

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Nov. 10, 1961

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Treasure Hunts In West Prince

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I HAVE several buried treasure, and pirate gold stories from the West Prince area which came from a trip to O'Leary, West Point and vicinity recently. I'm not too clear on some of them as it seemed impossible to get any clear cut tale, because of the varied information that has been handed down through the years.

I think you'll like the story of the Captain Kidd treasure buried near West Cape, just a few hundred yards from the shore. The wooden casing of the last excavation is still there, I was told, although it is 20 years since the last digging was done.

Samuel Smith and Mrs. Smith, the former Bertie MacDonald, told Frank Weeks and me about it as we visited with them in their cozy living room. Their best story was about a Campbell man from Grand Dig, in the Egmont Bay area, who came there some years ago with 16 men to dig for the treasure.

MR. CAMPBELL had had a dream in which he was directed to take 16 men and dig for the treasure, but was enjoined to keep absolute silence, except for the noise the actual excavation work would create. The men took turns at digging and they refrained from talking, even in whispers, when they were awaiting their turn at the work.

The story is that the digging operations there were halted by water seeping in, before the excavation reached the treasure level.

Another story tells of buried treasure exploits at or near the farm where Arnold Wood lives in Cape Wolfe. One story is of a ship going aground there and of the crew members perishing at Milo, perhaps 10 miles away, as they tried to make their way through heavily wooded area, to Summerside.

One tale suggests that some of their valuables were found later and that some of them are still kept as treasured souvenirs in Prince County homes, although there was no indication of where the homes are located.

Mr. Smith, a former sea captain of sailing days, sailed in coastal vessels off Nova Scotia and up the New Brunswick coast to the Bay of Chaleur and along the Gaspé coast.

Pirate Gold At Black Alex's Point

KEITH MATHESON, O'Leary who operates a drug store at Alberton, tells of pirate gold buried at Black Alex's Point at the mouth of Glenwood River. J.G. Dennis, supervisor of co-operatives here, recalled yesterday some unusual tales that were told him when he was a youngster camping nearby. An old cellar of Black Alex's cabin was reportedly haunted and some scary tales were told of fearful things his khost could do to nosy visitors.

Mr. Matheson also tells of a pay ship that went aground more than 200 years ago on the West Point reef. Legend says it was on the way to Quebec with gold sovereigns to pay the English garrison, one year after the city fell to the English in the battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759.

The wreck is a matter of factual record, and its location is probably marked on an old Admiralty chart, Mr. Matheson stated.

Digging for all of the treasures, except the case of the wrecked ship, has been carried on during the last 20 years, Mr. Matheson recalls.

Small Grinding Stones Found

ERROLL Stetson, O'Leary, told me last week that Frank Getson, Kildare Capes has a set of grinding stones, only 21 inches across which he found under the kitchen of a home they were remodelling.

The belief is that they were used in a hand grinding outfit to grind wheat for flour in former years. I've never heard of any hand or home grinding mills for flour, but some people with whom I've talked this week suggest that such things were used at one time.

There are plenty of normal sized grinding wheels in the province and Mr. Stetson has a granite wheel in his yard which he uses for a bird bath. I believe Mr. Stetson told me his wheel came from the Currie Mill which, I believe was at Glenwood. From memory I'd say a normal size wheel was three and one-half to four feet across.

I SAW Mr. Stetson at the sale of Angus cattle where he bought a couple of the sleek, black beauties to start a beef herd. A former poultryman - he had pedigreed Barred Plymouth Rocks - he has gone out of poultry, and also sold the large herd of Holstein cattle.

He has plenty of grass on his farm and feels a beef herd, which does not require much work, particularly in summer, will fit in nicely with his schedule as an insurance underwriter.

Most people agreed that the sale of Ontario cattle was successful beyond expectations. The pure bred cattle averaged close to \$340 and they included more than a dozen young animals less than one year old. The bred heifers must have averaged close to \$400, or possibly more.

Tom Jackson of Cooksville, Ontario, who was the largest consignee explained how they decided to come to the province with more than 60 head. "I was here last summer," he said, "and noticed the keen interest there is in getting good beef stock." So he and his fellow consignees took the chance, and they were a happy lot after it was over.

They Hoped For \$300 Average

I ASKED him before the sale what they hoped to get for their stock. I think he was being optimistic when he said they hoped to average \$300. But they did even better. I wonder at times why the Angus people don't get more grand champions at the annual Easter Beef Show and Sale here. It seems to me they take the top spot at the Royal Winter Fair pretty consistently in the carcass competition. Most times I saw the prize list

they pretty well dominated the competition.

Perhaps we'll see more of the Angus breed, now that we have more of them in the province. My information is that approximately 80 of the Angus cattle have come to the Island this year. And of course we had some good Angus cattle here previously.

The highest priced heifer at the sale came to the farm which is across the road from my home in Southport. Dr. J.P. Lantz paid \$700 for a 19-month old heifer that's a granddaughter of an International grand champion at Chicago.