

## Venerable Buildings at Moose Factory

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**T**HE accompanying authentic photograph shows two of the Company's buildings at Moose Factory, and I think it safe to say there is no other photograph in existence showing a building of the Company in Canada erected in the days of King George the Third. The old

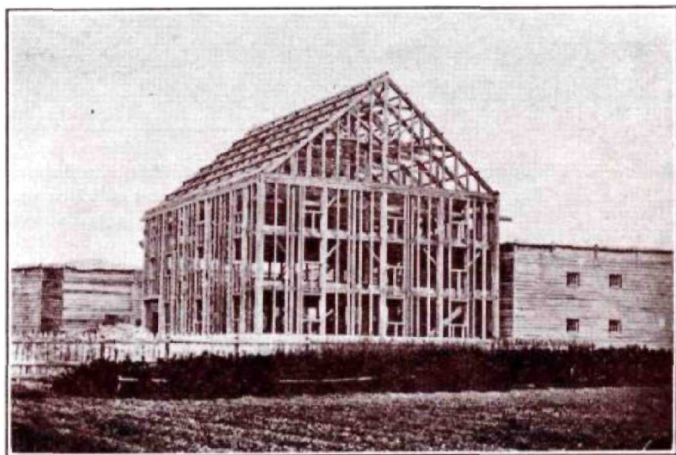


Chief Factor James Anderson (B)

flat-roofed building in the picture was erected in the latter years of the eighteenth century, perhaps about 1765, and stood for well over a century. It was demolished about 1870 or during the period the new building (in frame) was being put up. In verification regarding the age of the building, I may add that when it was demolished silver coins of the reign of George the Third were taken from the corner stone and preserved at Moose in my father's office.

The entire business of Moose Factory and surrounding country was done in this old building. All kinds of old war accoutrements were stored in its upper storeys, including cannon wheels, sabres, flintlock muskets fitted with bayonets, and hundreds of solid and hollow iron cannon ball.

Some years previous to its demolition, its roof was built in the form of embattlements, behind which brass cannon were mounted. This was not so much as a protection against the Indians but more for a wholesome regard for the activities of the French, who from an earlier day were wont to descend without warning upon those outposts of our Empire, and the traditions of those earlier times were never forgotten. I remember, as a boy, how the old-timers would speak in awed tones of the furious Frenchmen lying in ambush, ready to jump on the unwary English trader. It is a



curious fact how these old legends persist around many Hudson's Bay posts and are handed down from generation to generation.

With regard to the building in course of construction in the year 1870, this photograph is interesting, as it shows the solid and excellent constructional work of buildings put up by the Company in those early years. English, Scottish and native carpenters were responsible for its construction, and it speaks well for their handiwork, for, after standing sixty years, I am informed it is still in good condition. The framework includes many heavy twelve-by-twelve timbers, all solidly bolted together and reinforced with heavy iron and natural grown wooden knees, somewhat after the construction of a wooden ship. The whole framework is morticed and tenoned throughout and not toe-capped and run up as modern buildings are. The late Chief Factor James Anderson (B) was the architect and contractor, and it is estimated a quarter of a million feet of hand-sawn lumber entered into its construction. The buildings were known as the "Old Factory" and the "New Factory."

