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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Unusual Items Seen At Easton's Museum

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial - Farm Editor

A VISIT to Edward Easton's museum at Georgetown was one of the most interesting of my trips to many parts of the province, for this man has gathered together one of the most unusual collections of old items I have ever seen. He has a number of things that I didn't even know were in existence.

He has the old Gordon wheels that carried a carriage brought here from Scotland in 1803 to Brudenell, and were reputed to be the first that ever rolled over the road or trail to Charlottetown from the eastern part of the province. I'll tell you more about them in a later story on the Gordons.

Wooden shoe lasts used by the Gordons in the time when almost every home had to be self-sufficient, hand hewn church pews used by the original Brudenell settlers and a huge plane, four and one-half feet long, that was used for making barrel staves, are other items.

MR. EASTON has a pump made in New York in the early 1800's with an endless chain of cups used to bring water to the surface in dug wells. It belonged to Mr. Easton's great grandfather Sanderson - the name "Sandison" was used then - and there were only 28 people in Georgetown at the time. An old chest of carpenter tools was used by an original settler by the name of Renton.

An unusual item is an Island spruce with a three inch trunk that has eight almost perfectly symmetrical branches radiating out from it in umbrella shape at the top. It was cut from a tree as the first road was being hacked through to Georgetown, Mr. Easton told me.

A solid mahogany, hand carved bedpost that came from Scotland is at least 160 years old. A museum in Ottawa estimated a piece of hand painting on wood to be from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### Marble Bust-Expulsions Of Acadians

THE UPPER part of a marble bust of the goddess of harvest, was found at dead low tide at Burnt Point, just outside Georgetown harbour. Nobody knows for sure how it got there, though one suggestion is that it goes back to the expulsion of the Acadians. Certainly it must have been in the water a long time, as the effect of the wave action on it is apparent in the erosion of the carved contours. It was found many years ago by Mr. Easton's father when he was only a boy.

An old washing machine - Mr. Easton thinks that's what it must be - was found in Captain Sennebaugh's old home, the building where Fred Delory now has his store. A most unusual device, it is difficult to describe. But there are handles on each side of the

top portion that gives the impression it was to be lifted up and forced down. There are channels to agitate sudsy or soapy water, and holes for the water to bubble or gush out through the top.

NOBODY KNEW what it was at first but Mr. Easton was reading an old document - he has hundreds of them - and the device resembles a machine it describes.

An old document has a picture of a P.E.I. exhibit in London in 1862. An old London clipping says articles from P.E.I. included grain, woolen and linen cloth, articles made by cabinet makers from native woods, an exhibit which was warmly praised for its quality.

### Pencil Sharpener, Sand Ink Dryer

AN OLD pencil sharpener is interesting. The pencil is held firmly in a cube-shaped holder on a sliding platform. The pencil is rotated as it is pushed back and forth across a file that can be replaced, and the serrated edge wears off the wood and sharpens the pencil. It does a really good job too, though it would be somewhat slower than modern sharpeners.

A sander for drying ink is a most unusual device. It was used prior to the days of blotters, apparently. Sand was sprinkled on the paper by a holder that looks very much like a pepper shaker. A street light about nine feet high was one of the first used in Georgetown.

THE FIRST oil lamp used in the province had two lights with an open flame and no chimney. Mr. Easton has one. He has two chairs used by his grandmother, Louisa Easton, when she began housekeeping here in the early 1800's. He has a door bell used by a Dr. Kays, the first doctor in Georgetown. A key to the first Georgetown jail is a huge affair.

The steering wheel from the first Georgetown - Lower Montague ferry, a Wedgewood pitcher more than 200 years old, and a box made from Porcupine quills, are a few of the other unusual items I saw during a short visit late last fall, while on the way to the Kings County Federation of Agriculture annual meeting at Cardigan.

### French Church Bell Found In Field

THE FISHERIES Edition which will be out early next week will carry, I believe, the story of an interesting chat I had several months ago with veteran Stannis Lapierre and Jerry Barry of Morell. Interesting lobster price and catch comparisons are a part of the story, and my chat left me wondering whether today's lobstermen are much better off financially with their fancy price, than those 50 to 75 years ago when fishermen got one-half cent per pound for their catch.

My talk with Jerry Barry recalled, among other things, that it was his grandfather, Arthur Barry, that found the old church bell the French buried on Stukeley Farm in St. Peter's Harbor when they fled before the English. Mr. Barry found the bell when his plow struck the top of it, and he gave it to the Morell parish. But it was given in turn to Rollo Bay, where it still calls the faithful to worship from the chapel belfry.

The old French church stood on Stukely Farm where Roy Cairns now lives. John

Sinnott who lived on it previously was the father of the late A. A. Sinnott who became the first Archbishop of Winnipeg. His sister Hannah still lives in Winnipeg, I was told.

DR. A. A. (GUS) MacDonald talked to me about the bell when I visited him at Souris recently. He had been told it was an "all purpose" bell that was used to call the people to worship, to call them for important news, or for other important reasons. He was told that by an old gentleman many years ago when Dr. MacDonald was only a boy. I know there are people who say that's not true but I include it here as one story that was told in the past.

"Dr. Gus" also told me that there was a second French bell at Naufrage that has never been found. The bell was given to St. Peter's Harbor, apparently, for catching the most fish during a given period. But the Naufrage people claimed they had caught just as many fish during that period, and eventually the French government sent them a bell too, the old story relates. I don't know whether this story has been handed down through any family in the Naufrage area but Dr. MacDonald heard the story many years ago.

ONE OTHER interesting flash back also came from "Dr. Gus", and I believe it was the same old gentleman who told him, though I am not sure.

The battle of Waterloo was fought in mid-June 1815 but the people of the Naufrage area were cutting their harvest that fall before they heard the first news of the battle.

#### Bog School - Provincial Building Site

WORK NOW underway for the construction of the new Provincial Government office building on lower Kent street recalls some of the historic significance attached to the locality which was termed "a thoroughly wicked and degraded neighbourhood" more than 100 years ago before "The Bog School" was established on the corner where Tomlinson's grocery stood recently.

The first school, Major T.E. McNutt tells me, was established on April 11, 1848 on the west side of Rochford Street, almost opposite St. Peter's Cathedral and Miss Sarah Harvie was chosen as teacher in the institution which was sometimes known as "Miss Harvie's school" which was mostly for colored children, though some whites also attended. But later "a large handsome structure" was erected on the corner of Kent and Rochford "by the liberality of Christian friends".

The new building had Gothic windows and had a neat fence around it. The second school - both had been largely under the direction of St. Paul's church - was closed in 1898 and the property sold in 1912 to Mrs. Harry Foster. The information from old documents reveals that Miss Harvie had taught more than 1500 children "during 50 years of conscientious and arduous labor", who "were not only educated but reformed to the benefit not only of themselves but of the whole neighbourhood".