



THE SHINING SCROLL

newsletter for the
L. M. Montgomery Literary Society
SUMMER 1995

founded in 1990 by
Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson



SOCIETY MEMBERS VISIT "MAUD-LAND"

Prince Edward Island

Jaimie Lavanger shares this account of her trip to PEI

On July 17, 1995, three generations of Lavanger ladies - Shirley, her daughter-in-law, Jaimie and Jaimie's daughter, Hadley Anne (with an 'e') - landed on PEI. Shirley and Jaimie both had read *Anne of Green Gables* as young girls, then re-read it as adults and enjoyed the 1985 movie version immensely. A pact was made to take Hadley to the magical land of Avonlea when she turned 10 years old. This summer was the fulfillment of that dream - three kindred spirits, 30 years between each, left Minneapolis to share the wonder of Prince Edward Island.

Share it we did - the magic of waking to the sound of the Gulf on the North Shore, taking in the scent of wild roses, and wild thyme under our feet, watching Queen Anne's Lace wave in the salt-kissed breezes and the sheer beauty of the land. We frequently gasped as we rounded each bend to see charming little farmhouses tucked into hillsides, each with a lovely cottage garden, bursting with roses, larkspur, hollyhocks and foxgloves (Anne would have called them fairy's thimbles - ever so much more romantic a name) --- or a lighthouse framed by rose-covered dunes and the sea beyond, --- or a stream rambling through hillsides of wildflowers, contented cows lazily nuzzling the rich green grass, and the red roads, Anne's red roads, leading to whitewashed country churches or a lake of shining waters.

We each had our own favorite memories - Shirley's was the proud Canadian flag flying from every farmhouse or cottage; Jaimie's was a birthday breakfast at Dalvay-by-the-Sea, the dining room windows awash in beautiful floral chintz, echoing the climbing roses outside; Hadley's was exploring Maud's childhood homesite and calling down the well.



We also shared many of the same thoughts - we felt Lucy Maud Montgomery's spirit the most at the site of her childhood home - the lovely tidy garden (could we even find a weed anywhere!); the poignant sight of her cherished apple tree supported by a wooden brace; the tablets sharing her own words about her beloved Island. We very much enjoyed all the "Anne" sights - the charming Green Gables house (doesn't everyone get goose bumps to see Anne's room and her puffed sleeves?), Maud's birthplace and especially Park Corner with a delightful lunch at the Shining Waters Tea Room. And we all cried at Canada's longest running musical, *Anne of Green Gables* (was it because of or in spite of knowing the ending?). We sampled tea and jams at PEI Preserves, walked the spectacular Jewell Gardens and tasted the splendid tea treats at the Potato Blossom Tea Room. We walked the charming streets of Charlottetown, peering in shop windows and knowing that our favorite keepsakes would be the images of a most beautiful Island and her friendly and welcoming people.

Ann Johnson and Marita Legried from Hastings, MN. went to Halifax and PEI. In Park Corner, they visited the house where LMM's grandfather lived, the Montgomery Heritage House. There, they happened to meet LMM's granddaughter, Luella, who was visiting the Island.

Carol Gaboury of Waukesha, WI. attended the Elder hostel offered by the University of Prince Edward Island. She was excited to meet Dr. Elizabeth Rollins Epperly, (*The Fragrance of Sweet Grass*, 1992), the new President of the University of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Epperly is the founder of the L.M. Montgomery Institute at UPEI and led the International Symposium in 1994.

Nancy Rootland of Highland, CA. toured PEI for the third summer in four years. She sends information on an exhibit in Cavendish called "Crossing the Golden Bridge" - This is a pictorial display dealing with the "Home Children" and especially Ellen Macneill (adopted by Pierce and Rachel Macneill in Cavendish). Dr. Barnardo was responsible for getting orphans off of the streets in 19th century England and starting homes to care for them. Eventually, he sent 100,000 orphans to Canada to be adopted. The children had the choice to return to England when they came of age. In the first chapter of *Anne of Green Gables*, Marilla mentions that she would prefer a Canadian child to adopt over a "home child". A book chronicling the children and their lives will soon be out.

Kathy Weisinger of El Paso, TX. flew to PEI with her children to see "Anne" country and to enjoy the wonderful beaches around the Island. Kathy, who came to our November meeting all the way from her home in Texas, won last year's "Avonlea Traditions Chronicle" photo contest with her gorgeous photograph of the beach at Cavendish, PEI.

ONTARIO

Lance Ghulam of Lafayette, CA. traveled to Toronto in August to visit the set of Canadian television series "Road to Avonlea" with actor Michael Mahonen (Gus Pike).

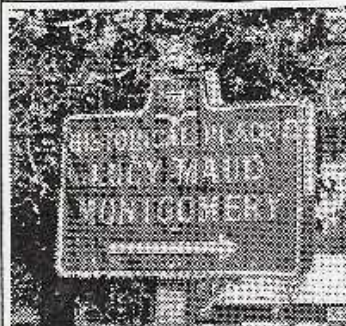
Carolyn Collins and **Beth Cavert** headed for Guelph University in July for three days of study in the L. M. Montgomery Archives. The archives contain enough material to fill the Green Gables parlor and three days were not enough to see and read everything. Beth, who had visited the Archives in 1992, was especially interested in finding information on the people to whom LMM dedicated her books; Carolyn spent most of the three days studying LMM's five scrapbooks (1911 to 1936) that are part of the archival collection. They also viewed LMM's first edition books that she sent to her pen-friend George MacMillan in Scotland; LMM's china dogs "Gog and Magog," purchased on her honeymoon; over 1,000 photographs, most of them taken by LMM; the typescript of "The Road to Yesterday; examples of LMM's needlework; and many other items. They enjoyed the city of Guelph and its cathedral, covered bridge, cafes and rivers - and, especially, conversation and lunch with writers-scholars-teachers-grandparents-gardeners **Mary Rubio** and **Elizabeth Waterston**. The rest of the trip was spent visiting Montgomery sites throughout the eastern areas of Ontario.

After leaving Guelph, they traveled to Norval, about thirty miles away to see where LMM lived from 1926 to 1935. **Kathy Gastle**, Maud promoter and municipal councillor in Norval, led them to the places that Montgomery frequented - the Presbyterian Church and Manse in Norval; Union Church; the path to "Russell's Pines" (which inspired "Cloud of Spruce" in *Magic for Marigold*); the site of the radial station where LMM caught the train into Toronto; and the Barraclough home in Glen Williams. The lovely new L.M. Montgomery Garden that Kathy and others have planted in Maud's honor near the Presbyterian Church, is marked by a sign handcrafted by Bob Crawford and George Gastle.



Kathy recommended that Carolyn and Beth visit **Bob and Elaine Crawford**; Elaine is the granddaughter of Myrtle Webb who lived at the Macneill/Webb farm called "Green Gables". Montgomery dedicated *Mistress Pat* to the Webb family. The Crawfords were gracious enough to share many of their treasures from "Aunt Maud" including her handwritten recipe book, two books of poetry, and family photographs. They make a delicious Christmas Cake from Montgomery's own recipe book for their beautiful gift shop, bakery and atrium cafe, in Norval, called *Crawford's*. In December, Bob Crawford dons his Town Crier uniform, rings his brass bell and officially opens the Montgomery Christmas week-end in Norval. This celebration is supported by Norval businesses and civic organizations. **Julie Pomeroy** of Canoe Country sponsors horse and buggy rides and the church and manse, where the Macdonalds lived, are opened for special activities. The small village of Norval is a big attraction for Montgomery's fans who are responsive to her love for beautiful places.

From Guelph, they headed for Uxbridge for a reunion with LMM admirer **Wilda Clark**. Wilda has an impressive array of first editions books; stacks of magazines with LMM's stories in them; photographs and one-of-a-kind items; and keepsake books filled with articles on LMM and related subjects. She and her husband Harold also have a great deal of historical material on the Uxbridge area including Leaskdale, where Maud and husband Rev. Ewan Macdonald had their first home, and Zephyr, where Ewan also was the church minister (Wilda is a leader in the effort get the Leaskdale Manse designated as a nationally significant site. To assist in this effort, members are encouraged to voice support to the chair of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board c/o The Honorable Michael Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0M5). Harold's parents



were members of the Leaskdale congregation at that time and were friends of the Macdonalds. Wilda arranged a visit with her friend, Elsie Davidson, LMM's maid for several years in Leaskdale and Norval. In Leaskdale, Carolyn and Beth attended the Sunday morning service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church with the Clarks, observed the Manse, traveled beautiful Leaskdale Road, saw the LMM exhibit at the Uxbridge Museum and visited the gravesite of LMM's middle child, Hugh, who died at birth.

On Monday, July 24, **Jack and Linda Hutton** proprietors of the Bala Museum (see page 5), arranged their 3rd annual celebration of Maud's arrival in the Lake Muskoka tourist area in 1922. Her happy vacation there resulted in The Blue Castle. Beth gave a wonderful talk on Maud's trip - "The Muskoka Dream" (see page 6) - to an outdoor audience of about 200 and Carolyn signed copies of "The Anne of Green Gables Treasury" and "AGG Treasury of Days". Jack and Linda hosted a dinner for the program participants at Roselawn Inn where LMM had stayed. Several members of the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton (Ontario), in costume -- **Bev Hayden, Joanne Wood, Kathy Gastle, and Alexandra Heilbron** (editor of "Avonlea Traditions Chronicle") -- attended the program and dinner.

On their way to the airport, Beth and Carolyn made a quick visit to Avonlea Traditions Inc. and talked with **Kathryn Gallagher Morton**. Her staff was busy filling orders, preparing a new product and gift catalog, and updating their newsletter list. The last stop was 210 Riverside Drive, LMM's last home, "Journey's End".



NEW BOOKS ALERT!

Rea Wilmschurst, editor of seven volumes of LMM's short stories such as *AKIN TO ANNE* (1988) and *ACROSS THE MILES* (1995), tells us to expect yet another one this fall -- **CHRISTMAS WITH ANNE and Other Holiday Stories** (published by McClelland-Stewart). Included are sixteen of LMM's best Christmas stories -- three from the Anne books and the rest recently re-discovered by Wilmschurst.

Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston have once again teamed up to provide readers with more insight into the life of L. M. Montgomery - this time with a Canadian Biography Series publication entitled **WRITING A LIFE: L. M. Montgomery**. This 120-page softcover book provides enthusiasts with new information from the unpublished manuscripts of Montgomery's later life (1929 to 1942), and provides a preview of Rubio's longer authorized biography (to order copies: contact Kindred Spirits 1-800-665-2663 or Avonlea Traditions, Inc. 1-800-668-4339. ISBN 1-55022-220-1).

In the summer 1994 edition of *Shining Scroll*, we featured **Barbara Juster Esbensen**, a charter member of the Literary Society, who had been honored with a national lifetime achievement award for her writing! Look for her beautiful new book, **THE DREAM MOUSE, A Lullaby Tale from Old Latvia**, illustrated by Judith Mitchell (Little, Brown and Co., ISBN 0-316-24975-0).

BETTY HEATH'S "KINDRED SPIRIT" READING LIST

LMMLS member Betty Heath has been reading some of the books LMM mentioned in her journals as well as books with orphan or near-orphan themes. Among her favorites with the latter emphasis are *POLLYANNA*, *THE SECRET GARDEN*, *A LITTLE PRINCESS*, *DADDY LONG-LEGS*, *FRECKLES*, *REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM*, *HEIDI*, *ELSIE DINSMORE*, and the contemporary *SAMANTHA* of the American Girl collection.

In addition to Elizabeth von Arnim's *ELIZABETH AND HER GERMAN GARDEN* (one of LMM's favorite books and one she read just before writing *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES*), Betty has searched out thirteen other von Arnim books which "have a sense of humor and a twist of fate about them." The Pansy books by Mrs. G. R. Alder, which LMM read and mentioned in her journals and AGG, offer several stories of the moralistic type. Betty recommends another 19th century book, E. Nesbit's *ENCHANTED CASTLE* (1899) and *OPAL* by Opal Whitely, a child's diary from the early 1900's. A current edition of *OPAL* with illustrations by Barbara Cooney is, according to Betty, "too lovely for words."

Betty suggests that "if you want to read a delightful story of a child's life in a hamlet of England (at the same time LMM was a child in PEI), read *LARKRISE TO CANDLEFORD* by Flora Thompson. Betty also recommends *CELLA'S ISLAND JOURNAL*, Cella Thaxter's 1894 childhood journal set on White Island, Maine, and *COUNTRY OF THE POINTED FIRS*, by Sarah Orne Jewett, also set in 19th-century Maine.

Betty warns that "one thing leads to another" and starting to read LMM's favorites may be an unending challenge.

welcome to a new L. M. Montgomery Literary Society Member

"ANNE" NOT JUST FOR GIRLS by Lance Erickson Ghulam

Lance Ghulam is from Lafayette, California, and is currently working on a project about the "Road to Avonlea" TV series. He has interviewed the show's principals and researched the history behind the making of the series. Lance submitted this article to "The Shining Scroll" recently.

I am admittedly a young male who is sometimes ridiculed for my interest in the works of L. M. Montgomery. After all, that kind of literature is strictly for young girls, they say. But I am happy to say, with unabashed pride, that I truly love the shadings and nuances of Montgomery's beautiful flowing prose, and have found a particular affinity for the character of Anne Shirley.

In 1985, a friend gave me a copy of the heart-warming "Anne of Green Gables" and guaranteed I would love it. She was right. I loved Anne for her spirit, her kindness, and her unflagging optimism. Honesty, sensitivity and good humor endeared her to even her enemies until all were friends. Little did I realize that my interest in the book would turn into a decade-long obsession. Having never read the "Anne" books or been familiar with L. M. Montgomery, I immersed myself in the world of Avonlea and had an enlightening experience. Really studying the author's various works, rather than just reading through them, enhanced my appreciation for her artistry.

I was astounded to learn that Montgomery's fictional character, Anne Shirley, has enjoyed tremendous recognition all over the world for over seven decades. Montgomery's novels have been appreciated not only by girls but by countless adults who make yearly pilgrimages to PEI to savor "Anne's" country. (I learned there was even an attempt to ban the book in Poland after World War II for fear that Anne's independent free spirit would be considered subversive!)

Montgomery's charm and insights have made a profound impression on me and in particular the sweeping pictorial description of PEI. I feel a tremendous feeling of privilege just knowing about this beautiful place and the natural community way-of-living preserved there. It is the kind of wholesome atmosphere that beckons to the child in me, the environment most of us dream of having. In Montgomery's world, untainted natural beauty grows splendidly everywhere unless interrupted for farms or homes. Every one of the "natives" knows everyone else and they move forward together, years behind the social mainstream. The pace of living is much slower and the quality of life possibly much richer than for those who constantly rush.

But Montgomery's appeal extends beyond the physical loveliness of her settings. She speaks to our need for love and approval, home and family, friendship and shared good times, even romance. Over and over these recurring themes of good-will and benevolence target our desire in the belief in the human heart. Often times, through tolerance, great self-sacrifice, or just good old-fashioned love, a character achieves an entirely different state of being, a new self, which can be more interesting, attractive or effective than his or her present self. Villains are few and far between and are usually those persons who have allowed their hearts to be sullied by life's disappointments.

The magic of Montgomery lies in her ability to present these sugary themes in a manner which does not come across as pure saccharin. None of her characters appears as a artificial simp that one would loathe to be around for her excessive delicacy. Her characters are true role models for all of us, real human beings facing life's daily obstacles with courage and passion and with all that natively comes to them from their home backgrounds and ideals of generosity and integrity.

What I love most about Montgomery's stories is that the underlying moral is always simple. Time and love will heal any wounds. Each time we can smile at each other, and shorten the interval between smiles, we will have conquered little bits of ourselves and our weaknesses.

Lance would love to hear from other "kindred spirits" who share his love of LMM and "Road to Avonlea". Any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions about his project would be appreciated. His address is 1051 Oakwood



LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY IS ON-LINE

If you have a computer, a modem (and lots of time) try visiting these locations:

1.) on the World Wide Web (WWW) - Kindred Spirits: the LM Montgomery Home Page
<http://www.upei.ca/~lmmi/cover.html>

2.) to subscribe to the Kindred Spirits electronic mailing list and discussion group. e-mail
histproc@upei.ca and request that your name be added to the list. You will get lots of e-mail
 everyday!

NEXT SYMPOSIUM

The 1996 L. M. Montgomery International Symposium will be held June 27-30 at the University of Prince Edward Island. The theme of this, the second symposium, will be "L. M. Montgomery and Canadian Culture." Mary Beth Cavert and Carolyn Collins will be among the presenters with papers on "To the Friends of Anne: L. M. Montgomery's Book Dedications, Friends with a Mutual Past" and "Tracing Changes in Canadian Culture through the Works of L. M. Montgomery". This is a wonderful chance for Society members to meet many of the scholars in the LMM field as well as other people from all over the world who love LMM's work. Several members from other Literary Societies in the US and Canada are already planning to attend. For information about the Symposium, contact **Anna MacDonald**, LMM Institute, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI, CANADA C1A 4P3 (or e-mail AMACDONALD@upei.ca).

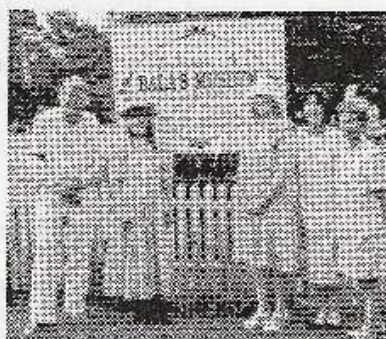
THE BALA MUSEUM

Maud Montgomery was enamored with cozy places and beautiful settings. She lived in three communities in Ontario and drew on those locales for various scenes in her works of fiction. But almost all her books and most short stories are placed on glorious Prince Edward Island, her home for 37 years. Only one novel, *The Blue Castle*, takes place off the island and hundreds of miles away in the Georgian Bay region of Ontario. It is here, where the waters of Muskoka Lake pass by small islands and cascade into the wide serene Moon River, that the village of Bala is located - and where Linda Jackson and Jack Hutton live and run Bala's Museum, With Memories of L. M. Montgomery.

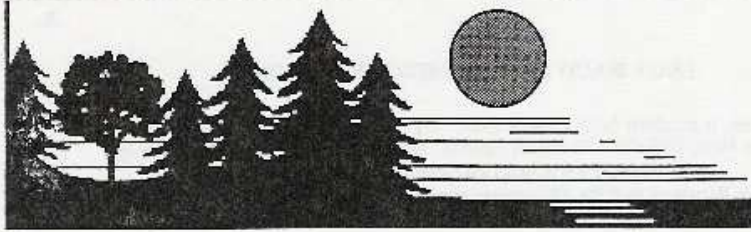
Linda and Jack's own story sounds every bit as romantic as that of Barney and Valancy in Montgomery's book. The local folklore says that several years ago, Linda, a teacher, was living in her grandparents' cottage on Muskoka Lake - within swimming distance of scenic islands and within earshot of the ancient Musquash Falls. Jack, a journalist and musician, was visiting nearby, and often paddled into Bala in his canoe, choosing water routes which passed near Linda's boathouse. They became best friends, got married, and took a PEI honeymoon.

Back home in Bala, they purchased an old tourist house where LMM had meals during a family vacation in 1922. They restored the house and filled it with items from the 1920s, local artifacts from the colorful history of the tourist area, and collections which evoke the memory of perfect summer retreats.

The period kitchen is painted pale green and cream to match the stove. The dining room -- now the gift shop -- has three tables as it did in the 1920s, which are now filled with mementos and books for purchase. The living room has a working Victrola as well as a special display featuring the courtship of Linda's grandparents, with photos of canoes by the falls and early summer "cottage" platform tents, models of bathing suits, and personal journals. Upstairs, one room is devoted to an excellent collection of early U.S. edition books by L.M. Montgomery, and early British and Canadian editions, with paper covers. One wall display features Montgomery's husband, Ewan Macdonald, and another corner, her children, Chester and Stuart. LMM's own silver tea service, courtesy of LMM grandson David Macdonald, is housed here as well.



Linda and Jack have a keen eye for display, quality artifacts, visitor-friendly presentation and have infused their labor with love. A visit to the Bala Museum is not only an educational experience, but also a step across a threshold of time in which you are inclined to throw off your duster and sit down in the kitchen for a taste of newly baked pie.



MUSKOKA DREAM

(c) by Mary Beth Cavert

Beth presented this talk at the Bala Museum on July 24, 1995.

THE VACATION

Canadian author L.M. Montgomery took a rare two week family vacation at Bala, Ontario in July 1922. Maud Macdonald, husband Ewan and sons Chester and Stuart stayed at Roselawn lodge on the river by the waterfalls from Lakes Muskoka and Rosseau. They ate meals at Mrs. Pykes, now Bala's Museum. They played in and on the water, sailed, fished, had picnics and took drives and boat trips. Maud read, edited her manuscripts, did fancy work and looked at views so lovely they "hurt." But best of all, she spent a nearly perfect late afternoon and evening alone and created what she called a "dream-built castle."

On the evening of July 31, 1922, Montgomery sat alone for two hours on the veranda of Roselawn with an injured foot - her family had gone on a boating trip. This was a gift for her. One day earlier, her solitude on a veranda at a friend's cottage had been interrupted by her host - the same Mr. Mustard who had been her high school teacher and bored her as a suitor in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan almost 30 years earlier.

But on this day in Bala no one intruded and she created for herself a glorious vacation of dreams. Maud Montgomery Macdonald had a simple formula for happiness: kindred spirits, conversation from the heart, laughter, great food, a cozy fire, a beautiful setting with pine trees and the sound of water and wind. Add moonlight, a dramatic storm, a happy homecoming and she would be pretty nearly perfectly happy.

THE DREAM

Her daydream was this: on an evening of magic where the moon, cottage lights and the flickers of bonfires reflected off the river, she imagined a summer cottage and boat dock on a beautiful island. She peopled it with her dearest kindred spirits.

For family, she included Ewan and her own two sons plus her Aunt Annie Campbell with daughters Stella and Frede, Maud's sisterly cousins and friends. For romance, she added another close cousin, unmarried Bertie MacInyre, whom she paired with her bachelor pen-pal and friend of 19 years, George Boyd MacMillan.

With these friends and relatives she lived out an idyllic summer. Their activities included everything the Macdonald family had already enjoyed during their vacation, but she also added treats that her family vacation could not provide - for example, dances and sleeping in the open. In this fantasy, Ewan was not a Presbyterian minister, which apparently was quite a liberating change. Also, the cottage guests were free to sleep out under the night stars without the nuisance of mosquitoes. As all visitors to the North Country know, this is pure fantasy! But the centerpiece of this dream was talk - the frequent "soul-satisfying talk of congenial souls." This was a restorative and crucial element to any daydream for Maud Montgomery, for it was the thing she craved the most.

To conclude this dream, Maud conjured up a storm and a dramatic and joyous homecoming. One evening, the men, boys, Bertie and Frede went to the mainland leaving Maud, Stella and Aunt Annie at the cottage. A wild storm comes up. Maud hangs a lantern light on the pine tree by the boathouse to guide the boaters home. Frede is the first to spot it. And when they return safely, they are pulled in to a timbered room lit by a blazing fire. While the storm rages outside, they sit down to a cozy hot supper. Maud carefully creates every dish and detail on the table. They laugh and talk and are happy - then the summer is over. When the dream is ended, she still hears the echoes of the voices of her own kindred spirits.

(She wrote the first record of this story on July 31. She must have re-worked it in the next two months because by the time she relates it in a letter to G.B. MacMillan, Stella has been omitted and the ending has changed. This time when the dramatic storm occurs, all the women wait in the cottage - only the men leave in the boat. The heroic Frede is the one, in this version, to struggle down to the boat-house and hold out a lantern to guide the boaters home. George and Ewan spot her guiding light.)

THE PEOPLE

7.

Besides Maud and Ewan Macdonald, who were the characters in this Group of Seven?

Aunt Annie Campbell was the older sister of Montgomery's mother, a superb hostess and the embodiment of a happy hearth. Annie's second and third daughters were Maud's good friends from her girlhood. Stella was 5 years younger than Maud while Frederica ("Fred") was nine years younger. Stella, more than Frede, shared the happy childhood times as one of the "three merry Campbell cousins" (George, Clara, Stella) at their Park Corner farm. But it was the young Frede (who adored her older cousin Maud, except when she was teased) who became her dearest adult friend and confidante until her death three years earlier than this dream. Montgomery dedicated two books to Frede, *The Story Girl* in 1910 and *Rilla of Ingleside* in 1920. These dedications commemorate "old days, old dreams, old laughter" and a person who was "a true friend, a rare personality, a loyal and courageous soul." To Stella, "of the tribe of Joseph," she dedicated *Emily's Quest* in 1926.

Beatrice Alberta McIntyre, called Bertie, was the daughter of Maud's favorite aunt, Mary Montgomery, a second mother to Maud while she was a student at Prince of Wales College. She affectionately dedicated one of her earliest books, *Kilnerry of the Orchard* (1909), to Bertie. She was one of the women in the world who really mattered to Maud and, besides Frede, she was one of the few in whom Maud found both emotional and intellectual companionship. Unfortunately for Maud, Bertie lived a continent away in Vancouver, B.C. At the time of the Muskoka dream, Maud had not seen Bertie for six years.

Bertie was an unmarried teacher, full of fun, and possessed the dark Montgomery eyes. When Bertie laughs, Maud wrote, "youth pops out through her eyes and flashes over her face. Bertie has a wonderful smile." Two years after the Muskoka dream, Bertie accompanied the Macdonalds on a vacation to the Mammoth Caves. She and Maud had a beautiful experience together there at the caves and at Niagara Falls. It was during this period that Montgomery was writing *The Blue Castle*, set in Muskoka, and developing the character of the "old maid", Valancy Stirling. While she could draw on her own past experience as an unmarried twenty-nine year old, she could also tap into Bertie's life.

A few days before traveling to Bala, Montgomery had sent off the manuscript for *Emily of New Moon* to her publisher, F. A. Stokes. This book was dedicated to George Boyd MacMillan ("in recognition of a long and stimulating friendship"), her Scottish pen-pal since 1903.

Mr. MacMillan was a devoted and valued friend until the end of her life. He loved the outdoors, was an avid gardener and sent her pressed flowers, bulbs, cuttings and seeds, as well as souvenirs from the shore. He had great taste in gifts and always sent her books she enjoyed. He was creative, humorous, wrote parodies and enjoyed astronomy. He was always upbeat. They both shared the ability to escape into a world of fancy, to create their own ideal world - their own "peculiar kingdom" as Maud called it. They met one time, on Maud's honeymoon in Scotland. They took long moonlit walks along the shore while Maud's new husband and MacMillan's fiancé followed silently behind them. He was a most congenial conversationalist and knew all the legends and traditions of the area.

Is it any wonder that she brought George into her Muskoka dream? or Bertie?

THE BOOK

Montgomery declared that in her next dreaming she would marry George to Bertie and they would live happily ever after. And she did just that in *The Blue Castle*, published four years later. The echoes of the kind, irreverent outdoorsman, George Boyd MacMillan, can be found in Bernard Snaith Redfern and the independence and compassion of Bertie McIntyre are reflected in the actions of Valancy Stirling.

From her appealing Muskoka dream, Maud spun out a novel with a strong theme of independence - not only for her adult heroine, but this time for her adult hero as well. A beautiful setting, characters with strength, dignity and a sense of humor, and, as always, love for the once unloved - it is what we expect and enjoy.

We are still commemorating these events that happened and did not happen 73 years later. And today we can still enjoy three accounts of LMM's trip to Bala - first, the Macdonald family vacation, then Mrs. Macdonald's daydream and, finally, L. M. Montgomery's novel, *The Blue Castle*. The combination of a sore ankle, a veranda and a vivid imagination can lead to long-lasting dreams!

LMMLS MEETINGS

1994-5: Our first meeting, held on **September 16** at the Hennepin County Library, was a chance for members to share news of their summer travels. Beth Cavert and Carolyn Collins reported on the first L. M. Montgomery International Symposium held at the University of Prince Edward Island in June. On **November 11**, Carolyn presented the paper, "Discovering Anne's World," that she had given at the Symposium. On **June 23**, at the University of Minnesota Kerlan Collection, **Margaret Baach** reviewed the article "The Horatio Alger Theme in Girls' Books" from *NEWSDAY* in which the author used *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES* to illustrate her point about early "girls' books" being inspired by the Alger books as well as ways in which they differed. Our last meeting for the year was held on **August 10** at Bronte's Tea Room in Gaviidae Center in downtown Minneapolis.

1995-6 : Look forward this year to **Joan O'Brien's** discussion of a recent article in *The American Scholar*, "Classics Revisited: The Story of a Classic, Anne and After," a presentation on "Montgomery vs. McCullough" comparing *The Blue Castle* and *The Ladies of Missaloughi*, and previews of talks to be given at next June's LMM Symposium. **Members will receive notices as soon as meeting dates are arranged.**

The Shining Scroll is the annual newsletter of the L. M. Montgomery Literary Society.
For information about the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society, contact
Carolyn Collins, 1603 Northrop St., St. Paul, MN. 55108



Mary Beth Cavert, editor *The Shining Scroll*
14333 Ferris Lane, Minnetonka, MN. 55345 USA
BCavert@aol.com

FIRST CLASS

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.