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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Old City Bank Printed \$3 Bill

By NEIL A. MATHESON

“AS PHONY as a three-dollar bill” has been used for many years to indicate something that is completely worthless or unfounded. But Nelson Blotz, Spryfield, Nova Scotia has a photostatic copy of a three dollar bill printed in 1852 by the Bank of Charlottetown.

Little is known about this bank but Sam Vail, Charlottetown told me this week that the bank was located on the premises later known as 57 Grafton Street.

The building and premises were purchased by Dr. S.R. Jenkins, father of Dr. Jack Jenkins, about the year 1908, Mr. Vail believes. Later it was the Canadian Legion Home.

Vault doors were removed and stored in the Rogers stone or brick warehouse, but they have since disappeared.

Mrs. Mary Brehaut, 7 Grafton Street tells me that Owen Connelly had a bank once and printed money. Mr. Connelly died a very rich man, apparently and many a person benefitted from the money he left for such purposes.

Irish boys, for example, have been receiving scholarships at St. Dunstan's University, for example, for many years now. My impression is that these scholarships will continue over the years although I must add that I am not an authority on Mr. Connelly.

If any reader has any information on the Bank of Charlottetown, I would appreciate hearing it.

Excavation At Brudenell

“DO YOU know, or have you ever heard of a chart of the DeRoma settlement at Brudenell?” The question was asked me this week by Labor Minister Elmer Blanchard as we chatted in my yard for a few minutes.

Mr. Blanchard told me that a chart of the location would be valuable now to the people who are doing excavation work there. Next day at the office, Frank Walker, chief editorial writer of The Guardian handed me a letter from a man who is working on the site, and Mr. Blanchard's words about the need of a chart became all the more evident.

The man notes that despite the efforts of such men as Rev. Dr. W.P. Bolger and Douglas Boylan “there is a remarkable scarcity of information concerning the old settlement. The kind of people, the exact number of them and even the type of buildings and their location are not explicit.

And listen to this:

“In fact to date we have uncovered no archeological evidence that the site existed.”

I have talked to several people about the DeRoma settlement during my hunts for “Across The Island” material. Memory tells me that Glen MacLaren, Brudenell and Edward Easton, Georgetown were two of those. If these men, or any others have any knowledge of the DeRoma site it would be appreciated. It could be sent to Labor

Minister Blanchard at Charlottetown, or send it along to me and I shall see that it gets to the right person.

Sketch Of DeRoma Site

THE MAN who does not want his name used, provides a short sketch of the history of the spot.

The Island of St. Jean had been involved in a series of concession grants to various French agents in view more of establishing a depot than to colonize. It was not until 1720, after the King had realized the importance of the Island, that he granted permission to set up a colony here; this providing a friendly place for the 'exiled' Acadians to settle.

It could also be used to supply French troops at Louisbourg. However after St. Pierre's letters patent were revoked in 1725 almost all of the Island's inhabitants returned to Cape Breton. The new governor, M. dePensens (?) was thereby sent to St. Jean to induce the remaining settlers to go to Cape Breton.

The DeRoma settlement had been intended to run like a business. There were several partners and detailed logs were sent to them by DeRoma. But the source of funds was cut after the settlement had been built.

Roads Were Built

THE TREMENDOUS amount of work that fell to these settlers is indicated by the fact that DeRoma, aware of the need for communications, started to build roads in such places as St. Peter's, Sturgeon, Cardigan and Port la Joy.

He started to clear 40 acres of land for growing grain. Very detailed notes were kept of those operations but maps and information on structures are lacking, it is stated.

By the end of the first year nine log buildings had been erected. One was for DeRoma, one for the fishermen. Others were for a forge and a stable.

The man who supplied this information, from the excavating crew says it is in charge of Doctor Strague (the PHD is in archeology) with Frank Konvenmaker and a complement of seven boys and four girls, "all with PhD's in working".

There is mention that "the first depression (?) of the monument", the working crew found, was lately used as a general store, thus dampening (?) homes that might have been the real McCoy.

IT'S CERTAIN the man suggests, that the land was used by others after the French had been driven out by the English.

There is always a tendency to speak of buried treasure, of gold, or some other valuables. The crew member notes that gold is mentioned in some of the old tales about the DeRoma settlement; possibly because the French were attacked suddenly by the English and driven away so rapidly they could take no valuables with them. The possibility that the English would have taken the valuables, had there been any there, is also seen probable.

The crew enjoy visits and enquiries from interested people but ask particularly that they do not go close to the trenches dug, as the walls collapse very easy, and that visitors restrain their children from doing this also.

If anybody knows the whereabouts of any map, or chart that might be helpful, receipt of it would be appreciated.