

The Shining Scroll Annual Periodical of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society.

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ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

The launch for *Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript* was held at Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown on 1 August 2019. A standing-room-only crowd viewed a dozen pages of L. M. Montgomery's manuscript, held in the Confederation Centre archives and displayed for this occasion by archivist Kathleen Mackinnon. Another display of early and foreign editions of *Anne of Green Gables* was arranged by Simon Lloyd, Special Collections Librarian at the University of Prince Edward Island. To add to the festive atmosphere of the launch, Leo Marchildon played selections from *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*; *Anne and Gilbert*; and themes from some of the films while Nadia Milewski and Rilla Bruce, dressed as "Anne" and "Diana" mingled with the crowd.

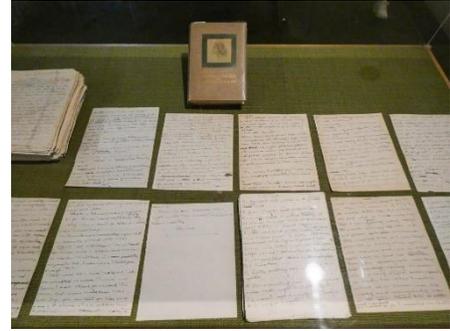
Kevin Rice, Director of the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Archives, and Simon Lloyd began the program with comments on the manuscript itself and as well as Montgomery's career. Carolyn Strom Collins spoke on her work with the manuscript – photographing all 844 pages, transcribing them, and working with the editors at Nimbus Publishing (Halifax) towards publishing them. Carolyn pointed out that the inspiration for this project came from seeing Elizabeth and Kate Waterston's book [Readying Rilla: L. M. Montgomery's Re-working of Rilla of Ingleside](#), published by Rocks Mills Press in 2016. After seeing that book, Collins said, "I immediately thought a similar treatment of Montgomery's first and best-known book, *Anne of Green Gables*, might be of interest" and started working with the archivists at Confederation Centre to begin her work on it.



Edited by Carolyn Strom Collins, [Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript](#) shows for the first time how L. M. Montgomery created her best-known and best-loved novel, published in 1908. All of Montgomery's additions and deletions, cross-outs and amendments, are shown so that readers can see just how the novel developed over the months Montgomery wrote it. In addition, Collins compared the manuscript with the first edition published by L. C. Page and Company in 1908 and noted some of the changes that were made from manuscript to the published version.

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The manuscript is comprised of 844 pages and consists of two parts: the main body of the work has 709 pages and the second part, known as the Notes (additions to the manuscript that Montgomery wrote after writing the main body), has 135 pages. One interesting observation is that Montgomery began by writing on the backs of handwritten pages of some of her stories and poems that she had typed and sent to publishers – the first 245 pages of the main body and the first 51 pages of notes were written on the backs of stories such as “The Hurrying of Ludovic Speed” and “Aunt Olivia’s Beau;” and poems such as “The Violet’s Spell” and “On the Gulf Shore.”



Some of the notes that Montgomery later inserted into the manuscript include some of the novel’s most popular scenes and quotations. For instance, Anne’s prattling on about “the mouse in the pudding sauce” in Chapter 16 is one of the longest notes. Two of the novel’s most famous quotations were notes that were later added to the final version: “I’m so glad I live in a world of Octobers” from Chapter 16 and “I don’t know what lies around the bend [in the road] but I am going to believe the best does” from the final chapter. One significant change that Montgomery made in the main body was in Chapter 2 when assigning a name to the girl who would become Anne’s best friend. She originally called her “Laura” but crossed that out and wrote “Gertrude.” That didn’t satisfy her either; she crossed out “Gertrude” and finally wrote in “Diana.”

Introducing each of the thirty-eight chapters in *Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript* are photographs of the first pages of those chapters in Montgomery’s handwriting. This is the first time those pages (except the first page) have been published since Montgomery wrote them in the months of 1905-06.

Much more about the manuscript, the first edition, and how this volume came to be can be found in the Introduction to *Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript*, along with some of L. M. Montgomery’s revelations about *Anne of Green Gables* as written in her journals.

Collins says of this book that “It should be comforting to those who wish to gain inspiration and insight into the construction of a classic novel such as *Anne of Green Gables* that it did not spring fully-formed from the pen of the author, but had to be ‘pruned down and branched out,’ as Anne said about herself, before it made its entry into the world of exceptional literature.”



In addition to editing *Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript*, Carolyn Strom Collins is the co-author (with Christina Wyss Eriksson) of *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*, *The Anne of Green Gables Christmas Treasury*, *The Anne of Green Gables Book of Days* and companion books to *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, and Laura Ingalls Wilder’s “Little House” books. She is the compiler/editor of *An Annotated Bibliography of L. M. Montgomery’s Stories and Poems; After Many Days: Twenty-One “Long-Lost” Stories by L. M. Montgomery*; and *A Guide to L. M. Montgomery’s Story and Poem Scrapbooks* along with many articles on L. M. Montgomery’s life and career.

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GREEN GABLES HERITAGE PLACE VISITOR CENTRE

Mary Beth Cavert

On 29 August 2019, a ceremony at the Green Gables Heritage Place marked the official opening of the newly-redesigned Green Gables Heritage Place Visitor Centre, "A Place of Friendship and Connection." It was attended by Her Imperial Highness [Princess Takamado](#) of Japan.

The Centre includes: "a visual biography of [L.M. Montgomery's] life, how she came to write *Anne of Green Gables* and what the editing process looked like, an illustrated version of the 1908 novel for those who aren't familiar with the story or don't speak English or French, various *Anne* book covers from around the world to show how different languages and cultures interpreted the story. The tour begins with a visual biography of the author. Parks Canada worked with various stakeholders, including the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute, Elizabeth Epperly, founding chairwoman of the institute, people from the area and Montgomery fans, to pick out images of people, places and things that were important to the author and that showcased different phases of her life." [from *The Guardian*, [article](#) by Dave Stewart with comments by [Dr. Emily Woster](#)]

Readers are also directed to [this article](#) by Nancy Russell for CBC News which contains many photographs of the Centre and its exhibits.

Kate Scarth, chair of L.M. Montgomery Studies at UPEI, was part of a committee that was consulted on the new interpretive centre. "There's just a much richer context," Scarth said. "Anne is still there, of course, but we learn a lot more about Montgomery, the woman and the writer."

The new focus on L.M. Montgomery, along her fictional character "Anne," is a welcome centerpiece for fans of the author. Our next article expands on this development, recalling the history of this farm and its transition from a family home to a place of fiction and then to an international treasure.



[Vivian Macdonald; Kate Macdonald Butler; Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado; Dr. Philip Smith]

As the [International Patron](#) of the L.M. Montgomery Institute and on behalf of the Institute, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, received a gift of the Marco Polo platter (which L.M. Montgomery treasured as a family relic) from the Vivian and Rod Macdonald family.

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ENVISIONING GREEN GABLES: L.M. MONTGOMERY'S LANDMARK AFTER 188 YEARS

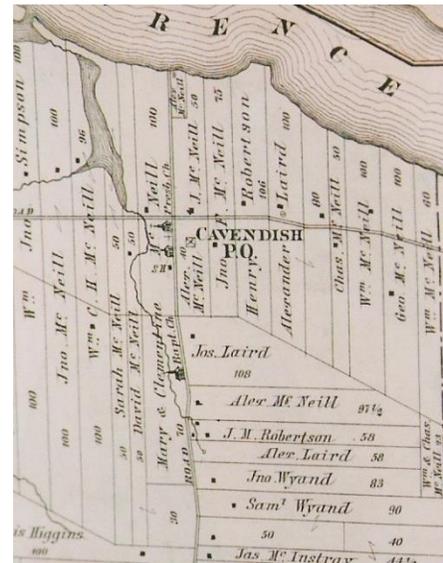
Mary Beth Cavert © 2019



Never had the old **gray-green** house among its enfolding orchards known a blither, merrier afternoon.
— L.M. Montgomery, ANNE'S HOUSE OF DREAMS, Ch. IV

The setting for *Anne of Green Gables*, which L.M. Montgomery wrote in 1905-06, was located just to the west of her home in Cavendish, on a farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Webb who were married there in 1905. Mrs. Webb was Myrtle MacNeill (spellings of the name vary from family to family), a third cousin of LMM; Myrtle had lived in this family home since 1894, arriving there when she was 11 years old.

Myrtle's great-grandfather, David MacNeill (Sr.) built a small farm house on his 135 acres we know today as "Green Gables" after he purchased the property in 1831. David's nieces, Mary and Clementine MacNeill owned the property next to him in the 1880s, now known as the Haunted Wood and the Cavendish Cemetery property. The sisters lived with their younger cousin, Franklin Pierce MacNeill, across the road (north) from David. David's son and daughter, David (Jr.) and Margaret, lived on the farm caring for their parents, David and Mary Ann Dockendorff, until their deaths, hers in 1871 and his in 1891.



David Sr. lived to be 88 years old and by the time he passed away the brother and sister were both in their mid-50s. It is possible that this is the time that Margaret began to lose her eyesight and they sought a relative who could assist them. David and Margaret had three brothers but only one of them, William (1834-abt 1887), seems to have had children. William left Cavendish around 1852 and moved to another part of Prince Edward Island. He and his wife had eight children, but in 1891 none of them was living on the Island or available to move in with their Aunt Margaret and Uncle David in Cavendish, except for Ada.

Ada Mary McNeill was the oldest of William David M(a)cNeill's children. While employed as a schoolteacher she became pregnant and had a daughter, Myrtle, who was born in New Brunswick in 1883. Ada's father had died about 1887 and her mother was married to James Johnstone by 1891. Three years after David Jr. inherited his father's farm in 1891, Ada (with her 11 year-old daughter Myrtle) returned to her grandparents' home in Cavendish to live with her Uncle David and Aunt Margaret.



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FAMILY HOME

Myrtle lived on the David MacNeill farm for fifty years. She was never an orphan nor adopted and grew to adulthood in the care of her mother, eventually becoming the caretaker of her great-aunt and great-uncle. During the time that Myrtle was growing up, her neighbor, Maud Montgomery, spent little time in Cavendish; Maud was a teacher at three Island schools, attended school in Nova Scotia, and worked at a newspaper in Halifax, NS, until June 1902 when she was almost 28 years old.

In June 1901, when Myrtle was 18, her mother married Walter Simpson and moved to nearby Bay View. After Ada's marriage, Myrtle became friends with Montgomery. They had much in common – each was caring for an elderly female family member who could be very critical, they were devoted flower gardeners, and they were intimately bonded to the environment that surrounded Myrtle's home, especially the orchards, cow paths (lanes) in the woodlands, the brook, and the fields.



LMM's cousin Kate with Myrtle, daughter of Uncle John who lived next to LMM's home in Cavendish. Kate died in 1904.
U of Guelph Archival Collections.



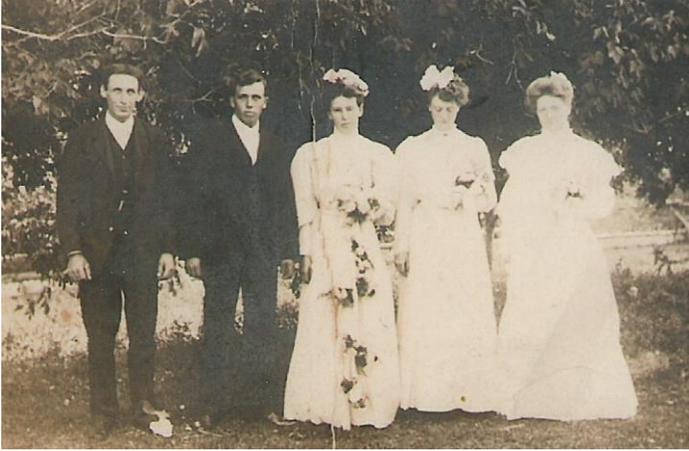
Ada and Myrtle MacNeill (PEI Archives and Records)



Margaret and David MacNeill, c. 1907 (PEI Archives and Records/Webb Family)

Myrtle married Ernest Webb at the MacNeill farm in September 1905. The ceremony was conducted by the local minister, Rev. Ewan Macdonald, Maud's future husband. After one year in Ernest's hometown of O'Leary, they returned to Cavendish and cleaned up the run-down homestead, surrounding it with splendid gardens, raising a family of five children, and caring for David and Margaret until their deaths in 1914 and 1924. Montgomery became such good friends with the whole Webb family that she dedicated *Mistress Pat, A Novel of Silver Bush* to them in 1935.

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1905 Wedding photo, L to R:

Will MacKendrick, Ernest, Myrtle, Mary Webb MacKendrick, Ellice Laird Lowther.

Mary was Ernest's sister.

Ellice's daughter, Margaret, married the Webb's son, Keith.

For twenty five years [1911-1936], whenever I went back to the Island I have made my headquarters there. My own old home had been torn down and the Webb place became my second home. I was "Aunt Maud" to the Webb children and we made the old house ring with laughter... Now, the Dominion Gov't is giving a *National Park* to every Province. And they decided that the place for the P.E.I. Park was Cavendish, because it was already sort of shrine on account of my books and because it had a magnificent sand beach and was situated between two beautiful harbors - Rustico and New London Harbors (the latter being "Four Winds"). And, because of the Anne books they decided to buy these farms for the park, as they run out to the sandshore...At first, as aforesaid, I felt very badly. The old Webb house and barns would have to go and much change would come. But when I found out that Mr. Webb was to remain as caretaker of the Park, I felt reconciled. The Premier assured me that the woods and paths and dykes would be kept just as they were.

-- L.M. Montgomery 27 December 1936, Letter to G.B. MacMillan

The National Park was a popular idea for most Islanders, but the transition from home to National Park was not an easy one for some of the residents of Cavendish, especially those who had to re-locate when their properties were taken over for the park.

LOCAL TOURISM

Prince Edward Island had been attracting tourists long before a park was proposed. Around 1893 a tour book, *Prince Edward Island as a Summer Resort: Where It Is and How to Get There*, listed fishing villages for the sportsmen and idyllic environs in the Garden of the Gulf:

From [Charlottetown]...many broad and well-graded roads, and several small steamers, allow the tourist to visit every part of the province, and enjoy every sport known to the provincial list except the killing of large game and extensive salmon fly-fishing. Everywhere, almost, the railway reaches tiny stations and more pretentious villages, whence a few miles will place the sportsman by forest streams abounding in speckled trout, or in the haunts of wild-fowl and other game birds. The roads lead, like the sticks of a fan, east, west and north, through moist, cool glades and dusky



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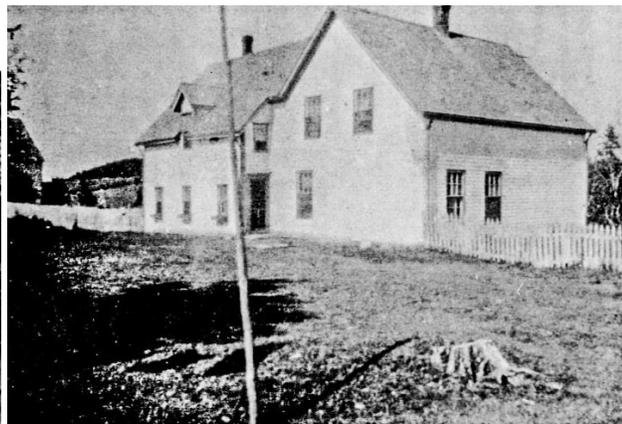
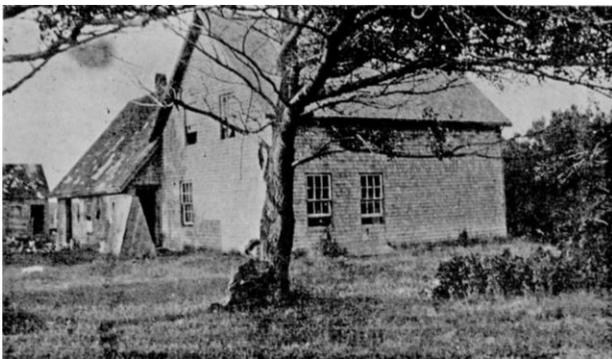
forests of evergreen carpeted with moss, trailing arbutus and maiden's hair, traversed by crystal streams or embracing deep, clear pools.

Almost invariably they lead through such sylvan scenes, fertile farmsteads and quaint settlements to the eastern coast line, where a score or more of shallow havens, reached only by narrow channels leading among dangerous shoals, break the long curving crescent of sand dunes, which marks the inner line of the winding shore.

The locations of fine hotels and views on the North Shore are noted at Tracadie Harbor, Rustico Beach, Brackley Point, Covehead, and Stanhope. Cavendish was not a destination yet.

In March 1936, following economic decline during the 1930s depression, the PEI government asked federal authorities to make a national park in the Province in hopes of attracting more tourists. In June the Act Respecting the Establishment of a National Park was passed; the new law allowed the Provincial government to acquire property. The initial plans included Dalvay-by-the-Sea as a park hotel targeting wealthy visitors and the elderly. In addition, 25 miles of coastline west of Dalvay to New London, several hundreds of yards deep, was proposed. This section included Cavendish, already known for its beautiful beaches and red rock cliffs. It was considered as a second site for development because of its attraction for middle-class tourists; Dalvay would offer relaxation and quiet, Cavendish would host families, entertainment and crowds. By this time, Cavendish was already a tourist destination, of course, due to the popularity of Montgomery's novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, which was set there.

When Cavendish resident Leta McCoubrey was a child walking to school (in the 1910s), tourists would stop and ask her where to find Montgomery's home. Visitors were already walking through Myrtle's gardens in the 1920s to find "Anne" and see "Green Gables." The Webbs had so many summer visitors dropping in at the house they decided to make it a tea room and sell L.M. Montgomery books. Myrtle and Ernest gave tours and began hosting guests. Their children had to give up their rooms and sleep in out-buildings during the summer even though a second story had been added over the kitchen, or "ell," of the house in 1914 to make three more rooms. (One of the only photos of the house before that time is one that LMM took of Myrtle sitting in the back of the house c. 1902. It clearly shows the old kitchen on the end of the house before the roof was raised which is present in a c. 1930 photo from the same angle.) They made other structural changes to the house -- walls and doorways were altered and the pointed roof over the front porch was lowered. The porch has been restored to its original structure today.



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Montgomery's photo of the house



NATIONAL PARK

On 4 March 1937, five parcels along the north shore were transferred from the Province of Prince Edward Island to the Federal government for the National Park, affecting about a hundred farmers and private land owners. Once the park boundaries were officially established the government had to acquire the private property in the park, whether the owners wanted to sell or not. The new park area started in Bay View which had been the property of the Alfred Moore family on New London Bay. Jennie Moore Macneill, now the owner and steward of Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish Home, lived on the farm located between what is now the Homestead Trail and the Cavendish Campground. She was about eight years old when they had to re-locate.

When the land ownership was officially transferred, many landowners did not fully understand what the impact of the change would be. Myrtle Webb wrote a letter to the deputy commissioner of parks, F.H.H. Williamson:

Can you imagine the shock the family received when the word came out in the press the Cavendish Area had been your choice and the Green Gables property was to be included...

Could you give us just a little idea of what we can expect in the way of changes...

On 24 April 1937 the properties were officially proclaimed a park and on 24 June 1938, the legal proclamation made it final. Dalvay had been purchased quickly for less money than budgeted, so there was \$10,000 available to buy Green Gables. A delegation of officials visited the Webb farm and explained that their farm would be purchased (the recommended price was \$65/acre for "extra good" farm land) and they were offered \$6500 for their home. The terms were that they would be allowed to live there and Ernest would be the park warden of the property. They had little choice but to agree to the sale.

Since the house was going to be preserved, new windows were installed – the east dormer window was widened from one to two windows, green shutters were added, and the main windows were changed. The old exterior had always been preserved with whitewash and the greenish grey color of the shingles was probably why L.M. Montgomery picked the name Green Gables. However, park personnel felt the gables should be emphasized so they were painted green.

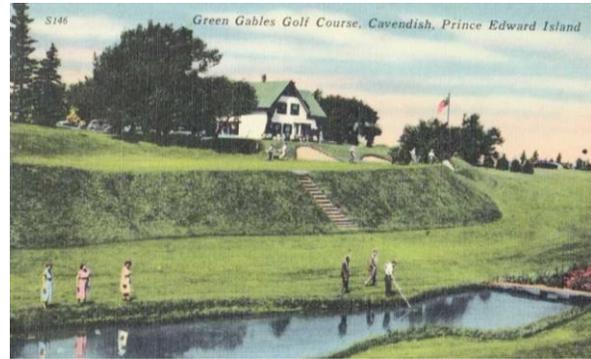
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Jennie Macneill at the site of her old home between two birch trees.

The placement of a golf course on the Webb property was essential to the park. The sport had upper class associations and made the park a more desirable destination. Construction of the course began in July 1938, changing the homestead landscape completely – the gentle slope in front of the house was pushed up and cut out for the ninth green and a sand trap (has been removed), the barn and all buildings and sheds were taken out, the orchards and trees were removed and lanes were changed. When Myrtle was young there was no grass around the house, just flower and vegetable gardens laced with pathways. There was a favorite path across the field beyond Lover’s Lane running for 150 feet called Deep Hollow which her children note was probably filled in when one of the fairways was constructed.



In the early plans the government was to build a new home for the Webbs because their former house was to be used as the golf clubhouse. However, since the Webbs were going to stay at Green Gables, a separate clubhouse was constructed instead. A year after bulldozing started, the first nine holes were ready when the park was opened on 19 July 1939 (Mary Rubio writes in *Gift of Wings* that a crowd of 4000 attended) and the whole course was finished in September 1939.



L.M. Montgomery’s last visit to PEI was from September 16 to mid-October that same year. [see [The Shining Scroll 2014:1 p. 29](#)] She stayed in Cavendish for the last two weeks of her trip, much of that time was with the Webbs at the Green Gables house, in the guest room (across from the “Anne” room). The author seemed very pleased with the new park in her letter to Ephraim Weber on 13 February 1940:

The new National Park in Cavendish has been made into a thing of beauty. They have kept all my old beloved haunts as they were and added new beauties! A golf course has been laid out, “the Green Gables Golf Course,” and experts say it is the most beautiful in North America. The “Dryad’s Bubble” has been stoned around, a flight of steps leads down to it and a cup is hung on a birch tree above it that all may drink who list! The “season” was over when I was there so the old places were as quiet and haunted as of yore.



There seem to be no records that indicate that Montgomery was allowed to approve the idea of a Green Gables park on the condition that the Webbs could stay in the house as long as they lived, but that is the impression that was left with Myrtle and her children. When Ernest turned 65 in 1945, the Webbs were caught by surprise

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when he was forced to retire and they were told by the park authority to leave. The couple moved to the old Baptist parsonage down the road which had a similar lay-out to their former house (it had been the home of Rev. Spurr and Montgomery's first beau, Nate Lockhart). Ernest died in 1950 and Myrtle moved to Norval, Ontario in 1964 and lived with her son, Keith. She died there in 1969 and was buried in the Cavendish Cemetery beside Ernest.

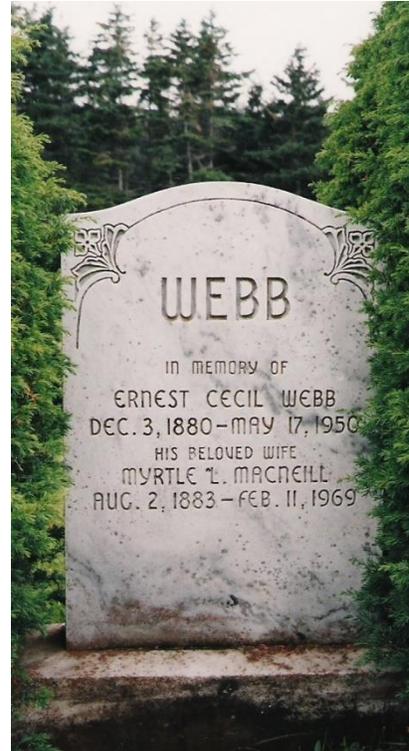
INTERNATIONAL LANDMARK

Since 1939 the Green Gables portion of the National Park has been carefully maintained and restructured several times to accommodate the huge number of visitors that arrive every year. There were over 200,000 [visitors](#) at Green Gables and over 780,000 visitors to the National Park in 2019. Adjustments are always being implemented to make the home reflect the descriptions in *Anne of Green Gables* and to enhance the experience for fans of the author.

Carolyn Strom Collins set the arrival of the fictional *Anne at Green Gables* in the late 1870s (see *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*, which also contains an illustration of the Green Gables floor plan, c. 1990), but there are no records of the structure from that time. According to the 1979 *Green Gables House Report* by Fred Horne for Parks Canada, the kitchen wing (one story) was probably built on the property or moved from a site closer to the shore, c. 1831, when David Sr. acquired the property. He was married in 1833 and his first child was born in 1834. There were seven members of the David and Mary MacNeill family by about 1841.

The 1979 report speculates that the main part of the house (containing the parlour, sitting room, "Matthew's room," and four upstairs bedrooms) may have been constructed in the 1870s but that is well after David and Mary's children were grown, and even after Mary's death in 1871. It is more likely that a larger structure was built before 1870, perhaps closer to 1840. The David MacNeill house and the interior may not have changed significantly after the 1870s until Ernest and Myrtle made their own updates between 1914 and the 1920s. Therefore, the house Montgomery described in 1905 might have been similar to the house as it was during "Anne's time" of 1870s (she did claim that it was the setting of Green Gables she put in the book, not the house itself).

National Park personnel have tried to make restorations as authentic to the book as possible and to the time period of its creation, mostly through interviews with Myrtle's children (in 1978). Anita Webb was born in 1911 and her recollections are roughly for the time period 1919-1935. Should today's Green Gables house reflect the domain of 1880 fictional Anne Shirley or 1900 Margaret MacNeill or 1920 Myrtle Webb? Readers of Montgomery's books can feel at home in the environment created by [Parks Canada in Cavendish](#) whether they do so through attention to time-period detail, Montgomery's writing, or through the portals of their own imaginations. Windows, walls, roofs, doors, and paths have been changed, woodlands re-grown, and fields have disappeared -- but visitors can still absorb the same surroundings of color, scent, light, shadow, and sound that inspired and soothed the creator of Avonlea and *Anne of Green Gables*.



SOURCES

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Read more about PEI houses at [Heritage House Notes](#).



Myrtle Webb and LM Montgomery
in Lover's Lane.
U of Guelph
Archival collections.



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NEW PARK ADDITION TO L.M. MONTGOMERY SITES ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mary Beth Cavert



The official opening of Montgomery Park was held on 28 August 2019 in Cavendish, PEI. The park is located between the Green Gables Heritage Centre and the site of Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish Home on Route 13 (across from the Cavendish Cemetery). The ceremonies included remarks and a tree planting by Her Imperial Highness, Princess Takamado of Japan. Kate MacDonald Butler, Montgomery's grand-daughter, and Jennie Macneill, owner and steward of Montgomery's Cavendish Home, unveiled a statue of Montgomery, "A Glimpse of Beauty." The statue was designed by Grace Curtis of Summerside, PEI, and [cast in bronze](#) by sculptor Nathan Scott of British Columbia. The program honored the Avonlea (Cavendish) Women's Institute (est. 1920) and the founding families of Cavendish – the Clarks, MacNeills, and Simpsons. Additional activities included readings, music, tours, and a lecture by Arnold Smith on The History of Cavendish and Its Founding Families.



Photo – Mike Duffy

"Kate MacDonald Butler and Jennie Macneill, from one of PEI's most celebrated families who helped preserve the timeless legacy of L.M. Montgomery, unveiled a new statue to the famous author." <https://stanleybridgecentre.ca/page/5/>

Trees commemorating each founding family were planted, with a name assigned to each young tree. This is reminiscent of the practice of L.M. Montgomery's grandparents and great-grandparents who planted trees and orchards in honor of each of their children.

While designing the Montgomery statue, Curtis "hoped to portray Montgomery in the midst of a 'flash' of creativity, captured in a moment of inspiration - that moment of inspiration, which she wrote about in her books, she called it 'the flash.' There's a veil lifted from beyond and there's something there giving her this gift of creativity. When I read about that when I was a girl, that just stayed in my memory." [read and see more about this collaboration in the [Journal Pioneer](#)]

In addition to the new statue at Montgomery Park, visitors can also see one called "[Maud in the Garden](#)" at the Montgomery site in Leaskdale, Ontario ([The Shining Scroll](#) 2015), and one at the L.M Montgomery Institute, [Robertson Library](#), UPEI.



<https://www.tiapei.pe.ca/>

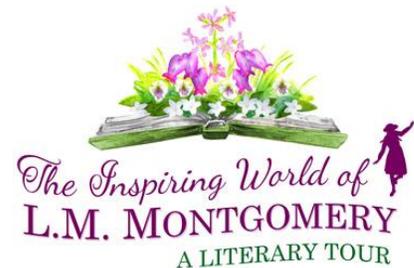
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Montgomery Park was the result of a shared vision by Cavendish families. This is an account of some of the background to its development, as shared by [Linda Lowther](#):

About two years ago, Sandi Lowther, who was at the time President of Tourism Cavendish Beach had a vision for a literary tour and a statue of Montgomery in the community. At the same time, the Resort Municipality (I am Deputy Mayor) had wanted to redevelop what was called the Heritage Park, a municipal park -- the land that previously belonged to the (John and Jennie) Macneill family and that Montgomery walked daily to go to school. As a matter of fact, Jennie, my husband's aunt, often wished for something to be done with the park land.

Sandi, Matt Jelley, Mayor and myself walked the Park and thought it would be a great place for the statue and the launching point for a Literary Tour. We created the L. M. Montgomery Destination Development Committee and started our work with me as chair. The committee included many partners and individuals interested and passionate about Montgomery. The PEI government funding partner interested in cultural development wanted an Island artist to design the statue. Even though no foundry existed here it was felt that the concept had to be from an Island artist. We held a competition with a cash award and Grace Curtis, an Island artist won with her design. The statue is being completed by Nathan Scott from British Columbia who has done bronze commissions on PEI before. In the midst of all of this, one committee member who is passionate about Montgomery and less so about Anne, also talked about the possibility of honouring the Founding Families of Cavendish in the park. The three families were Simpson, Clark and MacNeill/Macneill - Montgomery's ancestors. So we are adding some components to the park about the Founding families.

Then we hired a consultant to help us develop a [Literary Tour](#). We developed a criteria for first and second level sites for the tour and we will have interpretive panels at a number of sites across PEI.



“BIRTHPLACE” OF ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: THE MACNEILL KITCHEN

Mary Beth Cavert

There have been many mentions of the “Macneill Kitchen” in *The Shining Scroll* since the 1990s. It is the only part of the Macneill house (in which author L.M. Montgomery grew up) left standing. This kitchen wing served as the local post office and it is where Montgomery wrote most of *Anne of Green Gables*. The rest of the house fell into ruin after 1911 but Montgomery’s uncle John (1851-1936), who lived nearby, moved the old kitchen from the site a few hundred yards to his property and used it to house livestock. Island historian, Dr. Francis Bolger, recognized its significance when he was researching Montgomery’s life in the late 1960s and he received permission from Ernest Macneill and his son John to clean, repair, and preserve it for use as a writing cottage in [Stanley Bridge](#) at his home. It wasn’t until the mid-1980s that John and Jennie Macneill learned about Montgomery’s great attachment to her home after her personal journals were published. They restored the site of the homestead in tribute to the author and opened the grounds, with the house foundation and bookstore with historical artifacts, to visitors as [Lucy Maud Montgomery’s Cavendish Home](#). It was recognized as a [National](#)

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[Historic Site](#) 11 August, 2006 when John and Jennie retired and turned over the management to their son, David, who now shares the work with nephew, John Ross Macneill.

After Father Bolger's death, [the kitchen was returned](#) to the Cavendish homestead which has been the home of the Macneill family since the time of L.M. Montgomery's great-grandfather, William Simpson (Speaker) Macneill. It has been placed next to the bookstore/museum on the site.



Photo on left is the kitchen section, back view, restored by Dr. Bolger; the kitchen wing is shown on the left in the photo, taken by LM Montgomery, of the house facing west. Parts of the old apple tree are still in place near the stone foundation of the house.

"I remember well the very evening I wrote the opening paragraph of *Anne of Green Gables*...I was sitting at the end of the table in the old kitchen. My feet on the sofa, beside the west window because I wanted to get the last gleam of daylight on my portfolio..."
 -- L.M. Montgomery 18 April 1914

HURRICANE DAMAGE TO LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY'S CAVENDISH HOME

Mary Beth Cavert

In September post-tropical storm Dorian hit the North Shore of Prince Edward Island causing massive damage to Cavendish and the landscape surrounding it. David Macneill reported that numerous large trees were down at the Macneill Homestead, including one that fell across the old house's stone foundation. Supporters of the Homestead immediately rallied to support the Macneill family and the work needed to clean up and replace trees.

[The Board Members](#) of the Friends of the LM Montgomery Institute pledged [funds for tree replacement](#).

Dr. Philip Smith, Chair of the LMMI, shared this information with David Macneill on September 21. Most of the planting would take place next spring and it is our hope that these funds, along with the current GoFundMe campaign, will ease the burden on the family and assure the many admirers of Montgomery that the beauty and peace of the birthplace of *Anne of Green Gables* will endure.

Denise Bruce (of Ingleside) of PEI initiated the GoFundMe fundraiser. See Nancy Russell's [article for CBC News](#) featuring Denise's fundraising along with comments from Melanie Fishbane.

DONATIONS can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-montgomery039s-hallowed-ground>.

Donations are appreciated at any time! For more information about giving contact Denise on the GoFundMe site or The Friends of the L.M. Montgomery Institute at FriendsofLMMI@gmail.com.

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L.M. MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE

The [Journal of LM Montgomery Studies](#) was officially launched this year, guided by Co-Editors Dr. Kate Scarth and Dr. Emily Woster. Literary Society founder, Carolyn Strom Collins, and *The Shining Scroll* publisher, Mary Beth Cavert, serve on the editorial board.

From Kate and Emily:



On behalf of the L.M. Montgomery Institute (LMMI) at the University of Prince Edward Island, we are delighted to welcome readers to the new *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*. This online, open-access publication is dedicated to the dissemination of interdisciplinary pieces on one of Canada's most enduring authors. The journal will publish intriguing, highly original, rigorously researched scholarship, multimedia, and creative contributions on all aspects of L.M. Montgomery's life, works, and legacies. Montgomery left behind a vast, multi-genre collection of novels, short stories, poems, scrapbooks, photographs, journals, letters, and essays, inspiring translations, adaptations, and discussions. Given her tendency to remix and combine genres, from epistolary novels to scrapbooks, we believe Montgomery would be intrigued by the possibilities of this online platform. An online journal provides [opportunities](#) for visualizations, juxtapositions, and bricolage, transcending the capacity of print journals. We look forward to reading—and seeing and hearing!—how contributors shape this space.

[Learn more in this interview](#) with Dr. Kate Scarth, UPEI's chair of L.M. Montgomery Studies.



An Honorary Editor of the *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies* was named a member of the Order of Canada on 8 May 2019. It is considered the country's highest honor for lifetime achievement:

CONGRATULATIONS,
[DR. ELIZABETH HILLMAN WATERSTON](#)

Elizabeth Waterston is recognized as one of Canada's most respected specialists in literature. She has shed light on a range of literary styles not previously studied in Canadian universities, notably women's and children's literature, and texts on historical travel. Professor emerita at the University of Guelph, she also taught at Concordia and Western universities over the course of her distinguished 70-year career. Her prolific work encompasses research on Lucy Maud Montgomery as well as foundational literary and history resources for academics. Her commitment to community and her mentorship of fellow writers is equally far-reaching.

[Governor General of Canada News](#)

Order of Canada investiture ceremo...



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Oliver!

THE LAST MAN TO PROPOSE TO L.M. MONTGOMERY

Mary Beth Cavert © 2019

My higher self is thankful he is gone;
but my lower self is writhing in agony and would leap up
with a fierce joy if Oliver were at this moment to appear before me.
-- L.M. Montgomery 13 October 1909

L.M. Montgomery became engaged to Rev. Ewan Macdonald in the autumn of 1906 but chose to keep it a secret until her grandmother passed away in 1911. In the meantime, she entertained the attentions of one suitor during that interval [see [The Shining Scroll 2011:1](#) for more context].

In her journal entry of 5 January 1917 she listed all her “love affairs,” an account of her “infatuations” and the unrequited attention from her male friends. There were two men on the list to whom she responded with the “power of the senses,” Herman Leard from Bedeque in 1898 and someone who reminded her of the Herman times, Oliver Cromwell MacNeill, in September 1909. [Some unsourced Ancestry.com family trees indicate that he might have been named after a deceased brother of his father - see *Selected Family Tree of MacNeills and Woolners*, p. 22]



Composite image of Oliver MacNeill and illustration from
The Princess Virginia
(see *The Shining Scroll* Oct 2008)

Oliver was five years older than Montgomery and grew up in North Rustico, Prince Edward Island, surrounded by LMM’s Woolner relatives. He was the grandson of William Simpson Macneill (Jr) and the son of William Henry MacNeill (1840-1919), who was the lantern lighter of the [North Rustico Harbour](#) range lights in 1868, and Matilda Auld (1845-1899). Both Oliver and Maud were great-grandchildren of William Simpson (Speaker) Macneill, making them 2nd cousins. Oliver’s great-aunt, Eliza Helen MacNeill married Frederick William Woolner, his uncle John Gordon MacNeill married Margaret Woolner, and his aunt Flora MacNeill married Ben Woolner. While he was not descended from any Woolners as Maud Montgomery was, he was related to them through many family ties.



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Oliver's father, William H. MacNeill, his uncle John G. MacNeill, and other relatives left North Rustico and moved their families to Spink County, Dakota Territory in 1882-83 when Oliver was 13 years old. Most of Oliver's immediate family remained there or moved on to California as they aged. Maps of Buffalo and Garfield Townships in 1909 show significant farmland owned by Oliver (O.C. MacNeill) as well as his father, William, and his brother, Edward.

I MUST WALK NO MORE IN LOVER'S LANE WITH OLIVER MACNEILL

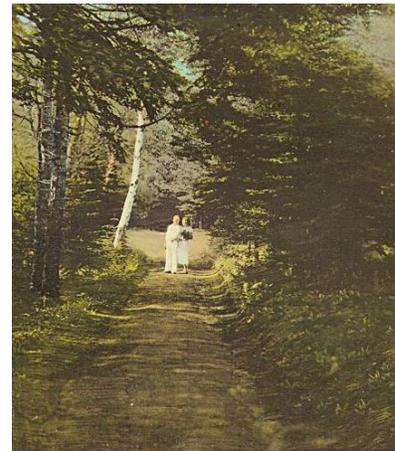
Four months before his 40th birthday in 1909, Oliver returned to Prince Edward Island to visit relatives and on 1 September he and his Aunt Emma from California were in Cavendish at the home of his Aunt Mary (MacNeill) and Uncle William Laird. They were joined by three more of his MacNeill aunts as well as his 92 year-old grandmother, Mrs. William S. MacNeill (Anna Maria Jones). A few days later there was a reception at the home of William A. Macneill in Cavendish. Maud may have been invited to the Laird gathering because they were her good friends, especially since the death of their daughter, Myrtle, in 1906 (Maud was a frequent visitor during her illness). Montgomery heard that Oliver was divorced and assumed he was home to search for a new partner. Maud, at age 35, could have been invited to these receptions by well-meaning friends with his eligibility in mind, since no one knew of her secret engagement to Ewan Macdonald. Perhaps Oliver met her at the Laird home; conversation could have revolved around their mutual relatives in North Rustico and the arrival of the author's new book that same day, *Anne of Avonlea*.

Montgomery remembered that he visited her regularly; she thought he was pleasant, companionable, and interesting -- and he left her struggling with "smothered emotion" for weeks after he left on October 13. Her journal entries (*Journals*: 21 Sept, 20 Oct, 7 Nov, 1909) indicate that during these hectic weeks with him and "whirlwind of passion" there was plenty of heat to smother:

I was again playing with fire.
 [He] is one of those men who...have the power to kindle in me devastating flames of the senses.
 I thrilled from head to foot [from his] voice and physical nearness.
 The very repression of such intense feeling made it burn more fiercely.
 ...there is something in me that is crying out for him with a hideous desire and longing.

She suggested that it was her loneliness and the magic of their walks in Lover's Lane which contributed to her vulnerability:

...its whispering maple boughs and balsam breathing firs.
 ...moonlight fell down through the boughs in splashes of silver.



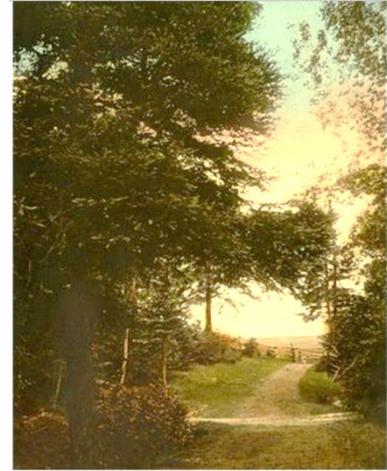
In Lovers Lane, Prince Edward Island National Park.
 Made famous by L. M. Montgomery's story, "Anne of Green Gables."

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It was sweet, with all the deadly sweetness of the pleasures of sense, blent with the spiritual charm of the moonlight and the whispering shadows.

Her fiancé was far away and, as far as we know, they had never walked together in Lover's Lane.

Maud had been secretly engaged to Rev. Ewan Macdonald for almost three years but they seldom saw each other. After she accepted his proposal he went to Scotland to study. When he returned he was placed with congregations about 50 miles away from Cavendish, and then in September 1909 he accepted a position in Ontario at churches outside of Toronto. She may have felt a little at loose ends over her relationship with the minister when Oliver came to Cavendish.



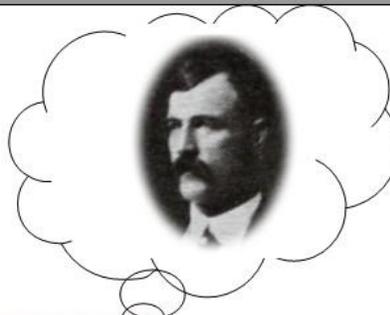
Oliver might have been smitten with her fame and wealth, and her intellect – but what about Montgomery? She was already engaged. Did she encourage him? Was it merely a last flirtation? This surprise revelation in her journals, of a post-engagement marriage proposal, may have been recorded to enhance her image as a desirable woman capable of passion. The entire 1917 section of her “romances” is directed at her future grandchildren, “I was not always old and gray-haired and hug-me-tighted.”

On the other hand, it may have been a last choice between two futures, one with Macdonald or one with MacNeill. Ewan's departure to Ontario would have been a clear signal that her time on the Island was coming to an end, if she married him. Loneliness and even an unexpected sense of abandonment may have prompted her to seriously weigh her options between two men who lived far from her present home.

Both Ewan and Oliver were attractive, educated, the same age, and shared her culture. Macdonald was not wealthy but he would live in Canada; MacNeill lived in the western prairies of the United States.



- 39 years old
- Cute
- Minister
- No money
- Not related to me
- Live in Canada



- 40 years old
- Very Cute
- Farmer
- Says he has money
- My cousin
- Live in God knows where



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During his six-week stay on the Island, Oliver kept proposing marriage to her and she kept refusing. He even suggested that she marry him for a year and then she could leave if she wished; then he promised her the freedom to go and live where she liked nine months out of the year. He finally gave up and she never had to reveal that she was already engaged to someone else. She was generous in her assessment of his ability to fall in love quickly and then get over it, recognizing that they shared the same inclinations, that “extremes meet in [both of their] natures.”

However, they continued to write to each other afterwards in the winter of 1909-10. Looking back on 30 January 1921 she recalled that he wrote well-rhymed, or at least rhymed, sentimental poetry for her and sent her a book of love poems, *For Thee Alone*, by Grace Hartshorne (1899). He returned to PEI in the summer of 1910 and they had a few more “frantic scenes” of no consequence because by July he had found a wife.



Oliver married a former student of LMM’s from Belmont, Mabel A. Lee. If his aunts on the MacNeill side of the family failed in their matchmaking, his aunt on his mother’s side was successful. Oliver was introduced to Mabel by his Aunt Eva Auld, wife of Allan Fraser, from Summerside. Mabel (b. 1884) was the only child of Richard Caleb Lee and Mary Simmons and married Oliver on 20 July 1910. They lived in Garfield/Tulare, South Dakota.

Montgomery’s journal entries tell us that Oliver was divorced “on the grounds of [his wife’s] unfaithfulness.” Researchers using the *PEI Island Register* find that Oliver’s divorced spouse is identified as Jean McConnell, but there is no record of a marriage, or any resident by that name, in his townships. A transcription error may account for listing McConnell as Oliver’s spouse. Jean Grant McConnell (1874-1971) was the wife of his uncle in Ottawa, Colin Campbell (C.C.) MacNeill. They were married in 1917 after the death of C.C.’s first wife, Ellen.

Oliver Maceill married Edla A. Richardson (1872-1959) about 1891. Edla’s family came to Spink, South Dakota, from Illinois when she was 11 years old, at the same time Oliver’s family arrived from PEI. Oliver and Edla had an infant daughter in 1895 and a son in 1897, but neither survived (according to non-sourced family trees on Ancestry.com). On 8 September 1899 a son, Colin Oliver MacNeill, was born. When Oliver arrived on PEI in September 1909, his marriage of at least 15 years was over and he was the father to a ten year-old son. Edla raised Colin and had resources to own a farm and home throughout her life in South Dakota and California. Edla MacNeill never re-married and in census records listed herself as divorced until she moved to California and then she identified herself as the widow of O. C. MacNeill.

Colin (1899-1980) was a corporal in World War I with the 61st Artillery, CAC (Coastal Artillery Corps) from April 1917 to March 1919; his unit was still training when the armistice was signed. After the war, he and his mother moved to California where he became a banker in Los Angeles. Oliver and Mabel also left South Dakota after 1919 and returned to Prince Edward Island to live in Summerside. Oliver’s father, William, moved to California in 1909 and re-married. He died in November 1919 and in his will left \$1000-\$2000 cash to his surviving children in addition to shares of the rest of the estate; his bequests and estimated estate totaled \$24,700 US, an estate value of about \$340,000 today.

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[Ed. Note: Oliver's siblings were Ina Jones MacNeill Bernard (Vancouver, BC), Edward Leslie MacNeill (Garfield, South Dakota), Leander Franklin MacNeill (Vancouver, BC), Emma Ruby MacNeill Campbell McClure (San Diego, CA), Jessie MacNeill Balsiger (Portland, OR), Elizabeth "Libby" Ann MacNeill Stutenrouth (St. Joseph, Missouri), Margaret Matilda MacNeill Vandelinder (Winnipeg, Manitoba).

When Montgomery visited PEI in 1923 she was invited to an August reception (of 300 people) in Summerside by Mrs. Stirling McKay. Among the guests were Oliver and Mabel -- Montgomery observed that Oliver had "changed a good deal" while Mabel was "quite nice-looking and the best dressed woman there." This appreciative response is not unexpected; she reminded readers in a 30 January 1921 journal entry that Oliver chose Mabel because she reminded him "a little" of Maud.



(c. 1935 photos of LMM from U of Guelph Archival collection, Mabel and Oliver MacNeill from Anne Woolner)

Oliver became a grandfather in 1927 with the birth of grandson John Oliver MacNeill, and a granddaughter, Coleen Edith MacNeill in 1933; both children were born in San Bernardino, California. There are no records to confirm that Oliver visited his grandchildren although he and his wife did spend at least one winter in California in 1937. His sister Ruby Campbell lived in San Diego, near San Bernardino, and other relatives were in the San Francisco area.

Oliver and Mabel lived in Summerside until about 1950. They joined his brother Frank and sister Ina in Vancouver, BC, where Oliver died in 1955 at age 85. Mabel lived until age 86 and died in 1969.

When Maud listed the young men who were in love with her she was careful to add that, as nice as they were, they had no power of the senses or heart over her, she felt nothing for them. At age fifteen, Nate Lockhart had talked about their future together but she never had to give him a yes-or-no answer. Several aspirants later and one unsuccessful fiancé in the form of cousin Edwin Simpson, she arrived at her last teaching station in Bedeque and fell in love for the first time at age 23 with farmer Herman Leard. She fell "heart and soul and sense – with everything except the *mind*." She confirmed that he was not marriage material and a resolution to end their relationship was avoided by the death of her grandfather in 1898. When she moved back home to be with her grandmother there were few romantic prospects for her until the arrival of a new minister in 1903. She competed with two other women for his attention and was rewarded with his proposal in 1906. However, there

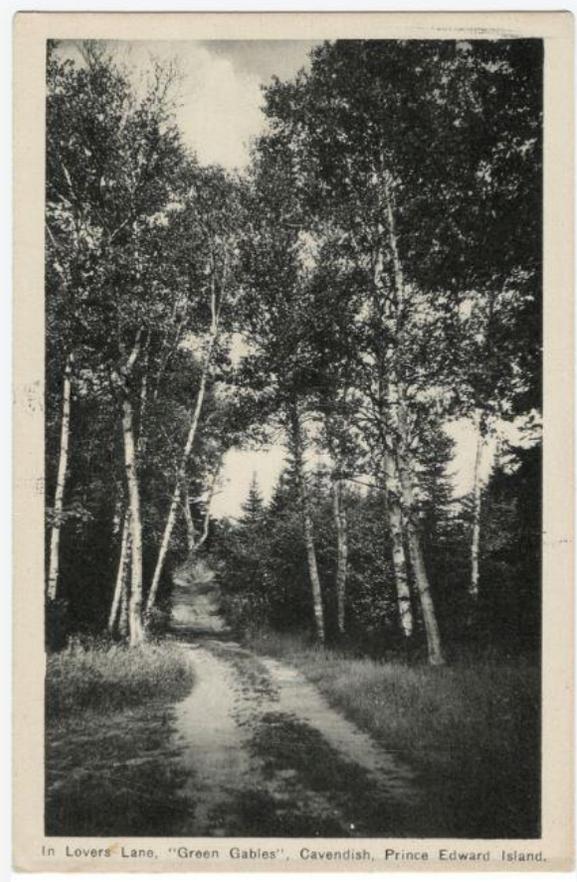
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was no language of passion associated with Ewan Macdonald, such as she described with Herman Leard in her journals. She was fond of Ewan but did not love him.

On the other hand, Oliver was the second man who awakened her “senses” and his absence, at first, made her “[cry] out for him with a hideous desire and longing.” Love was never simple for Maud Montgomery even though the heroines in her books eventually found their way to the right person. She wrote to her pen pal, George MacMillan, on 1 April 1907 that love “is a horribly perplexing subject and I grow dizzy thinking of it.” She further explained in her next letter in September that attraction between men and women is more lasting if the two people are unlike in nature. Unfortunately for Oliver MacNeill, he was a MacNeill and their natures were alike, she thought. Nonetheless, walking with Oliver in the beautiful PEI autumn in Lover’s Lane in 1909 gave L.M. Montgomery some time to push her loneliness aside and enjoy the flattering entertainments of ardent courting for the last time.



The last illustration in the first edition of
Anne of Green Gables.



In Lover's Lane, "Green Gables", Cavendish, Prince Edward Island.

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Selected Family Tree of Woolners and Macneills
© Mary Beth Cavert 2019

William Simpson (Speaker)
Macneill
1781-1870
Eliza Bliss Townsend
1788-1869

Robert Forster Woolner
1787-1860
Sarah (Sally) Kemp
1795-1876

William Simpson
Macneill (II)
1814-1902
Anne Maria Jones
1818 (16?)-1912

Lucy Ann Woolner
1824-1911
Alexander M. Macneill
1820-1898

Frederick William Woolner
1842-1928
Eliza Helen Macneill
Abt 1844-1910

Some siblings of William H. MacNeill:
sister **Minnie** Howatt,
John m. Margaret Woolner (SD),
Flora m. Ben F. Woolner (CA),
Oliver c. 1851-1863? (did William name his son after a deceased brother?),
Colin Campbell Macneill m. Jean McConnell in 1917

William Henry MacNeill
1840-1919
Matilda Auld
1845-1899
Moved to SD with brother John abt 1883, died in California

Clara Woolner Macneill
1853-1877
Hugh John Montgomery
1841-1900

Benjamin Colin Woolner
1876-1962
Ella Banks Brown
1881-1987

Lucy Maud Montgomery
1874-1942

Oliver MacNeill
Dec 1869 – 1955
LMM's 2nd cousin and suitor in 1909
(2nd wife)
Mabel Lee
m. 20 Jul 1910 in SD
d. 1969 Vancouver

Dr. Lewis Benjamin Woolner
1913-2016
Laura Katherine Stanley
1920-2008

E. Anne Woolner
present

Oliver Macneill (divorced from Edla Richardson, lived in South Dakota), proposed to LMM, according to her journals, in Sept 1909 while she was engaged to Ewan Macdonald. Oliver's aunts and uncles were Woolners.



Dr. Lewis Woolner was LMM's 2nd cousin in the Woolner family. He was her 2nd cousin once removed (one generation later) in the Macneill family. Photo by Mary Beth Cavert, 1998, North Rustico, PEI

NORTH RUSTICO, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: LANDMARKS AND HOME OF L.M. MONTGOMERY'S WOOLNER FAMILY

Mary Beth Cavert © 2019

In the summer of 2018, Carolyn Strom Collins and I paid a visit to the long-time family summer home of fellow L.M. Montgomery Literary Society member, Anne Woolner, in North Rustico, Prince Edward Island. The Woolner property there had been home since Robert Fo(r)ster Woolner and his family arrived from Dunwich, England, in 1836. Anne's father, Dr. Lewis Benjamin Woolner (1913-2016), grew up plowing the fields in North Rustico with draft horses, received his early education in a one room schoolhouse, and was a gold medalist graduate of Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown. He was one of the few Woolners in his line to leave PEI. He re-located to Minnesota, USA, in 1945 to work at the prestigious Mayo Clinic and achieved an international reputation for excellence in surgical pathology. Lewis and family members spent every summer in North Rustico after his retirement.



E. Anne Woolner with Dr. Mary Rubio

Dr. Woolner's sister, Evelyn, was the family historian and compiled many books of photos and documents about the family history. Anne Woolner brought them out for us to see during our visit and a photo of Oliver MacNeill first caught my attention prompting me to do a little more research on the ties between the Woolners and MacNeills (spellings vary among the families).

Most readers of L.M. Montgomery's biographies know that her grandmother, Lucy Ann Woolner (1824-1911), was born in England before coming to North Rustico, PEI, with her parents, Robert and Sarah ["Sally"] Kemp. Grandmother Lucy named her second daughter (Montgomery's mother) Clara Woolner Macneill. Lucy and her daughter, Clara, and then her granddaughter, Maud, would have travelled along the old shore road to North Rustico many times to visit Woolner siblings, cousins, and aunts and uncles. In addition, North Rustico was home to William Simpson MacNeill (Jr), the brother of Montgomery's grandfather, Alexander Marquis Macneill.



Lewis Woolner's grandfather, Frederick William Woolner, was the youngest brother of Lucy and he was born in North Rustico. In the history of the North Rustico Harbour range lights he is named as the builder who installed the posts that held the first lanterns in 1868, before the [Lighthouse](#) was built. Lewis Woolner's grandmother, Eliza Helen Macneill, was the niece of Alexander M. Macneill. Maud Montgomery's grandparents lived in North Rustico for about two years after they were married in 1843 and then moved to Cavendish to live with Alexander's parents.



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Anne Woolner is related to L.M. Montgomery through both the Woolner and Macneill families, and it takes a great deal of study to sort out all of them because they were inclined to repeat names in every generation (The family tree with the previous article contains selected relatives for tracking relationships).

Anne's Aunt Evelyn Woolner (1911-2004) wrote a family history based on information from Cavendish farmer, Ewen James MacKenzie, son of Lucy Macneill's sister Margaret Woolner. Evelyn included additional material from her mother Ella Brown Woolner (1881-1987) which was passed down to her from Maud's Aunt Mary Lawson (Mary Eliza Townsend Macneill Lawson, 1827-1910). Evelyn also recorded conversations with her Aunt Flora (Mrs. Hammond Toombs, 1869-1952). These are excerpts from Evelyn's records about the Woolners from these three sources. Evelyn's record is in the voice of her father's generation and the grandchildren of Robert and Sarah Woolner:

Grandmother Woolner was Sarah ["Sally" Ann] Kemp. In England she lived not far from Buckingham Palace – was a favourite of Queen Victoria's – used to oversee the cooking and setting the table for the levees. She was a doctor and midwife to all the people around. Banner cook – made beautiful fruit cake – go to Grandmother Woolner for good cooking and a drink of whiskey or gin.

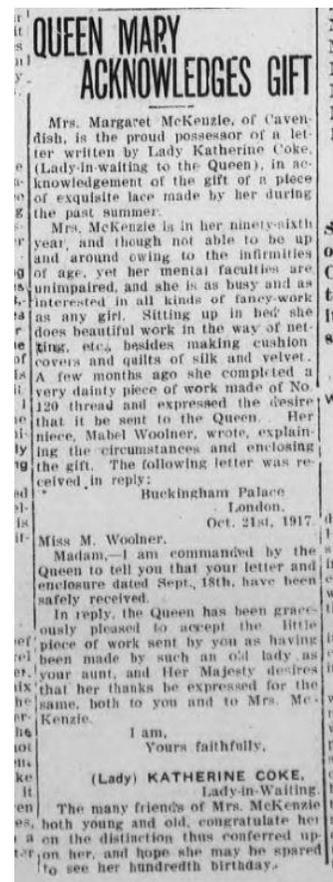
She was the daughter of a farmer, and according to family legend, very capable. Grandmother Woolner's father was quite well-to-do milked about 20 cows – kept servants, the family consisted of Harriet, Simon, Sarah (Kemp) and others.

Grandmother used to say that her father was a very bad-tempered man. Grandmother waited on her father during his illness and had seen his will. After the funeral the family were sitting around the table and Simon read the will. Sarah was married at the time. She knew the will was not the same and she stood up and said, "Brother Simon, that ain't my father's will." "What that you say, Sally?" asked Simon. She said this again and she used to say afterwards "I think I can see yet the look Mistah Woolner gave me." [Sarah Kemp married Robert Woolner in 1818.]

The Woolner family were London people. Grandfather's brother James Woolner sent his daughters to Paris to finish their musical education. The Woolner family were well-to-do and considered themselves of a higher tone than Grandmother's family [Kemp]. The rest of the family were taken up to London so they would not disgrace themselves by marrying farmer's daughters.

Aunt Margaret Woolner [MacKenzie] was sent to boarding school in England where she learned to tat [a form of lace-making] by watching other girls.

In 1917, at age 96, Aunt Margaret was bed-ridden but continued her fancywork, netting and making quilts of silk and velvet. On 28 November 1917 she earned a place on the front page of the *Charlottetown Guardian* after she created a delicate piece of lace of no. 120 thread and had her niece, Mabel Woolner, send it to



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Queen Mary, wife of King George V. She received a reply from Buckingham Palace from the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting, Katherine Coke, accepting her gift.

Robert and his family emigrated to P.E.I. in 1836. In the spring of 1835 [Robert] Chester Woolner (Robert's son) and John Woolner (a nephew?) came to Prince Edward Island. Chester was sent by his father to find land to build a home for the rest of the family. They built a log house – cleared some land – all hard wood – sowed grain among the stumps. Chester went back to England the same year for the family, leaving John Woolner with money to fix up the place. He built a house but used the money and the house was not as good as they expected it to be.

The following July the family left England sailing in a Charlottetown ship with the captain a Prince Edward Islander. They brought two horses, a Clyde mare and stallion, cattle, farm machinery. The trip took three months – a month was the time usually taken. Aunt Emily was at the time about three months old (Emily Maria Woolner, 16 April 1836-1919). They were becalmed for a month – ran out of provisions and water. The feed for the horses gave out and the horses got down and couldn't get up. Grandmother felt that if they were up she might do something for them. Grandmother Woolner appealed to the crew to help the boys get the horses up, and when they refused she went to the captain who ordered the crew to help her. They kept the horses alive on brandy beer and biscuits – one horse died -- until they reached Charlottetown. They called on the Nova Scotia coast and got water, feed for the stock and provisions for themselves. They landed in Charlottetown in September.

Grandmother had great initiative. When she got to her own home, her candle molds were not unpacked. She melted tallow and filled the handles of a long-handled dipper to get light.

The family all settled around one another. George [1820-1901] lived on Reggie MacNeill's farm – Uncle Chester [1819-1859] on the next farm towards the creek – next to that was Edward [1825-1914] – [then] Fred [1842-1928] on the homestead. Note: Uncle Ben [1830-1923] must have had Townsend MacNeill's farm first. Uncle Ben went to school from Aunt Margaret MacKenzie's in Cavendish. He wouldn't farm – sold out to Uncle Edward and went away to California. He started a big ranch in Sacramento Valley. After some years came home and married Flora MacNeill. Would never wear a white collar till he came home and was very unwilling to wear one on his wedding night. He wore a black corduroy coat with only the top button fastened – kept one finger in his vest.

[Ed. Note: From a descendent of Benjamin, Marshall Woolner - in 1859 he traveled by ship to Panama, crossed the Isthmus and took ship to San Francisco, prospected for gold then became a farmer in Suisun Valley]

Uncle Edward married four times. [He seems to have outlived his three first spouses: Millicent Middleton, Hester Smith, Annie Matheson, and Eliza Sewell.]

Grandmother had a great garden and there was a wonderful orchard along the road, long since gone.

Sarah Kemp seemed to have learned a good deal about treating common illnesses. She was a great doctor – well known as a nurse and mid-wife and people came for her for many miles around. She had her medicine chest and small supply of drugs and had an apothecary's scales for weighing them. Her scales are at Will Alec Houston's [husband of Tillie MacKenzie], also a chest of drawers brought from England.

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Sarah's granddaughter, Tillie MacKenzie Houston (1858 -1911), inherited her grandmother's healing skills. She was called to homes to care for the ill. She attended Maud and Grandmother Lucy in March 1911 during an outbreak of influenza and measles in Cavendish; she died in April 1911 after treating children with measles. She was a close friend of Montgomery's and *Chronicles of Avonlea* was dedicated to her in 1912. Read more in [The Shining Scroll 2012:1](#).

Aunt Flora (b. 1869) daughter of Fred Woolner and Eliza MacNeill] was a favourite of Grandmother's. She remembered sleeping with her and of herself and her sisters Annie and Lucy staying with Grandmother while their parents and (Uncle) Chester went to Aunt Em's wedding (family Bible Oct 20, 1875).

Grandfather had a very fine spy glass which he willed to Chester (Fred's oldest boy) but Uncle John MacKenzie's family [Aunt Margaret] had borrowed it and refused to give it up. In her will Grandmother left her feather bed to Aunt Flora [Toombs] and her chest of drawers to Aunt Annie.

Grandmother had a large jug with verses and pictures on it. [see] L.M.M.'s book *The Tangled Web*. Aunt Lucy Macneill and Aunt Margaret MacKenzie got most of her dishes. [Ed. Note: article in [The Shining Scroll](#) 2004, p. 4]

Grandfather Woolner was a sportsman – beaver hat, swallowtail coat, riding breeches. Grandmother was the manager. Bought all the land – Grandfather divided it among the boys – gave them all share (James L. said they had 400 acres).

At the age of 80 she fell in the cellar at [Ewen?] MacKenzie's and broke her leg. She walked to [Hammond] MacKenzie's (5 miles) later [on] a broken leg! Grandfather died on January 23, 1860 of fever at the age of 73. He is buried in the Anglican cemetery at South Rustico. Sarah Kemp died in the summer of 1876 aged 81 years. Grandmother has no stone.



Rustico is the name of Lot 24, Queens County (now called South Rustico). North Rustico was the location of the Woolner and MacNeill families at the mouth of the Hunter (Clyde) River.

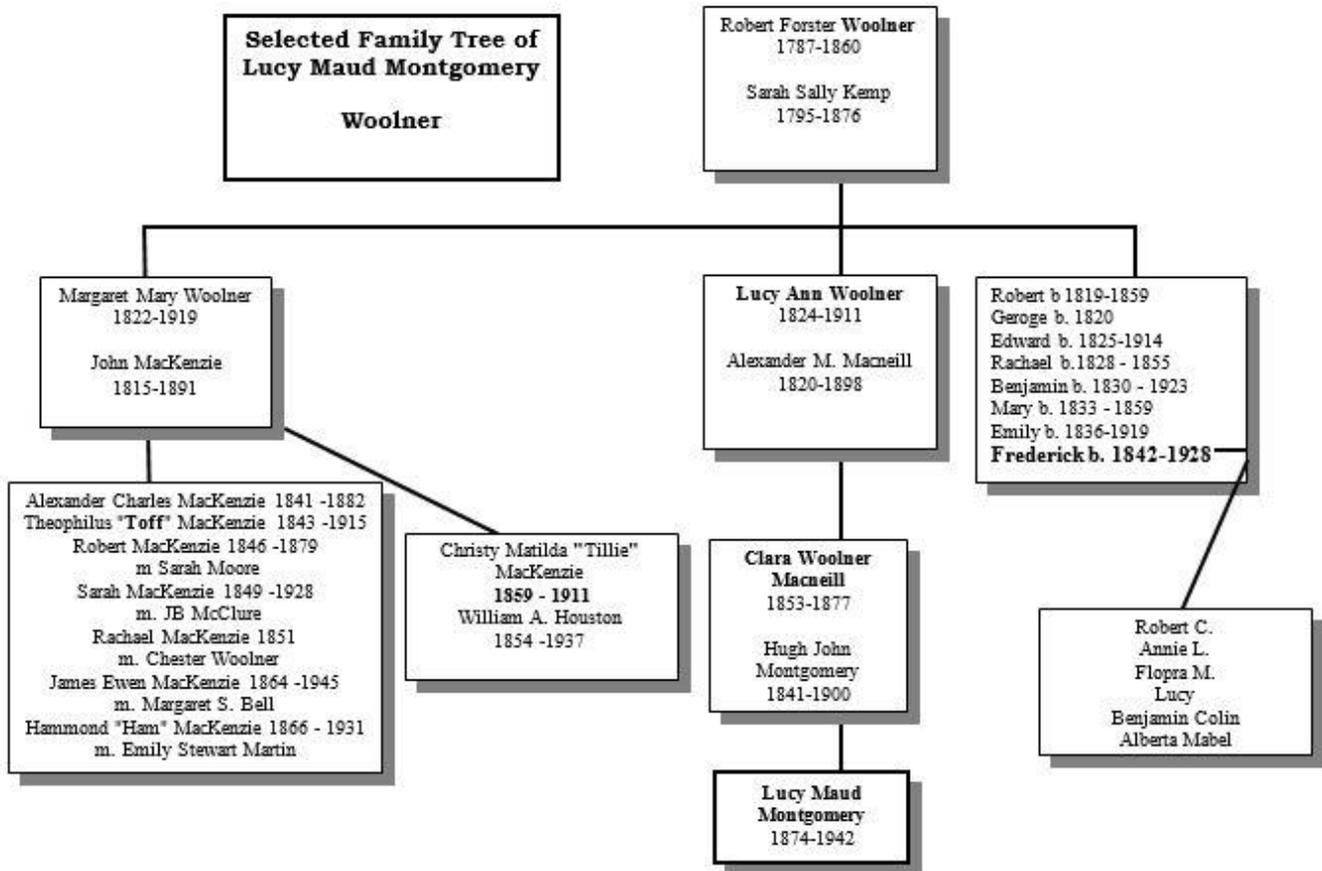


Montgomery and the Woolner jug, U of Guelph Archival Collections



Sarah Kemp, U of Guelph Archival Collections

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WHITE SANDS HOTEL

In Montgomery's fictional town of "White Sands" stood the White Sands Hotel, known at the time of Anne's creation as the [Sea Side Hotel](#). It was located in South Rustico on the property of David Mutch and had bath houses on the sand hills. It was first established in 1871 as the Ocean House and then as Sea Side in 1876. It was known as one of the most prestigious hotels on the Island during its prime, which was during Montgomery's youth. It closed in 1904, about the time Montgomery was working on *Anne of Green Gables*, and burned down in 1906.



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[Carter W. Jeffery](#) describes the location today: “From Church Road (Route 243) go past St. Augustine Church, Farmers' Bank, Doucet House, Barachois Inn, go past the new French school, right to the end via Wharf Rd. past Luke Street turning left, this is the Barachois Beach, go up the road by the ocean bank - this is the same road as seen in Meacham's 1880 Atlas image of the hotel - there's a cottage rental place up at the end of this road, behind the cottages is a stand of trees - I'm told that's where the hotel stood.”



The beautiful Dalvay-by-the-Sea estate is sometimes mistaken as an inspiration for the White Sands Hotel but has no connection to the author or her book. It was built in 1895 as a private residence for an oil tycoon from the US, Alexander Macdonald, and is 14 miles (22.7 km) from Rustico. His home in Cincinnati was called Dalvay so his mansion on PEI was named Dalvay-by-the-Sea. His family spent their summers there until 1905, sometimes hosting exclusive parties, and he passed away in 1910. It was never a hotel during Montgomery's time creating *Anne* on Prince Edward Island – Dalvay did not open as a resort hotel until the 1930s.

THE SHORE ROAD

"Shore road sounds nice," said Anne dreamily. "Is it as nice as it sounds? Just when you said `shore road' I saw it in a picture in my mind, as quick as that! And White Sands is a pretty name, too; but I don't like it as well as Avonlea. Avonlea is a lovely name. It just sounds like music. How far is it to White Sands?"

-- L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*, Ch. V.

It was five miles (7 km) to White Sands, the same distance as it was between Montgomery's home in Cavendish (Avonlea) and the village of North Rustico (White Sands). The old road along the shore....

was “woody and wild and lonesome.” On the right hand, scrub firs, their spirits quite unbroken by long years of tussle with the gulf winds, grew thickly. On the left were the steep red sandstone cliffs, so near



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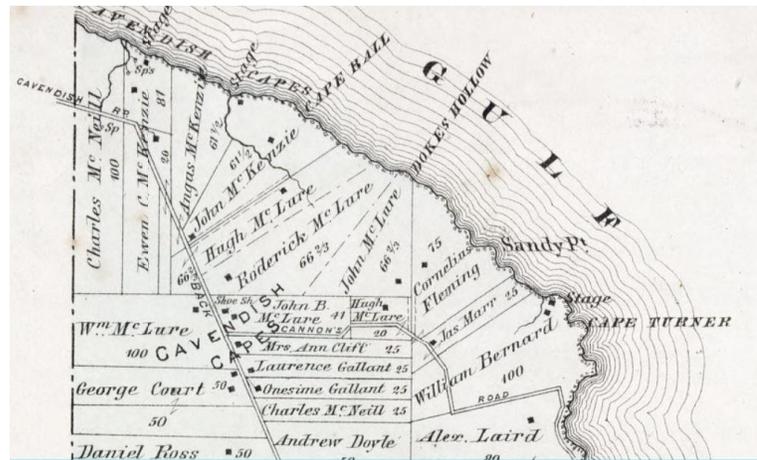
the track in places that a mare of less steadiness than the sorrel might have tried the nerves of the people behind her. Down at the base of the cliffs were heaps of surf-worn rocks or little sandy coves inlaid with pebbles as with ocean jewels; beyond lay the sea, shimmering and blue, and over it soared the gulls, their pinions flashing silvery in the sunlight. *Anne of Green Gables*, Ch. V.

The years of wagon travel along the cliffs left ruts along the way; erosion has dropped those old tracks into the sea, but there might be traces of it still near Orby Head or Cape Turner. The present paved shore road replaced the old one.



GARTMORE FARM

Another site connecting Montgomery's early life in Cavendish and North Rustico still exists. Along Cavendish Road, Route 6, just around the bend near Cavendish, stood Gartmore Farm, home of Maud's friends, Alec and May MacNeill. Alec was Maud's second cousin (of course!) and the son of Charles MacNeill (in the 1880s map of this area the lot of Charles MacNeill is found next to Ewen MacKenzie [Woolner]). Alec and his sister, Penzie MacNeill Bulman (1872-1906) were close to Maud



throughout her young life. Penzie was especially notable for the letters Maud wrote to her while living with her father in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan (in [The Years Before Anne](#) by Dr. F.W.P. Bolger).

After Montgomery's marriage, she stayed with Alec and May on return visits to Cavendish and loved listening to the sound of sea from her room. The MacNeills were another couple whom she treasured as valued friends. The author dedicated *Pat of Silver Bush* to them in 1933 and *Jane of Lantern Hill* in 1937 to her cat, Lucky, who was born on Gartmore Farm. Alec and May had no children; eventually their house was sold and moved to North Rustico (and enlarged) where it now sits near the North Rustico Harbour Light, facing the Gulf by an old shore lane.



Back of house

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🌿 SITES 🌿

We encourage readers to support our friends at all the L.M. Montgomery sites and find events on their web pages.

🌿 Linda and Jack Hutton created and manage a superb **Museum with Memories of Lucy Maud Montgomery** in Bala, Ontario. <https://www.balasmuseum.com/>
They were featured in an excellent CBC profile, "[the Ultimate Anne of Green Gables Collectors](#)" this year!

🌿 **The L.M. Montgomery Heritage Society** and team in Norval, Ontario are creating plans for the new Museum & Literary Centre. View their [Garden of the Senses](#) and follow updates soon at a new web site (not open yet) <https://lmmontgomerynorval.com/>
In the meantime, enjoy this article about "[Celebrating L.M. Montgomery's Home in Norval.](#)"

🌿 **The Lucy Maud Society of Ontario** celebrated its 25 year anniversary last October in Leaskdale, Ontario. CONGRATULATIONS!!

🌿 **The Bideford Parsonage Museum** (an Historical Home for L.M. Montgomery as a teacher in Bideford) on Prince Edward Island had a celebratory burning of its mortgage in November. CONGRATULATIONS!

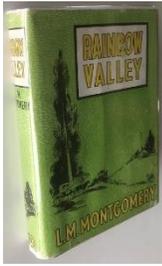
We are the [L.M. Montgomery Literary Society](#), an international group of readers and fans of the author of *Anne of Green Gables*. We began in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota region of the US but are informally affiliated with several other groups and individuals in Canada and around the world. Since 1992 we have become close friends with Montgomery scholars and supporters everywhere. We primarily focus on the author and her work but enjoy revealing links to other topics connected to the author's life. We are particular about the quotes we share on social media and the internet – we strive to find the actual text of Montgomery, from her books, journals, essays, and letters but not phrases from movies or other adaptations that are not found in her work.

In most of our issues of [THE SHINING SCROLL](#), we feature news from our friends in other related Montgomery groups, primarily [Facebook links]: [The L.M. Montgomery Institute](#) (Prince Edward Island), [Bideford Parsonage](#) (Prince Edward Island), [The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario](#) (Leaskdale, Ontario), [The L.M. Montgomery Heritage Society](#) (Norval, Ontario), [The Bala Museum](#) (Bala/Muskoka, Ontario), [The Heirs of LM Montgomery](#), and more Montgomery [museum and historical](#) sites on Prince Edward Island. We also recommend the resource [L.M. Montgomery Online](#). We encourage readers to support these groups too!



CENTENNIAL OF RAINBOW VALLEY

Mary Beth Cavert



Rainbow Valley was published in August 1919 by McClelland and Stewart in Canada and F.A. Stokes in the USA. It is the seventh of nine books in the order of the *Anne* series, (followed by *Rilla of Ingleside* and *The Blythes Are Quoted*). It features Anne's young children.

Montgomery finished writing the book at the end of World War I and dedicated it to three young servicemen who belonged to the congregations in her husband's churches. There are several articles about the book dedications in past issues of *The Shining Scroll* which can be found on our web page devoted to [L.M. Montgomery and War](#). More background to *Rainbow Valley* and her years in Leaskdale can be found in [L.M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys](#) (2015). *Rainbow Valley* is Dr. Elizabeth Waterston's favorite book and readers will also enjoy her chapter on it in [Magic Island](#).



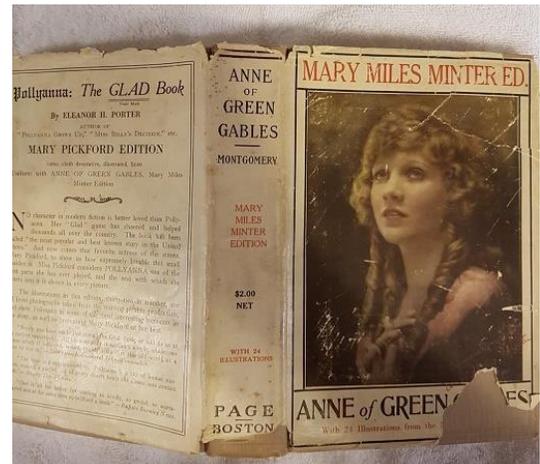
CENTENNIAL OF 1919 ANNE OF GREEN GABLES MOVIE

Carolyn Strom Collins

Eleven years after L. M. Montgomery's novel *Anne of Green Gables* was published in 1908, the first movie based on it appeared in theatres. It was a black-and-white silent version with a piano accompaniment. The movie starred popular young actress Mary Miles Minter as "Anne." Paul Kelly played the part of "Gilbert" with Marcia Harris as "Marilla" and Frederick Burton as "Matthew." It was filmed at the Fairbanks House in Dedham, Massachusetts, beginning in August 1919 and was released in November 1919, just over 100 years ago.

Unfortunately, no copies of this version of *Anne of Green Gables* still exist, partly due to the natural deterioration of the fragile film material used at the time but also due to a scandal involving Minter and the film's director who was murdered shortly after the film was released.

Information about the film exists in several forms, however, such as an edition of *Anne of Green Gables* published by L. C. Page and Company in 1920 that contains photographs of some scenes in the film. There are also articles about the film in movie magazines of the era, along with "lobby cards" and glass slides advertising the film. Many of the stills, lobby cards and slides can be seen on-line (search "Anne of Green Gables 1919 movie images").



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Advertisement for the 1919 movie A still from the Page edition Glass slide advertising the 1919 movie

In 2008, Carolyn Strom Collins presented a paper on the film at the L. M. Montgomery International Symposium, based on the “Synopsis of Continuity” (what counted as a screenplay in the silent-film era) that she found in the Library of Congress, outlining the scenes of the movie accompanied by some of the photographs and slides she had collected. At the same Symposium, Jack and Linda Hutton from Bala’s Museum in Ontario presented a program about the movie with Jack accompanying on the piano. [See more about Jack and Linda’s presentation at www.balasmuseum.com/silent-movie.php and Christy Woster’s article on the screenplay writer for the film in [The Shining Scroll 2015](#)]

L. M. Montgomery commented on the film in her journals on December 18, 1919:

Page ... sold the movie rights last summer. He would never sell them as long as we were in partnership because he would have had to share up with me. I knew he would do it as soon as he was free. He got \$40,000 for the film rights. My share would have been \$20,000 – a nice sum to be cheated out of!!!

Mary Miles Minter is playing *Anne*. I’ve seen her in other plays. She is very dainty, very pretty and utterly unlike my gingery Anne.

And on February 22, 1920:

On Friday I went in to Toronto and saw *Anne* on the screen at the Regent. It was a pretty little play well photographed but I think if I hadn’t already known it was from my book, that I would never have recognized it. The landscape and folks were “New England”, never P. E. Island. Mary Miles Minter was a sweet, sugary heroine utterly unlike my gingery Anne. *Matthew* was a dear but totally unlike the *Matthew* of the book. *Marilla* was a commonplace female who says “*Ain’t*”, instead of the dour, rigid *lady* of my conception. A skunk and an American flag were introduced – both equally unknown in P.E. Island. I could have shrieked with rage over the latter. Such crass, blatant Yankeeism!

The play has had an enormous success and I don’t get a cent from it!! Well, I wish the Pages joy of it.

[The quotes above are from *The Selected Journals of L. M. Montgomery*, Volume II: 1920-1921. Oxford University Press. 1987. Edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston.]

Note: Today, Montgomery’s share of \$20,000 in 1919 would worth about \$300,000US. A “nice sum,” indeed.]

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BOOKS

Nimbus Publishing has a paperback edition of [Elizabeth Rollins Epperly's *Imagining Anne: The Island Scrapbooks of L.M. Montgomery*](#).

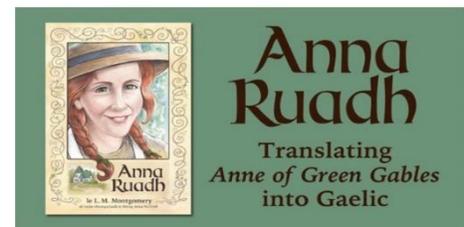
Rock's Mills Press has published [L.M. Montgomery's Complete Journals: The Ontario Years, 1930–1933](#), the fifth volume of Montgomery's unabridged Ontario journals prepared by [Jen Rubio](#).

Benjamin Lefebvre continues to add to his [Montgomery Library](#) series: [A Name for Herself: Selected Writings, 1891–1917](#), [A World of Songs: Selected Poems, 1894–1921](#)

Ben has a great deal of information about scholarship and publications on his site, [L.M. Montgomery Online](#).



Publisher Dr. Emily McEwan initiated a project this year to translate *Anne of Green Gables* into Gaelic. Mòrag Anna NicNèill (Marion A. MacNeil) is the translator. They hope to have the book ready in June 2020. Read more at: [Anna Ruadh: Anne of Green Gables in Gaelic](#)



CONFERENCES



L.M. Montgomery and Vision [14th Biennial Conference](#),

L.M. Montgomery Institute

June 24-28, University of Prince Edward Island,

Co-Chairs: Dr. Emily Woster, Dr. Lesley Clement [Registration Information](#)

Montgomery's visual descriptions and aesthetic; how she "sees" the world through her writing; Adaptations or revisions of Montgomery's life and works on/in film, stage, art, new media, and beyond; The art and artistry of the illustrators of Montgomery's works; Connections between vision and other senses in her fiction; Sight/seeing and the limitations of it or the enhancements and physical aids to it (e.g., glasses, binoculars, telescopes, camera lenses, etc.); Metaphors of vision (e.g., re/views, perspectives, visionaries, reflections, blindness, opacity/transparency, etc.) in and around the world of Montgomery; Re-seeing, revision, remembering, and nostalgia in Montgomery's creative and/or autobiographical processes Things unseen, invisible, imaginary, or otherwise out of sight.

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Japan Conference

The first international conference in Japan about L.M. Montgomery was held at Reitaku University, Tokyo, 22 June 2019. [Highlights](#) were recorded by Audrey Loiselle and included presentations on “the network of female translators and librarians who worked in the shadow of man-dominated Cold War cultural diplomacy to import foreign children’s literature to Japan,” “Growing up with Anne: An unexpected feminist journey,” the “resonance for Japanese women of Anne’s positive attitude,” the omnipresence of orphans,” and a special film screening of [Looking for Anne](#) (2009).



THE SHINING SCROLL AND A REVIEW OF L.M. MONTGOMERY “NEWSLETTERS”

Mary Beth Cavert © 2019

The Shining Scroll is the longest-running on-line (and free) publication about L.M. Montgomery and her literary works. It was established in February 1992 by the [founders](#) of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society, Carolyn Strom Collins and Christina Wyss Eriksson, and co-editor/publisher Mary Beth Cavert. *The Shining Scroll* is available for download from our web site, <http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/>. Some of our issues and articles are also available at the [L.M. Montgomery Institute](#). The principal writers for *The Shining Scroll* are Mary Beth Cavert, Carolyn Collins, and the late Christy Woster.

Following the publication of the first volume of L.M. Montgomery’s personal journals in 1985 (Rubio and Waterston) and the debut and popularity of a 1985 telefilm version of *Anne of Green Gables*, fan-based and commercial “magazines” about *Anne* and Montgomery were formed. The Schulte Family (June and Bill) in Vermont printed an Anne Fan Club newsletter called *Kindred Spirits* from summer 1988 until spring 1990. At that time George and Maureen Campbell, owners of the Anne of Green Gables Museum (and Gift Shop) in Park Corner and the Anne of Green Gables Stores on PEI, began their own *Kindred Spirits (of PEI)* newsletter from spring 1990 until December 2011. Avonlea Traditions, Inc. published *Avonlea Traditions Chronicle* from fall 1990 to autumn 1999.



Japan has a long history of Anne fan clubs such as Anne’s Group and Buttercups, which also produced newsletters. Yuka Kajihara has shared this information:

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I'm only aware of a monthly (occasionally bimonthly) newsletter "The Buttercups Press" (バターカップス通信) published at the Buttercups office in Tokyo. A Japanese Anne/LMM fan club, Buttercups has been active since the early 1980s. The June 2019 issue is numbered 300! Ms. Sachiko Miyama has subscribed to the newsletter since 1984 (July issue, No.11) and has been one of the mailing staff members since the 1990s. Another long-term member is Ms. Hitomi Ando. She joined the club, probably in 1982 or 83, and is happy to have met many kindred spirits through the newsletter. "The Buttercups Press" is A4 size; 8-14 pages. The number of the members are 178 (as of Sept. 2019). Current Annual membership fee: 2000 yen (about \$20 for individual); 1000 yen (about \$10 for family). Contact: buttercups2005@infoseek.jp, kazemaru1119@gmail.com.

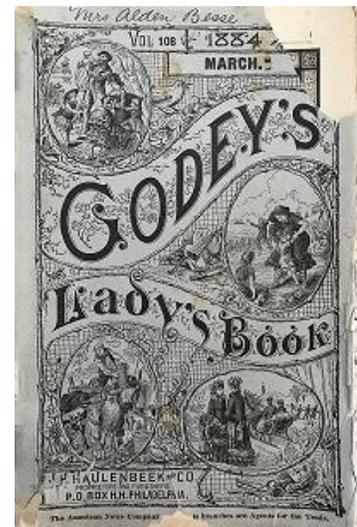


In Ontario, admirers of Montgomery formed the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton and published a newsletter, *The Road to L.M. Montgomery*, from December 1995 to June 2003. At Montgomery's home in Leaskdale, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario was [officially formed](#) about 2005, and currently publish a newsletter named [Cordially Yours](#). Our collections of *Kindred Spirits*, *Road to L.M. Montgomery*, and *Cordially Yours* are especially valued for their contributions to our own understanding of L.M. Montgomery.

[The Shining Scroll](#) was named after a line in the poem "The Fringed Gentian" that inspired Montgomery to persevere in her dream of becoming a successful writer. "The Fringed Gentian" was published in *Godey's Lady's Book* in March 1884 as part of a continued story called *Tam, the Story of a Woman* by [Ella Rodman Church](#) and Augusta De Bubna. Montgomery used the words from a verse, "Alpine Path," as the title for her [autobiography](#), published in the magazine, [Everywoman's World](#) (1917). She also attributes this verse as an inspiration for Emily Byrd Starr in her *Emily of New Moon* trilogy.

The original clipping of the poem is in her [scrapbooks](#). The full text of the poem can be read [HERE](#). In 2018, Carolyn Strom Collins donated this issue of *Godey's* to the L.M. Montgomery Institute. The last verse of the poem about "true" fame:

Then whisper blossom, in thy sleep,
How may I upward climb
The Alpine path so hard, so steep,
That leads to heights sublime?
How may I reach that far-off goal
Of true and honored fame,
To write upon its shining scroll
A woman's humble name?



The *Scroll* features special articles and original research by the Society's members and friends and has become a trusted source of information for Montgomery scholars world-wide. Many articles offer new insights and newly-

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revealed backstory to Montgomery's life and her work as well as Prince Edward Island history and genealogy. Each issue notes recently-published books, events related to Montgomery, and news from Montgomery sites in Prince Edward Island and Ontario.

We have over thirty issues available, so please read freely and share with friends. Our writers have worked hard to find information so please cite responsibly or contact us if you wish to use our work.

[Topics, names, and keywords may be located on the periodical's [Web Page](#) by using keystrokes Ctrl + f.]

Many thanks for your friendship!

✎ "May [the new year] never record unfulfilled aspirations, ✎
unsatisfied longings, or ungathered flowers."
-- L.M. Montgomery 31 December 1889

Artist: Christine Ellger



IMAGES SOURCES: see accompanying text or image hyperlink; other - Nimbus Publishing; PEI Tourism; TIAPEI, Carolyn Strom Collins; Bernadeta Milewski; CBC.CA, Prince Edward Island; LMM Institute; Meacham's 1880 Atlas, Roberston Library; PEI Archives and Records; Elaine Crawford Family; U of Guelph Archival Special Collections; Mary Beth Cavert collection; ABEbooks.com; islandnewspapers.ca; Anne Woolner collection; Twitter, @DrEmilyMcEwan; Yuka Kajihara.

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