

## ACROSS THE ISLAND Love Finds A Way As People Reunited

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
Provincial-Farm Editor

This is far removed from the type of story you normally read in this column, but John A. Steele told me such an unusual love story about a month ago. It is a story that is new to you. For the most part it's told in Mr. Steele's own words, as he brought back to memory a yarn he read in a Charlottetown paper published 50 years ago.

The time goes back 100 years or more, for the story is old then, and here it is. It concerns Helen Essex, the beautiful daughter of a Colonel Essex, a wealthy Englishman who lived in a brownstone mansion in the Royalty of Charlottetown and one Captain Angus Macdonald whose mother had been born a MacKenzie of Scotland. Once whose father was Hector Macdonald, Brush Wharf, Orwell.

Captain Angus was skipper of the ship "Eleanor" which Helen Essex sailed one summer for England to pursue her education. On the trip to England she became acquainted with Capt. Macdonald and they became very good friends.

Four years later the pair met at Stamper's Corner (later Prowse Brothers). Captain Macdonald was on his way to the colonial building to get customs clearance, and Miss Essex had been visiting some stock friends. On the short walk of a little more than one block they became engaged. Then he left for Baltimore and she returned home.

### Only 1,000 Pounds Left To Family

COL. ESSEX was reading in his library when his daughter returned and noticing the unusual expression on his daughter's face asked and received the true story. The wealthy Englishman told his daughter that he had long loved his heart set on her marrying one Dr. Robert Thornton, son of a wealthy Englishman who had been visiting some stock friends in the town of Charlottetown. "No, though I admire Dr. Thornton, he is not the type of man I would choose as my life partner. One thing I shall promise, though," she said, "I will do my best to see that you are well cared for. Captain Macdonald as long as you live, since the thought seems to displease you."

Just before that Col. Essex died leaving "only one thousand pounds" to his family. That would be no small sum in those days, though it was less than the amount of money that the Englishman had in the bank for the daughter whom he loved so dearly.

Captain Angus received his clearance papers, sailed for Baltimore by the cargo which took 30 days to load. When he returned to Charlottetown to take on certain supplies, he was met at the wharf by a messenger bearing an urgent invitation to appear at the Essex mansion that evening at 8 o'clock.

There he met Rev. Donald Macdonald, pastor of the church in which he worshipped on the island, who informed him "I have been summoned here evening to see you and your fiancée. It is your matrimony yourself and Miss Helen Essex."

The two were married with Col. Essex's full blessing, the one condition being that Captain Macdonald should complete the voyage for which he had then contracted and then retire to live in the brownstone mansion with his wife, and the eldest son was to have the surname "Essex" added, and he would inherit the wealthy grandfather's money and estates, both in Charlottetown and elsewhere.

Next morning Col. Essex and Mrs. Macdonald accompanied Capt. Macdonald to the wharf, held him in good hope and sent good wishes after him as he cast anchor and sailed out of the harbor.

### Captain Arrested As Privateer

SIX DAYS LATER a terrific storm blew up as they were crossing the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Finally the ship had to be abandoned. The crew of 10 boarded one lifeboat and was never heard from again.

Captain Macdonald, his first mate and steward manned another lifeboat. The steward died and was buried at sea on the other lifeboat. The captain and first officer were picked up after five days by a Turkish boat bound for Constantinople. The Turkish captain took the "Eleanor's" papers and 2,000 pounds sterling which Captain Macdonald carried, under the guise of safe keeping until they reached port.

But the treacherous Turk trumped up a charge of privateering against Captain Macdonald and his first officer. The Turkish prisoner, where he remained for eight years until the English consul learned of his plight, negotiated his release and compensated him in part at least for his loss of a completely undeserved punishment.

In the meantime Col. Essex and his daughter, Mrs. Macdonald, had made every possible effort to learn something about the ship "Eleanor" and her master without any result. Helping in some measure to ease their sorrow and anxiety was a baby boy who was born within the year to Captain Angus Macdonald and his wife, the former Helen Essex, and the youngster became the pride and joy of the mother and grandfather.

One evening as winter was approaching Col. Essex said "Helen, I am growing old and will not likely survive another winter. But I would like before I die to see you comfortably married. My son must long since have given up any hope of seeing your husband again, and by this time believes him dead."

But Helen replied "No, though I have every reason to think Captain Macdonald is dead, a secret something is telling me he is still alive. But when he is living or dead, I will always be true to him and die, as I have died, the wife of Captain Angus Macdonald."

Before Christmas Col. Essex died and was laid to rest. That fall friends arrived from England to spend the winter in the Essex mansion among them Helen Essex who bore the same maiden name as Mrs. Macdonald. And the younger Helen Essex sailed for England the following spring as the wife of Dr. Robert Thornton.

### Where Was The Old Brownstone?

WHEN CAPTAIN ANGLUS Macdonald was released he went to England and the first thing he saw at an hotel was a copy of a newspaper announcing the marriage of Helen Essex to Dr. Thornton.

Realizing that he had been missing for eight years, and his wife's death had been reported dead, and thinking his wife had now finally married, Captain Macdonald had enough love and respect for his wife that he did not wish to mar her happiness, so he set sail immediately for South Africa where he made a fortune in a diamond mine during a four-year stay.

He returned again to England but this time was fortunate enough to meet on the street Dr. Thornton who assured the Captain his faithful wife was still in Charlottetown waiting for him.

So the faithful pair were reunited after a separation of 12 to 13 years for which neither of them was responsible, according to the ancient and beautiful love story which Mr. Steele recalled for me almost a half-century after he had read it in a Charlottetown paper.

Editorial: I have made have failed to indicate just where the "brownstone mansion" referred to in the story might have been located. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may be able to clear up this part of the interesting story.

## Why a Gift From Archer & Macdonald Means More

- Furniture is the longest lasting gift you can buy
- Give Furniture this year and know it will last and last.
- Lay-away now while selections are at their best.

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Open every night 'til 9 p.m.  
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## AR Program Means Help for Communities

Next Monday the Farm Forum will be considering matters related to the ARDA program. With this thought in mind it may be timely to again discuss two questions which we feel are important.

### WHAT IS ARDA?

ARDA is a program to provide provincial or federal assistance to rural communities which want to make long range plans to help themselves.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Rural development must begin in the community. No one else knows the resources and the people as well as local residents.

### LOST FOOD

More than one-fifth of the food that should be harvested from crops never reaches the dinner table.

### EAST-WEST

1. Dunbar-Welner 73.19  
2. Coles-Macdonald 60.00  
3. MacLeod-Forsythe 62.61  
4. Vessey-Gaudet 58.41  
5. Nash-Simpson 58.80

### NORTH-SOUTH

1. Buntain-DeBlais 64.64  
2. Rogers-Rogers 64.23  
3. Coles-Robertson 57.96  
4. Mr. Mrs. Senn 56.83  
5. Tulle-Atkins 55.14

### SINGING FISH

A midshipman fish, common on Canada's Pacific coast, is known as the "singing single swarm" because of a loud humming sound it makes.

### ISLAND RADIO CENTRE

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## ISLAND RADIO CENTRE

### TELEVISION SALE

### ISLAND RADIO CENTRE

ture might survive without farm organizations of any kind, but this would return us generally to the status of serfs and peasants who could be exploited at will by those who wished. While at times the success of farm organizations is not encouraging, yet it does appear that even though the path is hard perseverance is required if farming is going to receive the recognition entitled to it. The human animal being what it is cannot be depended upon to dispense fairness and justice to others without some form of pressure moving society in an upward direction.

### NUFFIELD SCHOLARS

The Nuffield Foundation of London, England, has awarded travelling scholarships to James F. Gormley, of RRI, Wallaceburg, Ont., and to J. Mervyn Hamilton of Glenboro, Man.

### Large Turnout At Bridge Play

Monday night's session of the Charlottetown Duplicate Bridge club drew another large turnout - 17 tables. Next session will be Monday night, Dec. 16, at the Charlottetown Hotel.

### LEGGED HASSOCKS

● Choice of round or square  
● Washable vinyl covering  
● Hardwood tapered legs in walnut finish  
● Wide selection of colors  
● Reg. \$5.98

### BRASSIERES

● In cotton  
● Circle stitch cup  
● Sizes 32A to 40C  
● Reg. \$1.00

### BOYS' FLEECE LINED COMBINATIONS

● Slight defects that won't affect wear  
● Warm fleecy tith full button front  
● Sizes 6 - 12  
● Regular 2.69

### TODDLERS 2 PC. SLEEPERS

● Print fleecy  
● Pink, yellow check  
● Knit cuffs and neckband  
● Regular \$1.98

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

● 25 light indoor multiple set  
● Each set burns independently  
● Spring clip sockets  
● Plug and extra extension at extreme end  
● Regular 6.98

### BOXED CHRISTMAS CARDS

● 21 cards with envelopes  
● Assorted scenes  
● Gilded trim  
● Reg. 7.90

## Archer & Macdonald

## OPEN SATURDAY AFTERNOON

## CHARLOTTETOWN 5:30 p.m.

## SUMMERSIDE 5:00 p.m.

## Saturday Specials

## ON SALE AT 2 P.M. SHARP

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## 99c

## 1.99

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