

# *The SHINING SCROLL*

*Newsletter of the  
L.M. Montgomery Literary Society  
Summer 1998*

*Founded in 1991  
By Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson*

*From To a Fringed Gentian*

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



**In memoriam, Carol Gaboury**

Carol Gaboury, a member of the LMM Literary Society for eight years, died suddenly in early July. Although Carol lived in eastern Wisconsin, she faithfully kept in touch with our group's news and interests. A fan of L. M. Montgomery since she was "Anne's age," Carol had made several trips to Prince Edward Island and had collected books, articles, pictures, and other items related to Montgomery and her work since 1975. She also corresponded regularly with many other people interested in Montgomery (including Wilda Clark for 15 years) and always knew what was going on in the world of L. M. Montgomery. Carol was a frequent contributor in the original *Kindred Spirits (of Vermont) Newsletter* in the late 1980s. She compiled book lists and sources for book orders before Montgomery's books were reprinted and became widely available, she wrote a review of *The Blue Castle*, her favorite book, and a review of Sullivan Productions films. She wrote an essay, "L.M. Montgomery -- Poet," and, in response to a reader's question, provided a copy of the 1942 *Saturday Night* article about LMM's last poem, "The Piper." She was cited in the Genevieve Wiggins 1992 biography, *L.M. Montgomery*, for identifying the origin of Montgomery's "keynote of ambition" - *To a Fringed Gentian* (the last verse is printed above):

"Carol Gaboury reports the source of the poem to be the March 1884 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, where it was part of a continued story, "Tam, the Story of a Woman," by Ella Rodman Church and Augusta De Bubna."

In 1996, she and her husband Jim made a special trip to the Twin Cities in order for her to present a program to our Literary Society. In the summer of 1995, they had traveled to PEI so that Carol could attend an Elderhostel program at the University of PEI on L. M. Montgomery. Carol brought scrapbooks, pictures, and a report on the Elderhostel to our group. She also graciously shared with us a videotape, "The Road to Green Gables," aired by the Canadian Broadcasting Company about 20 years ago. Carol had spent many hours looking for it and making arrangements to order it from the CBC. It was a delightful and informative portrait of Montgomery and our members very much appreciated the opportunity to view it. Carol will be truly missed, not only as a wonderful and enthusiastic source of information about LMM, but also as a kind and generous person.

## TRIBUTE TO WILDA CLARK

© Jack Hutton

In almost every issue of *The Shining Scroll*, we have mentioned Wilda Clark of Uxbridge, Ontario. Wilda has been a good friend of Carol Gaboury for many years. It is fitting that this issue celebrates both women whose love of L.M. Montgomery brought them true friendships. Jack Hutton wrote the following article about the annual LMM celebration that he and his wife, Linda, organized at their museum in the resort town of Bala, Ontario this summer:



Leaskdale Manse and new fence.

"This is our annual anniversary celebration, which includes a re-enactment of L.M. Montgomery arriving in Bala on July 24th, 1922, with Ewan and the two boys. That is all going to happen again. The important thing to us, however, is that we are going to pay tribute to Wilda Clark, who has done more to honour the memory of Lucy Maud Montgomery over the past four decades than anyone else in Ontario.

Wilda, now 84, lobbied the Ontario government in the early 1960's like a terrier, pointing out to a series of government bureaucrats that Maud lived almost half of her life in Ontario and that the bulk of her 22 books were written in this province. Eleven of the books (including *The Blue Castle*) were written during the 15 years that Maud lived in the Presbyterian manse at Leaskdale.

Thanks to Wilda, there has been a blue and gold historical marker on Highway 12, northeast of Toronto, ever since the middle of 1965. The marker points the way to Leaskdale where there is a larger historical plaque standing outside the former manse.

Wilda was also responsible for the Town of Uxbridge (which is just below the far smaller Leaskdale) buying the manse in 1993 for the purposes of a museum honouring L.M. Montgomery. Soon after that, the federal government recognized the manse as a heritage site.

Last year, Wilda and a first-rate local committee conducted tours through the museum and got rave reviews for the depth of their knowledge and the exhibits. Linda and I went through with April Watson and found it an exhilarating experience which taught us a lot.

Things have been in a state of flux for the last little while as the Town of Uxbridge, the federal government and a mixture of local committees decide what comes next. There are plans for a world-class historical tourist attraction that will eventually combine the museum and an interpretative centre at the nearby Uxbridge-Scott Museum. The long-term price tag is \$2 million, with the federal government contributing up to one half.

No one knows exactly what is coming next, but the bottom line is that none of this would have happened -- the historical signs which went up 34 years ago, the recent purchase of the manse, or any other plans -- without the tenacious leadership of Wilda Clark over many, many years. I spent more than two hours with Wilda last week at her Uxbridge home, pouring over her seven scrapbooks and a wealth of other memorabilia, and it is obvious that Wilda has almost literally been living with Lucy Maud Montgomery for virtually her entire lifetime."

**Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands** was the title of the international conference and literary festival sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island on June 24-28, 1998. Some of the L. M. Montgomery papers were: "Iconography of Islands: Margaret Atwood and L.M. Montgomery," "The Landscapes in L.M. Montgomery's *Selected Journals*," "From Fairy Tale to Prairie Tale: *The Blue Castle* and *A Jest of God*," "Walter's Closet," "Utopia Awry: L.M. Montgomery's *Emily* Trilogy and the Aftermath of the Great War." The presentation, "Montgomery's Island in the Net: Metaphor and Community on the Kindred Spirits E-mail List," can be read at this website:

<http://noisy.oise.utoronto.ca/conferences/ks>

The next conference is **L.M. Montgomery and Popular Culture**, June 29 - July 2, 2000.



Anna Macdonald, Maureen and George Campbell, Dr. F.W.P Bolger, John and Jennie Macneill are recognized for their contributions to LMM history by the Department of Canadian Heritage at the official re-opening of Green Gables on June 29, 1998. (photo by Beth Cavert)

## New Books

- ◆ A new book on LMM is scheduled to be available this fall. *The Complete Lucy Maud Montgomery Album* (1998, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 500 pp.) is written and collected by Kevin McCabe, co-editor of *The Poetry of Lucy Maud Montgomery* (1987, Fitzhenry and Whiteside). **The LMM Album** includes a complete overview of Montgomery's life, including new material on her writings, education and career. In addition, **The LMM Album** explores the "afterlife" of Montgomery; how popular culture has interpreted her work and in what ways interest in her books has influenced tourism, academics and networks of fans. McCabe has also collected essays by scholars of LMM including members of the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton (in Ontario) and the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society here in Minnesota.
- ◆ Another beautiful new book on Lucy Maud Montgomery and her 1926 novel, *The Blue Castle*, was published this summer. *Lucy Maud Montgomery and Bala: A Love Story of the North Woods* was written by Jack Hutton and Linda Jackson-Hutton. *The Blue Castle* was inspired by a 1922 holiday which LMM's (Macdonald) family took in Bala, Muskoka. This book tells the story behind the novel and how Jack and Linda bought the old tourist home where the Macdonald's visited and turned it into Bala's Museum. It is 84 pages long in a coffee table format with an early century postcard cover of a watercolor painting depicting a stunning sunset over the Bala Falls and Musquosh River. To order it, contact the Huttons at Box 14, Bala, Ontario, Canada, P0C 1A0 or 705-762-5876 or e-mail [balamus@muskoka.com](mailto:balamus@muskoka.com).
- ◆ Volume 4 of *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery* will be available in October, 1998.

## ***ANNE is not just for girls!***

Robin Rosensteel, a fourth-grade teacher from Connecticut, visited the Montgomery Museum this summer and shared the following story with Carolyn:

Tate was a popular boy in my fourth grade class six years ago. Not only was he an outstanding athlete, he was a gifted reader and writer as well. When I announced to the class that the book we would soon begin to read was *Anne of Green Gables*, Tate scowled.

Two weeks later as I gave each student his or her own copy of *Anne*, Tate graciously accepted his and said kindly, "When you said we'd be reading *Anne of Green Gables*, I thought I wouldn't like it because it was a 'girls' story, so I started reading it ahead of time to prove to you that I wasn't going to like it ... and do you know what?? I REALLY like it!"

Tate's remark that day won the boys in the class over in Anne's favor and they laughed openly as Anne smashed her slate, they giggled as Diana became intoxicated, and they grieved as Matthew died.

Each year when I announce that we'll be reading *Anne*, I watch the boys scowl and squirm just as Tate did that year. Then I tell those boys Tate's story and how much that popular, smart, and athletic boy loved *Anne*. And suddenly it's acceptable for the boys to enjoy and love *Anne* as much as the girls.

This past year, just two weeks after we started reading *Anne* again, just after I shared Tate's story with the boys, Tate, almost sixteen, was killed in a car accident.

Tate, the charming boy who made it safe for boys to love *Anne* and her antics as much as the girls, was gone, but the powerful legacy he left in my classroom shall live on: "*Anne is not just for girls!*"



## The Woolners

© by Mary Beth Cavert

The name Woolner is one that students of Lucy Maud Montgomery will recognize. It is the maiden name of Maud's grandmother, Lucy Ann Woolner Macneill, and the middle name of her mother, Clara Woolner Macneill. The Woolners came to PEI in 1836 from Dunwich, England when Lucy Woolner was twelve years old. She had four sisters and five brothers. All of them were born in England except for the youngest daughter (b. 1836) and youngest son, named Frederic, who was born on PEI in 1842.

Frederic's son, Benjamin, married Ella Brown from New Glasgow and they had seven children. Ben was known as the strongest man in North Rustico and owned the first truck in the area in 1917.

Some of the Woolner family now live in Minnesota (during the winter!) and spend their summers at their family homes in North Rustico, Prince Edward Island. Ben's son, Dr. Lewis B. Woolner was raised on PEI and lives in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Woolner and LMM had grandparents who were siblings, which makes them second cousins. He is a retired surgical pathologist on the emeritus staff of the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester and author of books on surgical methods. His son is a doctor in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Woolners live at least two miles away from their nearest neighbors on their farmland overlooking North Rustico Harbour. It is about a mile away from the 500-acre farm where Robert Woolner settled in 1836.



Lewis and Laura Woolner

(photo by Beth Cavert)

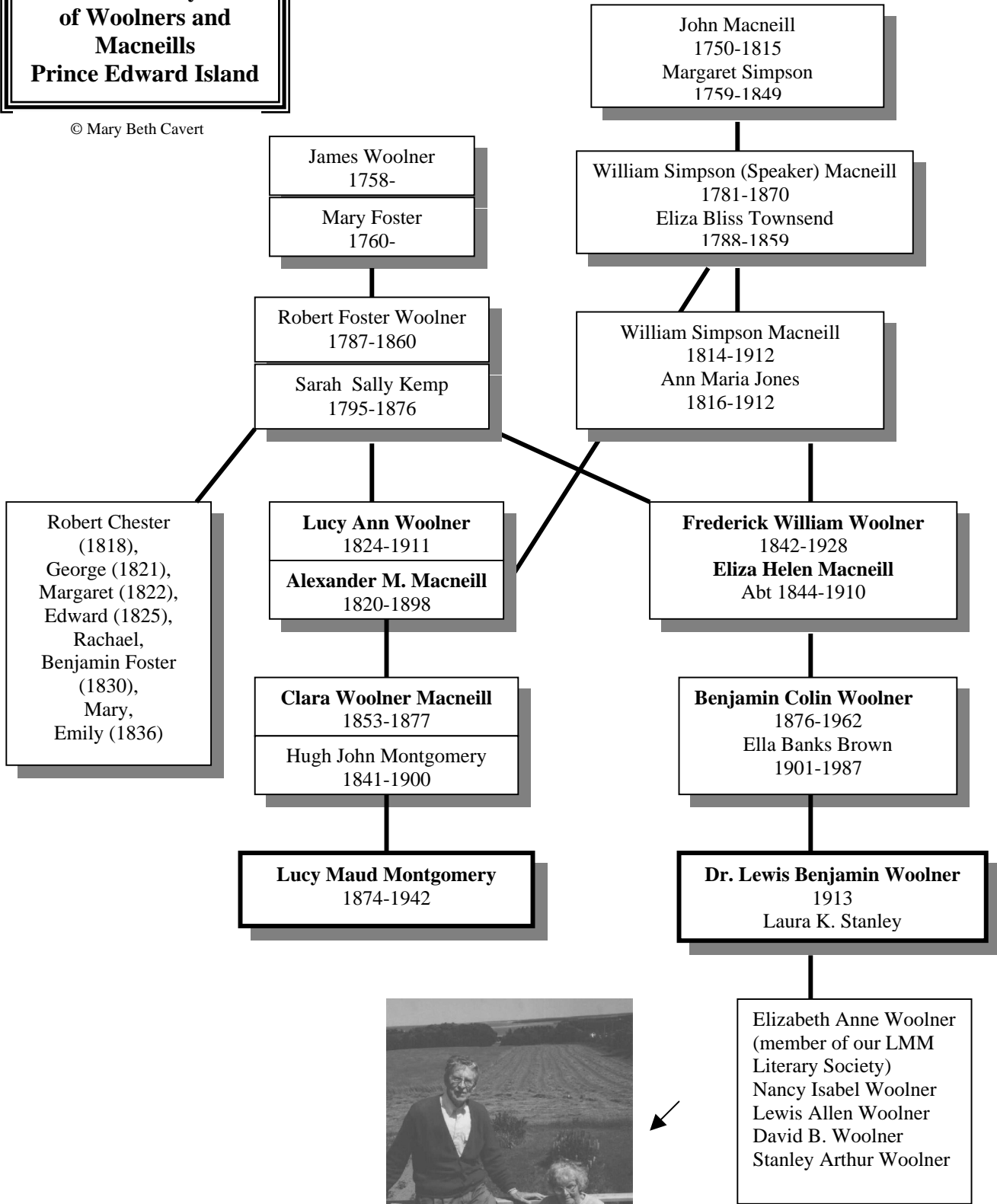
Other Woolners that readers of Montgomery's journals may recognize are Margaret Woolner and George Woolner. Aunt Margaret (Lucy Woolner Macneill's sister), who lived to be 96 years old, was a dear person to Maud. She wrote to her when she went on her honeymoon and visited Margaret's childhood home.

Margaret's children, Toff, Hammond and Tillie MacKenzie, were friends of LMM. Montgomery dedicated her fifth book, *The Chronicles of Avonlea*, to Tillie MacKenzie Houston. Margaret and Lucy's brother, George Woolner, was the grandfather of Pierce Macneill's wife, Rachael Woolner, who lived next to the "Green Gables" farm. They adopted a child named Ellen.

Elizabeth Anne Woolner is a member of our literary society and spends her summers in Rustico. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Music degree in voice and earned a Master Degree in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory.

**Selected Family Tree  
of Woolners and  
Macneills  
Prince Edward Island**

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In the **THE LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY ALBUM** (compiled by Kevin McCabe and edited by Alexandra Heilbron, 1999, Fitzhenry and Whiteside Ltd.), Kevin McCabe wrote a chapter titled, "A Life Less Happy." Since space was limited in that ambitious edition, only parts of the chapter were published. Kevin has given us permission to print his essay in its entirety. The italicized portions were included in the Album.

## THE DILEMMA OF BEING MAUD

© by Dr. Kevin McCabe

*Readers of Montgomery's journals may well be surprised by a dramatic change of tone as the author reaches her mid twenties. The number of light playful episodes declines sharply, and there is a marked increase in complaint, criticism, regret, and disillusion. This rather sudden transition represents some genuine changes and decisions in Maud's life, but it is a little difficult to sum up briefly the causes behind this trend. They are complex and even contradictory. Some educated guesses may be ventured, but, with a person as complicated as Montgomery, it is likely that some factors may elude us.*

After her return from Prince Albert, Montgomery appreciated her ties to Prince Edward Island and the Cavendish community more than ever. The following year Maud received a further sense of direction when she began to prepare for the entrance exams to Prince of Wales College. This year of study, followed by teachers' college, then her first year of teaching at Bideford all fitted well into a pattern which on the whole was very satisfactory for her. These years were, generally speaking, quite happy ones for Maud, combining academic and organizational challenges, plentiful social life, a measure of literary recognition, and a new degree of personal freedom. Next came her year at Dalhousie University which was perhaps less satisfactory, with respect to personal freedom and social success, but which nonetheless had some academic and literary compensations. But the year which followed in Belmont (1896-97) Maud was to call later (1910) "the hardest I ever lived" (SJ I 391). Nor did subsequent years greatly improve on it. We can look at least at some factors, which made that year and the ones that followed difficult for Maud.

*With the advantage of hindsight, we may wonder whether Montgomery made a mistake in leaving Bideford to attend Dalhousie in 1895. She had been happy there, and had even felt homesick for Bideford during her holidays in Cavendish. Having begun fresh out of teachers' college, she had learned the art of teaching, and at the end of her year, her pupils were very reluctant to see her leave. In spite of her complaints about the condition of the schoolhouse, and the inactivity of the school trustees, Maud seems to have impressed the educational authorities there: "Last night they had their annual school meeting. All expressed regret at my resignation and said if I stayed they would vote me a higher supplement" (UPJ July 19, 1895). Montgomery had been very blessed in finding such a congenial environment for her first position, and she was not to be so favoured again.*

In leaving Bideford for Dalhousie Montgomery was in fact "crossing the Rubicon". She was putting her literary aspirations ahead of her teaching career. *Her chief reasons for going to university were to develop her literary skills and to check whether there might be journalistic opportunities in Halifax.* (These finally materialized with her year on the Halifax "Daily Echo" in 1901-02). *She also hoped (vainly, as it turned out) that university study would improve her chances for a good teaching position.*

All this raises the question whether or not Maud would have been wiser to stick to teaching for the meanwhile, and not push her literary hopes to the exclusion of other options. Perhaps it was not in Maud to set her ambitions aside. *Nonetheless, by clearly making writing her priority she seems to have somewhat prejudiced herself against further teaching. Her teaching year in Belmont was so radically different from the*

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*Bideford year, that it is hard to attribute all the differences to the situation alone. Maud had changed too. In one sense her year at university had overqualified her for elementary school teaching, and perhaps it had made her too conscious of this. In any case, her very first entry regarding Belmont and the Belmont school contains a number of negative reflections (Oct. 21, 1896).*

*Regarding the community itself she says, "Belmont is a rather pretty place, owing to the bay scenery but I have a creepy, crawly presentiment that the natives as a general thing are not too pleasing" (SJ I 163). In the same entry, speaking of the children, she adds: "...I find the children terribly backward. They are a scrubby lot of urchins, too, and I don't believe I shall ever like them very well. Most of them come from rather poor homes." Her next day's entry shows a further hardening of these sentiments: "There are only two mails a week in this forsaken place. How letters cheer one up when one is a stranger in a strange land, grubbing away for a living in a dead-and-alive country district like this! I loved teaching in Bideford but I do not believe I shall ever like it here!" (SJ I 165) While Montgomery is known to express herself very emphatically in her journals, the suggestion that she had come to Belmont with a (perhaps unconscious) prejudice against it (or against teaching) comes to mind.*

At Belmont she further developed the habit which would persist all her life of compensating for unpleasant external circumstances by immersing herself (as much as possible) in her writing and literary ambitions. She was girding up her loins to produce literary work in spite of adverse conditions: "This morning I sat resolutely down to write some verses. I am not surrounded by a poetical atmosphere at present but I forced myself to do it..." (UPJ Oct. 28, 1896). *It was at Belmont that she began her practice of rising early in the morning to do some writing, which seems to be the beginning of her daily "stint", something she would do for the rest of her life:* "As usual this morning I wrote an hour before going to school. My brain is too weary for literary work after the wear and tear of school hours, so I give my morning freshness to it, scrambling out of bed at seven o'clock..." (UPJ Nov. 13, 1896). Hereafter, Montgomery would normally find time for daily writing, usually in the morning, but adjusting the time to her circumstances. When Maud was a newspaperwoman in Halifax, for example, she found that the best time to write was in the intervals of her office work.

Montgomery liked neither the boarding house where she stayed (near the school with Simon Fraser and wife), nor the school itself. At school, she had the extra work of preparing Marie Monro (and later Edmund Campbell) for their entrance exams to Prince of Wales. Both her room at the Frasers and the school itself were unusually cold in winter: "There ought to be a society for the prevention of cruelty to school teachers, especially in the matter of icy rooms and cold schools. I wonder that every drop of blood in my veins hasn't turned to ice long ago" (UPJ Jan. 25, 1897).

Montgomery had been given the school at Belmont partly on the recommendation of her second cousin Edwin Simpson (his grandfather had married Maud's great-aunt), who was leaving the position to go to university. (This may well have suggested Gilbert Blythe's intervention on Anne's behalf in AGG). She stayed there at first at the Simpson house and got to know Edwin's brothers Fulton, Alfred, and Burton. (She had known Edwin for some time, as he and Lem McLeod had been rivals for her attentions at Park Corner). There was rivalry too at Belmont between Fulton and Alfred for the privilege of driving Maud around the countryside, and Fulton became very jealous of his more favoured brother. In November, partly out of boredom, Maud started corresponding with Edwin at university.

If the original sorrow of Montgomery's life was the loss of her mother before Maud was two, the second great sorrow was her relationship with Edwin Simpson. On February 1, 1897, Montgomery received a letter from Simpson telling her that he loved her, and wanted to marry her. Maud was very surprised for whatever courting they had done had



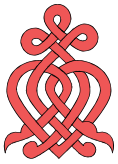
lapsed for several years. She responded that she had never thought of Edwin that way, and that if he wanted an answer at once it would be "no". As time passed, Maud began to think that Edwin might not be such a bad choice. She was somewhat despondent with her situation at Belmont and wondered whether marriage might not solve some of her difficulties: "Ed was clever; he was studying for one of the learned professions and consequently his wife would have a good social position and a life in accordance with my tastes. He had no bad habits or traits of character. Above all and in my lonely life this carried great weight he loved me" (SJ I 187). When Ed returned to Belmont in June, Maud was, therefore, disposed to accept his proposal, which he made without delay on June 8th. Almost immediately, however, now that she was with Edwin on a regular basis, she began to have doubts about the wisdom of her decision. She soon found that whatever good qualities he might have, she did not like to be close to him, and certainly did not love him. All her old misgivings about "Simpsonishness" (the "Sloanishness" of the Anne books) revived, and she developed a heightened awareness of his posturing, self-conceit, and nervous energy. She was greatly relieved when he left Belmont before the end of the month.

The relationship produced a goodly measure of self-doubt and anxiety in Maud. She wondered how she could have made such a mistake, and she was not clear how to deal with it. Her embarrassment made it difficult to break off the engagement, and she confesses her own cowardice at approaching this awkward subject. In journal entries for June 30th and October 7th of 1897 Maud views her engagement as the end of her happy girlhood. She was now face to face with making difficult decisions about her future life. Could she marry a man she didn't love for the sake of a respectable situation in life? She didn't think so, but the alternatives were neither very clear nor very appealing. It was in this state of uneasiness that she began her third teaching position at Lower Bedeque in October 1897.

*Her five months or so at Lower Bedeque began rather auspiciously. Maud boarded with a pleasant family, the Cornelius Leards, whose son Al she was replacing as schoolteacher while he was at college. (Once again Ed Simpson had intervened on her behalf). The parents were kind to her, and their oldest daughter Helen provided Maud with good companionship. She was attracted to the "magnetic blue eyes" of the older son Herman, whom she at first otherwise found "insignificant looking", and also liked the younger son Calvin "and I pet and mother him at all times" (SJ I 203).*

*The school too was a happy contrast to Belmont with only fourteen pupils, although a couple of them were advanced students preparing for college. The children were agreeable, and local people generally were sociable, and the young people fun to be with. Herman Leard too was jolly and full of fun. This did not, however, prepare Maud for the night, only three weeks after her arrival there, when, driving home together from the Baptist Young People's Union, "Herman leaned over, passed his arm about me and, with a subtly caressing movement, drew my head down on his shoulder" (SJ I 209). From that time on, Herman had Maud in his spell, and her developing passion for him was to be the strongest amatory sensation that she would ever feel.*

Courtship, in Maud's day, often took place when a young man drove a young woman around to church meetings (midweek prayer meetings, revival services, young people's meetings, etc.) and evening social events. The girls had to choose whom they would ride with, and thus there was considerable rivalry among the boys for the favour. As a schoolteacher away from home, Maud was especially dependent upon local young men to squire her around. At Bideford Lewis Dystant had this honour, and developed a heavy crush on Maud in the process. In Belmont it had been Alf Simpson (Edwin's brother) whom Montgomery liked quite well (thereby causing another Simpson brother Fulton agonies of jealousy). Now in Bedeque Herman Leard had the privilege, but now, for the first time (Maud tells us), her own emotions were deeply involved.



As a young single attractive woman away from home, Maud would naturally receive attention from the young men of the area. In a small town, new arrivals are generally the focus of interest. Maud herself was not indifferent to the notice she was paid, and was beginning to think seriously about marriage, a home, and a family. The reasons that had led her to become engaged to Edwin Simpson persisted long after that unfortunate relationship. She stipulated to herself, however, that the man must be at least her social equal, and have intellectual and literary interests similar to her own.

Montgomery was often reserved among company that she was not comfortable with, and sometimes gave the suggestion that she was not interested in intimate relations with a man. Unlike many other young people, for example, she avoided kissing games (SJ I 135). Her young cousin Kennedy (Leander's son), who spent his summers on the old homestead with Maud during the Cavendish years, later remarked: "I could never imagine Maudie in bed with a man" (MG PC). This defensive reserve was reinforced by Montgomery's high personal, social, and moral standards. But, while it is probably true that Montgomery did not have a particularly strong sex drive, she had a normal interest in the opposite sex, and was perhaps, because of the absence of close family ties, vulnerable to an appeal for intimacy. Yet, like other young women of the time, she had to be very circumspect in her relationships, as any suspicion of laxity would damage a woman's marriage prospects. There was the cautionary example of her schoolmate Mamie Simpson who had been the subject of too much gossip, had left Cavendish, and ended up as a prostitute in Boston (SJ II 349).

Yet there were also forces pulling her in the opposite direction. Her professional interests in teaching and writing did not provide a lot of immediate gratification, and often left her feeling uncertain about the future. Her years of being courted by a string of young men, ending with the very unsatisfactory impasse with Edwin Simpson, had raised her anticipation of married life, without doing anything to satisfy it. As a boarder far from home she was not receiving the normal validation from family and old friends, and was looking elsewhere for emotional satisfaction. She was indeed often staying in the same house as the objects of her interest (Alf Simpson, Herman Leard) which allowed much more opportunity for close relations. Moreover, in her desperation to escape from her engagement to Ed Simpson, it is not unlike that (at least subconsciously) she welcomed Herman's attentions as a way of counteracting Edwin's claims on her.

Montgomery regularly compares and contrasts Simpson and Leard, and rarely thinks of one without thinking of the other. It may be that her relationship with Herman gave her at last the strength and determination to finally break off her engagement. Yet it also made her interest in Herman seem more sordid and less possible to fulfill. Her unwillingness to talk about her engagement to anybody may have contributed to her lack of communication with Herman (who knew that she was engaged but nothing more). Moreover, she could contrast Herman negatively to Edwin in relation to intellectual and literary skills, and social position. The reasons which had led to her engagement to Edwin were totally lacking when it came to Herman. Perhaps the whole idea of engagement and marriage had lost a lot of its glow for her, and Maud just wanted to put it out of her mind. Since we only have Maud's side of the Montgomery-Leard relationship, and since Maud and Herman never talked at any length about their feelings, it is difficult to get a reading on how Herman thought of her. Given Montgomery's distracted state of mind at the time, it is, however, a tribute to her moral upbringing that she was able to resist Herman's propositions at such a time.

If the advent of Herman helped to get Edwin out of her life, *the sudden death of Maud's grandfather Alexander Macneill on March 5, 1898 helped to get Montgomery away from Lower Bedeque and Herman Leard. Maud's affection for her grandfather had been*

*somewhat guarded, for he had often made her the butt of his rough jocular remarks, and had denied many of her childhood desires, such as her longing for bangs. Nonetheless his death was a shock to her, and left Maud in the position of caring for her aging grandmother.* It did, however, provide adequate reason for her to leave Bedeque, where her relationship with Herman was becoming more of a torture than a pleasure. She had resolved to break it off, but found it impossible to keep the resolution when she was in such close proximity to him.

*Yet, to return to Cavendish was not an unmixed blessing. Her grandfather's will had left his farm to Uncle John who had never liked Maud, and would not be doing anything to help her: "He willed his forty-acre farm to John Franklin [Macneill] with the provision that he pay one hundred dollars to each of his two sisters, Annie (Mrs. John Campbell), and Emily, widow of John Montgomery. He left the buildings, household effects, monies, and mortgage on the John F. Macneill property to his wife Lucy Woolner Macneill" (TYBA 85). It meant not only that Maud and her grandmother would have to watch their finances, as their only regular income would be from the post office in the house, but that there was no provision for Maud when her grandmother died, as the homestead would pass to Uncle John Macneill. This uncertainty about the future was a cloud over Maud's later Cavendish years and provided a strong incentive both to consider marriage to a likely suitor, and to pursue her literary career with an eye to supplementing her income.*



*With this in mind, she made one last stab at a journalistic career in Halifax with the "Daily Echo" from September 1901 to June 1902. Lottie Shatford had recommended her for the job which included clipping out and mailing editorials to interested parties, lots of proofreading, editing a page of "society letters", and writing a weekly column "Around the Table". She was also called upon for other assignments, such as giving advertisers a free write-up on their holiday goods, or writing a new ending for a story when the compositors lost the copy. On the whole, Montgomery found that she could handle the journalistic routines, but did she suffer from homesickness, bad colds, and the lack of empathetic friends. In an "Around the Table" column she comments negatively on boarding houses, and her salary was not sufficient to rent an apartment or a house (as Anne and her friends do in AOTI). Although Montgomery could have stayed on at the "Echo" she decided to return to Cavendish, as she felt that her grandmother was not being properly cared for in her absence (SJ I 282). Her own homesickness and lack of congenial company may have been further factors. She must have expressed to Ephraim Weber some discontents with Halifax, while detailing her joy on returning to Cavendish, for, in a lost letter written around June 1902, he congratulates her on leaving her boarding house and "grimy Halifax" (TGGL 17).*

*Apart from these nine months in Halifax, Maud did not leave Cavendish for any length of time from April 1898 till after her grandmother's death on March 5, 1911. This rather enforced stay-at-home period may have somewhat dimmed the charms of Cavendish in Maud's eyes, or at least it may seem so from her journals. It should be remembered, however, that the journals serve the special purpose of being a repository for all her discontents and grumps, and should not always be taken as the full story of her life. Her young cousin Kennedy Macneill remembers these Cavendish years as being very happy ones, and gives a portrait of Grandmother Macneill very different from the one familiar to readers of the journals (TWOT 134, 615). Nonetheless for a young woman of Maud's energies and enthusiasms the ties to the old homestead did often chafe. It was particularly upsetting that she was unable to get into Charlottetown or visit out of town friends and family without great difficulty. Nor did any of Grandmother Macneill's children and grandchildren volunteer to give Maud a holiday from her duties.*

There were, however, more than a few compensations, and, her letters to her favourite correspondents Weber and MacMillan give a cheerier picture of her life at this time than do the journals. Her correspondence was itself a great pleasure to her. Ephraim Weber

began to write to her early in 1902, and George Boyd MacMillan in late 1903. Both correspondences lasted her lifetime and were an ongoing source of pleasure, and a great outlet for her emotional life. She was able to indulge in her old favourite activities, such as evening walks in Lover's Lane, sea-bathing on the Cawnpore shore, gardening and apple-picking, and her great hobby photography.

Part of Maud's feeling of isolation was that her close relationships with childhood friends had lapsed. When Pensie Macneill was married in 1898, she didn't even mention the fact to Maud. And it was difficult to discover new friends in Cavendish. For 1902-03 Montgomery found a friend in Nora Lefurgey, who was the new Cavendish schoolteacher. Even this relationship was somewhat soured by Grandmother Macneill's obvious impatience with new company (SJ I 288). In her later years at Cavendish Maud found friends in Tillie Houston and Margaret Ross Stirling among others. But there was no return of the round of entertainments and good social times which she had enjoyed as a teenager.

Further feelings of isolation were caused by the deaths of many people which she cared for during this period. Her favourite boyfriend from Prince Albert Will Pritchard died April 2, 1897. Her grandfather died the following year. The next summer Herman Leard died, ensuring that the great flame of her life would not revive. More traumatic still was the death of her father on January 16, 1900. *Now she was indeed an orphan, alone in the world, except for her grandmother. No wonder that so many of her heroines were orphans, for she deeply identified with their situation.* In 1906, Penzie Macneill died of tuberculosis. Maud's visit to her a month before she died may have suggested the scene in which Anne visits a dying Ruby Gillis in AOTI. Other friends and relatives also departed the scene, including Maud's hospitable Aunt Mary McIntyre on New Year's Day 1909.

Maud's Cavendish life, besides visits from relatives, especially Uncle Leander and his family, included the usual round of church activities. Rather reluctantly, Montgomery became involved as organist, choir leader, and Sunday School teacher. This did, however, allow her to get to know the new minister Ewan Macdonald who served at Cavendish from 1903 to 1906, the year in which they became engaged, and Ewan left to pursue further studies in Scotland. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Cavendish Literary Society, asking her correspondents Weber and MacMillan for contributions to the annual literary magazine. She was also, very naturally, an ardent borrower from their library.

But most of Maud's time and effort during these years involved her writing activities. By persisting in her daily "stint", she produced an amazing quantity of verse, stories, and articles, which allowed her to realize an ever-increasing income. This pattern, which remained relatively unchanged for many years, took a new turn with the publication of "Anne of Green Gables" in 1908, and its subsequent success. A complete change came in 1911 with the death of Grandmother Macneill, Maud's departure from the old homestead, her marriage to Ewan Macdonald, the honeymoon in Great Britain, and finally her relocation in Leaskdale, Ontario, where she would spend the next fourteen and a half years.



## Anne "Day-Camp"

"A Day by the Lake of Shining Waters -- the Anne of Green Gables Treasury Experience" was inaugurated this summer at the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum in Park Corner, PEI. Hosted by Carolyn Strom Collins, co-author of the Treasury, participants could spend most of the day indulging their love for all things Anne -- sipping Anne's favorite Raspberry Cordial, making a flower-bedecked straw hat as Anne did, touring the two museums in Park Corner devoted to Montgomery, re-enacting the famous "Lady Elaine" scene from Anne of Green Gables, picnicking by the Lake of Shining Waters, making paper-lace and ribbon ornaments, and sharing afternoon tea, complete with home-made Monkeyface Cookies.

One of the outbuildings on the grounds of the Montgomery Heritage Museum served as the home for the event. With the help of Robert Montgomery, his son Corey, and Mary Beth Cavert, the small barn was converted into a corner of Anne's world that included garlands of roses and buttercups, and artifacts related to the Anne books such as Pansy books, an early edition of Ben Hur like the one Anne was caught reading in school, willowware platters, a rose-bud tea set, household tools like those Anne and the Cuthberts would have used at Green Gables, antique lace-trimmed aprons and linens, a wash-bowl and pitcher for washing our hands as Anne did -- and, for good measure, a cracked school slate! Nearby, a painted sign titled "The Alpine Path" pointed the way through the Montgomery woodland to the Lake of Shining Waters.

Carolyn reports that, even with little publicity, there was a great deal of interest in the program (nicknamed "Anne Day-Camp") and plans to offer it again next summer.



### Gog and Magog Replicas

The long-awaited miniature replicas of Gog and Magog, the Montgomery china dogs that LMM included in the Anne books, are now available.

A cooperative effort between the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum and Cavendish Figurines, the three-inch figurines are exact duplicates of the larger original figurine on display at the Museum in Park Corner. They are made on Prince Edward Island with Island clay and are painstakingly hand-painted by the wonderful artists at Cavendish Figurines, widely known as the premier company specializing in the highest quality collectible Anne figurines.

Gog and Magog are available as salt-and-pepper shakers or as figurines (without the holes on top!). Contact Carolyn Collins at 651/644-0058 for ordering information.

This interview was saved in one of LMM's (Ontario) scrapbooks and is reproduced here as it appeared in *Hamilton Spectator*, November 21, 1924.

## Thinks Modern Flapper Will Be Strict Mother

L.M. Montgomery, Canadian Writer, Discusses Foibles of  
Present-Day Youth - Expresses Disgust With Super-  
Heated Fiction, and Predicts Its Passing

A distinguished guest in Hamilton, for a few hours last evening, was Mrs. McDonald, better known as Miss L.M. Montgomery. Mrs. McDonald is known all over the continent and indeed in Europe, too for her delightful series of Anne Books. The eminent author was the guest of the Canadian Business Women's club, before which organization she spoke.

Often when a woman carves for herself a definite and very prominent place in the world or art, literature or the various professions, the effort by which she has attained that position leaves a mark on her. Mrs. McDonald is an exception. When she graciously permitted the *Spectator* to interview her in her room at the Connaught, before dinner last evening, the interviewer found her an altogether delightful person - rather about medium height, and with thick hair, slightly graying, which she wore waved and coiled becomingly around her well-shaped head. Her face was unlined and she smiled easily, and to the reporter who had once fancied that the lovable Anne of Green Gables was none other than the author, she seemed indeed the embodiment of that wholesome, refreshing type of Prince Edward Island womanhood.

A delightful conversationalist, Mrs. McDonald chatted pleasantly about people, her work and things in general while she dressed for dinner.

"Was Anne of Green Gables a real girl - someone you really knew on Prince Edward Island?" the author was asked.

"No, Anne like all the characters in my books, was wholly imaginary, on my part, but none the less real to me," she replied. Anne of Green Gables was her first book, Mrs. McDonald stated, although for years previous to its publication, she had contributed many delightful little stories to magazines, papers and various juvenile publications.

Peg Bone, who thousands will remember as the old witch-like woman in the *Story Girl*, Mrs. McDonald said was the only character drawn from real life - and Peg was a

famous old character in a Prince Edward Island village.

When asked her opinion of the modern teen age girl - the ultra-modern young person who smoked and went everywhere unchaperoned, and who contrasted rather sadly with Anne of Green Gables, Mrs. McDonald defended the modern young girl. Anne, she said, was country girl, but she felt sure that there were just as many sweet girls of character today as in previous years. The modern "stepper," she thought, would pass; it was only a phase of the general loosening up which followed the war.

"Indeed, I think," she said, "that the modern flapper, with her fast pace, will make the strictest and best of mothers. She will probably keep her daughters confined in a convent to keep them safe! Every generation, you know, thinks that the present one is bound to perdition, while the scandalized ones were probably the despair of their own parents."

Speaking of the too popular sex novel of the present day which the young girl read, Mrs. McDonald admitted that it was not until the other day that she had read *Flaming Youth*, the most flagrant of the fast, "sexy" novels. She had been disgusted by it, for it neither pointed to a moral, nor had it any excuse for its existence, like some of the really great sex novels, such as Tolstoi wrote. This type of literature, too, she thought would pass. She spoke of the influx of disgusting literature which had flooded the restoration period of the Stuarts, which had been immediately followed by the prim, narrow literature of the Victorian period.

Mrs. McDonald's next book will be the second in the series of Emily books, which she is tentatively calling, *Emily Climbs*. In this book, Emily reaches flapperhood.

It was with surprise that one learned that Mrs. McDonald did not now live in her beloved Prince Edward Island, but now lived with her husband, a Presbyterian minister, and her two small sons, outside the village of Leaskdale, about 50 miles north of Toronto.

### 1997 meetings

The first meeting of the 1997-98 season of the L. M. Montgomery Literary Society was held October 10 at the St. Anthony Park Library. Kevin McCabe's paper on LMM's school days in Halifax was presented and photos of Society members' trips to Prince Edward Island and Canada in the last year were shared.

Our November meeting was an "Anne Christmas Tea" held at the home of Carolyn Collins, partly to celebrate the publication of Carolyn and Christina's *Anne of Green Gables Christmas Treasury* (1997, Viking Penguin) but mostly as a chance to get together and chat over tea and refreshments!

### 1998 meetings

- ◆ **October 9 - 3:00, at Aamodt's Apple Farm, Hwy 36 and 6428 Manning Ave. (go north), near Stillwater. Meet in the restaurant/bakery. The topic will be "LMM's English roots, The Woolner connections."**
  
- ◆ **November 20 - 3:00, tea at the home of Betty Heath - 11950 21<sup>st</sup> St. N. Lake Elmo. Phone 770-8063 for further directions and rsvp. Betty will be sharing her passion for collecting antiques, dolls, lace, needlework, books, etc. etc.**

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