

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Dec. 23, 1960

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Relics are seen in West Prince

By NEIL MATHESON
Provincial and Farm Editor

I DID some roaming this week in West Prince with Frank Weeks, who runs the Guardian-Patriot's Alberton bureau. We saw some interesting things and met some unusually interesting people

John MacIntosh was good enough to show us a cemetery in Tignish which was used by the old Presbyterian Church and has long since been discarded. A lone tombstone remains in what is now woodland. It bears the name of John Gillespie, a New London man who was lost off North Cape in a storm and his body was washed ashore nearby.

The storm occurred on August 24, 1873 and I was told fifteen other storm victims were buried in the Anglican cemetery at Kildares Capes.

WHEN THE church was moved to a new location the old church building remained behind. "I remember filling it with hay", Mr. MacIntosh said this week as he recalled some of the events of years that are gone.

I suppose an abandoned church is just like any other building, but I always have a feeling of regret that a building that was once dedicated for religious service should ever be used for anything else.

We stopped briefly at another old cemetery in Huntley, near Alberton. It's beside the highway but the stones are hidden by the trees.

The oldest stone we saw recorded the death of John Gordon who was born in Nairn, Inverness in Scotland in April 1784. He died at Huntley in 1863.

Indian Relics seen at Miminegash

FRANK TOLD me about a spot at Miminegash and we visited with James Rix whose father, Burton Rix, was away at the time.

There we saw some old Indian relics. A stone axe was interesting although it was chipped a bit on the business edge. There were some other relics and some ancient stories that have been handed down through the years.

BUT THE story I liked best concerned the battle that Indians fought many years ago in a field just below the Rix home, and within a long stone's throw of their back door.

The field has long been a source of interest, particularly when it is being plowed or cultivated. Old arrow heads show up at times, grim souvenirs of a fierce battle that was once fought on what is now a quiet, pastoral scene.

James told us that a tomahawk, or a weapon resembling one, has also been found in the field along with some of the other Indian relics.

"We had a small bag full of arrow heads once but we used them to play cowboys and Indians when I was a young boy, and most of them were lost." James recalled.

Old Shotgun is seven feet long

DEAD MAN'S POINT is also close to the Rix home. A skull was found there once, hence the name. But James could not recall whether it was a skull, or a complete skeleton that was washed ashore.

I was also interested in an ancient shotgun that is a family heirloom. Some readers may recall that Frank Weeks sent a picture to the Guardian back in August.

The ancient weapon is more than seven feet long and it has an interesting history. It was owned originally by Samuel Rix, an United Empire Loyalist, who brought it to Canada in 1783. The initials "S.R." are carved in the stock.

IT WAS brought to Prince County by William Rix, who was Burton's grandfather.

I thought that it must have taken a solid hunk of man to use the ancient firing piece, as I hefted it and took aim at an imaginary object. And what a kick the big gun must have had when it was fired.

Dairy products need promotion

CANADA'S DAIRY industry is not doing nearly enough to advertise its products, charges E. A. Innes, president of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian association. The \$400,000 the dairyman are spending each year is only "a drop in the bucket", Mr. Innes complains.

The Innes criticism strikes a responsive chord. It is long overdue. Food faddists have been murdering the dairy industry for years by stressing the dangers, as they call them, of using whole milk or whole milk solid products.

The high incidence of heart and circulatory ailments is used to create a danger signal in the minds of hundreds of thousands of Canadians so far as the use of dairy products are concerned.

THE IDEA being sold is that use of these dairy products contributes to the heart and other related ailments.

There is evidence that the claims are not correct. Several years ago I studied the report of a U.S. scientist who was hired by the American dairy people to probe some of those charges. His findings were directly opposed to the damaging claims that were being circulated.

As I said, that was several years ago, but I have never seen where the effort was followed up by the dairy people, although I read of a steady decline in the use of some of its important products. That decline may well reach alarming proportions unless something is done to reverse the trend.

Soft drinks get good promotion

INNES NOTES the fine job the soft drink people are doing to sell their product, and contrasts it with the relative lack of effort by the dairy industry. There's some top promotion done by the soft drink people. Some of their counter displays are so attractive that they almost make you taste the product. Certainly they create a taste for it, and that's their purpose.

We often wonder why our dairy people do not do the same thing. They have a top notch product if they only give it more backing.