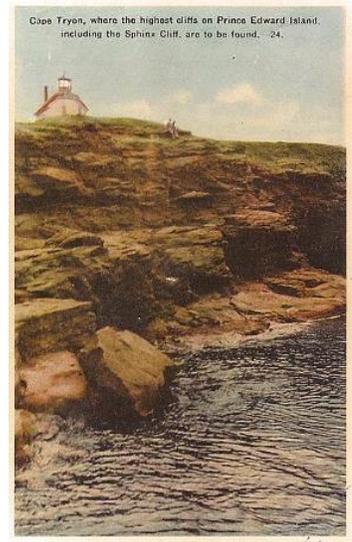


The Shining Scroll
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CENTENNIAL OF ANNE'S HOUSE OF DREAMS

Mary Beth Cavert © 2017

Montgomery started to write *Anne's House of Dreams* in June 1916, having organized the material for it in the winter and spring. She wrote for two hours every morning and finished writing on 5 October 1916; she corrected copies in November and proofs in February 1917. The book was scheduled to be published on 24 August 24 1917. She had two young children, was busy with community and church work, troubled by developing legal actions, and deeply disturbed by The Great War. Yet, these years would turn out to be the most fulfilling and untroubled of her life.

She recalled that she set the story as "Four Winds" in New London Harbour but that she "altered the geography." She loved this sand shore and changed its geography by adding a near-by "spit of land" which had always enthralled her [*Journals*: 3 June 1909]. It was called New London Point (now called [Cape Tryon](#)) and in 1909 she was charmed by the new revolving light [see postcard image, top right, and [The Shining Scroll 2010](#)] that had been added there in 1905, replacing the warning light.

The setting and the endearing characters make *House of Dreams* a reader's favorite. Elizabeth Epperly notes in [The Fragrance of Sweet-Grass](#) that it is filled with poetry that "create[s] atmosphere, reflect[s] personality" and suggests harmony. Anne has left the woodlands of Avonlea and now is surrounded by the sea. Elizabeth Waterston writes in [Magic Island](#) that the author "emphasize[d] the connection between houses and dreams." Waterston reminds us that there are four houses and lives to match the Four Winds (and represent aspects of Montgomery's life in her own home in Leaskdale): the lighthouse with Captain Jim, the house of Miss Cornelia (who spars with the "perambulating haystack," Marshall Elliot), the house of Leslie Moore and her mysteriously ill husband, and the house Anne and Gilbert inhabit as newly-weds.

There was always a certain sense of things going to happen—
 of adventures and farings-forth.
 The ways of Four Winds were less staid and settled and grooved than those of Avonlea; winds of change blew over them; the sea called ever to the dwellers on shore, and even those who might not answer its call felt the thrill and unrest and mystery and possibilities of it...

"Do I or do I not see a full-rigged ship sailing up our lane?"

Ch. 8 Miss Cornelia Bryant Comes to Call

[Cape Tryon lighthouse is now owned by the [L.M. Montgomery Land Trust](#)]

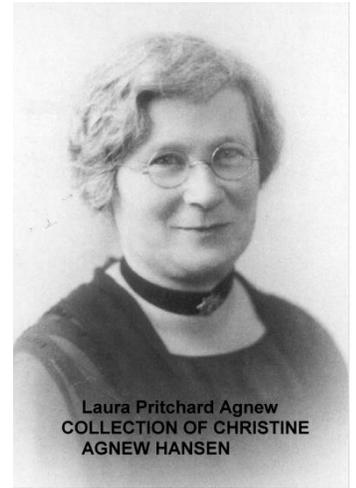
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BOOK DEDICATION

Montgomery dedicated *House of Dreams* to one of her most beloved friends from her youth, Laura Pritchard, from Prince Albert [Saskatchewan], "To LAURA in Memory of the Olden Time." It is no surprise that Laura was the first person whom she described as a kindred spirit in her journals. Montgomery met Laura during a one-year stay with her father, Hugh Montgomery, out west in 1890. Maud was godmother to both of Laura's daughters and Laura gave one of them the middle name of Montgomery. By the time LMM was writing her book in 1916 their letters were very infrequent, but Maud still received family news from friends and would have known that Laura's son, Willard, had joined the Canadian Field Artillery in February 1916.

Although Laura and Andrew never had economic stability like Montgomery created for Anne and Gilbert, they had a similar courtship and a solid marriage, which weathered hard times, and five children whom they adored. Montgomery acknowledged and celebrated Laura and Andrew's happy life together in the shadows of the household of Anne and Gilbert.

Laura and Maud were reunited in a joyous visit in 1930 and Laura died unexpectedly in 1932. Montgomery felt Laura's death deeply and she mourned her in a similar way that she had mourned the death of her best friend, Frederica Campbell, thirteen years earlier.



BOOK EDITIONS

There were many copies of *House of Dreams* printed because it was her first novel with a new publisher, so it is easy to find early editions. It was printed in Canada and the US; identical reprint editions appeared at the same time from A.L. Burt, NY, and Constable in the UK.

Montgomery became displeased with her first publisher L.C. Page (which resulted in a series of lawsuits), especially after he refused to publish her poetry, and she selected a Canadian publisher, [McClelland, Goodchild, and Stewart](#) (Goodchild left in 1918). In December 1916 McClelland arranged for the American rights to go to Frederick A. Stokes (New York). In August 1926 she wrote a thank you letter to the House of Stokes: "In [these] ten years I have never once regretted our 'partnership.' Your unflinching courtesy, consideration, and 'square dealing' have made our connection one of pleasure as well as profit to me and I sincerely hope that this pleasant relationship will continue as long as I am afflicted with the incurable disease of *cacoethes scribendi*."

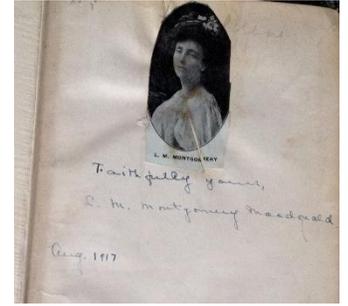


SIGNED MONTGOMERY BOOKS: *Anne's House of Dreams* and Others

Anne's House of Dreams is a special one for me because it was the first one I acquired as a collector. I found it in my parents' basement, it was inscribed to my grandmother as a Christmas gift from her sister-in-law (whose name was Glennavere, I always thought that was a great name!). A few years ago I bought a true first Canadian edition (McClelland) which had been signed and dated by Montgomery in August 1917. I had hoped to connect this book with

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LMM's cousins, Bertie McIntyre and Laura McIntyre Aylsworth, with whom she spent time during that month soon after the book was released for sale. They assumed that Maud had dedicated it to Laura Aylsworth so I hoped they bought it during her visit. She signed the book "Yours Faithfully" and with her full name L.M. Montgomery Macdonald, which seemed more personal, something I see more often in the books she owned herself. The owner pasted a picture of LMM in it. But, I could not find any connection to Bertie or Laura.

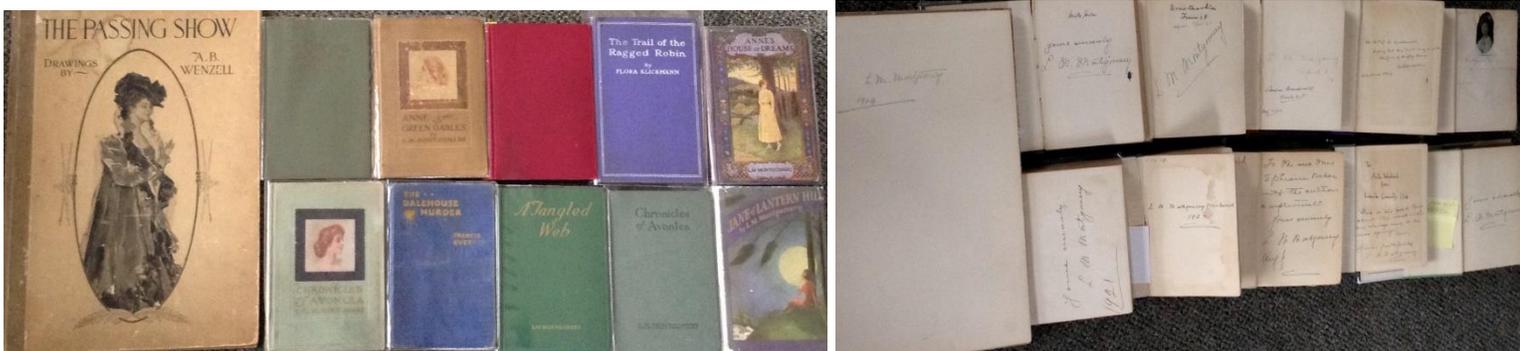


My most valued books signed by Montgomery are the inscribed ones I have that belonged to her friends, the people she included in book dedications. There are just two, a book she gave to Ephraim Weber and one that George Macmillan gave to her. Three others are books that belonged to her, a fashion book she got in 1904 and the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* she bought in 1906. One other book from her own library is a work of fiction, a murder mystery. She wrote her full name in it and the year she received it. Later, it seems, she wrote the date she read it, which appears to be a time when she wasn't feeling well, January 1929 – perhaps she had some time after the holidays to rest and read!

The last of the signed books in my collection are those she wrote which she inscribed for fans. At some time, especially after she was published by McClelland, she started to do large public signings and give speeches at special events to drive sales of the books, particularly in the 1930s. Collectors can find many books signed from that time period. She always wrote legibly, underlining her name and often with a "Yours Cordially." The earliest of her signed Anne books on my shelf is a 1914 *Anne of Green Gables*, with a large assertive diagonal signature, underlined. I was happy to find a lovely person who sold me the Canadian edition of *The Watchman and Other Poems*. Montgomery signed it with "Yours Sincerely" and drew her cat picture under her name. Of my other three signed books, my favorite is a *Chronicles of Avonlea*. She not only signed it "Yours Faithfully," but inscribed it with a quote from Anne: "There is one good thing about this world – there are always sure to be more springs."

The books that Montgomery owned that are now in my home will be donated to the places where she first put them on her own shelf. As for the others, I hope that some of them will be as treasured by my family as they have been by me! The happiness I experience from holding my grandmother's *Anne's House of Dreams* and the other early editions of Montgomery books has not diminished -- I can feel a timeless connection to the author and the previous owners of the books as I read and re-read them.

[There is more about the value of inscribed books in [The Shining Scroll December 2012](#)]



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Coming soon!

L.M. MONTGOMERY AND READING

The L.M. Montgomery Institute's 13th Biennial Conference
University of Prince Edward Island
June 21- 24, 2018

Registration is open at the [web site](#) or contact lmimi@upei.ca.

Some of our Literary Society members will be attending and several of us will be presenting papers – our own [Emily Woster](#) is the Institute's Visiting Scholar and will be a keynote speaker!

[ANNE OF GREEN GABLES READ ALONG](#): see web page for wonderful reflections!

SILENT AUCTION

The [Friends of the L.M. Montgomery Institute](#), will be hosting another [Silent Auction](#), on-site only, which is open to conference attendees and the local public (items must be carried away after the auction, no mailing service is provided). The proceeds from the auction are donated to the LMMI. We are now accepting offers of donations to the auction to be held June 21-22, 2018.

Ideally, items should be related to LMM, her works, or Prince Edward Island. Also, it would be helpful if they are easy to transport -- that is, reasonably flat, lightweight, and small enough to fit into a suitcase. Of course, some attendees live on PEI or drive to the Symposium instead of flying, so larger items can certainly be accepted.

Some of the items on offer at previous Symposia that may give you some inspiration: early editions of LMM novels; books about or related to LMM or PEI; vintage magazines containing LMM stories or poems; a child-sized "rosebud tea set;" posters for Anne plays or PEI tourism; tobacco-stripe knitted quilt; apple-leaf knitted quilt squares; photographs of PEI sites (landscapes, lighthouses, etc.); collectibles related to LMM, her characters, or PEI.

If you would like to donate an item or items, kindly email Carolyn at friendsoflmimi@gmail.com with the information.
Thank you!

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Beth Cavert

This has been a year of great loss in our L.M. Montgomery community and we hope readers will look through these tributes with care.



In 2008, Carolyn Strom Collins and I planned a program for the L.M. Montgomery Institute conference (celebrating the centennial of *Anne of Green Gables*) which acknowledged the [contributions of several families and individuals to the author's legacy](#). A few of these beloved people have passed away this year and we think it is important for L.M. Montgomery readers to know who these stewards are and what they have done for us – we as fans, researchers, and friends would not have had such a rich experience in L.M. Montgomery's world without them.

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We start close to home -- that is L.M. Montgomery's homestead on Prince Edward Island, the birthplace of *Anne of Green Gables* and the birthplace of our dear kind, gentle, generous friend, **JOHN MACNEILL** (1930-2017). John was the grandson of Montgomery's Uncle John Franklin Macneill (who lived next to the house where the author grew up). John's father, Ernest John Macneill, was LMM's first cousin.

A letter from Myrtle [Webb] came today, saying Ern Macneill's wife had a son. So perhaps the old place may remain in the Macneill name yet. I hope so anyway.
(*Journals of L.M. Montgomery*, 7 August 1930)



John and his wife Jennie are the family members responsible for restoring and maintaining the grounds and landscape where L.M. Montgomery lived and wrote *Anne of Green Gables*. The farm and land has remained in the family for many generations. You can find more about their literary kinship, in their own words, at this page: [The Birthplace of Anne of Green Gables](#) .

When John and Jennie read Montgomery's journals in the 1980s and learned how much she loved the Homestead of her mother and grandparents, they worked for three years to clear the landscape around the stone foundation, which was all that remained of the old house at the site. They restored the grounds with an authenticity which allows Montgomery readers to experience the sense of place that the author herself felt so keenly. It is a [National Historic Site](#) named [Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish Home](#) (and Bookstore).



John and Jennie served on many boards and committees and have been honored for their work to preserve Prince Edward Island and Montgomery history. They have been closely connected to the LMM Institute and have participated in nearly all its special events and conferences. They have generously donated Macneill family items including a letter written by Montgomery to her cousin Murray Macneill, photographs by LMM, and a book given as a gift and inscribed by LMM to her friend, [Amanda Macneill Robertson](#).

John and Jennie have been devoted and tireless contributors to their Cavendish community and church all their lives. They were also devoted to each other.

John's family suggests that a donation to the Cavendish Cemetery where L.M. Montgomery and many of her Macneill family rest would be a welcome memorial: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/cavendish-community-cemetery-inc/>

[A Tribute to John](#)

Photos by: MB Cavert

Note: In June 1994 The L.M. Montgomery Heritage Society was created to protect L.M. Montgomery's Prince Edward Island literary and historic legacy for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the public. The founding members of this group included Jennie and **John Macneill**, **Father F.W.P. Bolger**, **Ruth Macdonald**, and **David Macdonald**.

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Another Islander every Montgomery fan should know is **DR. FRANCIS WILLIAM PIUS BOLGER** (1925-2017), or **FATHER B** to hundreds of friends. In the eyes of his friends in the L.M. Montgomery community, he was a beloved connection to the author and her Island. He was well-known for his excellence and enthusiasm in teaching history at the University of Prince Edward Island (since its inception) and for his many years of work in establishing and preserving historic places on his Island. His memberships in the Order of Canada and Order of Prince Edward Island reflect his many accomplishments.

When L.M. Montgomery was buried in Cavendish in April 1942, Bolger was about sixteen and finishing his education studies at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown before he taught for one year in New London. He did not know the author, but his mother attended her funeral. Father Bolger helped change the course of Montgomery studies on Prince Edward Island when he facilitated the delivery of early Montgomery letters into the possession of the University. He used these sources and others to write *The Years Before Anne* for the Montgomery centennial in 1974, the year he was named "Islander of the Year." The work on his "Anne" book resulted in a rewarding personal friendship with Dr. Stuart Macdonald, LMM's son (and his wife, Ruth Macdonald, and daughter Kate). As Chair of L.M. Montgomery Foundation Board, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Birthplace Trust, and the PEI representative on Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (to name a few) he had an active hand in preserving the Montgomery world for others.



Father Bolger and Dr. Elizabeth Epperly edited the author's letters to G.B. Macmillan, *My Dear Mr. M.*, in 1980 -- a partnership and long-lasting friendship which grew deeper when Epperly founded the L.M. Montgomery Institute in 1993. Father Bolger took part in the organization of the Institute and was the chair of its first international conference in 1994. Attendees were treated to "[Father B's](#)" rendition of Montgomery's biography at the start of each conference for many years. We last enjoyed his company at this special occasion in 2014 when he joined his dear friends John and Jennie Macneill, George Campbell, and many other Montgomery legacy stewards at the traditional conference banquet.



Since 1967, Dr. Bolger spent his summers in his cottage, "Four Winds" (named after the location of *Anne's House of Dreams*) on New London Bay over-looking the beautiful Cavendish sand spit and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He built the cottage in 1967 and situated it on the lot where he could always see his grandmother's house in Stanley Bridge. He also restored the only section left of the old Alexander Macneill house, the kitchen (which was the Cavendish post office where parts of *Anne of Green Gables* were written), and preserved it as a writing cottage and "shrine" on his property. He told me many times it would be returned to the Macneill Homestead when he was "done with it" -- and it will be.



He was known to swim in the Bay every day at Swimming Rock near his summer home. In 1999 he helped write [The History of Stanley Bridge: Hub of the Universe](#) (Montgomery's "Carmody" in *Anne of Green Gables*). He has collaborated on other books that highlight Montgomery's work including *The Spirit of Place*.

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He loved to stop by the Montgomery Birthplace and then go to lunch at Terry Kamikawa's [Blue Winds Tea Room](#). He and Terry, Birthplace Board members, took part in the celebration of the Birthplace 50th Anniversary in 2015.

In September 2017 Father Bolger was honored as a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island. He will always be remembered by his Montgomery friends as a revered Montgomery scholar and advocate but more importantly he will be remembered as a wonderful companion, a joyous man with great pride in his birthplace and its famous author.

A cropped photo of Bolger and students in 1942 is from Derek MacEwen: Bolger is center, next to Derek's father.

Dr. Bolger and Elizabeth Epperly: Anne Victoria Photography

Father B and the Macneill kitchen by MB Cavert

Stanley Bridge postcard



From Carolyn Strom Collins: We also note the passing of **BRENDA PIDGEON MONTGOMERY**, wife of Robert Montgomery, who died in September 2017. She and Robert (a cousin of L. M. Montgomery) operated the Montgomery family home in Park Corner, PEI, as a museum known as "Ingleside -- the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum" for many years. Brenda was also part of the team at "Silver Bush," known as "The Anne of Green Gables Museum," also in Park Corner. Brenda was a life-long resident of Prince Edward Island and was very community-minded. She volunteered many hours with her local church, St. Thomas Episcopal in Spring Brook, as well as with the volunteer fire department located in New London, and the Women's Institute. She and Robert raised seven children in their home in French River -- David, Paul, Gordon, Merrill, Corey, Susan and Heather -- and was a loving grandmother to sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ownership of the Park Corner property has been transferred to Paul and his wife, Michele, who operate it as the [Montgomery Inn at Ingleside](#).

Shortly after New Year's Day in 2017, we received a notice from Kate Macdonald Butler that her mother, **RUTH ELIZA STEELE MACDONALD**, had passed away. Ruth was the wife of Dr. Stuart Macdonald, L.M. Montgomery's son. [We included a tribute in the [2016 edition](#) of *The Shining Scroll*, but we also include it for this edition]

Ruth was a nurse and met Stuart while they were both at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. They married in 1943.

In the 1990s, Ruth and her family resolved a [long legal battle](#) with the Sullivan Entertainment Group (which produced Anne of Green Gables telefilms in the 1980s) to acquire their share of the profits. Ruth attended hours of proceedings and testified in court on behalf of the family when she was in her late 80s. Ruth and Kate persisted and were eventually successful after many years -- it wasn't until about 2008 that Ruth's family, as Heirs of L.M. Montgomery, Inc., fully regained most of the rights to Anne productions.



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Elizabeth Epperly wrote in 2008:

“She was the first Montgomery family member to be contacted about starting the L.M. Montgomery Institute - and the first to say she was coming to the launch party for it. She has been delighted to support her children and nephew's family [David Macdonald] in making key, invaluable donations to the Institute. She personally donated Montgomery's Japanese kimono [see [The Shining Scroll](#) article by Yuka Kajihara]. Ruth's quiet, indomitable, magnanimous presence can be felt in almost every successful collaboration: between the heirs and scholars, the heirs and governments, the heirs and creative artists. The sweet smile on her face in her [wedding photograph](#) with Stuart Macdonald is the very same today in its warmth and radiant kindness.”

More condolences to the Macdonald family: **Roderick James Macdonald** (1951-2017) the son of Ruth and Dr. Stuart Macdonald, brother to Kate and Deke also passed away this year.

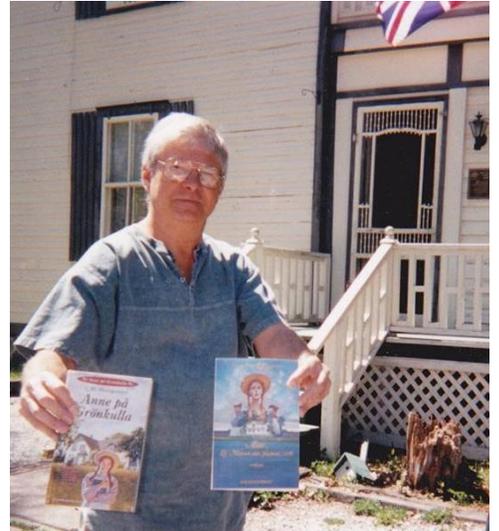
[From the [LMMI web site](#): Heirs of L.M. Montgomery, Inc. was incorporated by the author's heirs David Macdonald, trustee, and Ruth Macdonald. David Macdonald is the son of Chester Macdonald, and Ruth Macdonald is the widow of Stuart Macdonald. Chester and Stuart were the sons of L.M. Montgomery and Ewan Macdonald. The company was set up with a view to protecting the integrity of L.M. Montgomery while promoting her literary legacy. Heirs of L.M. Montgomery owns various trademarks related to the works of L.M. Montgomery as well as the name "L.M. Montgomery".]

DAVID CAMERON MACDONALD (1944-2017) was the third of seven grandchildren of L.M. Montgomery, the son of (Chester) Cameron Macdonald from his second marriage.

In 2000 David chaired the Anne of Green Gables Licensing Authority (the AGGLA), a board created in 1994 jointly owned by the Heirs of L.M. Montgomery and the Province of Prince Edward to address issues of the use of the name and images of Anne.

David had a career in education in Ontario and served as an elementary school principal. As a child, he was often taken to Leaksdale by his father to visit the Macdonald home at the Manse and to visit families, especially the Mustards (read about one of the families in [The Shining Scroll](#)).

David had his grandmother's OBE medal, Officer [of the Order] of the British Empire, and her citation signed by King George V. David and his wife, Marie, have generously shared some treasured family heirlooms with the Montgomery community. In the early 1990s they loaned LMM's silver engraved coffee and tea set to Linda and Jack Hutton's [Bala Museum](#). Jack writes of a conversation with David last year: “He told us he would like to see the tea set eventually go to the L.M. Montgomery Institute in PEI. We will indeed follow his wishes under the direction of Marie and her family.” David also gave the museum several foreign language editions of Montgomery's books.



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In 2002 David and his sister Catherine [donated eighteen early editions](#) of Montgomery's works to the L.M. Montgomery Institute on Prince Edward Island. All of the books are inscribed by Montgomery to her son Chester Cameron Macdonald, "with mother's love," and all but one are signed by her. Most of the books are American editions published by Page and Stokes and includes two leather-bound author's editions and an annotated first edition of *Further Chronicles of Avonlea*.

LUELLA MACDONALD VEIJALAINEN (1934-2018) was the first of L.M. Montgomery's grandchildren. Maud asked her granddaughter to call her Donny (from Macdonald), instead of grandmother. Her favorite books by LMM were *Rilla of Ingleside* and the *Emily* series. Luella was a guest of honor at many Montgomery events in Bala and Norval, and attended events in Leaskdale -- she always wore one of her grandmother's hats. Carolyn Collins saw her several times on her visits to Prince Edward Island: "She was always an entertaining companion and enjoyed visiting the various LMM sites on PEI. On one occasion, she invited a group of us to have tea after hours at the L. M. Montgomery Museum in Park Corner. She and her grandson had travelled from Ontario by rail and she had brought her special teapot (wrapped in many layers) with her especially for the occasion. She also took the considerable trouble to make tea sandwiches and lemon tarts in her tiny kitchen at her rented cottage in Stanley Bridge. The stories she told were priceless. Another of her loves was opera." [["Tea with Luella"](#) *The Shining Scroll* 2001]



Jack and Linda Hutton write:

Luella was born on May 17th, 1934, and began life as the daughter of Chester Macdonald, LMM's elder son, and Luella Reid. LMM loved her granddaughter and nicknamed her "Puss". That marriage ended after the birth of [Luella's brother] Cameron, but young Luella continued to see her grandmother until shortly before LMM's death in 1942. During the last 20 years Luella came year after year to the annual anniversary of our [museum](#) in July and was asked repeatedly to tell our visitors what she remembered about L.M. Montgomery.

Luella always explained that she was seven when she last saw LMM. "Being so young, the fact that she was a famous writer didn't really mean much to me," she told LMM scholar Kevin McCabe in his 1999 book, [The Lucy Maud Montgomery Album](#). "In my eyes, she simply was my grandmother and I loved her."

We are extremely grateful to videographer Peter Elliott for creating a [14-minute video](#) on our museum and Luella several years ago. He knew Luella well through [her daughter] Karem's family and described her well in this Facebook tribute. "With the purple streak in her hair she was an original Bohemian and an avid film buff. My wife and Luella shared a mutual admiration for Leonard Cohen's works. I am glad to have known her."



From Kevin McCabe: "Luella lived near us the last few years of her life. I would bump into her pushing her walker along the sidewalk, and we would talk for a while. She always had something to say -- an opinion on new release movies, for example. She surprised me [on one of the last times I saw her] by a fervent defence of the monarchy. You were never quite sure what would be the topic of the day. We will all miss her a great deal."

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We end with this story from Jack Hutton: The one thing that set Luella apart was her irrepressible sense of humour. At one of our early July 24 celebrations she demanded to know from whoever was playing the role of Ewan (Rev. Macdonald) how Noah lit the Ark.

“You’re a minister. You should know,” she insisted.

“I’m not a minister, and I haven’t the foggiest idea how Noah lit the Ark.

How did he do it?” the poor fellow replied.

Luella looked around for five or ten seconds to build the suspense.

“FLOOD LIGHTS!”

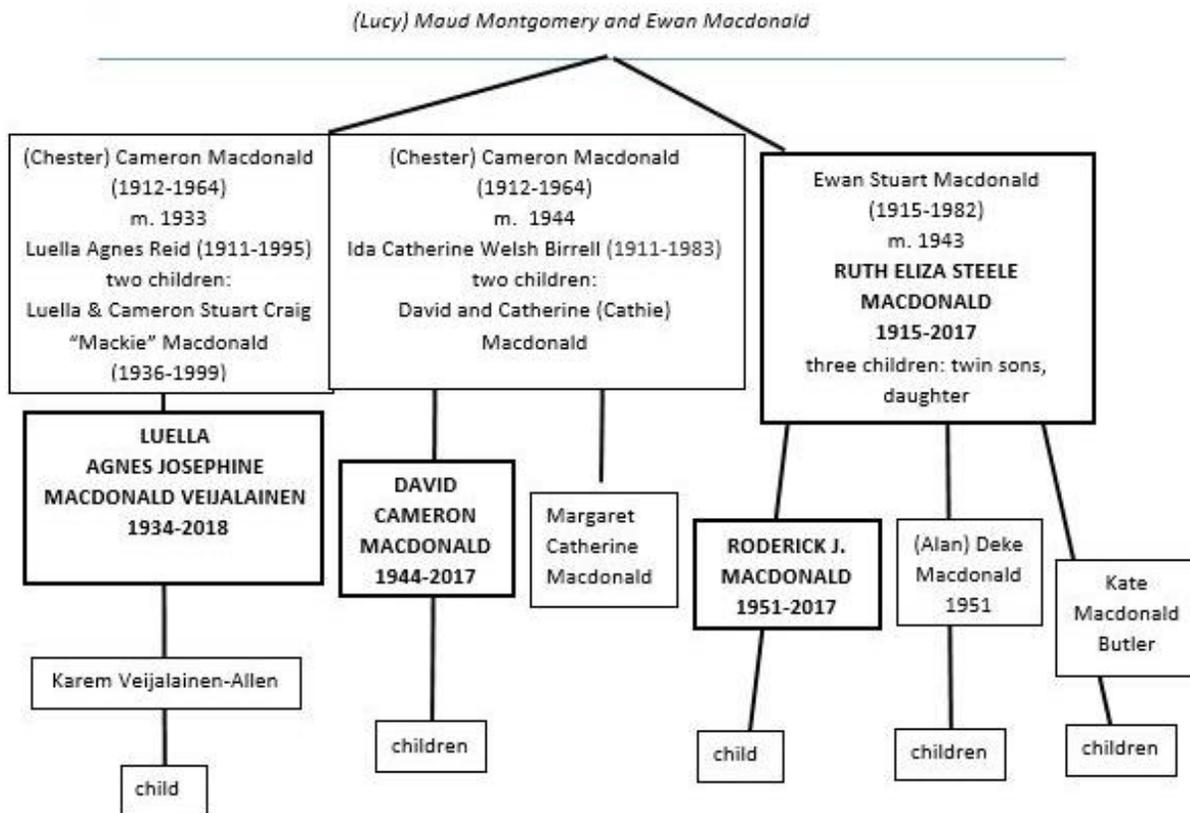
I don’t know whether Luella read that somewhere or made it up, but her sense of timing was perfect. She brought the house down. She must have cheered up many patients as a nurse.



Obituary: “May 17th, 1934 – January 27th, 2018. Luella Veijalainen was predeceased by her husband Antti Veijalainen (1983) and her sons Erik (1972) and Lauri (1993). Daughter of Chester Macdonald and Luella Macdonald (nee Reid). Luella graduated from the Toronto School of Nursing in 1957. She had a long career at Greater Niagara General Hospital and retired from nursing in the early 90’s.”

Luella’s daughter and grandson were with her when she passed: “Luella loved music and left us at the end of hearing ‘Matilda’ by Harry Belafonte.”

Images of David Macdonald and Luella Veijalainen from Bala’s Museum Facebook site.



LITERARY TOURISM: L.M. MONTGOMERY PLACES AND PEOPLE

BALA, ONTARIO

The wonderful Bala's Museum with Memories of L.M. Montgomery celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017. It is privately owned and maintained by devoted expert Montgomery fans, Linda and Jack Hutton. It represents one of Montgomery's favourite places, outside of Prince Edward Island, which she chose as the setting for her 1926 book, *The Blue Castle*. The Huttons planned many beautiful experiences for visitors last year (and will again!). Read more: [Bala's Museum looks back on 25 years of Anne of Green Gables in Muskoka](#)



“My dearest dream which will never be realized –
is to own a Muskoka island.”
LMM letter to GB Macmillan, February 1929.

NORVAL, ONTARIO

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Society achieved a giant milestone in 2017 by acquiring the [Manse property](#) where L.M. Montgomery lived from 1926-1935. They are raising funds to develop the site into the [Lucy Maud Montgomery Museum and Literary Arts Centre in Norval](#). Our long-time friend there, Kathy Gastle, has been buoyed by wonderful community support, collaboration from families with Montgomery kinship ties, and hard work from many long-time residents. Kathy was proud to see the completion of the newly developed [Garden of the Senses](#) in 2016, a fitting tribute to LMM and yet another breathtaking beauty spot in the Credit River area. They have worked for many years to reach these goals, congratulations!

Norval Presbyterian Manse and Cottage



Heritage Halton Hills
Designation Report
2017

By John Mark Rowe

LEASKDALE ONTARIO



Wynn Walters, the sculptor who created the popular statue of L.M. Montgomery in Leaskdale, is making another statue related to Montgomery's life, this time of her friend and the leader of her community's World War I Battalion, Lt. Col. Samuel Sharpe ([The Shining Scroll WWI Special Edition](#)). Montgomery was a friend of his wife through the Hypatia Club in Uxbridge. Read more from the [Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society](#) and [Wynn Walters Historical Sculpture](#).



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“SPIRIT OF CANADA” CELEBRATION

Earle Lockerby

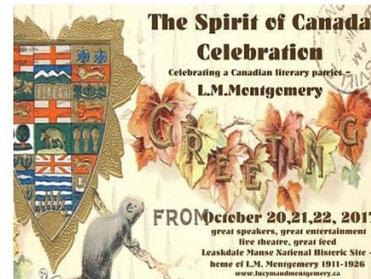
The first conference organized by the [Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario](#) was in 2008, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the first publication of *Anne of Green Gables*. The second was held this past autumn – October 20-22 – and it coincided with the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation. As such, it was one of the important “[Canada 150](#)” events in the Uxbridge area and, in a larger context, was representative of the celebrations of patriotism and nationalism that occurred throughout the nation in 2017.

The three-day conference was a scholarly event, featuring presentations by academics who have a strong interest in L.M. Montgomery and her work, but included, also, a good deal of “popular” content. In keeping with the conference theme, many of the presentations dealt with an emerging Canadian patriotism and sense of national identity during Montgomery’s lifetime as may be discerned in her writing – the dialog of her characters and personal observations in her journals and letters. Kathy Wasylenky took the lead in organizing this very successful conference.

The conference began on Friday at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Leaskdale, with a welcome by LMMSO President Melanie Whitfield and Kathy Wasylenky, and by greetings from Kate Macdonald Butler who is a granddaughter of L.M. Montgomery. Dr. Elizabeth Epperly provided the opening keynote address, “Capturing Canada: L.M. Montgomery’s Career of Creating Place.” She was followed by Ted Barris who presented a series of vignettes featuring remarkable personal stories of a number of Canadian men and women who served in World Wars I and II, including some from the Uxbridge area. Melanie Fishbane spoke on “Becoming a Canadian Writer: Montgomery as a Teen Writer,” which was followed by Dr. Jen Rubio’s presentation, “L.M. Montgomery, Aging and Patriotism.”

At several points during the afternoon three special events afforded a change of pace. The first of these was a “Let’s Talk About Our Latest Books” forum at which Ted Barris, Andrea MacKenzie, Ben Lefebvre, Melanie Fishbane, Lynda Leader, Rita Bode, Elizabeth Epperly, Leslie Clement and Jen Rubio all spoke about books that they had recently published or are currently working on. The very talented song writer and singer, [Rosalee Peppard](#), captivated conference attendees by singing

A Celebration & Conference - October 20,21 &22 with something for everyone from the academic to the LMM fan



Dr. Elizabeth Rollins Epperly, Keynote speaker, “Capturing Canada: L.M. Montgomery’s Career of Creating Place”

Ted Barris is a journalism professor and author who won this year’s Libris Non-Fiction Award along with Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield. Barris won for his ambitious historical account, *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story*.”

Dr. Ben LeFebvre Keynote speaker, “How I Began: L.M. Montgomery’s Essays, Interviews, and Literary Reputation, 1911–1925

Speakers It is our pleasure to present such a wonderful group of academics for our event. Some have just completed books. So this is a great opportunity to buy for your collection and get them signed.

Dr. Sally Hickson “Nothing is really lost to us as long as we remember it”: The Legacy of the Home Children in Montgomery’s World

Dr. Lesley Clement and Dr. Rita Bode “The House and its Environs, the Room and its Inhabitants: Looking to the Past and Future with L.M. Montgomery’s Creative Space

Dr. Kate Scarth - “The Spirit of Urban Canada”

Emily Wooster - “Reading in Leaskdale: The Intellectual Curiosity of Lucy Maud Montgomery 1911-1926”

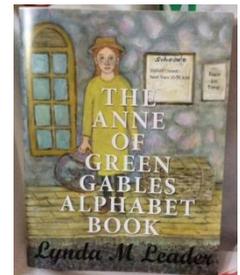
Andrea McKenzie Food, Fashion, Factories, and Flags: L.M. Montgomery’s World of War

Melanie J. Fishbane M.A. M.F.A. - “Becoming a Canadian Writer: Montgomery as a Teen Writer”

Jen Rubio - “L.M. Montgomery, Aging and Patriotism”

Great Meals and Entertainment Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario - Leaskdale

6 String Nation Friday evening - a nationally recognized cultural show.
Down Home Kitchen Party featuring Kathryn Dnes fiddle, Adam Gribble guitar and Rosalee Peppard Singer/Songwriter Saturday Evening
Live theatre- Emily -The Musical Sunday Ryleepuss Productions
Brunch and Authors Panel - Sunday morning Blue Heron Books



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her recently-composed song, “L.M. Montgomery,” while accompanying herself on the guitar. Rosalee recited a very touching poem that she had written about Montgomery and regaled her audience with a humorous, self-composed song called “Lucky” – the lyrics of which described life in the Macdonald household as experienced by Maud’s favourite cat. Nina Elliott gave a talk about the one-room Leaskdale School that was attended by Chester and Stuart Mondonald. The school, which closed in 1967 and was subsequently demolished, was located on the north side of Leaskdale Road, about a mile from the Manse. Following the talk by Nina, she and Barb Pratt unveiled a large plaque that utilizes photographs and text to commemorate the school. The LMMSO intends to erect the plaque at the site where the school was located.



Evening entertainment was provided by Jowi Taylor, an award-winning writer and broadcaster and creator of [Six String Nation](#), a guitar that is composed of 64 materials collected from all of Canada’s provinces and territories. Taylor gave a fascinating talk about the building of the guitar and the acquisition of the notable materials from which it was constructed. Following his talk, the guitar, a very special musical instrument that eloquently symbolizes national unity, was played by a number of people from the audience.

The second day of the conference began with the presentation, “The House and its Environs, the Room and its Inhabitants: looking to the Past and Future with L.M. Montgomery’s Creative Spaces” by Dr. Lesley Clement and Dr. Rita Bode. The conference’s second keynote speaker, Dr. Benjamin Lefebvre, followed with “The Upward Climb to Heights Sublime: Public and Private Narratives in L.M. Montgomery’s ‘The Alpine Path.’” Ben took the opportunity to make the exciting announcement that he intends to produce and publish a multi-volume work that will collect and collate all of the known short stories and poems of Montgomery – more than 500 of each.

After-lunch presenters included Dr. Kate Scarth, “The Spirit of Urban Canada;” Dr. Emily Woster, “L.M. Montgomery, Patriotism, and Reading Canada;” and Dr. Andrea MacKenzie, “Food, Fashion, Factories, and Flags: L.M. Montgomery’s World of War.”

The third day of the conference was organized by Shelly MacBeath of Uxbridge’s Blue Heron Book Store. Following brunch, Kate Macdonald Butler spoke about her recently-published [Anne of Green Gables Cookbook](#) that features recipes of Maud. Next, the LMMSO’s Barb Pratt hosted on stage four writers of recently-published fiction (Marissa Stapley, Kathleen Tucker, Vikki Vansickle and Melanie Fishbane), posing various questions to them regarding Montgomery’s impact on them as individuals and as writers. This event concluded with a book selling and signing.

It is fitting that the conference ended at the LMMSO’s home base, the [Historic Leaskdale Church](#). On Sunday afternoon a sizable audience was treated to the premier of [Emily: The Musical](#), performed by the Uxbridge-based theatre company, Ryleepuss Productions. Enjoying *Emily: The Musical* was a great way to end a most successful conference that brought together more than 40 Montgomery scholars and enthusiasts to share insights and to celebrate. Thanks to Kathy Wasylenky for her vision of a LMMSO conference that tied in with Canada 150 and for her work to make it a reality.

*This article was written for **Cordially Yours**,
newsletter of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario and has been edited for length; it is used with permission.*

Read more about the LMMSO October events: [The Shining Scroll 2011](#)

Book photo Yuka Kajihara, school photo M B Cavert, group photo Melanie Fishbane

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THE “MARCO POLO” SAILS AGAIN

Carolyn Strom Collins

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Confederation of Canada, a virtual-reality film about the famous ship “Marco Polo” was produced and was premiered at the University of Prince Edward Island on July 27, 2017. Dr. Elizabeth Epperly was executive producer of the film which drew heavily on L. M. Montgomery’s eyewitness account of its final hours as it crashed onto the north shore of Prince Edward Island near Cavendish in 1883. Montgomery wrote two pieces about the shipwreck: an essay entitled “[The Wreck of the ‘Marco Polo,’](#)” published in 1891 when she was sixteen years old, and a long poem entitled “The Wreck of the ‘Marco Polo’ – 1883,” published in 1892.

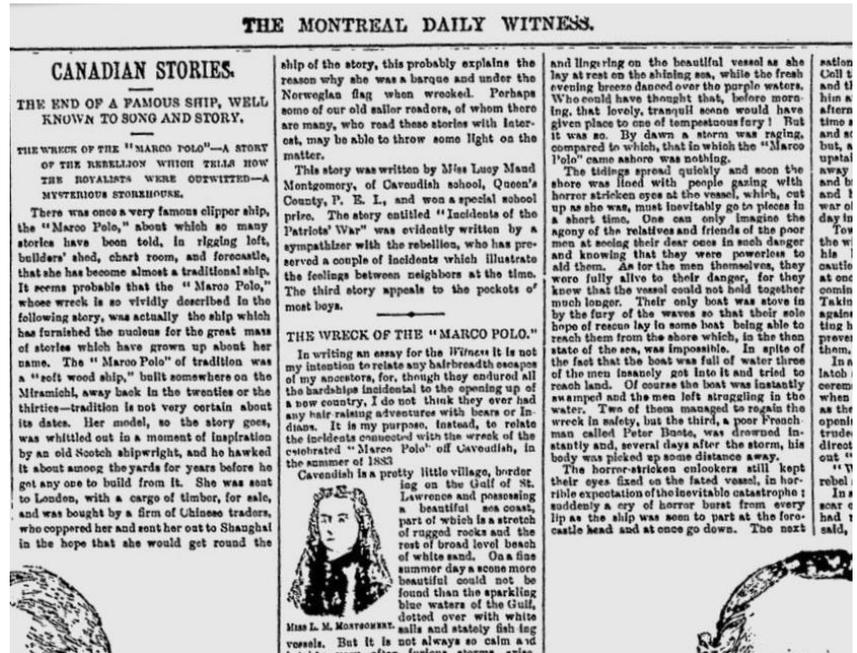
Wearing special “goggles,” viewers of the animated film could see, hear, and almost feel a part of, the dramatic events in 360 degrees – the pounding of the surf, the ship in full sail racing to the shore, the crowd watching the action, the rescue of the sailors and much more. Very impressive!

In addition to the film, relics gathered from the ship over the years, articles and books written on the wreck (including articles written for past editions of *The Shining Scroll* by LMMLS members) were assembled and displayed by Simon Lloyd of UPEI. Also on view was a detailed model of the great ship itself, made a few years ago by David Thompson of Warren Grove, PEI. Mr. Thompson used wood salvaged from the ship to create the large model.



For more about the “Marco Polo” and L. M. Montgomery’s account of the shipwreck, see: [Elizabeth Epperly Report on The Marco Polo](#), [The Shining Scroll 2005](#) p. 13, [The Shining Scroll 2010 \(part 3\)](#), p. 7

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MONTGOMERY HOUSE IN PRINCETOWN MOVED

Earle Lockerby

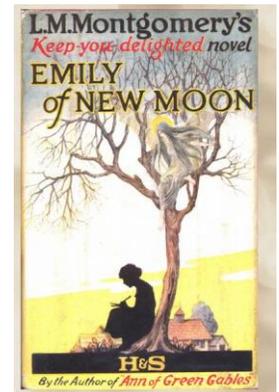
This house is the site L.M. Montgomery had in mind for the setting of the *Emily of New Moon* novels. The 1998 television series was filmed nearby in Cabot Park

[From Carolyn Strom Collins] In 1771, the Hugh Montgomery family sailed from their home in Scotland and, after many weeks, sailed into Richmond Bay on what was then known as the Island of St. John.* Today we know that bay as Malpeque Bay and the island as Prince Edward Island. Hugh Montgomery, along with his wife Mary and their five children, among the first Scottish settlers to arrive on the Island, established their home on the eastern shore of the large bay.

The first Montgomery residence was probably a log cabin but after some years, a frame house was built. This house is still standing today – but not in its original location. It has been moved back from the shoreline of the bay (once or twice, at least) due to the rapid erosion of the bank.

L. M. Montgomery's grandfather, Senator Donald Montgomery, was born here in 1808 (one of seventeen children); her aunt Emily Macneill of Cavendish, married John Montgomery and lived in the house for many years; Ruth Montgomery, who married Jim Campbell of Park Corner, grew up in the house and recalled enjoying sunsets from her upstairs bedroom window. This property remained in the Montgomery family for several generations until it was sold to a family from the United States in the 1950s.

This summer the house was moved yet again. Earle Lockerby, PEI native and now summer resident of Darnley, reports on the move:



The Montgomery homestead at Malpeque, PEI, acknowledged to be one of the oldest homes in the community, is venerable simply for its age. It is notable, also, because of its connections to Lucy Maud Montgomery. Overlooking Malpeque Bay, the building was once the home of Donald Montgomery Sr., the great-grandfather of Maud, and the birthplace and childhood home of her grandfather, Senator Donald Montgomery. The house was inherited by John Malcolm Montgomery (a first cousin of Maud's father, Hugh John Montgomery) who happened to marry Maud's Aunt Emily Macneill [see selected family tree]. Accordingly, it is not surprising that Maud used to often visit her relatives in this house. Indeed, from March to May in 1888 she stayed with Aunt Emily and Uncle John, having been dispatched to their home by her Macneill grandparents in order to extricate her from the torment of her abusive teacher at Cavendish School ["Izzie" Robinson, see *LMM Journals*, 7 January 1910].

James Alexander Montgomery, a son of John M. Montgomery, was the last of the family to own and reside in the homestead. Beginning in 1948, it successively changed hands, until in 1958 it was purchased by Judge Rudolph Naddeo of Hoboken, N.J. for use as a summer home. It is currently owned by Blanche Naddeo Fernandez, a daughter of Judge Naddeo. The two-storey house measures 32 feet by 28 feet and has a small porch (9 ½ feet by 7 feet) at its southwest corner. The porch was added in 1958 by Judge Naddeo. All exterior walls are covered with white-painted cedar shingles and the roof is protected with asphalt shingles.

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The Montgomery family referred to the home's location as Fox Point. Designated a registered historic place in 2010 under PEI's Heritage Places Protection Act, the Montgomery homestead in recent years has been increasingly at risk due to coastal erosion. At this location the bank erodes, on average, at the rate of a foot or two per year, so within a decade or so the building would have probably tumbled over the edge of the bank. In recent decades the condition of the house has also gradually deteriorated.

New Jersey residents Blanche Fernandez and her son, Rudy Petrella, have many happy memories of summers spent in the old house. According to Blanche, "the house has meant so much to us that we had to make a decision on whether to let nature take its course or fix this beautiful house." They also were cognizant of its heritage value, including its connection to L.M. Montgomery. The only truly viable option was to move the building further from the edge of the bank. The alternative of attempting to halt erosion by protecting the bank with rip-rap is unlikely to have been a cost-effective, enduring solution.

In 2017 Blanche and Rudy decided it was time to take action. A local contractor specializing in moving buildings was engaged to raise the building from its foundation, move it back further from the bank and to lower it on a newly constructed, insulated-concrete foundation on the periphery of a newly-dug basement. Since some portions of the roughly two-century-old wooden sills had deteriorated through rot, the first challenge was to replace a sill and to reinforce the underpinning of the building. The move took place on August 21 to a new location about 80 feet inland of the building's former location.

An unfortunate causality of the operation has been the removal of five tons of plaster and lath from within the building. This gutting of the interior wall finishing is said to have been necessary to lighten the building, thus facilitating its raising. Another causality has been the disassembly of two chimneys constructed of Island sandstone. This was unquestionably necessary prior to raising and shifting the building. It is unknown whether the chimneys will be reconstructed. A great deal of interior renovation is required to make the house comfortably livable. It is likely that the plaster and lath will be replaced by drywall, i.e., gypsum board.



Interior renovation is expected to begin next summer. "We're going to bring the home back to how it used to be," says Rudy, "[what I remember it to be.](#)" Blanche and Rudy are very enthusiastic about saving the old building and fixing it up so that it may be enjoyed by the family. "As for me," Blanche explained, "I am now 75 years old and I was so glad to see my children and grandchildren working together to keep [this house](#) in our family for generations to come and learn about this special place called Prince Edward Island."

In its new location the front of the old Montgomery home still looks out over Malpeque Bay in a northwest direction toward Fish Island and Hog Island in the distance. It is a stunning viewscape. In LMM's time the Montgomery homestead was a busy farm and included a barn and other farm buildings, but they disappeared in the 1960s or late 1950s. Fox Point is a place of beautiful sunsets, a peaceful, tranquil place where one can readily commune with nature. Though the ghost of Aunt Emily may still be at hand, it is a place that may well nurture and nourish the soul of Maud.



L: Photo of the Montgomery Homestead at Fox Point with farm buildings and picket fence, taken by L.M. Montgomery, c. 1895.

Courtesy: Archival & Special Collections, University of Guelph

R: The Montgomery (now Fernandez) Homestead shortly after it was moved. Note that the structure's sills now rest atop a concrete foundation and are well above ground level. Note, also, that the two chimneys are now missing.

Courtesy: Earle Lockerby



NOTES

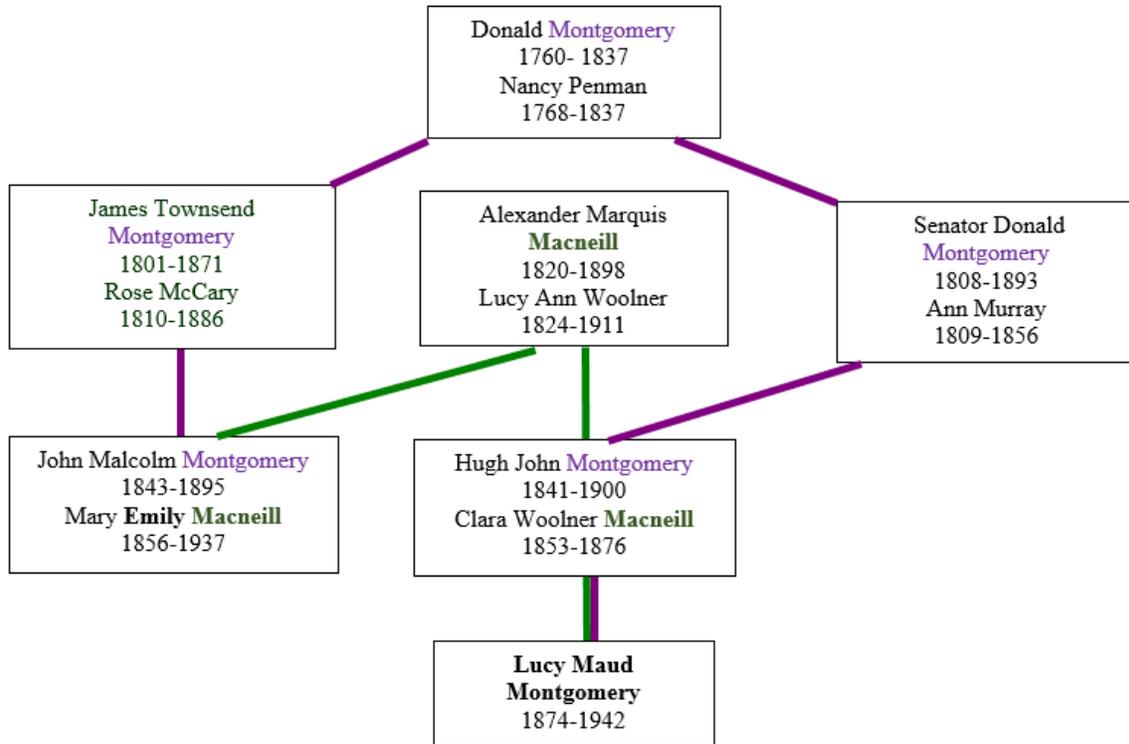
Age of structure: see <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=19510>. Information at this website indicates that the building dates to 1775. However, it is more likely that it dates from the early part of the nineteenth century.

Name Fox Point: The earliest work that has been found referring to "Fox Point" is "The Montgomerys of Prince Edward Island," D.A. MacKinnon and A.B. Warburton, Past and Present of Prince Edward Island, B.F. Bowen & Co., Charlottetown, N.D. but c. 1906, pp. 394a-396a. <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=19510>.

*For more information on the Montgomery family's 1771 arrival in PEI, see Collins' chapter "'Bound for Quebec?' or 'Journey's End: Conflicting Stories About the Montgomery Family's Arrival in Prince Edward Island'" in [*Storm and Dissonance: L. M. Montgomery and Conflict*](#). Jean Mitchell, ed.; Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 2008.

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FOX POINT HOUSE Montgomery Family Tree



THE NEW CHAIR OF L.M. MONTGOMERY STUDIES

By Melanie Fishbane (from an extended interview at the [L.M. Montgomery Institute](#))

Dr. Kate Scarth, the new Chair of L.M. Montgomery Studies and Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture (ALCL) at UPEI, will be working with the L.M. Montgomery Institute to further develop the life and work of L.M. Montgomery.

Kate's research focuses on English and Canadian literature from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth with a focus on women's writing, fiction, urbanism, and the environment and her book, *Romantic Suburbs: Fashion, Sensibility, and Greater London*, is under contract with the University of Toronto Press. She also leads a digital humanities, public engagement project on literary Halifax, Nova Scotia, which includes a focus on Montgomery's life and works set in the city. Halifax's suburban spaces in *Anne of the Island* are explored in a forthcoming article from *Women's Writing*.



We send a warm welcome to Dr. Kate Scarth!

Also noted: Dr. Elizabeth Epperly was awarded an [honorary Doctor of Laws](#) at UPEI in 2017.

Hear Dr. Epperly talk about Montgomery: [This Anne Place](#)

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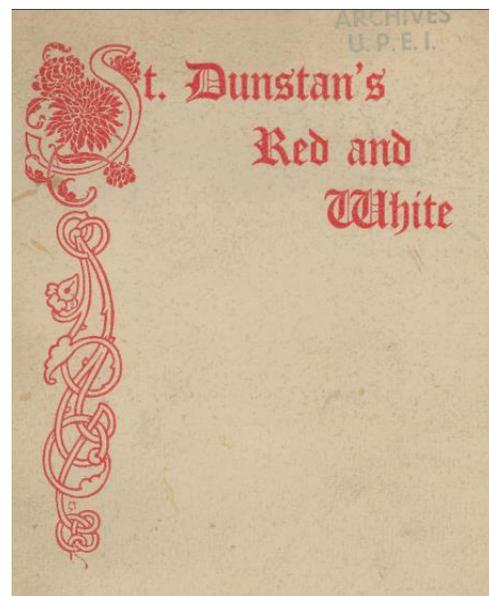
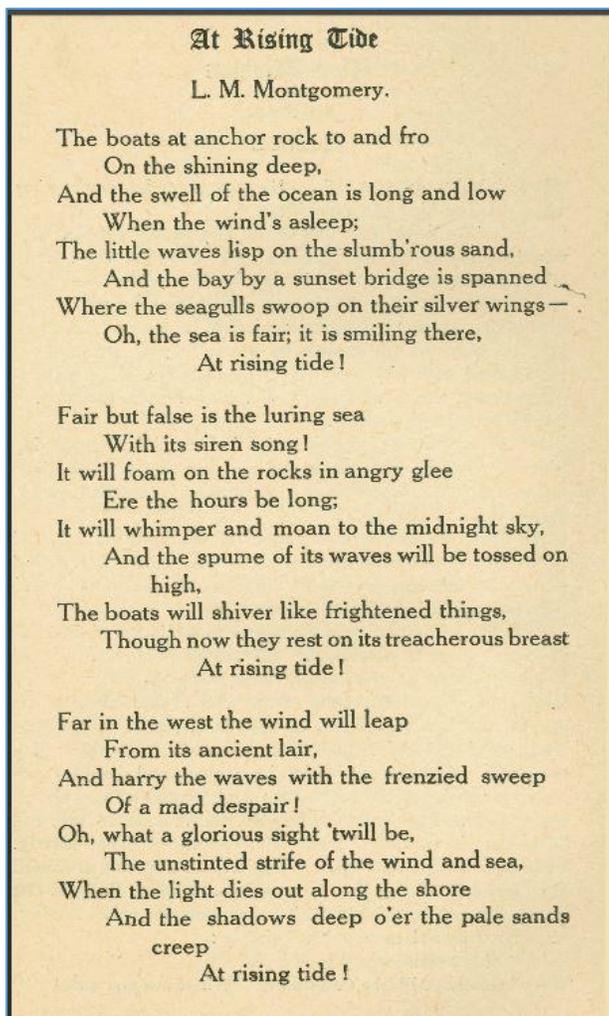
L.M. MONTGOMERY POEM REFERENCE FOUND

Carolyn Strom Collins

A few months ago, Simon Lloyd, Special Collections Librarian at the University of Prince Edward Island, reported that he had located the original publication of L.M. Montgomery's poem "[At Rising Tide](#)." This was one of the poems that researcher Rea Wilmshurst (and R.W. and D.W. Russell) catalogued as #1561 in 1986 in their Preliminary Bibliography but they classified it as "unverified" -- that is, the poem was clipped from a magazine and put in one of the author's scrapbooks (#8, as catalogued in The Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection, Confederation Centre Art Gallery & Museum) but the source of publication was still unidentified.

Lloyd has now verified that the poem was published in St. Dunstan's University's *Red and White* magazine for 1911 (page 45). [St. Dunstan's, along with L. M. Montgomery's alma mater Prince of Wales College, was incorporated into the University of Prince Edward Island in 1969.]

This new information will be added to any future editions of the [Annotated Bibliography of L. M. Montgomery's Stories and Poems](#) [Collins, UPEI, 2016].



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BOOKS!

[After Many Years: Twenty-One Long Lost Stories](#) by L.M. Montgomery, Edited by [Carolyn Strom Collins](#) and Christy Woster -- a new release by a new publisher, (see [The Shining Scroll 2016](#) page 35, first edition launch)

[L.M. Montgomery and War](#), Edited by [Andrea McKenzie](#) and [Jane Ledwell](#).

[Complete Journals of L.M. Montgomery](#), Edited by [Jen Rubio](#) – Jen continues the work by [Mary Rubio](#) and [Elizabeth Waterston](#) to update the *Selected Journals*.

[Anne of Green Gables Cookbook](#) by Kate Macdonald, re-issued and updated!

[The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables: The Enchanting Island That Inspired L.M. Montgomery](#), by Catherine Reid, photographs by Kerry Michaels. (In stores April 2018. Carolyn and Mary Beth contributed to some of the material, a beautiful book!)

[Meet Me at Green Gables](#) by Michel Bourque. Cute book for fans of the Prince Edward Island musical production. (See “Anne of Green Gables, the Musical Turns 50” in [The Shining Scroll](#), page 12.)

[The Blythes Are Quoted](#), Edited by Benjamin Lefebvre, has been re-issued with a new cover.

[Power Notes](#) by Elizabeth Epperly – a [memoir on leadership](#), about her years as President of the University of Prince Edward Island and founder of the L.M. Montgomery Institute.

Find more details at [L.M. Montgomery Online](#)



On the 27th of July, the LMMI celebrated the releases of a number of Montgomery related books. (From left to right: Melanie J. Fishbane, Jane Ledwell, Andrea McKenzie, Carolyn Strom Collins and Dr. Elizabeth Epperly).



Photo via LMMI website

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L.M. MONTGOMERY AND NATURAL FRIENDSHIP: "THE CHORDS OF OUR NATURES ARE PERFECTLY ATTUNED"

Mary Beth Cavert © 2010

Excerpts from a presentation at the 2010 LMMI Conference
L.M. Montgomery and Nature

Montgomery was born with an eye for beauty – her affinity with the natural world was nourished by many influences including her natural environment on Prince Edward Island, her love of poetry, her teacher of nature studies, Harriet Gordon, and even her friend Nate Lockhart, who supplied her with nature poetry written by his uncle, Pastor Felix.

For the most part, Montgomery's readers experience a user-friendly natural world in her books. In "real life" she suffered from nature's cold and heat, but for her it was protective, predictable and timeless, meaning it had the power to "re-youth" her, refresh her, it was restorative.

A [New York Times Magazine](#) article in 2010 featured a study on attention-restoration theory, that is, the ability of nature to improve cognition. "Nature increases focus and memory because it is filled with 'soft fascinations' that give those high-level functions the leisure to replenish." We can read the same thing in Montgomery's journals.

Here's something she wrote when she was nineteen:

In those divine woodland solitudes one can hear the voice of one's own soul – the voice of nature – the voice of God. I wish I might go there every day of my life – I always feel better ... where nature reveals herself in all her beauty.

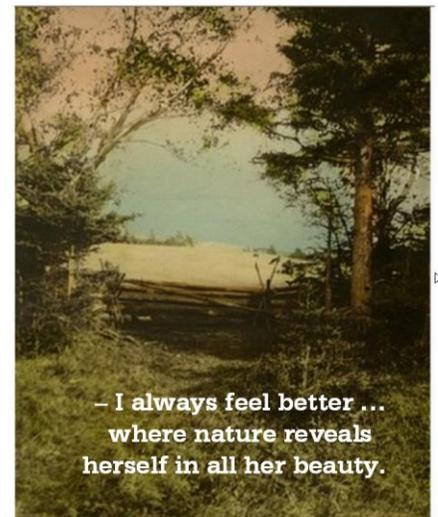
Montgomery often repeated this restoration theme. On June 6, 1903, she wrote, "Tonight I went to Lover's Lane. ... There is a charm about it that bars out all earthly pain and lets only peace and gladness through."

This entry sounds like she was there alone. But on that day she and Nora Lefurgery had a full day of choir practice together and then they took an evening drive with Bob Mackenzie and laughed most of the time. I suspect that both Maud and Nora went to Lover's Lane that glorious evening, even though it is written to sound otherwise. Because Nora was comfortable walking in silence, Montgomery could have both solitude and companionship in equal welcome measures.

The woods and shore were retreats of privacy because most of her homes were not. "Nature" was Montgomery's private space -- to read, think, or talk. Perhaps she shared a practice with Elizabeth von Arnim in her book [Solitary Summer](#) who preferred to read Keats in the forest and Whitman by her rose beds. Likewise, Montgomery delayed reading a fan letter from the Prime Minister of England, Stanley Baldwin, until she was in Lover's Lane.

This brings us to her friends – nature was a safe, private, nourishing space that intersected with the safe, nourishing companionship she favored in her friends.

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Eggedy, Elisabeth R. *Through Lover's Lane: L.M. Montgomery's Photography and Visual Imagination*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007. p. 31.

I love this line from Elizabeth Epperly's *Through Lover's Lane*: "Montgomery creates in readers a yearning for places we have never been, times we have not lived and friends we have never met." She also summed the author up pretty well: "All her recorded life, Montgomery was searching for communion with an understanding other, for beauty, and for the feeling of home."

For the most part, my research has revealed a combination of all of these within in her tightest circle of friends. She found the feeling of home with particular people who shared, among many other things, her receptiveness to beauty and could "see" as she did, and who would re-live shared experiences with her. She could tell when she and someone else had a perfect understanding and she called it "at homeness." Will Pritchard told her that he always felt at home in her company and she loved that sentiment when she was sixteen and ever afterwards considered it to be the essential quality of a kindred spirit.

Montgomery's poem, *To a Desired Friend*, was re-published in *The Blythes Are Quoted*. It was written during the years of the *Emily* series and after the time of her vacation in Muskoka, Ontario where she concocted an *idyllic daydream* about her friends and a lake island.

To a Desired Friend makes clear what mattered to her: wit, laughter, silence, love, loyalty, timelessness. Her friend loves the same things that she does: stars, wind, night, poetry, twilight, and sunset. The friend must be a walker because Montgomery was a walker. Walking was the motor for her emotional and creative process.

One of these friends was George Macmillan in Scotland whom she met one time, on her honeymoon, and spent a week walking with him while her new husband and George's fiancé trailed behind. Her connection with "Mr. M" was a strong one and their correspondence was certainly rooted (and I mean that literally) in their shared love of growing things, and the sea, rocks, and woodlands. You can see from what he wrote on his postcard that he was on her wavelength: "What do you think of our Scottish firs? Isn't this group lovely? Enough to confirm you in your belief in tree-personality!"

She never met Rev. Arthur Lockhart who adopted the pastoral pen name of "Pastor Felix" – that is, Pastor "Happy" from Nova Scotia. But they wrote to each other until his death and they had very deep common bonds in their love of poetry and landscape. Both Lockhart and Montgomery shared lives infused with nature from which they would draw their inspirations as creative writers. Both of them revered nature poetry that stirred their senses.

Montgomery's first brush with capturing nature with words started in Saskatchewan in *A Western Eden* written in June 1891 and a poem, *Farewell*. She was able to adapt to her father's western home but not to her stepmother. She wrote about Prince Albert, "Your spirit speaks to mine in nature's music." She loved the prairies, forest, lakes and especially the



Saskatchewan River (Read [The Years Before Anne](#) by Dr. Francis Bolger for more purpley-prosy praise of the prairies). Laura and Will Pritchard, her western friends, were Montgomery's appreciative outdoor companions.

Laura was Montgomery's first close female friend and she set the standard for intimacy that Montgomery expected from every good friend who followed her. The title of this presentation, "The Chords of Our Natures" is a quote about Laura. In winter they clung to each other while plummeting down a large hill on a toboggan. In the spring, Maud, Laura and her brother Will, spent evenings that were magical under a canopy of western twilight -- "[we had] a jolly time, laughing, talking, and telling stories, while the air grew duskier and sweeter and the eastern sky was lurid with a prairie fire and the frogs chorused faintly in the distance."

One of the last days that Will and Maud were together in 1891, they took a private walk back into the woods at Maiden Lake. They carved their initials on a tree. Whenever Montgomery wrote about him, it was with great tenderness. She often paired an emotional moment with someone she loved with the senses stimulated by natural events. When you think of Will, you can think of a twilight sky, frogs, and the initials, WGP, she wrote in the last book published in her lifetime, *Anne of Ingleside*.



Herman J. Friesen



"I have never met anyone in my life, not even Frede, to whom nature means as much as it does to me, except Nora." Montgomery wrote this in August 1932 and left for Prince Edward Island in October. As soon as she got there she wrote a postcard to Nora. When Maud described her reunion with Nora in 1929, she said it was like she had inhaled "great gulps of mountain air." Of course, Nora had hiked all over mountains in the Yukon while Maud had not. Montgomery inscribed Nora's copy of *Anne of Green Gables* to her "dear Nora: in memory of many happy hours in Lover's Lane and elsewhere with a 'kindred spirit.'"

Nora was "Fauna" (for her love of animals, especially her horse Brownie) to Maud's "Flora" (for her love of gardens and trees). But the landscapes we most often associate with them are

the rocks along the Cavendish Beach. Montgomery's photograph of Nora with her camera by the cliffs is well known now, even though it used to be mistaken for Montgomery.

You must also read about Nora's visits to Norval in numerous pages in *My Dear Mr. M.* where Montgomery ecstatically describes their walks along the roads and



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Credit River quoting poetry. They once stopped at a gate and stood in silence for an hour and sat on a tree trunk for two hours! Wherever she was, Montgomery sought to recreate the effect of a Lover's Lane, which was easily done with the right friend.

Bertie McIntyre was Maud's cousin who went with the Macdonalds on a motor trip to Kentucky to the Mammoth Caves. They had their first memorable Nature Encounter in Indiana with bedbugs! Read one version in her journals and a slightly different one in *My Dear Mr. M*. Their second nature encounter in the Mammoth Caves was more worthy of "legend and myth." They put on special clothing and walked through a series of enormous caves. Maud's favorite moments were when she and Bertie hung back from the rest of the tour group, standing together in silence, "sensing the cave, its grandeur, charm, and magic."



On the return trip, they stopped at Niagara Falls where Maud and Bertie sat on a sheltered bench during a storm. "For half an hour Bertie and I sat there, spellbound, rapt, ... the great Canadian fall, [was] lying under the ghostly shimmering blue-white gleam of almost constant lightning while athwart the mist tore zigzags of living flame as if some god were amusing himself hurling thunderbolts into the abyss."

Alec and May MacNeill's farm was another Home Place for Montgomery. Maud and May walked in the fields and maple woods where Maud and Alec's sister, Penzie MacNeill, roamed forty years earlier, naming trees and bringing in cows.

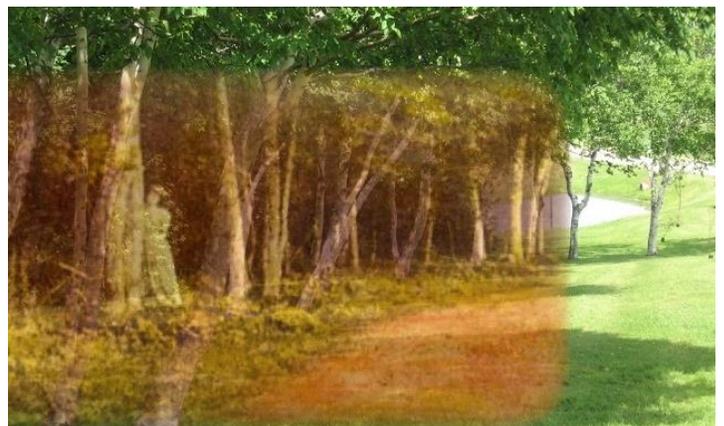
May used to take her up the hill along a cow path by this brook. It was up beyond this path that Alec discovered a beautiful two-acre clearing that was never plowed. He wanted Maud to see it. It was covered with long soft grasses, surrounded by a line of spruce, maple and birch. It was full of magic for Montgomery, she felt young in its timelessness. It was the only place she put in a book dedication. She dedicated *Pat of Silver Bush* to Alec and May and the Secret Field.



Frede Campbell has an enduring presence in Montgomery's world. Not only was she deeply connected to Montgomery's life and emotions but, by the good grace of Frede's nephew, Jim Campbell and his family, her places still have an enduring presence for us today.

Montgomery was imprinted with the landmarks of Frede's life and kept them close to her. The most familiar image is a photograph Maud took of Frede as a fourteen-year-old girl, before they were friends.

The picture captured a line of white birch trees, along a red dirt lane that disappeared into the back of the photo. The photograph became a bookmark in her journals, appearing over and over again, with different captions: "Frede Under the Park Corner Birches," "Frede in the Lane," "Frede Under Trees."



Eleven years went past after Frede's death before the photograph was framed and elevated to become a portal on the world that Maud craved, a world of constancy, trees, and a desired friend. Frede Campbell was forever enshrined in this eternal landscape of birches -- trees that, in Celtic

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folklore, inhabit the land of the dead and are symbols of renewal and new beginnings. Montgomery longed for the enchantment of this portrait to come to life.

The natural touchstones for Frede are her own birches that surrounded her home, but most often it is moonlight that is attached to Montgomery's descriptions of time with Frede. The natural references were like emotional spotlights, which she added to enhance the moments with an other-worldliness.

The bridge by the Campbell Farm was originally a wooden bridge, really only a grove of trees transformed from a vertical to horizontal state. Maud and Frede walked back and forth on it over the channel to The Lake of Shining Waters during their last time together on the Island in 1918. They walked from one end to the other between a known past and unknown future, they were between time.



They were “part of the night – of the dreaming water, of the dusk in the cloudy firs, of the far remote stars, of that haunting moan of the sea.” Then a “shining new moon swung about the tree tops that bend over that old homestead.” After Frede's surprise marriage in 1917, they had walked and talked while moonlight danced on the silver river in Montreal. Now, at the time of the Armistice, they drove back to Park Corner on a cold, frosty night, and the moonlight [was] falling through the spruce trees.

But the last morning Montgomery was with Frede, she was getting up early to leave Park Corner and saw the moon in the red sky in the east as the sun came up, “the colorings were so exquisite and the whole effect so fairylike that I called Frede and we watched it together delightedly [for half an hour], until the picture etched itself unforgettably on my brain.” A few months later, Frede was gone. “She died as the eastern sky was crimson with sunrise. She ‘went out as the dawn came in’ – like old *Captain Jim* in my *House of Dreams*... [but] The sunrise had no message for me.”



I'm sure Maud was aware of this irony: the last time she was with Frede in Park Corner they were watching a sunrise that was etched indelibly on her mind, and then this one, the last sunrise she saw in Frede's lifeless presence. It had no emotional content because it was unshared.

When I examined Montgomery's life from the happy perspective of her friendships versus the darker tone of her journal reflections, it changed how I viewed her life. Her life is set in a new landscape -- a landscape dominated by a beloved metaphorical grove of maples, spruces, and birches.

Embedded within the trees of this grove are a few indistinct figures, whom we do not know, but who were "unspeakably dear" to Maud Montgomery. By reading letters and scrapbooks and remembering shared stories, the grove of friendship was a refuge to which she could return time after time, where the olden days were not past and laughter and beauty were abundant.

INSTEAD OF A BOY: THE ORIGIN OF THE ORPHAN GIRL MOTIF IN *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES*

Mary Beth Cavert © 2018

We will end this issue of *The Shining Scroll* with the beginning of *Anne of Green Gables*, whereby a teenage L.M. Montgomery writes down an idea she wants to save and twelve years later picks it up as the beginning to a magazine serial she has been asked to write, and it grows from there.

One of the benefits of our L.M. Montgomery network is the occasional unexpected flurry of email correspondence to clarify some request for information or ferret out the accuracy of a tiny detail. Last fall I was asked if I knew anything about “the news clipping LMM said she saw about the elderly couple who adopted a boy but a girl came instead.” Thus began a day of exploring “what clipping?”



The idea of Montgomery’s plot point of “girl instead of boy” proved to be an interesting review because Montgomery’s sources of “inspiration” recorded in her journals may be consistent or may not.

A FADED ENTRY IN THE NOTEBOOK OF IDEAS

The first reference to her starting point for *Anne* is found in a journal entry in August 1907 (referring to spring 1905) about her notebook of ideas, “I found a faded entry, written ten years before: -- ‘Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent them.’” In November 1908 she gave an interview to *The Boston Journal* and says she found an entry in her old notebook, “written years ago in my teens.” In a 1915 article, “How I Began,” [for this and the previous article, see [The L.M. Montgomery Reader: Volume One](#)] she writes that she looked in a notebook of ideas and found old faded entry. She repeats this description in the 1917 magazine serial “[The Story of My Career](#)” (later published as *The Alpine Path*) and states that she wrote *Anne* in the spring of 1904.

When did she write this faded entry? These sources mention her notebook of ideas (which no longer exists, as far as we know) in which she recorded the “mistake” of an orphan girl instead of a boy. In most interviews she does not say when she recorded the idea. Sometimes she said she put the idea in her notebook ten years before she started writing the book, which would be 1894 or 1895. In the 1908 interview she remembered that she wrote the entry in her teens, which would have been about thirteen years earlier, around 1891-92. In 1894, LMM was about 20 years-old and teaching school in Bideford, PEI. In 1895, she was a student at Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. In 1892, Montgomery was eighteen and in Cavendish. At which time did she record the idea?



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A CLIPPING?

By 1928, a new detail was added to the origin story. In the May issue of [The Chatelaine](#) [Maude Pettit Hill](#) wrote a two-part article about the author, "The Best Known Woman in Prince Edward Island." The material in part one was not collected from a personal interview, but Hill heard Montgomery speak in Toronto and recalled that after LMM worked at the *Daily Echo* (in 1902) "There was a certain newspaper clipping that Miss Montgomery had brought home with her from Halifax: 'Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent to them.' The girl and the clipping went together like that." (That conclusion seems to be Hill's, not LMM's)

Montgomery had often claimed that the idea for an orphan girl was recorded many years before she wrote the book, so it would not have been 1902, however, she was in Halifax in 1895. It is hard to tell if this is an accurate detail or if Hill created it, or if LMM was revising her usual comments [If anyone finds a clipping from an 1895 Halifax paper about an orphan delivery mistake, let us know!]

JOURNAL ENTRY ABOUT ORPHAN MISTAKE

Montgomery's August 1907 journal text invites us to consider 1894-95 as the time when she got the idea of the orphan mistake, but she re-copied her journals around 1919 and she could have re-written that entry. The interview in 1908 could not be edited retroactively and puts the notebook date closer to 1892. This matches the timing for a relevant event that took place just a few hundred yards down the road from LMM's homestead that year.

Her neighbors, Pierce and Rachael Woolner Macneill, [applied for an orphan boy](#) from England, although the children were born in [Nova Scotia](#), who would travel from Halifax to Cavendish [Rachael was the first cousin of LMM's mother, Pierce was her grandfather's first cousin].

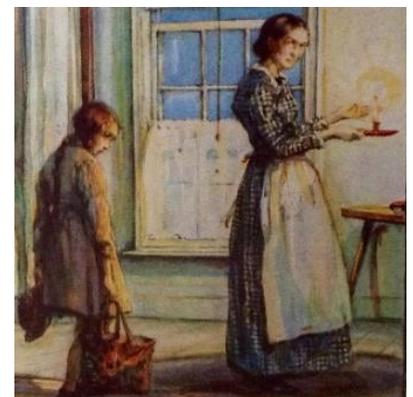
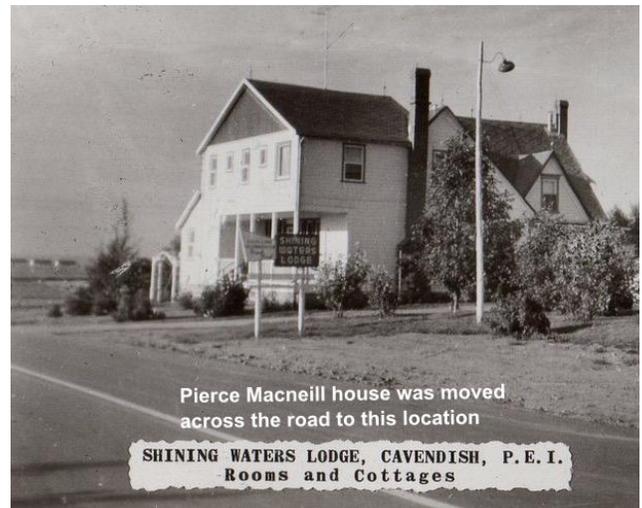
On 22 September 1892, Pierce drove his buggy to the train station in Hunter River to pick up the boy but he returned to Cavendish with a small girl instead. Her older brother, age five, had arrived with her but they were separated because he was assigned to go home with another neighbor -- she cried all the way to her new home (but she did grow up happy and loved).

Montgomery acknowledges this event in her journal on 27 January 1911 (but seldom repeats it in interviews in later years):

"The idea of getting a child from an orphan asylum was suggested to me years ago...by the fact that Pierce Macneill got a little girl from one, and I jotted it down in my notebook." The neighbors got a little girl when they thought they were getting a boy.

L.M. Montgomery became irritated by people trying to ascribe the identity of Anne to people she knew. She made it clear in 1911 that the idea for the plot point was rooted in her community, but thereafter she emphasized that Anne was her creation. Elizabeth Epperly: "Montgomery took a mishap or mistake and capitalized on it for a great story beginning. Only a beginning! All that followed was so much more than any single kernel of an idea."

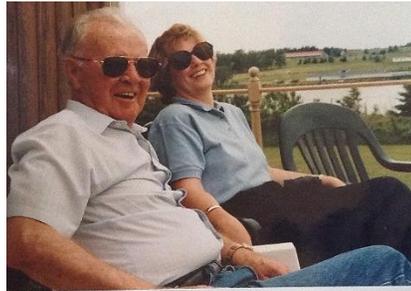
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We are the [L.M. Montgomery Literary Society](#), an international group of readers and fans of the author of *Anne of Green Gables*. We began in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota region of the US but are informally affiliated with several other groups and individuals in Canada and around the world. Over the last 25 years 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), [The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario](#) (Leaskdale, Ontario), [The L.M. Montgomery Heritage Society](#) (Norval, Ontario), [The Bala Museum](#) (Bala/Muskoka, Ontario), and more Montgomery [museum and historical](#) sites on Prince Edward Island. We also collaborate with the research group [L.M. Montgomery Online](#). We encourage readers to support these groups too!

For readers using digital devices: many photos are hyperlinked.



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