

## **John Burgess Calkin (1829-1918): Educator and Churchman in Truro, Nova Scotia**

ELDON HAY

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John Calkin married Martha Sommerville (1833-1903) in October 1854. Her father was Rev. William Sommerville (1800-1878), Covenanter minister at Cornwallis. He had been John Calkin's teacher and mentor in theology. Both John and Martha were members of Cornwallis Covenanter church.<sup>1</sup>

William Sommerville was furious, hurt and embarrassed about the wedding. Why? It wasn't the age of the couple (John was about twenty-five years of age, Martha about twenty-one). It was because they eloped. The usual, normal, appropriate, proper course would have been for the couple to be married by Martha's father, at the manse, or in the Cornwallis Covenanter Church. But no, they eloped. Who married them? Not another Covenanter pastor, which might have been permissible. Not even by a mainline Presbyterian minister – which would have been embarrassing enough. Much worse – they were married, in nearby Kentville, by an Anglican clergyman. “On Saturday, the 28th Oct., by the Rev. Lee Yewens, at the Episcopal Church, Kentville, Mr. John B. Calkin, Cornwallis, King's County, to Miss Martha Ann Dickie, daughter of the Rev. Wm. Sommerville, of the same place.”<sup>2</sup>

Sommerville was furious, hurt, embarrassed. Why had the couple eloped? Why had they overlooked the person who obviously should have married them? And why, pray tell, would they stoop to be married by an Anglican? It was too much!

Mrs. Ruth Lumsden, a grand-daughter of John and Martha Calkin, had some reminiscences of that time. “I remember my mother burning the letters

Wm. Sommerville wrote to my grandfather after the elopement. My mother would not let any of us read the letters, but I understand he berated my grandfather as a 'no good,' 'worse than a horse thief,' etc., and then signed his letters 'Believe me, your humble servant, Wm. Sommerville.'"<sup>3</sup>

Why did they elope? No, it was not what we might have conjectured. John and Martha Calkin's first child was born eleven months after they were married, they named that child Sarah Barry Calkin,<sup>4</sup> undoubtedly after Martha's mother, who had died in 1853,<sup>5</sup> leaving William Sommerville a widower, still with some very young children.

Why did they elope? We don't know. One possible explanation is that Widower William Sommerville had himself remarried, in September 1854,<sup>6</sup> a month before John and Martha. There were still Sommerville youngsters from William's first family in the manse. William had a new, second wife. Perhaps John and Martha felt they were doing Rev. William and his new bride a favour; perhaps his new wife may have seen it that way. That wasn't the way William saw it, at least not initially. However, "in later years Wm. Sommerville became very fond of my grandfather and said he was one of the ablest students he [ever] had."<sup>7</sup>

But let's go back to the beginning, to the childhood of Martha Sommerville and John Calkin. Martha Anne Sommerville was the oldest of ten children born to William Sommerville and Sarah Barry Dickey (1810-1853). William had been born in Ireland, came out to New Brunswick, did some itinerating and met Sarah Barry Dickey of Cumberland County (a brother of hers, Robert Dickey, became a father of Confederation). Martha Sommerville was born in "Amherst, N.S. June 28th 1833; baptized by Rev. A. Clarke Amherst July 18th 1833."<sup>8</sup> Shortly after, in the mid-1830s, William and Sarah Sommerville found themselves in Horton, Nova Scotia. Presumably Martha went to school; after that, little is known about her until her marriage to John Burgess Calkin in 1854.

John Burgess Calkin was the seventh of eight children born to Elias Calkin (1779-1851) and Mercy Burgess Calkin (1789-1874).<sup>9</sup> John Calkin was "eighth in line of descent from Hugh Calkin, who was born in the year 1600, at Chepstow, Monmouthshire, England, and who, in 1640, accompanied by his wife and several children, crossed the Atlantic, and joined the Plymouth (Mass.) Colonists."<sup>10</sup> The Calkin family spread from there, some of them ending up in Cornwallis. Elias Calkin, John's father, "made for himself a home in the forests of Cornwallis, remote from any settlement, and five miles beyond the farthest limits of any public highway. He married

Mercy, daughter of Benjamin Burgess, who also it is said, was descended from a family connected with the Plymouth Colony.”<sup>11</sup>

John Calkin spent his early years on his father’s farm. He received his education at the district school and, later, under his future father-in-law, Rev. William Sommerville, A.M., of Cornwallis, a clergyman of the Reformed Presbyterian or Covenanter Church. Sommerville was a very good teacher, and Elias Calkin, who died 31 March 1851, had an item in his will (dated 13 March 1851) about his son, John. Having provided for his wife and daughters, and having bequeathed to older sons Gurdon Ahira and Edmund “. . . all my Real Estate comprising the Farm,” he had an item about John which made clear his wish was that this son be educated, and under Covenanter minister Sommerville:

I give and bequeath to my beloved son John two years schooling under the instruction of the Revd. William Sumerville [*sic*] together with Board, Washing & lodging at my Dwelling House and also suitable and decent Wearing apparel during said two years the same to be provided and supplied by my two beloved Sons as hereafter named Gurdon Ahira and Edmund also the sum of thirty pounds to be paid to him in one year after the expiration of said two years.<sup>12</sup>

A brief word about the Reformed Presbyterians or Covenanters.<sup>13</sup> They were a Presbyterian group, formed in Scotland in approximately 1690, spreading to Northern Ireland. Rev. William Sommerville, as noted above came from Cornwallis, having previously lived in New Brunswick, and Northern Ireland. Covenanters did not vote, swear oaths or sit on juries. And in their worship, Covenanters did not use the organ or any other musical instrument. They were also anti-Catholic. They were vigorously opposed to bishops in both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Church: this was one of the reasons William was so incensed and hurt by his daughter being married by an Anglican.

J.B. Calkin was heavily influenced by his teacher, Rev. William Sommerville. The Calkin family had belonged to the Free Church; J.B.’s father Elias was “an Elder in the Free Church, Cornwallis.” But John left the Free Church: he “was brought to recognize our distinctive [Covenanter] principles through the teaching of . . . Mr. Sommerville.”<sup>14</sup> At least some of J.B.’s family also became Covenanter.<sup>15</sup> As a student, J.B. “enjoyed the advantages of several years’ study under the direction of Rev. Wm.

Somerville, widely known throughout the lower provinces as an exceedingly full and accurate scholar. Undoubtedly the impulse received from this ripe and enthusiastic educator to a large extent determined his future career.”<sup>16</sup> Somerville, the teacher, imparted to John “English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Mathematics and Physics.”<sup>17</sup>

Somerville’s teaching embraced what today could be called both secular and theological subjects. It is clear that John Calkin not only became a Covenanter member, but he also seriously considered becoming a Covenanter clergyman. Having finished his secondary education, he commenced studying theology under Somerville in 1850.<sup>18</sup> In October 1851, before the Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia: “Mr. J.B. Calkin appears for examination prior to his entering College with a view to the Ministry . . . The examination is sustained and [Mr. Calkin] is recommended to the favourable notice of the Professors of any College in which he may consider it convenient to prosecute his studies during the approaching Winter.”<sup>19</sup> Clergyman Lawson wrote back to the Covenanters in Ulster: “we recommended him [Calkin] to the Professors of Halifax Free Church College, to be taken under their care and tuition, during the approaching winter.”<sup>20</sup>

“Subsequently Mr. Calkin attended the Free Church College, Halifax, for a short time” during the winter 1851-52.<sup>21</sup> In June of 1852, Calkin again appeared before presbytery, “as a student of the first year. He was examined at some length, on Logic and Greek. The examination is sustained and [further] exercises are prescribed, to be in readiness for the next meeting [of presbytery].”<sup>22</sup> But at the next meeting of presbytery, Calkin did not appear, nor did he ever appear again – at least not as a candidate for the ministry. His two-year period as an intended Covenanter candidate was over. While still remaining a Covenanter member, Calkin turned his attention away from being a clergyman to a career in education. That educational trajectory was already in motion.

When he was sixteen years of age, John Calkin received a Common School licence,<sup>23</sup> and “began . . . as a teacher in the Autumn of 1848, having charge of the district school at Sheffield Mills, Kings Co., Nova Scotia for a period of six months. From 1852 to 1856 he taught one of the county grammar schools at Canard, Kings County.”<sup>24</sup> During the first few of those years, as Calkin himself wrote, he conformed to the custom of the time by “boarding around” among the parents of my pupils, staying from three days to three weeks in a place, according to the number of pupils that the various

homes sent him. Whatever objections this system had, it had the advantage of bringing the teacher into close contact with his pupils and their parents.<sup>25</sup>

As we have seen, Calkin married Martha Sommerville in 1854. I hunch – although I am not certain – that, after they were married, the two lived in a humble dwelling in Canard. Almost certainly, Martha did not remain in Cornwallis at her father's house!

The Provincial Normal School was established at Truro in 1856. Calkin, with a view of obtaining a more thorough knowledge of the principles of pedagogy, attended a term at the Provincial Normal School, shortly after it opened. In May, 1857 he was appointed as Head Master of the Model School,<sup>26</sup> in connection with the Normal School at Truro, a position he held for seven/eight years, until 1864.<sup>27</sup> The Calkin family undoubtedly lived in Truro, during those years, likely beginning in 1857.

“When, in 1864 the free school system was established, Mr. Calkin at the request of Dr. Theodore Rand [1835-1900],<sup>28</sup> then Superintendent of Education, took charge of the task of introducing the Act in Kings County.”<sup>29</sup> The free school system was not universally popular, and Calkin ran into real opposition. However, he persevered. In his report at the end of the year, Calkin wrote:

Within the year I have visited about one hundred schools . . . Sometimes I found willing ears and, as soon as erroneous impressions were removed, a readiness to act in the right direction; in other cases, opposition was so strong and prejudice so deeply seated, that every argument seemed to be fruitless as corn sown upon the desert. Yet by subsequent action in several of those sections which appeared so unpromising, I have been taught the value of the [Biblical] injunction, “In the morning sow thy seed and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not which shall prosper [Eccles. 11:6].”<sup>30</sup>

At another point in his report, Calkin spoke of parents: “Some parents . . . will do more to improve their stock, their grains, and their roots, than to elevate the tone of society around them, take more interest in the architecture of a stable than of a schoolhouse, more pride in a well groomed horse than in a well educated son.”<sup>31</sup>

After one year, Calkin returned to Truro where he was to live for the rest of his life. He took charge of the English and Classical Department in the Normal School, and four years later, in May, 1869, on the death of the first

principal of the institution, Alexander Forrester (1804-1869),<sup>32</sup> Calkin was appointed principal, a position which he held for thirty-one years. When Calkin was named principal of the Normal School, all six Calkin children had been born: two died in infancy,<sup>33</sup> four lived into adulthood.<sup>34</sup>

I now turn from Calkin the educator, to Calkin the churchman; and back to the mid-1860s. The Calkins had maintained their membership in Cornwallis Covenanter Church from the time of their marriage. Perhaps they were able to return there for Communion and other seasons. There is no record of any of the Calkin children being baptized in the Covenanter church, though the oldest, Sarah Calkin (1855-1910), eventually became a member.

The Cornwallis session met in May 1865, William Sommerville was moderator; among the session members was John's oldest brother, Gurdon Ahira Calkin.<sup>35</sup> The minutes read:

The Moderator read a letter from J.B. Calkin in which he gave intimation to the Session that in consequence of a change in his views respecting Covenanting principles, he could no longer remain in the membership of the Church; which declination the court resolved not [to] accept till it be furnished with his reasons for dissolving his connection with the Church. And the Clerk was instructed to give him notice to that effect.<sup>36</sup>

In the autumn, the session met again; John Calkin's reasons for dissolving his connection with the Church were read and received and the following resolution adopted:

Whereas Mr. J.B. Calkin has confessed his violation of his profession in voting at the last general election [which had been held 28 May 1863], and in a communication to this Session justified the act and in general vindicates his dissent from the distinctive position of Reformed Presbyterian Church. Therefore resolved that he be no longer recognized as one of its members.

That should Mr. J.B. Calkin apply for anything in the form of certificate of demission from the Church – the Clerk be instructed to furnish him with a copy of this decision signed with his name as Clerk of the Session.

That an answer to his reasons of dissent from the principles formerly professed be prepared and kept among the records of Session.<sup>37</sup>

Unfortunately, neither John's letter outlining his dissent from Covenanter principles, nor the session's letter in response, have survived. Between the time Calkin voted in the general election of 28 May 1863, and his first attempt to leave the Covenanters, 13 May 1865, the Calkins had a son, whom they called William Sommerville Calkin, born 13 September 1864.

John Calkin was no longer a Covenanter. But his ties to the Covenanters were not completely cut off. Calkin's wife, Martha, undoubtedly remained Covenanter,<sup>38</sup> as did his daughter, Sarah Calkin.<sup>39</sup> Moreover, over the next years, J.B. Calkin did a considerable amount of writing for American Covenanter journals,<sup>40</sup> partially due, no doubt, to the influence of his brother-in-law, Rev. Robert McGowan Sommerville (1837-1920). Rev. Robert Sommerville had assisted his father at Cornwallis from 1861 to 1873, then leaving Nova Scotia and going on to a distinguished career as a Covenanter pastor and journal editor in the city of New York.<sup>41</sup>

J.B. Calkin – though not Mrs. Calkin<sup>42</sup> – joined the Truro [later First] Presbyterian church, on 10 March 1866.<sup>43</sup> The Calkin family may well have been worshipping at First Presbyterian for some time. Calkin, the educator, became Sabbath School superintendent at First Presbyterian in 1867.<sup>44</sup> In 1871, Calkin was elected chair of the Annual General meeting of the congregation.<sup>45</sup> Truro Presbyterian was the largest and most affluent Presbyterian congregation in the district; it had several offspring in various mission stations in the area – for example, Brookfield and Beaver Brook.

A feeling grew in First Presbyterian that a new Presbyterian congregation was needed; Calkin played a leading part in that undertaking. St. Andrew's Presbyterian was the result: "the separation of St. Andrew's from the parent [First], was rather reluctant. It was undertaken only because it was believed that the cause of religion demanded it."<sup>46</sup> "St. Andrew's was born out of the need for a division of the large congregation of First Presbyterian Church."<sup>47</sup>

St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregation – the offshoot – was to be the chief locale of Calkin's greatest contributions as a churchman, a role he undertook very devotedly. A charter member, he was one of its first trustees, though he was not elected as an elder until 1888.<sup>48</sup> "A Sabbath School was started in connection with St. Andrew's simultaneously with, or at least very soon after the organization of the new congregation. The appointment of the first Superintendent, J.B. Calkin, was made on 28 January 1875."<sup>49</sup> In 1887, the minister, Rev. Thomas Cumming (1835-1922), made reference to the

Sabbath School, which “we regard as a Model School in many respects – especially for the good order which is maintained in it, and for the capacity and efficiency of the Superintendent, teachers and officers. But we would like to see the children especially, take much greater interest in the singing than they usually do.”<sup>50</sup>

In one of his own reports, in 1892, J.B. spoke of the School very positively: “The School may be justly described as orderly and of high moral tone. In this regard, indeed, there has been very manifest improvement within the past few years. It should be stated that the school has the full confidence of the parents. They send their children with regularity and it is very seldom that a scholar comes late.” Then Calkin gently scolded the adults: “The parents never make complaints, nor do they ever show a suspicion that all is not going on well by visiting the school.”<sup>51</sup>

Teachers’ meetings for the study of the lesson and the discussion of matters connected with the Sabbath School was held Wednesday evenings at close of the prayer meeting, concerning which, Calkin further reported, “Some, with a touch of humor, asked what purpose would be served by attending these meetings, others were good natured enough to say that they had been in some measure profited.”<sup>52</sup>

Calkin was to be Sabbath School Superintendent until 1905; completing thirty years in that post at St. Andrew’s. Moreover, “he frequently represented the congregation and presbytery in the higher courts of the Church. He was a member of the executive of the Nova Scotia auxiliary of the Canadian Bible Society, from the time of its formation [in 1904], and his counsel was always deeply appreciated by this organization.”<sup>53</sup>

Now, from the churchman, to Calkin the educator. In 1869, Calkin had just been named Principal of the Normal School. He was eminently fitted for the position. He knew the school system from the ground up; he had paid his dues. He had been a teacher in rural schools of the Province before the Normal School was established; a student at the Normal School during the second term of its existence; and the first Headmaster of the Model School which was opened in Truro in 1857. He served in this latter capacity for seven/eight years, resigning to become Inspector of Schools for Kings County, in 1865. Returning to Truro, he became a member of the Normal School staff, head of the English and Classics Department of the Normal School.<sup>54</sup> In 1869, he became principal.

Dr. Calkin entered upon his new work with enthusiasm and vision. Taking into consideration the wider interest in the educational progress of the province, he felt that two things were immediately necessary. He advocated, in his first annual report, that a new building be provided sufficiently large to include the Normal and Model Schools and, secondly, that the length of the teacher-training period be changed from two short terms in the year to one long term. As a result of his continued advocacy, both of his proposals were to be realized before many years.<sup>55</sup>

Calkin's achievements were already widely recognized. In 1870, a year after he became principal, the university of Acadia college, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, bestowed on Principal Calkin the honorary degree of Master of Arts,<sup>56</sup> "a fitting recognition of his attainments, and his position as an instructor."<sup>57</sup>

Space is not adequate to relate his many achievements as principal – planning and pleading with the Nova Scotia government for this facility or that improvement – doggedly and persistently putting the case.<sup>58</sup>

Calkin was a great educator. He was also a prodigious author. When he had been inspector in Kings County in 1865, he noted a lack of good Canadian books. He observed that "by far the majority of books used in the schools of King's County are American publications. Indeed, I may say they were almost exclusively such twelve months ago. This is an evil to be remedied."<sup>59</sup> Calkin tackled this evil personally: in fact he had already begun – his *Geography and History of Nova Scotia* had been published in 1859. There followed a spate of books, Calkin attempting to remedy the situation of which he had earlier written. Within a few years Calkin produced *School Geography of the World* (1881). Calkin's *History of British America* appeared the next year. Other texts followed: *New Introductory Geography* (1885), *A History of the Dominion of Canada*.<sup>60</sup> In addition to his publications in education, his *Historical Geography of Bible Lands* appeared in 1905. Finally, his *Old Time Customs, Memories and Traditions* was published after his death.

Calkin was in the forefront of the education of women. In his earliest report as principal of the Normal School in 1869, he wrote: "I . . . notice that a young lady in attendance this term has the honor of being the first of her sex in the Normal School (and, if I mistake not, in the Province), to compete successfully for Grade B."<sup>61</sup> Undoubtedly, not a few of Calkin's female relatives attended the Normal School. His sister-in-law, Rachel Sommer-ville, was present in 1870; his oldest daughter, Sarah, was present in 1871.<sup>62</sup>

Calkin had a role in the admission of the first women to Dalhousie University. That decision was finally put into effect in 1881. Dalhousie principal, Rev. James Ross (1811-1886), “greeted the women undergraduates that November 1881, all two of them, with a graceful speech.”<sup>63</sup> The two women were Amelia (or “Lillie”), Calkin’s daughter, and Margaret Newcomb, his niece. Lillie had been present at the Normal School in 1879; and his niece, Margaret Newcomb, the daughter of his sister Abigail, had attended the Normal School in 1876, at which time she won a Governor-General prize medal. Lillie was the first woman admitted to Dalhousie University in 1881; and Margaret Newcomb was the first woman graduate.<sup>64</sup> Lillie left after one year, marrying a Presbyterian minister, Rev. G.S. Carson. But Margaret stayed on, not only becoming the first woman graduate, but pursuing an educational career by teaching at the Halifax Ladies College.<sup>65</sup>

There is no doubt Calkin had a hand in the admission to Dalhousie of these two women. Ruth Lumsden wrote that, John Calkin, “was responsible, against considerable opposition, for Dalhousie becoming co-ed. His daughter Amelia (Lillie) and niece Margaret Trueman (née Newcomb) were the first two co-eds.”<sup>66</sup> This may be giving Calkin too much credit – though he clearly had some responsibility. Some years after the women were admitted, Rev. John Forrest (1842-1920),<sup>67</sup> undoubtedly present when the momentous original decision to admit women was made, told the “story of an eventful day in the old college building on the Grand Parade [at Dalhousie University], when a letter was read from a friend of the college asking that ladies be allowed to attend the classes. The writer of that letter was J.B. Calkin.”<sup>68</sup> The same Rev. John Forrest “referred to Principal Calkin, Dr. Rand and Dr. Forrester as the three great educational men of the Province.”<sup>69</sup>

Considerable time could be expended speaking about Calkin’s other students. One of them, near the beginning of his career, was Annie Leake (1839-1934),<sup>70</sup> for whom he wrote a letter of recommendation, in 1873.<sup>71</sup> Of course, there were countless others.

Calkin retired in 1900, to a good deal of fanfare; his many gifts as educator amply recognized by a variety of notables, and by his own faculty and students.<sup>72</sup> “He continued to act as emeritus professor of psychology and pedagogy.”<sup>73</sup> He became Truro’s “Grand Old Man.” Dalhousie University awarded him the degree of LL.D in 1909.<sup>74</sup> His wife, Martha, died in 1903.<sup>75</sup> His eldest daughter, Sarah, somewhat like her father, an educational leader, died in 1910.<sup>76</sup> J.B. Calkin died 17 September 1918, and is buried in the family plot in the Robie Street Cemetery in Truro.<sup>77</sup>

Personally, Calkin was one of the most charming of men, genial, kindly, possessing a broad charity and a tender regard for the rights and feelings of others. He carried with him to the very end of life a youthful spirit, taking a deep interest in the young and in all that concerned their welfare. He had a large circle of attached friends, and he was affectionately remembered by hundreds of old Normal School students throughout the province who received their training under him. Moreover, he was a man of simple, childlike faith and genuine piety. The unseen things were to him great and ever-present realities.<sup>78</sup>

There are two present day Truro fixtures where his legacy is clearly manifest. The first is found in Calkin Hall, now part of the Truro Campus, Nova Scotia Community College.<sup>79</sup> It reads:

CALKIN  
AUDITORIUM - GYMNASIUM  
NAMED IN HONOUR OF  
DR JOHN B. CALKIN  
WHO SERVED AS THE SECOND  
PRINCIPAL  
OF THE  
PROVINCIAL NORMAL  
SCHOOL  
1869-1900

The second plaque is displayed prominently in the present-day chapel of St. Andrew's United Church.<sup>80</sup>

TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JOHN BURGESS CALKIN  
1829-1918  
AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR  
CHARTER MEMBER AND ELDER OF THIS CHURCH  
1875-1918  
FIRST SUPERINTENDENT OF ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY SCHOOL  
1875-1905

**Endnotes**

1. Somerset, Nova Scotia, Cornwallis Ref. Pres. Church, Minutes and Records, Mfm, Maritime Conference United Church Archives, Sackville, New Brunswick (hereafter MCA). Strangely, the name J.B. Calkin is missing from the roll of members, though Mrs. J.B. Calkin's name is included.
2. *Presbyterian Witness*, 11 November 1854, 179.
3. Ruth Lumsden, letter to author, 1989. Mrs. Ruth Sommerville Wilson Lumsden (1902-1997) was then living in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
4. 6 September 1855 was the birth date of Sarah Calkin.
5. 11 February 1853 was the date of death of Sarah Barry Dickey Sommerville (William Sommerville Family Bible, New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, New Brunswick).
6. 26 September 1854 was the date of the wedding (William Sommerville Family Bible).
7. Lumsden, letter to author, 1989.
8. William Sommerville Bible. Rev. Alexander Clarke (1795-1874), Covenanter missionary, had come to Nova Scotia in 1827. He ministered in the Chignecto region, dying in Amherst in 1874 (see Eldon Hay, *The Chignecto Covenanters* [Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997], chapter 1).
9. A.W.H. Eaton, *The History of Kings County* (Salem, MA: Salem Press Co., 1910), 596.
10. "Normal School Closing: A Successful Term's Work; Lessons by Pupil Teachers," *Truro Daily News*, 28 June 1900, 4, 6, 7.
11. "Normal School Closing," 7.
12. Probate File #C - 37, Kings County Registry of Deeds, Kentville, Nova Scotia.
13. See Hay, *The Chignecto Covenanters*, chapter 2.
14. J.R. Lawson, "Extract of a Letter," *Monitor and Missionary Chronicle*, 5 (December 1851): 930. Rev. James Reid Lawson (1820-1891), was a Covenanter colleague of Sommerville's, ministering at Barnesville, New Brunswick. The *Monitor* was a journal published in Belfast, Ireland.

15. Mrs. Elias Calkin, John's mother; Gurdon Calkin (b. 1817), his oldest brother; Abigail Calkin (b. 1827), his next oldest sibling, are listed as members of the Covenanter Church.
16. "John Burgess Calkin, M.A., Principal of the Provincial Normal School, Truro, Nova Scotia," *The Canada School Journal*, Toronto, 4 (April 1879), 73.
17. "John Burgess Calkin, M.A., LL.D.," *Presbyterian Witness*, 1 May 1909, 132.
18. "John Calkin is studying in the first year, 1850-51, under Rev. William Sommerville, Somerset, N.S.," and "John Calkin is studying in the second year, 1851-52, under Rev. William Sommerville, Somerset, N.S.": W.M. Glasgow, *Historical Catalogue of the Theological Seminaries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America: Together with a list of those Studying Privately of Elsewhere* (Beaver Falls, PA: Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America, 1898), 18.
19. Minutes, Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 20 October 1851, Mfm, MCA.
20. Lawson, "Extract of a Letter," 930.
21. "Normal School Closing."
22. Minutes, Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 8 June 1852.
23. A copy of the license is found in J.B. Calkin, *Old Time Customs, Memories and Traditions* (Halifax: A. & W. Mackinlay, 1918), 42.
24. "Normal School Closing."
25. *Old Time Customs*, 43.
26. "The original program of the Normal School did not provide for a model school for practice teaching . . . The model school was opened in Truro in June 1857 . . . In 1865 the Model School came under the joint control of the Principal of the Normal School and the local authorities of the town of Truro" (*100 Years of Teacher Education, 1855-1955* [Truro, NS: The College, 1955], 14, 15).
27. "Normal School Closing."
28. Margaret Conrad, "Rand, Theodore Harding," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990), 12: 879-884.
29. "John Burgess Calkin, M.A., LL.D.," *Presbyterian Witness*, 1 May 1909, 132.

30. J.B. Calkin, "Inspectors' Reports: County of Kings," *Annual Report of the Common, Superior, Academic, and Normal and Model Schools in Nova Scotia*, For the School Year ended 31 October 1865 (Halifax: A. Grant, 1865), 111.
31. "Inspectors' Reports: County of Kings," 114.
32. Judith Fingard, "Forrester, Alexander," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976), 9: 270-73.
33. "CHILDREN\ Emmeline Marcy\ Died Sept. 4, 1857\ Aged 2 mos." and "Wm. Alexander\ Died May 8 1859\ Aged 5 weeks" (Calkin tombstone, Robie Street Cemetery, Truro, NS). There is a variant on William Alexander: "BIRTH, At Truro, Thursday, March 31, the wife of Mr. J.B. Calkin, of a son" (*Presbyterian Witness*, 2 April 1859, 55), and "DIED, At Truro, on Sabbath, April 24th, William Alexander, infant son of John B. Calkin, Esq." (*Presbyterian Witness*, 30 April 1859, 71).
34. Sarah Barry, 6 September 1855-1825 October 1910; Amelia ("Lillie") Benn, 27 September 1862-9 July 1952; William Sommerville, 13 September 1864-22 May 1931; Carrie Hughenia, 15 October 1868-30 March 1951.
35. Gurdon Calkin was elected elder 26 June 1851, ordained 30 January 1852.
36. Minutes, Cornwallis Reformed Presbyterian Session, 13 May 1865.
37. 3 October 1865.
38. There is no record in the Cornwallis session rolls that she was ever removed.
39. Listed as a member, Sarah Calkin was removed by certificate on 19 November 1883.
40. The bulk of Calkin's writings were Sabbath School lessons, published in the *Christian Nation*: 2 December 1885, 346-347; 30 December 1885, 408-410; 13 January 1886, 24-25; 20 January 1886, 56-57; 3 February 1886, 72-74; 10 February 1886, 88-90; 17 February 1886, 104-105. Two articles appeared in journals edited by his brother-in-law, Rev. Robert McGowan Sommerville (1837-1920): "Christian Work a Necessity to the Christian," *Herald of Mission News* (January 1889), 10-12; and "Strength," *Olive Trees* (January 1903), 53-56.
41. See Eldon Hay, "The Canadian Career of Rev. Robert McGowan Sommerville," *Canadian Society of Presbyterian History Papers 2001*, ed. Walter Elliott (Parkhill, ON: Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, 2001), 1-22.

42. Martha apparently remained rooted in the Covenanter faith. Her tombstone reads “Martha Annie D./ Daughter of/ Rev. Wm Sommerville/ and wife of/ John B. Calkin/ Born/ June 28 1833/ Died March 12, 1903.” Perhaps her primary identification was daughter of Sommerville, secondarily, wife of Calkin?
43. “Mr. J.B. Calkin presented a certificate of dismissal from the ‘Reformed Presbyterian Church’ whereupon he was admitted as member of the Truro Presbyterian congregation” (Session minutes, Truro [later First] Presbyterian: First United Church archives, Truro, NS).
44. “Mr. Calkin . . . in his [St. Andrew’s Sabbath School] report for 1887 . . . [said that] he himself had been, ‘Superintendent of the School in this congregation and in that of another for the combined period of twenty years.’ Reference was of course here made to his service in that capacity in the (First) Presbyterian Church from which St. Andrews had separated” (Frank A. Doane, *History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church* [Truro, 1937], 74).
45. Old Meeting House Annual meeting book, 1834 and up to 1913: First United Church archives, Truro, Nova Scotia.
46. W. McN. Matthews, *Two Centuries of Christian Witness in Truro, Nova Scotia: First United Church, 1760-1960* (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1960), 26.
47. *A Tale of Two Centuries: Truro Presbytery, Oldest in Canada* (Sackville, NB: Tribune Press, 1993), 113.
48. Doane, *A History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*, 70. J.B. and Sadie (Sarah Jane) Calkin are listed among the charter members (14).
49. Doane, *History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*, 74.
50. Doane, *History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*, 75.
51. Doane, *History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*, 75.
52. Doane, *History of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church*, 75.
53. “Death of J.B. Calkin,” *Presbyterian Witness*, 21 September 1918, 8.
54. *100 Years of Teacher Education 1855-1955*, 18.
55. *100 Years of Teacher Education 1855-1955*, 18.
56. *Calendar of the Acadia University College Wolfville, N.S. For Academic Year 1884-85* (Halifax: Christian Messenger Office, 1884), 38 . The date of the award was 9 June 1870 (Acadia University Archives, Wolfville, Nova Scotia). See as well “Acadia College,” *Presbyterian Witness*, 18 June 1870, 193.

57. "Principal John B. Calkin, M.A., Truro, N.S.," *The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men: Quebec and the Maritime Provinces* (Toronto: American Biographical Publishing Co., 1881), II, 434.
58. Reports of the Normal School (Halifax) from 1869 to 1900 carried Calkin's reports as Principal (*Annual Report of the Common, Superior, Academic, and Normal and Model Schools in Nova Scotia*).
59. Calkin, "Inspectors' Reports: County of Kings," 1865, 113.
60. "Keeping in Touch - Little White School House," 3 (October 2001), 3.
61. J.B. Calkin, "Report of the Provincial Normal School" (Halifax, 1869), 4.
62. In the Colchester County 1871 Census she is described as a school mistress.
63. P.B. Waite, *The Lives of Dalhousie University* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1994), 1: 132.
64. "[To] Lillie Calkin . . . belongs the distinction of being the first woman enrolled in the degree program in 1881" and Margaret Newcombe was "the first graduate" (Judith Fingard, "Dalhousie Coeds, 1881-1921," in *Youth, University and Canadian Society*, eds. Paul Axelrod and John G. Reid [Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989], 32 and 27).
65. Margaret's father, John C. Newcomb, had been a deacon in the Reformed Presbyterian church at Cornwallis and also its treasurer. Margaret was undoubtedly raised a Covenanter, and became a member of the Church. Her father died when she was nine. She attended the Normal School where she did exceedingly well. She probably taught school and then went to Dalhousie University in 1881, although her cousin, Amelia (or Lillie) Calkin had registered slightly earlier. Margaret graduated in 1885, taught school, was married to James Star Trueman, a Saint John man. (The minister marrying them was Rev. Thomas McFall [1848-1929] Sommerville's successor, for the record of their marriage is found in the Cornwallis Covenanter records). Margaret's husband died two years after their marriage. She was granted a certificate of standing from the Covenanter Church, post-1888. Margaret taught at the Halifax Ladies College, retiring in 1918; she died at Berwick in 1935 (Harry Bruce, "How did she get into the picture?" *Dalhousie Alumni Magazine* [Winter 1985], 7-8; and Mrs. Henry D. Hicks, "Margaret Florence Newcombe," 7 [n.d.], Dalhousie University, Killam Library Archives, Halifax, NS).
66. Lumsden, letter, undated, 1989.

67. Already at Dalhousie in 1881, he was President from 1885 to 1911: "John Forrest was tall and straight, in figure and in manner; forthright he was ... He had a prodigious memory for people and faces, and a shrewd judgement of them" (Waite, *The Lives of Dalhousie University*, 1: 127).
68. "Dalhousie University Convocation: Big List of Graduates - Dr. Hill and J.B. Calkin, M.A., Made Doctors of Law," *Truro Daily News*, 30 April 1909, 4.
69. "Normal School Closing."
70. Marilyn Whiteley, ed., *The Life and Letters of Annie Leake Tuttle* (Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1999).
71. Annie Leake Tuttle's scrapbook, MCA:

John D. Philbrick, Esq  
Superintendent of Public Schools, City of Boston

Dear Sir,

The bearer, Miss Annie Leake – one of our most successful Primary School Teachers – desires to visit some of the Schools of Boston, in which she may have an opportunity of witnessing the best exhibition of your system. Especially she would like to see the 'Kinder-Garten' Schools of Madame Krieg and the Training School over which Miss Stickney presides. I shall be very grateful for anything you may be able to do to further her wishes

Yours very sincerely, J.B. Calkin, Normal School, Truro, N.S,  
May 2nd 1873.

72. "Normal School Closing," has a very full description of the events of the day.
73. "To Mark 100 Years of Service," *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, 3 June 1955, 9.
74. "It is now 'Dr. Calkin,'" *Truro Daily News*, 30 April 1909, 4.
75. "Suddenly, at Fern Bank, Willow St., Truro, March 12th, Mrs. Calkin, wife of ex-Principal J.B. Calkin, aged 68 years," *Truro Daily News*, 12 March 1903, 4.
76. She died 25 October, at the home of her father (*Presbyterian Witness*, 29 October 1910, 8). She was "known widely in educational circles throughout the province of Nova Scotia and even beyond its borders" (*Presbyterian Witness*, 5 November 1910, 8).

77. The Calkin plot contains the remains of J.B. Calkin and his wife, their two infant children, their eldest daughter, Sarah B. Calkin, and her second husband, Rev. Alexander Gatherer Russell, who “Died Nov. 10 1911.”
78. “Death of J.B. Calkin,” *Presbyterian Witness*, 21 September 1918, 8.
79. “Calkin Hall was the Teachers’ College gymnasium built here [in Truro] on campus, starting Oct. 1961 and opened in 1962. It is now the Truro Centre for Sport and Wellness and part of the Truro Campus, Nova Scotia Community College. Although called the Truro Centre for Sport and Wellness, the Calkin name lives on in the plaque located inside the door and over the entrance to the gym” (Kevin Quinlan, principal, e-mail to author, December 2001).
80. The original St. Andrew’s Presbyterian became United Church in 1925; the church building was dismantled in the late 1970s, and a new one constructed, “formally opened and rededicated on May 4, 1980” (Rev. George MacLean, “The MacLean Years 1973 to 1987,” *St. Andrews at 125* [Truro, November 2000], 12).