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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### P.E.I. Past Revealed In Century-Old Map

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial - Farm Editor

I MADE a most unusual find this week when Centennial committee manager William Hayward loaned me a map drawn in 1863, that provides a tremendous amount of detailed information on Prince Edward Island at that time. It lists the name of every farmer along the roads, and the first name I spotted was that of my maternal grandfather, Alexander (Sandy) McLure who lived on the Dixon Road at Breadalbane where his grandson, Donald, lives now.

The map was published in Saint John, N. B. and the population of the Island was 80,552 in the census of 1861. Charlottetown and Royalty had 6,706 people, Georgetown and Royalty 831 but the Summerside population is not given, though there were 21 business houses of which R. T. Holman is the only name that rings a bell with people of today. Of that number 14 were in general merchandise.

The map was loaned to the Centennial Office by William Whittaker of Glenfinnan who found it in an old house he purchased, Mr. Hayward tells me. My friend Prof. J. H. Blanchard, Charlottetown has a similar map which he received from George Laird, Souris. Mr. Laird, who must be one of the Island's top collectors of items of historical interest, also has one in his own possession.

THERE WERE 30 retail mercantile establishments in Charlottetown, 17 wholesalers, four bakers and three sailmakers among other tradesmen.

There was the Bank of Prince Edward Island and the Union Bank of Prince Edward Island. The Prince of Wales College and the Normal School were listed separately at that time. Of course St. Dunstan's College, as it was known then, had been in existence for almost 10 years. The centenary was observed in 1955.

Charlottetown had five boot and shoe makers, a tanner, and one tanner and currier. The currier was a man who dressed and colored leather after it was tanned.

"Block maker" was a trade often listed and Tom Ledwell, St. Peter's tells me it was a man who made block and tackle equipment. He recalls that Allan L. MacDonald of Souris West "made a great deal of money" when he invented a roller-bearing block that greatly increased the pulling capacity. The man was an uncle of our present Lieutenant-Governor, W. J. MacDonald, and the father of Art MacDonald who was one of the best known of all CFCY announcers up to the time of his death.

There was an abundance of newspapers in Charlottetown 100 years ago. They had the Examiner, The Islander, the Protestant, the Monitor, Ross' Weekly and the Vindicator.

Brewers, Distillers Here Then

THERE were a half dozen hotels and boarding houses and one saloon keeper was listed. Four establishments were listed as brewers and distillers.

There were a dozen establishments connected with the carriage building and blacksmith trades, 11 lawyers, nine doctors and seven firms were listed as “ship owners and builders” in Charlottetown.

There were four bakers, which indicates that people bought a good deal of their baked goods even 100 years ago. There were 11 clergymen.

I note that Southport was a ranking village at the time and that was some 40 years before the Hillsborough Bridge was opened. The village boasted three merchants, two tanner and currier shops, another business place listed simply as a “store”, one harness maker and an hotel.

Shipyards are noted at many places and two were at Wheatley River, for example.

PRINCETOWN AND Royalty - it was close to Malpeque - was a settlement with 385 souls at that time, and I wonder what happened to it later.

Some of the old place names no longer in use include Gretnagreen, just east of Springfield on the Malpeque Road; and Elson which appears to have been in the area now known as Hunter River, or close to it. Greenville post office was a little to the west and I'm wondering if that's the place we know now as Greenvale.

It's a most interesting old map and what impresses me most about it is the tremendous amount of detail which must have entailed a long period of research.

Before I leave the interesting old map I should explain that it was Lincoln Dewar, secretary of the P. E. I. Federation of agriculture who told me about it, when we chatted for a couple of minutes earlier this week.

Frank Jardine, MLA of Wilmot told me at the farmers' dinner meeting at Summerside this week that Mr. And Mrs. Harrison MacFarlane not only lost their home in Bedeque but also everything that was in it, when the house was destroyed by fire recently.

#### Letter In Byron's Handwriting

I VISITED Mr. MacFarlane some time ago and have some interesting notes on the unusually interesting collection of antiques he had gathered around him. I want to do a column on them when I have more space but I recall now that one of the most interesting to me was a book of Byron's works in which he found a letter in Byron's handwriting.

The letter was written to a publisher who had printed several articles which he incorrectly attributed to the gifted writer. I copied a few paragraphs and here they are:

“In various numbers of your journal I have seen mentioned a work entitled “The Vampire” with the addition of my name as the author. I am not the author and never heard of the work in question until now.

“In a more recent paper I perceive a formal annunciation of “The Vampire” with the addition of an account of my ‘residence on the Island of Mitylene’, an Island which I have occasionally sailed by in the course of travelling to The Levant, and where I should have no objection to reside, but where I have never yet resided.

“NEITHER OF these performances are mine and I presume that it is neither unjust nor ungracious to request that you will favor me by a contradiction of the advertisement to which I allude.

I was struck by Byron’s calm restraint, by the kindly manner in which he rebuked the publisher for having incorrectly attributed the story and statement to him.

The letter written by Byron, who was born in London in January, 1788, and died in Greece in April, 1824, came into Mr. MacFarlane’s hands by accident.

The book had been in the library of George Robinson, a distinguished Islander who was dean of English at the University of British Columbia. Mrs. Howard Hillson, who lived in this city during the time her husband was associated with the firm of A. Horne and Company, was a sister of Mr. Robinson, and she offered the Bedeque man a choice of a portion of the library.

The book by Byron was one of those he selected and it was not until sometime later that he found the letter so it was by good luck that it came into the Bedeque man’s possession. But it was by extremely bad luck that the MacFarlane’s lost this and many other valuable antique souvenirs when fire destroyed their home. I hope to tell you about some of the others when I find my notes and get them into readable form.

#### Congratulations Are Extended

I WANT to congratulate Murray MacEwen and Don Wood - I believe Stan Moore helped too - for their ability to get Island farmers to meet for the purpose of discussing farm problems. They had something more than 200, Mr. MacEwen told me, and I am sure they would have had the 300 they had planned except for snow-blocked roads as a result of Monday’s storm.

The farmers and the plants - Seaman Brothers and Prima Fertilizer - were praised warmly by Premier Shaw. “This is exactly the kind of thing we want to see develop”, the premier enthused.

I missed the early discussion as it was mid-afternoon when I arrived, but I was struck by the notes I received from the observations on potato farming by Edwin Lewis, Freetown.

SUMMING UP the problem he said:

“It is necessary to have planters operating at 100 p.c. efficiency, it is essential to have scufflers set accurately, so as not to interfere with the plant’s root system, it is of the utmost importance to have a spraying system that is almost 100 p.c. efficient; it is vital to have a digging operation that is meticulous yet fast moving; finally it is fundamental to have storage facilities that are cool yet comparatively moisture free.

“And”, concluded Mr. Lewis, “with hard work, good management, and a little luck we men in the potato production field should be able to produce a good quality potato, which is a must if we are to stay in the business.”

I hope to bring you the rest of his observations at a later date, as I have been told by several who heard him they are really worth while.