

The Shining Scroll

Annual Periodical of the
L.M. Montgomery Literary
Society.

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Welcome to the 2025 edition of *The Shining Scroll*, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Emily Climbs*, the thirteenth book written by L.M. Montgomery. In this issue are 2025 events related to the author and tributes to Montgomery champions, new discoveries, artifacts, and rare books. Topics include cats, new books, stone houses, and Montgomery places. Please follow links to see more rich material on Montgomery which is available online, too. And as always, feel free to share this with your kindred spirits!

EMILY CLIMBS

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

with excerpts from the Pastor Felix chapter in
unpublished manuscript of *L.M. Montgomery's Kindred Spirits*

Emily

Emily Climbs takes its theme from a line in the poem, “The Fringed Gentian,” which inspired Montgomery to “climb the Alpine path” and persevere in her dream of becoming a successful writer. Her character, Emily Byrd Starr, mirrored her own young ambition and ascent.

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?



Photograph c. 1910, Mt. Tom Road, New Glasgow, PEI. The woman is Ella Jean Bagnall Simpson.
Colourization by Mason Mac. Montgomery sent this postcard to GB MacMillan in June 1910.

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Emily Climbs is the second book in the *Emily of New Moon* series. In one of the excellent discussions of it in the [LMM Readathon](#) (join group to access), Andrea McKenzie wrote, “Montgomery balances ambition with love, and leaves us with an inconclusive ending.”

Interestingly, Emily receives two marriage proposals, neither of which is romantic, but she does not receive the one that she expects—the one we’ve been expecting—from Teddy. Montgomery defers Emily’s romance, leaving her character free to develop her writing talents and her career—just as Montgomery did.

Emily Climbs Chapter 25 Discussion Questions, 14 Dec. 2021

Although ambition and perseverance were the touchstones for Montgomery’s text, romance was always a “necessary” theme for her fans and it caused the author some anxiety. Co-administrator of the Readathon, Benjamin Lefebvre, contributed these comments from a newspaper clipping in Montgomery’s scrapbooks:

L.M. Montgomery, whose charming story of love in an elysian Canadian summer, “Blue Castle,” has just been published by Stokes, writes that she is busy now on the third *Emily* book and a “dreadful time I am having, too, with all her beaux. Her love affairs won’t run straight. Then, too, I’m bombarded with letters from girls who implore me to let her marry Dean, not Teddy. But she is set on Teddy herself so what am I to do? One letter recently was quite unique. All previous letters have implored me to write ‘more about Emily, no matter whom she marries,’ but the writer of this begged me not to write another Emily book because she felt sure if I did she would marry Teddy and she (the writer) just couldn’t bear it...So between these contradictory pleas, I’m in a regular mess!



Original article is in *Salt Lake Telegram* of Salt Lake City, Utah, on 10 October 1926. Published on L.M. Montgomery Online, <https://lmonline.org/from-the-archive/lm-montgomery-is-undecided>.

McKenzie prompted readers to notice that we learn more about writing and the writer, we see recognition of her talent, and at the same time, “there are hints of a growing conflict between a woman’s traditional path at the time – love and marriage – and writing as a career for Emily.” Readers had to wait for resolutions in the last book in the series, *Emily’s Quest*.



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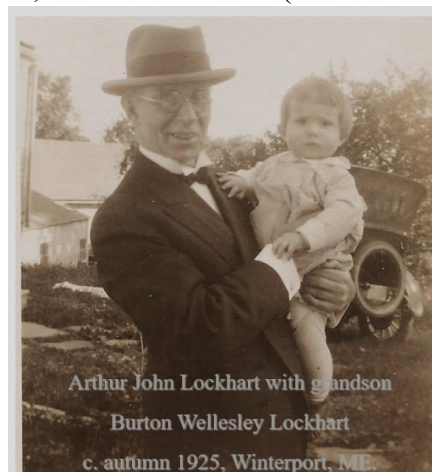
Pastor Felix

After L.M. Montgomery's book dedication to a fellow-writer in *Emily of New Moon* (1923), she chose another author and pen-pal for the honor in the second book in her Emily series, *Emily Climbs*. Arthur John Lockhart was a Methodist minister in the same generation as her father. He entered her life later than most of the other family and friends in her dedications, but he earned a place of respect in 1925 for his status as a well-connected poet, a maritime native (Lockhartville, Nova Scotia), and enthusiastic supporter of her work.

TO
"PASTOR FELIX"
IN
AFFECTIONATE APPRECIATION

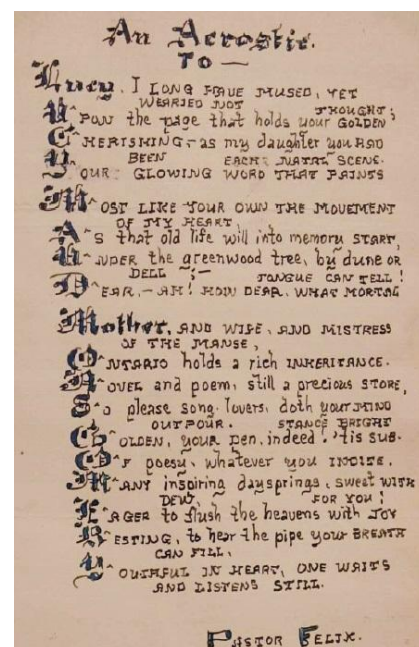
Arthur Lockhart shared the same exhilaration from poetry, natural beauty, and word-craft with Montgomery that she channeled into her character, Emily Byrd Starr.

Montgomery knew Reverend Lockhart by his pen-name; he adopted the pastoral name, Pastor Felix (meaning "Happy"), taken from "Acadie, Land of the Happy," as the poet, Longfellow, had named Lockhart's home in *Evangeline, A Tale of Acadie*. Montgomery became acquainted with him after *Anne of Green Gables* was published and the fifty-eight-year-old minister sent her a fan letter. This initiated an eighteen-year correspondence and friendship, although they never met, that lasted until the end of Lockhart's life.



Pastor Felix was Nate Lockhart's uncle, Maud's school friend in Cavendish. Whenever Montgomery wrote about Nate Lockhart in her journals, she inserted postcards or poems from Pastor Felix; he kept her informed of Nate's career and family. Nate was Crown Prosecutor for many years and was appointed King's Council in 1914 (*The Shining Scroll* 2004).

She wrote the dedication to Lockhart when she finished *Emily Climbs* in 1924, it was published in Canada in August 1925. He sent her an acrostic of her name in January 1926 and she pasted it in her journal after she read of his death on 29 June 1926. Rev. Dr. Arthur John Lockhart was buried at Old North Burial Ground on Federal Hill in Agawam, Massachusetts. She wrote, "He never knew that I might possibly have been his niece. Life will be the poorer for us because of his passing" (2 July 1926).



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Lockhart is less recognized for his importance in Montgomery's life because, unlike George B. MacMillan and Ephraim Weber, her letters to him were never recovered. In 2002 I tracked them to his grandson's family (Burton Lockhart, see photo) but, while they had an abundance of Pastor Felix's poetry, calligraphy, and books, no letters or photographs from L.M. Montgomery had been saved after about 1940. That visit was published in [The Shining Scroll 2002](#), page 8.

Even without his letters, Pastor Felix left a large record of his life and significant connections to Montgomery. I presented these findings and photographs at the 2004 LMMI conference, "L.M. Montgomery's Interior/Exterior Landscapes." At the end of my research on Lockhart I had collected, not folders, but boxes of information: books, letters from his descendants, documents, publications, and photos. Much of that collection was donated to the L.M. Montgomery Institute in 2024.

LMM Image: c. 1923. Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph, L.M. Montgomery Collection, XZ1 MS A097057.

Books: personal collection of Mary Beth Cavert. L to R publishers:

Stokes 1925, McClelland and Stewart 1925, AL Burt 1925, Cornstalk/Bellbird 1925, Cornstalk/Platypus 1926. Harrap 1928, Hodder and Stoughton 1929, Grosset and Dunlap 1939, Angus and Robertson 1940, McClelland and Stewart/Cavendish Library c. 1947.

Acrostic: Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph, L.M. Montgomery Collection.

JENNIE MACNEILL

(1929-2025)

Mary Beth Cavert

Jennie Isabel Moore Macneill (1929-2025) and John Ernest Macneill (1930–2017) Recipients of the inaugural LM Montgomery Institute [Legacy Award](#) in 2018.



Elizabeth Epperly was heart-broken at the passing of one of her cherished long-time friends, Jennie Macneill, on 30 June 2025. As a family friend, she was alerted when Jennie had a stroke on June 23, news she shared with a few friends. She also shared that one of Jennie's dearest wishes was that actor, [Megan Follows](#), would come to Jennie's Macneill homestead site, the "[birthplace](#)" of *Anne of Green Gables*. Follows was on Prince Edward Island working on a documentary so Jennie's son, David, found her and arranged for her to make a short video to show Jennie who was able to see it and was "so pleased." Betsy wrote, "I just think our dear Jennie would love that virtual embrace of the place that she and John have laboured to keep available for the rest of us."

Jennie's funeral service was held at the Cavendish United Church on 4 July 2025, near the home she shared with John for sixty-four years. Betsy Epperly wrote that "the funeral home stopped

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traffic in Cavendish, and we walked down the middle of the street behind the hearse. It was something to see the tourists with their cameras, hanging out the car windows, trying to figure out what this all was.” The church was packed with friends and relatives, Jennie’s niece, Winnie MacInnis, wrote a beautiful and touching “Words of Remembrance”—listen at minute 11:40, <https://vimeo.com/event/5246283>. Betsy read the poem “Crossing the Bar” by Tennyson. Jennie’s photo was placed near the stained-glass windows made in memory of Montgomery and near the church organ donated by Maud.

We mourn the passing of this dear friend to all. For years, visitors to Montgomery’s homestead in Cavendish would be treated to Jennie’s tour of the site and the gardens which she and John planted. They lived on the farm and land owned by John’s ancestors and Montgomery’s maternal family in Cavendish, PEI. Jennie, a former teacher, wrote: “Every day of our life, we look out on the hill fields. Those are the hills she looked on.” As a twelve-year-old fan of the author and her books, she attended Montgomery’s funeral in Cavendish in 1942. Jennie wrote many articles about Cavendish, was a member of the Avonlea (Cavendish) Women’s Institute (est. 1920), and was a popular speaker for many Island Lecture Series. As chair of the L.M. Montgomery Heritage Society, she initiated the first celebration of Montgomery’s birthday in November 1995. The Site of L.M. Montgomery’s Cavendish Home, renewed by John and Jennie as a labour of love, is now designated as a [National Heritage Site](#).



Over four thousand sympathizers responded to the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society online notices about Jennie including Dr. Jenny Litster in Edinburgh “She was very loved, a little blue-eyed lighthouse that guided our way.”

Jennie at the location of her childhood home, near the Homestead Trail behind the Cavendish Dunes.



Jennie Macneill with Carolyn Strom Collins and Jenny Litster in 2018.



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ALVIN MACNEILL (1936-2025)

Mary Beth Cavert

Cavendish lost another legacy farmer this year, [Alvin Chester MacNeill](#). Alvin and his beloved wife, Eleanor (1939-2021), were known as wonderful ambassadors representing the tourism industry of Prince Edward Island for over 60 years. I was a guest of Alvin and Eleanor at their home, [Parkview Farms Tourist Home in 2000](#) (*The Shining Scroll* 2000, p. 5). They have one of the last farms in Cavendish (still in the family), a beautiful dairy farm on the North Shore. Alvin and Eleanor were wonderful hosts and it was a memorable visit.



They were much loved members of the Cavendish community. I wanted to meet them because they were good friends of Jennie and John Macneill and their property once was farmed by Alvin's great-uncle and aunt, Alec and May MacNeill, dear friends of L.M. Montgomery. Alvin's farmhouse is next to the field where Alec and May's house once stood, "[Gartmore Farm](#) [p. 29]," before it was moved to North Rustico near the North Rustico Harbour Light, facing the Gulf.

Alec MacNeill was the brother of Maud's childhood friend and second cousin, Penzie MacNeill. Montgomery dedicated *Pat of Silver Bush* (1933) to Alec and May and stayed with them on her visits to PEI. Alec took Maud to a beautiful spot on their property that she named "the secret field" which she included it in her *Pat* book. Alvin took me there in 2000, it was no longer a field but it was special spot full of tall spruce trees surrounded by woodlands of maple and birch.



Montgomery's photo of Alec MacNeill's farm



cow path to the Secret Field

Alec's father, Charles MacNeill, kept a diary which Maud borrowed and copied into her typescript journal. I gave Alvin and Eleanor a copy of the transcribed diary since it was written by his great-grandfather. The diary was published by [Rock's Mills Press](#) in 2018.

[Charles MacNeill's parents were Helen Macneill and Alexander MacNeill. Helen was the sister of Maud's grandfather but her husband's relatives spelled his name with the capital N. Jennie Macneill told me to always spell Charles, Alec, and Alvin's family name as MacNeill.]

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ORDER OF CANADA

Mary Beth Cavert

Dr. Elizabeth Rollins Epperly (CM), [founder of the L.M. Montgomery Institute](#), was announced as a new Member of the Order of Canada on 30 June 2025. This is the highest honour the Canadian government can bestow on someone for their lasting contribution to Canadian society. Epperly joins the late Dr. Elizabeth Hillman Waterston as fellow Montgomery scholar inductees.

A trailblazing scholar and dedicated administrator, Dr. Epperly has transformed the study of L.M. Montgomery, offering some of the first feminist readings of Montgomery's work and inspiring generations of researchers and readers worldwide. Her pioneering work has not only deepened our understanding of Montgomery's literature but also helped elevate Canadian literary studies on the world stage.

<https://lmmontgomery.ca/lmmi-founder-dr-elizabeth-epperly-appointed-to-the-order-of-canada/>

Elizabeth Epperly has been made a member of the order for her contributions to elevating the works of Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*.

"After my initial surprise, I have felt only joy at the honour of being included in the Order of Canada family," Epperly told CBC News in a statement.



Elizabeth Epperly, who founded the L.M. Montgomery Institute at UPEI 24 years ago, has been made a member of the Order of Canada. (Jessica Brookes-Parkhill)

Epperly has deep ties to the University of Prince Edward Island. She attended, taught at and was the first female president of the school.

"I love anything that reflects well on my alma mater," she said.

"More than that, I embrace this honour as a celebration of L.M. Montgomery as an internationally beloved great writer who inspires people across cultures to feel there is a beauty-loving, peace-loving, planet-sustaining community to which they belong."

Look for Dr. Epperly wearing the lapel pin at the next conference.

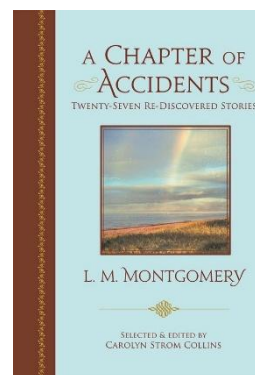


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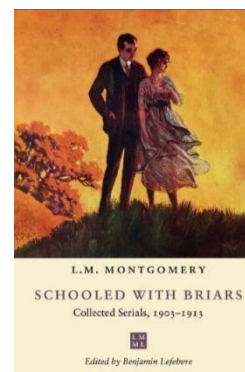
BOOKS

Carolyn Strom Collins [A Chapter of Accidents](#)

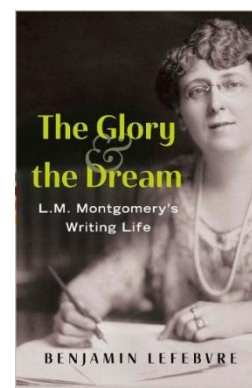
“This collection features rare short stories originally published between 1901 and 1932 that haven’t been in print since their initial periodicals. Montgomery scholar Carolyn Strom Collins has curated a selection of funny and heartfelt stories to provide unique insight into how this famed author’s writing developed over her career. With stories like “A Case of Mistaken Identity,” “A Platonic Experiment,” and “Frank’s Revenge,” each tale features an unusual, accidental, or unlikely pair. Montgomery’s brilliantly written characters and strong sense of place paired with Collins’s scholarly context make this collection a must for every Montgomery fan.”



Benjamin Lefebvre [Schooled with Briars: Collected Serials, 1903–1913](#). “The fourth volume in [The L.M. Montgomery Library](#), reprints six multi-chapter fiction serials that Montgomery published in periodicals over a decade. In my afterword, I offer new insights into Montgomery’s contributions to a competitive, metropolitan literary marketplace. This book will be published by University of Toronto Press in November 2025.”



“Coming in February 2026 from [Dundurn Press](#): [The Glory and the Dream: L.M. Montgomery’s Writing Life](#), a highly anticipated book of original essays by longtime L.M. Montgomery scholar Benjamin Lefebvre. This book, the culmination of over twenty-five years of research, consists of ten essays that draw on rarely seen archival and heritage sources to offer new insights about her best-known work. Topics include her romance plots, the complex ways she depicted creative writers in her own fiction, the strategies she used to continue writing about Prince Edward Island after her move to Ontario, and the changes she made when she transplanted parts of her short stories into her books. It also looks at how her death was interpreted by her family members versus how her life was celebrated in obituaries and tributes, and it uncovers some of the ways that records of her private life survive in more than one version.”



Kathy Wasylenky [The Life of Lucy Maud Montgomery as Mrs. Ewan Macdonald](#). Kathy is a former teacher, member of Uxbridge council, and past president of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario (LMMSO). Her book focuses on the famous author as a community member, a wife, and a mother. Montgomery self-identified as “mistress of the Manse” because the Leaskdale manse was her first



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home after her marriage to Rev. Ewen Macdonald (she preferred to spell his name “Ewan”). Wasylenky said Montgomery became a vital part of the community after moving there in 1911, and her time at the manse was the happiest years of her adult life. For orders, contact kwasylenky@gmail.com.

Dr. Kate Scarth “[A Short History of Writers and Artists Responding to L.M. Montgomery.](#)”

Kate has provided an excellent reference for readers interested in and fascinated by “Montgomery-adjacent” works, evidence of how the influence and extension of Montgomery’s creations are still in play after more than 130 years. She begins by listing Canadian and international writers inspired by Montgomery books or characters, followed by the names and works of visual artists, musicians, telefilm creators, sculptors, and performing artists. Scarth sorted at least a dozen categories where “Montgomery’s life and works are reimagined and reverberate through other writers’ and artists’ works in an astounding variety of ways.” She titled this essay “a short history” only because it is not finished – new work is being created nearly every day. Read it for book titles and more!

SURPRISE DISCOVERIES

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

“You’re never safe from being surprised till you’re dead.” ANNE OF AVONLEA

So true. This spring, two historians, designers, illustrators, collectors, and fans of Montgomery contacted the L.M. Montgomery Institute for information about a recent art purchase they made from an antique store in New Hampshire. A group of LMMI experts (with Carolyn Strom Collins, Emily Woster, and myself in Minnesota) exchanged a flurry of emails and photographs over ten days. The consensus in the group was that the picture Joshua Clark, with Blake Almstead, recognized and purchased, was original work by George F. Gibbs, which became the cover art on all the L.C. Page editions of *Anne of Green Gables*. That was not all. We also suggested that this may have been the same portrait of *Anne* that publisher L.C. Page hung on the wall of his library. Montgomery saw it there during her visit to Page’s home in Boston in 1910. Another guest, Paul Macrone, took a photo of it and Montgomery saved it in her journal (25 September 1910 entry).



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The picture that Josh and Blake found had been reframed and matted, possibly in the 1960s, but the new framing was done at a long-time business just 30 minutes away from Page's home. The publisher died in 1959 and we expect it was part of his estate sale in Boston. The portrait in the frame shows pencil marks and some are prominent on the neck in the picture. I compared it to the cover plate reproductions on my 1908 editions of *Anne*; my 4th impression book is the most pristine and I could almost see that this area could have had that imperfection and been smudged out. The process that Page used to print the cover art of *Anne* would not have kept the detail from the original and that is one of the things which makes this discovery so special!

L.C. Page and George Fort Gibbs

In the year before the centennial of *Anne of Green Gables*, we began our celebration by featuring Christy Woster's revelatory article, "The Artists of *Anne of Green Gables*: A Hundred Year Mystery," in *The Shining Scroll 2007*. Christy certified that George F. Gibbs was the uncredited cover artist for the first edition of *Anne*. Page never identified Gibbs as artist in any of the later printings either, there were more than one million published by L.C. Page from 1908 through 1951 (and more, see "The First to the Last: L.C. Page Editions," p. 26)

Marketing for *Anne* started in March 1908. The first printing was done in April 1908, as shown on the copyright page of the true first edition, but it was not distributed until June 1908. In their books, Irene Gammel and Mary Rubio refer to an uncited delay in production ("internal artwork") because of illustrator illness, perhaps. The internal artists were Mary and William Claus and they may have been the reason for the delay. However, another problem for Page was that the cover art of the book had been published by George Gibbs three years earlier. My best guess is that Page had to sort out (legal?) permission before the book could be released. None of the ads before June 1908 mentioned Gibbs as an illustrator. Christy included a clipping in her article from the *New York Times*, 20 June 1908, which is enlightening because it names Gibbs, for the first time and refers to problems with the cover:

Anne of Green Gables, after many announcements, came this week from Messrs. L. C. Page and Company. The heroine, like many a real girl, was delayed by the dress question, a **satisfactory cover not being easy to produce**, but Mr. George Gibbs has made a portrait which really resembles the pleasing girl of the text, and does not look like all the other pretty girls on the book covers of 1908, so Anne, with her much-deprecated red hair, is now to be seen of men.



The image used on *Anne of Green Gables* was first published in January 1905 on the cover of the *Delineator* magazine. George Gibbs was a popular artist and author and many *Delineator* issues featured his work, especially in 1905. Readers of the January magazine could even order an "Artist's Proof" of the plate. It seems clear

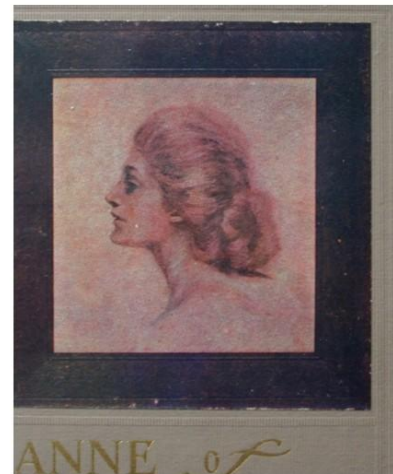
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that Page did not commission the portrait for his book cover since it had already appeared on the cover of the *Delineator* several years earlier. In a later journal entry recounting some of the details of a lawsuit with the Page Co., Montgomery noted that Page claimed he selected the book cover from an "old calendar" or picture he had in his office, a statement she refuted, having seen the original art in his library (25 November 1928).

There is no indication of how or when Page obtained the picture. Gammel suggests Page bought it from Gibbs, although his court testimony does not support that. He may have bought the original from the *Delineator* publishers as early as 1905. Page was the kind of person who might have felt that since he had owned the portrait, he was free to use it on his book. I believe he was halted from publishing *Anne* in April 1908, as he intended, because Gibbs discovered he was using his art without payment or credit. After they presumably settled, Page hired Gibbs for the covers and frontispieces for the next five *Anne* books.

There are definite similarities between the *Delineator* art and the newly recovered picture that Clark and Almstead discovered. I have five different copies of the *Delineator* magazine (with varying shades of color) and they clearly show that the pencil marks sketched on the neck of the image in the original pastel portrait have been colored over for the magazine version, confirmation (to me) that the magazine portrait was re-worked from the original piece.

I have always been impressed with this vivid magazine portrait but to see the [digital] original oil pastel/pencil rendering with all the detail and color is a jubilation. There will be more assessing, appraising, and examination of its provenance and authenticity, but we are on board for a celebration and hope to see it in person someday! Thank you, Joshua and Blake, for your keen eye and love for L.M. Montgomery!



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THE CAMPBELLS AND THE HOWATTS

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

Maud's cousin, Stella Campbell, had an ill-fated engagement to Irving Howatt but it was only one connection between neighbors Josiah and Jane Howatt in French River and Annie and John Campbell in Park Corner. Josiah's sons, Eliphalet "Life" Howatt (1882-1970) and Bruce, were classmates of Frederica Campbell in Park Corner.

Life was always available to help out; he had a car and "motored" Maud to the train station during her visits. At the Macdonald wedding at Park Corner in July 1911, Stella and the Howatts sang the wedding song, "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden." After 1911 the large boisterous Campbell family became much smaller; Stella moved to California to live with her older sister, Clara, in 1914 and their father, John Campbell, died in 1917. Annie's son, George, and little grandson, Georgie Campbell, died in the deadly pandemic in 1918. Neighbors came to sing "Lead Kindly Light" from outside and leave food on the porch, but Josiah Howatt was the only neighbor who would come into the house.

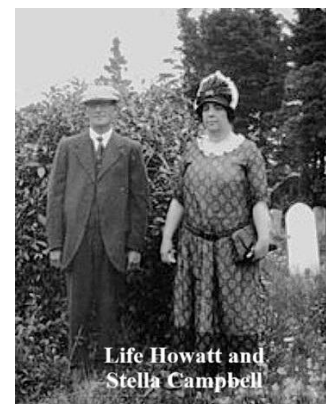
When Life heard of Frede Campbell's death in 1919 during the pandemic, he mourned with Annie, and observed that Maud and Frede were "part of one another." When Annie died on 19 June 1924, Maud went to Park Corner in July for the funeral' Life brought Maud to Park Corner from the station in Kensington as he had done before. Annie appointed Life as one of the executors in her will. She left the Park Corner farm to her grandson, Dan (Donald) Campbell, in it, but he was sent to live with his aunt Stella in California after Annie's death. His brother Jim took over the farm.

At the start of the Depression, Montgomery feared that the Campbell farm would pass out of family hands – it was a "beautiful old place which in childhood and girlhood seemed more of a real home to me than the old homestead in Cavendish." Life operated his family farm in French River until 1927 when he and his wife moved farther away. However, he rented the Campbell farm in the 1930's, but was unsuccessful at it during those hard times. Montgomery poured money into the farm to keep it in family hands. Frederica Campbell's niece, Amy Campbell, knew the Howatts well and always remembered how Life had teased (and tormented) her by saying she was just like her Aunt Stell – but Amy remembered all of them fondly. "They were family friends as long as I can remember."

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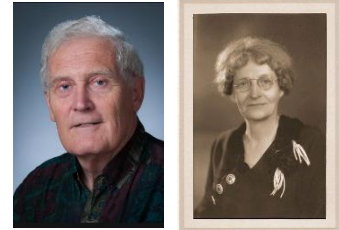
PARK CORNER SCHOOL PHOTO 1892 or 1893 (Junior Grades)
 Back Row: Lydia Clark (teacher), Chem MacLeod, George or Will Sims, Will MacLeod, Bruce Johnston, Mimi MacKenzie, Mary A. MacLeod, Gertie Sims, Maggie Palmer, Bessie Arthur, Maggie Delaney.
 Middle Row: Duncan MacLeod, Frederica Campbell, Gertie Arthur, Myra MacLeod, Etta Arthur, Hattie Bernard, Inez Delaney, Miss MacKelvie, Evelyn MacLeod, Chester MacKay, Ed Donald, Jack Delaney, Mel Donald.
 Front Row: Milton Hiltz, Eliphalet Howatt, Will Delaney, Hugh Palmer, Thalmadge Cameron, Frank Bernard, George (Dodd) MacKenzie, Eugene MacLeod, Hedley MacKay, Bruce Howatt, Ernest Sims, Norman Delaney, Jim Hiltz.



Life Howatt and Stella Campbell

The following article is by Earle Lockerby whose grandmother, Annie Howatt, received a book from L.M. Montgomery's closest friend and cousin, Frederica Campbell. Frede ("Fred") was a school teacher in Stanley Bridge in May 1908. Earle does not know the circumstances of the gift, but his mother was married a few months later, could this have been a wedding gift between friends?

Earle Lockerby was born on Prince Edward Island and grew up on a farm in Hamilton. He is the grandson of Irving and Life's sister, Anne Howatt. He studied chemistry, chemical engineering, and management, earning degrees at Mount Allison University, Dalhousie University, and Imperial College, London, England before a thirty-year career in the nuclear/electrical power industry. Since his retirement in 1996, he has published papers on eighteenth-century Maritime history in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. He is the author of *The Deportation of the Acadians from Ile-St.-Jean, 1758*, co-author (with Doug Sobey) of *Samuel Holland: His Work and Legacy on Prince Edward Island*, and most recently, *John Winslow at Grand-Pre*, with Jonathan Fowler. Earle was presented with Award of Honour at P.E.I. Heritage Foundation Heritage Awards in 2019. He has been a member of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario since 2004 and is the editor of the LMMSO newsletter, *Cordially Yours*. Earle lives in Ontario but spent five months of every year at his cottage in Darnley, PEI, from 2003 to 2020.



DONATION OF TWO BOOKS TO THE LMMSO, OCTOBER 25, 2025

Earle Lockerby © 2025

During LMM Days 2025 in Leaskdale, I donated two books to the LMMSO. Lucy Maud Montgomery is not the author of either book, but each has a connection to her. Also, each has a connection to my maternal grandmother who was a friend of Montgomery, though admittedly, not in the same league as Frederica Campbell, or to my mother. I have a story to tell about each of these books.

My grandmother was Annie Howatt (1880-1963) of French River, PEI, the community just east of Park Corner. She was the fourth child in a family of seven; the oldest was a boy, Irving Brass Howatt – more about him shortly. The Howatt siblings, including Annie and Irving, were part of Montgomery's social circle. Annie and Irving are mentioned from time to time in Montgomery's journals.



The first of the two books is *The Heart of the Ancient Wood* by New Brunswick author, Charles G. D. Roberts, a romantic novel. Published in 1900, early editions were published by a variety of publishers, including L.C. Page. The Wikipedia article on Roberts describes him as "one of the first Canadian authors to be internationally known," and "Roberts has also been called the 'Father of Canadian Poetry' because he served as an inspiration and a source of assistance for other Canadian poets of his time." Montgomery once stated that *The Heart of the Ancient Wood* was one of her favourite novels. She mentions Roberts twice in her journals, once during

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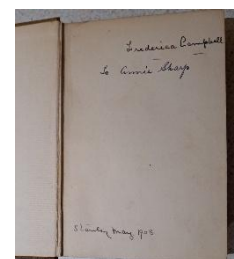
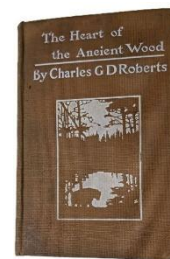
Canadian Book Week and later at an Authors' Association dinner when Montgomery felt slighted.

“Yesterday I went into Toronto and at night Dr. Charles Roberts, Arthur Stringer, Bernard Sandwell and I opened the annual Canadian Book Week by speaking in Convocation Hall to an audience of 2000 people, after another thousand had been turned away.”

7 Nov. 1928

A toast was proposed by Prof. Pelham Edgar in which Edgar “orated freely about Sir Charles Roberts who fitly represented Canadian poetry.” Maud decried the short shrift that was accorded her in the toast, and wrote that Edgar “does not consider that my books have *any* literary merit whatever.” 9 Nov. 1935

Heart of the Ancient Wood was apparently given to my maternal grandmother (Annie Howatt Sharp) by Frederica Campbell who as we well know, was Montgomery’s closest friend. On a flyleaf inside the front cover, Frederica Campbell has signed her name and the words “Stanley May 1908” appear near the bottom of the page. Stanley, of course, is what we know today as Stanley Bridge and is where Rev. Francis Bolger (author of *The Years Before Anne: The Early Career of Lucy Maud Montgomery*) had his summer home. Maud refers to “Stanley” many times in her journals. Beneath Frederica’s signature, my grandmother inserted the words “To Annie Sharp.” This had to have been done after May 1908, since at that time she was still a Howatt, having married Willard J. Sharp on Aug. 20, 1908. How Frederica may have obtained this book is unknown. Given that its title was a favourite of Maud, one wonders whether she might have been somehow involved. Frederica Campbell’s signature on the flyleaf of this book has been authenticated by Mary Beth Cavert.



The second book was written by a somewhat less renowned author than Charles G.D. Roberts. Its author is my great uncle, Irving Howatt. Irving gets mentioned considerably more times in Montgomery’s journals than does Annie. He was about one year younger than Montgomery, and I would characterize him as a reasonably close friend of Maud during their PEI years. The first mention of Irving in Montgomery’s journal is on Feb. 28, 1892. Irving sometimes acted as chauffeur for Maud and her friends, conveying them by horse-drawn sleigh or wagon to various social events. Maud and Irving saw quite a bit of each other as students at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, and they occasionally saw each other in Halifax where Irving was a student at Dalhousie University during the time that Maud worked for the *Halifax Echo* newspaper.

As a teenager, Maud developed a crush on Irving, though at the time, she did not confide this to her journal. It was only while sitting in the parlour of the Leaskdale Manse years later, and reminiscing about the past, that she wrote (Jan. 5, 1917): “I had a romantic passion for Irving Howatt, who was not in the least interested in me. It went a little deeper than any of my previous

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ones. I did a great deal of day-dreaming that winter, with Irv as central figure; but I was not in the least unhappy because he was not in love with me.”

Apparently, Irving did develop a certain degree of love for Stella Campbell. Maud noted on April 16, 1919 that Stella “has been engaged for nearly fifteen years to Irving Howatt. Twice she has been all ready to be married and he put her off on the plea of not yet being able to afford it. He certainly was badly pinched in the real estate slump that followed the outbreak of the war. But I think he was long ago tired of Stell. But he behaved like a cad – as poor Frede said on her death bed. “It is just as well she has dropped him.” Irving retained his bachelorhood throughout his life. As we shall soon see, this was not the only time that Montgomery wrote negatively about Irving Howatt.



Having graduated with a B.A. degree from Dalhousie University and articulated in law, Irving moved in 1908 to Edmonton where he worked as a barrister. Over the ensuing years, he retained his links to Montgomery and to PEI. Ewen and Maud had barely settled into their new home, the Leaskdale Manse, after their honeymoon, when Irving Howatt came calling. According to the Dec. 28, 1911 issue of the *Charlottetown Guardian*, “Irving B. Howatt, B.A., barrister of Edmonton, Alta., is spending his holidays at Leaskdale, Ont., the guest of Rev. Ewen MacDonald.” She does not record the visit in her journal. Perhaps it was a less than memorable event. However, in fairness, Montgomery’s last journal entry for 1911 was on Oct. 24 and it was five months later before she penned the next entry.

In 1918 Irving enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. His involvement in war abroad and its immediate aftermath was both short and unusual. His battalion was sent not to Europe, but to Vladivostok, Russia, amid the Bolshevik Revolution. While it was not uncommon for young recruits to lie about their age, making themselves older, Irving understated his, passing himself off as 38 when in reality he was 43. WWI had officially ended by the time that Irving shipped out of Vancouver for Russia. It was not long before the Canadian government decided to withdraw from the complexities of the Bolshevik Revolution and by May, 1919 – less than six months after embarking – Irving was back in Alberta.

He became part of an infamous trial in 1923. As King’s Prosecutor, Irving made two trips to Canada’s far north in the 1920s in connection with the trials of Inuit men accused of murder. The trial was examined in a book and included a profile of Howatt, *The Court of Better Fiction: How a Dubious Murder Trial Established Canada’s Dominion over the Arctic and the Inuit*, pp. 50-1:



Howatt seemed a logical choice, [for the key role of Crown prosecutor], given his lengthy and impressive resumé. The veteran King’s Counsel was born on Prince Edward Island in 1875. After graduating from Dalhousie University, he studied law under A.A. McLean in Charlottetown and was called to the bar in 1907. He joined the prominent firm of Emery, Newell, Bolton and Ford in Edmonton, where he remained for more than a decade. After a brief tour of duty in the First World War,

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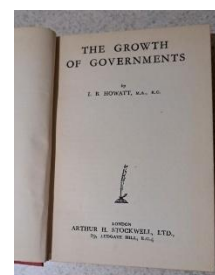
Howatt returned to Canada to serve as acting attorney general of Alberta for two years. The law was not Howatt's sole source of income. He was also a director in a gold mining company and held an interest in another mining operation in British Columbia. In 1921 he hung a private shingle as Howatt and Howatt, joining forces with his brother Bruce. His credentials raised no eyebrows, but his health was a cause for concern. At forty-six years of age, Howatt had grown doughy of face and waist, and he had been discharged from the military because he was sightless in one eye. Physical failings aside, Howatt possessed a keen legal mind and all the right social connections. He was a proud Master Mason, a staunch Methodist, and a vocal Liberal, who lived his life by a simple creed: "The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph."

Now, it may well be that Irving was not in a sufficient financial position to marry Stella Campbell. As a bachelor barrister, and working for a couple of years as the acting attorney-general of Alberta, Howatt should have been flush with cash. However, he had a penchant for perhaps questionable investing – Maud knew that he had lost money in real estate. He is known to have invested in gold mining and other mining ventures that were probably risky. From Leaskdale, Montgomery wrote on March 16, 1924: "I had a letter from Irving Howatt this week. He is still on the rocks. I think I might as well wipe the four thousand I lent him and Mort (his brother) off my books. He has never been able to pay a cent of interest on it and I feel sure I shall never see a cent of the principal. What is worse, Stella made her mother send the \$400 she inherited from Grandmother's estate to Irving for investment and I doubt if she ever gets any of it back."

Maud made a last-ditch attempt to get some money back. During a trip to Prince Albert in 1930, she made a side trip to Edmonton to see Irving. According to her Nov. 2, 1930 journal entry: "On Monday I went to see Irving Howatt. Found him as shabby as a singed cat occupying a shabby office. He is doing nothing and never will. I came away bidding farewell to my four thousand dollars. I shall never see a cent of it. And it would educate Stuart. Well, it can't be helped. I lent it to him because Stella begged me to. I have been entirely too obliging to my relatives for my own financial good."

The 1930s apparently saw Irving doing at a least a bit more than "nothing," and also having money available for a book project. *The Growth of Governments* appeared in late 1938 or early 1939, it is largely based on Howatt's M.A. thesis at Dalhousie University, a degree he received in 1912

My copy of *The Growth of Governments* was inherited from my mother, Jean (Sharp) Lockerby and it was presented to her by Uncle Irv. On the flyleaf next to the front cover, Irving Howatt wrote "Presented to Miss Jean Sharp with the compliments of the author" Irving Howatt died in Alberta in 1963. His remains were interred in the Geddie Memorial Cemetery at Springbrook, just east of French River, a cemetery in which many of L.M. Montgomery's relatives and acquaintances lie, including Frederica Campbell and her family.



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I recall meeting Irving Howatt once or twice as a youngster when he, like Maud, made occasional summer trips to the Island. This would have been in the 1940s or early 1950s I have no memory of his character (perhaps I was not old enough to make that sort of judgement), but remember his ruddy-faced complexion. I remember him as taller than he really was, as indicated in his military records.

In closing, I just want to make it abundantly clear, that: I do not take after my great-uncle Irving!

To find more about the most famous court case with Irving Howatt, King's Prosecutor, search for: *The Court of Better Fiction: Three Trials, Two Executions, and Arctic Sovereignty* – Debra Komar.

Arctic Show Trial: The Trial of Alikomiak and Tatamigan, 1923. Documents compiled and edited by P. Whitney Lackenbauer and Kristopher Kinsinger.

LMMSO MONTGOMERY DAYS 2025

The LMM Society of Ontario held "L M Montgomery Days" in Leaskdale October 25-26. Among the speakers were Melanie Whitfield, Kate Macdonald Butler, Laura Robinson (director of the LMM Institute at UPEI), Kathy Gastle (Norval), Jack and Linda Hutton (Bala Museum), Juanita Rossiter and Keltie Macneill (UPEI Robertson Library), Deborah Quaile (LMM Birthplace), Andrea McKenzie (LMM Readathon), Ewa Henry-Dawson, Irina Levchenko, and Laura Leden. Mary Beth Cavert and Carolyn Strom Collins presented an overview of the LMM Literary Society and its e-newsletter, *The Shining Scroll*. For much more information on the event, see the latest issue of the LMMSO's e-newsletter, *Cordially Yours* [subscription through membership at <https://lucymaudmontgomery.ca/membership>. Past issues bibliography [here](#).]



MEMORABLE TRAVELS

Montgomery Scholar, **Yoshiko Akamatsu**, visited friends and Montgomery places this autumn in PEI and Ontario. She went to Leaskdale to see the apple tree planted in the garden at the Montgomery Manse in memory of her mother, Sachiko, who passed away on March 16, 2023. It was donated by her friend, Dolores Shakelton, who joined her and Yuka Kajihara for a luncheon and walk through the church and manse. She spent the next day with Yuka in the Osborne

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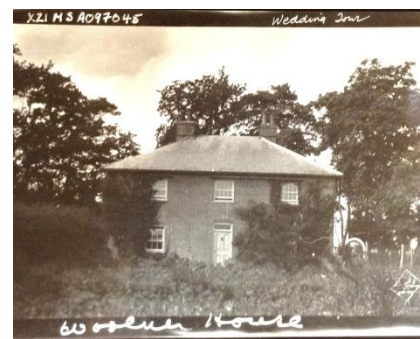
Collection of Children's Books at the Toronto Public Library. Yoshiko has been a long-time devoted friend of Mary Rubio and was able to pay respects, briefly, to Mary at her memory care home.



One of our founding members, **Elizabeth Anne Woolner**, a cousin of Maud Montgomery, spends her summers at the Woolner home in North Rustico, PEI. This summer she also went to Leaskdale, Ontario, to see the Montgomery manse and church there and visit with Melanie Whitfield, president of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario. She visited relatives in Aurora, ON., where her grandparents, Carlton and Isabel Stanley lived; Stanley was a past president of Dalhousie University. Anne

went to the UK this autumn, beginning in Edinburgh and ending at her ancestral home in Dunwich, Suffolk, England. Anne's father, Dr. Lewis B. Woolner, a second cousin to Montgomery, made the same trip in 1997 (more about Dr. Woolner and Woolner family tree, [The Shining Scroll 2013](#)). Anne stayed at Ships Inn where the Macdonalds stayed on their

honeymoon tour in 1911. Anne was accompanied by Peter Goodwin who has compiled an extensive family history of the Woolners in Dunwich. They went to the Dunwich farm and Historic Trust Property, "Mount Pleasant," home of Robert Forster Woolner and Sarah Kemp, where Maud Montgomery's grandmother (Lucy) and great-aunt Margaret grew up before immigrating to Prince Edward Island. There is a museum which features the Woolner family there; it has a copy of the letter Maud wrote to her aunt Margaret during her honeymoon and a photo of Lucy Ann Woolner Macneill. Anne also visited the Weselton church graveyard to see Woolner (Woolnough) graves.



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BIDEFORD

An oil painting by L.M. Montgomery's Bideford friend, Edith England, was restored and presented to the Bideford Parsonage Museum, and hung in the "Montgomery" Room above a photograph of Montgomery at the Bideford train station. England's painting, "Waves Over Rocks," was completed around 1895 when she studied painting and music at Sackville College. Montgomery boarded at the parsonage as a teacher in 1894-95.

Journal Pioneer,
21 August 2025.



NORVAL

"Glen Williams, a picturesque hamlet nestled in the Credit River valley of Halton Hills, proudly marked its 200th anniversary on Saturday, September 27, 2025... The event also featured a special appearance by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Norval group, who honoured the famed author's connection to Glen Williams. Best known for *Anne of Green Gables*, Montgomery once lived in nearby Norval and frequently participated in village life. She was known to organize Old Thyme Nights at the Glen Williams Town Hall—lively community events that brought neighbours together with music, storytelling, and laughter. The group's presence at the bicentennial celebration was a fitting tribute to her legacy and the literary and cultural heritage she helped cultivate in the area."



<https://www.georgetownon.ca/200-years-of-glen-williams-one-of-the-most-picturesque-villages-in-ontario>.

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Bev Hayden

We note with sadness, the passing of Montgomery champion Beverley Hayden of Hamilton/Dundas, Ontario. Bev served as President of the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton, Ontario. She wrote numerous articles for their newsletter, *On the Road to Montgomery*, as well as [many other publications](#). She was the author of “Minute by Minute, the Cavendish Literary Society” in *The Shining Scroll 2023*. She will be missed by her many friends in Montgomery circles.



From Mary Ev Goyett Smith (on left, pictured with Bev): “It was her idea to start the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton in 1995, along with co-founders Joanne Lebold, Edith Smith, and Kathy Gastle, I joined in 1996, so our friendships go back a very long way and are very precious. Although our official meetings ended some time ago, our gatherings never did. Garden parties, including a very special one at Westfield Pioneer Village with guests of honour Elizabeth Waterston, Mary and Jen Rubio. To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we had a garden party at Edith's, where we had such a good time no one wanted to leave so we brought out the leftovers and had another meal. Even Covid couldn't keep us apart for long, every Friday we would bring our lawn chairs and visit in the park. The last few years we have had lunch here once a month, so much nicer than a noisy restaurant, where we can talk and laugh and [read a favourite chapter together](#), since it was LMM's beautiful words that brought us together in the first place. I always say we got the friendships Maud craved, and I am so grateful for that. It won't be the same without you, Bev, we will always miss you.”

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND STONE HOUSES

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

Today I am hunkered down in young winter, with atmospheres of holidays, holy days, and the planet rolling over another orbit in space. Montgomery's gorgeous wordsmithing of the season is hovering in the air: “gazing into that joyous glow where the sunshine of a hundred summers was being distilled from the maple cordwood;” “skies that were cleared to a jewelled pageantry of stars;” and “lights bloomed out through the dim, snowy twilights, welcoming all wanderers home.” Her images of seasonal, sheltering, and welcoming homes always engage readers. Montgomery chose autumn for a seasonal homecoming in *Anne of Avonlea* when Anne discovered Echo Lodge. This is a landmark that is rare to find on the Island now.



“I feel as if we were walking through an enchanted forest,” said Anne in a hushed tone.
 “Do you suppose we'll ever find our way back to the real world again, Diana?” Around

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the next turn they came in sight, not indeed of a palace, but of a little house almost as surprising as a palace would have been in this province of conventional wooden farmhouses, all as much alike in general characteristics as if they had grown from the same seed. Anne stopped short in rapture and Diana exclaimed, "Oh, I know where we are now. That is the little stone house where Miss Lavendar Lewis lives...Echo Lodge, she calls it, I think. I've often heard of it but I've never seen it before. Isn't it a romantic spot?" "It's the sweetest, prettiest place I ever saw or imagined," said Anne delightedly. "It looks like a bit out of a story book or a dream."

Here, readers are introduced to the "Old Maid," Lavendar Lewis, 45 years-old (!) and her warm hospitality and home, "one of the oldest on the Island."

"The house was a low-eaved structure built of undressed blocks of red Island sandstone, with a little peaked roof out of which peered two dormer windows, with quaint wooden hoods over them, and two great chimneys. The whole house was covered with a luxuriant growth of ivy, finding easy foothold on the rough stonework and turned by autumn frosts to most beautiful bronze and wine-red tints."

Is there a stone house near Cavendish where Montgomery might have walked? – because we all would like to find it! Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any existing stone houses near Cavendish, although others are not too far away. Echo Lodge is placed (in fiction) near a loop of the "Grafton River," which might recall the course of Hunter River, but Montgomery never intended for readers to find most of these special places of the imagination.

"An old stone house always looks reposeful and dignified. It fears not what rain or wind or changing fashion can do." In spite of what Anne thinks in *Anne of Windy Poplars* changing fashion and time can threaten the stone house, there are fewer remaining on the Island as years pass.

The records of houses at this time come from the work of sources from the [PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation](#), [Old Island Homes](#), [Small Town Lore: PEI Folklore & History](#) (Hanna Wylie), and the work of many Island historical recorders like Faye Pound, [Ian Scott](#), and [Carter Jeffrey](#), among others. The Haslam Stone Cottage was built about 1855 in Springfield, PEI, out of stone quarried on the Robert Haslam farm. It was demolished in 2011.

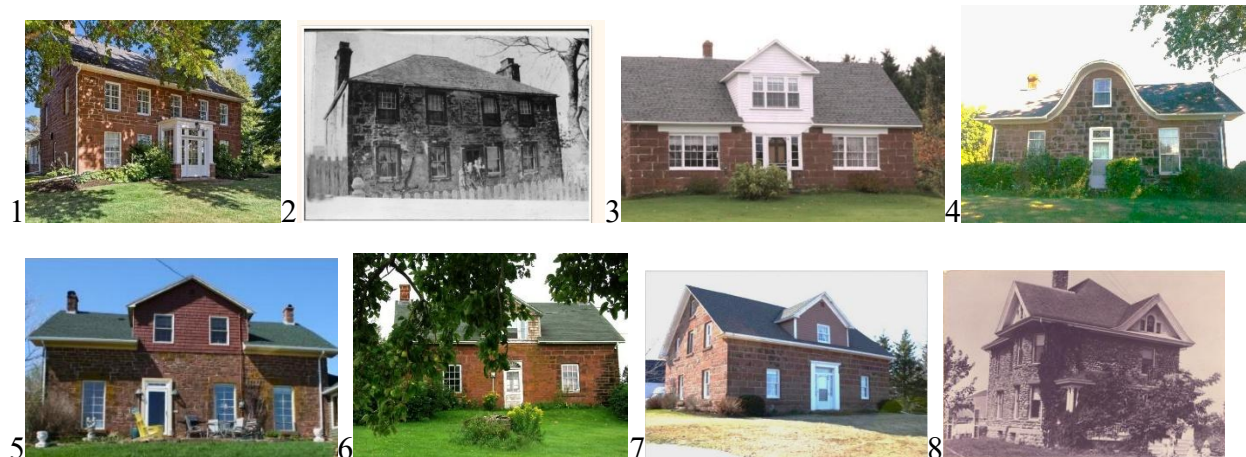


"The destruction of this house leaves the number of Island Sandstone houses down to six - they are located in the following communities: [Ramsay] Hamilton; [Roy] Hazel Grove; [Barton?] Harrington; Brackley (rebuilt); [Atwell] Clyde River; [Aitken] Lower Montague." <https://peiheritagebuildings.blogspot.com/> [2011]

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The house nearest to Cavendish is in Hazel Grove, built in 1851. It is named the Roy House or Bagnall Stone House on #20259 Route 2. Montgomery may have been familiar with the Stewart House on her visits to see her Aunt Emily Montgomery in Malpeque.

These are the houses available at historic places sites and mentioned in PEI blogs.



1. 1820 - Rebuilt **Brackley Beach**, Realtor, 121 Britain Shore Road.
2. 1820-1942 - **Stewart House**, Malpeque. No recent information, one blogger writes it was taken down in 1942. <https://peiheritagebuildings.blogspot.com/2022/03/stewart-stone-house-malpeque-1956.html>.
3. c. 1825 - **Aitken House** in Lower Montague. <https://www.lieuxpatrimoniaux.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=12019>.
4. 1842 - **Atwell House**, Clyde River. <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=1630>.
5. 1844 - **The Barton Lodge**/Buxton House in South Winsloe. <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=18698>.
6. 1851 - **Roy House**/Bagnall Stone House in Hazel Grove (outside of Hunter River, photo Carolyn Strom Collins). <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=13945>.
7. 1855- **Ramsay House** <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=18616>.
8. 1908 - **Bowness House**, in Summerside. <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2497>.

(A reminder that we have articles about Montgomery-related Prince Edward Island history in nearly every issue of *The Shining Scroll*.)

Echo Lodge is a landmark for Anne in later books because it is where she recalls a shift of heart about Gilbert, “a secret self-consciousness.” By the end of *Anne of Avonlea*, there was real change in Anne’s landscapes – Lavendar Lewis was married, she and Gilbert were off to Redmond College, Rachel Lynde was moving in to Green Gables, and Rev. and Mrs. Allan were

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leaving. "Changes ain't totally pleasant but they're excellent things," said Mr. Harrison philosophically. "Two years is about long enough for things to stay exactly the same. If they stayed put any longer they might grow mossy."

If we could supersize some of these little stone cottages, we might recognize a familiar profile in the news this year. Last year we celebrated the 150th birthday of L.M. Montgomery and this year our friends in the Austen world are celebrating the 250th birth anniversary of Jane Austen. Her own Chawton Cottage (now [Jane Austen House Museum](#)) is not made out of PE Island stone, but red brick, a beautiful landmark for her readers to enjoy. There is a vigorous crossover between Austen and Montgomery readers and one of them has been a great supporter of both worlds. [Sarah Emsley](#), in Nova Scotia, published over a dozen essays in her collection, ["A world of wonderful beauty: " L.M. Montgomery at 150.](#) This year she is celebrating Jane Austen, as well as the publication of her own book, [The Austens](#). Congratulations, Sarah!



L.M. MONTGOMERY AND CHANGE



“[L.M. Montgomery and Change](#)” is to be a **hybrid** conference. It will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on 24-28 June 2026; all sessions will be live-streamed, allowing for virtual presentation, attendance, and participation:

The constancy of change pervades Montgomery’s life, work, and legacy. From the social, literary, political, and technological changes that took place throughout her lifetime to the ways in which she wrote about her characters coping with personal change, Montgomery engages change in all aspects of the human experience.

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Conference Co-Chairs are Dr. Allison McBain Hudson and Dr. Caroline E. Jones.

Conference Keynote Speakers are Megan Follows, Dr. Katharine Slater, and Dr. Allison McBain Hudson.

Founding members of the LMMLS giving papers:

Mary Beth Cavert - *Change of Heart* will explain the book dedication in *Anne of Ingleside* to Will Pritchard and track Maud Montgomery's relationship with him using the entries in her personal journals, 1890-1938. Excerpts from Pritchard's private letters to Montgomery will be included to deepen an understanding of his personality, his life experiences, and some circumstances preceding his death.

Carolyn Strom Collins – *The Art of the Dele – L. M. Montgomery, Editor.*

L. M. Montgomery is well known as the author of twenty-one novels, over five hundred stories, over five hundred poems, many essays and articles published over a period of nearly fifty years. Studying some of her manuscripts and scrapbooks, one is struck by the editing she herself did before and even after items were published. Since publishers rarely seemed to change Montgomery's original work, with the possible exceptions of some punctuation and spelling, we should consider her not only an author but also an editor.

Dr. Emily Woster - *'Tis no company to be ashamed of: 'L.M. Montgomery, Change, and a Canon of Cat Lovers.*

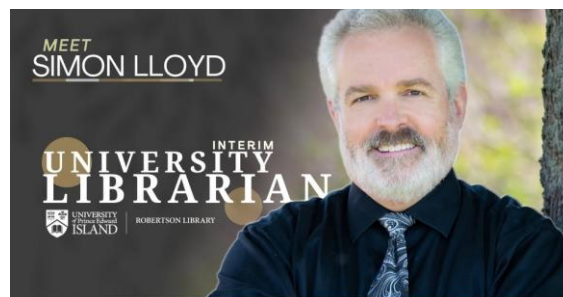
SIMON LLOYD

Congratulations to Simon who has been the emergency responder and mentor for all the Montgomery conferences! He has safe-guarded all the UPEI LMM treasures for scholars and fans to appreciate and study. He answers all the questions.

Congratulations to Juanita Rossiter, filling the position of University Archives and Special Collections Librarian.

From Robertson Library, UPEI

Just over twenty-five years ago, Simon Lloyd came into Robertson Library as the newly hired "PEI Collection Librarian". That was August 1999; a time when libraries and digital landscapes looked entirely different. Along with other changes, his position was soon after dubbed University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, a position in which he served across multiple technological revolutions, four university presidents, and countless new ways in how students research and learn.



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This incredible depth of institutional knowledge is invaluable and Robertson Library is so excited to have someone with such extensive experience step into this position. So join us in congratulating Simon on this well-earned appointment!

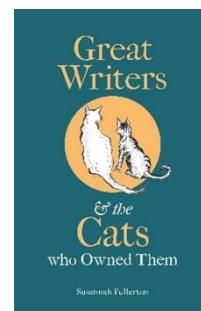
CATS

Mary Beth Cavert

How L.M. Montgomery loved cats! And so did many other writers! Susannah Fullerton writes about Maud's cat, Daffy, and several other ones mentioned in Montgomery's journals, in her new book which should delight readers and cat lovers.

Susannah Fullerton *Great Writers and the Cats who Owned Them*,
 "DAFFY, who knew *Anne of Green Gables* before anybody else."

Whether it's a cat in a nursery rhyme, on a billiard table, or in a writer's study, this book explains the special relationship between writer and feline, and the joy, solace and ideas the cat provided. From Dickens to Hemingway, discover how these cats inspired literary works, brought comfort, and became cherished muses.



Maud's good friend in Scotland, George B. MacMillan, shared her love of cats and their antics (one of his favorites was named "Hello America!"). After the devastating loss of her beloved pet, Lucky, she wrote to him about some of her other cats which she never mentioned anywhere else. "Speaking of cats: early in April a black cat adopted us. She came to the house and had evidently been a pet. Probably the family had moved away and left her as so many people cruelly do...I let her stay, though I never could take the slightest interest in her myself. The day before the Duke of Windsor's wedding day she presented us with four kittens, one black, the others black and white. So we called them Edward, Wally, George, and Elizabeth! Wally got accidentally killed later on and we gave Edward and Elizabeth away but [we kept] George.

Then in September the old lady had another family of four - and if you'll believe me they were exact replicas of the first! So we called them by the same names and eventually gave them all away to friends except "George." So we now have two Georges "Big George" and "Little George." They were really rather cute, looking more like father and son than brothers. Now "Little George" is nearly as big as "Big George" and it is really difficult to tell them apart...the boys pet them but I really can't take the least interest in them, though they are nice prowly, jowly, affectionate cats. But they just don't seem like cats at all to me. I think Luck took away all my love for cats to his grave with him." Letter, 23 Feb. 1938.

(MacMillan described an adventuristic cat in his last letter to Montgomery, February 1942, in an attempt to lift her spirits.)

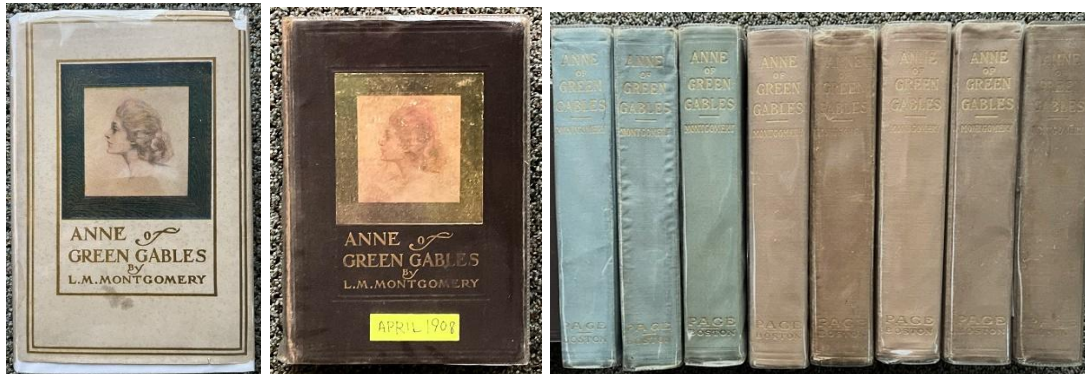
One of our founding members, Betty Heath, created this rug (abt. 2012) to honor the cats in *Pat of Silver Bush*. “Judy's geraniums bloomed in the windows. The space between stove and table was covered by a big, dark-red rug with three black cats hooked in it. The cats had eyes of yellow wool which were still quite bright and catty in spite of the fact that they had been trodden over for many years.”



THE FIRST TO THE LAST: L.C. Page Editions of L.M. Montgomery Books

Mary Beth Cavert © 2025

I have stopped collecting early and first editions of Montgomery books because I am ready to find homes for most of them elsewhere, but I did make one last acquisition. I already collected one true first edition of *Anne of Green Gables*, in the rarer dark brown boards, and one of every impression for the first year of publication, April 1908 to April 1909. The most-rare book in my collection is a 1909 edition of *AGG* with the original dustjacket. However, it has been almost as difficult to find the last L.C. Page edition of *Anne of Green Gables* as it has been to find the first ones!

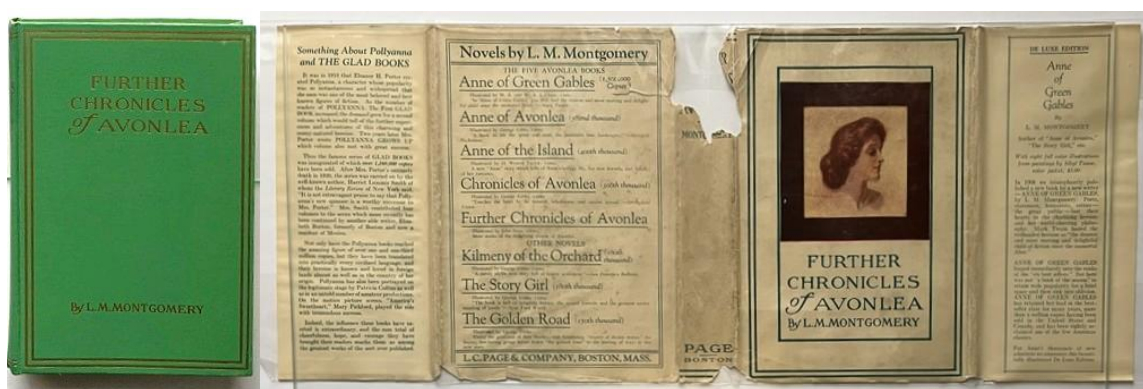


Recently I collected a 1951 edition in a very rare dustjacket, so I feel like I should be done collecting. It reveals some of the small changes made by the publisher and more information about how many books were published by L.C. Page. Starting in 1915, with *Anne of the Island*, Page listed his titles of Montgomery “Avonlea” books and the number of copies printed (this might correspond to number sold) on the back panel. The back jacket for this 1951 edition states that L.C Page had published 1,250,000 *Anne of Green Gables* books! That means there may be a million to find!

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Ten years ago, I bought this Montgomery-Page book, printed in 1953, *Further Chronicles of Avonlea*, the book Page wrongfully published in 1920 which earned him a lawsuit. On the back panel, *Anne of Green Gables* shows publication of 1,500,000 copies. On all of these dustjacket lists, 1921-1953, there is no mention of George Gibbs as the illustrator of the cover art of *Anne* (see “Surprise Discoveries,” p. 9)



Copyrights

Page bought the Knight publishing company and re-named it L.C. Page & Company in 1896; after 1914 he re-named it The Page Company, which is found on the copyright page of his books. However, the company name is not always consistent, because he appeared to revert to L.C. Page & Co. in 1923. The company was acquired in 1957 by Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, Inc., Page died in 1959. In 1964, Robert Giroux became a partner and the last *Anne* book was published by the former Page company that year with the publisher's new name, Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Page published only five of Montgomery's books, and a sixth one illegally, prompting the years-long lawsuit between them. Even though the author eventually sold her rights to Page, he still had to declare copyrights for them to prevent piracy. He sometimes included Montgomery's name in copyright renewals even though she received no benefit from the sales. Her name (as well as L.C. Page & Co.) is listed in Catalogues of Copyright Entries for *Green Gables* as Lucy

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M. Macdonald in 1935, 1947, and 1951, for example. She is listed as Mrs. Ewan Macdonald in 1940 for renewals of *Chronicles of Avonlea*. The renewal dates by Page correspond to new printings of AGG in 1933, 1935-37, 1940, 1944, 1947, and 1951.

Color

Almost all of the Page dustjackets border the cover, all the edges, and the art with near-gold lines. After the 1940s, the border color became a reddish brown, and on the 1953 dustjacket, the lines are bright green. The printers began to use whatever material was available for the boards, especially during the war years, so Montgomery books became available in colors other than the traditional beige, light green, and blue. Information about board colors on the first editions is on my [Collecting L.M. Montgomery](#) web page.

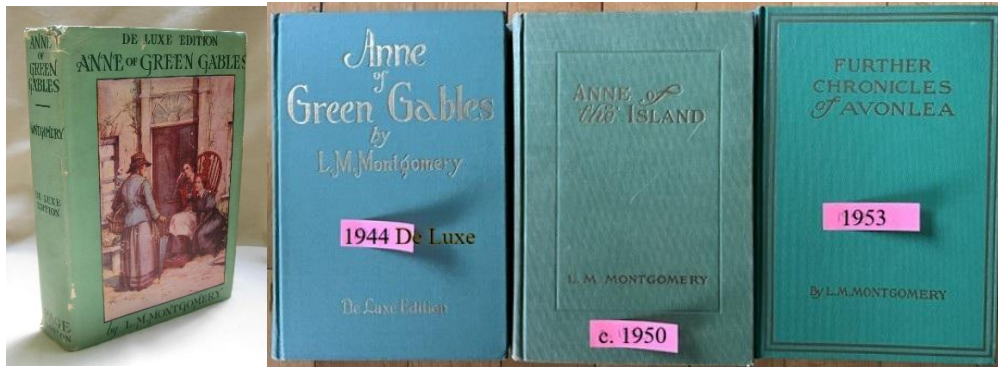


One of the more unusual binding colors is this *Chronicles of Avonlea* from 1950; the photo may not show it but the color is close to a deep pink.



Later printings of Montgomery books did not include the frontispiece illustration and a few did not have cover art.

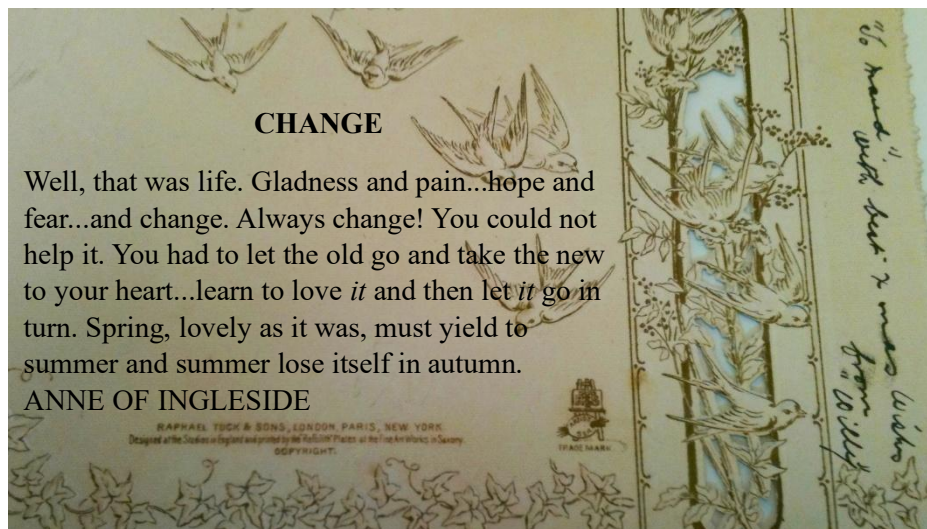
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Collectors and readers can find great joy in owning and reading older Montgomery books and they do not have to be first editions to be treasured!



When Anne saw Echo Lodge, the vines she admired may have been like these Virginia Creepers in autumn, captured here at the Green Gables Heritage Place by photographer, [Bernadeta Milewski](#).



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