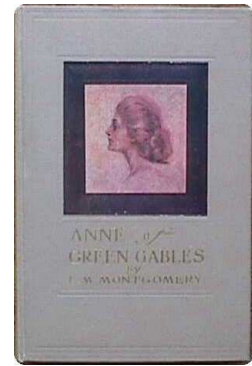




## *The Shining Scroll*

newsletter for the  
L.M. Montgomery  
Literary Society  
Autumn 2003  
Founded in 1991  
by Carolyn Strom Collins  
and Christina Wyss Eriksson



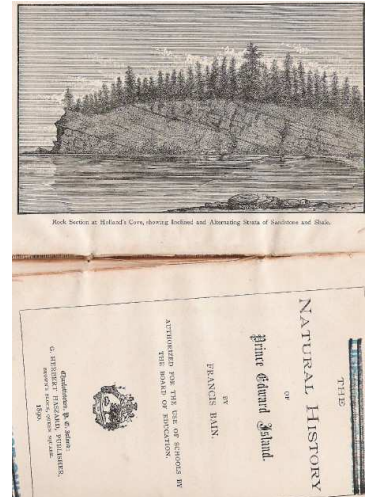
### Shifting Landscapes of LMM

© by Carolyn Collins (photos by Collins)



Any fan of *Anne of Green Gables* or Lucy Maud Montgomery visiting Prince Edward Island knows about the many related sites open to the public – Green Gables and the Macneill Homestead in Cavendish; the LMM Birthplace in New London; the Anne of Green Gables Museum (“Silver Bush”) and the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum (“Ingleside”) in Park Corner; the Bideford Manse Museum; the Cavendish Presbyterian Church; the Cavendish Post Office and so on.

In line with the “landscapes” theme of next year’s L. M. Montgomery Institute conference, LMM fans may like to know that other buildings that LMM knew and wrote about still exist -- but not in the same spots or in the same forms as she knew them. Moving buildings from one site to another is a long tradition on PEI, a form of recycling that, in the world of LMM, is very much appreciated. We can still see those buildings even if they are not in the same locations as they were in her experience. Here are a few to look out for when you visit the Island next time.



Holland’s Cove, Natural History of PEI, 1890  
– from the collection of M. Cavert

### The Kensington Depot

After passenger rail service on PEI was discontinued in 1969, many of the depots were destroyed but some were moved to new locations and given new uses.

Many people are likely to think of the present depot in Kensington as the one Maud wrote about in her journals, but it was not built until 1905, just six years before Maud left the Island and during those six years, she did not travel much from the homestead in Cavendish – she was busy caring for her grandmother, writing *Anne of Green Gables* and other works, playing the organ at her church, and getting to know Ewan MacDonald.

The depot in Kensington that Maud knew best was a two-story frame building with a mansard roof, built in 1875. It was from that original depot that Maud would experience her first train ride at the age of fifteen. It was also the scene of Maud’s meeting with Prime Minister John A. MacDonald that same day, thanks to her grandfather, Senator Donald Montgomery’s friendship with the “great man.” Maud and Grandfather Montgomery were embarking on their journey to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, that August morning in 1890 and the Prime Minister and Lady MacDonald invited them to ride with them on their special train to Summerside (SJ1: 25-29).

Maud would make many more departures and arrivals from this depot over the next fifteen years; this station as well as the Hunter River station were two of the Island’s stations that Maud used the most.

A new depot, made of mortared stones, was built in 1905. The original depot was then moved from its original location (at the far end of the “new” station) in December 1905 to its present location at 7 Imperial Street, just a block or so up the hill. It is now in use as an absolutely lovely bed-and-breakfast called “The Station House.” The present owners are

Joe Gallant and Nancy Bertin who have researched the building's history. Joe kindly filled me in on some of the information he has discovered about the station and gave me a tour of the house and grounds one sunny September afternoon. He showed me the carefully restored rooms that he and Nancy have worked so diligently on, the kitchen addition, and newly-designed gardens that are perfect for morning coffee or afternoon tea. (We also discussed the breakfast dishes Joe enjoys making for guests and they sounded divine!)

The house is in pristine condition and, even though modern amenities have been added, the original structure and its uses are still apparent.

Downstairs, there are two parlours that were originally the "ladies' waiting room" and the "gentlemen's waiting room." (The Victorian era was keen on separating the ladies from the gentlemen at every opportunity.) The ladies' waiting room was at the front and the gentlemen's waiting room was next to it on the back of the house. This room would have been set up for the men to smoke and chew tobacco while waiting for the trains. Today the two parlours are connected by French doors and are decorated Victorian-style.



(Photo from website)



New station in 1905 with original station on the right: PEI Public Archives and Records

The present dining room was originally the ticket office. Built-in display shelves now fill in the old ticket window space.

Upstairs, in the area originally occupied by the stationmaster, are two beautifully-appointed guest rooms and a large luxurious bath.

Joe tells an interesting story about the stationmaster, A. E. Clark, who would have been in charge when LMM and Grandfather Montgomery made their trip. Apparently, Clark was quite an unusual character with a reputation for outlandish behavior. On August 7, 1890, (four days before LMM's visit), a storm came through Kensington. During the heavy rain, the Mr. Clark hied himself up to the flat roof of the station, stripped down, and had a nice shower-bath! Given the lack of indoor plumbing, the opportunity must have been just too good for him to pass up.

Those of you interested in staying at "The StationHouse Bed and Breakfast" should contact Joe and Nancy at 902/836-3988 or at Box 266, Kensington, PEI C0B 1M0. Their email is [thestationhouse@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:thestationhouse@pei.sympatico.ca) and their website can be found at [www.bbcanada.com/thestationhousebb](http://www.bbcanada.com/thestationhousebb). The house is ideally located for anyone who wants to explore LMM-related sites such as Cavendish, Park Corner, Summerside, Bideford, Belmont, Lower Bedeque, Malpeque, etc.

### The Hunter River Depot

Maud often made the trip from Cavendish to Hunter River by horse-and-buggy (or horse-and-sleigh) to travel by train back and forth to Charlottetown (especially when she was a student at Prince of Wales College). The Hunter River station was originally on the south side of the railroad tracks, just southeast of what is now the intersection of Highways 2 and 13. In *Anne of Green Gables*, Hunter River became "Bright River" and the station, of course, was the "Bright River Station" where Anne first met Matthew.

When the station was de-commissioned as a railroad depot in the late 1970s, it was moved to "Marco Polo Land" in Cavendish, not far from the Macneill Homestead on Route 13. "Marco Polo Land" (named for the sailing ship that ran aground on Cavendish shore in 1883) is a campground and RV park and the old depot now serves as the gift shop. Visitors can still see the stationmaster's desk as well as the original equipment he used to signal the trains. A mail wagon used for carrying mail from the depot to the local post office is outside the station building.



The Marco Polo Inn nearby has six guestrooms; the Galley Restaurant, up the hill from the Inn and the Gift Shop, has a spectacular view of Cavendish, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and beyond – a view Maud herself knew well.

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These copies were made available to Montgomery scholars in 2007 by Mary Beth Cavert, editor *Shining Scroll*, newsletter of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society, Minneapolis/St. Paul Minnesota.

**The Macneill Homestead Kitchen**  
(see article in *Summer 1994, Shining Scroll*)

Even though the Macneill Homestead in Cavendish was allowed to deteriorate once Grandmother Macneill died and Maud was obliged to leave it in 1911, the kitchen wing of it somehow survived. Father Francis Bolger purchased it from the Macneill family and had it moved to his summer home overlooking the New London Harbor in Stanley Bridge. Father Bolger has restored it and uses it as a writing studio and retreat.

LMM wrote much of *Anne of Green Gables* and a number of short stories and poems in the old kitchen; it also housed the Cavendish Post Office when the Macneills kept it and is where Maud frequently visited with her future husband, Ewan MacDonald.



Photo B. Cavert

Among other LMM sites (or portions of them) that still exist – Pierce and Rachael Macneill's house in Cavendish was moved across the road and is now the Shining Waters Inn; Alec and May MacNeill's farmhouse (Gartmore) was moved from Cavendish to Rustico; the Belmont schoolhouse (the second school LMM taught in) and the Long River church (one of several churches she attended when visiting Park Corner) were moved to "Avonlea Village" in Cavendish a few years ago; the original Montgomery home (her father's birthplace) in Park Corner was torn down after the present home was built in 1878 and the lumber was used to build the woodhouse and other outbuildings that are still in use today; windows from the New London/Clifton Presbyterian Church Maud attended are now in the Anne of Green Gables Museum gift shop in Park Corner.

**DR. ELIZABETH EPPERLY GIVES ADDRESS AT LMM MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Dr. Elizabeth Epperly, L. M. Montgomery scholar and founder of the L. M. Montgomery Institute, was the featured speaker at the L. M. Montgomery Memorial Service on August 10, 2003, at the Cavendish United Church.

Dr. Epperly spoke on "Solving the Mysteries in Maud's Scrapbooks," pointing out that Maud was fond of reading mysteries, especially those of Agatha Christie, and that Maud's own records are full of mysteries. She created records that, years after her death, others would try to solve. Dr. Epperly chose a few of the 136 pages of the "Island scrapbooks" (i.e., the two scrapbooks Maud kept from 1893 to 1911 while living on PEI) to discuss – some of the pages from 1903 (one hundred years ago) in which Maud pasted souvenirs of her former fiancé, Edwin Simpson, a palmist's diagram of a hand, calendars, and other "mixed media." She also discussed the pages of the scrapbooks that are mostly devoted to souvenirs explained in the as-yet-unpublished "secret diary" of Maud and her friend Nora Lefurgey. Jenny Litster presented a paper on this diary and the corresponding scrapbook pages at the 2002 Symposium (This diary and Dr. Litster's paper will be published in a new book, *L.M. Montgomery's Intimate Life*). There is also discussion of publishing Maud's two Island scrapbooks in a "coffee table" type volume.



**Bideford Parsonage Lecture Series Inaugurated**

This summer, the Bideford Parsonage Museum in Bideford, PEI, began a series of lectures on Lucy Maud Montgomery. Montgomery spent a year in Bideford (1894-95) as teacher in the one-room school there and boarded at the parsonage with the Estey family. A few years ago, enterprising members of the Bideford community rescued the parsonage from being moved to Avonlea Village in Cavendish and restored the house and grounds to the way they looked during the era Maud lived there. The Museum is open daily for tours in tourist season.

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The lectures at the Museum were held on Wednesday evenings in the parlor of the parsonage. Sandy Wagner, editor of *Kindred Spirits* newsletter, gave two of the lectures, one on the “linament cake” episode in *Anne of Green Gables*. That scene was inspired by Mrs. Estey’s own cake, accidentally flavored with linament, that was made in the parsonage pantry and served to a visiting minister! (Incidentally, several of LMM’s short stories have the theme of accidental flavorings) Sandy’s second lecture was about LMM’s first short story, written while she was in Bideford (“A Baking of Gingersnaps”). Father Francis Bolger (author of *The Years Before Anne* and *Spirit of Place*), Jennie Macneill of the Macneill Homestead, Marion Reid (former Premier of PEI) and Carolyn Collins of the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum also participated in the lecture series.

Carolyn’s program covered two topics: the Montgomery family in Park Corner and LMM’s personal scrapbook entries for her year in Bideford. The scrapbooks contain quite a few souvenirs of LMM’s school and social life in Bideford, from her hand-written school time-table to flowers picked in the garden after her first “examination” to the address her pupils gave to her on her last day of teaching there. Some of the souvenirs are explained by LMM’s published journal entries, others are more mysterious. This talk will be presented at one of the LMMLS meetings this year. (Interested members might want to read LMM’s journal entries for July 1894 - June 1895 to refresh their memories of this period in advance of the program.)

### 2002-03 LMM Literary Society Meetings

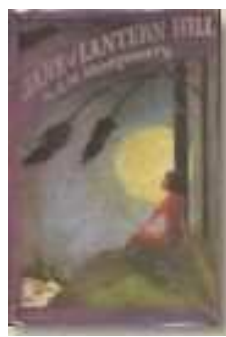
Our first meeting of the season took place at Micawber’s Bookstore in St. Anthony Park on December 14, 2002, in conjunction with the Twin Cities launch of Carolyn and Christina’s newest book, *Inside the Secret Garden*. After a short discussion of the book and demonstrations of some of the activities related to *The Secret Garden* that this new “treasury” contains, LMMLS members adjourned for coffee and “chat” at the “Taste of Scandinavia” restaurant across the street.

On January 31, Pati Kachel invited the Society members for a tea in her home in Shoreview and a magnificent tea it was! Pati also presented a program on her trip to Prince Edward Island several years ago and showed us her beautiful scrapbook of pictures and souvenirs. Her trip was inspired by an article on PEI in the very first issue “Victoria” magazine. Many thanks, Pati, for hosting our group.



Hostess Pati invites Ann Johnson to enjoy the home cooking!

Our last two meetings were held at the Edina library. On March 28, we discussed one of LMM’s last novels, *Jane of Lantern Hill*. Several members brought early editions of the book and related items to show the group. After the meeting, some of the group met for supper at Perkins Restaurant. Our last meeting of the year was on May 16. Christina led the discussion on *Pat of Silver Bush*. Beth Cavert read a paper about Alec and May MacNeill to whom the book was dedicated. Joan O’Brien and her daughter Peggy Yaeger brought delicious refreshments to celebrate the end of our twelfth year as a Society.



In June of 2002, the University of Prince Edward Island hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on L.M. Montgomery, “*L.M. Montgomery and Life Writing*.” Last winter, a call for papers on the topic was made and I submitted an essay about Montgomery’s record of her friends’ lives in her journals and focused on Laura Pritchard, Frede Campbell, Nora Lefurgey, and Isabel Anderson. The paper was accepted, but Laura and Frede had to be edited out for space. The final title of the chapter is now “Nora, Maud, and Isabel: Summoning Voices in Diaries and Memories.” It will be in a book titled, *L.M. Montgomery’s Intimate Life* (University of Toronto Press). Here is an expanded version of what I wrote about Frede in that paper. References to the *Selected Journals (SJ)* are included. Some parts of this section appeared in *Kindred Spirits Magazine*, Autumn and Winter 2002.

--- Mary Beth Cavert

## Frede: More than Friend and Cousin

© by Mary Beth Cavert

Frederica Elmanstine Campbell, called Frede (Fred with an “e”), was Lucy Maud Montgomery’s cousin -- their mothers were sisters in the Macneill family and they had the same great-grandparents on the Montgomery side. Frede was probably named after her Aunt Johanna Fredericka Helmenstine Campbell (wife of Hon. Archibald Campbell, 1828-1901, spellings of her name vary) and grew up in the Park Corner area where the Campbell farm was located, several miles from Montgomery’s home in Cavendish. Park Corner was a place Montgomery treasured for the beauty of its setting and for the members of the three generations of Campbells who lived at the farm, later called Silver Bush, during her lifetime.



View of Campbell Farm looking toward the point where the Lake of Shining Waters (Campbell’s Pond) empties into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Her Campbell cousins looked upon her as an older sister with admiration and affection. Clara, Stella, George, (referred to in the *Alpine Path*, p. 43, as the “trio of merry cousins”) and Frede Campbell always welcomed her with joyous enthusiasm. Maud was almost three years older than Clara, five years older than Stella and seven years older than little George Leander Campbell. Maud’s first confidante at Park Corner was Clara, who shared the name of Maud’s mother and her reputation as a beauty. Maud and “Cade” were close friends into their early twenties. Clara married and eventually moved to California.

Frede was born in 1883, but Montgomery did not take any special notice of her younger cousin until almost ten years later, in 1892, when Montgomery returned at the age of 19 from her year in Prince Albert and stayed with the Campbells. Even then, her only interaction with eight-year-old Frede was to tease her about an imagined boyfriend. Nonetheless, young Frede liked to sit on the bed and watch her “handsome” cousin and sisters “comb, curl, frill and plume” (*SJ*:2 302) as they prepared to entertain or go out to the Literary Society.



PARK CORNER SCHOOL PHOTO 1892 or 1893

Back Row: Lydia Clark (teacher), Chem MacLeod, George Johnston, Mima MacKenzie, Mary A. MacLeod, Gertie Sims, Maggie  
Middle Row: Duncan MacLeod, Fredericka Campbell, Gertie  
Hattie Bernard, Inez Delaney, Miss MacKelvie, Evelyn MacLeod  
Delaney, Mel Donald.  
Front Row: Milton Hiltz, Eliphalet Howatt, Will Delane  
Frank Bernard, George (Dodd) MacKenzie, Eugene MacLeod, I  
Sims, Norman Delaney, Jim Hiltz.

A Park Corner School photo of 1892-93 (from *French River and Park Corner History 1773-1973*)

In the winter of 1899 (while Maud was in Cavendish), Frede, fifteen years old, was a student at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, studying for a first class teacher’s license. The next August, Frede was back home at Park Corner. Maud came to the farm for a two-week visit with Stella and Frede. Montgomery brought her camera and took photographs of her favourite maples and birches where she and Stella and Clara had played as children. She also took one of Frede Campbell standing in the grove. She wrote many years later, “Frede was spinning in the garret and I called her to come down and stand in the lane as I wanted a ‘human touch’ in the picture. She came: but as she had on only an old blue wrapper and was in her stocking feet ... she insisted on screening herself a bit by one of the trees” (*SJ* 4: 27).

The picture captures a line of white-barked birch trees along a red dirt lane that disappears into the back of the photo. Embedded in the picture, almost indistinct from the trunks of the trees, is the small figure of a faceless young woman in a hat, arms behind her, leaning against a tree. This photograph was a favourite of Montgomery's for all of her life. She placed several copies of it in her personal journals between December 1898 and June 1939, with the captions, "under the birches," "Grove at Park Corner," "Frede under the Park Corner birches," "Frede under the birches," "Frede in the lane," "Frede under trees" (Original Journals 2:107, 127, 4: 319, 7: 326, 8: 2, 9: 34, 390, 10: 469). In later years, during the time she was struggling with her relationship with an overly devoted fan, she had the picture enlarged, coloured, and framed and hung it on the wall above her bed where it gave her comfort (*SJ* 4: 27).



From L.M. Montgomery Special and Archival Collections at the University of Guelph Library

After getting her teaching license at Prince of Wales College, Frede did not have money to go on to a university, so she accepted teaching positions in Sea View and Irishtown near her home in Park Corner. She was highly regarded by her students and supervisors and was regarded as an excellent teacher. When Frede was 19, she fell in love with Will Sutherland, Maud's cousin (Will and Frede also shared common great-grandparents). Will and Maud were classmates at Prince of Wales College and nineteen year-old Maud had been in love, for a few months, with his tall and charming brother, Jack Sutherland. Will was a first year doctor and already engaged to a nurse; there was no room in his life for Frederica Campbell.

Maud had also suffered from heartbreak by this time, and was looking for, as Anne Shirley would say, "a bend in the road" (*Anne of Windy Poplars*, 177). She had taught in three schools, fallen in love with someone she would not marry, broken an engagement, and worked as a newspaper proofreader for eight months in Halifax, Nova Scotia. But, in 1902 she was home again living with her grandmother, doing household and garden chores and earning an income from nearly fifty published stories and poems. When she went to Park Corner late that summer, her Campbell cousins were all grown up.

The relationship with Frede transformed into sudden friendship. She was no longer the little cousin; she was a young woman who could speak Maud's language. Montgomery began to write about Frede in her journals as a unique and privileged friend. Although Montgomery claimed to her pen pal, George MacMillan that she and Frede had been devoted friends all their lives (*My Dear Mr. M: Letters to G.B. MacMillan*, 95) it only seemed that way.

But it was not until August 1902 that Frede and I "found" each other. Our friendship seemed to open into full bloom in a single night. Before that we had been merely acquaintances; after that we were to each other what we were to be for each other over seventeen, beautiful, unmarred years of comradeship and understanding.

I recall the night distinctly. It was a hot night. For some forgotten reason we all three occupied Stella's room. Stell herself slept on the floor. Frede and I were in the bed. We began to talk confidentially each finding that we could confide in the other. Stell was furious because our chatter kept her from sleeping, so we buried our heads under the blankets that sweltering night and whispered to each other all our troubles — I, the woman of 28, Frede the girl of 19. We discovered that our souls were the same age! She told me her love troubles — I told her mine. ... We talked until dawn. (*SJ* 2: 302-303)

So enmeshed is Frede's story with her cousin's that one cannot study Montgomery's journals, scrapbooks, letters, homes and artifacts without stumbling over references to her. On October 15, 1905, she wrote, "Frede Campbell spent last Saturday and Sunday here and was an unspeakable comfort to me. I had been so lonely and sad-hearted but felt so much better for her visit" (*SJ* 1: 311). Repeated comments about Frede's emotional support (*SJ* 1: 318; *SJ* 1: 330; *SJ* 2: 4; *SJ* 2: 258; *SJ* 2: 276) suggest that it was a crucial element in their relationship. By 1906 Montgomery had published 250 short stories and 214 poems (Rea Wilmshurst bibliography). However, she had yet to have a book accepted by a publisher, and thus real fame and success, by her own standards, continued to elude her. She called herself "an unknown obscure scribbler, past my youth" (*SJ* 2: 213).

According to the Stanley Bridge Community Historical Society's *History of Stanley Bridge: Hub of the Universe*, Frede taught in Stanley Bridge from 1904–1906, during the time that Montgomery wrote *Anne of Green Gables*. In the middle of February 1907 she sent her manuscript to the L.C. Page Company in Boston. She also visited Frede in February when she was ready to put *Anne* in the mail and it is likely that she told her about the book and perhaps allowed her to read

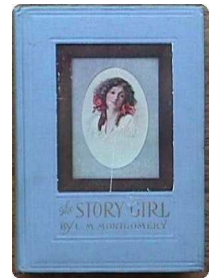


parts of the story. The next month the two friends wrote “ten-year” letters – letters with predictions that they would open ten years later. In Frede’s letter she predicted that Maud would write “a famous book” (SJ 2: 213).

Montgomery recalls:

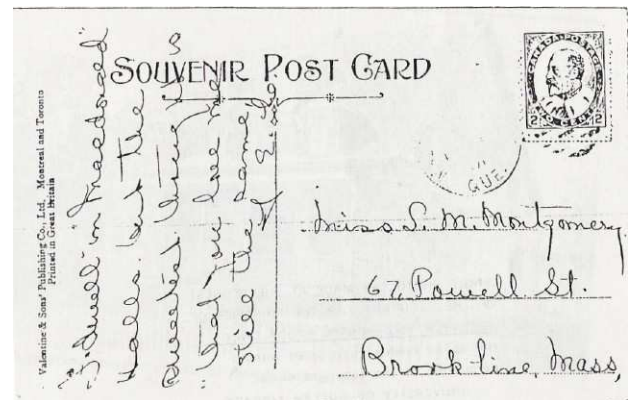
Frede taught in various schools and in 1905 she came to Stanley. She was comparatively near me then and we met quite often. It was a boon to me beyond price in those hard, lonely years. I could not have endured them without Frede’s sympathy and encouragement and jolly companionship. When I made a hit with *Green Gables* and saw a little money assured my first determination was to help Frede [go to college]. (SJ 2: 303)

With Montgomery’s help, Frede Campbell began her studies at Macdonald College in Montreal in 1910, two years after the publication of *Anne*. Within days of Frede’s departure, Maud finished writing *The Story Girl* and she dedicated it to Frede in celebration of their eight years of friendship – “In remembrance of old days, old dreams, and old laughter.”



When Maud traveled to Boston in November 1910 to be feted by her publisher, L.C. Page, Frede’s sister, Stella, accompanied Maud on the trip. Frede may have been somewhat jealous as well as homesick. She sent a postcard from Montreal to Maud in Boston and wrote on the card, “I dwell in Macdonald Halls but the sweetest thought is that you love me still the same. FEC” The inscription alludes to Arline’s aria from Michael William Balfe’s opera, *The Bohemian Girl*.

I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls,  
With vassals and serfs at my side,  
And of all who assembled within those walls,  
That I was the hope and the pride.  
I had riches too great to count, could boast  
Of a high ancestral name;  
But I also dreamt, which pleased me most,  
That you loved me still the same.



Montgomery put this card in her journal after the December 31, 1935 entry in which she agonized over her fear of repeating the madness of a world war - from Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph Library

Montgomery’s deep affection for her cousin was clearly reciprocated.

Frede was on the honour roll and she graduated from Macdonald College with a degree in Household Science in June 1912. In the year following her marriage in 1911, Montgomery linked her newfound happiness in part to Frede’s presence. When Frede lived with Montgomery in 1912 to help her after the birth of her first son, Chester, Montgomery wrote, “Frede and I work together in beautiful concord and at last I have the home I had dreamed of having” (SJ 2: 108). In the years following, Frede taught for a short time at the new Ladies College in Red Deer, Alberta, and then returned to Macdonald College in Montreal. Although she married Lt. Cameron MacFarlane in 1917, she continued to work during the war. Montgomery was shocked at this unexpected and sudden marriage and feared that it would take Frede far away. It was the only time her dearest friend ever disappointed her.



Left back: John, Frede, Stella, Annie. Front: Ella and her children: c. 1914? –son George was born in 1914, the same year that Stella moved to California – from the collection of Ruth and James Campbell

Montgomery’s journals express as much gratitude for the intellectual dimension of their friendship as for Frede’s emotional support. For several years, they arranged to spend time together during breaks from school—at the Macdonalds’ home in Leaskdale, Ontario, and the Campbell Farm on PEI. The Leaskdale Manse was as much a home for Frede as the Campbell Farm was a home for Maud. Wherever they were, Montgomery’s journals attest to the meeting of like minds: “Frede and I walked back and forth over the bridge many times, sometimes in silence, sometimes speaking lowly of the deepest thoughts in our hearts” (SJ 2: 170). At Park Corner, they did all their talking after the children were asleep. The house was full with Montgomery’s two sons and Frede’s nieces and nephews. When I interviewed Frede’s niece, Amy Campbell Burk Lambert, she remembered her aunt fondly, “I had great admiration for Aunt Frede as a kid—education was her thinking, mentally and morally” (Letter, 1996). Her aunt, she notes, “talked to me a lot, I wasn’t

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shunted aside like children can be. Aunt Frede read out loud to us ... I would go up to her room and talk school.” Frede was kind and made Amy feel noticed in the large family – she told her, “Amy you’ll be very pretty because you have a nice nose.” Montgomery wasn’t the only one who appreciated Frederica Campbell’s sense of humour. “My father (George Campbell) was a big teaser but Frede teased right back. She was very assertive” (Telephone, 1996). When the Campbell family was stricken with the Spanish Flu in October 1918, Frede rushed home to Park Corner to help her mother Annie and her sister-in-law Ella. Stella had moved to California in 1914 to live with Clara and their father, John, had died in 1917 and few neighbors were willing to enter the devastated household, although they left food on the porch. Frede’s brother, George Campbell died before she arrived and his son, 4 year old Georgie, died while she was there. Amy (age 8) was “the only one left on [her] feet” (Letter, 1996). Amy remembers, “Aunt Frede took charge. My mother had a six-week-old baby (Janet, renamed Georgie Fredrica MacFarlane) and we had used up all the dishes in the house. Aunt Frede and I washed all the dishes. That was the time she taught me how to knit.”

Frederica Campbell returned to Montreal and died in the same influenza pandemic (more than 20 million people died world-wide) a few months later, with Montgomery at her bedside. “When one of the Macdonald professors heard of Frede’s death, he exclaimed, ‘Oh heaven, what a loss to the country!’” (SJ 2: 298). At Frede’s request, Maud kept some of her friend’s personal items. Some of the reminders that Maud selected were Frede’s sketches, a statue of the Good Fairy (a wedding gift and a symbol of hope crafted in 1916), and Frede’s peridot jewelry, a gift from an admirer, which she had worn in Leaskdale. Montgomery arranged for Frede’s cremation and returned her ashes to Prince Edward Island. She chose the inscription for the grave marker – a favourite quote from *Macbeth*, the one she wanted for her own grave – “After life’s fitful fever, she sleeps well.”

Echoes of Montgomery’s experience at Frede’s death appear in her 1933 book, *Pat of Silver Bush* when the main character’s best friend dies at sunrise. Montgomery dedicated her 1920 book, *Rilla of Ingleside* to Frede – “To the memory of Frederica Campbell MacFarlane who went away from me when the dawn broke on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1919 – a true friend, a rare personality, a loyal and courageous soul.”

After her death, deep grief compelled Montgomery to write Frede Campbell’s story in a vividly emotional 19-page entry on February 7, 1919 (SJ 2: 287-306), including every detail she could remember of her life. In retrospect, Montgomery saw the roots of their friendship in their similarities: “Frede, like myself, had a somewhat lonely and misunderstood childhood. She was ‘different’ from the rest of her family. She was, as she expressed it, ‘the cat who walked by herself.’... Frede was an odd, lonely homely little thing. Homely? Yes, especially in childhood... Her enemies called her ugly but she was never *that*.” (SJ 2: 303-304). Writing about Frede never lessened her sense of loss, but it enabled Montgomery to continually re-live their time together. As late as June 1937, she wrote to Ephraim Weber, “Her place in my heart and life has never been filled” (*L.M. Montgomery’s Ephraim Weber Letters 1916-1941*, 175).

In the long biographical entry devoted to Frede, Montgomery wrote through her grief, but she also provided an intimate biography of a remarkable woman who otherwise would have received little mention in any historical record.

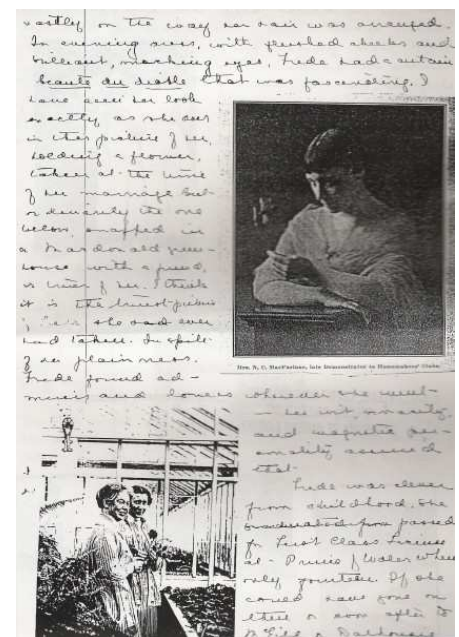
*From Montgomery’s journal*  
(SJ 2 304)

“As in my own case her appearance depended vastly on the way her hair was arranged. In evening dress, with flushed cheeks and brilliant, mocking eyes, Frede had a certain *beaute du diable* that was fascinating. I have seen her look exactly as she does in this picture of her, holding a flower, taken at time of her marriage. But ordinarily the one below, snapped in Macdonald greenhouse with a friend, is truer of her. I think it is the truest picture of Frede she ever had taken. In spite of her plainness, Frede found admirers and lovers wherever she went – her wit, vivacity and magnetic personality assured that.”

LM Montgomery Special and Archival Collections, University of Guelph Library



Frede’s sketches are in LMM’s original journals, Special Collections, University of Guelph Library; the jewelry belongs to the family of James Campbell; the Good Fairy is identical to LMM’s and is in the personal collection of the author.





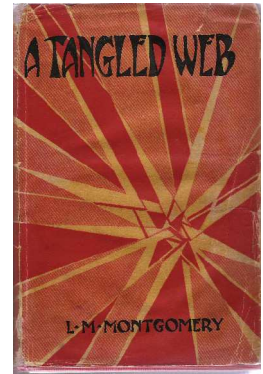
## A Visit to the Guelph Archives

On the way back from PEI in September, Carolyn spent a few days in the archives at Guelph University, researching several topics in the vast LMM collection there.

In addition to the handwritten and typescript copies of LMM's journals, some of her manuscripts, hundreds of photographs she took, scrapbooks, and samples of her needlework, the archives store some of the objects that LMM wrote about in her books and stories. Among these is the old "Woolner jug" that inspired LMM's book *A Tangled Web* (1931). This is one of the family's heirlooms that passed down to LMM after her grandmother, Lucy Woolner Macneill, died in 1911.

Although the jug was not on her list of research topics, Carolyn couldn't resist the opportunity to have a look at it. But it wasn't a matter of just lifting the jug off a shelf and holding it up.

The jug, brought from England to PEI by the Woolner family in the early 1800s, is now in many pieces, each one wrapped in tissue; the tiniest fragments are collected in an envelope. Some of the pieces seem to be missing, but enough exist to give us an idea of what the jug looked like in its original form. (There is a black and white picture of LMM holding the jug in Journal 4, pp. 201) Some of the original white-lead mending that LMM wrote about seems to cling to some of the edges of pieces of the jug.



*A Tangled Web* will be the focus of one of our spring meetings, so find a copy, read it over the winter, and bring your questions and observations for discussion to the meeting (date to be announced). Carolyn will bring her photos of the pieces of the jug and we'll discuss the three inscriptions that appear on it.

There will be a special article about the Woolner jug in next year's issue of *The Shining Scroll*.

## ELSIE DAVIDSON February 7, 1904 – May 8, 2003 © by Mary Beth Cavert

Elsie Bushy Davidson was a live-in housekeeper for L.M. Montgomery in Leaskdale and Norval, Ontario.

I first met her in 1993 when I was staying with Wilda Clark in Uxbridge Ontario and Elsie joined us for dinner. She was just beginning to be interviewed about her years as a member of the Montgomery-Macdonald household in the 1920s and she was full of candid recollections. We all went to church in Leaskdale together and sat in the back pew where Maud and her boys sat (for easy exiting if the boys misbehaved). During a hymn, Elsie whispered somewhat loudly in the direction of the organist to "Pick it up!" When we took her home she said, "Come back to visit me, but if you don't get back before I die, come to my funeral!" My video of Elsie and Wilda is a treasured keepsake.



Elsie was a very funny, wry and sharp. Every time I returned to Uxbridge, Wilda and I went to her house and enjoyed good conversation and laughs.

Elsie was born near Coppins Corners, Ontario in 1904, and grew up on a farm not far from the Leaskdale (St. Paul's) Presbyterian Church and Manse. Elsie followed in the footsteps of an earlier employee of LMM, Lily Meyer. "I didn't gossip like Lily!"

The following comments come from our conversation in 1993.

She always ate with the family, as was the custom with the Macdonalds and their “help.” Montgomery kept a chair rung by her plate to rap hands (of her sons) if necessary. Elsie did not like Maud’s husband, Ewan. One day when she didn’t have the table set when the family sat down, he teased her by rapping a spoon on a cup and singing repeatedly, “supper in the dinning hall.” She didn’t like it. “I looked at him everyday and all I saw was stupidity. He was so slow and stupid.” She and Maud did all the hard work, like cleaning the horse stable and the stovepipe. Ewan never did anything. I asked her if he tinkered with his car. “He didn’t tinker with anything!”

There was little conversation at meals, just Elsie and the kids – mostly with Stuart. “He was a nice little fella. I loved him.” Her opinion of Chester was: “I could have kicked him all the way to Africa!” She wished that she had kept in touch with Stuart. At a Montgomery event in Leaskdale in 1965, she met him again. He was delighted to see her and gave her a warm welcome. Maud allowed Elsie to read her books in proof form when they were sent from the publisher. Elsie loved to read. “When I get a book, I forget about work, I forget about hours. I read until it’s done.”

Elsie moved with the family to Norval in 1926. She might have stayed but she was very homesick and Montgomery was also difficult about allowing her to spend time with a boyfriend of whom Maud disapproved. Else would go sit by the river and cry. “Mrs. Macdonald was no companion. If she had been a companion, I’d have stayed longer.”

Elsie did return home and worked as a phone exchange operator. She married Cliff Davidson in 1937 and they farmed near Sandford, Ontario. She had three children and moved to Uxbridge in 1962. After Montgomery’s death, Elsie had the feeling that Maud had “done away with herself.” I might add that she did not have personal evidence of that perception, only that she heard it from someone she knew.

She was a long time member of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Uxbridge and had only recently moved to a care facility before her death at age 99.

### **Ten-Year Anniversaries Celebrated**

Two museums commemorating Lucy Maud Montgomery’s history celebrated their tenth anniversaries this summer -- Bala’s Musuem in Bala, Ontario, and the Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum in Park Corner, PEI.

The Bala celebration took place on October 25<sup>th</sup> and owners Jack and Linda Hutton report this:

Linda and I are looking forward to doing an afternoon presentation that will include a re-creation of the 1919 Anne of Green Gables silent movie in a slide presentation.

The slides come from still photos in the rare 1920 Page edition of "Anne of Green Gables". Page must have been extremely disappointed when Mary Miles Minter's Hollywood scandal resulted in the disappearance of the silent film.

In our presentation we are going to be talking about how we learned that the 16th century Fairbanks homestead in Dedham, Massachusetts, was chosen as the Anne of Green Gables home for the movie.

We'll also talk about a previously unmentioned connection between the 1919 film and Douglas Fairbanks, the king of silent movies at that time.

I am going to be playing the "Anne of Green Gables" sheet music from 1919 as the background to the presentation. That was the theme music played by silent movie pianists for the Mary Miles film.

Should be great fun.

<http://www.bala.net/museum/index.html>



**The Inn at Roselawn (from their web site) is also owned by the Huttons**

The Montgomery Museum was opened in May 1993 in Park Corner by the Robert Montgomery family. Robert is the great-grandson of Senator Donald Montgomery (Lucy Maud's grandfather) who built the house in 1878. Maud spent many happy times in this home, and it is from this home that she embarked on her journey to Saskatchewan in 1890 to live with her father. Grandfather Montgomery, at the age of 81, accompanied her, introducing her to Prime Minister John A. MacDonald on the way! (See the article on the Kensington Depot for related information.) Even after her beloved Grandfather Montgomery died, Maud continued to visit the home and always included a visit to it on her return trips to PEI after her marriage.



Drawing of the Montgomery farm from a book of lot maps in the Heritage Museum

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum contains its original furnishings, including many treasures that Maud wrote into her novels: "Magog," the original green-spotted china dog from the "Anne" books, has been part of the Montgomery family history since 1775, and is now on display, along with the china fruit basket from *The Story Girl*, the Rose-bud Tea-Set from *Anne of Green Gables*, first editions of many of LMM's books (including *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Watchman*, *A Tangled Web* (autographed with LMM's "black cat" signature), the "Emily" books, and others).

The Montgomery Museum is rich with family history and provides a unique look into LMM's life on Prince Edward Island. The "legendary Montgomery hospitality" that Maud experienced then is still in evidence today with personally-guided tours given to visitors during the summer months.

Congratulations to these two LMM-related museums on their first ten years and here's to many more years of enlightening visitors on the many facets of LMM's life and career.

### 2004 Symposium



The L. M. Montgomery Institute at the University of Prince Edward Island will hold its sixth biennial symposium June 24 - 27, 2004. The theme is *L.M. Montgomery's Interior and Exterior Landscapes*. Two of our members, Beth Cavert and Emily Woster, will be giving papers!

Beth's topic is "*The Forest Primeval: the Shared Landscapes of L.M. Montgomery and Arthur John Lockhart (Pastor Felix)* – Friday June 25, Plenary session, 9:00 am.

Emily's topic is "*The Readings of a Writer: The Literary Landscape Created by L.M. Montgomery's Love of Literature*" -- Saturday June 26, 11:00am

Congratulations to both of you on your acceptances and rest assured that many of the LMMLS members will be there to cheer you on.

photos used in this newsletter are from the collections of Carolyn Collins and Mary Beth Cavert



***Shining Scroll* - Newsletter of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society**

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