

# ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE, THE FORMATIVE YEARS, 1854–1860 RICHMOND, CANADA EAST\*

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## Introduction

St. Francis College (1854–1898) played a prominent role on the education scene in Quebec for almost half a century yet its story has become obscured and its history largely forgotten. This educational institution had the distinction of being the first in Canada to be affiliated with the University of McGill College, from 1858 to 1898. At the outset, this non-denominational institution was organized in two departments, a Classical college and a Grammar School. During its lifetime, in addition to the Classical Department and Grammar School, St. Francis College established and managed a Normal School for teacher training, a Commercial Department, and a bilingual Agricultural College, and an Academy.

The site of St. Francis College was the highest point of land overlooking the village of Richmond and St. Francis River for which the College was named.<sup>1</sup> For the sum of \$1200,<sup>2</sup> six acres of land, originally part of the Township of Shipton granted to Elmore Cushing in 1801 was purchased for the College site by the St. Francis College Trustees. This article will attempt to reconstruct the founding of St. Francis College and the first six years of its development. In so doing, consideration will be given to the educational background and early schools of the Shipton settlers prior to 1850. Recalled as well will be the personal enterprise of the Trustees of St. Francis College in the establishment of a Classical College in Richmond, Canada East and the legacy of Reverend Edward Cleveland in his role as educator and principal of St. Francis College.

### **Historical Influences on Education in Shipton Township**

In the beginning, this was the story of a group of determined citizens who valued education for the youth of the area. Schooling was of singular concern for the early settlers from New England where the Puritan tradition prevailed.<sup>3</sup> The American system of education with its values and ideals was inherent in the ideological baggage carried to Shipton by the New England settlers.<sup>4</sup> Accounts about early primitive schools with settlers' wives, preachers or medical doctors as teachers were recounted by historians Cleveland (1858) and Day (1869). Library Associations in Richmond and Danville were established as early as 1815, with books which had been donated by the settlers (Cleveland, 1858). The settlers persevered with whatever means were at their disposal to establish schools and lay a foundation for the education of students who desired a university education.

The pioneers of Shipton relied largely on private initiative for educational matters. In 1801, for example, the first Shipton Township school was opened in the home of Job Cushing. The pupils of this earliest Shipton school were taught by Miss Kimball, later Mrs. George Bernard. They were, for the most part, children of the Cushing family. Family schools were common prior to the building of school-houses. The first school-house in Shipton, known as the Front School of Shipton was built in 1807 near the present St. Anne's Cemetery (Cleveland, 1858, p. 63). It was a log school-house furnished with split basswood planks which were used for benches, desk and floor. The first teacher was Dr. Abraham Silver. No visible evidence of this first school-house of Shipton remains in 1996.<sup>5</sup> However, the Clark School House, commonly known as the Old Stone School House (circa 1820) which is located near Melbourne, endures as a well-maintained local attraction. Such school-houses were crude, lacking in amenities and comfort. A few were constructed of stone, but most were log or framed buildings. Hand-hewn log benches, a plank table and the teacher's desk served as the earliest inside furnishings, with a "closet" outside. Wood for the stove was provided by the parents of the children of the school. The early school-houses served as meeting places for worship and social functions. The Old Stone School House, for example, served four denominations, as each itinerant preacher ministered to his congregation.

### Cleveland School Commission

The Education Act of 1846 called for each municipality to set up one or more common schools for the elementary instruction of youth. The Cleveland School Commission established in 1855<sup>6</sup> by the Governor General of Canada was an interesting case in point. Because St. Francis College was established in the School Municipality of Cleveland, formerly Shipton Township<sup>7</sup>, it is useful to understand the operation of this local school board. A close relationship existed between the Trustees of St. Francis College and the Cleveland School Commissioners. During the lifetime of St. Francis College, the actions of each administration would mesh.

The Cleveland School Commissioners followed the regulations of the Education Act of 1846, amended in 1849 and 1850. Taxpayers elected five commissioners each July, observing the principle that one-third of the commissioners retired each year. The school commissioners had the authority to divide the municipality into school districts and appoint managers for each school district, provide school-houses and qualified teachers for each district, raise money through taxation to an amount at least equal to the government grants and enforce the payment of "head money" or school fees.<sup>8</sup> The limits of the newly formed Cleveland School Municipality were to remain as had been established by the School Commissioners of the former School Municipality of the Township of Shipton (*Minute Book 1, C.S.C. 1855–1891, p. 2*).

School commissioners, teachers and pupils within each school board could be Protestant or Roman Catholic. However, the Education Act of 1846 ensured the rights of minority groups. Dissentients, that is, groups of people with differences in religion from the majority were permitted to withdraw from the control of the school commissioners and elect three trustees of their own. The dissentient trustees would then provide schools for their children, be given their fair share of taxes and grants, and have the same powers and duties of other elected trustees. For example, the school taxes of Joseph Bédard Jr. and Nariisse Noel were annulled without delay when Bédard and Noel gave notice (November 5, 1860) to the Cleveland School Commissioners that they had joined the dissentients. This was the first of many similar agreements which illustrated that the principle of separate schools for minorities was respected.

The teachers of these early schools were judged by their reputations and general education. They were hired for short terms, their

salaries were paid from the head money, and in many cases, free board was offered by the parents. Most of the Cleveland schools were Elementary Schools, but a teacher could instruct Model Grades if his or her education was adequate.<sup>9</sup> The Cleveland School Commissioners made it known in 1860 that they were no longer in favour of teachers boarding at the homes of pupils, and recommended "to the several School Districts that the teacher be allowed to board at one place, and to select his or her own boarding place with a view to the abandonment of the objectionable practice of boarding around" (*Minute Book 1, C.S.C.*, p. 114).

Reverend Edward Cleveland wrote that educational interests of the early settlers in Shipton were begun as soon as circumstances permitted, that they were "cherished and fostered and gradually improved from the first commencement to the present time" (Cleveland, 1858, p. 63). By 1858, twenty-five school-houses had been established within the original Township of Shipton, that is, sixteen in Shipton and nine in Cleveland. In 1861, School Inspector, Mr. H. Hubbard reported that there were sixteen schools in Shipton and ten in Cleveland serving a total of 691 students (*Journal of Education*, 5, 1861, p. 131).

Efforts to establish advanced schools resulted in two academies, one in Danville and the other in Richmond. The Danville Academy which was built in 1854 and opened in 1855 was funded by subscriptions from the local people. The first Board of Trustees consisted of three members: Reverend A.J. Parker, I.W. Stockwell and G.N. Cleveland. By 1859, the number of Trustees had increased to five.<sup>10</sup> Students from this institution could qualify for admission to Canadian or American Colleges, or the teaching profession.<sup>11</sup> In 1859, the *Catalogue* listed ninety-four names of students in attendance. The original building burned in the Danville conflagration of 1882 and was rebuilt in 1890.<sup>12</sup> The Academy continued to serve the Danville area students until Asbestos Danville Shipton High School opened in Danville in 1951.

The first efforts to establish an Academy in Richmond were not long-lived. Twilight's Academy (1847–1849) was located in the first school-house near St. Anne's Cemetery. The records fail to disclose why Reverend Alexander Twilight appeared on the Richmond scene, or why he moved on to Hatley in 1849. Subsequently, in 1852, he was persuaded to return to Brownington, Vermont as Headmaster and minister where he died in 1875.<sup>13</sup>

Why was a place of higher learning sought in Richmond? The

climate of the times was ripe for an institution of higher learning. It was widely believed that the townspeople could support such an institution. Economic and social forces promoted and nurtured it. The 1850s witnessed the development of an important railroad in the Eastern Townships. In 1851, the arrival of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway in Richmond made the prospect for a prosperous business center seem a reality. The advantage of a rail link to Portland, Maine and Montreal, meant that new employment and trade opportunities would follow. The hub of development in Richmond changed from the southern end of the village to the northern section, Janesville, located near the railroad station and yards.<sup>14</sup> This newly developing district in Richmond, complete with a post office, was transformed into a working-class hamlet called Richmond Station. Reverend Edward Cleveland described the prospects for the future of Richmond as “inviting and cheering” (Cleveland, 1858, p. 76). For the town and the surrounding region, the prospects for economic growth seemed endless.

Many families supported the idea of a College. Not only would there be an educational facility for studies beyond the Academy stage, but added bonuses for the town would ensue with the enhancement and promotion of Richmond as a center of learning. Indeed, the College would be largely self-supported with student fees, Trustees donations and patrons’ subscriptions while government grants would prove very difficult to obtain. A prominent group of citizens, including lawyers, clergymen and medical doctors advanced the cause publicly and assisted, initially, with their own funds.

The desire for a college existed in Richmond in the 1850s. Native sons had been sent to universities far away. Their forbears had established schools when and where there were sufficient students. An academy (Danville) was in existence. In Richmond, the next step on the education continuum would be a college.

### **The Corporation of Saint Francis College**

The *Charter* of St. Francis College was enacted by Parliament in Great Britain on December 18, 1854, namely, *An Act To Incorporate Saint Francis College at Richmond, Township of Shipton in the District of Saint Francis*.<sup>15</sup> This *Charter*, which has remained unchanged for more than a century, stipulated the education of youth on liberal and non-sectarian principles and specified the membership and duties of the Corporation.

The Corporation of St. Francis College consisted of nine

trustees, the professors of the College and the subscribers to the Corporation. The *Charter* specified that one-third of the trustees must retire annually by lot. Annual elections of the trustees were to be decided by a majority of votes of the members of the Corporation. Instructions were given for the appointment and removal from office of the President, the executive officers and the professors.

The powers of St. Francis College were established to: make By-laws consistent with the laws of Quebec with no exclusive sectarian character; contract, sue and implead in the courts of Quebec; and buy and sell property necessary for the college with the provision that all such property be used exclusively for the advancement of education at St. Francis College and its affiliated schools. With the consent of the trustees and the advisement of the Governor of Lower Canada, the College and affiliates could become Normal Schools for teacher training and would be subject to the rules of the Department of Education. It was the duty of the Corporation to make available to the Governor of Lower Canada an annual statement of affairs concerning the names of the trustees and professors, number of students, courses of study, property assets and financial situation.

At the first recorded meeting of the St. Francis College Trustees which was held on February 10, 1855, officers of the Corporation and the Building Committee were elected: President, R.N. Webber, M.D.; Vice President, Thomas Tait; Secretary, William Brooke and Treasurer, Mr. G.K. Foster. The five remaining Trustees were Mr. C.B. Cleveland, Mr. W.H. Webb, Job Adams, Udolphus Aylmer (Lord Aylmer) and Mr. Thomas Steele. The Building Committee included Messers G.K. Foster, C.B. Cleveland, W.H. Webb, Lord Aylmer and Levi Cleveland (*Minute Book. S.F.C. 1855-1886*, p. 1-2). They, with others, played important roles in the shaping of Richmond's future by promoting the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway and helping to establish such institutions as the County Seat of Government, the Court House, the Eastern Township's Bank and St. Francis College.

Also, at the February 10, 1855 meeting two by-laws were adopted unanimously: the first by-law specified the meeting place, quorum, and duties of the president; the second by-law established four professorships, namely English and Classical Literature, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy and History. Reverend Daniel Falloon, D.D. of Melbourne was the first appointee to the Chair of Natural Philosophy and History.

Reverend Falloon, by the terms of the *Charter* became a Trustee and played a prominent role in the selection of the first principal, Reverend John Irwin of Boston. Principal Irwin accepted the offer at \$600.00 per annum with associated duties of Professor of English and Classical Literature and Housemaster in charge of the boarders. In the autumn of 1855, the remaining professorships were filled. Mr. Edmund R. Davies was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Master of the Grammar School for one year at a salary of \$450.00 per annum. Dr. R. N. Webber was appointed Chair of Chemistry (*Minute Book, S.F.C. 1855–1886*, p. 9).

The Trustees lost no time in making application to the Department of Education through Mr. Marcus Child, District Inspector, that the College Grammar School be declared a Normal School for the purpose of granting teaching diplomas. The Department of Education concurred with this request in the spring of 1855. The *Minute Book* of St. Francis College Corporation stipulated that the Education students were to be taught the subjects of the Grammar School together with the methods of imparting instruction to the young. In 1858, it is interesting to note that the School Commissioners of Cleveland requested the Faculty of St. Francis College act as a Board of Examiners for teacher certification. The commissioners resolved that no teacher be employed unless he or she had earned a certificate of qualification from St. Francis College or other legal Board of Examiners (*Minute Book 1, C.S.C. 1855–1891*, p. 29).

The St. Francis College Corporation *Minutes* of January 11, 1856 revealed the first report of the College to the audit office of the Department of Education. Included were the names of the Trustees and the officers of the Corporation, the Principal and four professors, the number of students enrolled (thirty-two in the first year) and the purpose of the College, designated as “the design of the founders.” This statement of purpose had three thrusts: a College which would give an English-Classical education similar to that of the best provincial colleges, a Grammar School for the preparation of collegiate courses which would provide an education of a more practical nature with subjects such as Mathematics, the Sciences, Natural Philosophy, Civil Engineering, and a Normal School for the preparation of teachers for instruction in Elementary, Model Schools and Academies.

The principle of religious autonomy was emphasized in the *Charter of St. Francis College*. An education based on non-sectarian principles demonstrated foresight on the part of the Trustees to

attract students of diverse religious backgrounds. It was also in keeping with the dual nature of Richmond, namely, a Protestant and Roman Catholic community. St. Francis College was not alone in the concept of religious freedom. In the revision of the *Charter of McGill University* in 1852 (Frost, 1980, p. 153), the Governors of McGill College opted for a university which would be unprejudiced in religious affiliation. Similarly, the St. Francis College Trustees, knowing that the nearby colleges were of distinct religious nature<sup>16</sup> demonstrated initiative in founding a college in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada which would appeal to various religious groups. Indication that the non-sectarian principle existed at St. Francis College was evident in the 1867 report of the graduation ceremony. The classification of one hundred twelve students according to religion was as follows: "Church of England, one-fourth; Church of Scotland, one-fifth; Congregational, one-seventh; Canadian Presbyterian, one-eighth; Roman Catholic, one-ninth; and the remainder from several other denominations" (*Journal of Education*, 11, 1867, p. 89).

The financial statement of the 1856 Report by the St. Francis College Trustees to the Department of Education showed that funds were derived from three sources: subscriptions solicited from the private sector, student tuition fees, and government. The record of St. Francis College Trustees revealed that the expenditures in 1855 totalled \$5,211, tuition fees amounted to \$300 and the government grant was \$1,200 (*Minute Book. S.F.C.*, p. 13). The remainder of the funding was derived from private subscriptions. It should be noted that the faculty and Trustees gave financial assistance to support the College. In June 1856, for example, Professor R.N. Webber loaned the Trustees \$100.00 and, in lieu of payment, became a sponsor of a student scholarship for a full Collegiate course of four years. With the expectation that the local community would support the College financially (for example, 70% of the expenditures in the first year of operation) the necessity of private funding was evident.

It is not known why two of the professorships changed in July of 1856. Principal Irwin and Professor Davies were replaced by Reverend Edward Cleveland who became Principal, Professor of Mathematics and Master of the Grammar School and Mr. E. Chapman of Lennoxville who became Professor of English and Classical Literature (*Minute Book. S.F.C.*, p. 20, 24).



## The Legacy of Reverend Edward Cleveland

Reverend Edward Cleveland of Barton, Vermont<sup>17</sup> was offered the principalship of St. Francis College for a salary of \$450.00 per annum with rooms at the College and an acre of land for a garden. His duties included the supervision and care of the boarders at the college. During his principalship (1856–1860), he worked tirelessly for the College and the educational community. He was a man of experience, initiative and ambition who consolidated the earliest efforts concerning the founding of St. Francis College.

### By-laws — 1857

A major task, in this respect was Cleveland's re-writing of the by-laws in 1857 (*Minute Book. S.F.C., 1855–1886*, p. 29–38). This revision put into print the practices of the Trustees within the terms of the *Charter of St. Francis College* and brought about two important changes: namely, the increase to fifteen in the number of Trustees, and the appointment of an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, a group of three Trustees, one of whom was the principal was to take charge of the College buildings, audit the books, transact the ordinary business and make an annual report to the Corporation.

The code of by-laws had two main sections: by-laws pertaining to the Corporation, and by-laws concerning the College. With respect to the Corporation, Cleveland reiterated the practices regarding the Annual Meeting of the subscribers and the Corporation: namely, the meeting place, the quorum, the election of Trustees and the Executive. Concerning the College, Cleveland was specific about its organization and government. He divided the College into three departments: a Classical Department which required a four-year course of study, that is, Junior Freshmen, Senior Freshmen, Junior Sophister, Senior Sophister; a Scientific Department which demanded a three-year course including Junior, Middle and Senior years; and a Preparatory Department or Grammar School. No student was to be admitted to the Freshman class of the Classical Department until he had completed his fourteenth year of schooling and had passed Latin and Greek translations.<sup>18</sup>

Each year was divided into three terms. The Annual Commencement was to be held on the third Wednesday of July. After a holiday of six weeks, the Fall Term would begin and continue until the Wednesday before Christmas, usually sixteen

weeks. Following a two-week Christmas vacation, the Winter Term would extend over the next thirteen weeks, with a two-week break at the end of that time. The Spring or Third Term would then ensue and continue until the Annual Commencement in July.

The government of the College was vested in the Faculty of the College. The Faculty had the power to arrange the courses of study, set the examinations, establish the end of the Fall and Spring Terms and select the books or authors to be used. These procedures came into question later when the McGill University affiliation required that its academic practices be met.

The tuition fees for each department were set as follows:

Classical Department	\$32.00 per year
Scientific Department	\$24.00 per year
Preparatory Department	\$16.00 for English
	\$ 4.00 for Latin and Greek
	\$4.00 for French

Advance payment of tuition was required for each term. The board in the College including room, fuel, lights, washing cabinet furniture was calculated at \$100.00 to \$112.00 yearly depending on accommodation.

In the section of the by-laws referring to the duties of the students, Cleveland was rigid and puritanical by modern standards. Outlined in twelve sections, the rules for the students prohibited disrupting others by singing and playing musical instruments. They were forbidden to resort to profanity, obscenity, falsehoods, turbulent moods, quarrelling, whispering, reading books other than those pertaining to the lesson, breaking and entering students' rooms and molesting students in any way. They were not to idle their time at stores, taverns and shops. Their rooms were to be accessible to the Principal, professors and tutors who could enter them with violence if resisted. Students were liable for damages to the College and other students' property. Permission was mandatory for out-of-town visits or trips by the boarders who resided at the College or in the village. A student who felt he was unjustly treated could appeal to the Faculty for a hearing, and if no satisfaction was obtained, a second appeal could be made to the Corporation. The punishments were censure, suspension or expulsion depending on the severity of the offence. Above all, the student was to be diligent and faithful in his studies.

### Affiliation with the University of McGill College

Reverend Cleveland sought to bring about the affiliation of St. Francis College with McGill College. His presence at deliberations concerning affiliation was entered into the record of the Corporation of McGill University and in the *Minute Book* of the St. Francis College Corporation. Affiliation of St. Francis College with McGill College had been sought from the outset of the plans for the College. It was believed that the stature of the College would be enhanced if the stringent requirements imposed by the Governors of McGill College could be attained. Affiliation with the University of McGill College would not only attract local students but those from a distance as well.

The first recorded mention of affiliation between the two institutions appeared in the *Minute Book of the Corporation of McGill University Governors* on May 6, 1857 (p. 46–48). On that date, a resolution by the McGill Governors gave Mr. Christopher Dunkin, Governor, and Sir William Dawson, Principal, permission to confer with the committee from St. Francis College, to report the expediency of such affiliation and the terms by which it could take place. It was two months later when the first notes of the McGill College affiliation were recorded by the Trustees of St. Francis College at which time Principal Cleveland and Mr. W.C. Baynes would “concert measures” with the McGill Committee for affiliation (*Minute Book S.F.C.*, 1855–1886, p. 28). On October 13, 1858 word of mutual agreement between the McGill and St. Francis negotiators was recorded in each of their respective minute books. McGill College set the following terms: examinations would be predicated by the courses of study at McGill, the method of examination for degrees would be left open until more experience at the College had been gained, the Faculty of St. Francis College would be represented on the McGill College Board of Examiners and a system of cooperation be found for the “assimilation” of the courses between the two institutions. On November 11, 1858 a letter of acceptance from the Secretary Registrar of McGill College was received by St. Francis College.

The formal resolution was recorded thus:

“Christopher Dunkin, Esquire moved that the resolution for affiliation of St. Francis College with the University of McGill College, as adopted by the Corporation, be accepted by this Board, and that the St. Francis College be and that it hereby is, an Affiliate College of this Institution” (*Minute Book S.F.C.*, 1855–1886, p. 47).

The McGill Corporation motion was carried unanimously by the Trustees of St. Francis College.

The question concerning examinations for degree purposes was clarified two years later, November 10, 1860 in a letter from McGill Principal Dawson to Dr. Falloon, St. Francis College Principal, (Cleveland's successor) in which Dr. Dawson insisted that examinations for degrees were to be written and passed at McGill College but all other examinations would be written at St. Francis College including those for matriculation (*Minute Book S.F.C.*, 1855–1886, p. 76). From time to time, the Governors of McGill College attended the St. Francis College Corporation meetings in Richmond and similarly, the Principal of St. Francis College participated in the McGill Corporation meetings in Montreal. This affiliation was to continue until 1898, with a three-year interruption, 1875–1878 when the College became a Grammar School under the name Saint Francis College Grammar School.

### **St. Francis District Teachers Association**

Reverend Cleveland's concern for the betterment of teachers saw fruition in organizations, the successors of which endure to this day. Notably, he was instrumental in organizing one of the first teachers' associations in the province. Known as the St. Francis District Teachers' Association, it included all educators in the Judicial District of St. Francis. At the founding convention in Sherbrooke on June 9, 1858 Cleveland was elected the first President. Immediately, he set up a committee to draft recommendations for a Constitution and By-laws (*Journal of Education*, 2, 1858, p. 8). Cleveland advocated the formation of a provincial teachers' association in order that teachers be kept abreast of educational developments and to raise the stature of the teaching profession.<sup>19</sup>

Principal Cleveland's resignation on June 8, 1860 because of failing health was accepted regretfully by the Trustees with an expression of their high regard for his "assiduity and attention to the interests of the College" (*Minute Book S.F.C.*, 1855–1886, p. 63).

Cleveland's legacy to the Richmond area citizens and the educational community was considerable. Not only had he set in motion the machinery to govern and administer the College, he had become a protagonist for educators in the Eastern Townships and the province. Cleveland left his mark at Richmond not only as a noted educator and Principal of St. Francis College, but also as a

historian of the area. His booklet, *A Sketch of the Early Settlement and History of Shipton, Canada East* (1858) gave important information about the early social history of Shipton and the first fifty years of development.

### Conclusion

In six years, 1854–1860, a remarkable series of decisions had been made by the Trustees in order to establish St. Francis College. They bore full responsibility for the funding, construction, staffing, administration and academic requirements of the fledgling College. Courageous initiatives included the principle of religious autonomy, private funding and affiliation with the University of McGill College, the first of several colleges and schools in Canada and abroad to affiliate. In addition, St. Francis College was reaching out to the surrounding communities in a leadership role. The result of the Trustees efforts, from their vantage point, was that a sound foundation for higher learning had been laid.

### RESUME

Les premiers colonisateurs du canton de Shipton (comté de Richmond), et leurs descendants, dépendaient en grande partie de l'entreprise privée lorsque venait le temps de s'occuper de l'éducation des enfants, coutume qu'ils tenaient de leur Nouvelle-Angleterre natale. Cette dépendance fut un facteur primordial dans l'établissement, le développement et la disparition du Département d'études classiques du Collège St. Francis.

Cet article se concentre sur l'initiative, la ténacité et l'indépendance de ces premiers colonisateurs pour l'obtention de services éducatifs avant 1850, et sur l'esprit d'entreprise des citoyens de Richmond durant les six premières années d'opération de cette institution (1854–1860). Ces années de formation furent les témoins de l'érection des bâtiments du collège, de l'établissement de quatre chaires professorales, ainsi que des problèmes inhérents au recrutement de professeurs, à l'augmentation progressive du nombre d'étudiants, et aux incertitudes liées au financement. Ces premières années correspondent également au mandat du Principal Edward Cleveland (1856–1860), qui consolida les efforts des fondateurs et travailla sans relâche pour le collège et le milieu scolaire.

## NOTES

- \* This article is derived from *St. Francis College. A Legacy of Private Initiative in the Formation, Development and Decline of a Classical College, 1854–1898*. M. Ed. Thesis, 1992, Graduate School of Education, Bishop's University. The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance, encouragement and skilled council of Dr. Derek Booth, thesis advisor and Dr. Duffie Van Balkolm, thesis supervisor of Bishop's University. Richmond County Historical Society published an amended form of this work, *St. Francis College. The Legacy of a Classical College. 1854–1898* in September, 1995.
- 1 St Francis College, built of brick 75' x 40', four stories high, consisted of classrooms, private apartments for the principal and his family and rooms for the students boarding. (*1861 Census for Cleveland, Canada East*. Lennoxville: Bishop's University Archives (Old Library, McGreer Hall) Reel C-1313.)  
Two successive buildings have occupied the site of the original St. Francis College which burned in 1882. The second College building was constructed in 1882–1883. It was torn down and rebuilt in 1942 as St. Francis College High School. This building, with additions, remains in 1996 and has become St. Francis Elementary School.
- 2 Deed of sale to the Corporation of St. Francis College from Mr. Thomas Tait, April 30, 1855. (Sherbrooke: Archives national du Quebec, I.R. 500212 microfiches.)
- 3 In 1642 an Act was passed in Massachusetts to ensure that the young could read the Bible and "understand the capital laws of the country." (Percival. *Across The Years*. 1946, p. 14.)
- 4 The issue of American versus British influences in the education system of Canada East is a source of debate among educational historians. However, the employment of American teachers in Eastern Townships schools and the widespread use of American textbooks were discouraged by educational authorities in the mid-nineteenth century. (*Journal of Education*, 1, 1857, p. 239; *Journal of Education*, 12, 1868, p. 75.) For background information see Anne Drummond "From Autonomous Academy to Public 'High School'. Quebec English Protestant Education, 1828–1889," M.A. thesis, McGill University, 1986.
- 5 The Front School of Shipton, or The School House in District No.1 was sold in public auction by the Cleveland School Commissioners in 1874. It was first offered for sale in 1859 pending permission from the Superintendent of Education. The new model school for boys and girls was completed in 1874. (*Minute Book 1. Cleveland School Commission (C.S.C.)*, 1855–1891, p. 34, 157.)

- 6 On August 24, 1855 the Governor General of Canada declared the establishment of the Scholastic Municipality of the Township of Cleveland. Present at the initial meeting of the Cleveland School Commissioners were five commissioners appointed by the Governor General: Richard Norris Webber, M.D.; Samuel Wintle; Edward E. Cleeve; William Healy and William Stewart. Dr. Webber was unanimously elected Chairman and Alexander Gorrie was appointed Secretary. (*Minute Book 1. C.S.C., 1855–1891, p. 1.*)
- 7 The Townships of Shipton and Cleveland were incorporated May 30, 1855 (*Statutes of the Province of Canada, 18 Vic. Cap 33*). According to this act, the Municipality of the Township of Cleveland (Ranges 9 to 15) was detached from the original Township of Shipton. The newly created municipality of the Township of Shipton included Ranges 1 to 8.
- 8 The parents of children who attended school subscribed a certain amount per child as ‘head money’ from which the teachers’ salaries were paid. In addition, the Education Act of 1846 required that school boards levy taxes. (*Minute Book 1. C.S.C., 1855–1891, p. 31.*)
- 9 “The Old and New Protestant Grades. The New Grading,” *Educational Record. V. 35, 1915, p. 157.*

<b>Old Nomenclature</b>	<b>New Nomenclature</b>
Primary	Grade I
1 <sup>st</sup> Elementary	Grade II
2 <sup>nd</sup> Elementary	Grade III
3 <sup>rd</sup> Elementary	Grade IV
4 <sup>th</sup> Elementary	Grade V
1 <sup>st</sup> Model	Grade VI
2 <sup>nd</sup> Model	Grade VII
3 <sup>rd</sup> Model	Grade VIII
1 <sup>st</sup> Academy	Grade IX
2 <sup>nd</sup> Academy	Grade X
3 <sup>rd</sup> Academy	Grade XI

- 10 *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Danville Academy.* Danville, C.E. 1858–9, p. 3–4.
- 11 Likely choices of Colleges were Yale, Dartmouth, University of Vermont and McGill Normal School.
- 12 Richmond County Historical Society (R.C.H.S.). *The Tread of Pioneers. Annals of Richmond County and Vicinity.* 1968, p. 160.
- 13 Alexander Twilight is thought to have been the first black American to graduate from an American College at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. (Hileman, Gregor. “The Iron-

willed Black Schoolmaster and his Granite Academy," *Middlebury College Newsletter 2*, 1974, p. 31–32).

- 14 Janesville was reputedly named for Jane Mulvena of Richmond Station. She inherited her father's farm (John Mulvena) which was located near the railyards, and from where she sold lots to rail workers at very low prices. (Mulvena, Henry. *Mulvena Papers*. 1993, p. 27).
- 15 *Statutes of Canada*. 18 Vic. Cap. 55, 1854, p. 227–228.
- 16 Off the island of Montreal, the closest English-speaking institutions of higher learning were the University of Bishop's College (Church of England), Morrin College (Presbyterian), and later, in 1874, Stanstead College (Wesleyan Methodist).
- 17 Rev. Edward Cleveland was born in Shipton in 1804. He was educated at Yale College (University) 1828–1832, and Yale Theological Seminary, 1834–1835. He was ordained as a Congregational minister in 1836. With the exception of his four years in Richmond, Canada East, he spent his life preaching and teaching in New England and the American West. He died at Burlington, Coffey Co., Kansas in 1886. (*The Genealogy of Cleveland and Cleaveland Families. Vol 1*, 1899.)
- 18 St. Francis College was the domain for young men. In an era when Victorian attitudes prevailed, higher education was considered unnecessary and harmful to the health of women. An interesting aspect of the Cleveland legacy at St. Francis College was his advocacy of university education for women. In 1872, twelve years after his resignation from St. Francis College, Cleveland was invited to champion the cause at the College. It was to his credit together with the unanimous support of the Trustees of St. Francis College that a Ladies Department complete with a female principal was established at the College in 1872. For reasons not cited, the Ladies Department was discontinued the following year. (*Minute Book S.F.C.*, 1855–1886, p. 179, 231.)
- 19 In 1864 the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers of Québec (PAPT) was inaugurated with the following local associations in attendance: St. Francis District Teachers Association, Bedford Association, Huntington and Lachute Association, Montreal Association and Québec Association. (*Journal of Education*, 8, p. 89–90.)



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