ACROSS THE ISLAND

Unusual Tales Of Storied Past

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

THIS COLUMN on ghost stories and other unreal yarns is my reply to the many requests that have been received since I first wrote about this sort of thing last October. Some people believe the fantastic yarns, others do not, but I suggest they have become a part of the rich folklore of the province.

I wondered as I wrote the column of the lives of our forefathers—most stories are of other years—were not much more interesting because of those unusual tales. Imagine the interest, and the excitement some of the stories must have stirred up in those far off days.

Frank MacLaren, Morell told me what happened many years ago to people who tried to dig for treasure believed to have been buried by the French people in an old cemetery at Greenwich when they fled for their lives before the rapidly approaching English forces.

FRANK'S GRANDFATHER, Duncan MacLaren, and two companions John Sutherland and John Webster, were chased away once from a digging attempt by a severe electrical storm—the thunder fairly shook the ground and the lightning was unusually sharp—and there were gale force winds with drenching rain. None of them was easily frightened, though they fled this storm which would strike terror into the bravest heart. But they found the day was fine and calm when they got a short piece from the diggings, just as it had been before they approached the old cemetery, which is on the farm now owned by Cyril Sanderson, Mr. MacLaren told me.

None of the trio ever went back for a second attempt. Nobody ever went back after one try, the Morell man emphasized, though many people had attempted to dig where money or other valuables were believed to have been buried. Harry Merris, Charlettetown gave me the tip on this interesting yarn.

Witch Strikes At Cattle Herd

FRANK STEVENSON, North Wiltshire and Harry Keating, Charlottetown but formerly of Elliotts recalled for me that George Yeo used to tell them that a witch had once put a curse on his cows and how it was removed. This was back in the days when many cattle were so thin and weak in spring they couldn't get up themselves—neighbours said they "were on the lifts"—but Mr. Yeo's herd were in good condition.

But the man who farmed on the Union Road near Charlottetown before he moved to the Breadalbane-Pleasant Valley area, said none of the cows could get up one morning when he went out to feed them. A neighbour told him to take the heart from one of them, pierce it with sharp needles and leave it in the oven overnight. "The witch will be screaming with pain all night, and you will learn who she is, but your cows will all be up in the morning", he was told.

The cows were up in the morning, though the story that's been handed down does not reveal the witch was ever identified. Both Frank and Harry tell me that Mr. Yeo always insisted the story was true.

Curse On Churn Stops Butter

THE CURSE, "the hex", or the "bad wish" idea was given a lot of credence from the folk lore of half a century or more ago. Mrs. Malcolm D. Matheson, a boyhood neighbour—she was born Flora Munro and lived as a girl, I am told, somewhere in the Lower Montague area—used to tell of a family that suddenly found they could not get any cream off their butter. A man who was brought eight or nine miles, told them someone had put a curse on their churn, muttered some strange words over it and assured them they would have no more trouble, and they didn't. But my cousin Mrs. Katie Court, Charlottetown who was Mrs. Matheson's niece by marriage, tells me some people blamed the same man for having "put the curse on" in the first place.

CALVIN LEWIS, Patriot editorial writer who comes from Alberton, tells me that a woman who was dispossessed of her property on the Centre Line Road—it runs from Alma to Miminegash—stood on the road and put a curse on the land before she left. The story is that nothing would ever grow on the farm afterwards.

The "bad wish" was commonly put on a valuable horse or other animal in previous years, people said. I remember as a boy that a neighbour who refused a big price for a horse, for example, would have neighbours shaking their heads and predicting "something will happen" to that animal because "somebody will put a bad wish on it."

Woman Could Change Into Cat

WARBURTON GODFREY, North Wiltshire told me this week that a woman who lived in that district "perhaps a hundred years or more ago" reputedly could change herself into a cat, and walk along the top of the old pole fences, etc. There were many stories told to substantiate the belief. I'll tell you one of them.

A couple of neighbours called one day at her home and could not find her anywhere, though they searched the house. Finally they opened a small closet door and found a cat sitting on the floor. But there was no cat in that house, they insisted, so the "cat" they saw, was the women with the mystic power.

MRS. MALCOLM Buchannan, Breadalbane—she and her husband celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last autumn—recalls seeing a persistent light hovering over the railroad track near her girlhood home on the Junction Road (It's Glen Valley now). A short time later Alex MacLennan, a section man, died there suddenly.

She also recalled that an Elliotts man who "was bad and wild" was riding horseback one night when the bridle was seized by the figure of a woman who warned "Turn from your evil ways, your days are short". They were short, as the man died of brain fever within three weeks. "Those aye stories that cannot be disproved, many people knew about them", she emphasized.

Lonely Ghost At Tignish Shore

THREE FISHERMEN were walking one Sunday evening along the shore of the MacLeod property, called little Tignish, to Tignish Shore when they were joined by a fourth man. He walked with them but none of them could get him to say a word, and he disappeared when they came to a wooded area.

Arriving at the shore worried and frightened by the experience, they were told "that is Blumpy's ghost". Smelt fishermen at MacLeod's Pond had seen him a few evenings previously, when he waited on shore until they stepped out of their dory, then vanished.

The old tale said the man had come from Newfoundland, got lonely, acted strangely for a time and neighbours found him hanging one morning from a rafter in an old shed. Since he could not be placed in a cemetery, he had been buried in a shallow grave on the shore of the pond. Years later the bank caved in and the grave disappeared, and that, Mrs. Edith Eldershaw tells me, is why Blumpy walked the lonely roads. He was looking for company.

Woman Ghost At Wagon Wheel

JACK MACLEOD, Breadalbane was driving home one night on the Malpeque Road when the figure of a woman appeared by the front wheel of his wagon. He had the fastest horse he ever owned, and he had some dandies, but the strange figure stayed at the wagon wheel though the horse was going full out. She made her appearance by the gate of Dan MacKay who was once a member of the legislature-his son, Sutherland, lives there now. But Mr. MacLeod could not recall how far she stayed with him. "I was too scared" he admitted, though he normally was not frightened of anything.

The "woman" appeared on the right side where Jack's sister, Bertha, was sitting. The only probable clue to the incident is that when Bertha's husband, Jake Seller, Fredericton, became seriously ill a month later, the woman who came to nurse him was dressed like the strange woman who came out of the night.

A DESABLE man was dressing a piece of timber with an old Broad axe when he glanced up and saw a man with no head on the opposite end. The head was off just above the knotted scarf around the neck. But that belongs to a tale of foul murder of a century ago, which I'll tell you about later.

But some headless-man stories have an explanation. Mac Nicholson of this staff told me his father, Sam Nicholson of Alliston, once saw a headless man on the road ahead of him one bright moonlight night. Mr. Nicholson found when he got close to the object, however, that it was an unusually thin horse whose hipbones were sticking up to look like a man's shoulders when seen from a distance.

Ball of Fire At Alberton Church

WILL SHERRY, Alberton disappeared many years ago and it was some time before it was learned he had been murdered. While the countryside was still wondering what had had happened to him, a young Alberton couple were walking one night past the Roman Catholic church on the Alberton South road, when a ball of fire came rolling down the walk, rolled down the steps and across the road into the cemetery where Sherry was buried a short time later.

The story came from Mrs. Frances Larter who lives close to the church with her uncle Joe MacDougall who has many interesting yarns.

I OMITTED three names last week from the sons and daughters who have helped their father Charles Proud, Milton earn the distinction of holding the mail contract since 1919 for a provincial record. They were Edna who is Mrs. Miller Sanderson, North River; Grace who is Mrs. John Stetson, Fairhaven, Massachussetts and Russel who lives on the Loyalist Road.

CHURCHES SUNDAY JANUARY 27.

KINGS

MONTAGUE BIBLE Chapel. 9.30 a.m. The Lord's Supper for believers. 10.45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages including Adult Bible Class. 7.30 p.m. Evening service will be conducted by Young People from the Charlottetown Bible Chapel.

THE MONTAGUE Pastoral Charge, The Presbyterian Church. St. Andrew's, Montague: Worship 9.30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. St. Andrew's, Cardigan: Worship 2.30 p.m. Rev. Basil C. Lowery, B.A., B.D., Minister.

UPTON BIBLE Chapel, Mr. Allan Weber. 2.30 p.m. Combined Sunday School and Gospel service. Talk by chalk. Mr. Stanley Streight.

MONTAGUE UNITED Church Pastorate. Worship: Lower Montague 9.45 a.m.; Montague 11 a.m.; Sturgeon 2.30 p.m.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church Caledonia, Worship 11 a.m.; Peter's Road, Worship 2.30 p.m.; and Murray Harbour North — Church School 6.30 p.m.; Worship 7.30 p.m. Rev. M. Carl Currie, Minister.

SOURIS — BAY Fortune United Church. Worship at Bay Fortune 11 a.m.; at Souris 7 p.m. Rev. D. E. Adams, Minister.

DUNDAS - ANNANDALE and Georgetown Pastoral Charges, United Church. Annandale Unit of Church Worship 11 a.m.; St. David's Church, Georgetown: Worship 3 p.m., Church School 2 p.m.; Dundas United Church, Worship 7.30 p.m. Minister, Rev. M. R. Pocklington.

MURRAY RIVER Church of Christ. 10 Bible School and The Lord's Supper. 8 Evening Worship. Speaker, David Weale.

MURRAY HARBOUR Church of Christ. 11 Worship service and The Lord's Supper. 6 Bible School. Speaker David Weale.

MURRAY HARBOUR — Murray River Charge, the United Church. Little Sands, Worship 11 a.m.; Murray River, Worship 2 p.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.; Murray Harbour, Worship 7.30 p.m., Sunday School 10 a.m. Rev. David H. Barwise, minister.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in Canada. Wood Islands. Worship 7.30 p.m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, Minister.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church Central Parish, Nine Mile Creek, 11 a.m. Worship, Canoe Cove, 3 p.m. Worship; Clyde River 7.30 p.m. Worship. Rev. Raymond L. Gillis, Minister.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH St. John's Belfast. Worship 11 a.m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, minister.

WINSLOE Charge. The United Church, Highfield 7.30 p.m., Winsloe North 2.30 p. m. Winsloe South 11 a.m. Minister, Mr. James B. Miller.

FREE CHURCH OF Scotland. Sunday services at Birch Hill 11 am., Belle River 3 p.m., Murray River 7 p.m. Ewen A. MacDougall, student.

THE UNITED Baptist Pastorate Montague services Sunday January 27th. Rev. A. G. J. Steeves, minister., Montague 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m., worship 7.30 p.m. Even Song. Murray Harbour 11 a.m. Sunday School; 3.15 p.m. Worship. Sturgeon 2 p.m. Sunday School; 7.30 p.m. worship.

BEACH POINT Sunday School and Bible Study at 10.30 a.m., worship at 11.30. Preaching at 7 p.m. L. Harris, Speaker.

MURRAY RIVER Pentecostal service Sunday, Jan. 27. Rev. B. A. Lounsbury, Minister, Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Evangelistic service 7.30 p.m.

QUEENS

VERNON — POWNAL Pastoral Charge, 11 a.m. at Millview; 2.30 p.m. at Orwell; 7.30 p.m. at Pownal. Sunday School at Pownal 10.45 a.m. Rev. T. R. Goudge, minister.

HAMPTON PASTORAL Charge The United Church. Bonshaw 11 a.m.; DeSable 2.30 p.m.; Hampton 7.30 p.m. Rev. Bryer R. Jones, Minister.

YORK PASTORAL Charge, United Church. Rev. G. A. D. Elliott, minister. 11 a.m. Central Church; 2.30 p.m. Pleasant Grove; 7.30 p.m. York.

BROOKFIELD Pastoral Charge, the Presbyterian Church The Third Sunday after Epiphany. Worship. Rev. Grover Read 11 a.m.; Hartsville 3 p.m.; Brookfield 7.30 p.m. Rev. Peter D. Ruddell, B.A., B.D., Minister.

COVEHEAD Pastoral Charge. The United Church. West Covehead 11 a.m., Stanhope 2.30 p. m. Rev. R. H. Baxter, Minister.

HUNTER RIVER United Church. Worship: Hampshire 10 a.m.; North Wiltshire 11 a.m.; Hunter River 7.30 p.m. Rev. W. E. Dinsdall, Minister.

FREDERICTON AND Breadalbane Churches of Christ: 10 a. m. Bible School; 11 a.m. Combined Worship in Fredericton. Minister, Mr. Merle W. Zimmerman. Cavendish Baptist Church: 3 p.m. Worship, Minister, Mr. Merle W. Zimmerman; New Glasgow Christian Church: 10 a.m. Bible School, 7.30 p.m. Worship. Minister, Mr. Merle W. Zimmerman.

UIGG — CROSS Roads worship: Uigg 11 a.m., Cross Roads 7.30 p.m. Rev. C. W. Passey, Minister.

NORTH RIVER Baptist Pastorate. Rev. T. W. Howard, minister, Worship, North River 11 a.m., Clyde River 3 p.m. Kingston 7.30 p.m. Sunday School Clyde River 2 p.m.

VALLEYFIELD — ORWELL Head United Church, Rev. A. S. Weir D.D., minister-in- charge. Orwell Head 11 a.m., Valleyfield 2.30 p.m.

BREADALBANE PASTORAL Charge. United Church. Pleasant Valley 11 a.m., Rose Valley 2 p. m. Breadalbane 3.30 p. m. Dale Grey, student supply.

CORNWALL UNITED Church. Worship: New Dominion 11 a.m., Kingston 2 p. m. Cornwall 7 p.m. Sunday School at Cornwall 11 a.m. Membership Class after service at Cornwall. Rev. I. L. Walls, Minister.

MILTON — RUSTICO Anglican Parish. Rector, Rev. A. E. Piercey. St. John's, Milton 11 a.m. Morning Prayer. St. Marks, Rustico 2.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

FREE CHURCH of Scotland. Worship D.V. Charlottetown 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. Stanchel 2.30 p.m. Rev. W. R. Underhay, Minister.

MT. HERBERT United Church 2.30 p.m. Rev. Gerald G. Wrywas, minister.

MARSHFIELD, Harrington and Mt. Stewart pastoral charge. The Presbyterian Church. Hugh Lowry, catechist. Marshfield 2 p.m. Mt. Stewart 11 a.m., Harrington 7.30 p.m. Rev. T. H. B. Somers, the Kirk of St. James, Charlottetown, interim-moderator.

CAVENDISH UNITED Church Cavendish 11 a.m. Rustico 2.30 p.m. New Glasgow 7.30 p.m. Rev. Morley Bentley. A meeting of the Cavendish congregation will be held in the Cavendish Church Jan. 29 at 8 p.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH Crapaud and Springfield St. John's Evensong 7.30 p.m. St. Elizabeth's Mattins 11 am. Rev. Canon T. E. Loder, rector.

PRINCE

MARGATE CHARGE. Worship: Long River 11 a.m., Margate 2.30 p.m. Mr. Garth Caseley, student minister. Rev. L. M. Murray, Interim-Moderator.

NORTH TRYON and Breadalbane Presbyterian Churches North Tryon: Service 11 a.m., S. S. and Bible Class at 12.15. Breadalbane: Bible Class at 2.30 p.m. Service at 3 p.m. Rev. G. Killen, Minister.

TRYON — BONSHAW United Baptist Pastorate. Rev. L. E. Graves, Minister. Tryon 11 a.m., Westmoreland 7.30 p.m. Tryon Sunday School at 10 a.m.

BEDEQUE PASTORAL Charge The United Church. Rev. R. M. Cameron, Minister, Albany Church School 10 a.m., Worship 7.30 p.m.; Bedeque Church School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Borden Church School 10 and 11 a.m., Worship 3 p.m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH Summerside. Minister Rev. D. L. Howlett, Bible School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Morning Worship to be broadcast over CJRW.

WELLINGTON PASTORAL Charge, the United Church. Rev. W. B. MacPhail, Minister. Union Corner 11 a.m., Victoria West 3 p.m., Wellington 7.30 p.m.

FUNDAMENTAL Baptist Church. Central Bedeque. Worship 10.45 a.m., Sunday School 12 noon. Evening Service 7.30. Rev. Bernard Toner, Pastor.

BEDEQUE UNITED Baptist Church. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m. Rev. H. L. Estabrooks, Associate Pastor.

TRINITY UNITED Church. Summerside, Rev. C. R. Webber, Minister, Rev. Dr. L. P. Archibald, Minister of Visitation, Morning Worship 11, Sunday School 11.12; Evening Service 7

TRYON PASTORAL Charge. The United Church. Rev. W. A. MacQuarrie, DD, Minister in charge. Crapaud: Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Tryon Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.

SPRINGFIELD — O'LEARY United Baptist Church. Rev. Maxwell Nesbit, minister. Springfield 11 a.m., O'Leary 7.30 p.m. Sunday school as usual.

ANGLICAN SERVICES. Port Hill 11 a.m. Mattins, Inverness 2.30 p.m. Evensong, Ellserlie 7 p.m. Evensong. Services conducted by Rev. Delmont Yeo. Canon Mark Ferguson, priest- in-charge.

SUMMERSIDE — St. Eleanors Canon Mark Ferguson, rector. St. Mark's 7.40 a.m. Mattins and Litany, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 9 a.m. Family Eucharist and Sermon, 9.45 Sunday School, 7 p.m. Evensong and sermon. Monday, 7.30 annual parish meeting, St. Johns 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist and Sermon.

ALBERTON Pastoral Charge. United Church of Canada. Rev. David MacDonald, BA, minister. Cascumpec, worship at 11 a.m., Tignish, worship at 2 p.m., Alberton, Sunday School at 10 a.m. worship at 7 p.m.

MONTROSE Pastoral Charge. The United Church. Miminegash 11 a.m., Montrose 3 p.m., Elmsdale 7 p.m.

FREE CHURCH of Scotland, Western Charge. Cape Traverse worship at 10.45 a.m., Sunday School at 2.30 p.m. DeSable 3 p.m., Summerside 7 p.m. Rev. Kenneth W. R. Cameron, minister.

NEW LONDON Parish. 8.30 a. m. Holy Communion, St. Mark's, 11 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mark's, 2.30 p.m. Evensong, St. Stephen, 7.30 p.m. Evensong St. Thomas. Ron Parson, rector.

UNITED BAPTIST Church Summerside, Rev. Keith R. Hobson, pastor, Rev. H. L. Estabrooks, associate pastor. Service at Summerside 11 a.m. Sunday School and adult classes at 10 a.m., service at 7.30 p.m.; Bedeque 11 a.m., Belmont 8 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL Assemblies of Canada, 169 Belmont St., Summerside. Rev. A. W. Reynolds, pastor. Sunday School at 10.15 a.m. service 11 a.m. Evening service at 7.30.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Summerside, Rev. J. Donald MacKay, minister. Morning worship 11 a.m., Senior Sunday school at 10 a.m. Primary Sunday School at 11.30 a.m. Evening service at 7 p.m.

SUMMERSIDE Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Philip Chatto, minister. Sunday School 10 a.m Worship 11 a.m., Evening service at 7 p.m.

ALBERTON AND West Point Presbyterian Churches. Alberton 11 a.m. Divine worship conducted by Rev. J. Donald Ross West Point 2.30 p.m. Divine worship conducted by Rev. M. Nesbitt.

RICHMOND BAY Presbyterian churches. Freeland 2.30 p.m. Divine worship conducted by J. Donald Ross; Tyne Valley 3 p.m. Divine worship conducted by Rev. J. Donald MacKay. Victoria West, 7.30 p.m. Divine worship conducted by Presbyterian men.

PRINCETOWN — LOT 16. Pastoral charge, United Church. Minister, Rev. Ralph E. Johnston, services Malpeque 11, Lot 16 7.30 p.m.

BIDEFORD Pastoral Charge, United Church. Service Conway 3 p.m. Guest speaker, Rev. Ralph E. Johnston.

OUR STORES WILL CLOSE FOR STOCK-TAKING

CH'TOWN STORE CLOSED MONDAY, JAN. 28th -- S'SIDE STORE CLOSED SATURDAY, JANUARY 26th!

Ch'town Store Open Tonight and Saturday Till 4.30 P. M. -- S'Side Store Open Tonight, Closed Sat.

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CHARLOTTETOWN STORE ONLY!

hardware — Boots & Skates — Entire stock of skating outfits, including men's, women's, boys' and girls', new and used — 25% off Regular Price

hardware — Men's Hockey sweaters — Laced neck style. Made from good quality yarns in various colours and patterns. Reg. $3.98. — 2.99 ea.

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furniture — 3 Only Dress Trunks — 4 ply construction, metal bound, blue color. Reg. $19.95. — 14.88

furniture — 4 Only 5 piece chrome dinette set — 30 x 48", oval table. Modern grey pattern. Reg. $79.95. — 48.88

furniture — 9 Only Utility wall cabinet — Sliding doors, white enamel finish. Reg. $4.98 — 2.98

ladies' wear — Coty — Light and Lovely fluid make up. Foundation and Powder base. Reg. $2.25. — $1.69

ladies' wear — Seamfree Micro Mesh Hose by Kayser — Good color selection. Sizes 8½ to 11. All leg lengths. Reg. $1.19. — 89c

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children's wear — Diaper — Flannelette 26 x 26 white. Reg. $3.69. — $3.29 doz.

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men's wear — Men's All Wool Hose — In Greys, Charcoal, Blue. 10 - 12. Reg. 1.50. — 89c

men's wear — Men's Chino Pants — Tailored in tapered style. Black, Olives, Grey. In Plains and Checks. Sizes 30 - 36. Reg. $5.98. — $3.99

men's wear — Men's Thermal Combs — Thermal knit for extra warmth. Sizes 40-42-44. Reg. $4.98. — $2.99

men's wear — Boy's Caps — Ski style with ear flaps. Olive, Navy, Brown. Reg. $1.49. — 89c

shoes — Men's Hi Cut Rubber Thermo Boot — Arch support. Size 6-11. Regular $11.95. — $8.95

shoes — Girls' Black Leather Like Plastic Laced Oxfords — Foam soles. Reg. $3.98. — $2.49

home furn. — Beehive Baby Yarn — High quality wool. Shrink resistant finish. 1 oz. ball. Regular 60c. — 39c

home furn. — Satin Cushions — Kapok filled, pastel colours, 16 x 16. Reg. $2.98. — $1.99

china — Bone China Salt & Peppers — English bone china in assorted floral decorations. Reg. $2.29 pair. — $1.79

stationery — Bridge Sets — Two packs plastic coated playing cards. Assorted designs. Reg. $2.98 set. — $2.39 set

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housewares — Plastic Laundry Basket — Rectangular style. Reg. $2.29. — $1.49

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housewares — Premier Carving Knives — Hollow ground stainless. Reg. $3.75. — $2.49

BOTH STORES OPEN TONIGHT TILL 9 P.M. S'SIDE STORE OPEN SAT. TILL NOON, CH'TOWN STORE TILL 4.30 P.M.