPRUCE WOOD, reduced to a pulp, and subjected to the same treatment as paper is in course of being made, only with this exception, viz: my insufficient means of giving it the required pressure. I entertain an opinion that our common forest trees, either hard or soft wood, but more especially the fir, spruce or poplar, on account of the fibrous quality of their wood, might easily be reduced by a chafing machine, and manufactured into paper of the finest kind. This opinion, Sirs, I think the experiment will justify, and leaving it to be prosecuted further by the scientific, or the curious. I remain, Gentlemen, your obdt. servant,
CHARLES FENERTY

Canada Post released a commemorative stamp of Charles Fenerty, honouring his accomplishments in 1987.



The above photograph was made available to the Fultz House Museum by Mr. Norman Fenerty, now deceased.

There are many stories to be discovered about the history of Sackville and notable figures like *Charles Fenerty*. Visit the Fultz House Museum on the web @ www.fultzhouse.ca or call 865-3794 to learn more.

Charles Fenerty: The Life & Times



The above picture of Charles Fenerty was painted by Colonel MacLellan.

FULTZ HOUSE MUSEUM

Charles Fenerty

1821-1892

Sackville, Nova Scotia

Charles Fenerty was a man that all of Sackville and the Fenerty family can be proud of. Fenerty not only had a strong work ethic, but he possessed a curious mind. Sackville residents were a fortunate bunch to have had him in their presence. Fenerty lived on the family homestead called "Springfield," near Springfield Lake, Upper Sackville.

Fenerty, in addition to being a family man, was also a talented and well-spoken writer. He was known for his writing of nature, in particular, his beloved forests.

When not writing down his deepest thoughts, Charles could be found traveling back and forth to Halifax for supplies. The lumber industry was a major industry in the area, and the Fenerty family owned three sawmills which helped supply the Halifax Dockyards.

Fenerty always demonstrated an interest in the mills and the products they produced. On one of his

THE INVENTOR OF THE PULP AND PAPER PROCESS

many trips between Sackville and Halifax, Fenerty stopped at Holland's Paper Mill at the head of the Bedford Basin and overheard the workers complain that they could not obtain suitable rags to make paper, as was the custom back then.

Three theories exist on how Fenerty in fact came up with the pulp-paper process. All three may have been used to help him reach the end result. First, Fenerty discovered from his reading that wood was another form of vegetable fibre. Second, from working and visiting mills he observed that the large wooden gates which would move up and down produced a fuzzy material from the friction of wood on wood. There are some historians and researchers who believe that this is how he arrived at his discovery. The third theory has Fenerty carefully observing wasps gathering fuzzy material from small fir poles on which rag streamers were attached to scare birds from strawberry patches. He then observed the construction of a nest and recovered an abandoned nest for examination under a magnifying glass.

There is evidence that he made his discovery as early as 1838 or 1839, putting him at seventeen or eighteen years of age. The North American market was uninterested in Fenerty's discovery, therefore European markets were given time to develop the process, leaving Fenerty without any royalties from his invention.

Charles Fenerty is buried in the burial ground of the St. John's Anglican Church on the Old Sackville Road.



The picture opposite is of a monument located in Upper Sackville. The monument pays tribute to Fenerty's many accomplishments.

In the earlier half of the 19th century, scientists in Europe and America recognized the use of wood fibre in making paper. It was at this time that Charles Fenerty began his experiments. The success of his work can be attributed to his observant eye and his keen sense for research.