

L.M. Montgomery and the Railway King of Canada © by Christy Woster

As only a true fan of Lucy Maud Montgomery could understand, it is thrilling to walk over the paths that Maud once did, or to sit in a room that she once occupied. A lesser-known destination that Maud visited often is Kirkfield, Ontario. Kirkfield is near Maud's home in Leaskdale and Lindsay, Ontario.

Still standing in Kirkfield is the home of Sir William MacKenzie, now open to the public as an Inn and Bed and Breakfast. Maud stayed here often as a guest of the MacKenzie family, and must have loved the beauty of the surroundings.

Sir William MacKenzie was born in 1849 in the Kirkfield area to John and Mary MacKenzie. When he was three years old his mother died and he went to live with his aunt and uncle, Catherine and Donald Munro. He attended public school in North Eldon, and graduated from the high school in Lindsay.

In 1868 he assumed a teaching position and tried his hand at teaching for a year. Not thinking that he would like to pursue this as a career, he tried several other vocations, running a general store, the lumber business and construction. He found construction to be to his liking and by his mid twenties he was working as a contractor. In 1871 he began his work as a railroad contractor and laid down rails from Maine to the prairies of Canada.

In 1872 he married Margaret Merry in Lindsay, Ontario. William was of Scottish descent and Protestant, Mary was Irish and Roman Catholic and so they had a very secret wedding with only two guests -- strangers from off the street. After their marriage they settled in Kirkfield to begin their life together. William continued to excel in construction and dabbled in politics. The political education would serve him well later when vying for lucrative construction contracts.

In 1880 William began the first of many large construction projects. He gathered a group of young Scotsmen from the Kirkfield area and traveled to British Columbia. There he and his crew built wooden trestle bridges and snow sheds for the railroad. Snow sheds protected the trains and the rail beds from snow and falling debris. MacKenzie and his workers built one of the largest wooden structures ever built; it was called The Mountain Creek Bridge.

He then went into partnership with Donald Mann and together they started the Canadian Northern Railroad. MacKenzie and Mann proved to be a very powerful team, besides building railroads they introduced electrified street railways to such cities as Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg in the 1890s. They proceeded on to England, Latin America and the Caribbean, where they promoted and financed a number of power and tramway enterprises in the late 1890s, early 1900s.



<http://en.wikipedia.org>

By the late 1880's MacKenzie was a wealthy man and decided to build a home for his family in Kirkfield. But this was to be no ordinary home. The house stood three stories tall, was over 10,000 square feet

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and contained 40 rooms. It cost \$18,000 to build, which was five times more than the average house of the day. William's wife, Margaret, designed much of the interior of the house. She preferred the new "Neo Classical Style" to the then popular Victorian style of decorating. She wanted the house to be light and airy with lots of windows. The exterior of the mansion was originally red brick, but soon after being built was painted white, as William didn't like the dark brick. For some time people would refer to the home as "The White House." Besides the immediate grounds, the MacKenzie farm stretched for at least 1000 acres.

On April 5th, 1887, Maud's father, Hugh John Montgomery married his second wife, Mary Ann McRae. Hugh had been transferred from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to Battleford and had rented his house in Prince Albert to John McTaggart, the new Prince Albert land agent. Mary was his stepdaughter and Hugh met her there. Mary was originally from the Kirkfield area and was William MacKenzie's niece. MacKenzie was, by the time of Hugh and Mary Ann's wedding, an important and influential man. Hugh must have felt that he was marrying into a very prominent family indeed. Hugh and Mary's wedding took place in the Kirkfield Presbyterian Church. The wedding breakfast was held at the William MacKenzie home. What a wonderful affair the wedding breakfast must have been, in the 40-room mansion with the gorgeous grounds and gardens.

In the Uxbridge Journal in 1887 the wedding was recorded -- "At the Kirkfield Presbyterian Church by Reverend Mr. McLaren of Cannington, Mr. Hugh Montgomery of Battleford to Miss Mary McCrae of Prince Albert, both of the North West Territories..." Although LMM did not attend the wedding, she pasted her invitation to it in her scrapbook, now in the archives of the Confederation Centre, Charlottetown.

Mary had gone to high school in Uxbridge and probably wanted her friends there to read about the marriage. And so, William MacKenzie became Maud's step-grand uncle. In Maud's family a person's place in society was very important, and the family must have been pleased with Hugh marrying into such an important and well-known family.

The MacKenzies moved into Toronto to be closer to William's business dealings but kept their home in Kirkfield as a summer home. The home in Kirkfield remained an important part of the family's life until William's death in 1923.

In March of 1890, Hugh and Mary moved back to Prince Albert, and in August of that year, Maud, traveling with her Grandfather Montgomery, left for Prince Edward Island and arrived in Prince Albert to stay with her father. There she met her stepmother for the first time. While there, they were visited by the MacKenzies, as Maud wrote in her journal:

Wednesday, September 3, 1890, "Company came last night -- Mrs. MacKenzie of Toronto and her two daughters. Her husband, William MacKenzie is my step mother's uncle, and is a railroad king and millionaire, I understand."

Maud lived with her father and stepmother for one year. She did not get along well with her stepmother and with that and homesickness for PEI, Maud left Prince Albert for the Island in August of 1891. On her way back to PEI she had a stop in Toronto and she wrote this in her journal:

Tuesday, September 1, 1891, Evening 11 O'clock, "We reached Toronto at 4 and as I had 5 hours to stay there I decided to go and see the Mackenzies'. Eddie's cousin met him and we took a streetcar and drove three miles up Sherbourne St. to Mr. McKenzie's house. I was delighted with Toronto. It is a beautiful city. When we got to my destination I got off, bade Eddie good-bye-not at all regretfully-and ran up the steps. To my disappointment I found that Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, Gertie and Mabel were out in the country. However, the governess and a Miss Campbell who was there were exceedingly kind and so were the children. I had a lovely time. Later on Rod McKenzie came in. He is very nice and I spent a delightful evening. At 8:30 Rod drove me to the depot and put me on board the train."

The MacKenzies had nine children. Rod was their oldest son; he would have been 18 years old when Maud visited. The two sisters that Maud mentions, Mabel and Gertrude would have been 15 and 16 respectively. Maud was the same age as Mabel and the girls probably enjoyed each other's company.

As the years passed and Maud began her career as an author, William MacKenzie continued with his passion for building railroads. From 1900 to 1915 railway mileage doubled in Canada, much of this due to the work of MacKenzie. He also built the Sir Adam Generating Plant in Niagara Falls with a group of others. This was the beginning of Ontario Hydro.

MacKenzie and Mann built the tunnel through Mount Royal in Montreal. And together they were responsible for the development of West Mount, a suburb of Montreal and Leaside a suburb of Toronto. MacKenzie also owned Canada's largest newspaper "Le Press," the largest whaling fleet in the world, and the Canadian Northern Steamship Lines. He was a very successful and powerful man.

But perhaps his biggest accomplishment was the building of a Trans Continental Railway of over 5,000 miles. Today, this line is called the Canadian National Railway, now privately owned, and one of the most successful railways in the world.

MacKenzie and Mann were both knighted on January 1, 1911. Later that year Maud married Ewan McDonald and moved from Prince Edward Island to Leaskdale, Ontario, just a short distance away from Kirkfield. Their paths must have crossed occasionally, as Maud gained fame as an author; she would have had more access to social events held with the more prominent citizens of the area.

In 1913 the recession took its toll on the value of MacKenzie's enterprises, and the outbreak of World War I decreased his profits as well. In 1917 the Canadian Northern was taken over by the Dominion Government, and MacKenzie felt that he was paid far less than what it was worth. He lived out the rest of his life with less wealth and less recognition than he felt he deserved. William died in Toronto in December of 1923 and is buried in Kirkfield.

The heir to the MacKenzie properties was William's youngest son, Joseph. But Joe had little interest in the Kirkfield property and the house sat empty for several years. Then in 1927 Joe sold the house to the Sisters of St. Joseph for the price of one dollar. The beautiful house and grounds would, for the next fifty years, be home to a convent and school for girls.

In 1992, the neglected mansion was purchased by Paul and Joan Scott. They undertook a massive renovation and restored the home to its former glory, and opened it as a Bed and Breakfast. Paul Scott wrote a book detailing their adventure of restoring the William MacKenzie home titled -- "A Decade of Memories." Not only did they renovate the home and grounds, but they also sought to educate people on the contributions that MacKenzie had made to Canada. In the years that the MacKenzie family owned the home, they had many famous people visit them.

Scott states: "Famed novelist Lucy Maud Montgomery was a part of the Kirkfield MacKenzies. L. M. Montgomery was a regular visitor as Sir William was distantly related, her step grand uncle, close enough to allow her into the inner circle of a famous Canadian family. Maud even stood up for two of Sir William's daughters, Gertrude and Mabel."

When the renovation was complete and the Scotts readied the mansion to receive visitors, it was time to name the guestrooms. Along with the Sir William room, the Lady MacKenzie room, and the Sir Henry Pellat room (the builder of Casa Loma in Toronto, and a sometimes partner of MacKenzie), there is the Lucy Maud Montgomery room, in honor of the times that Maud spent there and her connection to the MacKenzie family.



Photos by C. Woster

From 1888 to 1917 Lady MacKenzie had her husband's fortune to use, to create the beautiful grounds of the Kirkfield home. She hired a horticulturist to help her achieve her vision for the grounds, and had many employees working to maintain the gardens. She had 24 Norway spruce trees planted in two rows 60 feet apart and 150 feet long. She named this Apostles Row for the twelve Apostles. She had hundreds of trees planted on their property and through out the Village of Kirkfield.

Maud must have enjoyed her visits to Kirkfield, the beauty of the grounds and gardens would certainly have brought her joy. Plus the company of such an accomplished man must have led to many an interesting conversation. Maud loved intelligent and spirited discussions and Sir William certainly would have had many an interesting tale to tell.

I was not able to find the date that Maud first met the MacKenzie's, or the dates of Gertrude's and Mabel's weddings. It would be interesting to know how often Maud got together with the MacKenzie family, but she must have been fairly close to the family, as the two sisters asked her to stand up for them. Hopefully with further research, I can solve these mysteries.

In 2002, Paul and Joan Scott sold the Inn to Sharon Arnaud and Jeremy Pierpoint, who continue to greet guests at the beautiful Inn. The property had been designated a historical site by Parks Canada, a fitting tribute to Sir William and his contributions to the progress of Canada.

Along with the Bed and Breakfast, the Inn also offers conference facilities and full service wedding accommodations. A bride and groom can have their rehearsal dinner served in the dining room, the wedding on the veranda or on the beautiful grounds and have lovely accommodations for themselves and their guests. They also can serve a wedding breakfast there, just as Hugh Montgomery and his wife had in the beautiful mansion.

After the wedding the Inn asks each bride and groom to plant a tree on the grounds, and a plaque is placed by the tree with their names on it -- a tradition that would be approved of by both Maud and Lady MacKenzie I am sure.

In Maud's journal dated, Wednesday, July 15, 1925, The Manse, Leaskdale, Ontario, "...Yesterday we motored to Kirkfield and spent the day with the Burkholders. Very pleasant but of course, for me, marred by the ceaseless talk about the Union and its results which made an otherwise excellent dinner a meal of bitter herbs. Kirkfield is where father was married to his second wife. The old MacKenzie house, where the reception was held, is still there, across the street from the manse. A beautiful place which has been shut up for years. The ceremony was performed in the old church which has been torn down. We went for a walk through a most beautiful long lane of lombardies on the MacKenzie estate. It was the part of the day I enjoyed the most. How I miss out of my life now the long intimate walks through woods and secluded fields..."

With my daughters Emily and Anne, I stopped at Kirkfield on our way home from PEI. We stopped briefly at the Inn, and the owners were kind enough to let us see the L.M. Montgomery room. The room was lovely, and the whole mansion just beautiful. We hope to stay there on our next trip out to PEI. There is something so special about visiting the places that Maud once did, and feeling a bit of her spirit as you walk through the gardens and woods.



Resources:

A Decade of Memories, by Paul D. Scott

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Album, compiled by Kevin McCabe

The Selected Journals of LM Montgomery, Vol. 1, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston.

The Selected Journals of LM Montgomery, Vol.3, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston

The Sir William MacKenzie Inn web site: www.themackenzieinn.com Phone: 1-800-266-6025

Lucy Maud Montgomery and the Ronald McNair Program By Emily Woster

Named for one of the astronauts killed in the Challenger explosion, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program prepares traditionally underrepresented students for graduate-level study. McNair, who received his PhD by the age of 26, believed strongly in the power of education. Participating students attend workshops, work with faculty members to complete higher-level research and receive help with graduate school applications and resume building.

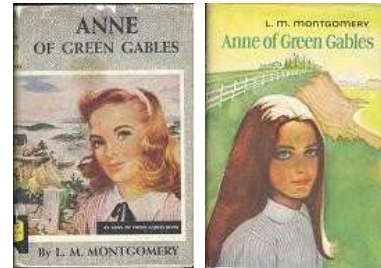
Having been invited to complete the program twice (it is usually only offered to students the summer after their junior year) I was honored to be able to work on two very different research projects. In 2004, I adapted my research about the many books Lucy Maud read between 1889 and 1910 to be presented at the L.M. Montgomery International Symposium at the University of Prince Edward Island.

This past summer though I got the chance to do a bit more “fun” research in the Montgomery field. This time, I focused my research on the covers of Montgomery’s books and had a great time sifting through the ever-changing world of book publishing around the world. I chose to discuss the role of Montgomery’s main audience, the adolescent girl, and how many publishers would adapt their depiction of Anne or Emily to fit the ideal of young girls at the time or place that the book was being sold.

Looking for some form of identification, or at least something in common with the characters in their novels, many girls would reach for books that displayed some sense of the popular, of the cool or with an image of what they wanted to be. For instance, in the following two covers, one from the late thirties and one from the early seventies, Anne’s face and style have altered drastically to accommodate the changing times.

The same idea held true as Montgomery’s books traveled around the world. Where Anne was a tall, sturdy girl in Sweden she was a cartoon fantasy in Japan. Anne was a world and time traveler who fit into whatever mold the publisher put her, regardless of the words Montgomery used to describe her.

My project was well received since it covers many different disciplines from cultural studies to English to history to sociology. This type of research was a great use and test of my skills as a writer, researcher and presenter and I had an amazing two years working with Montgomery’s material at a higher level.



Part of the McNair experience is completing a large poster that presents the relevant parts of the research project to an interested audience. To the right I am pictured with my faculty mentor, Patricia Hagen and my poster for this year’s research. The poster sessions allows me to share, defend and discuss my work with other scholars, community members and faculty at St. Scholastica. It is the final step in a long summer of learning and growing as a scholar.

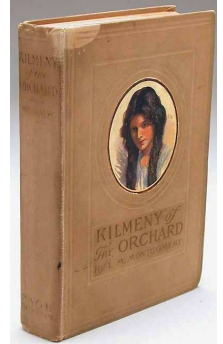
The McNair Program is a great stepping stone into all types of graduate learning and research and has also given me the opportunity to work in the world of academia, and focus on an author that I am passionate about. My work with Lucy Maud will most surely stay with me as I pursue graduate school in the coming years.



Bertie McIntyre
© by Mary Beth Cavert

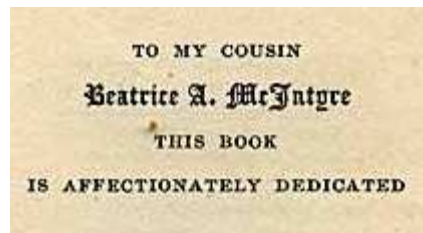
Note: A book auction was held recently in Calgary, Alberta in which about fifteen books that L.M. Montgomery gave to her cousin, Bertie McIntyre, were sold for a total of \$ 10,575. We thought our readers would be interested to know more about this very close friend, who, had she lived closer, might have figured as prominently in Montgomery's life as her other beloved cousin, Frederica Campbell. All photo credits at: www.levisauctions.com unless otherwise noted.

With the success of *Anne of Green Gables* in 1908 and *Anne of Avonlea* in 1909, Lucy Maud Montgomery's publisher, The L.C. Page Company wanted another book ready for a waiting public as soon as possible. They suggested printing an expanded version of a Montgomery story titled "Una of the Garden," which had appeared in a magazine in the winter of 1908. Maud began re-writing and revising Una, whose name she changed to "Kilmeny," in the middle of November 1909, hoping to finish by a January 1 deadline. It was a difficult time for writing. Her obligations to her aging grandmother were frustrating -- even her fame and new fortune did not allow her the authority to fix up her home, get domestic help, travel or even entertain friends. She was depressed, cold, suffering from bad dreams, sleeplessness and illness. Nonetheless, *Kilmeny*, which reflected "very little out of {her} own experience," was completed on time.



BERTIE'S COPY

Kilmeny of the Orchard was dedicated to Maud's cousin, Beatrice Alberta McIntyre, known to everyone as Bertie or Bert –



Anne of Avonlea, which featured Anne Shirley's experiences as a new teacher, made its dedication to a Cavendish teacher a logical choice. However, the mute heroine of Maud's 1910 book had little in common with her cousin and good friend. If there was one quality that Bertie McIntyre and Maud Montgomery shared, it certainly was not silence -- they could fill the hours of any day or night with "soul-satisfying" talk!

The choice of her cousin for this dedication was the result of Montgomery's love for Bertie and her family. They were in her thoughts as the year 1910 began, especially her Aunt Mary Montgomery McIntyre, who had died exactly one year before Maud finished *Kilmeny of the Orchard*. The McIntyre family had been important to Maud for seventeen years and her affection for them was a natural extension of the relationship between her father and his sister. Aside from the *Anne of Green Gables* dedication to her father, Hugh John, this was the only other book dedicated to her Montgomery relatives.

Hugh Montgomery had six sisters and two brothers. He was the "big" brother, two and a half years older, to his fourth sister, Mary. When Hugh was 23, he was shipwrecked on the Magdalen Islands, north of PEI. A copy of a handwritten poem by Hugh, (now in the L.M. Montgomery archives in Guelph, Ontario) reveals his affection for Mary. It is an acrostic of his sister's name and was written in appreciation of her devotion. A note says, "composed by H.J. Montgomery, father of L.M. Montgomery, when cast away on the Magdalene Islands. His sister, Mary, never gave up hope for his return."

An Acrostik Jan. 20th 1865

*May you fair emblem of the summer rose
In lovely beauty still thy charm disclose
So may you flourish in such robes arrayed
Sweet be thy paths from trouble ever strayed
May flowers of beauty on thy pathway grow
And never sorrow thy pure bosom know
Round thy fair path shall flowers of beauty bloom
Yes! radiant glory will thy path illumine
May each day that passes be forever blessed
On peaceful pleasures may thy bosom rest
Nought to mar thy journey down this stream of time
To religious bliss in this world be thine
Gathered around thy brow gems of glory shine
On brighter gems than the gold of Acadia's mine
May you have peace untill your race is run
Each day and year as they roll on
Remembering well as time pass by
Young as thou art youth must die.*

*Composed by my dear brother Hugh John while
on the Magdalene Islands. Mary Montgomery*

Nearly ten years after he wrote this tribute, Hugh John was married, the father of Maud and the business partner of Mary's husband, Duncan McIntyre. Their store in Clifton eventually failed and Maud blamed Duncan's "extravagance and dissipation" in her journals.

Maud's first encounter with her McIntyre cousins came at Park Corner when Mary and Hugh's brother, Cuthbert Montgomery, got married in November 1891. She met James McIntyre there and he drove her to and from the wedding -- they had fun together and he was "quite nice and nice-looking."

The McIntyres lived in Charlottetown and Maud became quite close to Mary McIntyre and her children when she was a 19 year-old student at Prince of Wales College in 1893. After that, whenever she arrived in Charlottetown - from Halifax, Bideford or Cavendish - her cousins met her and she stayed with them. Although Maud's first impression of Aunt Mary had been influenced by her Grandmother Macneill and her Aunt Annie (Macneill) Campbell's "prejudice," her distrust was short-lived. Mary's love for her dear brother's daughter would have erased Maud's reservations. She learned that she could always expect a warm welcome into the McIntyre home and family circle.

Maud had several "Aunt Marys," in her parents' generation, but it was Mary Montgomery McIntyre that she loved and admired the most, almost as a "second mother." She described her as beautiful, sweet, kind, loyal, brave and loving. Maud liked and enjoyed her McIntyre cousins, Jim, Laura, Harry, Lewis, Cuthbert and Bertie; the boys "felt like brothers." When Aunt Mary died unexpectedly on January 1, 1909, a heart-broken Maud eulogized her in a letter (March 28, 1909) to her pen pal Ephraim Weber:

"Aunt Mary was a sort of second mother to me - a sweet, fine, brave, plucky little woman who had lived a more truly heroic life than many of the heroes and heroines of history. She had a very dissipated husband and all the care of providing for and educating her family of six fell on her. She did it so triumphantly that every one of them is today occupying an honourable social station and a prosperous financial condition. Then, her work done and tired out, she died - 'after life's fitful fever she sleeps well.' [Montgomery put this quote on Frede Campbell's grave marker] If she could have but

lived ten years to enjoy the ease and pleasure her children were so eager to give her! I felt her death bitterly; but these things can't be written about!"

One of these children was Beatrice Alberta, Maud's "loving cousin, Bert," as she signed herself in an 1898 postcard. Bertie was born on January 24, 1879 in Clifton, where Maud was born. Bertie and her younger sister, Laura Augusta, were Maud's companions-in-fun when she came to Charlottetown. During one visit in 1900, they spent several evenings at a restaurant eating ice cream - they had "a feast regardless of shrinking pocketbooks."

However, Maud's visits to Charlottetown between 1898 and 1910 were rare because she was caring for her grandmother in Cavendish and could not often make arrangements which would allow her the freedom to leave home for long. But when she did, she spent as much time as possible with Bertie. It was common practice for them to stay up all night talking. Maud always left with regret, wishing that they could meet more often.

After her mother's death, Bertie had to give up their house, but she boarded in Charlottetown with Mrs. James Sutherland and worked as a teacher at the Model School at Prince of Wales College. Bertie was an important friend for Maud Montgomery in 1910 because Maud's other cousin and close friend, Frederica Campbell, had moved off of the Island to attend school. Bertie was available to share one of Maud's most exciting times on the Island, which Bertie dubbed "The Grey Time."



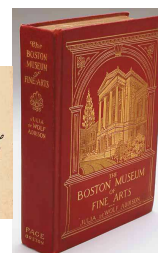
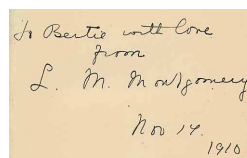
LMM Collection University of Guelph

Maud, a well-known author by September 1910, was invited to Charlottetown and the town of Orwell to meet the Governor-General, Earl Grey, who enjoyed her books. This was a great honor for Maud and she knew that Aunt Mary would have been very proud of her. She shared the excitement of this event with Bertie, who guided her through the hectic preparations for the dinners, "patiently playing the part of lady's maid," and then listened to Maud's elated recollections of the experience.

Montgomery gave Bertie a copy of Robert Browning's poems and inscribed it:

*"To Bertie, in memory of the 'strenuous life'
lived together on September 12th, 13th, 14th 1910.
Lovingly Maud."*

Soon after that, in November of 1910, Montgomery went to Boston, Massachusetts to meet her publisher, L.C. Page, and gave Bertie a memento of that visit – a copy of *Boston Museum of Fine Arts*. Books were one aspect of their common language.



Bertie and Maud left the Island at almost the same time. After Maud's Grandmother Macneill died in March 1911, she was free to marry Ewan Macdonald, a Presbyterian minister. In the spring of 1911, Maud spent ten days in Charlottetown preparing for the wedding which would take place in July in Park Corner at the farm of her Aunt Annie and Uncle John Campbell. Maud and Bertie spend much of that time together and enjoyed each other's company and conversation on "life and literature" immensely. Bertie would not be at her cousin's wedding -- she was going out west, and they knew it would be a long time before they saw each other again:

"Bertie and I never had such a good visit together and we enjoyed it hugely although it was clouded for us both by the shadow of coming change ... I felt wretched over the thought of being far separated from her and seeing her so seldom."

Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Vol. II, p. 63

Maud sent Bertie a copy of her 1911 book, *The Story Girl*, and the inscription refers to their last day together:

"To Bertie in Memory of June 28, 1911. Lovingly L.M. Montgomery."

In the following years, Maud lived in Ontario with her husband and two sons and Bertie taught public school a continent away in Vancouver, British Columbia. Bertie's brother, Harry, and her sister, Laura Aylsworth, also lived in Vancouver. Laura McIntyre had attended a women's business college to get training as an accountant. When she was 28 years old, she married Dr. Ralph B. Aylsworth, an optometrist. Bertie stayed with the Aylsworths and assisted at the birth of their son, Mac, in 1912. When Laura and Ralph moved to Toronto in 1917, Bertie considered a move too.

Maud yearned for Bertie's companionship over the years, especially at lonely hard times when her family was ill or when she reread old letters. Bertie and Maud's cousin, Frede, were her most valued "kindred spirits." Frede lived within a day's travel and close enough to visit the Macdonald family frequently on holidays. When Maud received word that Bertie was trying to get a job near Maud, she was "intoxicated" with delight. The idea that both Frede and Bertie would be close was too good to be true --she would "really have little more to wish for." It was too good to be true - Bertie did stay in Vancouver, but at last she was able to make a trip east.

Bertie's visit to Leaskdale in August 1917 was a joyful one. As usual, Maud was apprehensive, wondering if they could still enjoy each other after six years of separation. But time melted away, Bert was still the same, "full of fun and philosophy." She was smitten with Maud's children, especially little Stuart whose curls were illuminated in the morning light when she met him for the first time.



During this ten-day visit, they discussed theology and ethics, went on a picnic and boat ride and quoted poetry. On her last evening in Leaskdale they took a walk that was "memorable and glorious." They watched a beautiful evening fade from the sky, and grabbed each other by the arm to point out pictures in the clouds. Maud was sick at heart when she left.

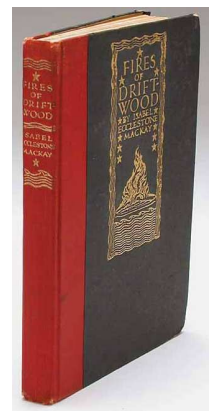
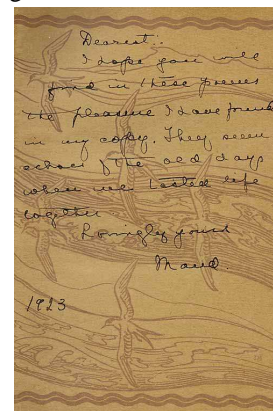
However, when Bertie arrived at her sister's home in Toronto, she learned that she still had some extra vacation time. Maud went to Toronto and spent two more days of "carefree enjoyment" with Bertie and Laura.

LMM Collection, University of Guelph

By 1919, Maud was starved for companionship. In January she sent Bertie a 1918 copy of John Garvin's *Canadian Poems of the Great War*. By the end of January, her closest friend, Frederica Campbell, was dead from influenza. There was no one else near in whom she could find both the emotional and intellectual companionship that she found in Frede and Bert -- and no one else who was "kin."

Maud kept in touch with the McIntyre family during all the years she lived in Ontario. Cuthbert McIntyre, who worked for a bank in Toronto and Edmonton, was a dinner guest of the Macdonalds and Maud often stayed or dined at his home in Toronto. A few months after Frede's death, Maud went to Toronto to visit with Laura, hoping to break out of her terrible cycle of grieving. Many years later, when Laura's daughter, Laura Patricia, married Kenneth Langdon in Georgetown, Ontario, Ewan officiated at the ceremony and Maud was the matron of honor. Pat died in 1950 when her children were quite young.

Even though Maud had not seen Bertie for seven years, she took her along, in her imagination, on a family vacation to the Muskoka area at Bala, Ontario in July 1922. Here, among beautiful waterfalls, islands and lakes, Maud relaxed and indulged in a fantasy vacation. She created a daydream where she spent an entire summer with her closest friends. In it, she paired Bertie with her friend and pen pal, George Boyd Macmillan. When Maud wrote to George, she promised him that in her next dream, she would "marry you to Bertie (who is a duck) and you'll live happily ever after" (she wrote a novel with that setting in 1924 called *The Blue Castle*).



In 1923, Maud sent Bertie a book of poetry called *Fires of Driftwood* (1922) by Isabel E. Mackay. She wrote:

"Dearest: I hope you will find in these poems the pleasure I have found in my copy. They seem echoes of the old days when we tasted life together. Lovingly yours Maud."

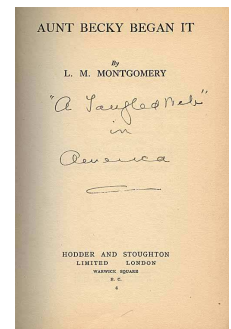
The next year, in July 1924, Maud and Bertie shared a real vacation together. Maud was 50 years old and Bertie was five years younger. Bertie had aged since Maud last saw her, but when she smiled, "youth pops out through her eyes." Maud, Bertie, Ewan and the boys, Chester and Stuart, drove 1817 miles to the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky. Bertie was a "dear, witty" companion. On the way, they stayed one night in a small town in Indiana whose claim to fame in Maud's memory was the bedbug that crawled over a pillow. Bertie and Maud tore all the beds apart looking for more. Even though a thorough search revealed no other creatures, everyone slept on the floor.

The Mammoth Caves captivated the whole Macdonald family. Maud Montgomery Macdonald was always responsive to the beauty in nature and carefully recorded her impressions from solitary woodland walks and rambles along the beach. However, she also found the enjoyment of nature to be even more powerful when she could share it with a kindred spirit. The Cave tour was crowded and noisy. So, the best moments for Maud were the ones when she and Bertie "lingered a minute or two behind the others and stood together in silence looking about us. Then we 'sensed' the Cave - its grandeur, its compelling charm - its magic - its devilry." When they left, Maud told Bertie she was coming back to the Caves, but she knew that she could not do it alone without Bertie, Ewan and the boys. There were too many spirits.

On the way home, they took a beautiful detour and, not knowing for sure if they were lost, the women sang Maud's favorite hymn, "Lead Kindly Light" to help them along to Cincinnati, Ohio. When they returned to Ontario by way of Niagara Falls, they were treated to another spectacle. Maud and Bertie sat together on a sheltered bench looking toward the illuminated American Falls, wishing that the Canadian Falls were similarly lighted. "We saw another indescribable thing - the Horseshoe Falls by lightning ... for half an hour Bertie and I sat there, spellbound, rapt, gazing on such a sight as we had never seen or deemed possible to see - the great Canadian fall, lying under the ghostly shimmering blue-white gleam of almost constant lightning ..." Bertie then left for a year as an "exchange" teacher in England. Maud "loaned" her a copy of *Guide to London*, which she got on her honeymoon trip in 1911. The book was never returned and an inscription was added:

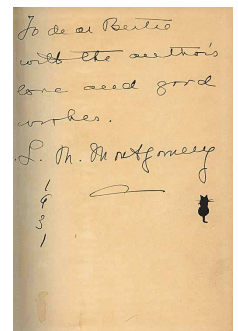
"Beatrice A. MacIntyre, 1924-1925 L.M. Montgomery (Honey moon - 1909 -Lon.) Guide to London on her Honey Moon trip to the Br. Isles in 1911 as Mrs. Ewan MacDonald loaned to her first cousin Beatrice A MacIntyre when she left for a year's stay in Britain & Continent—as far south as Rome—where she was present in St. Peter's at opening of Holy Door, Xmas A. M., 1924."

Maud did not have to wait six or seven years for her cousin's next visit. Bertie was at her sister's house in Trenton, Ontario in August 1925. She was on her way back to Vancouver after a year in England, but could not get transportation to the Manse in Leaskdale 100 miles away. Maud did not let this chance to see her McIntyre cousins go by, even though she could not drive herself and she was expecting company the next day. The Macdonalds left at six in the morning and drove for four and a half hours to spend the day with Bertie - and then they drove back home, arriving after midnight. Maud and Bertie "talked their souls out" during that happy day. Bertie had enjoyed her term in English schools (letter to Ephraim Weber, July 18, 1925): "... they don't believe in trying to teach those who don't want to be taught and they concentrate on those who do and let the rest go to Hades." Ewan, who also enjoyed Bertie's company, joined in the laughter during the evening meal.



The cousins stayed in touch in the years that followed. Bertie came back to Toronto in July 1930 and stayed for a week with Maud before leaving for Prince Edward Island. She spent another day with Maud on her way back. At the end of each visit, Montgomery was "blue" and missed her friend. "Will Bertie and I ever meet again?" (August 23, 1930)

Bertie's brother, Harry, was a bank manager and lived in Winnipeg. He took Maud for a drive around the town when she made her visit to friends in the west in 1930. Later, he retired to Vancouver. Jim McIntyre lived in Edmonton and took care of his father, Duncan. After Duncan died at age 87, Jim took his body back to Charlottetown to be buried. Maud wrote in her journal on January 7, 1931: "*He drank his youth and prime away, ruined his wife's life and did absolutely nothing for his children. And his reward was length of days and tender care to the end! Hum!*"



Montgomery visited with Cuthbert and his wife Ada quite often. She was extremely fond of Cuthbert and not fond at all of Ada. She wrote on June 12, 1938: "I love Cuth but I cordially dislike Ada." Bertie stayed in Vancouver until her brother Harry died there in December 1959. In 1960, 18 years after Maud's death, she moved to a retirement nursing home in Oakville, Ontario, near Cuthbert. Ironically, Oakville was only about 15 miles from Maud's last home in Toronto.

Jim McIntyre also relocated to the Toronto area and lived with Bertie's nephew, Mac Aylsworth. Mac thought his mother, Laura, was wonderful and admired her. As a youngster, Bertie was Mac's favorite aunt. He thought she was funny, good-hearted and a "typical school teacher," set in her ways. He had a "run-in" with Aunt Bert when he was rude to his mother, Laura -- he was about 28 years old at the time and Bert "took him to task." Laura and Bert were always very close (interview September 1995). When young Mac visited the Macdonalds in Leaskdale and Norval, he thought Maud walked around in a cloud, she was pleasant and didn't pay much attention to him, although she wrote in her journal that "he was a dear little fellow and was beloved of Chester and Stuart" (August 1920). Maud wrote that eighteen year old Mac was "grown up and nice looking" (December 30, 1930).

Mac's daughter, twelve year old Ara Aylsworth, wrote newsy uplifting letters to 82 year old Bertie who responded by correcting her grammar and spelling. In Ara's young eyes, her grandmother Laura and great-aunt Bert appeared prejudiced and narrow-minded -- Bert was a "stereotypical spinster, very Presbyterian, who thought it was wicked to have more than two children" (interview September 1995).

Bertie died near Christmas in 1961, within a few days of her brother Jim. Laura was stricken by the deaths of her brother and sister. Ara was given a riding outfit that belonged to Bertie -- black boots, a hard velvet Spanish style hat and a riding crop. All of Bertie's personal papers were discarded. The only artifacts of the McIntyres' relationship to Maud are a few copies of L.M. Montgomery's autographed books, which had been given to Laura and the recently auctioned collection of Bertie's books.

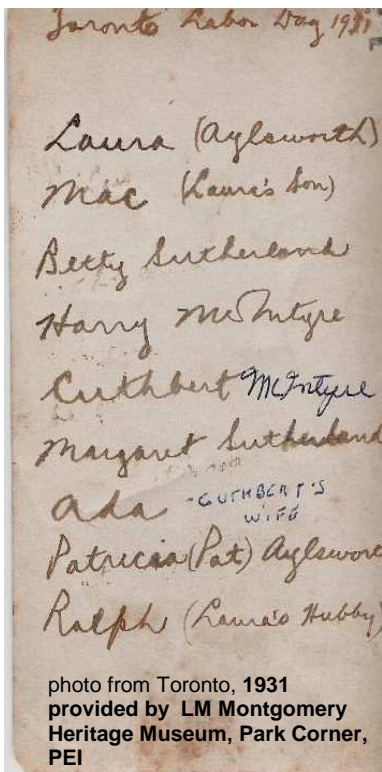
But Bertie McIntyre gave her grandniece, a girl she hardly knew, an important gift. She gave Ara the chance to meet her Island relatives, enjoy their beautiful gardens on the Island, hear the family tales she had read and loved in Maud's books, and see the place known as Green Gables. Ara Aylsworth was bequeathed \$500 in Bertie's will and instructed to take her ashes home to Prince Edward Island. Ara, and her grandfather, Ralph Aylsworth, went to PEI and there, on a hill by a beach, they scattered Bertie McIntyre's ashes.

Beatrice Alberta shared more than the feature of Montgomery eyes and a birthplace with her cousin Maud. They shared laughter, youth and family. They were in tune intellectually and emotionally -- they were friends and kin. Bertie's only shortcoming was that she lived so far away. Ironically, Maud's wish to have Bertie live near her was not fulfilled in her lifetime -- but in the end, they both returned to Prince Edward Island.

"We have been such congenial friends.

There seems to be a perfect harmony between us and a perfect understanding ... She is one of the few women in the world who really matter to me, and something is wrong when we have to live so far apart and meet so seldom."

Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery volume II, p. 63, p. 194





News from PEI 2005 Carolyn Collins

Anne and Gilbert, a new musical about Anne and Gilbert's romance, was presented this summer at the Victoria Playhouse in Victoria-by-the-Sea. It was so enthusiastically received that there is talk of producing it at the Confederation Centre and perhaps beyond.

The story is taken mostly from *Anne of Avonlea* and *Anne of the Island* and is reasonably faithful to the original story, keeping in mind that some things have to be changed for the stage. One jarring change at the end has Gilbert going to Bolingbroke to find letters from Anne's parents. He gives them to Anne, thus causing the veil to fall from her eyes to reveal that she is truly in love with Gilbert, rather than Gilbert's nearly dying of typhoid, etc., as in the book.

There is a great deal of music, singing and dancing. The most memorable song for me was "You're from Prince Edward Island," sung by the entire company to Anne. The music from the play has been issued on CD. This is an Anne play worth seeing!

***Anne and Gilbert* CD is released**

(this information is provided by David Malahoff)

Fifteen songs from the new hit musical *Anne and Gilbert* are now available on CD. Performed by the 2005 world premiere cast, the CD features performances by Marla McLean (Anne), Peter Deiwick (Gilbert) and ECMA award winner Laura Smith (Marilla). The *Anne and Gilbert* cast recording is for sale in PEI stores and on-line through www.anneandgilbert.com

Original Canadian musicals are rare. Original Canadian cast recordings are even rarer. But the successful world premiere run of *Anne and Gilbert*---forty-four shows and forty-four sell-outs---created a demand that's answered by this recording.

On the evening of August 4, 2005, *Anne and Gilbert* began its world premiere run at the Victoria Playhouse in Victoria-By-the-Sea, Prince Edward Island. Based on the sequel novels to *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery, this new musical tells the story of Anne Shirley's journey into young adulthood and her romance with Gilbert Blythe. This recording, featuring the 17-person cast, is a selection of original songs that captivated audiences during that memorable Prince Edward Island summer.

The composers are Bob Johnston and Nancy White; lyrics are by Jeff Hochhauser, Bob Johnston and Nancy White. The *Anne and Gilbert* CD is co-produced by James Carrier and Lisa St.Clair. The musicians are Mark Haines: guitar, mandolin and fiddle; Lisa St. Clair: keyboards; and Rick Tersteeg on cello. The recording was done at Reg Ballagh's Recording Palace in Prince Edward Island.

The Executive producers are David Malahoff and Campbell Webster.
Contact: Anne and Gilbert Inc., 6 Pownal Street, Charlottetown, PE ,C1A 3V6, 902-566-3346
email: davem@isn.net To hear song samples go to: www.anneandgilbert.com

L. M. Montgomery Festival

Events at this year's L. M. Montgomery Festival included Victorian games and an ice cream social at the Site of LMM's Cavendish Home; buggy rides, book signing for *A Writer's Garden*, writers' workshop at Silver Bush; open house at the LMM Birthplace; "A Cordial Welcome" raspberry cordial open house at the LMM Heritage Museum in Park Corner; enactment of "My Native Land Good-Bye" (short play about the beginning of LMM's trip to Prince Albert with her Grandfather Montgomery) in Kensington; and various

activities at Green Gables. Opening ceremonies were held at Avonlea Village in Cavendish and events were scheduled throughout the weekend of August 12-14, ending with the traditional church service at the United Church in Cavendish and a torchlight walk from the church to the homesite nearby.

Marco Polo Model

David Thompson of Warren Grove, PEI, painstakingly crafted a model-sized replica of the sailing ship *Marco Polo* from a piece of timber that originally came from the legendary ship that wrecked on the Cavendish shore in 1883. Mr. Elmer Peters of Stratford, PEI, donated the 10" x 7" piece of planking that has been in his family's possession since 1883. The project took three years and this summer, the finished model was the centerpiece of Stanley Bridge Days.



Known as the fastest sailing ship in the world in its day, the *Marco Polo* was loaded with a cargo of lumber when a wind-storm blew it onto the shore with a crash that could be heard for miles, according to witnesses, one of whom was eight-year-old Lucy Maud Montgomery.

LMM later wrote a prize-winning essay and then a poem about the momentous wreck, which she witnessed. These were among her first publications. The essay, written for a contest sponsored by the *Montreal Witness* newspaper, appeared in print in February 1891. She wrote about the event in her journal, too. The captain of the ship stayed at the Macneill home while the salvage operations took place. Relics from the ship can still be found in communities along the north shore.

During the Stanley Bridge Days festival, the splendid model of the *Marco Polo* was borne on a special boat from the Stanley Bridge wharf to the location of the wreck a few hundred feet off the shore of the Cavendish sand hills. A dozen or so boats loaded with observers followed the main boat out to the site and everyone watched and applauded as the model was slipped into the sea directly above the remains of the wreck for a few moments. Among the crowd were provincial officials and local "legend" Tommy Gallant who found the wreck of the *Marco Polo* in 1958.

Ross Affleck

Ross Affleck, our dear double-decker-bus driver for the *Anne of Green Gables Treasury Tour* in 1992, died suddenly in June 2005. Fondly nicknamed "Ross the Boss" by our group, he was a friendly, knowledgeable, and patient driver who indulged our many whims for stopping at unscheduled spots on our drives though the Prince Edward Island countryside in pursuit of LMM and Anne-related sites. Ross and his lovely wife Margie have been good friends ever since the tour. Ross was buried in the Sherwood Cemetery outside of Charlottetown.



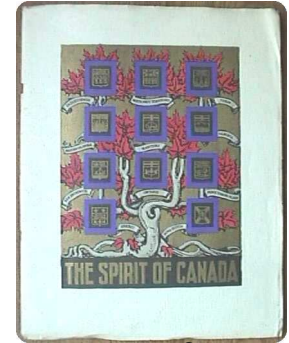
2004-05 Meetings of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society

Our society began its fourteenth year of meetings at the Edina Library on November 19. Beth Cavert distributed copies of *The Shining Scroll* and filled us in on the life of Isabel Anderson, Maud's super fan. She also gave us a glimpse of the galleys of her chapter on Nora, Isabel and Maud in the forthcoming book, *The Intimate Life of L.M. Montgomery*. Carolyn brought a set of six *Charlottetown Guardian* articles that appeared last summer on Anne and her impact on PEI. Carolyn Drake of the *Guardian* did a wonderful job of covering the depth of the "Anne effect." We decided to alter our meeting schedule in favor of meeting twice a year instead of four times, not for lack of interest but because of the difficulty of arranging the meetings to suit everyone's work and travel schedules.

For our spring meeting, we gathered at the "Lady Elegant Tea Room" in Saint Anthony Park. The Victorian-style dining room and afternoon tea treats were a delight. Beth Cavert presented a program on "I loved Herman Leard madly: L. M. Montgomery's Confession of Desire," by Irene Gammel, a chapter in the newly published book *The Intimate Life of L. M. Montgomery*. Beth also pointed out other features in the new book: photographs of Herman Leard and Isabel Anderson, the 1903 "secret diary" of LMM and Nora Lefurgey [not included in volume I of the published journals], Jennifer Litster's article about it, and Elizabeth Epperly's article on LMM's scrapbooks.

Members are always encouraged to bring items from their collections to show to the group. Sarah Riedel brought a copy of *The Spirit of Canada* that was published on the occasion of George VI and Queen Elizabeth's visit to Canada in 1939 and for which LMM wrote an article on Prince Edward Island. Carolyn brought several copies of magazines from 1919 and 1920 that had articles and advertisements for the 1919 silent film of "Anne" starring Mary Miles Minter. Christy Woster brought a book of poetry containing LMM poems.

To help bridge the long gap between fall and spring meetings, Christy Woster and her mother Penny Shreck invited members to a luncheon in January. They prepared a feast for us and we were also treated to a viewing of Christy's vast collection of LMM materials. Emily Woster, home from the College of St. Scholastica, gave her Symposium paper on the books that LMM had read before writing *Anne of Green Gables*.



Cavert

Storm and Dissonance: L.M. Montgomery and Conflict June 21-25, 2006 at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

Carolyn's paper, "Bound for Quebec" or "Journey's End"? – *Conflicting Stories of the Montgomery Family's Arrival in Prince Edward Island*, will be part of the plenary session called *Disputed Connections* on Sunday, June 25, 2006 at 9:30am.

Registration information can be found at:

<http://www.upei.ca/~lmmi/new.shtml>

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New Books related to Montgomery:

- *The Writer's Garden, Inspired Photographs with Selected Text and Writings by L.M. Montgomery* (2004: Nimbus Publishing).
- *The Way to Slumbertown* by L.M. Montgomery, Rachel Bedard (2005: Lobster Press)

L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada

The rolling fields, wooded groves, and paths around Lucy Maud Montgomery's home at Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, were dear to her and provided the setting and circumstances for her most successful novel, Anne of Green Gables. The landscape, the house now known as Green Gables, and the ruins of her home on the Macneill farmstead, continue to hold special meaning for her admirers. http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?bgid=739&andorl=bg

March 31, 2005

The L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada is among five new designations commemorating four places and one event of national historic significance to Canada. The site, says the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, is intimately associated with the author's formative years and early productive career. From [The Guardian, Prince Edward Island](#)