

## Agnes O'Donnell Kelly

Agnes O'Donnell Kelly was an enthusiastic chronicler of local history and a willing teacher of local heritage. Ms. Kelly was a faithful friend to the Fultz House Museum. She was also a founding member of the Historical Society of Sackville, later known as the Sackville Heritage Society.

Ms. O'Donnell Kelly was the great-granddaughter of Daniel Hallisey, railway pioneer and early Beaver Bank settler.

Agnes Kelly continued in the footsteps of a long line of community focused and driven families. She was extremely active in the community and cared deeply about her community's past.

To honour her accomplishments, enthusiasm and the sincerity in every task she attempted and completed, the Fultz Corner Restoration Society decided to name the Fultz House Museum parlor in memory of this hardworking and caring crusader of history. The parlor became known as the Agnes O'Donnell Kelly Room in 1987.



## Henrietta Wright's Story

Henrietta Wright was born in 1838 and she passed away in 1933. She was a very independent woman. She never got married and lived on her own. She was very generous and a large supporter of good causes, including the Children's Hospital. Henrietta was not the only one in her family who was independent. She also had three sisters who were largely independent and some of whom had an entrepreneurial spirit. They were Emily, Helen and Alice. They also never got married. Helen and Alice lived in Halifax on 128 Morris Street where they operated a "Fancy goods" shop under the name of "A. and H. Wright."



## The Extraordinary Women of Sackville

Kit Little operated a saw mill and a cooperage with her husband, Harry, at the junction of the Old Sackville Road and Sackville Crossroad. Kit can be seen below holding one-half of a cross-cut saw (picture circa the 1920s). She had a strong work ethic and enjoyed working with her hands. The community greatly benefited from her skill sets.



**FULTZ  
HOUSE  
MUSEUM**



# ■ *Stories of Pioneering Women* ■

## *An Introduction to Sackville's Proud Women's History*

The women who came before us helped to build a stronger community. There were many young women and family matriarchs of the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s that led the way for women to expand their role in society. It was their fearless energy, sturdy determination, versatile ability, aptitude and unbreakable spirit of enterprise that characterizes the struggle of these women to empower and transform future generations, whereby women gained a voice, were heard, listened to and flourished in positions of leadership within administrative, business, church and governmental roles.

In time, gone were the days where women did not have the freedom that women have in contemporary times. Even though there were many women who were not out in the public spotlight, they played an influential role behind the scenes and played an important role in society, raising families and serving in crucial roles in community service.

This brochure will bring to life some of Sackville's notable women who

challenged the status quo, who overcame enormous obstacles and who accomplished things that many thought impossible.

## *The Family Matriarch: Mary Fultz*

Mary Robinson was from one of Sackville's earliest, settling families. She met, was courted, accepted the proposal of and married Bennett Fultz. She not only went from being a member of one founding family to being a member of one of Sackville's other significant founding families that settled in the area, but she also became an active participant in community service.

Bennett and Mary Fultz built their house on what was known as Fultz Corner in the 1860s. She lived a modest life. She cared for and raised a large family with the resources she had at her disposal. She brought up a total of eight children, four boys and four girls.

After her dear, sweet husband had passed, Mary, never one to stay idle, from 1910 until shortly before her death in 1928 at age eighty-six, she operated a post office from the kitchen window of her small house.

Mary's position in running and handling the daily postal operations, highlighted the role that women could have in the workplace. The work was more than cooking, cleaning and caring for children. This work was an important service for the community. She connected families with loved ones through the passage of the written word with one stamp at a time.

Mary Fultz is pictured below with son Herman



## *A Love of Racing*

Shirley Major began working in the office of the Sackville Downs track in 1956, and spent a total of 15 years working both the winter and summer meets. She became the first woman in the Maritimes to hold a United States Race Secretary License in 1969. She also held an associate judge's license from the United States Trotting Association.

"It's really difficult for a woman to gain recognition as an official in harness racing; I felt discrimination from the very beginning, but I loved racing and stuck with it," indicated Major.

Shirley Major passed away in 2004.