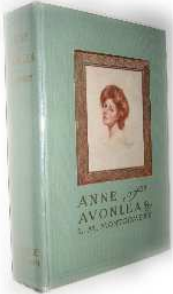




The Shining Scroll
© September 2009
Newsletter for
the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society
founded by Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson 1991



Welcome to the *Anne of Avonlea* centenary edition of *The Shining Scroll*. Lucy Maud Montgomery's second novel was published in September 1909, following the best-selling *Anne of Green Gables*. In this issue: the early reviews of *Anne of Avonlea*, the friend to whom the author dedicated the book, a new Prince Edward Island Heritage site, Montgomery biographer Dr. Mollie Gillen, a preview of Montgomery's last book, *The Blythes Are Quoted*, and other articles by our Literary Society members.

We hope you enjoy the further adventures of Anne!

Happy 100th Birthday Anne of Avonlea
1909-2009

Christy Woster © 2009

Anne of Avonlea was published 100 years ago, and we celebrate its centenary by looking back at a few reviews of the book that were published shortly after its debut.

From the *Lethbridge Daily Herald*, Saturday, September 25, 1909 a review is found in the column "From a Western Window", interestingly written also by an "Anne" (no last name):

If you enjoyed "Anne of Green Gables" you will be glad to see "Anne of Avonlea" which is now out. The heroine has grown to a "tall, slim girl, half-past sixteen years old, with serious gray eyes, and hair which her friends call auburn," and is engaged in teaching the village school at Avonlea. The vivid imagination is still there, and the unfortunate propensity for getting into scrapes. Anne would not be Anne shorn of these attributes. She has grown in knowledge, however, as well as in years, and if not quite so amusing, is even more charming -- you must read for yourself the story of the Avonlea Village Improvement Society, adoption of the twins, the sad tale of the selling in haste of the wrong cow and the romance of Miss Lavendar. It is all delightful and Anne is the presiding genius; radiating sunshine. Davy, who is the better half of the twins, so far as interest goes, and Paul Irving, a kindred spirit of Anne's, a child with an imagination, share the honors, but neither one wins us as did the childish dreamer in the old days at Green Gables.

It is often lamented that Louisa Alcott has no modern prototype, and that the youth of this age are so much the poorer. Miss Montgomery has given us a wholesome, delightful company that cannot fail to attract both young and old readers. Many a young person, we predict, will go to sleep with Anne under her pillow.

We leave our heroine with her Prince Charming under the silver poplar, not quite the same Anne of impetuous emotions. "Perhaps, after all, romance did not come into one's life with pomp and blare like a gay knight riding down; perhaps it crept to one's side like an old friend through quiet ways; perhaps it revealed itself in seeming prose, until some sudden shaft of illumination flung athwart its pages betrayed

the rhythm and the music; perhaps—perhaps—love unfolded naturally out of a beautiful friendship, as a golden-hearted rose slipping from its green sheath.” And so we say goodbye to the young girl who has crept into our affections, and hope that her fairy godmother may have good things in store during the coming years at college -- and afterwards.”

The writer of this column was becoming quite a fan of L. M. Montgomery, it seems. She had done a review of *Anne of Green Gables* in her column of April 2, 1909, where she writes, “The character of Anne herself is done delightfully; and we wish there were more of her kind to brighten up this dull old world.”

Another review from *The Waterloo Evening Reporter* of January 28, 1910, leaves one to wonder if its author, Arthur E. Weld, really read the book very carefully (For instance, why did he refer to Montgomery as “Mr.,” where did he come up with a “drove” of cattle, and how did he mistake “Paul” for “Davy”?):

Those who made the acquaintance of “Anne of Green Gables” will be pleased to find their old acquaintance in “Anne of Avonlea”, which is written by L. M. Montgomery and published by the L. C. Page company of Boston. “Anne” is a very picturesque character who made many friends during her earlier appearance. She is still the same demure little lass, always willing to do something for others to help make their tasks lighter and life brighter.

This time Anne is found as the teacher of a little school at Avonlea, where her patience is often tried by the pupils who possess a stronger inclination toward mischief than education. But she is always the same little Anne of the long ago, cheerful under all conditions, -- a bit of cheer and an inspiration for those with whom she comes in contact.

In the opening chapters of Mr. Montgomery’s book the heroine is found as a cattle herder during school vacation. In her drove was one cow that gave considerable trouble by breaking down fences and invading the corn field belonging to a bachelor neighbor. This particular man was somewhat of a grouch and Anne feared the consequences of too many invasions by the bovine, and decided to sell the troublesome animal.

One morning shortly after Anne had discovered the fences down again she was hailed by a stockman who offered to buy some of the cattle. Anne was only too glad to dispose of the invasionist and accepted the money for her before either made a close inspection. When they came to transfer the property, Anne found to her consternation she had sold the bachelor’s cow instead of her own.

After a long scance with her conscience, the little school teacher decided the best thing to do under the circumstances was to go to the neighbor and make a clean breast of the whole affair. She feared the wrath that she expected to be visited upon her but to her surprise her explanation and apology was accepted amicably. This little incident tended to bring about a friendship between the two that proved mutually advantageous upon future occasions.

Paul Irving, Mr. Montgomery’s new find, furnishes the comedy for the book. He is a little fellow of six years who with a twin sister was left an orphan and adopted into the family of which Anne was a member. The mischief that Paul does not think of is not worth recording.

One day Paul’s little sister came up missing and search through the house and nearby premises failed to disclose her whereabouts. Paul was questioned as to what had become of his sister and he professed absolute ignorance. He joined in the hunt and seemed much put out because she could not be found. At last Anne visited the bachelor’s house to learn if he had seen the little wanderer. No one was at home and Anne was starting on her return when she was attracted to a shed by the sound of a person crying. There sat the little tot on a keg of nails where she had been placed by her mischievous brother who had barricaded her within.

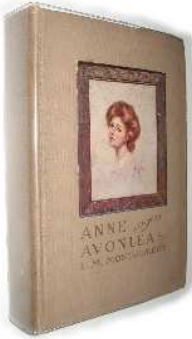
Paul’s quaint sayings enliven the story throughout and cause many a hearty laugh. One night when he was put in bed without his supper because he had been naughty, which by the way had grown so frequent that he did not miss the meal, he informed Anne that his aunty was a story-teller. Anne wanted to know why and he replied that she had told him that something dreadful would happen to him if he did not say his prayers every night. He said he put her statement to the test by failing to pray for six whole nights

and nothing dreadful had occurred to him. This is only an instance of many that show the serio-comic strain in the story of "Anne of Avonlea".

This review seems to end rather abruptly, but I sense the reviewer didn't read the entire book, maybe not even much of the book, in fact maybe he hadn't read it at all. Perhaps someone just told him a bit about it.

The Author of *Anne of Avonlea* "A Nice Little Tale With a Nice Little Heroine and a Nice Little Moral"

By Christy Woster © 2009



As an avid collector of L. M. Montgomery you never know what you will come across as you search for her stories and poems. My daughter Emily and I were doing some browsing of old periodicals at the Illinois State University Library, recently. Emily is in working on her PhD at ISU and lives in Bloomington, Ill, and I occasionally visit her and spend some time in the library. There I found issues of the *Zion's Herald* on microfilm.

The *Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Preliminary Bibliography* documents that in the October 6, 1909, edition of the *Zion's Herald*, Maud had published a short story entitled "A Narrow Escape" and a poem, "On the Hills", but as I was reading this issue I found that there are also two other articles in this paper that are not mentioned in the Bibliography.

One of the articles is entitled "The Author of *Anne of Avonlea*" and gives us some insight into Montgomery's publishing history with the *Zion's Herald* along with the creation of *Anne of Green Gables*:

Several years ago -- twelve or more, possibly -- as the editor of the Family Department of the *Herald* was sorting her exchanges, she accidentally came across a manuscript in an ordinary newspaper wrapper, which had been thrown into the paper basket by the editor-in-chief on the natural supposition that it was only one in the weekly avalanche of papers and pamphlets. On examination it proved to be a poem, neatly type written, sent from Cavendish, P. E. Island, and signed "L. M. Montgomery". "Oh, dear! Another poetry fiend!" sighed the Family Department lady, but conscientiously began the perusal of the verses. The first few lines, however, made her "sit up and take notice," exclaiming: "Ah! Here is a fresh note, something sweet and unhackneyed -- *real* poetry, in fact. But *who* is L. M. Montgomery -- man or woman, young or old, married or single?" Though intuition insisted on youth and the feminine gender, nevertheless a state of mystification prevailed until the publication last year of *Anne of Green Gables*, when a picture of the author in a literary magazine showed L. M. Montgomery to be a remarkably charming young woman. Since that first poem the pages of the *Herald* have been enriched every year by delightful stories and verses from the pen of this gifted writer. On the publication of her first book last winter she won immediate and deserved recognition as an author of superior attainments; and everybody fell in love with *Anne of Green Gables*.

Miss Montgomery was born at Clifton, Prince Edward Island, Canada, where her father was a merchant. Owing to the death of her mother when she was only a few months old, she was brought up by her maternal grandparents in Cavendish, P. E. Island -- a seashore farming settlement, much like the "Avonlea" of her book. She attended the "district school" there until she was seventeen, then went to the Prince of Wales Academy in Charlottetown for a year. After this she taught a year, and then took the freshman year at Dalhousie College, Halifax. She taught two more years. Then the death of her grandfather made it necessary for her to stay at home with her grandmother in Cavendish, and she has lived there ever since.

Her literary work began very early. As far back as she can remember she wrote stories and verse for her own amusement. Her first plunge into the sea of journalism was taken when she was at Prince of Wales, when she wrote a poem, "To a Violet", and it was accepted by an American household magazine. In referring to this she naively says: "I was given two subscriptions to the magazine as payment -- and that was quite all the verses were worth."

From that until about three years ago Miss Montgomery has been writing fiction and verse for the magazines and religious papers. In answer to an inquiry as to how she came to write *Anne of Green Gables*, she says: 'Three years ago the editor of a Sunday school weekly asked me to write a short serial of about seven chapters for his paper. I looked through an old notebook and found a faded entry, jotted down many years before: 'Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent them.' I thought this would do for the foundation of my serial. I blocked out a few chapters and hunted through my notebook of 'workable' incidents. I intended to write a nice little tale with a nice little heroine and a nice little moral; and if I had had time to go at it at once, that is likely all it would have been, and 'Anne' would have begun and ended her career in the pages of the Sunday school weekly. But I did not have the time, and in the weeks that followed I 'brooded' the tale in my mind. 'Anne' began to expand in such a fashion that I soon saw I could never confine her career to a seven-chapter serial. It is really a mistake to say I 'created' Anne. Like 'Topsy' she 'grewed' of her own accord, and I seemed simply to watch and describe that growth. The result was, *Anne of Green Gables*.' In connection with this sketch and a review of her new book, *Anne of Avonlea*, we present a poem and a story by Miss Montgomery, both of which will richly repay reading.

The writer of this piece is not credited, but obviously he or she enjoyed the verse and stories of Montgomery. Montgomery's explanation of how she came to write *Anne of Green Gables* echoes what she wrote about the creation of Anne in her journal entry of Friday, August 16, 1907, but she expands on her explanation with the fact that she *did not have time* to write the seven chapter serial, and *if she had made the time, the book would have never been written*. Instead she "brooded" about the story, and she explains that she did not "create" Anne, but instead that Anne grew and became a character on her own. With Montgomery as Anne's biographer, *Anne of Green Gables* certainly became so much more than a "nice little tale, with a nice little heroine".

The other article in this edition of the *Zion's Herald* is a review of *Anne of Avonlea* found on page 1265. The review gives quite a lengthy synopsis of the book and ends with this observation:

There is no end to the quotable things in the book. And it is all so bright and sweet and wholesome, and so sensible and so natural, too! Anne is no impossible being, and her adventures and experiences are all of the most ordinary, everyday character. Or, if falling through the roof of a duck house and sticking there till some one came to chop her out is not exactly an ordinary adventure, it is at least one which might happen to any one who saw fit to climb on a duck house roof. Every reader will want to know more about Anne -- about her college days, and about that romance hinted at on the last page. Anne liked Gilbert Blythe and thought him very handsome, but he was not in the least like the ideal of her romantic dreams - "tall and distinguished looking, with melancholy, inscrutable eyes." Gilbert, however, never had any doubt that Anne was exactly like his ideal. And the thought came to Anne at last that "perhaps, after all, romance did not come into one's life with pomp and blare, like a gay knight riding down; perhaps it crept to one's side like an old friend through quiet ways; perhaps it revealed itself in seeming prose, until some sudden shaft of illumination flung athwart its pages betrayed the rhythm and the music; perhaps-perhaps-love unfolded naturally out of a beautiful friendship, as a golden-hearted rose slipping from its green sheath".

Zion's Herald was first published in Boston beginning in 1823 and was one of the oldest Methodist weekly magazines. It changed its name several times over the years and covered religious controversies and news of Methodist missions and church history. There were departments for women and children, with a family department, children's stories, book reviews, short sermons and poetry among other political and church news. Montgomery published over seventy different poems and stories in the *Herald* over a period of almost two decades. Several of her poems were printed on the front cover of the paper. Montgomery does not mention her thoughts on this edition of the *Zion's Herald* in her published journals, but she must have been very pleased that not only were a poem and short story of hers published in this periodical, but also such a positive review of *Anne of Avonlea* along with a complimentary sketch about her and her work. How fortunate for readers that Montgomery did not find time to write her seven-chapter serial about Anne Shirley and that instead Anne grew into a character who has transcended time, generations and cultures.

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*Zion's Herald*. Boston: October 6, 1909. Pages 1264-1267.

Russell, Ruth Weber and D.W., and Rea Wilmshurst. *Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Preliminary Bibliography*. Waterloo: University of Waterloo Library, 1986.

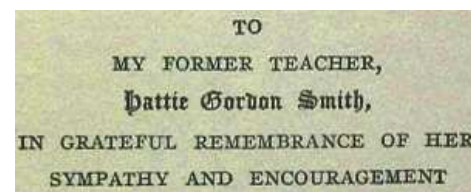
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## Harriet Gordon Smith and L.M. Montgomery The Careful Ways of Duty

Mary Beth Cavert © 2009

When a narrative history about a person is missing, the story defaults to a construction stitched together from genealogical dates, newspaper fragments, and census transcriptions. This is the case with Harriet Gordon. Her letters from L.M. Montgomery did not survive and Montgomery's letters from her were destroyed along with all of the author's other correspondence. Harriet Gordon's descendents do not know her story and now I return it to them with as much relevant detail as I can locate. I hope that they can sort out each person from all the Hatties, Gordons, and Smiths listed here. The subheads used in this article are chapter titles from *Anne of Avonlea*.

A shorter article about Harriet Gordon appeared in *Kindred Spirits Magazine* in 1994. To read Montgomery's full recollections about Harriet Gordon see *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery* (vols. 1 - 3) edited by Rubio and Waterston, as well as *The Gift of Wings* by Mary Rubio. More references to Gordon's Cavendish years appear in *The Years Before Anne* by F.W.P. Bolger. To learn more about *Anne of Avonlea*, read Elizabeth Waterston's *Magic Island* and Elizabeth Epperly's *The Fragrance of Sweet Grass*.



Lucy Maud Montgomery started to work on her second novel (which she named *The Later Adventures of Anne*) at the request of her publisher, L.C. Page, a year before *Anne of Green Gables* was published. In the spring of 1907, neither Page nor Montgomery had any idea how immensely popular Montgomery's first book would be -- as Carole Gerson explains, "... the second *Anne* book, *Anne of Avonlea*, was generated not by the clamour of enchanted readers," but because the publisher appreciated the marketability of series books. Part of *Anne of Avonlea* features Anne's experiences as a new and enlightened schoolteacher in her own community of Avonlea where her "rose-tinted ideals," shaped by her years as a student with the flawed Mr. Phillips and the inspiring Miss Stacy, are put to the "Jonah day" test.

L.M. Montgomery's own trials with teachers and students provided her with ample material for Anne's dutiful pedagogy in the Avonlea school. When the typescript for *Anne of Avonlea* was finished in 1908, she wrote the dedication page to Hattie Gordon Smith, her own teacher in Cavendish nearly 20 years earlier. It was there "... in that old brown desk in school," that Montgomery dreamed her dream of writing a book and she was indebted to Miss Gordon for "the sympathy and encouragement she always showed me." Montgomery was fortunate to have attended a school where she was taught well and treated fairly by a teacher who was a role model and a friend. The gifted teacher arrived in Cavendish at just the right time for the impressionable fourteen-year-old Maud Montgomery, who was ready for serious studies.

### A FULL-FLEDGED SCHOOLMA'AM

Education was valued in the Cavendish community. The highly literate emigrant Scots brought to Prince Edward Island an intellectual pride and a tradition of good school systems and teacher training. By 1825, Prince Edward Island enacted legislation to fund schools across the Island -- eventually there were approximately 475 schools set about three miles apart. Teaching was one of the few professions that were considered suitable for intelligent young women from "good" families. It was respectable work and did not require the expense of a college education. Married women could not teach, although married men could, and men's salaries were higher than women's salaries. Each school had a Board of three who were responsible for finding a teacher who was qualified to teach "Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and to be of decent character."

April 8, 1907

Miss L.M. Montgomery  
Cavendish, P.E. Island

Dear Madam: --

We take pleasure in advising you that our readers report favorably with regard to your girls' story "Anne of Green Gables", and if mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made, we shall be glad to add the book to our next season's list.

...

We shall be glad also to hear of your plans with regard to future writing, and take the liberty of suggesting that if you are not otherwise at work, it might be a good idea to write a second story dealing with the same character.

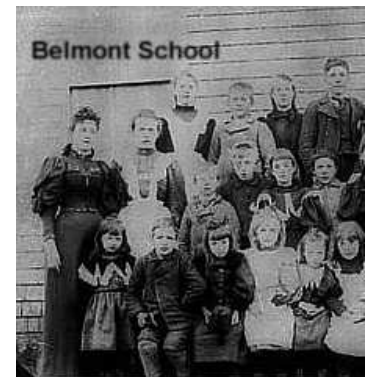
Yours sincerely,  
L.C. Page & Company

It was not unusual for the teacher's term at Cavendish School to last a year or less as good teachers were hard to find and harder to keep. Prospective teachers had to earn a second-class teaching license by passing exams in one year of study at a teacher's preparation school like Prince of Wales College, or take the two-year course and exams for a first class license and earn a slightly higher salary. New teachers could take charge of a school as early as age sixteen, the same age as their older students. Montgomery's salary at her first teaching assignment from October 1, 1894 to June 30, 1895, was \$139.58.

Miss Montgomery taught in three PEI communities in the twelve years before she wrote *Anne of Avonlea*. She spent a year of happy college life at Prince of Wales College in 1894 followed by two exhausting weeks taking her college exams and then one more week of license exams -- "a very barbarous custom." The license exams were very difficult and only "an absurdly small percentage [of candidates] passed."



She took charge of her first school at age twenty-one in Bideford. It was a pleasant experience -- she enjoyed living with Reverend and Mrs. Estey at the Bideford Parsonage, enjoyed her social life with her second cousin, Will Montgomery, and enjoyed teaching, in spite of the students' irregular attendance and their closeness in age. The Belmont school in 1896, was less desirable -- it was located on a bleak hill with no pleasant walking paths, the work was strenuous, her farmhouse was cold and she agreed to an awkward engagement to the suitable, but sparkless, Edwin Simpson. The following year she taught in a third school, in scenic Lower Bedeque. It was like home for her, only better. She felt she had lived there all her life, her students were bright and there were only fourteen of them. She was included in a busy social circle with many young people. Maud ended her engagement with Simpson while she boarded with the Leard family and fell in love with one of their sons, Herman. However, the death of her grandfather Macneill in March 1898 ended her teaching career and romance and she returned to Cavendish to care for her grandmother.



These years as a teacher helped Montgomery understand the work ethic, the dedication and shortcomings of her own teachers. When she finished writing *Anne of Avonlea*, it was natural for her to look back on her own school days and select her only mentor for the book dedication.

~ ~ ~

Her Aunt Emily escorted little seven-year old Maud, who lived with her grandparents, to the Cavendish school for the first time. In the six years before Hattie Gordon arrived, Maud had seven teachers. She listed all of them in a lengthy autobiographical journal entry on January 7, 1910. She noted, "Time was then reckoned in Cavendish by the year of the reigning pedagogue, much after the fashion of ancient Rome with her consuls."

Her first teacher was Kaye Ross who thrilled her by blessing her with her first compliment: "This little girl reads better than any of you, although she is younger and has never been to school before." He was followed by George Simpson, and then by a man named Lamont (with red hair, red whiskers and a wife) who tried to make her memorize math formulas. William MacKay stayed for six months and boarded at the Alexander Macneill farm, Maud's home. Next came Mr. Fraser, who was the same age as the older boys (whom he could not control) but he was kind to the "little folk." It was during the era of Mr. Fraser that Maud started to remember more of the details of school life -- especially the first time she took written exams. He left when she was almost ten years old. For the next three years, her teacher was James McLeod. She didn't like him very much because he disciplined ineffectively with physical punishment. This, however, did not prevent all of the girls in the class from shedding tears of sorrow when he left.

Then the trustees hired a female teacher for the first time. Her name was Izzie Robinson and she boarded with the Macneills. Grandfather Macneill teased and insulted the teacher, who had no sense of humor, and the tension between the two was unpleasant and vocal. Miss Robinson carried resentments into the classroom where she humiliated Maud with her sarcasm. As a result, Maud stayed with her Aunt Emily in Malpeque for about three months and was kept out of school until Miss Robinson left the following New Year. It was a very happy Maud who returned to her friends and school in 1889 and could start out with a clean slate and a new teacher, named Miss Gordon.

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## POETRY AND PROSE

Miss Harriet L. Gordon was born in 1864 in New Perth, Prince Edward Island (near Georgetown, about 56 miles from Cavendish). Like Montgomery's Macneill and Montgomery relatives, Hattie's family became well-remembered immigrants; her grandfather was also an Island politician. Her parents were the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the "Brudenell River pioneers" (James MacLaren and his daughter Christian(a) and her husband Donald Gordon), who emigrated from Scotland's Blair Atholl parish, Perthshire, to the Island in 1803. Her family tree is peppered with other Scottish pioneer names as well -- Macdonalds, Stewarts, Robertsons, and Camerons.



She was one of the first women to enter the licensure classes at Charlottetown's Prince of Wales College in 1879, at age fifteen. She earned a second-class teaching license and took charge of the 45 students in the Cavendish school in 1889 when she was 25. Hattie boarded with the Robertsons on the farm next to Maud's uncle, John Macneill, not far away from the schoolhouse by the cemetery.

In *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne's favorite teacher, Miss Stacy, first appears in Chapter 24 – "Miss Stacy and Her Pupils Get Up a Concert." Montgomery recalled, "The Avonlea school was the Cavendish school but the teachers were mythical. Miss Stacy resembled Miss Gordon in some respects but I cannot say she was drawn from her." But she was.

In the new teacher she found another true and helpful friend. Miss Stacy was a bright, sympathetic young woman with the happy gift of winning and holding the affections of her pupils and bringing out the best that was in them mentally and morally. Anne expanded like a flower under this wholesome influence ...  
*Anne of Green Gables* 1908, 265.

Maud immediately liked her hard-working teacher with the pretty "wavy golden hair," and loved doing the assigned written compositions every week. Sometimes Miss Gordon selected the topic of the compositions, like "Cleopatra," and sometimes the advanced classes chose their own. Maud and her friend, Nate Lockhart, [see *The Shining Scroll* 2004: "Whatever Happened to Nate Lockhart?"] were considered the best writers of their class and were the teacher's favorites. In fact, their friendship was the source of jealousy and quarreling among their classmates. It eventually required the intervention of Miss Gordon -- her "genius for ferretting" and persistence in keeping an orderly school were highly respected by her Cavendish scholars. "I had begun to hope that Miss G. intended to let the matter blow over without further investigation; but evidently she is not one who will turn her back after putting her hand to the plough ... she ought to have been a criminal lawyer."

The complaints that fifteen-year-old Maud and Nate were friends who talked, wrote notes and took walks embarrassed Maud but undoubtedly amused Hattie -- "Miss Gordon looked rather blank. I think she had been expecting to hear that Nate and I broke all the Ten Commandments all at once every day." But the issue was settled with her judicious pronouncement that "I have never thought that either Maud or Nate required watching, nor do I think so now."



Maud and her friends tested "Miss G's" patience even further in the spring when they conspired to leave the room, one at a time, to enjoy a beautiful April day. But Maud would rather be in school than out of it. The events that Miss Gordon organized, the standard of performance that she expected, and the camaraderie she nurtured made the days in the Cavendish school the happiest of Montgomery's childhood. Maud associated Miss Gordon with a golden era in her own life and admired her at a time when she needed a supportive and responsive adult. Reflecting back on her school years in January 1910, Montgomery wrote several paragraphs about her teacher:

"Her face was not at all pretty but it was striking, and she had a peculiar and interesting smile. She had a very quick temper, easily roused by trifles, but she seldom voiced it. It was betrayed only in her suddenly crimsoning face and ominous silence. But it passed as quickly as it came. She was never sarcastic or vindictive. She made some mistakes as we all do, but they were not of the kind that last or rankle ...

Hattie Gordon ... was not faultless; but she was a lady, which Miss R. was not, and she had a certain stimulating personality which I have never found in any other teacher. She had the power of inspiring a love of study for its own sake and of making the dry bones of the school routine alive with interest.

## A GOLDEN PICNIC

Miss Gordon made learning fun and Montgomery enjoyed preparing for the winter and spring exams and rehearsing concerts of songs and dialogues. "All these little festivals of ours, our concerts, practices, picnics and games, tend to make the tie closer." Every week the students were required to give recitations, which most students dreaded. Maud, with a formidable "flexible memory" viewed this valuable training as a "dramatic joy." It was under Miss Gordon's "watchful eye" that she first learned Latin, her favorite course in her university days. Miss Gordon encouraged Maud to perform in concerts and Literary Society meetings and was Maud's advocate when her grandparents disapproved of her participation.

Maud Montgomery's first public recitation ("The Child Martyr") took place on November 22, 1889, for the Cavendish Literary Society. She was very nervous, but did well. Miss Gordon whispered her congratulations as soon as she sat down and Maud always remembered her proud smiling face and generous compliments. At the end of the school year in June, the scholars made their teacher proud again – Maud played "The Swedish Wedding March" and recited "The Schoolmaster's Guests." The Island paper, the *Daily Patriot*, reviewed the performance favorably on July 4, 1890:

The regular half yearly examination of the Cavendish School was held Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> in the presence of the trustees and parents of the children ... The examination extended over three hours and was very thorough and minute in the different branches. The pupils showed good progress and creditable proficiency in all the subjects ... The state of the school reflects great credit upon the painstaking and popular teacher, Miss H L Gordon. The trustees are to be congratulated upon securing her services for another year.

After only one year with Miss Gordon, Montgomery moved away from PEI in August 1890 to live with her beloved father and attend school in Prince Albert, Northwest Territories. While she was there, she corresponded with her teacher and her friend Penzie Macneill (who kept Maud up to date on Hattie's social life). It is possible that Hattie may have moved in with the Macneills while Maud was out West. Among the possessions of Maud's grandmother, Lucy Macneill (and left with her daughter, Annie Macneill Campbell), was a photograph taken in Boston. It was inscribed, "To Dear Mrs. Macneill with love from Hattie" (and added in a different hand, "L. Gordon teacher 1889-1892 – Cavendish, boarded at Macneills").



[Hattie might have had an opportunity to go to Boston in 1892 and have her photograph taken. She could have visited her younger brother, George Byron Gordon (likely named for the Scottish poet, George Gordon Byron, "Lord Byron"), who was earning his science degree at the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard and on his way to becoming one of the world's foremost archeologists.]

One year later, Maud returned to Cavendish to stay after a useless high school experience in the class of the inept John Mustard and a disappointing experience with her insecure and selfish stepmother, Mary Ann Montgomery. When she arrived back in Cavendish, Hattie was one of the first people she sought out. Montgomery did not attend school that year but was available to help Miss Gordon with her Christmas program in 1891. One evening, Maud and her friend Everett Laird rehearsed their parts for the dialogue titled "The Country School." While they were on the porch waiting to enter, they began their usual teasing banter and during the exchange, Everett slipped on the wet porch and fell into Maud, hitting his head on her knee. Both of them fell flat on the floor together as Miss Gordon opened the door to give them their cue. The concert was a success and the well-rehearsed dialogue "brought down the house."





At the end of that school year in the summer of 1892, Maud and Penzie Macneill surprised Hattie Gordon at the school where they had gone for a private chat in the evening. She was there alone in the dark school inadvertently eavesdropping on the girls' conversation before they noticed her. Maud was very thankful that they had not yet discussed Hattie and her beau, George R. Macneill. George was a first cousin of Maud's mother and was known as "Marcopolo George" because he saved the nameplate from the wrecked ship of that name and put it on his barn.

## A JONAH DAY

Hattie may well have been taking a last look at her schoolroom that night. Nothing became of Hattie and George because a week later, Miss Gordon said good-bye to Maud and left for Oregon on the west coast of the United States. "Miss Gordon was here this evening [June 30, 1892] to say good-bye. She is going to Oregon. Oh, how sorry I am to part with her! I have lost a true friend – the only one in Cavendish who sympathizes with me in my ambitions and efforts. I shall miss her dreadfully and I feel too blue to write anything more about anything." Of all Montgomery's teachers in Cavendish, Prince Albert, Charlottetown and Halifax, Harriet Gordon made the most lasting impression. She was an excellent teacher who not only developed talent but also recognized and supported ambition.

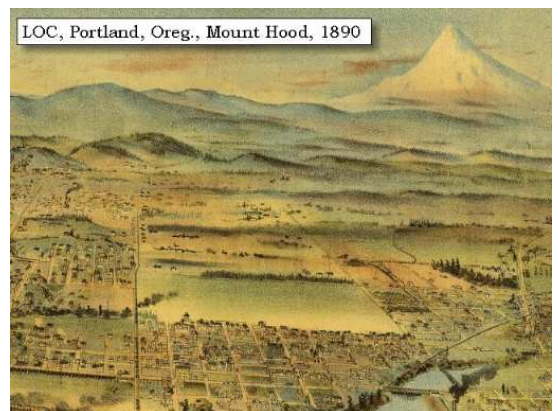
Miss Gordon apparently did not have the choice to stay on the Island. She joined her whole family in the move (except for George, already in Boston, and another brother, Charles Henry Gordon, who went to Melbourne, Australia). Her sixty-nine-year-old father, Captain James Gordon, had retired from active duty as a sea captain, which he began at age twenty-three, "command[ing] sailing vessels between New York, Liverpool and other ports."

James and his wife, Jane MacLaren, followed his brother's family (who immigrated in 1889), to Portland, Oregon, a growing town with a population of almost 50,000, and settled in a house with their sons James Kelso (23) and Milton MacLaren (12), and daughters Margaret (32) and Ada Jane (16). Margaret and Ada never married – they cared for their parents and lived together until the end of their lives. Margaret worked at home, at times as a dressmaker, Kelso as a carpenter, and Ada as a bookkeeper for a publishing house, eventually owning her own printing business and property in Portland as well as property in Reno, Nevada.

Hattie acquired a teaching job in Moro, Oregon -- about 80 miles east of Portland -- among the farming communities in the middle of oceans of wheat fields with Mt. Hood on the horizon. The district of Sherman County had transformed its economy from livestock to wheat production because the arrival of the rail lines provided a way to get the crops to markets. Since Miss Gordon boarded with local families and attended the First Baptist Church in Grass Valley, it would not have taken long to become acquainted with the son of Augustus and Emily Smith, Harry Ira Smith, seven years her junior and a farmer.

## A WEDDING IN THE STONE HOUSE

Miss Gordon was one of Montgomery's most enjoyable correspondents and they must have had an interesting exchange of letters about their schools in 1895 when Montgomery began her first teaching assignments. Miss Gordon sent Maud a clipping of her April 14 wedding in the First Baptist Church in which she was described as "one of Oregon's most successful teachers." Hattie and Harry lived with his parents in Grass Valley, which had two hotels and livery stables, two general stores and a newspaper. Hattie's first child, Mabel Gordon Smith, was born into the household on January 19, 1896, and her son, Gordon Byron Smith, was born on January 7, 1898. However, records from Grass Valley in 1898 still list her as a teacher. Did Hattie's in-laws care for the children while she continued to teach? It is possible, if married women could teach in Oregon, but more likely the information was out of date.

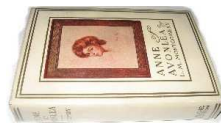


Her last child, Hazel Smith, was born on August 1, 1903, the year that Hattie's younger brother, Dr. G.B. Gordon, joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as assistant curator and lecturer of anthropology. In 1903, another brother, James Kelso Gordon, was married 2200 miles away in the Klondike. *The Yukon Sun* noted the local event on October 21:

James K. Gordon and Josephine S. [Smith] Phiscator were united in marriage at the residence of the bride, 37, below on Hunker Creek. Both bride and groom have been several years in the North and are well-known and highly respected on Hunker Creek, where they have been living. Mr. Gordon was at one time in the freighting business, and later proprietor of the Athol Hotel [at Gold Bottom River].

James had followed the gold rush to Dawson City in the Yukon Territory in 1897, where gold miner Frank Phiscator made 5 million dollars in fifteen days. James's new wife wrote "widow" on her marriage license but she was, in fact, the ex-wife of Phiscator with a thirteen-year-old son, Frank Phiscator, Jr. Frank Jr. was born in the Electric/Horr area near Cooke City, Montana, in 1891, when his father was a mail carrier within the boundaries of the new Yellowstone National Park.

On December 31, 1905, young Frank inherited his father's fortune when Phiscator died from "wounds in the throat, which he inflicted while depressed, after a debauch [in San Francisco]." James and his wife lived in various places in the northwest – Seattle in 1910, Prince Rupert/Terrace, British Columbia in 1916, Vancouver in 1923. In 1930 Frank Jr. was a Seattle stockbroker and lived in a boarding house that his mother supervised. Josephine was identified as "divorced" in the 1930 census but in 1937 she had applied for naturalization papers as the wife of James Kelso Gordon, crossing the border by stage from Terrace to live in Seattle. James Kelso Gordon died there in 1946, Frank Jr. in 1947, and Josephine Gordon in 1953.



After Hazel's birth, the Smith family moved to Portland where the Gordon family still lived. Another event in 1903 was a celebration on Prince Edward Island for the centenary of the arrival of the Brudenell River pioneers. An inscribed monument was dedicated to the founding families of Donald Gordon and James MacLaren. Hattie's mother, Jane MacLaren Gordon died in 1905 and Captain James, "an old time sea captain of the Atlantic," followed in 1911 – they both were buried in the Portland pioneer cemetery, Lone Fir.

Hattie stopped writing to Montgomery when her children were small. After leaving Grass Valley, Harry took a job as a brakeman with the railroad and Hattie returned to teaching in the large town, perhaps because she was closer to her sisters who could help her to balance the duties of work and family. When Montgomery received her own copy of the newly released, *Anne of Avonlea*, on September 1, 1909, she wrote:

"I have dedicated it to my old teacher, Miss Gordon, in gratitude for her sympathy and encouragement in the old days. Whether she will ever see it or not I do not know for I have lost track of her. I have not heard from her for over three years and all my efforts to locate her present abode have been in vain."

Hattie renewed their correspondence at some point after *Anne of Avonlea* was published, but not right away.

As Montgomery was beginning her married life in 1911, Hattie was ending hers, and would not be able to tell Maud about it for years. While Montgomery was basking in joy at the birth of her first son on July 7, 1912, Hattie was filing papers for a divorce from Harry Smith. The legal terms cited "cruel and inhuman treatment, great mental suffering, and personal indignities rendering her life burdensome." But in Hattie's language, Harry was addicted to alcohol; he would come home under the influence of alcohol and clench his fist and threaten her. He said he would kill her. Thirteen years later she finally revealed to Montgomery that she was divorced and that her husband "had ruined her life by his dissipated habits." The sheriff served papers on Harry for a month but he never answered the summons -- the court dissolved the marriage on August 5, 1912. Mabel was seventeen when her father moved away, old enough to help out with the younger children while Hattie continued to support the family.

## AROUND THE BEND

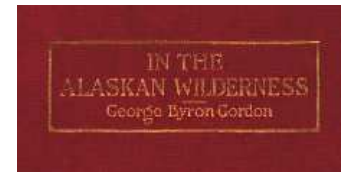
The youngest of the nine children in the Gordon family was Hattie's brother Milton MacLaren. He was born in June 1880 after his mother, Jane Gordon, lost a five-year-old son named Frances in 1878 and a one month-old baby, named Henry, who died in 1879. Milton may have been named Frances in his first year and later given the name of a poet and the name of his mother's family. As an adult he went by the name MacLaren Gordon, but for many years he was called Milton. Likewise, his brother had name changes -- James Kelso, appeared to be called Kelso until his father passed away, and then he went by James Kelso. The Kelso name was linked to the traditional home place of some of the Gordon clans, where Sir Walter Scott lived for a time and recalled that it was "the most beautiful, if not the most romantic village in Scotland." The Gordon brothers held on to the names that were associated with their Scottish roots.

In 1899, Milton visited the Yukon Territory with his brother, Kelso, perhaps for the first time. He had graduated from school and lived at home with his parents, working as a clerk in a store and studying engineering. Later, he was hired to work on bridge construction in Oregon and California. By 1907, he called himself MacLaren, and was in the far North, at White Horse in the Yukon Territory. In June, he returned from a hunting trip to meet his brother, Dr. G.B. Gordon, the newly appointed head of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. They built a canoe and MacLaren guided Dr. Gordon in a two-man expedition across the unexplored parts of Alaska to study the indigenous people. They planned the trip two years earlier and George, echoing the same kind of landscape nostalgia as Montgomery, remembered:

During those two June days on the steamer between White Horse and Dawson my brother and I had time, as we watched the wild and picturesque shores go by, to recall to our minds all the tragedy and romance of the days that are gone forever, and we had time also to map out an adventure of our own, which was to cross Alaska by an untried route.

In 1913, MacLaren moved to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, for an engineering job as a "master builder" as he described it, and may have lived with James Kelso in nearby Terrace, (who still worked in gold mining in that area although his home was in Seattle, Washington). When World War I began, MacLaren, 35, joined up with the Canadian forces six months after the first Canadian troops left to fight in France and fought in the Battle of Ypres in April 1915. He spent five months in the Vancouver 62<sup>nd</sup> Battalion CEF and then the 68<sup>th</sup> Regiment, DCOR (the British Columbia Regiment, "Duke of Connaught's Own Regiment"). On May 1, 1916 he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant with the Northern British Columbia Engineer Corps designated as the 102nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 4th Canadian Division. In his attestation papers, he named Dr. G.B. Gordon as his next of kin.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> was in the Somme River area of northern France on October 19, 1916 at the front line of the Courcellette Trench. Their war diary read, "Never did the men of the 102nd better deserve their reputation for physique and tenacity of purpose than in their fight against the mud after their exhausting night in the trenches. The mud was hip-high between the trenches and the Bapaume Road and the men had to be literally dug out by their comrades as they sank exhausted in the liquid, glue-like substance." On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the troops went "over the top" in a successful assault at the Regina Trench, "carried out with such dash, vigour and impetuosity that the Germans were completely demoralized and immediately threw up their hands in surrender." But in the counterattack, a constant barrage of shellfire that lasted throughout the day and night, Lt. MacLaren Gordon was killed. He was buried at the Adanac Military Cemetery, Somme, France.



MACLAREN GORDON AT LAKE MUNCHUMINA



102<sup>ND</sup> BATT<sup>Y</sup> MARCHING THROUGH COMOX.



Lieutenant MacLaren Gordon

**TO MY BROTHER  
LIEUTENANT MACLAREN GORDON  
KILLED IN ACTION DURING  
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME  
OCTOBER 21, 1916**

The Gordon family was notified a week after his death. A year later, Dr. G.B. Gordon, dedicated his 1917 book, *In the Alaskan Wilderness*, to his brother in honor of their trip together. Hattie's letter to Montgomery in mid-January of 1917 told her the tragic news. "I had a letter from Hattie Smith this week. Her youngest brother has been killed in France, and her son is in the U.S. army and has been on the Mexican border. Is there a heart in the world that does not ache today?" When L.M. Montgomery was writing *Rilla of Ingleside* in 1919, she made Anne's son, Walter, a heroic casualty of an "over the top" charge in Courcelette, too.

Hattie's son was eighteen by the time his uncle joined the CEF. Around March 1916, Gordon Smith was old enough to enlist in the Oregon National Guard to join General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing's armed expedition to southern California to stop border raids by Pancho Villa. He earned a monthly paycheck for uneventful patrols and drills. The 1st Oregon Infantry Regiment returned home in September 1916 but was called back into service in March of 1917 to mobilize, eventually, as the 162nd Infantry, part of the 41st Division. In France, the division was split among other US Army divisions for the duration of the war and returned in June of 1919. Gordon served for eighteen months and "received numerous citations for bravery."

### ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN ... AND WOMEN

When he returned, Gordon married Hattie Essig, a trained nurse and also his stepsister. His father was married to Hattie's mother, Emily Kroschel Essig. In 1920, both Harry and Gordon worked for the railroad and rented a house in Oakland, California. This certainly must have been an awkward situation for Hattie (Gordon) Smith, to welcome, as her new daughter-in-law, her ex-husband's stepdaughter [not to mention the confusion of two Hattie Smiths]!

Meanwhile, perhaps with her mother's prompting, Mabel moved to Philadelphia to find new opportunities under the supervision of her uncle George Gordon. Mabel lived in a boarding house and was employed as a nurse in a private residence. However, George provided a very nice social network for the young woman. She was shuttled from one wealthy connected family to another in the summer of 1919, first spending two weeks with the prominent John Cadwalader, Jr., family and then moving on to Martha's Vineyard to join the family of George's great friend and famous colleague, Dr. R. Tait McKenzie.

A year later, Mabel was engaged to attorney Wesley Hurst Caldwell, a widower with a five-year-old son. They were married in Hattie's home in Portland and her sister Hazel was her maid of honor. Montgomery kept the wedding announcement in her personal scrapbooks.

It is difficult to know what Hattie was doing during those years after the war. Hazel was seventeen in 1920 and lived, for a time, with Hattie's sisters, Margaret and Ada, while she finished school. Mabel lived across the continent in Philadelphia and Gordon was in Oakland. Montgomery's response to Hattie's letter in January 1925 was full of pity and sympathy after hearing that Hattie was divorced:

I had been thinking for several years that there was something apley there for she has never mentioned him in her letters and recently she has been living with a brother in BC. "Dear, oh dear," is there no happiness anywhere? Yes, of course there is. Only it doesn't seem to come to me or my friends. Hattie's family – two daughters and a son – are grown-up and married, so she is practically alone in the world.

Was Hazel married in 1925 as Montgomery said? The 1930 census indicates she was divorced at that time but, by the end of 1924, Hattie's children were living their own lives. Yet, Hattie certainly was not alone in the world -- her siblings had always taken care of each other. Living with James and Josephine Gordon may not have been the best situation for her, and being far away from her grown children would have been emotionally difficult because all her grandchildren were born within seven years after the war. But distance did not seem to be an obstacle for the Gordons. Since she left Prince Edward Island Hattie had become a long distance traveler -- between Oregon and Canada, California and Nevada and Philadelphia -- she made several trips to see her family, connected by many direct train routes.

Her first grandchild, Gordon B. Smith, Jr. was born in 1921. If the baby's family was still living with Harry and Emily Smith in California, Hattie may not have gone to see the child right away. But when her second grandson, John Caldwell, was born in 1923, she went across the country to meet him in



Philadelphia when he was six months old. A granddaughter was born in 1924, Margaret Gordon Caldwell, bearing the same name as Hattie's sister. The Gordon name continues in the Caldwell family to the present day.

Hattie's youngest grandson, Glenn Royal Smith, was born in December 1925 in Reno, Nevada. It would be surprising if Hattie did not go to Nevada to see her family by then. Gordon, Sr. was a long-time employee of the Southern Pacific railroad company and spent most of his career in Nevada. As a trainmaster in 1930, he supervised train crews on part of the rail line, and his sister, Hazel, lived in Reno too and handled his clerical duties as the secretary in his office.

## THE WAY IT OFTEN HAPPENS

L.M. Montgomery and her teacher did meet again after many years. Hattie was making a much-needed trip to Philadelphia in 1927 and came by way of Toronto to stop and visit Maud first. She may also have been in Canada to meet Mabel, who returned from a trip to England (accompanying a Philadelphia widow, Elizabeth Carpenter) in Quebec on October 6, 1927. Hattie wrote to Montgomery in mid-September to tell her she would be in Toronto on October 14 and made arrangements to stay with Maud at her home in Norval, Ontario, for three days.

Montgomery was "wholly joyful" and then apprehensive. They had not seen each other for 35 years, "since I bade Hattie Gordon farewell on the sunlit evening road at our 'red gate.'" Maud always had doubts about meeting old friends again after long absences. She feared that the reality of the person would not measure up to the illusion of the friend. Maud and her husband drove from their home to pick up Hattie at the station in Toronto. "I knew her at once."

Montgomery wrote of the changes in Hattie's appearance (her darker shorter hair), which were perhaps not as dramatic as the changes in herself. They talked "exhaustively" of Cavendish, but not Hattie's old beau, George Macneill, who had become an "eccentric old hermit." Montgomery suspected that Hattie and George had been engaged but that he had somehow caused its end. "Hattie once asked Grandmother if she thought it was possible to live with Aunt Jane [George's mother]. Grandmother told her truthfully that she did not think it was. Nor was it. ... It was all a pity. She would have made



Friday Oct. 14. 1927  
The Masses  
Norval.  
On Wednesday morning  
we motored to Toronto to  
meet Hattie Gordon and  
joined her in the ladies  
- room of the new station.  
after thirty five years, during  
which the whole world  
has changed we met  
again.  
I knew her at once

George a good wife – he would have made her a good husband ... They would have probably had a clever family, some of whom might have kept the Macneill name and brains in Cavendish. And Hattie would not today have been a homeless, husbandless woman, subsisting on a brother's charity."

Montgomery enjoyed the visit but experienced the loss she expected. Maud's remarkable teacher suffered a change in fortune that she could not overlook. The changes in Hattie's appearance and status also made Maud feel older. She described this as a role reversal where she "was no longer the adoring schoolgirl looking up to a semi-divinity whom I thought wonderfully clever - and I regretted it." Maud and Ewan took Hattie back to the train station and said good bye:

I saw the great gates swallow her up sadly. It is so unlikely that we will ever meet again. And yet - the girl of 1892 and the woman of 1892 have not met again. They do not exist. And in that realization lies my loss.



## A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS

It is very probable that the conversation between the two old friends focused solely on Montgomery's life, her successful career, and their shared days in old Cavendish. If Hattie mentioned her grandchildren or her famous brother, Dr. G.B. Gordon, there is no clue of it in Montgomery's records, except for one clipping in her scrapbooks about Dr. Gordon.

Hattie's family had suffered two very difficult losses at the beginning of 1927. Mabel's father-in-law, James Henderson Caldwell, died on January 30, 1927, and her uncle, Dr. G.B. Gordon, died the same day. Hattie's visit to the northeast in October may have not only been to see Mabel and Wesley and her grandchildren, but to help settle her brother's estate.

Gordon's death was noted in *Time Magazine* and made the front pages of newspapers all across the United States and around the world. *The New York Times* read: "G.B. Gordon Falls to Death in Club – Was Known the World Over as Explorer, Anthropologist, Author and Teacher." Among Gordon's very long list of accomplishments were that: he discovered ancient Mayan civilizations; organized expeditions in Egypt, Crete, South America, and China; directed excavations in "Mesopotamia and Palestine" and was working in collaboration with the British Museum and Col. T.W. Lawrence ("of Arabia") at the site of Ur in ancient Babylonia when he died.



Gordon traveled around Canada in 1917 to lecture about the war, still grieving MacLaren but believing that the cause was worth sacrifice. He was an expert on travels in London and a friend of Theodore Roosevelt – the Caldwell family still holds letters he received from Roosevelt, the King of England, and Rudyard Kipling acknowledging his archeological accomplishments. His legacy was in his work for seventeen years as the director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, which he developed into one of the "world's foremost scientific institutions." His death was unexpected and tragic – he attended a dinner to hear Roosevelt's sons, Theodore II and Kermit, give an account of their recent expedition to Tibet. At the end of the evening, he started up the marble stairs to get his coat, appeared to faint, and fell backward onto the steps. He died the following day of his head injuries.

George was considered one of the shining stars of the Gordon clan in his time. He made several trips to Canada with his friend, Dr. Tait Mackenzie, a fellow Scot whose family was from Kelso. He was interested in and studied his family lineage, although he never made the connection with his 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, the best-selling Canadian author, Rev. Dr. Charles Gordon, known as "Ralph Connor." Montgomery was certainly correct in her assessment that a marriage between the Macneills and the Gordons would have been a boon for Cavendish. It was a remarkable family.

A man like George, with his intellect and drive, was allowed to parlay his academic training into a career that contributed to an understanding of the world's civilizations. The same kind of intellect and drive was present in Hattie, but her opportunity for its expression was much more limited. Yet, in her much smaller sphere of influence, she too made a difference. As a result, her name (printed in hundreds of thousands of books for one hundred years) has also been written upon what Montgomery aspired to: a "shining scroll" of "honored fame."

George's death may have resulted in a little more independence for Hattie as the Great Depression approached, if his estate was substantial. As it was, her attention was directed to the west where her son and daughter lived. Like Montgomery, Hattie spent the 1930s trying to help her grown children get their lives in order, but unlike Montgomery, it did not rob her of her strength to endure.

## THE POINTING OF DUTY

By the late 1930s, Hattie's former husband, Harry Smith, and Emily were divorced. Emily was married again and her grandchildren remember that their Uncle Gordon and Aunt Hattie were divorced, but that "Granny Smith" provided a home for Hattie and their cousins, Gordon Jr. and Glenn in Newport Beach, California in 1936.

Hattie Gordon was Granny Smith and owned a house in Los Angeles that she shared with her daughter-in-law, or perhaps former daughter-in-law. Hattie Gordon Smith and



Hattie Essig Smith's partnership provided security for the boys, it was a mutually beneficial arrangement – it is highly likely that the two former-Mrs.-Harry-Smiths were on friendly terms too. They all lived near each other and Emily (now Mrs. Thompson) was helping out her second daughter, Edith, at the same time “Granny” Smith was living with her grandsons and their mother.

Gordon was still based in the Reno area but his sister Hazel no longer worked in his office. In 1932, she took the position of Executive Assistant to the newly elected Senator from Nevada, P.A. McCarran. She had “hundreds of friends throughout the state” and spent most of her time in Washington, DC. Hazel took a six-week vacation in September and October of 1937 to visit with Hattie in Reno. Mother and daughter might have spent those weeks in serious conversation with Gordon, because (as his nieces recall) he and his wife re-married – by 1938 he was based at a new station in El Centro, California, near the southern border, earning a comfortable salary of \$350 a month to support his wife and two boys.

In the fall of 1935 Montgomery re-visited her school days once more, writing about Anne's experiences as a teacher in *Anne of Windy Poplars*. She may have ended her contact with Harriet Gordon Smith by then, whose divorce seemed to weigh heavily in Montgomery's reevaluation of their friendship. But by the late 1930s, Montgomery was fighting with health demons and the deadly spiral of depression brought on by the circumstances of her son's seemingly inevitable divorce. While Hattie may have been helpful in keeping Gordon's family together, Montgomery struggled in vain, like Sisyphus, until the end of her life to accommodate her oldest son in the hope (as Dr. Mary Rubio wrote) “that he would eventually dignify his life.”

In September of 1939, Hattie returned to Reno to stand by Hazel when she married Edward F. Reed, the chief attorney and officer of the Veteran's Administration Hospital. Senator McCarran attended the wedding and the *Reno Evening Gazette* society editor wrote, “The bride ... has won wide popularity for her charming graciousness and ability in serving as the Nevada senator's aide.” Hazel resigned her position two months later but was a delegate to the national Democratic conventions for years. She remained close to her aunts in Portland. After Margaret died in 1941, Ada lived alone, and when she became ill with cancer in 1954, Hazel brought her aunt home to Reno for the last four months of her life. Both Ada and Margaret are buried side-by-side in Lincoln Memorial Park in Portland.



## THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR

With Gordon and Hazel's lives seemingly secure, Hattie moved to Philadelphia to live near Mabel and her family. Sadly, Gordon was killed in 1940 while coupling a freight train in El Centro. He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason and was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery after a “Scottish Rite” service. The following year, his widow sued the Southern Pacific Company for \$60,000. Gordon Jr. went to college for two years after his father died and also worked as a sales clerk. In March 1942, a month before the time of L.M. Montgomery's death, he enlisted in the Air Corps – after the war he stayed in the Air Force as a career officer.

For Hattie and Maud's generation this second Great War was a great blow almost beyond endurance. Montgomery had thought, and written in *Rilla of Ingleside*, that the War of 1914 would result in a new world, but it spawned a new conflict that would threaten to take her second son. Elizabeth Epperly explained the author's loss of spirit in her last years in this way: “Montgomery had surrendered Lover's Lane [her world of “eternal beauties”] to a past she could visit only imaginatively, and with a heart neither open or fully free to dream, even these visits may have become infrequent.” Montgomery's husband was chronically ill and her oldest son was incorrigible. She found herself, in a sense, in the same state as she had viewed Hattie in 1927 – husbandless and powerless – and, at the end, no longer able to access the world's beauty.

Harriet Gordon Smith's life was not easy but she found a contented ending. She was another one of L.M. Montgomery's friends who, had they lived near each other, would have been a source of support, common sense, and resilience. Montgomery's best matches in friendships could equal her intellect, her curiosity, her perseverance, and her culture. Montgomery was wrong about Harriet Gordon in her final assessment; she was a person worthy of admiration in her later years, she wasn't alone, she had a home wherever she happened to be, and -- unlike Montgomery -- Hattie lived long enough to have hope for her next generation.

Miss Gordon's life spanned incredible changes in culture, technology, and education. She welcomed the convenience of the new Island railway system as a young woman, and as a grandmother she could hear news from a radio about a plane dropping an atomic bomb from 31,000 feet in the air. She began her professional career in fulfillment of the requirement of being an unmarried female teacher of good character and lived long enough to see her granddaughter graduate from a private high school for girls, Northwestern University, and Temple Law School. Did she ever imagine such academic opportunities for a girl in her own family? Did she think back to her classroom in that one room schoolhouse in Canada where she stoked the fires of achievement for her brightest students, Maud Montgomery and Nate Lockhart?

In 1951, Harriet Gordon Smith celebrated the birth of her first great-granddaughter, in California. She was present at the August 1952 marriage of her granddaughter, Margaret Gordon Caldwell. She passed away three months later and is buried in Westminster Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, with her Caldwell family.



Many thanks to the Caldwell and Smith family descendents and relations for your contributions and for sharing your beautiful family photos!

Historical records assistance was received with great gratitude from Christy Woster and Henry Scannell, and the generous and persistent staff of the Sherman County Historical Museum: primarily Mark Fields with Chris Sanders and Sherry Kaseberg. Additional information was welcomed from Ruth Hunter, Linda Brault, Dr. Mary Rubio and Dr. Jennifer Litster

### Images:

Lucy Macneill's photo of Hattie Gordon is on display at the The Anne of Green Gables Museum at Silver Bush, Park Corner, PEI, and is used here courtesy of George Campbell and the family of Ruth and James Campbell.

Photographs of L.M. Montgomery are provided by the L.M. Montgomery Collection, Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph Library.

Photographs of G.B. Gordon and MacLaren Gordon can be found in *In the Alaskan Wilderness*.

Belmont School photo courtesy of John Sylvester. See more of John's amazing PEI photographs at <http://www.johnsylvester.com/index.php>

Portland image is from the Library of Congress: "Bird's-eye-view", Portland, Oregon, 1890. Created by Clohessy & Strengle. Published 1890, San Francisco.

Sherman County grain field near Moro, OR: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives, Oregon Historical County Records Guide. See more photos of the area at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/archives/county/images/scenic/ohrp/scenicsherman.htm>

### Further Reading:

Read *Whatever Happened to Nate Lockhart* here:

[http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/what\\_happened\\_to\\_nate\\_lockhart.pdf](http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/what_happened_to_nate_lockhart.pdf)

Photo and History of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at:

<http://www.102ndbattalioncefc.ca/warpages/102chap1.htm>

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For further sources, contact author.

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## Bideford Parsonage

Jack Hutton  
June 2009

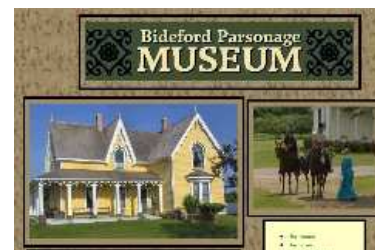
The Prince Edward Island provincial government has decided to declare Bideford Parsonage Museum a heritage site.

Wayne and Janice Trowsdale, who saved the 1878 building from being moved from its Bideford location to the Avonlea Village tourist theme site in Cavendish years ago (it would have meant cutting it into three sections for highway moving) are over the moon about the heritage designation which is still months away.

And so they should be. Bideford Parsonage Museum is tucked away in a northwestern corner, well away from the usual path of Montgomery fans who tend to focus on Cavendish. This should turn a spotlight on what Wayne and Janice have quietly been doing over the years, and hopefully encourage more visitors.

Take a look at the museum's website (<http://bidefordparsonagemuseum.com>) to learn more. Here is part of what you will see:

Step back to an era of simpler times in this Provincially Registered Historical Home originally built in 1878 by Thomas H. Pope. Six years later he sold his home to the local Methodist church for use as its parsonage. Lucy Maud Montgomery was only 19 when she came here in 1894-95, to board with the Reverend John F. and Mrs. Ada Estey, while in her first teaching position at Bideford No. 6 School.



Maud wrote quite a bit about the parsonage and Rev. and Mrs. Estey in her 1894-95 diary entries, so get out your *Selected Journal* copy from that period. You will find that Anne Shirley's liniment cake disaster is based upon something that actually happened to Ada Estey in her kitchen. Maud heard her story, made some notes, and years later used the hilarious incident in print. If you are lucky enough to get to the parsonage museum on your next trip to P.E.I., you will be taken into the kitchen to see where Ada made the liniment cake. You will also see Maud's second floor room, which she describes so eloquently in her diary.

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**Dr. Mollie Gillen**  
**L.M. Montgomery Biographer**  
**November 1, 1908 – January 3, 2009**

Award-winning historian, novelist, and biographer, Dr. Mollie Gillen passed away this year at the age of 100. Dr. Gillen was born in the year that *Anne of Green Gables* was published. She received the Order of Australia for her work on the founders of Australia, but it was her ground-breaking biography of L.M. Montgomery that endeared her to fans around the world, “a fact that continually filled her with amazement and joy,” her friend, Yuka Kajihara, wrote.

The centennial of L.M. Montgomery's birth was in 1974, and Doris Anderson, editor of *Chatelaine Magazine*, asked associate editor, Mollie Gillen, to start work on an article about Montgomery in 1973. Gillen used Montgomery's letters to her friend, Ephraim Weber, and interviews with Montgomery's cousins to write *Maud Montgomery: The Girl Who Wrote Green Gables*.

Mollie Gillen had acquired so much extra material for her *Chatelaine* article that she expanded her research into a book, eventually tracking down the letters Montgomery wrote to George Boyd MacMillan in Scotland (before they were destroyed by MacMillan's nephew). *The Wheel of Things: A Biography of Lucy Maud Montgomery* was published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside in 1975 and was the first book length biography to use all the original unpublished Montgomery letters, as well as interviews with relatives, to pull back the curtain a little farther on the private life of the author.

Gillen had other writing commitments and could not return to Montgomery work after 1975. Dr. Francis Bolger and Dr. Elizabeth Epperly edited the MacMillan letters -- *My Dear Mr. M.: Letters to G.B. MacMillan from L.M. Montgomery, Author of Anne of Green Gables* which was published in 1980.

In November of 2008, Mollie Gillen celebrated her 100th birthday (she received cards from Queen Elizabeth and the mayor of Toronto) with relatives, her publisher, and friends sending best wishes from the Montgomery fans around the world.



**Biographers Mary Rubio and  
Mollie Gillen, photo by J. Hutton**

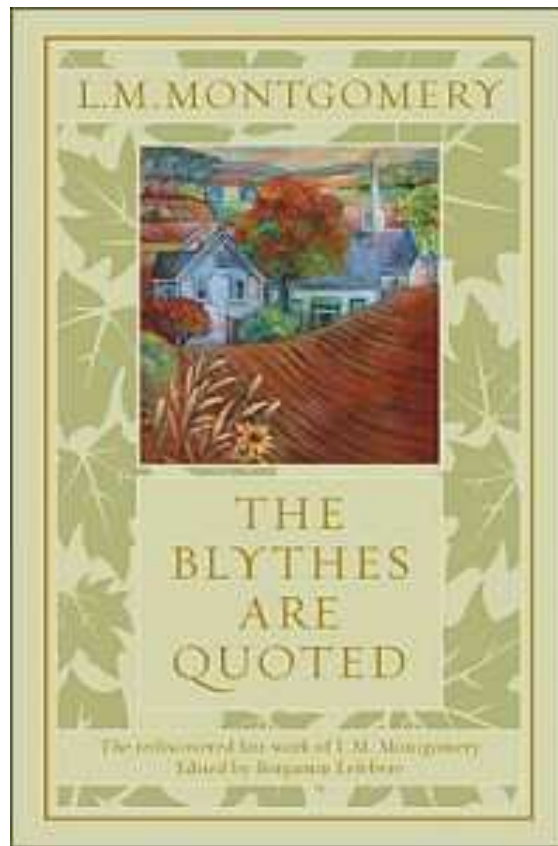


Learn more about Dr. Mollie Gillen at the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society Biography Web Page:  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~bcavert/id28.html>

Learn about Dr. Gillen and other Montgomery “pioneers” at:  
[http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/honoring\\_the\\_first\\_generation\\_-\\_lmm\\_08\\_conference\\_presenta.pdf](http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/honoring_the_first_generation_-_lmm_08_conference_presenta.pdf)

Read the *Chatelaine* article here:  
[http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/gillen\\_chatelaine.pdf](http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/gillen_chatelaine.pdf)

Read about Mollie's recognition at the Bala Museum in Muskoka, ON in the 1997 edition of *The Shining Scroll*  
[http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/shining\\_scroll\\_1997.pdf](http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/shining_scroll_1997.pdf)



***The Blythes Are Quoted***

By L.M. Montgomery  
Edited and with an Afterword by Benjamin Lefebvre  
Foreword by Elizabeth Rollins Epperly  
Toronto: Viking Canada, 2009

Synopsis *The Blythes Are Quoted* is the last work of fiction by the internationally celebrated author of *Anne of Green Gables*. Intended by L.M. Montgomery to be the ninth volume in her bestselling series featuring her beloved heroine Anne—and delivered to her publisher on the very day she died—it has never before been published in its entirety.

This rediscovered volume marks the final word of a writer whose work continues to fascinate readers all over the world.

Adultery, illegitimacy, revenge, murder, and death—these are not the first terms we associate with L.M. Montgomery. But in *The Blythes Are Quoted*, completed at the end of her life, the author brings tonics such as these to the fore.

Intended by Montgomery to be the ninth volume in her bestselling series featuring Anne Shirley Blythe, *The Blythes Are Quoted* takes Anne and her family a full two decades beyond anything else she published about them, and some of its subject matter is darker than we might expect.

Divided into two sections, one set before and one after the Great War of 1914–1918, it contains fifteen short stories set in and around the Blythes' Prince Edward Island community of Glen St. Mary. Binding these stories, Montgomery inserted sketches featuring Anne and Gilbert Blythe discussing poems by Anne and their middle son, Walter, who dies as a soldier in the war. By blending together poetry, prose, and dialogue in this way, Montgomery was at the end of her career experimenting with storytelling methods in an entirely new manner.

This publication of Montgomery's rediscovered original work—previously published only in severely abridged form as *The Road to Yesterday*—invites readers to return to her earlier books with a renewed appreciation and perspective.

## Part One

The Piper (3)  
Some Fools and a Saint (5-67)  
Twilight at Ingleside (68-74)  
I Wish You (70-71)  
The Old Path Round the Shore (72-73)  
Guest Room in the Country (74)  
An Afternoon with Mr. Jenkins (75-87)  
The Second Evening (88-95)  
The New House (88-89)  
Robin Vespers (90-91)  
Night (92-93)  
Man and Woman (94-95)  
Retribution (96-113)  
The Third Evening (114-117)  
There Is a House I Love (114-115)  
Sea Song (116-117)  
The Twins Pretend (118-143)  
The Fourth Evening (144-145)  
To a Desired Friend (144-145)

Fancy's Fool (146-169)  
The Fifth Evening (170-175)

Midsummer Day (170-172)  
Remembered (173-175)

A Dream Comes True (176-207)  
The Sixth Evening (208-214)

Farewell to an Old Room (208-211)  
The Haunted Room (212-213)  
Song of Winter (214)

Penelope Struts Her Theories (215-252)  
The Seventh Evening (253-259)

Success (253-255)  
The Gate of Dream (256-257)  
An Old Face (258-259)

The Reconciliation (260-266)  
The Cheated Child (267-311)  
Fool's Errand (312-324)  
The Pot and the Kettle (325-360)

## Part Two

Another Ingleside Twilight (365-378)

Interlude (365-366)  
Come, Let Us Go (367-368)  
A June Day (369-370)  
Wind of Autumn (371-372)  
The Wild Places (373-374)  
For Its Own Sake (375)  
The Change (376-377)  
I Know (378)

Brother Beware (379-395)  
The Second Evening (396-404)

The Wind (396-398)  
The Bride Dreams (399-402)  
May Song (403-404)

Here Comes the Bride (405-438)  
The Third Evening (439-444)  
The Parting Soul (439-440)  
My House (441-442)  
Memories (443-444)

A Commonplace Woman (445-475)  
The Fourth Evening (476-484)

Canadian Twilight (476-477)  
Oh, We Will Walk with Spring  
Today (478-479)  
Grief (480-481)  
The Room (482-484)

The Road to Yesterday (485-501)  
Au Revoir (502-510)

I Want (502-504)  
The Pilgrim (505-506)  
Spring Song (507-508)  
The Aftermath (509-510)

Afterword, by Benjamin Lefebvre (511-520)

A Note on the Text (521-522)

Acknowledgments (523)

Books by L.M. Montgomery (524-526)

## More About Edith Russell

By Christy Woster © 2009

I would like to thank the many readers of our newsletter for the interest in my article on L.M. Montgomery's friend, Edith Russell. I appreciate the positive feedback and the additional information that was sent my way. [Please refer to the December 2008 edition of *The Shining Scroll* for the original article entitled, "A Writer Forgotten: The Story of Edith Russell."]

Carol Dobson, who lives in Halifax, and is an expert in local history and genealogy, sent me this information regarding the *Echo* newspaper sponsoring a summer camp: "The *Echo* sponsored a summer camp in Cow Bay, that is a small community on the outskirts of Dartmouth and for many years there was a camp called Rainbow Haven that was sponsored by the *Chronicle Herald*...successor to the *Echo*. While the camp is closed, you can still go to Rainbow Haven Beach and the Horrid has a fund raiser each summer to help less fortunate kids go to summer camp."

Carolyn Kaye, also of Halifax passed along these interesting items regarding the summer camp: "I agree that it is nice that Elizabeth Epperly's book, *Imagining Anne*, contains some of Edith Russell's work, in particular "Two Pictures, A Fresh Air Sermon" about a child's life in the city and going to camp at Cow Bay, apparently sponsored by *The Daily Echo*. *The Echo* later became the *Halifax Herald* and *Mail Star* and the newspapers continued to sponsor disadvantaged children to attend a summer camp called Rainbow Haven at Cow Bay, not far from Dartmouth."

Carolyn also shared that her son is a huge fan of the author, Thomas Raddall, who Edith had written to. They both have read many of Raddall's books. Raddall was a schoolboy in Halifax at the time of the Halifax explosion and wrote a short story about his experience called "A Winters Tale". Carolyn generously sent me a copy of this story that she had found in the book, "Literary Halifax".

Janet Murray sent this intriguing information:

My first job after University was a summer job at what was then called the *Halifax Mail-Star*, it was descended from the *Echo*, and on the same street, and I assume the same building as the *Echo* had been. My boss was the strangest lady I had ever met -- her name was Miss Russell (I made the mistake of calling her Mrs. Russell one day, and she was quick to correct me). She was tall, very thin, and extremely unattractive, very haughty, and she dressed like a very refined bag lady. Although she was supposed to be the boss of our little department (The Women's Page) she only turned up once or twice a week. I am quite sure that her first name was Edith, although everyone called her "Miss Russell". This was in the summer of 1956; can it be that I had a brush with Montgomery, of which I was unaware?

Edith would have been 79 in 1956, so it seems unlikely that she would have still been working, however, due to financial difficulties it would have been possible that she needed to bring in income. I have been unable to find any further information on her work history, so it is another mystery to try and solve!

Another wonderful contribution was from Sandy Wagner. She visited the area of Dartmouth where Edith had lived and found the house at 22 Dahlia Street. She very kindly passed along this picture she took of Edith's house, which is still standing and appears to be well taken care of.



I really wanted to find some more examples of Edith's writings, so began searching for some of the periodicals that she had published in. Not knowing the dates of these short stories and poems made the search more difficult, but after much searching I was rewarded. I knew that Edith had won awards for five of her contributions to *Our Dumb Animals*, so I began there. *Our Dumb Animals* was first published in Boston on June 2, 1868, and was monthly publication of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In the August 1913 edition I found a short story by Edith, titled "The Sea Captain". It tells of a dog named Major who waits patiently for his master, an aged sea captain, to return from his sailing trips. How Major always knew the day his master would return was a mystery, but his intuition was always correct.

In the March 1914 edition there is a short piece, titled "A Devoted Father" that tells of a mother canary's death, and the father bird taking over the care the three young baby birds. Another find was in the March 1915 edition, a rather gruesome story entitled "An Unlearned Lesson" which tells the tale of a young man who nearly dies of the fever, but recovers and on a beautiful fall day, goes hunting and kills a squirrel, much to the sadness of the squirrel's mate who laments, "Man, the destroyer, has been here, and has taken all that I held dear. The stranger might have gathered the glorious autumn leaves, or clumps of velvety moss, but no; he wanted life, and he took it at the expense of our happiness." The story states, "This was no tragedy in the opinion of the young sportsman whose life had been recently spared."

A surprising find was what I came across as I patiently paged through many copies of *Our Dumb Animals*. To my excitement in the December, 1920 publication, on page 108, a familiar name jumped out at me, L. M. Montgomery! Here I found a poem, entitled "The Gulls." I wasn't aware that any of Montgomery's work had been published in *Our Dumb Animals*, and according to the poem listing in the Russell Bibliography [item number 1232], it was known to be published in several other periodicals:



"The Gulls" was published in the *Criterion*, September, 1901 and also in the *Waverley Magazine* on July 19, 1902. It was also included in *The Watchman*.

Not an unknown work of Montgomery's, but an interesting publication to add to the bibliography.

It seems that Edith Russell and L. M. Montgomery crossed paths several times, Edith never achieving the fame of Montgomery, but certainly an interesting woman. Spotting a Montgomery poem in a new place is also a reminder that there are still many unknown publications were we might find some of Montgomery's work and so the search continues.

~ ~ ~

Russell, Ruth Weber, D.W. Russell, and Rea Wilmschurst. *Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Preliminary Bibliography*. Waterloo: University of Waterloo Library, 1986.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. *Our Dumb Animals*. August 1913, March 1914, March 1915 and December 1920.

A special thank you to Carol Dobson, Carolyn Kaye, Janet Murray and Sandy Wagner for their interest and information.

*The Shining Scroll*. December 2008: "A Writer Forgotten: The Story of Edith Russell."  
[http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/shining\\_scroll\\_dec\\_2008.pdf](http://lmmontgomeryliterarysociety.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/shining_scroll_dec_2008.pdf)

Did you know that there is a place called Avonlea in Saskatchewan? In 1911, a new railroad line was connected to a community in an area called Sunshine Valley. A group of citizens chose a new name for their town and they selected "Avonlea" because of the popularity of *Anne of Avonlea* and because the author had relatives in the area.

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## Book Ends

Christina Wyss Eriksson © 2009

*Christina is a co-founder of the LM. Montgomery Literary Society and co-author, with Carolyn Strom Collins, of several books about Montgomery and other authors. Learn more at:*  
<http://www.inglesideimpressions.com/contactorder.html>

The air was fresh and crisp, and little smoke-blue mists curled through the valleys and floated off from the hills. *Anne of Green Gables*. 1908.

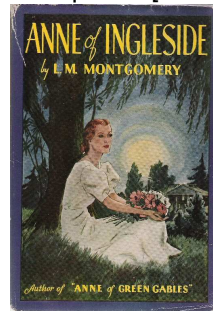
The approach of Autumn seems to bring out the nesting instinct in me. I busily begin to prepare my home and gardens for the long cold winter to come. Indoors, I gather as many books as I can, and stack them in the corner by my bed, happy only when the tower reaches my pillow-top. I savor the anticipation of a crisp cool day, snug under an afghan, steaming mug of tea in hand, opening the covers of a new book to begin the familiar journey to an undiscovered world within.

The crickets sing in the evening as the brilliant colors dim outdoors and I know it is time to begin other household tasks as well. These time-honored rituals mark the change of seasons for me and provide continuity in my life. Here a few suggestions for preparing a cozy nest to reap a harvest of contentment.

- Photograph the garden to record successes and less-than-happy results to aid in planning for next year.
- Clean and store garden tools, flowerpots, and outdoor furniture.
- Purchase bulbs to plant in borders and to force indoors.
- Gather remaining garden produce to freeze or can.
- Plan a field trip to the Farmer's Market to fill in gaps in the harvest.
- Dry bouquets of flowers like hydrangea for gifts and indoor decorations.
- Cover garden beds with hay or leaves to protect them from the freeze and thaw cycles of winter.
- Replenish fragrant sachets in drawers and closets to discourage stow-away moths and add a pleasant scent.
- Shop for extra candles and teas to add a warm glow during the hushed afternoons of sipping and reading.
- Plan an autumn tea for friends or book club members to discuss favorite books and suggest new publications. Serve Montgomery's recipe for butterscotch squares [see *Aunt Maud's Recipe Book*].

### My Favorite Books for Autumn

*Anne of Ingleside* by L.M. Montgomery  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Lark Rise to Candleford* by Flora Thompson  
*How Reading Changed My Life* by Anna Quindlen  
*The Poetry of Robert Frost*



### Notable Autumn Dates

- |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 11, 1700 | Birthday of James Thompson, author of "The Seasons." Check out poetry.com for this and other autumnal poetry.                                                                                                     |
| September 21       | The first day of autumn. Celebrate by taking a nature walk with a friend down your own "Lover's Lane" to catch the first crimson and gold hues in the whispering trees.                                           |
| September 28, 1856 | Birthday of Kate Douglas Wiggin, author of <i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm</i> . Do you have any of her books in your Kindred Spirits collection? Is a trip to Half-Price books in order to find vintage treasures? |
| October 31         | All Hallow's Eve. Carve and light a pumpkin for the doorstep. Little ghoulies and ghosties will be about. Treat them with ribbon-tied bundles of goodies.                                                         |
| November 2         | All Soul's Day. Light a votive and say a quiet prayer in remembrance of loved ones who have gone ahead to dwell in celestial halls.                                                                               |
| Thanksgiving Day   | Place three kernels of corn next to each plate and ask diners to share three things for which they are thankful.                                                                                                  |
| November 30        | L.M. Montgomery's Birthday! Make her recipe for Applesauce Cake [in <i>Aunt Maud's Recipe Book</i> ] and thank her for the many hours of reading pleasure she has given to all of us.                             |

Oh it's delightful to have ambitions ... And there never seems to any end to them – that's the best of it. Just as soon as you attain one ambition you see another one glittering higher up still. It does make life so interesting. *Anne of Green Gables*.1908: 392.

## Collectors' Corner

Our Literary Society also includes many avid collectors who are always on the look out for L M Montgomery items to add to their collections. Here are two newly found items that we would like to share with our readers.

Christy Woster identified a poem that, according to *Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Preliminary Bibliography*, was found only in scrapbooks and manuscripts. The poem, "In An Autumn Road" was in the October 16, 1909, issue of *The Lethbridge Daily Herald*, Lethbridge, Alberta. According to the Bibliography (pages 120 and 121): "Poems on this list are found either in the scrapbooks or in the manuscript 'The Blythes Are Quoted', including those poems where the periodical source has been given in the scrapbooks, but which we have been unable to verify." Number 1584, "In An Autumn Road" was found in scrapbook 8, but publication information was not known.

What fun to find the poem in an Alberta newspaper from the same year that *Anne of Avonlea* was published.

### In An Autumn Road

L. M. Montgomery

Babble of brook in the midnight hush  
Over the sunwarm valley reaches,  
And a west wind overhead in the beeches  
Comes now with a sigh and now with a rush,  
And now as soft as the down of a thistle,  
Croons to itself in the grasses gray,  
A foil to the rollicking joyous whistle  
Of an unseen robin adown the way  
Where the boughs are thick and the light is dim.  
Sure he must be a merry fellow,  
So blithe in his tuneful note and mellow  
That my heart sings out, too, and answers him!

What a wealth of witch's gold is here  
To be had for the quest, and falling faster  
Golden rod and the pale, sweet aster  
Letter the passing of the year  
In all the ways where my free feet follow;  
And with the wind's all sudden stir  
From the little dreamy, sunny hollow  
Comes the breath of pine and dying fir  
And ferns frost-bitten on hill and wold,  
Subtle it is as incense drifting  
From some pale priestess hand uplifting  
The potent fumes in a censer old!

Cavendish, P. E. I.



The second find was collaboration by Carolyn Collins, Mary Beth Cavert and Christy Woster. This interesting discovery that was found in *The Modern Priscilla* magazine of April, 1903. On page 21 is a picture of a netted doily with instructions for making it by L. M. Montgomery. She was well known to be very good at handiwork (many crocheted items that Maud made are held in the archives at Guelph). Helen Salmon of Guelph was kind enough to look through the collection for us, but did not find a doily that matched this one. Perhaps someone who has some of Maud's handiwork in their own collection has this very doily, and could then verify that this netted doily pattern was an original creation submitted by our own L. M. Montgomery. Those of you who still do this old-fashioned handiwork should give the pattern a try; we would love to see a finished one!



Netted Doily

By L. M. Montgomery

SET thirty stitches on a cord over a bone mesh one-quarter inch wide. Tie ends together and work around. Net seven rows plain over a coarse knitting-needle.

Net one row of loop-stitch.

Net a row over mesh, putting two stitches in each loop.

Net four rows plain over needle.

Net one row, putting three into one over the mesh.

Net seven rows plain over the needle.

Net one row of loop-stitch.

Net four rows plain over needle.

Net one row plain over mesh.

Net a row over mesh, putting one stitch into four loops at a time.

Net a row over mesh, putting six stitches into every loop.

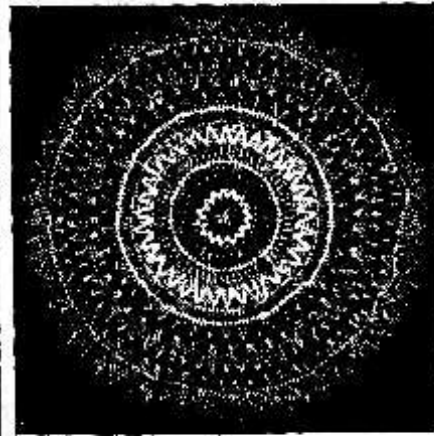
Net three rows plain over needle.

Net a row plain over mesh.

Net over mesh, putting one stitch into every four loops at once.

Net over mesh, putting four stitches

four, turn, net three, turn, net two, turn, net one. Break off thread and fasten in at base of point. Net five more and proceed as before.



NETTED DOILY

[Note] In the next edition of *The Shining Scroll*, we will print a paper by Pamela Hancock on *The Symbolism of Needlework and Textile Arts in the Anne series of Books by Lucy Maud Montgomery*. Other features will be:

- International Anne – special articles about Montgomery and the culture of Japan, the range of international visitors to Anne sites, reports on the 2009 conference on Montgomery in Sweden, [L.M. Montgomery — Writer of the World](#).
- A behind the scenes report on the making of *The Blythes Are Quoted*.
- News from the Montgomery sites in Leaskdale, Ontario and an article on the Leaskdale soldier in the *Rainbow Valley* dedication.
- Updates on the activities of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society.
- News from Prince Edward Island.
- New book releases.
- Follow up to the article (in *The Shining Scroll* 2008) on the artifacts in *Imagining Anne: The Island Scrapbooks of L.M. Montgomery*



At the August Literary Society potluck at the Woster household, members socialized and listened to a dramatic reading by Pati Kachel of a poem that Christy found. The last two verses of “The Bibliomaniac’s Prayer” is by Eugene Field in *A Little Book of Western Verse*:

But if, O Lord, it pleaseth Thee  
 To keep me in temptation’s way,  
 I humbly ask that I may be  
 Most notably beset to-day;  
 Let my temptation be a book,  
 Which I shall purchase, hold, and keep,

Whereon when other men shall look,  
 They’ll wail to know I got it cheap.  
 Oh, let it such a volume be  
 As in rare copperplates abounds,  
 Large paper, clean, and fair to see,  
 Uncut, unique, unknown to Lowndes.



[William Thomas Lowndes English bibliographer]



Images of *Anne of Avonlea* editions are from the collections of Mary Beth Cavert and Christy Woster.