

**William Odber Raymond (1853 – 1923) – Eighth Generation in America –
Part Two © 2009 George McNeillie**

In the years that followed, the American Civil War continued to be the great topic of conversation. A good many of the “Blue nose boys” enlisted in the American army in the war. On the other hand the country along the border in the province was flooded with “Yankee Skeddaddlers”, anxious to escape the military drafts of the States. They worked at haying for the New Brunswick farmers at very low wages – something like fourteen dollars a month, if I remember rightly.

After the summer vacation in 1863 I was sent to Mr. James MacLauchlan’s school in the town of Woodstock, just above St. Luke’s church. This meant a daily walk of two miles to school and return, and a bread and butter lunch each day for the remainder of my school life. Lee, Arthur and I, in our school-days, must have, I think, walked about 10,000 miles each in acquiring an education. Lee and I attended in 1864-65 a school taught by Nathan B. Milberry in the basement at the Free Baptist Church in Woodstock.

After the summer vacation in 1865 we entered the Carleton County Grammar School, taught by James McCoy in the basement of the Mechanics Institute, in order to prepare for College. During the next half-a-dozen years at the Grammar School I was fortunate enough to gain the three silver medals [see photo below],¹ at that time as prizes, besides several book prizes. In September, 1871, I left home rather in fear and trembling for the University, and to my great surprise led the matriculating class of twenty-two students.

At this distance of time I am inclined to consider the result of the matriculation as largely a matter of good luck, but I remember well the delight of my old school-master, which was only equaled I think by that of my old Grandfather. During my College course I lived in residency, having the first year, as a room-mate, the leader of the Senior Class, Simeon H. Parsons, who was also an old Carleton County Grammar School boy. In my junior and senior years my room-mate was my cousin Robert M. Raymond of Norton. In

¹ One of these medals is still in the possession of Raymond’s great-grandson George McNeillie and was awarded for Mathematics in 1871

my senior year, Brother Lee Raymond matriculated second in his class, but his health prevented his finishing what promised to be a fine course at the University.

My successful matriculation carried incidentally with it the County Scholarship of the value of \$84.00, tenable for two years, and in my senior year I succeeded in gaining the Mathematical Scholarship. These scholarships, with S.P.G. Divinity Scholarships (secured for me through the kindness of Bishop Medley), enabled me to defray all expenses at the University except clothes.

