

**IN MEMORIAM**

**WILLIAM MILFORD HARRIS**

Many of the older residents of Charlottetown will regret to learn of the passing in Ottawa on October 19 of William Milford Harris, son of the late John Harris of Pontyplidd, Wales, and Charlottetown, P. E. I., and Christie (Stewart) Harris.

The late Mr. Harris, a veteran of the South African War and World War I, had an outstanding physique and appearance. He, with another Boer War veteran, Mr. Charles Hine, was chosen to represent the Island militia at the coronation of the late King Edward VII. In World War I he was gassed at Passchendaele, and invalided in England.

In earlier days he, with his brother John, was closely associated with the musical life of the city, both from boyhood being members of St. Peter's Anglican Church choir, and later members of the late Prof. Vintcombe's orchestra.

For the past 25 years Mr. Harris was on the Protective Staff of the House of Commons, Ottawa, and since his retirement three years ago, a member of the Corps of Commissioners.

Besides an invalid wife, Mabel C. Carter, he leaves two daughters and a son (Helen) Mrs. Angus MacEachern, Charlottetown; (Florence "Dolly") Mrs. Harmon Brookshire, Thompson and Ralph W. Harris, Detroit, Mich. His elder son, Roland, died four years ago. Also surviving are two sisters, (Margaret) Mrs. J. P. Lydiard, Laconia, N. H., and (Florence) Mrs. Alex. Ritchie, Bridgeport, Conn. A sister Grace, (Mrs. Sanborn), and a brother John, predeceased him.

The funeral services, which were largely attended, were held in Ottawa on October 22, the Anglican service being conducted by the Rev. C. L. G. Bruce. Pallbearers were members of the Corps of Commissioners. Interment was in Beachwood cemetery.

**Interesting History**

Continued from page 3

branch of the family that lived in Alberton was staunchly Anglican. Some reading this will remember Captain John Champion and his brother Mr. William Champion, who with their families made a distinct contribution to St. Peter's Church in Alberton.

The Champion families of Spring Valley are supporters of St. Stephen's Church. The first child baptized in this church was Benjamin Champion whose son Russell Champion was a prominent business man in Kensington. He also served as mayor for several terms. No records are available for the Cawley family, but it is known that they were English people and no doubt landed in Malbecque when they came to the Island.

The ancestor of the Harrington family, Henry Harrington, came from the north of Ireland. He came first to Newfoundland and lived there long enough to get him a wife in the person of Anastasia Cavanagh. The next move was to P. E. I., living first at Indian River, later in Spring Valley. Two great-grandsons, Ivan and Keith Harrington, are officers in St. Stephen's Church.

The Sudsbury of Spring Valley always have been and are still loyal members of the Church. Everett Sudsbury is now a warden. The name was corrupted to Sudsbur and is recorded thus in the old parish register of St. Eleanor's Church. Of the Bryanton family whose names appear so often in the parish register in bygone years very few are now connected with St. Stephen's Church. Inter-marriage with members of other denominations has weakened and in some cases destroyed the connection with the Church in all these old families.

And so as the years went by we can assume that farms were being cleared, more comfortable houses being built, and the serious minded of the settlers were turning their thoughts to ways and means of building their own church in Irishtown. But let no one think that the absence of a church building prevented the participation of those people in church worship. Not by any means. They attended the parish Church of St. Thomas in New London. If they had wagons for summer and sleighs for winter so much the better. Some times the humble farm cart was used. But mostly they used shanks mare—went on foot. It would require quite a stretch of imagination to visualize people walking miles to church in these "enlightened" days.

Between the years 1833 - 1834 the Reverend T. H. Walpole had charge of the parish as resident minister. From 1834 to 1841 the Rev. L. C. Jenking of St. Eleanor's and the Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins who followed him gave occasional services. Between 1841 and 1843 another attempt was made to settle the parish. The Reverend Frederick Roberts was sent out from England, but with no house to live in and travelling conditions as they must have been, then it is no wonder that he could not stand the strain and he went back to England. From 1843 to 1853 the Reverend A. V. G. Wiggins, and after him the Reverend J. Herbert Read, both of St. Eleanor's, served the mission as best they could but better days were coming.

(To be Continued)

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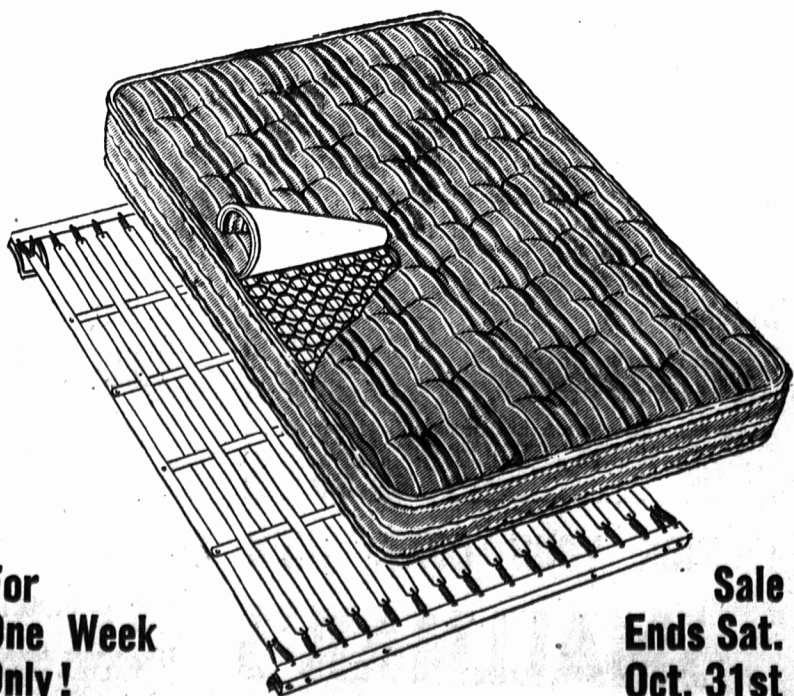
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