

## Obituaries

**William Gerald Godfrey, BA, MA, PhD**  
1941-2008

On Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at age 66 years, after a long struggle with cancer that he bore with quiet grace and determination. Born in Stratford, ON, the son of the late Louis and Cecilia (Connelly) Godfrey. Brother of Sister Lucy (Lucille) Godfrey (CSJ) and Theresa Godfrey (both of Kitchener, ON) and predeceased by his brother Douglas Godfrey. Devoted husband of Rhianna Edwards for 11 years. Loving father of Evelyne (Winfried Kockelmann) Godfrey (UK), Marc Godfrey and Karam Godfrey (both of Vancouver, BC). Step-father of Jason Watt (Vancouver, BC) and Jennifer (Kevin) Blacklock (Upper Cape, NB). Proud grandfather of Branden and Lindsey Blacklock. Fondly remembered by many nieces and a nephew in the Kitchener/Waterloo area.

Bill grew up in Kitchener, ON and after schooling at St. Jerome's High School, he attended the University of Waterloo where he completed his BA and MA in History. While teaching history for three years at Notre Dame University of Nelson, BC, where he also served as Dean of Men, he earned a PhD in History from Queens University.

In 1970, Bill began a 36 year career in the History Department at Mount Allison University. He served as Department Head for eight years, Dean of Arts for seven years, and Director of Research Administration for three years. A particularly effective teacher and administrator, Bill was pleased with his many students, 49 of whose theses he supervised, several of whom completed their own books and articles. Despite his own heavy load, Bill published a substantial list of works that which will be published in a bibliography in an upcoming *Acadiensis* issue. Bill was twice honoured with the Paré Award for Excellence in Research and Teaching; he also received a Corpus Christi College visiting Fellowship at Cambridge University, and the Stiles-Bennett Professorship of History at Mount Allison University. He also was awarded the Kwansei-Gakuin Professorship of Canadian Studies in Japan but had to return to Canada early because of illness. Bill was one of a number of Mount Allison faculty who successfully demonstrated the combination of research and teaching at the undergraduate liberal arts and science level that provided Mount Allison with its

excellent reputation.

Even after retirement, Bill kept abreast of the literature in his field and was known for his ability to recall all the details of the hundreds of books and articles he read each year. He also loved to travel, and although he and Rhianna explored many places in Canada and the US, by far his favourite place was the UK; Bill agreed with Samuel Johnson who said: «When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.» Bill was a faculty member who had an impact on faculty, students and administration at his institution and he will be remembered and missed.

### **Francis Coghlan**

Dr. Francis Coghlan, retired professor of American history, died at his home in Toronto on October 17, 2007.

Dr. Coghlan was born on May 15, 1927, at Cardiff, Wales. He took degrees from the London School of Economics and the University of London, and then immigrated to the United States, where he met his wife Ruth Rust, whom he married in 1955. He earned an M.A. in History at Notre Dame and while working toward the Ph.D. degree from Bryn Mawr, taught history in Philadelphia at Villanova University. If history was the first of Dr. Coghlan's life-long passions, the sport of rugby was the second. While serving as coach at Villanova, he made signal contributions to the re-introduction of the sport in the north eastern United States.

In 1966 Dr. Coghlan accepted a position in the History Department at UNB, moving to Fredericton with his wife and four children. Here he taught U.S. history, as well as business history and world history for many years, and was known for his broad interests and deep knowledge of history in all its aspects. Consistently recognized as an excellent teacher, he helped to shape the History Department Honours Program, and also served as Chair of the History Department and as Assistant Dean of Arts. Continuing his life-long enthusiasm for rugby, he founded the Fredericton Exiles Rugby Football Club, served on the executive of the Canadian Rugby Football Union, and devoted many hours to promoting the sport in New Brunswick.

## Canadian Historical Association - Société historique du Canada

Dr. Coghlan is survived by sister Mary Mathieson of Bristol in the U.K.; daughter Jennifer Hubbard of Toronto; sons Richard in Hong Kong, Phillip in Pensacola, and Jonathan of Virginia Beach; and seven grandchildren. He has been buried in Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Whitby, Ontario. His dry humour, loyalty to friends and family, and deep commitment to the discipline of history will be missed by all who knew him.

### **James (Jim) Dean Snowdon 1947-2008**

Jim Snowdon died on 12 April 2008 in Kentville, Nova Scotia, after a brief but devastating battle with cancer. Well known in the heritage and antiques world, Jim was a native of Wood Point, New Brunswick, a proud descendant of the New England Planter and Yorkshire migrations to that region. He received his education at Mt. Allison University and the University of New Brunswick, focusing on the 18th century development of the Maritimes. Jim came to Acadia University in 1980, to serve in the Department of History as a 9 month sabbatical replacement; liking it so well, he remained for the rest of his life. In the subsequent 28 years, he filled a succession of full-time

and part-time positions, finally retiring in 2007. He taught in the areas of Maritime, Canadian and American history, and was especially active in the delivery of the Canadian Studies interdisciplinary courses. In addition, he offered courses through Continuing and Distance Education. He was a strong supporter of the work of the Planter Studies Committee, of which he was a founding and long-time member, and greatly assisted in the organizing of four major conferences held at Acadia. Jim was passionate about the history of the Maritimes, and cared deeply about both the built heritage and the material culture of the region. He was deeply concerned about the disappearance of Maritime buildings, and the removal of significant artifacts from the region. He possessed a wealth of information on the history of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, knowledge that he was always willing and anxious to share with others. His important study *Footprints in the Marsh Mud: Politics and Land Settlement in the township of Sackville, 1760-1800* was published in 2000. He is survived by his wife Susan, daughter Sarah, stepdaughter Bree-Ann and stepson Carey, and two grandchildren. A celebration of Jim's life was held on 24 May in Kentville. Donations in Jim's memory may be made to a charity of one's choice, or to the Jim Snowdon Memorial Prize, Office of Development, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS., B4P 2R6

