

# Early Souris History Associated With Catholic Mission Of St. Mary

The earliest dwellers in Souris arrived there from St. Peter's in 1810. They were soon followed by some Acadians from Arichat, Cape Breton, and by a family of McPhees who came to Souris in 1814. Little Harbour, the eastern part of the parish, was first settled by three Highland families who went there in 1806. The inhabitants of this portion of what is now the mission of Souris attended Mass at St. Columba's East-point, previous to the building of the parish church, while the settlers of Souris village being nearer the Bay, depended for spiritual care upon the pastor of that mission. Occasionally stations were held at the houses of Mr. Angus Campbell of Little Harbour, of Mr. Neil McLellan of Little Harbour, of Mr.

ed handsome in more pretentious places than Souris. One grave lying near the entrance to the cemetery has a more than local reputation on account of its inscription which reads as follows:

"In Memory of Elizabeth MacDonald beloved wife of Andrew McInnis died Dec. 15th, 1852 R. I. P. "She was a native of Lochaber, Scotland. "And was the lady honoured with "having the first dance with "King George III at the Royal Ball "In Edinburgh in 1818."

river flows through farms of prosperous settlers who in the management of their property have had an eye to beauty as well as to utility. The writer gained much information regarding the early days of the mission and its first church from a fine old Irish gentleman, from Tipperary, who with his beautiful old wife resided in affluence upon the fertile and picturesque farm which, fifty years ago, their energy and industry won from the uncleared forest.

Catholic settlers of the Mission of St. Mary, Souris: Michael Chiverie (1805), Jean Longuepece (1810), Toussaint Longuepece (1810), Fidele Paquet (1813), Cyprion Paquet (1813), John McPhee (1814), Francois Chiverie (1819), Francois La Vie (1820), Paul Boucher (1820), Neil McLellan, John McKinnon, Archibald McLellan, Angus Campbell, Martin Whelan, Thomas O'Donnell, Martin Lyons, James Mullally, Patrick Birmingham.

Pastors of St. Mary's, Souris since 1885: Rev. Donald Francois MacDonald, Oct. 1864 to April 1902; Rev. Ronald Bernard MacDonald, May 1902 to Sept. 1919; Rev. Msgr. J. C. MacLean, V.G., Nov. 1919 to July 1933; Rev. I. R. A. MacDonald, Sept. 1933 to Nov. 1938; Rev. Danil P. Croken, Sept. 1939 to Oct. 1943; Msgr. James A. Murphy, D.D., 1943, present pastor. Curates at Souris since 1929: Rev. Msgr. Pope MacMahon, Martin Monaghan, Basil Croken, Eugene L. Murray, Leonard MacDonald, Harold Croken (1935-1939), W. D. MacDonald (1939-1940), Earl Robin (1941-1943), Leonard McKenna (1943-1946), Pius G. Murnaghan (1946-1953) Edwin B. Steele, 1953, present curate.

The following priests were born



St. Mary's Convent, opened in 1881; Annex built in 1919.

Jersey, U. S. A.) Elizabeth Agnes Gillis.

Order of St. Joseph (Boston), Margaret Loretta Cheverie, Carmelite Order (Detroit, Mich.) Margaret Eleanor Leslie. Sisters of Providence (Portland, Oregon) Mary MacLellan.

In 1901, the old church built in 1849 which had now become much too small for the congregation, was removed from its site to make way for the beautiful red Island sandstone structure, which unfortunately fell a prey to fire in 1928. Nothing daunted, the pastor and parishioners immediately set to work and from the ruins soon rose the splendid church of St. Mary's of today.

During the pastorate of Rev. Ronald Bernard MacDonald, the fine convent begun in 1876 and opened in 1881 was becoming much too small to accommodate the increasing number of pupils desirous of taking advantage of the fine education dispensed in that institution. Accordingly, in 1919, Father MacDonald donated and had erected the large annex which now gives the institution the room and the necessary appointments and conveniences required for a

In the Souris High School there are 185 pupils taught by five teachers under the capable direction of Principal E. James MacDonald. For the town of Souris there are therefore 12 teachers and the total enrolment is 378 pupils.

For many years, old St. Mary's hall which was originally a church to which additions had been made, was proving wholly inadequate for the needs of the parish. Accordingly, under the direction of the very capable pastor, Msgr. James A. Murphy, a site was obtained on Main street, and a large and commodious hall with a full basement and all modern appointments and conveniences was erected at a cost of about \$50,000. This hall fills a long-felt want in the town of Souris, and the pastor and his parishioners may well be proud of their achievement.

The parish registers of St. Mary's begin in 1864. The first entry is signed by Rev. Donald Francois MacDonald, P.P. and records the baptism on October 21, 1864 of Anne Amelia, born on the 4th instant, of the lawful marriage of Harold Paquet and Mathilda Cheverie. Sponsors: Alex Paquet and Mary Anne Cheverie.

The parish of Souris is now composed of 310 families.

In "Place Names of Prince Edward Island," by R. Douglas M.A. of the Geographic Board of Canada, on the name "Souris," we read the following:

"Souris: river and head, lot 44. Also Souris town, lot 45. Colville River on Holland, 1765. The river flows into Colville Bay of Holland or "Havre a la Souris" of Belin in map of 1744. The head is "cap de la Souris" of de la Roque, 1752. The reference is to mice (Fr. Souris) of which there were three plagues here between 1720 and 1738. (Prince Edward Island Magazine, Vol. I.) Wright and Goudal map of 1874, has Colville Point or Souris Head, Maccham's Atlas of 1880, has Souris cove, river harbour, head, and railway station."

With reference to the strange inscription on the gravestone of Elizabeth MacDonald already mentioned, it is interesting to remark that in the "Empire Digest," of June, 1946 is found the following under the title "Gravite of the waves—Prince Edward Island," by Claude Laing Fisher:

"In the small seaport town of Souris, on the East coast, there is a monument erected in a cemetery there.

To the memory of ELIZABETH MACDONALD WIFE OF ANDREW MACINNIS

Then follows this inscription cut deeply into the stone:

"She was a native of Lochaber Scotland, and was the lady honoured with having the first dance with King George III at the Royal Ball in Edinburgh in 1818."

Such was her epitaph! "It is too bad to disturb such an effort to perpetuate the memory of the lady and the dance with Royalty, but sad to relate, in 1818, poor old King George III was well over 80 years of age, uncertain on his feet, and had been for some years hopelessly insane. He was never allowed out of the sight of

## Peakes And Vicinity

Mr. John D. MacDonald and son David, Cherry Hill visited St. Patrick's Road, May 2.

Messrs. Gerard and Elwood Donnelly, Charlottetown visited friends in this vicinity, May 2.

Mr. John Miller, Grand River Road visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gillan, May 2.

Misses Georgie Gunn and Lottie Kelly, Mr. Stewart visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Handrahan, May 2.

The illness of Master Johnnie Campbell at his home on St. Patrick's Road is regretted by his many friends.

Mr. Alex Grant visited his mother Mrs. Jane Grant, Charlottetown, May 3, whose continued illness is regretted by her many friends from this vicinity.

"Mr. and Mrs. Louis Silliker, New Glasgow, N. S., were weekend visitors May 1, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph MacDonald.

Friends of Mr. Michael Kelly, are pleased to know that he was able to return to his home in Elliotvale after having received medical treatment at the Charlottetown Hospital.

Many friends of Mr. Joseph MacDonald Sr., regret to learn of his illness at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph MacDonald. All join in wishing this grand old gentleman a speedy return to good health.

Mrs. Lauretta Devine, attended the wedding of her son Edward in Indian River, May 1. She was accompanied by her two sons, Gerard and Merlin.

Friends of Mr. John Keefe, who has resided near Peakes for the past months will regret to learn that he had his house destroyed by fire, April 30. Cause of fire is unknown.

His male attendants, and if he "danced" at all on his unsteady legs it was in his scuffles with his attendants who attempted to restrain him in his enfeebled outbursts. Moreover, there was not even a Royal Ball in Edinburgh in 1818, where the old insane King George III might have been represented by proxy."

And yet, despite Mr. Fisher's somewhat laboured effort at "de-bunking," it is still quite possible that Elizabeth did dance with King George III, of course, not in 1818; but let us suppose that the stone cutter made it 1818, instead of 1808, when King George III was still quite "spry," and Miss MacDonald was just 21, or it might have happened earlier still. In any case, we are not yet sure that Miss MacDonald did not at some time dance with King George, and it may even have been in Edinburgh Castle. The Psalmist wrote: "Vanity of Vanities, all is vanity," and how little it matters now!

## Nehru To Help In Cease Fire Move

NEW DELHI (AP)—Reliable sources today said Prime Minister Nehru has told Britain that India will help guarantee a cease-fire in Indo-China if all the disputants agree.

These informants said Nehru wrote Foreign Secretary Eden that France, Viet Nam and the Communist-led Vietnam must first agree to such a guarantee.

A foreign office spokesman here refused to comment on the report. He said Nehru's letter was "in the nature of a personal reply to the British foreign minister's letter to him."

Eden last week asked Nehru and the premiers of Ceylon and Pakistan whether they would partici-

## Record May Not Be Recognized

LONDON (AP)—John Savidge, six-foot, six-inch British Empire shot put champion, Wednesday heaved the weight 55 feet—2½ inches beyond his record 54 feet 9½ inches—but may not have broken his old record.

Track officials at the minor London meet where he was competing weighed the 16-pound ball after the event and found it about half an ounce under weight.

Referee Bill Plumridge said "The shot will have to be re-weighed by Amateur Athletic Association officials tomorrow."

He said in a guarantee to assure Indo-China's future.

# NEW PROOF THAT MILLIONS CAN END THE NEED FOR LAXATIVES

—find relief from constipation this safe, natural way—without the injurious effects of repeated laxative use.

With all the progress of medical science over the past 30 years, authorities say there is no longer any reason why irregularity should be our most widespread human malady.

Nor is there any reason for developing the habitual use of harsh laxatives—of dosing with one preparation after another in the vain hope of finding, in some common-sense correction is to be found not in the drug store but in your food store!

Long-continued study of the problem has shown that one of the most common causes of irregularity is lack of bulk in the diet. And when this is the case, the common-sense correction is to be found not in the drug store but in your food store!

IT HAS LONG BEEN A MEDICALLY RECOGNIZED FACT THAT NATURE HAS PROVIDED, IN THE NATURAL FOODS MEN WERE INTENDED TO EAT, ALL THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE LIFE-LONG AVOIDANCE OF COMMON CONSTIPATION.

One of these elements is natural fibrous bulk, or vegetable cellulose, which normally and naturally aids the rhythmic process of elimination.

In no natural food is this natural bulk so ideally found as in the outer layers, or bran, of the whole wheat kernel which, as you know, is lost in modern milling.

Because of the known value of bran in promoting regularity the Kellogg Company has produced a complete, whole bran—with nothing taken away to lessen its effectiveness—sold under the name of Kellogg's All-Bran, the natural laxative cereal.

How effective is All-Bran? This has

been demonstrated in a series of systematic clinical studies reported in leading medical journals.

In one study, 135 people with known delayed bowel function were given one ounce of All-Bran daily for one week. They were studied clinically and with X-ray with tests made before, during and after they ate the All-Bran.

OF THE 135 PEOPLE, 107 SHOWED DEFINITE CLINICAL IMPROVEMENT IN JUST 7 DAYS.

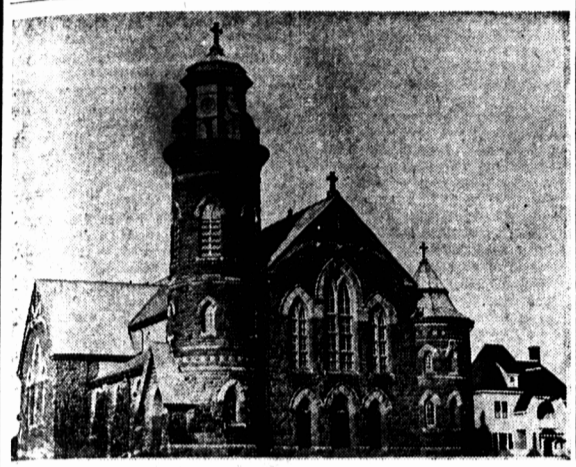
IN A FOLLOW-UP STUDY, BETTER THAN 6 OUT OF EVERY 7 PATIENTS WHO WERE GIVEN ALL-BRAN IMPROVED.

The greatest advantage of All-Bran is that it corrects the cause of irregularity due to insufficient bulk. Chemical or drug-type laxatives, on the other hand, are intended only for overnight relief of a temporary stoppage.

When people use these products habitually—in a way that laxative makers never intended—they punish their digestive system in a way that nature never intended. Instead of correcting the cause, they often actually make their condition worse.

If you think you must take a laxative preparation occasionally, do so. But do it wisely. Read the instructions completely. AVOID EXCESSIVE USAGE. But for natural and lasting relief put your trust in nature. Just eat daily a one-ounce serving of All-Bran for breakfast and drink plenty of water.

This All-Bran plan has helped millions to re-establish and to maintain healthful regularity. Why not you?



Present St. Mary's Church, rebuilt in 1928, and present Rectory.

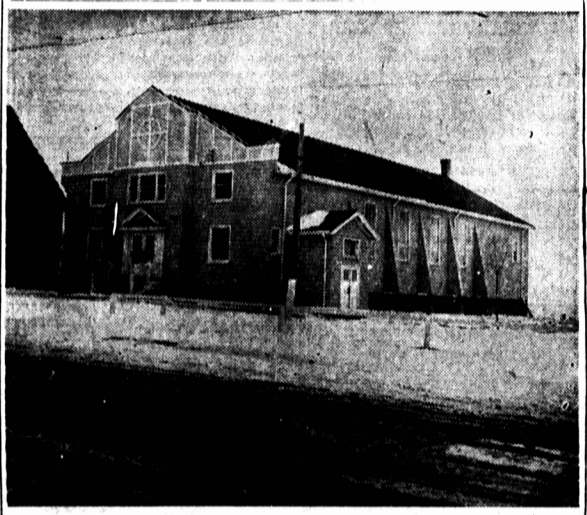
Angus McDonald (Hector) of Chepstow, and of Mr. Peter Chiverie of Souris.

In 1838 the people bestirred themselves and took steps toward building a church; ground was bought from Francis Chiverie and cleared by the parishioners, and upon this the pioneer church was erected by Messrs. Thomas Stone and Michael Bayley. The dimensions of this church were sixty feet by thirty-five feet. The first elders were Donald Allan MacDonald, Souris, Francois Lavie, Souris, Angus McDonald (Hector). The priest in charge of the mission at that time was the Reverend John MacDonald of Glenaladale, who offered the first mass in Souris church in January 1839.

In the month of June 1849, a disastrous fire destroyed both the church and a fine parochial house which was just being completed by the Rev. Pius McPhee. Nothing daunted, the parishioners determined to proceed at once with the building of a new church; they turned out in a body, went to

The priests who have attended Souris mission are the following: Bishop McEachern up to 1835, assisted in the early years of the settlement by Rev. Messrs. Joseph Etienne Cecile and Jean Louis Beaubien; Rev. John MacDonald 1835 to 1844; Rev. Francis MacDonald 1844 to 1845; Rev. Pius McPhee 1845 to 1852; Very Rev. Daniel McDonald 1852 to 1861; Rev. James Phelan 1861 to 1863; Rev. Dugald McDonald 1863 to 1864; Rev. Donald Francis MacDonald 1864 up to April 1902.

Across the road from St. Mary's Church stands one of the prettiest convents in the Maritime Provinces. It is of red brick, picked out with white brick, the dimensions are eighty feet by forty feet, height thirty four feet. This house is well planned, well located, well ventilated and is in fact a charming school fitted with all modern improvements obtainable, and is managed so as to give it an air of comfort and brightness that will linger in the memory of those who visit it. In the convent chapel stands a beautiful statue of Our Lady of



St. Mary's Hall, built in 1952

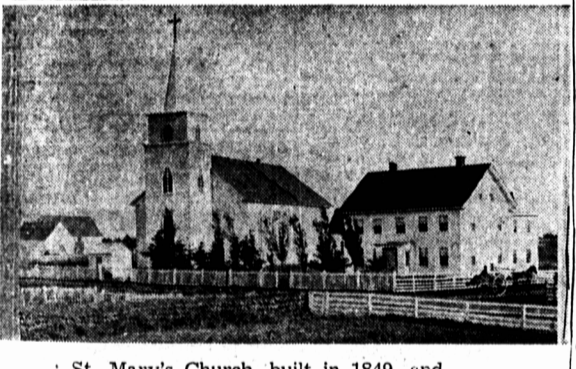
in Souris parish: Rt. Rev. Richard Ronald St. John, D.P., Rev. Finlay Lawrence Mullally, Rev. Eihelbert Lord Roberts Mullally, Rev. Arthur Joseph Sullivan, O.M.I., Rev. Stephen Adolphus MacAulay, Rev. Kenneth Ignatius MacAulay, S.F.M., Rev. Allan Francis Noonan, O.M.I.

The following ladies of St. Mary's parish have joined Religious Orders:

Notre Dame (Montreal), Mary Anastasia Mullally, Bernadette Mullally, Hilda MacLellan, Winnifred MacDonald. St. Martha (Charlottetown), Minnie May Mooney, Anne Elizabeth Cheverie, Mary Nadine MacInnis, Lillian Elizabeth Leslie. St. Joseph (St. Paul, Minn.) Catherine Isabelle MacLean. Notre Dame de Namur (New

modern school of learning.

St. Mary's Convent opened its first classes on September 7, 1881 with an enrolment of 80 pupils taught by four nuns of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal. At present there are seven teachers, six of whom teach the classes from Grade 1 to Grade 10, and one teacher in charge of Grade XI. The total enrolment is 188, of whom 27 are in Grade XI. Grade XI classes were opened in 1945. In the 8 classes (exclusive of the present one) 178 pupils completed the year's work. Of this number, only 7 failed to pass the Common Examining Board Examinations. In this reckoning are included only those who made the required average with not more than one supplementary to be written.



St. Mary's Church, built in 1849, and old Rectory built in 1852.

the woods, procured, and prepared the material for the frame. This second church was opened in November 1849; the builder was Ronald Ban MacDonald. It was eighty feet in length by forty-five in width, and twenty-two feet in height; the spire was a hundred feet high. The vestry was twenty-four feet by thirty. The first parochial house was built by Rev. James Phelan in 1862.

The church which was called St. Mary's, possessed a fine oil painting, a copy of Murillo's Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, which hung above the high altar. The stations of the cross were photographs in black walnut frames. From the cemetery across the way, we have a beautiful view of the surrounding country. In this cemetery are some very choice specimens of the stone cutters' Art. Monuments that would be consider-

Lourdes given by the children of Mary of the parish. The window blinds throughout the building are worthy of notice, they having been painted by the sisters whose cunning brushes have delineated exquisite wreaths of maple leaves, and sacred devices upon pure white linen. This school was opened in 1881. Here four sisters of the congregation of Notre Dame taught ninety six pupils in a locality that for health giving breezes is perhaps unequalled in Prince Edward Island.

The scenery around Souris is very fine, combining views of river, rock and ocean, for it is only a few miles from the busy, bustling, little town to the northern beach, where the ocean rolls in unceasingly, and the gull and the gannet reign undisputed sovereigns. The picturesque winding Souris



St. Mary's Church, built in 1901, destroyed by fire in 1928.

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