

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. HUGH M. WALKER

Friends and relatives of the late Mrs. Hugh M. Walker were greatly saddened to learn of her passing from this life in the P. E. I. Hospital February 26th, after a lengthy illness which for some time had confined her to her home and for extended periods to bed. Although the late Mrs. Walker had been in failing health for a little more than three years it was not realized that the end of her earthly journey was so near until a few days prior to her demise when her condition became critical. All that medical science and loving care could do was done. However, it was evident that her Lord had willed the release of her quiet and gentle spirit and on the above mentioned date it took its flight to the God who gave it.

The late Mrs. Walker was the former Elvira Anita Murray. She was born at Clyde River 64 years ago and was the daughter of the late John Murray and his wife, Mary MacNeill. In 1915 she married Hugh Walker and resided in North River until about 10 years ago when she moved with her husband and family to Charlottetown.

The late Mrs. Walker was widely and favourably known. Her quiet and gentle spirit endeared her to all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was a devoted wife and loving mother. It can be truly said that "her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praiseth her." During her long illness she bore patiently her sufferings and weakness trusting in her Lord for strength and resting in His loving promises to her, knowing that Jesus could not fail.

The late Mrs. Walker leaves to mourn her passing besides a sorrowing husband, two sons and five daughters. They are, John and Roland, both of Toronto, Ont.; Mary, Mrs. Colin MacPhail, Meadow Bank; Dorothy, Mrs. Douglas MacDonald, Cornwall; Phyllis, Mrs. Gordon Frizzell, also of Cornwall; Norma, Mrs. Louis MacLean, Meadow Bank; and Martha at home. Also four

grandchildren, one brother John A. Murray, in the old home Clyde River and three sisters survive. The sisters are, Mrs. Seymour Scott, Cornwall; Mrs. Caroline Campbell, and Miss Lydia Murray of Boston, Mass. U. S. A.

The funeral which was largely attended was held, following a short service at the home, in the Charlottetown Baptist Church, and was conducted by the Pastor, Rev. J. D. Davison, assisted by Rev. Donald Nicholson, Clyde River. Mr. Nicholson sang as a solo a favorite hymn of the deceased, "I Shall Know Him". Other hymns sung were, "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder" and "The Sweet Bye And Bye".

Pall bearers were: Messrs. John Moreside, Hazen Howard, Alex MacLean, Arthur Stone, Hector Scott and Calvin MacDonald. Interment was in Highfield Cemetery.

Card Of Thanks

Mr. Hugh M. Walker and Family wish to thank their many friends for acts of kindness, cards and expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. MARY C. CLAIN

—Mrs. Mary C. Clain of 16 Goldsmith Avenue, Beverly, Mass., widow of Wilfred B. Clain, died early Saturday morning, May 1, after a long illness.

Born in Alberton, Prince Edward Island, she had resided in Beverly for the past 45 years. Mrs. Clain was a member of the daughters of Isabella and a devout attendant of St. Mary's Church.

Surviving her are four sisters, Mrs. Ivan Roberts and Miss Sarah O'Meara of Beverly; Misses Agnes and Gertrude O'Meara of Alberton, P.E.I.; two brothers, William T. O'Meara of Lynn, and John W. O'Meara of Beverly; also several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held the following Monday morning at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, with Requiem High Mass.

CITY AND DISTRICT

COOK'S for Perfect Pictures.

INK SPOTS and The Four Lads—Records at Toombs Music Store.

YOUR SATURDAY NIGHT JAM-BORÉE, Charlottetown Forum, beginning June 12th.

PLEASE PHONE MRS. R. C. PARENT at 8838 if you have any piece of Scout or Cub uniform which you would care to sell or donate.

THE INK SPOTS SHOW.—The season's outstanding musical attraction, Monday, May 31st, 8.15 p. m. Forum.

TRYON UNITED BAPTIST PASTORATE.—Dr. Ernest J. Barras, Minister. Services for Sunday, May 30th, 11.00 a. m. Tryon. 7.30 p. m. Westmoreland. All welcome.

ORWELL — VERNON PASTORAL CHARGE.—Sunday Services May 30th. Cherry Valley 11 a. m. Sunday School 10 a. m. Eldon 2.30 p. m. Orwell 7.30 p. m. Rev. Geo. W. Tilley, will conduct the services.

ENGAGEMENT.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Goan, Oromocto, N. B., announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Theresa to John Angus, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gillis of this city. Marriage to take place in June.

BREADALBANE PASTORAL CHARGE. The United Church of Canada. Services Sunday, May 30th. North Granville 11 a. m. Rose Valley 3 p. m. Breadalbane 7.30 p. m. Rev. W. B. MacPhail, Minister.

YORK PASTORAL CHARGE.—The United Church of Canada. Minister: Rev. J. M. Sproule. Sunday, May 30th, 1954. 9.30 a. m. Pleasant Grove. 11.00 a. m. Central. 7.30 p. m. York.

NEW GLASGOW CHRISTIAN CHARGE.—Services Sunday, May 30th. New Glasgow Sunday School 10 a. m. Worship service 11 a. m. Cavendish Baptist 7.30 p. m. Bryer R. Jones, Student Minister.

CROSS ROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—Rev. J. D. Davison will conduct service in the Cross Roads Church on Sunday, May 30th at 3 p. m. All are welcome to this service.

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Belfast. Services Sunday, May 30th. Sunday School 10 a. m. Musical Service by Choir at 7.30 p. m. There will be no morning service. Rev. J. E. Heathwood, M.A.

HAMPTON PASTORAL CHARGE.—The United Church of Canada. Services Sunday, May 30th. Communion Service at all appointments. Bonshaw 11 a. m. DeSable 3 p. m. Hampton 7.30 p. m. Rev. R. H. Baxter, Minister.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.—Schedule for Sunday, May 30th. Wood Islands 11 a. m. (Sunday School 10 a. m.) Caledonia 3 p. m. (Sunday School 2 p. m.) Iris 7.30 p. m. Minister: Rev. E. S. Hales.

CORNWALL UNITED CHURCH. Rev. A. S. Weir, D. D., Minister. Services May 30th, will be as follows: Cornwall at 11.00 a. m. Kingston at 3.00 p. m. New Dominion at 7.30 p. m. Sunday School at Cornwall at 10.00 a. m. New Dominion 10.30 a. m. Kingston at 2.00 p. m.

CAVENDISH UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA.—Services Sunday, May 30th. North Rustico 11 a. m. Meeting to re-organize Sunday School 10.15 a. m. Stanley Bridge 7.30 p. m. Rev. F. W. Sawdon, Minister.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—Services May 30th. Bangor 10.30 a. m. Belle River 3 p. m. Murray River 7 p. m. Friday, May 28th. Stanchel 7.30 p. m. followed by congregational meeting. Communion Services Charlottetown June 6th. Rev. J. H. Bishop, Minister.

ENGAGEMENT.—Mr. and Mrs. George Vernon Garnhum of Toronto, Ontario, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Myrna Ann, to George Edmond Sandell Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Edmond Sandell of Collingwood, Ont. The marriage will take place on Saturday, June 19th, 1954, at 4.30 o'clock in Howard Park United Church, Toronto.

MARSHFIELD PASTORAL CHARGE.—The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Sunday, May 30th. Marshfield. Service 9.30 a. m. Sunday School 10.45 a. m. Mount Stewart 11 a. m. Harrington, Sunday School 10.30 a. m. Service 7.30 p. m. Soloist, Miss Joanne Lilley. Rev. Lee M. MacNaughton, B. A. Minister.

RAISIN DAY Saturday—the Girl Guides will appreciate your support.

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JUST ARRIVED.—The newest of new in Bathing Suits. Kennedy's Ladies' Wear.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of the Ladies Auxiliary Canadian Legion will be held Friday, May 28th, at 7.30 p. m.

OUTSIDE PAINT SPECIAL.—White, \$3.75 a gal. Grey, Green and Red, \$2.95 gal. Douglas Bros. & Jones, 155 Kent Street, Charlottetown.

DRAMA FESTIVAL FINALS tonight at Empire Theatre. Sum-Hi Dramatic Players, Summerside, present "Apron Strings." Curtain 8 p. m. Admission 50 cents.

NORTH RIVER UNITED BAPTIST PASTORATE.—Sunday, May 30th. North River 11.00 a. m. Clyde River 9.00 p. m. Kingston 7.30 p. m. Sunday Schools as locally announced. Rev. H. Barber, Pastor.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA. Covehead circuit. Services for Sunday, May 30: Stanhope 9.30 a. m. Sacrament of Baptism; West Covehead 11 a. m.; Union Road 7.30 p. m. Rev. Norman R. Green.

POWVAL UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE.—Services Sunday, May 30th. Mount Herbert at 10 a. m. Bunbury at 11.15 a. m. Powval at 7.30 p. m. Sunday Schools, Mt. Herbert at 11 a. m. Powval at 10.45 a. m. Millville at 11 a. m. Rev. T. R. Goudge, Pastor.

WINSLOE Pastoral Charge. the United Church of Canada. Services Sunday are as follows: Princetown Road 11 a. m.; Highfield 3 p. m.; Winsloe North 7.30 p. m.; S. School at Winsloe South 10.30 a. m. All are welcome. Heber H. Hardy, Presbytery Supply.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA. Central Parish. Services next Lord's Day as follows: Clyde River 11 a. m., Sunday School 10 a. m.; Canoe Cove 3 p. m., Sunday School 2 p. m.; Churchill 7.30 p. m.; Nine Mile Creek Sunday School 10.30 a. m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, Minister.

CRAPAUD, SPRINGFIELD, AND LONG CREEK PARISHES.—Services for Sunday, May 30th, 1954. Sunday after Ascension Day. St. John's Church, Crapaud, 11.00 a. m. Holy Communion. St. Thomas' Church, Long Creek, 3.00 p. m. Evening Prayer. St. Elizabeth's Church, Springfield, 7.30 p. m. Evening Prayer. Rev. George R. F. Ebsary, Rector.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur
LAUGHING FAMILY

Some seventy-three years ago there lived in Frenchtown, N. J., a family who were all chronic laughers, having an affection of the muscles of the mouth and throat which caused them to explode in apparent merriment at stated intervals.

The strange malady first appeared in the father, usually, a very quiet man, enjoying a good joke but manifesting his enjoyment without much ado. The first attack occurred one day while he was seated at the table having dinner with his family. Suddenly without any cause the head of the house burst into a loud fit of laughter. When asked what the big joke was about he made no answer, but continued to laugh heartily. Some of his family, believing he had hysterics, pounded him on the back, but all in vain. After a few moments he made motions that he wanted pen and paper and wrote that he was unable to control his laughter, and asked the family to send for a doctor.

Doc came, but could do nothing to relieve the man of his merriment. Nor could he give the strange malady a name.

All that night the farmer laughed loud and long, but came sunrise he stopped, and lay down completely exhausted.

He soon got over his tired feelings, however, ate a hearty meal and was soon fast asleep. About 2 a. m. he had a second attack which woke up all the family. This attack lasted until 7 o'clock when the laughter stopped as suddenly as it had started and did not return again until noon time. Thus it continued, recurring each day after dinner and again about 2 a. m. As the weeks passed into months the man became accustomed to his odd disease and it did not tire him out as it did in the beginning, and he was soon able to attend to his farm duties. Yet strange to say, he could never speak a word while under the spells, and to make himself understood always carried on his person paper and pencil, after the fashion of some deaf and dumb persons.

Once the farmer had a laughing attack while in church just as the minister was exhorting his hearers in the most solemn fashion which therefore spoiled the effect of the sermon.

For about two years the father was the only one of the household affected. Then Susie, the youngest child, suddenly joined her father in what the rest of the family chose to call "a laughing jag," and believe it or not, thereafter, one by one the other members fell victims to the

disease that baffled all the local medics and became the gossip theme for the whole state.

The malady, however, never spread to the neighbors, a fact which also proved a puzzle for the doctors who frequently dropped in on the laughing family.

In this day of flying saucers and other sky phenomenon, a story like this would have been flashed around the world in minutes and the laughing family might have found themselves famous overnight. But in those days news traveled slowly. Consequently very few persons outside of the immediate vicinity and the physician who attended them knew little or nothing about it.

Curious stories leaked out in time, told by travellers who passed that way. Here's one of them: Two men traveling between Doylestown and Erwinna drove past the farm of the laughing family soon after their 2 a. m. attack had begun. The windows were open and every sound could be clearly heard by the travelers. It sounded to them like a perfect pandemonium. Their horse took fright and nearly ran away with them. Finally, they decided the place was haunted, hurried home and of course told the startling tale.


Parties went forth to investigate the matter, but none of them succeeded in solving the problem till a fellow farmer of the stricken family told them the truth.

What effect did this strange disease have on the laughing family over a period of years? This bit of data tells the tale, at least in part: "The faces of the afflicted persons became very wrinkled, with noticeable lines under the eyes and above the cheeks, due, no doubt, to the drawing up of the skin under frequent merriment. Too, their mouths became wider and could be closed only with difficulty. But the most marked result of the malady, however, was the voice. The entire family spoke in the same tone of voice. Males and females had the same inflection and intonation, and most of them developed defects of the eyes. The pupils in some cases contracted and the entire eyeball diminished in size." This could be accounted for by the contraction of the eyes in laughing so much and the effect of reading while undergoing an attack.


Several grandchildren after the Browns first began laughing were afflicted with the same peculiar disease, and at the same hours as their parents.

This strange and startling story came to the attention of the general public as the result of an article which appeared in the Philadelphia Times in the year 1881.

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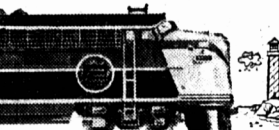
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