

Vol. 35 No. 2

Summer 2023

The Argus

The quarterly newsletter of the
Argyle Municipality Historical and Genealogical Society

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The Argus

The quarterly newsletter of the Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society, published four times per year by the Society at the Argyle Township Courthouse Archives at Tusket, NS.

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Membership in the Society for 2023 and 2024 are \$35.00 per year for individuals and \$40.00 per year for families or couples. Institutional memberships (libraries/archives or businesses) are \$40.00 per year. All members receive four issues of *The Argus* as part of the membership, do not pay research fees when using the archives and enjoy reduced photocopying rates. Individual copies of newsletter are \$10.00.

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HOW TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

Our membership dues for 2023 and 2024 are at the rates listed above. Anyone is able to join the Society, and we welcome new members. You can become a member or renew your membership by filling out the tear-out, perforated membership form at the end of this newsletter and mailing it to us with your dues, or you can drop by the Archives in Tusket in person. As a member of the Society, you will receive four issues of *The Argus* per year. You have the option to receive the newsletter electronically, and those who receive a paper copy will receive it by mail or by hand delivery.

Memberships may be paid by cash or cheque in person, a mailed in cheque or by phone, using VISA or MasterCard. Phone: 902-648-2493

To members who live in the USA - please remit your fees in US funds to help defray our mailing costs.

Front Cover: Tessie "Ben" and Austin "Light" Amiro at their home in East Pubnico around 1965. Photo contributed by the author, Ray Amiro.

Rear Cover: Three novels by Bruce Bishop, are now available at the "Cell" Gift Shop. A professional writer originally from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia since the 1990s whose early work focused on the travel and leisure industry, Bishop turned his energies towards fiction during the pandemic. In order of publication, *Unconventional Daughters*, *Uncommon Sons* and *Undeniable Relations* are interlinked, relating the story of a family of adopted children spanning the years 1882 to 1958 and geographically from Sweden to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, where most of the plot unfolds.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer 2023

Hi everyone,

Since you received the last issue of *The Argus*, the board of directors has been busy working on many things! Most notably, our AGM was held on June 14th, 2023. During the AGM, I announced that after much consideration, I decided not to reoffer to be president of the Society and was also going to step down from the board of directors. I didn't make this decision lightly, but because of increasing demands in my personal and professional life, I can no longer promise to make the Society a priority in the same way I have in the past. My decision to resign is in no way a reflection on the engagement from other board members or from staff. I have always been amazed and thankful that our board of directors is incredibly dedicated. Furthermore, the collaboration between the board of directors, Judy and Phil is exemplary. All of this was true before I became president and I'm sure will continue now that I've stepped down.

I'm happy to say that at our AGM, we elected Tim Bourque as the Society's next president. I'm confident he can guide the Society over the coming year and I know we're in good hands!

I want to take a final moment to thank all our board members, staff, volunteers and society members. Nothing the Society has accomplished while I've been president would have happened without everyone's individual contributions and I'm thankful to each and every one of you. Thank you for your trust in me and for allowing me to help guide our operations over the past few years.

All my best,
Jen Surette
Past AMHGS President



Hello everyone,

First of all, I'd like to thank Jen for her leadership and dedication as president of the AMHGS Board over the past few years, and for her contributions as a board member for the past 10+ years. Our June AGM saw some board turnover as a few members stepped down and a few new ones joined the Board. I have served on this board for over 10 years and look forward to working with Cody Donaldson, vice-president, as well as the new executive and board, to serve our Society members.

Summer is in full swing now. Thanks to Federal funding received, we have created four summer student positions, and we have several events planned for the upcoming weeks. For more info, follow us on Facebook or email Judy at jfrotten@argylecourthouse.com if you wish to be added to the mailing list.

Please read further for more information on the AGM, including annual award recipients, as well as information on upcoming events. Have a great summer and we hope you can participate in some of our upcoming activities.

Enjoy this issue of *The Argus*,
Tim Bourque
AMHGS President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM took place June 14 at 7pm with members attending either in person at the archives or virtually via Zoom. AMHGS President, Jen Surette, chaired the meeting and presented her annual report. Kaitlyn Sweeney, Secretary, presented the minutes from the 2022 AGM; William (Bill) Crowell presented the annual Financial Statements. Cody Donaldson presented the Membership Secretary's annual report on Peter Crowell's behalf, and a motion was passed to accept his recommendation to keep the fees as they are for 2023/2024. Judy Frotten presented the annual Heritage Development Officer's report.

As reported in the Spring 2023 issue of *The Argus* (Vol. 35 No. 1), proposed changes to the Society's Bylaws were discussed and a motion was passed at the AGM. Most were "housekeeping" items to reflect our actual practice, such as indicating that the Society's Seal shall be kept at the Archives (as opposed as "shall be kept with the Secretary"). Of note, Bylaw #22 changed from "Any member of the Society, resident in Yarmouth County, shall be eligible to be elected a Director of the Society" to: "Any member of the Society shall be eligible to be elected a Director of the Society. The Board may also include up to two directors from outside Yarmouth County." The ability to host hybrid meetings means that we are able to accommodate guests and members both in person and virtually for all events and board meetings. As our membership spans Canada and the US, it also provides us with the opportunity to have a member or two from outside of Yarmouth County to serve on the board. A copy of the new bylaws is available for anyone who wishes to see them.

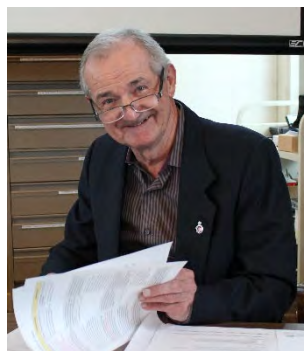
Leona Doucette presented the Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors and Officers. Earlier, in her annual report, Jen Surette announced that she was stepping down as President and as board director, after serving on the board for over 10 years. Other outgoing directors are: William (Bill) Bourque (served on the board for 10 years); Roland LeBlanc (served on the board for 6 years); Gilbert Surette (served on the board for 6 years). We thank all four directors for their hard work and dedication to the Society over the years.

We would also like to welcome new directors: Erin Émond, Sally Kenney, and Joel LeFave.

Congratulations to our AMHGS board of directors and new executive:

Tim Bourque (President)
Cody Donaldson (Vice-President)
William (Bill) Crowell (Treasurer)
Kaitlyn Sweeney (Secretary)
Thérèse Boucher
Leona Doucette

Alice Bourque
Patsy Surette
Rose-Emma LeFave
Erin Émond
Sally Kenney
Joel LeFave



Photos (L to R): Jen Surette, AMHGS President and Kaitlyn Sweeney; AMHGS Secretary; William (Bill) Crowell, AMHGS Treasurer; Cody Donaldson, AMHGS Vice-President and Phil Cassidy, Municipal Researcher taking care of tech at the AGM. Photos taken at the AGM by Judy Frotten.

AMHGS ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION 2023

After the business portion of the AGM, we were pleased to present our three annual awards:

The Argyle Township Great Neighbour Award: Patchwork Pals Quilting Group



The Argyle Township Great Neighbour Award was presented to Patchwork Pals Quilting Group. Jen Surette presented the award to Patchwork Pals, which was accepted on their behalf by their president, Jeanne Doucette at the AGM. The local quilting group has donated several quilts to our Society over the years to support our fundraising efforts. Patchwork Pals also donates many quilts in support of charitable organizations and other worthwhile causes, making them Great Neighbours indeed. The second photo was taken by Judy Frotten during a visit to Patchwork Pals the week before the AGM. Visiting the group at the “Club Acadien” Community Center in Eel Brook, you definitely get a sense of what an exceptional group of talented and hard-working ladies they are, doing excellent work in our communities.

The Argyle Township Distinguished Volunteer Award: Jen Surette

The Argyle Township Distinguished Volunteer Award was presented to Jen Surette, by Cody Donaldson, for her many years of involvement with the Society, including her excellent leadership and oftentimes being the face of the Society in the community and at events. A small token of appreciation for all she has done for us.



The Argyle Township Heritage Award: Susan Surette-Draper



The Argyle Township Heritage Award was presented to Susan Surette-Draper by Judy Frotten, for her important research and work focused on the Acadian Expulsion. Those decades of research culminated in the recent publication of her popular first novel, *Refuge*.

After the awards ceremony, Susan Surette-Draper was our guest speaker. She spoke of the research and journey which inspired her to write *Refuge*. She also read some excerpts from her book. She’s a very interesting speaker and we highly recommend attending one of her presentations if you have the opportunity. We thank all who attended the AGM and Susan’s presentation, whether in-person or virtually. We’re pleased to now have the technology allowing us to bring these events to our members far and wide.

WINNER OF “POSY PATCH” QUILT RAFFLE



A warm thank you to all Society members and members of the public who supported our quilt raffle. The draw was held on May 10 at the Archives, with Jen Surette and Jeanne Doucette present, along with several other members of Patchwork Pals.

Congratulations to Linda Greene of Wedgeport, winner of the queen sized “Posy Patch” quilt donated to us by Patchwork Pals.

The raffled brought in \$2,469, which will be used to assist with the costs associated with replacing the windows at the Court House.

A short video was posted to our Facebook Page of the draw, if you’d like to take a look: https://fb.watch/IHRMZ_D4xU/

Also, you can see other photos posted at: <https://www.facebook.com/Argylecourthouse>

COURT HOUSE WINDOWS – UPDATE



Our Court House Window Sponsorship Fundraiser is now done! Ross Farm Museum has been building the new windows over the past winter and spring. They have installed the first five windows and delivered a number of windows ready for installation. They are finishing up with the remaining few and will return in the fall to finish the window installation, after the tourism season is done.

We will provide more information on the sponsorship fundraiser in a future issue of *The Argus*, along with photos and information on how much money was raised.

A warm thank you to all members who generously sponsored a window, which was a minimum of \$750 per window.

Barry Hiltz and Christopher Reeves from Ross Farm arrived on a very wet June 27th to begin the installation of some of our beautiful new windows. It seems the building has “settled slightly” since 1805, some minor adjustments were needed! One of the difficulties they ran into is that there are 5 different thicknesses of window sashes and stiles! Photos courtesy of Phil Cassidy.



INTRODUCING SUMMER STAFF – ACKNOWLEDGING FUNDERS

AMHGS is pleased to have received funding from the following Federal Government programs which allowed us to create these four student positions for summer 2023:

Young Canada Works – Canadian Council of Archives: 15-wk archival position, filled by Kylie DeViller.
 Young Canada Works – Canadian Museums Association: 12-wk museum position, filled by Courtney Paulick.
 Canada Summer Jobs, Reference Clerk, 8-wk position, filled by Madison Hubbard.
 Canada Summer Jobs, Interpretive Guide, 8-wk position, filled by Anik Richardson.

We're also pleased to have hired Karlee Muise again for the summer, to assist with managing the "Cell" Gift Shop, as well as assisting with a number of museum projects and programming. Finally, Natalie Hubbard will be assisting on a part-time basis when we need extra help at the museum, archives or at events.

SUMMER EVENTS



Returning summer staff:
 Karlee Muise and Courtney Paulick, taken at the June 14 AGM.



Our summer staff visited other sites during our own "FAM Tour" of the Municipality of Argyle. Pictured here, visiting the Wedgeport Tuna Museum: (seated): Karlee Muise; standing: (L to R): Kylie DeViller; Madison Hubbard; Judy Frotten (Heritage Development Officer); Courtney Paulick; Natalie Hubbard (part-time assistant); and Anik Richardson.

"*La Société Touristique de Bon Temps d'Argyle*" organized the second annual Acadian Festival for the Municipality of Argyle, where over 30 organizations offered special events and activities during the week of August 8 to 15. ATCHA offered three (free) events during this week.

On August 8, local author, Debra Amirault-Camlin had a presentation on her book: *Nathalie: An Acadian's Tale of Tragedy and Triumph*. The book signing and reading took place at the Archives and was a hybrid event. Although those who joined us online did not get to sample the snacks and treats, everyone was treated to Debra's reading and presentation!

Debra Amirault-Camlin outside of the archives on the occasion of her book signing. Photo courtesy of Patty Sullivan.



On the afternoon of August 10, we hosted our second family fun event. The event featured a variety of fun crafts, games with prizes, an Acadian themed photo booth and a sucker pull supported by summer students and spearheaded by returning summer student, Courtney Paulick. There was no cost to attend the event which was a hit with our young participants.



Above left, the summer staff “Dream Team,” plus two, from top left to bottom right, Karlee Muise, Anik Richardson, Madison Hubbard, Brittany Paulick (volunteer), Natalie Hubbard, Kylie DeViller and Courtney Paulick. Volunteer, Kim Muise missing from the photo.

Top right, just a couple of the many fun activities and **below right**, two intrepid rubber duck jockeys encourage their floating fowl in the duck race. Photos by Judy Frotten.

Tusket River Project – Community Day

Unfortunately, our third event, scheduled for August 12, the “Tusket River Project” which was to have been presented in collaboration with Francine Dulong of Blooming Ludus (<http://www.bloomingludus.com/>), had to be postponed. Rescheduled for Saturday, September 9th, the community workshops will feature lunch and refreshments and promises to be a fun filled day of art, history, and ecology, exploring our shared heritage and connection with the Tusket River / Neketaouksit (Mi'kmaq). Come explore your ideas and stories through a series of drop in dance, creative writing and craft activities! Grandparents and grandchildren are highly encouraged to attend!

Registration is required for the morning workshop (10am-12pm), so please contact us at (902) 648-2493. Registration is not required for the afternoon sessions (1pm-4pm).

There is no cost to attend this event.

MEMBERSHIPS IN THE SOCIETY

The following is a list of those members who have paid their dues for the years listed below, since the publication of the last *Argus*, namely from 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023. This is a running list that continues from one issue of the newsletter to the next. Those who paid their dues prior to April 1st will find their names listed in previous issues of *The Argus*. For those of you who wish to check your membership status, the expiry date appears on the label on the envelope in which your newsletter is mailed or attached to *The Argus* if your newsletter is hand-delivered. Members who receive their newsletter digitally will find the expiry date in the subject line of the email. Members may pay their dues by phone if they wish, using VISA or MasterCard: 902-648-2493. If any of our Canadian members are interested in sending us an e-transfer, please contact us for more information.

2022

Burdick, Gretchen Dane; Williamsburg, MA, USA (renewal)

2023

Amirault, Edythe; Digby, NS (renewal)
 Archibald, Judith L.; Rockville, NS (renewal)
 Atkinson, Philip & Réjeanne; Plymouth, NS (renewals)
 Blades, Roseanne; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Bourque, Flavien; Surette's Island, NS (renewal)
 Britt, Diane; Danvers, MA, USA (new)
 Burdick, Gretchen Dane; Williamsburg, MA, USA (renewal)
 Campbell, Charles; Surette's Island, NS (new)
 Corder, Elaine (Crowell); Fort Saskatchewan, AB (renewal)
 Cormier, Valarie; Yarmouth, NS (new)
 Cosman, Stephen; East Kemptonville, NS (renewal)
 Cotreau, Ann; Tusket, NS (new)
 Courtenay, Lisa; Derry, NH, USA (renewal)
 Doucette, Marion; Hubbard's Point, NS (renewal)
 Earle, Thomas & Elaine; Pleasant Lake, NS (renewals)
 Ellis-Russell, Karen; Halifax, NS (renewal)
 Emond, Erin; Raynardton, NS (renewal)
 Gillette, June; Plymouth, MA, USA (renewal)
 Hamilton, Alexander "Sandy" M.F.; Hammonds Plains, NS (renewal)
 Harding, Carol M.; Digby, NS (renewal)
 Hatfield, Barbara; Calgary, AB (new)
 Hebert, Jane & Family; Canterbury, NH (USA) (new)
 Hubbard-LeBlanc, Sandra; Belleville, NS (new)
 Landry, Paulette; South Belleville, NS (new)

Lobster Bay Shopper; Church Point, NS (new)
 Mantia, Joe & Family; Glendale, AZ, USA (renewals)
 Martell, Lynda; Plymouth, MA, USA (new)
 Maurice, Matt; Wedgeport, NS (new)
 Moulaison, Rose; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Paige, Nancy Hatfield; DeLand, FL, USA (renewal)
 Paris, Greg; Charlton, MA, USA (new)
 Pothier, Kenneth & Wirth, Verna, Lower Wedgeport, NS (renewals)
 Rose, Lynda Murtha; Wyoming, ON (renewal)
 Smith, Don & Bernice; Mount Hope, ON (renewals)
 Spinney, Allen; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Surette, Brad; Saugus, MA, USA (renewal)
 Surette, Leonard; Surette's Island, NS (renewal)
 Thibeau, Don & Claire; Yarmouth, NS (new)
 Vokes, Judith; Ocala, FL, USA (renewal)
 White, Roberts; Westport, MA, USA (new)
 Yarmouth Co. Historical Society; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)

2024

Blades, Roseanne; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Boudreau, Jules; Gloucester, MA, USA (renewal)
 Brannen, Bertha; Summerville, NS (renewal)
 Burdick, Gretchen Dane; Williamsburg, MA, USA (renewal)
 Comeau, Delbé & Guptill, Mary; Meteghan River, NS (renewals)
 Corder, Elaine (Crowell); Fort Saskatchewan, AB (renewal)
 Cosman, Stephen; East Kemptonville, NS (renewal)
 Earle, Thomas & Elaine; Pleasant Lake, NS (renewals)

d'Entremont, Mr. Coral; West Pubnico, NS (renewal)
 Ellis-Russell, Karen; Halifax, NS (renewal)
 Gardner, Bertha Amiro; Wilmington, MA, USA (renewal)
 Goodwin, Havelocke; Argyle Head, NS (renewal)
 Hamilton, Alexander "Sandy" M.F.; Hammonds Plains, NS (renewal)
 Hebert, Jane & Family; Canterbury, NH (USA) (renewals)
 Jacquard, Yvonne; Lower Wedgeport, NS (renewal)
 LaGrandeur, Brenda & François; Tusket, NS (new)
 LeBlanc, Willis; Dartmouth, NS (renewal)
 LeFave, Joel; Hopedale, MA, USA (renewal)
 Mantia, Joe & Family; Glendale, AZ, USA (renewals)
 Nixon, Royce; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Pothier, Kenneth & Wirth, Verna, Lower Wedgeport, NS (renewals)
 Rose, Lynda Murtha; Wyoming, ON (renewal)
 Saunders, Susan; Pickering, ON (renewal)
 Swards, Joe; Deerfield, NS (renewal)
 Smith, Don & Bernice; Mount Hope, ON (renewals)
 Spinney, Allen; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Surette, Patrick Orel; Rosedale, NB (renewal)
 White, Roberts; Westport, MA, USA (renewal)

Whitehouse, Eric & Elaine; Brazil Lake, NS (renewals)

2025

Blades, Roseanne; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Cosman, Stephen; East Kemptville, NS (renewal)
 Ellis-Russell, Karen; Halifax, NS (renewal)
 Hebert, Jane & Family; Canterbury, NH (USA) (renewals)
 LeBlanc, Willis; Dartmouth, NS (renewal)
 LeFave, Joel; Hopedale, MA, USA (renewal)
 Nelson, Ann; Chegoggin, NS (renewal)
 Rose, Lynda Murtha; Wyoming, ON (renewal)
 Saunders, Susan; Pickering, ON (renewal)
 Spinney, Allen; Yarmouth, NS (renewal)
 Surette, Patrick Orel; Rosedale, NB (renewal)

2026

LeBlanc, Willis; Dartmouth, NS (renewal)



OBITUARIES FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are sad to report the passing of six Society members since the last issue of *The Argus*. Ann (Porter) Sorensen had been a member for many years and a contributor of some of the most significant bodies of work contained here at the archives. These contributions are highlighted in our first article in the history section of this issue. Willetta Jean Raynard is remembered as a long-time member who, along with her husband, Ernest, donated a number of archival materials, specifically records of the Goose Bay Dyking Company. Edwin Muise has also been a long-time member, along with his mother Marion and brother Bruce. Ed wrote "Uncle Anthony," a story honouring his uncle Anthony Doucette, who served in the First World War, which was featured in our Fall/Winter 2021 issue. James Alvin "Al" Boucher was the husband of AMHGS board member and past president, Theresa Boucher. Sally Boudreau was a member for a number of years along with her husband Del and son, local musician Calvin Boudreau. Finally, Edward LeBlanc was a well-known teacher, Municipal Councillor and Warden, who made many contributions to this community during his years of community service.

We respectfully note their passing here, reprinting their obituaries below and share our sincere condolences with their families.

Willetta Jean RAYNARD – Glenwood, Nova Scotia



Raynard Willetta Jean – age 95, of Glenwood, Yarmouth Co., N.S. passed away peacefully on February 15, 2023, in the Villa St Joseph Du Lac. Born in Port Maitland on January 28, 1928, she was a daughter to the late Chesley and Mildred (Haskell) Roberts. Willetta was a schoolteacher in a 1 room schoolhouse in Argyle Head and then taught at Argyle School for several years. Following teaching, she was a bookkeeper at V&E Raynard's in Tusket. She was a very active community member and could often be found helping to organize community events. Her door was always open and she somehow managed to always have enough food on the table for their many guests. She is survived by her children, Warren (Sharon) Raynard, Lower Argyle; Donna Spinney, Central Argyle; Wanda (Roger) d'Entremont, Glenwood; Brenda (Jerome) d'Eon, Roberts Island; sister, Jessie Raynard, Ontario; grandchildren, Amber (Chuck) Nelson, Byron (Christa) Spinney, Aaron (Jody) Spinney,

Naomi (Morgan) Penney, Jordan d'Entremont (Cassandra Carey), Rachel d'Eon, Benjamin (Valerie) d'Eon, Brianna (Nick) Dunstan; great-grandchildren, Emersyn Nelson, Ethan (Emma) Spinney, Jasmine Spinney, Tristin Robbins, Kaylie Spinney, Brayden Spinney, Elle d'Eon, Violet d'Eon, Jasper d'Eon, Xavier Dunstan, Parker Penney and Ryder Penney. Besides her parents Willetta was predeceased by her husband, Ernest; siblings, Dorothy Hobbs and Edgar Roberts; and son-in-law, Ken Spinney. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Sweeny's Funeral Home and Crematorium, Yarmouth. Visitation will be held Sunday, February 19, 2023, from 12:30 P.M. until 1:30 P.M. in Sweeny's Funeral Home Chapel. A funeral service will be held Sunday, February 19, 2023, at 1:30 P.M. in Sweeny's Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Mitchell DeWare officiating. Interment will take place in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Argyle. In lieu of flowers donations in memory may be made to the Argyle Pubnico Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant Cemetery (Argyle), or the Glenwood Community Hall. Online condolences or a funeral webcast may be viewed www.sweenysfuneralhome.net

Ann Mary Sorensen - Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (May 20, 1922 - March 11, 2023)

Ann Mary Porter was born in Stoneham, Mass, on May 20, 1922, to Leigh and Mabel Porter. On January 20, 1946, she married George Philip Sorensen. Together they navigated a long marriage and nurtured and deeply loved their family members.

Ann and George fostered a child to adulthood and provided welcome respite and support to others, maintaining that caring bond for life.

Ann was passionate about her love of her Lord. She studied and prayed throughout her life and helped others mature in their faith as well.

Ann was a loving daughter, devoting many years to the care of her mother Mabel in her home. She and George had many friends and family members who frequently visited their home, where each was welcomed with open arms and deep love.

Ann and George had an epic project that they laboured lovingly for 50 years, which resulted in the publication of their work: *The Porter Family of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia* in 2010. Both Ann and George had a keen interest in local history and were active in the Yarmouth Historical Society, as well as other local preservation efforts. They presented their work frequently.

Ann and her beloved husband George travelled far and wide, across the globe to be with family and friends, as well as to further their genealogical research. Whilst with family and friends many meals were shared and a lifetime of memories formed.

In addition to her love for genealogy and learning, Ann was a talented artist. She was a potter for many years and enjoyed china painting and watercolour painting as well.

Ann was a passionate reader and never was shy about acquiring and reading books, ranging from natural history, botany, local history and fiction of each decade.

Ann was predeceased by her beloved husband George P Sorenson who passed from his earthly bonds on December 22, 1990. To her last days, Ann looked upward and spoke to him, feeling his presence near to her heart. Besides her parents, Ann was also predeceased by her son, George P Sorenson Jr; daughter, Elise Nadine Sorenson; sisters, Dorothy Leita Moses; Virginia G Weltner; Hazel E. (Porter) Stos; brother, Roland Leigh Porter; and nephews, Roland Leigh Porter, Mark Roland Porter, Leigh Porter Josserand; niece, Estella Joy Moses; and great-niece Janice Ellen Geldart.

Ann is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins of many generations and branches of our family tree.

She will be missed by her cherished niece Beth who was her closest companion whom she trusted to care for her in her final years. She will also be missed by her family who will cherish her memory and the love she shared without reservation in her own unique motherly way.

Rest well and fly high beloved Ann, Auntie to All.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Sweeny's Funeral Home and Crematorium, Yarmouth. Visiting hours will be held in Sweeny's Funeral Home Chapel on Monday, March 20, 2023, from 6-8 P.M. A funeral will take place Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 1 P.M. in Sweeny's Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Mark Shaw officiating. Interment will take place in Cedar Lake Cemetery. Following the funeral, a reception will be held in Jacob's Loft Event Center above Sweeny's Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers donations in memory may be made to Cedar Lake Cemetery or Camp Peniel. Online condolences and a funeral webcast can be viewed at www.sweenysfuneralhome.net

Edwin Muise – July 13, 2023

At his family cottage, on the shores of Cape Spear, NB, Edwin (Ed) Muise 58, peacefully followed the tides July 13th, 2023.

“Edwin à Marion” was born in Yarmouth, N.S., on May 18, 1965, the eldest son of Marion Doucette, Ed’s childhood in Hubbards Point N.S. involved many long blissful days of piling wood, early summer haying, riding his 10 speed everywhere and a job at the general store. Special visits with Uncle Warren Deveau, with cousins Robert and Danny were remembered, even as the decades passed. Interest in his Acadian history flourished young and he researched his genealogy to engage his endless curiosity. He graduated from St. Anne de Ruisseau High School in 1983. His love of athleticism, lifelong learning, and a deep but quiet faith centered in God, the natural world and the goodness of others began there.

Ed graduated from Acadia University in 1986, where he nurtured friendships that endure to this day,

He joined the Correctional Service of Canada in 1987 and had a varied career holding a number of front-line positions, eventually becoming a Deputy Warden. In successive years, he became the Warden of three federal institutions - Springhill Institution, Atlantic Institution and Dorchester Penitentiary. His final position with CSC was as Assistant Deputy Commissioner Correctional Operations. Ed was also appointed to the Parole Board of Canada as a Board member for 3 different mandates.

He received many acknowledgements throughout his career, the latest was the Renee Collette Award from the Parole Board of Canada for his passion, dedication and professional conduct. Ed was also awarded CSC’s 25 year Long Service Medal.

Ed’s spirit of adventure was fed by two tours in Kosovo in the late 90’s where he served as the Director of Mitrovica Detention Centre, United Nations Mission in Kosovo. For this service he received the Peacekeeper Medal in 2002. Later his career again expanded beyond the borders of Canada having been appointed to an international project in partnership with US State Department Counter-Terrorism Bureau to work with radicalized offenders in Cameroon. Throughout his career at CSC, Ed championed many topics including racialized and Indigenous offenders.

He retired with 35 dedicated years of public service, while in his final position as a board member with PBC. He was deeply admired for his humility and for being an encouraging mentor and colleague.

His contagious enthusiasm for his many interests meant that family, friends and colleagues were often swept up by not only his generous smile, but the expertise he shared on hiking, birding or even in culinary wizardry. Ed loved the tenacity of his signature bird, the Blue Jay, and the challenge of getting red cardinals to the feeder (which he did in good time). When he wasn’t sharing these hobbies, he was feeding you with elevated fish cakes or Oysters Rockefeller. He’d pickle his way through Fall, closely followed with precision jamming to line the shelves for friends and family. He reveled in the joy of gardening and in particular the challenge of growing “Russian Giant” sunflowers. They, like Ed, scaled to great heights.

Pushing his body to achieve physical goals, Ed was an accomplished hiker; completing the Dobson Trail 3 times, the Cape Chignecto coastal loop and Mount Katahdin, among other summits. Ed valued not only the benefits of fitness but the camaraderie of belonging to the YMCA and participating in many running clinics and half marathons. His dedication to a life work balance was an example for all.

His greatest accomplishment and where he derived the most pleasure, was being a father to Liam and Hannah. There was nothing he would not do for his children, no drive too far, no call too late. He was the consummate hockey/football/ cheer Dad. He defined unconditional love.

That love created a welcoming home with his wife Susan, where creating memories were foundational to their family dynamic. Celebrations and decades of parties for every occasion - most notably Canada Day, St. Patrick's Day and Christmas chowders.

Ed was capable of finding joy no matter the circumstances. His illness was no exception. Many people helped Ed continue this outlook including a brother in law who arranged a call from Ken Dryden, Ed's childhood hero. Ed was a lifelong Montreal Canadiens and New England Patriot fan, and was fortunate to travel to see both play in the past year with lifelong friends.

Ed's beautiful life was full of love, adventure, gratitude and awe.

The family wishes to thank the Extramural nurses, OTs, Dr. Harb, Dr. Bakanisi and in particular their family physician and friend, Dr Amel Fekhar, for their endless compassion and dedication throughout Ed's illness.

Ed will be sadly miss by his wife of 32 years Susan McCarthy, son Liam, daughter Hannah, his mother Marion Doucette, sister Annette Sidock (Jim), brother Bruce Muise, and several nieces, and nephews. Ed was also deeply loved by all his McCarthy in-law's (Colleen, Patty, Danny, Mary and David) and enjoyed lasting friendships with all of them.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 19 from 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 9:00 pm (with Parish Prayers starting at 8:30 PM) from Fergusons Funeral Home, 1657 Mountain Rd. Moncton, NB (506-858-1995). A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated from St. Bernard's Catholic Church (43 Botsford St.) on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 11:00 am., with Rev. Charles Broderick presiding. Reception to follow in the Church Hall. Private Interment, Elmwood Cemetery, Moncton. Donations in Ed's memory may be made to the Karing Kitchen or the Dobson Trail Maintenance Fund. Online condolences may be shared through the Funeral Home Facebook Page. www.fergusonsfuneralhome.com

James Alvin Boucher – June 11, 1946-July 9, 2023



It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing at home of a jokester known to all by "Al" on Sunday July 9th, 2023 at 77 years of age. Born in Surette's Island, he was a son of the late Jacques and Anita (Surette) Boucher.

Tinsmith by trade "Al" was known to for his card tricks which have now gone to heaven with him. You could always find Al smoking in Al's Pad or on the front steps waving to beeping passer by's. After he retired in 2013, he enjoyed the simple things in life; his crosswords, playing bingo, measuring the well water and listening to CIFA requesting a song every Sunday for himself and his wife. Al had a huge heart having swam Eel Lake twice in the 80's raising money for the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation towards a kidney machine and talking books were purchased for CNIB and HOPE.

Alvin is survived by his loving wife, Theresa Anne (Pothier) Boucher; son, Jamey (Erin), Boucher, Surette's Island; Lynette (Sheldon) Doucette, Amirault's Hill; brother, Neil (Doreen) Boucher, Shediac, NB; grandchildren, Suzanne (Jordan), Paige, Sianna and Megan; foster sisters Eileen and Geraldine and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Huskilson's Funeral Home, Yarmouth. A visitation will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 from 6-8 p.m. with prayers at 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. from Saint Anne's Catholic Church, Ste. Anne-du-Ruisseau on Friday, July 14, 2023. A burial will be held at Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Surette's Island following the mass. Family flowers only please. Donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia or charity of choice. You may leave a message of condolence for the family by visiting www.huskilson.net

Sally Anne Boudreau – August 28, 1943 - July 16, 2023

Boudreau, Sally - age 79, Yarmouth N.S., passed away peacefully at home with family by her side on July 16 th, 2023. Born August 28th, 1943 in Wedgeport, she was the daughter of Willie and Rosa (Pothier) Cottreau. Sally was a homemaker in recent years, but was well known in the past for her passion in crafts and knitting, with her “Crafts Chez Nous” shop in her home in Wedgeport throughout the 80’s and into the 90’s. She also had a true green thumb, with the countless gardens and flowers that she lovingly attended to while living in Wedgeport and in Bell Neck. Bingo was another pastime of Sally’s for which she was well known for throughout Yarmouth County. Those that knew Sally were well aware of her love of all people, especially the love she held for her husband and her entire family. Sally is survived by the love of her life of 58 years, Del Boudreau, daughter Leona (Floyd) D’Entremont, sons

Calvin (Tracy) and Scotty (Deborah), as well as by grandchildren Jean-Marc, Giselle, Riley, Carson, Dominic, Madison, Kaleb and Emilee. Also survived by great-grandchildren Emma, Graydon and Léo. Aside from her parents, she was predeceased by brothers Joe and Jackie Cottreau. Visitation will take place on Thursday July 20 th from 6-8pm at Huskilson’s Funeral Home in Wedgeport. A funeral service will take place on Friday July 21st at Huskilson’s Funeral Home in Wedgeport at 11 am, with a reception following the service at the Wedgeport legion from 12-1:30. Reverend Bill Newell will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gilles Boudreau and Friends Cancer Help Fund. The family is very grateful for the loving care that was given to Sally from everyone at the VON, Home Care and the Cancer Clinic in Yarmouth. Arrangements have been entrusted to H.M Huskilson’s Funeral Homes, with burial in Wedgeport. You can sign the online guestbook by visiting www.huskilson.net.

Edward Amédé Leblanc– November 6, 1931 - July 25, 2023

LeBLANC, Edward Amédé – age 91, Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau, passed away peacefully at Bay Side Home in Barrington Passage on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 surrounded by family. Born November 6, 1931 in Abram’s River, he was a son of the late Edward LeBlanc and Blanche (LeBlanc) Muise. Edward worked as a school teacher for all of his adult life, but his story begins at the age of 13, when he took a job working at the Yarmouth Airport, subsequently going on to work with Nova Scotia Power when they were bringing electricity to Surette’s Island, as well as selling meat for Sobeys and K-Food. He then began his studies to become a school teacher, having attended Normal College, where he obtained his Level 1 teaching certificate, and going on to further his studies in Bathurst during the summers, and spending a year at Acadia University, eventually obtaining his Level 6 teaching certificate. Throughout his long career, he taught at schools throughout the Municipality of Argyle, namely in Tusket, Amirault’s Hill and Springhaven, however he would spend the majority of his time teaching high



school at École Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau. He and his son Brian also partnered in running Bri-Ed Enterprises (rental properties). A very community-minded and sociable individual, Edward was also a Councillor for the Municipality of the District of Argyle, where he went on to serve as Warden. He was also a member and Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus (former Council 8988, Tusket) as well as the Msgr. W. E. Young Fourth Degree Assembly, the SAR New Horizons, was past president of the Nova Scotia Teacher’s Union, served on the board of directors for Nakile Home for Special Care, was a faithful member of St. Anne’s Church where he served on parish council, cemetery committee and finance committee, as well as serving as lector and eucharistic minister. In his younger years he helped build salt haystacks in Amirault’s Hill, showed movies for Holy Family Parish, and had a segment on Radio CJLS where he would share old recipes. Spending time with his family and friends brought Edward great joy.

In his spare time, he loved spending time outdoors, clam-digging, planting gardens and working in his yard, and he looked forward to his yearly mackerel fishing trips with Marcel while touring the Tusket Islands. He and Elsie traveled extensively and they also enjoyed playing cards and bowling, and looked forward to helping (and often organizing) the Knights of Columbus food bank drives. He and his wife Elsie also bred and sold Chihuahuas for a number of years. Edward will be remembered for many things, including his love of cars and especially for his distinguishing penmanship/calligraphy, but he will mostly be remembered as a kind and generous man with a quick wit and a wonderful, dry sense of humour. Edward is survived by his wife of 69 years, Delsie Anne "Elsie" (Muisse) LeBlanc, as well as by their children, Brian (Christelle) LeBlanc, Belleville; Darlene (Gary) Fraughton, Quinan; Eldon (Denise) LeBlanc, Fall River and Simone (Cecil) Muise, Quinan, along with grandchildren, Jonathan, Cody (Elvira), Bryann (Jim), Ryan (Cynthia), Joel (Shyla), Nate, Tabettha (Dale), Caitlin (Arthur), Jennifer (Robert) and Amy (Greg), 14 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Aside from his parents, he was predeceased by a grandson, Stephen Muise, as well as by brothers and sisters, Pauline Muise, Flavien Muise, Jules Muise, Lorraine Muise, Nancy Jacquard and Martin Muise. Visitation will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday with prayers at 7 p.m. at H.M. Huskison's Funeral Home, 29 Albert Street, Yarmouth. A funeral Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, July 31 from Saint Anne's Catholic Church, Ste-Anne-du-Ruisseau, Father Mathieu Agbaya officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. It has been requested that there be family flowers only. Donations in memory of Edward may be made to a local food bank or to charity of your choice. You may sign the online guestbook or leave messages of condolence for the family by visiting www.huskilson.net. The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to the staff at Bay Side Home, whose care and compassion did not go unnoticed.



HISTORY SECTION

In this summer issue of the 35th volume of *The Argus*, we are very pleased to present four very different articles for our members. First up, Peter Crowell takes a moment to reflect on the significant involvement of Anne (Porter) and George Sorensen. Next, Ralph Surette describes a mystery solved which dates back to an artifact he first came into contact with in the 1970s. Cody Donaldson is back, this time with a bit of sleuthing of his own as he unravels the story behind a name etched into a window on a young woman's 16th birthday. Finally, Ray Amiro presents a short story describing the very beginning of what would become a long and successful career in music for a young woman from East Pubnico.

When we learned of Ann Sorensen's passing, retired Municipal Historian & Archivist, Peter Crowell, asked that we delay the republication of her obituary to allow him time to fully describe the relationship and tremendous contributions made by Ann and her husband, George, during the years that they were affiliated with the AMHGS. His piece "Ann Porter Sorensen: A Personal Tribute," is just that; a moment of personal reflection on contributions made and a friendship forged while the couple catalogued the extensive Sweeny's Funeral Home records and also the deeds for Yarmouth and Argyle municipalities dating back to 1774.

Ralph Surette appeared on the doorstep on a cold and windy late winter afternoon with a curious map. He had phoned earlier and asked if we would like to take a look at it, not being one to stop in unannounced. Naturally we jumped at the chance. He had in his possession a hand-drawn, blueprint map simply titled "Belleville 1800-1930." The map now belongs to Janice Muise who gave us permission to have it scanned. This was no small feat given that it was significantly larger than any scanner we had at the archives. However, after determining that it was robust enough to withstand the process, we were able to have it digitized locally. A unique and valuable source of information about the early inhabitants of Belleville, Ralph peels back the layers of his sleuthing to determine exactly who the mysterious cartographer was.

AMHGS vice-president, Cody Donaldson's love of a good story is perhaps matched only by his ability to dig far and wide, gathering snippets and details through his research to complete whatever story he is telling. In his article, "Written on the Window" part one, Cody introduces us to young Evelyn Goodwin and through the description of her early life provides a compelling account of growing up in Lower Argyle in the late 1800s.

Finally, in his first contribution to *The Argus*, Ray Amiro shares the story of Audrey (Amirault) Alexander's introduction to music. She would go on to become a highly successful and accomplished musician with a career that spanned 50 years. A refreshing retrospective of a pivotal moment in a young girl's life and in contrast to the content we usually share, Ray has written his piece for a younger audience.

We have been extremely fortunate of late to receive contributions for future issues of *The Argus* and look forward to presenting pieces from the father daughter team of Emily and Denis Bourque, Susan Gray and Joel LeFave. Former board member and onetime *Argus* guest editor Susan Young (volume 13 number 4) observed in her guest editor's notes that, "*The Argus* always needs material, but it doesn't necessarily have to be lengthy. If any of you feel at all inclined to put your memories on paper, however brief, or to contribute the results of your research, perhaps *The Argus* is the place to share your thoughts." The same rings true today, we are always happy to receive new submissions of any length!

Judy Frotten; Phil Cassidy
Editors

ANN (PORTER) SORENSEN: A Personal Tribute

by
Peter Crowell

Society member Ann (Porter) Sorensen died on 11 March 2023, just short of reaching her 101st birthday. The last few years of her life were spent at the Meadows, one of Yarmouth’s long-term care facilities. She lived for as long as she could in her own home in Springdale, Digby County, Nova Scotia. Springdale is one of those communities situated just barely across the Yarmouth/Digby County line. The home that she and her husband, the late George Sorensen built there in their retirement in the 1970s was situated, along with some other houses, on property that had been in the Porter family for several generations.

I first met Ann and her husband George, sometime around 1984-85, and what was initially an acquaintance, grew into an important personal and professional relationship. We shared a passion for family and local history, and they were serious researchers, careful to document the sources for their material. I first became aware of one of their major projects, which was the indexing of the records of Sweeny’s Funeral Home, established in Yarmouth, NS around 1890, and still in business today. I had never met anyone with so much patience for proofreading – over and over – to keep any errors in their work to a minimum. Both George and Ann had spent their professional lives in the US, much of it in Massachusetts, before retiring to Springdale. Ann’s entry in her book, *The Porter Family of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (pp.514-515)*, describes their working lives, and it is clear she was employed in a number of positions that required the kind of attention to detail that she brought to her other pursuits, both professional and private.



Pg: 106 Order: McKay, R. S.	Chg: Estate
Place Died: Yar. Hospital	Cause: Pneumonia
Name: Andrews, Mary	Age: 82
Where Born: Melbourne	Religion: Methodist
Cemetery: Arcadia	Church: x
Funeral: 7 Dec 1918	Minister: Jost
Notes: x	
Pg: 106 Order: Hurlbert, Chas.-Tusket	Chg: Municipality of Argyle
Place Died: Yarmouth	Cause: Pneumonia
Name: Van Emburg, Mary	Age: 20
Where Born: Argyle	Religion: Baptist
Cemetery: Argyle	Church: x
Funeral: 10 Dec 1918	Minister: x
Notes: x	
Pg: 107 Order: Riviles, Mrs.	Chg: Riviles, Abram Mrs.
Place Died: Yarmouth	Cause: Pneumonia
Name: Riviles, Abraham	Age: 36
Where Born: Odessa, Russia	Religion: Jewish
Cemetery: Jewish	Church: Jewish
Funeral: 11 Dec 1918	Minister: x
Notes: x	
Pg: 107 Order: Blackadar, Arch	Chg: Municipality of Yar.
Place Died: Yarmouth	Cause: Pneumonia
Name: Surrett, Mondie & Baby	Age: 36
Where Born: x	Religion: Roman
Cemetery: Roman	Church: Roman
Funeral: 12 Dec 1918	Minister: x
Notes: Mondie Surretts Baby buried with father.	
Pg: 108 Order: Thibault, Miss	Chg: same
Place Died: Yar. Hospital	Cause: Strangulated Hernia
Name: Thibault, John	Age: 60
Where Born: Port Gilbert	Religion: Roman
Cemetery: Roman	Church: Roman
Funeral: x	Minister: x
Notes: x	
Pg: 108 Order: Blams, Enslow	Chg: Municipality of Argyle
Place Died: Yar. Hospital	Cause: Influenza
Name: Kinney, Florence	Age: 28
Where Born: Argyle	Religion: x
Cemetery: Argyle Poor Farm	Church: x
Funeral: 18 Dec 1918	Minister: x
Notes: x	
Pg: 109 Order: Jeffery, Frank	Chg: same
Place Died: Overton	Cause: Influenza
Name: Jeffery, Frances Charlott	Age: 52
Where Born: Annapolis	Religion: Baptist
Cemetery: Chegogin	Church: x
Funeral: 19 Dec 1918	Minister: Bazanokh
Notes: x	

Above: the Sorensen’s Sweeney Funeral Records. To the right, a page from December 1918 is a snapshot of the community at the time. In this case four entries are for pneumonia and two are for influenza. In reality all six deaths would have most likely been caused by the 1918 pandemic. We also see a gentleman immigrated from Russia and, tragically the passing of a young father and infant who were buried together. This record is a fascinating glimpse into the past.

George and Ann produced an index and a briefing of the Sweeny’s Funeral Records, which immediately became an important and essential tool for researchers. The 27 black binders dominate the top far left shelf and a half of their perch in the archives Research Room and based on the dates on the cover page, represent three years of careful indexing noting that, “Handwriting varies greatly and phonetic spelling [was] frequent.”



They were, however, most impressive in their willingness to share their work with the broader public. At their own expense, they printed and deposited hard copies of the Sweeny’s records with the Yarmouth County Museum Archives, the Argyle Township Court House Archives, and with the Nova Scotia Archives.

The Sorensen’s were also extremely interested in the early land grants and land transactions in Yarmouth County, primarily for the Yarmouth Township half of Yarmouth County. I am sure this was in many ways connected with Ann’s focus on sorting out Porter properties – because her research into the history of the Porter family was a project that spanned more than 50 years.

Regardless, what she and her husband George produced was a remarkable record of the land transactions for Yarmouth Township from the first recorded deeds up until the year 1824. They

Top: the series of binders that hold the records of recorded deeds and inset below that, an excerpt from the collection showing the detail recorded for each deed whenever possible.

briefed each deed description, but also in the process, indexed and produced a remarkable finding-aid.

Their index of those deeds not only listed the buyers and sellers of land, but much more. Every abutting property, every witness to the deeds, every unusual place name, every Justice of the Peace signing the deeds, and much more was included and indexed. I can assure the reader, no other jurisdiction in Nova Scotia has such a research tool at their disposal, and probably never will have. Again, not many people come around with the patience for detail and proofreading that Ann and George Sorensen possessed.

When I first encountered their deed work, I was suspicious that they were the type of researchers that would have initially gathered information on all Yarmouth County deeds, even though the finished product they produced was for Yarmouth Township. I kept asking them (perhaps it might have amounted to whining!) “What about Argyle? What about Argyle?” Indeed, they returned to their original notes and information, and produced the same type of records for the land transactions in Argyle Township.

As with their Sweeny's Funeral Home records, they printed a similar index for Argyle – all at their own expense – and delivered copies to the Argyle Township Archives. I cannot express what an enormous gift this has been. Again, no other jurisdiction in Nova Scotia has this type of research tool at their disposal.

I need to pause here and explain some other things related to all of this. George and Ann (Porter) Sorensen, who were retired seniors, were among the very first people I had encountered who had realized the importance of, and embraced, the new computer age. They did much of their work on computer, long before most of us had even imagined we might have “home computers.” I certainly did not have one!

These were early days, and what I remember is that it took a “suite” of computer programs to produce the products the Sorensen couple were generating. The database component of their work was done in a program called “Data Star,” word processing adjustments were made in something called “Word Star,” and the finished product generated through yet a third, called “Report Star.”

Again – with their work on Yarmouth County deeds, they were eager to share their work, and hard-copies were produced for our archives, and others.

Ann and George, in the early years of our friendship, returned to the US each winter to spend time in Arizona. Although I am sure they did other things while wintering there, they often carried their research with them, and continued to work on various projects. In *The Argus*, vol.3 no.3, Fall 1991, the following item was published:

“A ‘THANK YOU’ TO ANN SORENSEN – We wish to extend a special thank you to Ann Sorensen, for the loan of her SANYO computer, monitor and printer to the archives over the past year ...

“It was wonderful to have the use of this computer for so long, while we deliberated, before taking the plunge to buy one for the archives. Ann, and her husband, the late George Sorensen, have shown their generosity to our Society in many ways over the past several years. We thank them again for all that they have done and wish Ann well with her continuing research and work on the computer.”

This literally was the Society's and the archives' introduction to computers, and the first one was purchased in the months that followed. This too, was the time period where very few people actually had home computers. That SANYO on loan to the archives, although fully functional, did not even have a hard drive! It required both a program “floppy” and a data “floppy” to operate. And yes – at that time the disks were truly “floppy.” How time marches on!

Much later, in the 1990s, Ann shared all of her database files for their larger projects with the Argyle Township Court House Archives. By that time, we had been fortunate enough to have Rose (Muisse) MacKinnon, at that time of Raynardton, volunteering at our archives. Rose built all of the databases still in use at the archives today. Rose built the databases in Microsoft Access which mirrored the Sorensen databases and first moved all of the data from the Sweeny Funeral Home databases created by the Sorensens into the new program. While the Sorensens had entered data up to the year 1960, we were able to add to the database by borrowing records from the funeral home and extended the contents up to the year 2000.

The same basic procedures were followed by Rose MacKinnon with the Sorensens' data on Yarmouth County Deeds. What all of this meant was that all of this information was safe guarded for the future with the ability to extend the databases. This was important, as Ann Sorensen had stopped working on those projects to concentrate on her life-long project, completing the Porter book in 2010. This 808p. “tome” is, in my opinion, the most superior published genealogy for any Yarmouth County family to date. This is no surprise to anyone familiar with the standards George and Ann applied to all of their work.

The launch of Ann's Porter book took place at the Argyle Township Archives in 2010 in our new archives building and we have continued to sell the Porter book at our "Cell" gift shop since that time.

I did have other affiliations with Ann over the years which were not so directly coupled with "work." Ann had many talents and was a skilled craftsperson in a number of areas. For a long period of time in her retirement she was also a potter. She built a small cottage business producing commercial pottery, much of it for the tourism industry, and among other things she produced a range of thimbles and fridge magnets that were marketed annually to small and large businesses throughout the province. She and George attended large craft shows and built up a substantial clientele. When she decided to retire from those activities, she basically turned over the business to my former partner, the late Dan Mackill, and he continued on with the business for another three to four years.

In connection with that, and the other interests we had in common, we often visited Ann and George at their home in Springdale and then with Ann, after George's death in 1990. During those years, she cared for her mother, Mabel, in her home and we were included on the guest list for Mabel's 100th birthday celebration. I was always impressed with the care and kind of attention Ann applied to her mother and her mother's health. For instance, even on short visits one usually saw Ann administer eye-drops at least once. No wonder that 100+ Mabel was still reading large print books!

I first came to work for the Municipality of Argyle in March 1985, and this was the same period when I would have first met the Sorensens. The Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society was incorporated in February 1989, primarily to support the work being carried out in the museum and archives, which had been in operation since 1983. Our first Annual General Meeting was held at the Argyle Township Court House in June 1989. At the end of our first year, we had 75 Society members. Many of those founding members were people already familiar with the work being carried out by this facility during the earliest years of its existence. In the original membership book, one finds the names of George and Ann Sorensen as numbers 17 and 18 among the founding members.

We also have a series of photographs that were taken at that first AGM in June 1989, and close scrutiny of the photos (some are not of the greatest quality), one can find both Ann and George at the meeting.

After some 10 years of operation, the Society's Board of Directors decided to institute three annual awards to acknowledge significant contributions to the Society and to the preservation of local history. Those awards are the Argyle Township Heritage Award, a Distinguished Volunteer Award, and a Great Neighbour Award. The Argyle Township Heritage Award is presented to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions over a very long period of time. The first Argyle Township Heritage Award was presented at the Society's 2001 Annual General Meeting, and that first award was presented to Ann Sorensen and to her late husband, George. In fact, that year, two Argyle Township Heritage Awards were given, the late Kenneth and Doris Peter, founding members and Directors of the Society, were also given the same award in recognition of their significant contributions to the Society.

There is more that I could write about, but hopefully this will give our members some appreciation for the important contributions to local life and local history that both George and Ann (Porter) Sorensen have left as a legacy for all of us. The painstaking care they brought to all of their work is impressive. But what is even more impressive was their willingness not to hoard such work for themselves, but to so generously share it with the community at large.

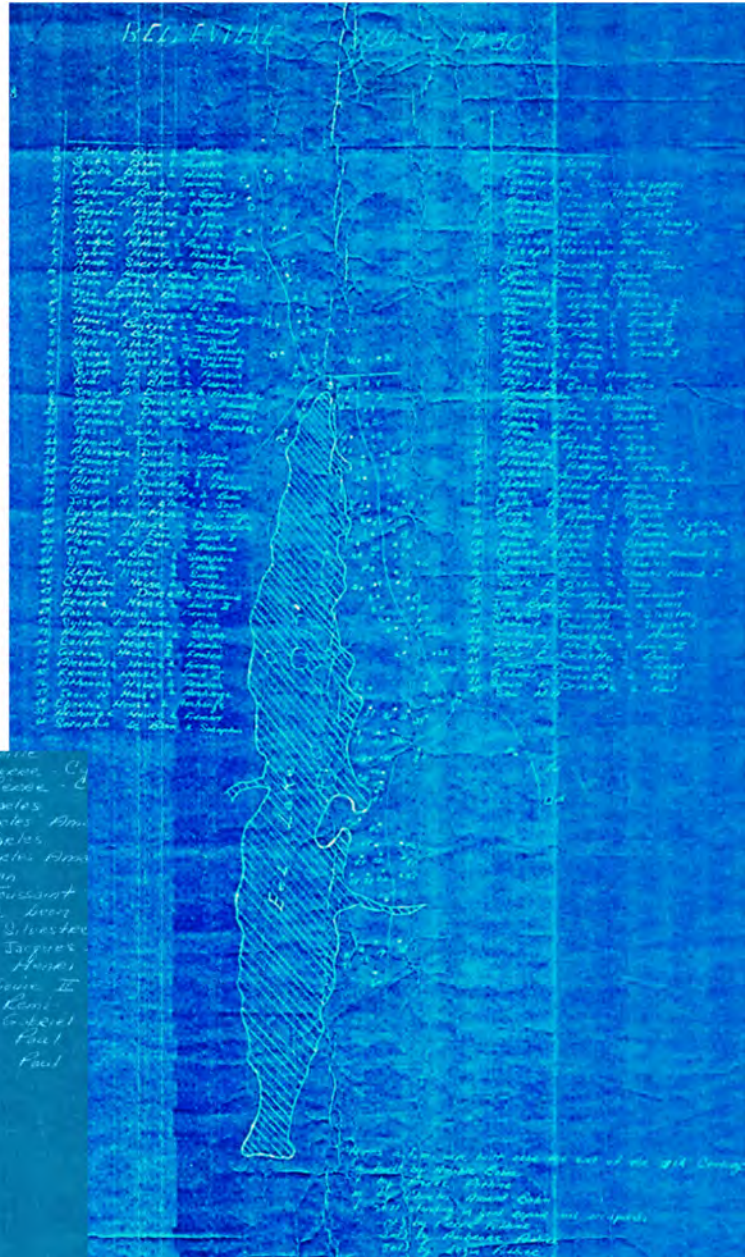
Lives well-and-fully lived! Thank you, George! Thank you, Ann! For all of this, but perhaps most of all for your legacy of friendship to our historical society and our archives.

JOSEPH BABIN MAP

by Ralph Surette

Sometime in the early 1970s, Benoit Muise, son of Charlotte and Clarence Muise of South Belleville, showed up from Toronto where he was working with an unusual and eye-catching artifact. It was a map of all the houses in Belleville before 1930, naming owners and their paternal line, involving a great deal of research and done by hand, with exquisite writing on blueprint paper reminiscent of those finely done mariners' maps from sailing ship days.

It was somewhat faded and hard to read, but there was a companion printed version, presumably meant to be a working copy. Charlotte loaned me that one and I copied and re-copied it and have been handing it around to people looking for old connections ever since, impressed by the information it gave about the origins of the village. I've consulted it over and over, always fascinated. It's an invaluable resource for anyone looking into who was where in the old days and their family connections.



Above; the entire map actually measures approximately 76 x 123 cm or 30" x 48". Left; the section of the map that shows the location of Jovite's home. All map images are from a scan of the original map in the possession of Janice Muise.

Editor's note: Without a doubt these map images have proven to be the most challenging to date! Special thanks to Keith Doucette and Garth Wyman at Sunrise Printing for helping us to wrangle them into this issue.

"But who had done it?" Charlotte threw up a questioning hand and said, "They say, Joseph à Jovite." No certainty there. Joseph à Jovite Babin was a carpenter from down the road who had gone to the States in the 1920s. Was it really him? Maybe one of his more educated children? And why was it coming from Toronto?



This is a photograph of Edmund, son of Joseph Babin; Evangeline Babin, wife of Joseph; Bernard Babin, son of Joseph; Elizabeth Babin, daughter of Joseph; and Joseph à Jovite Babin. Photo was taken in June 1943. Bernard is in military uniform. ATCHA Photo: P1997:296

The question always hovered whenever I picked up the map. Then last summer I was talking about old times with Sandra (Sandy) Surette Hartman, who lives in Massachusetts but vacations on Rocco Point. Her mother came from Belleville (her Surette father from Lower Eel Brook).

When I mentioned the hypothetical Joseph à Jovite, she exclaimed: “Oh, that was my mother's Uncle Joe”—and indisputably the author of the map!”

Eureka. With some extra digging by both of us, the story unfolded as follows.

Joseph à Jovite (1872-1967), left Belleville with the family in 1925 at the age of 53. He was married to a neighbour, Evangéline Bourque (1877-1959) à Louis à Toussaint. They had five children: Bernard, Elisabeth, Marguerite, Estelle and Edmund.

Sandra remembers them in Stoneham, MA, visiting back and forth—her grandmother, Rose, was a sister to Evangeline, and her mother, Louise, was especially close to Elisabeth, who was her cousin. Other than that, the details are few—except for the significant one: Joseph had linked up with Father Clarence d'Entremont, historian and genealogist *par excellence* for the Acadians of Yarmouth County who was in New England at the time, and the two of them went around interviewing expatriate Acadians, Père Clarence working on his histories, Joseph presumably on his map.

Coral d'Entremont, genealogist attached to the Musée Acadiens in West Pubnico who knew Père Clarence well, says the priest would talk about him, saying he was “the most knowledgeable person he'd ever known with regard to family connections and genealogy of the western Nova Scotia Acadians—not just with regard to Belleville and environs, but everywhere, including Clare.”

Joseph's house, built by his father Jovite (baptised as Joseph) was at the present civic # 363. After they left, it was occupied by the John and Olive Cunningham family until the mid 1940s, then the Maurice and Evelyn LeFave family until the early 1960s, then the Nelson and Rita Dulong family, and has recently been resold.

After they left, they appear to have never returned. The late Avite Pothier once told me that the boys were his friends and he had personally taken the family's luggage to the railroad station with the ox and cart. “After that I never saw them again,” he said, sounding disappointed. Evangeline was an aunt to Pauline Bourque, who inherited the family home. Pauline, who died last fall and was well known in these parts for her involvement in community affairs, told me she had never met any of them, since they had left before she was born and had not returned.

And so, the map was entirely done in New England, perhaps as a retirement project—although presumably Joseph knew plenty before he left.

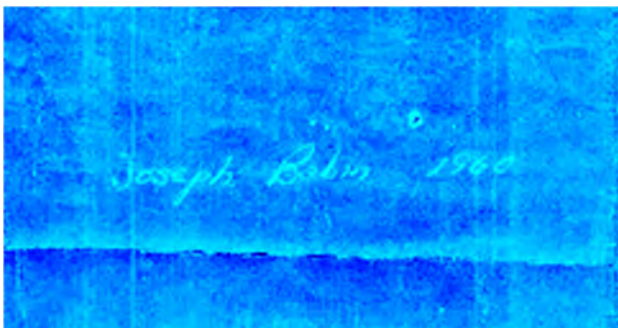
Which leads to another point. Joseph and family didn't leave alone. A half dozen families left as one—all more or less related, leaving five neighbouring houses empty as part of that large movement to New England of people leaving the hard-luck Maritimes where the Great Depression had started early. Neighbours included Albert and Denny Bourque, Evangéline's brothers, plus three other Babin families: Eloi "Babe" Babin, Mary and Esley Babin and Francois à Thaddée Babin.

The point being that, at the time when Joseph created his map, places like Wakefield, Stoneham, Melrose and other Boston suburbs where expatriate Acadians gathered, and were doing better economically than relatives back home, were likely more active with Acadian life than the actual villages here. Doing an Acadian historical project would have been as easy there as here.

It's not clear what Joseph did with the map after he finished it, or how far and wide he spread it around. It seems to have gone to the Acadian diaspora, (including in Toronto, where local Acadians had been going, along with other Maritimers, since the 1940s) showing up only in Belleville itself seemingly by accident after he died. I would have liked to have questioned my friend Benoit about who gave it to him, but alas he died tragically shortly after delivering the map to his mother.

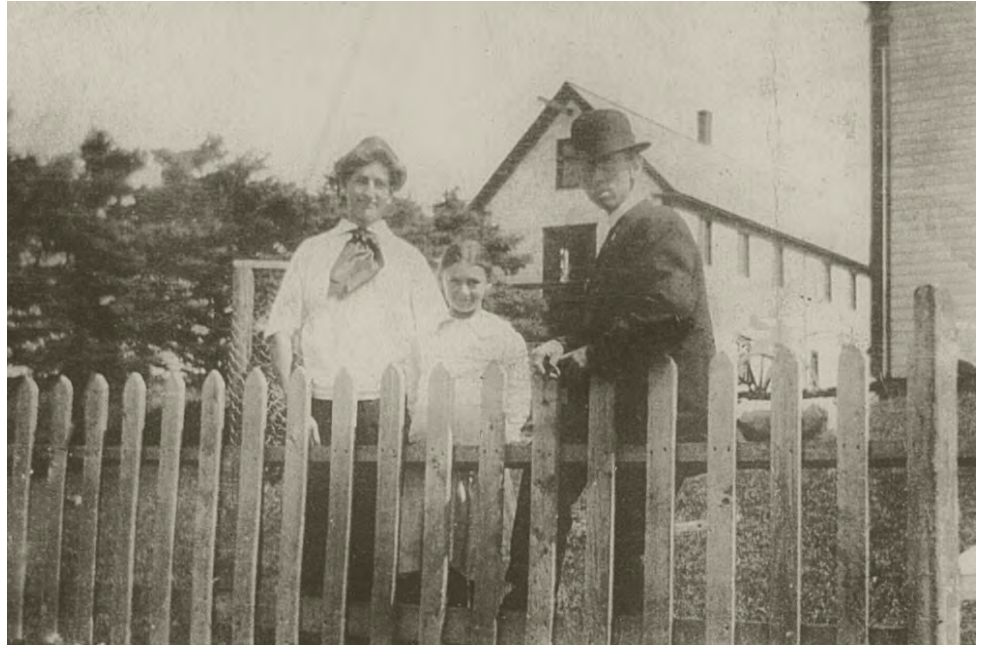
His sister Janice Muise of Abrams River had the maps in her possession. Copies are available at these archives for anyone who wants to consult them.

Originally, Charlotte and I had only glanced at the blueprint map—was it the original? Because it was so hard to read. Examining it now, I found myself somewhat embarrassed. There, in a corner, in faded script, was the author's name: Joseph Babin. My long mystery had actually been unnecessary.



Anyone, especially in New England, who knows more about all this is welcome to contact me at rjsuret@eastlink.ca, or write into these archives.

The irrefutable evidence!

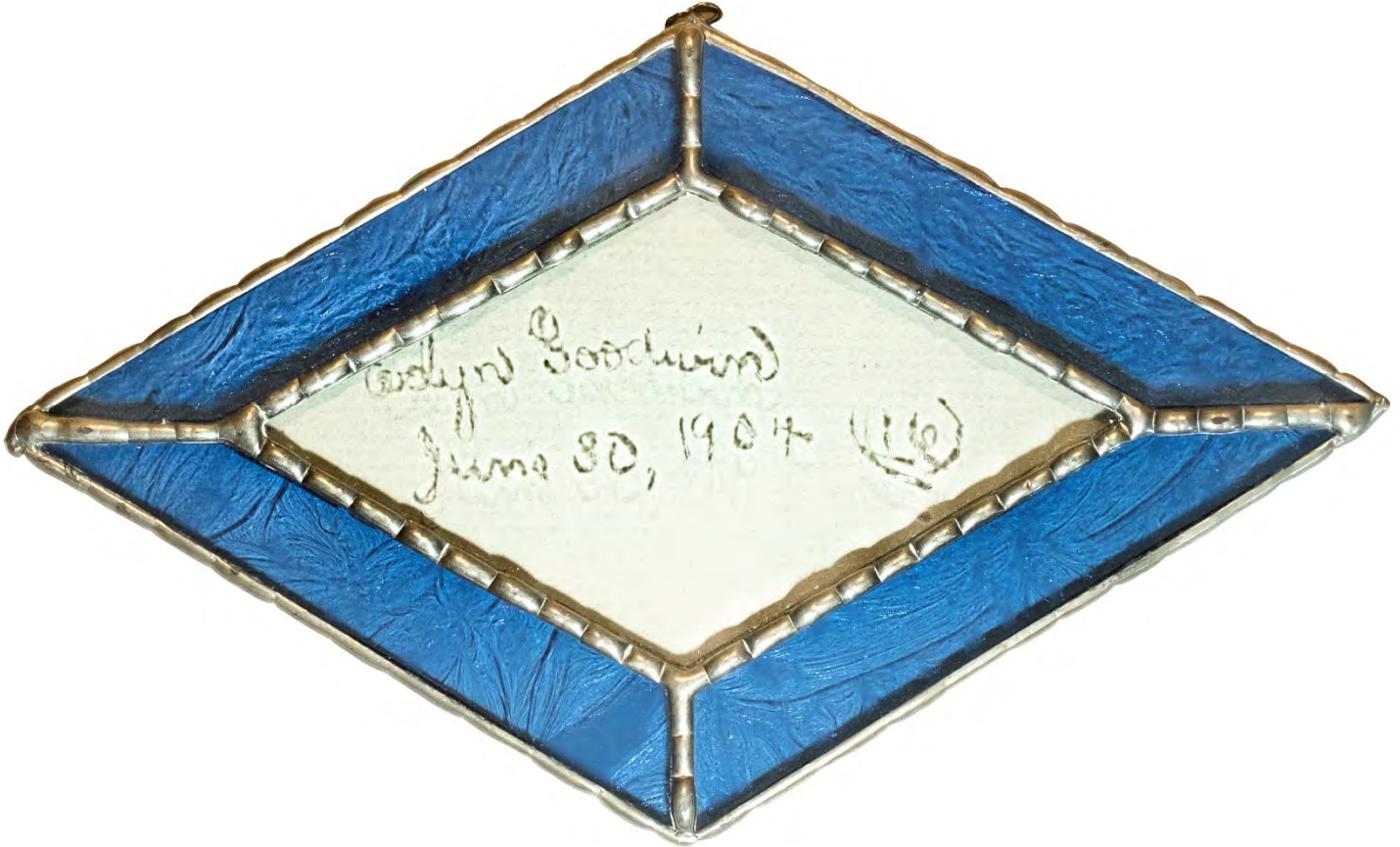


Joseph à Jovite Babin, his wife Evangéline Bourque and daughter Elisabeth in front of Evangéline's father's mill next door to his own house, prior to their departure from Belleville in 1925. The mill was demolished in the 1950s, but the Louis/Arthur Bourque house (mostly out of sight to the right) was inherited by Evangéline's niece, the late Pauline Bourque. Photo courtesy of the author.

WRITTEN ON THE WINDOW

Cody W. Donaldson

This article is dedicated to the memory of Shelley Masterson (née Whitehead), 1936-2023, who was so gracious in sharing her memories of her grandmother, Evelyn.



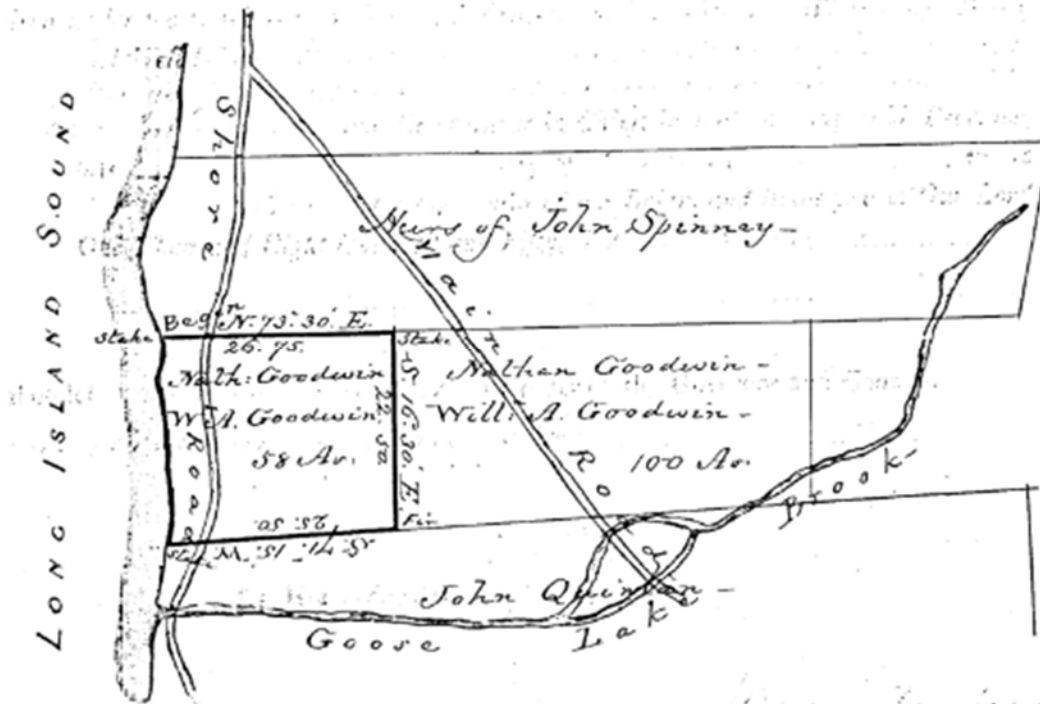
Cutting from a window in the Capt. William A. Goodwin house at Lower Argyle showing Evelyn Goodwin's name etched on the glass surface. Photo supplied by Keith Doucet.

There is something special about holding a piece of history in your hand. Artifacts and family heirlooms stimulate the imagination in a way a document rarely can. As families often pass down stories anchored in physical objects, these material items have both sentimental and historical value. The inspiration for this article stems from an unusual piece which was passed to me recently: a name written on the glass surface of a window. On the 30th of June 1904, a young Evelyn Goodwin etched her name into a window of her home at Lower Argyle on the occasion of her sixteenth birthday.

I am grateful to my late grandmother's long-time neighbour, Linda (Conrad) Greene, for the care she took in preserving this unique piece of Lower Argyle history. The Conrad family took up residence in the Goodwin house during the late 1950s. Linda had always been curious to learn more about the lady who left her name on the window and she eventually had a cutting made from the portion with Evelyn's signature and arranged for it to be placed in a stained glass setting. She asked me if I could tell her anything about Evelyn and so I am pleased to offer some answers to her question with this article.

Evelyn Mayne Goodwin was born at Lower Argyle in 1888, the daughter of Capt. William Alfred and Melissa Emmeline (Goodwin) Goodwin. Vital statistics maintained for the province indicate her parents were married on the 5th of December 1868 by Baptist minister Rev. George W. Parker.

William was listed as being a mariner, 22 years of age, and Melissa, a spinster of 18 years. Based on the ensuing birth records for their children, the Goodwins remained residents in the area. In order, their children were: Frederick, Martha, Cora (died as an infant), Locke, Cora, Evelyn and Harry. Of particular note is the age difference of nearly 22 years between the first and last born children, meaning that Evelyn's oldest siblings were already of working age by the time she entered school.



Plan of 1867 Crown Land Grant to Wm. A. and Nathan Goodwin at Lower Argyle. Grant #7967.

It seems that Evelyn spent the first years of her life living in the section of Lower Argyle which follows the road into Argyle Sound. Here, she was surrounded by extended family. Within roughly two kilometres' distance, she could visit her paternal grandmother, maternal grandparents and various aunts and uncles, which is not an uncommon configuration of kin networks for this time period in Argyle. Although Evelyn's parents would later move the household to another location in the community, family was never very far away during her childhood.

The "Before Years"

In religious and social circles, Evelyn's father, William, benefited from an excellent reputation. His name is found on the 1875 list of pew rentals for the Free Baptist Church at Lower Argyle, where he paid one of the highest rents at a total of \$8.25 for the year. Prominent in temperance activities, he was appointed to the role of president for the Lower Argyle Reform Club when it was formed in 1877. Community news columns point to Evelyn and her older sister Martha sharing their father's predisposition to active involvement in local groups and initiatives.

Each side of the Goodwin family was composed of mariners and fishermen. Ships carried them to fishing grounds and ports both near and far. While no doubt adventurous, life at sea was fraught with risk. Women in Evelyn's family were well-acquainted with the stinging loss of loved ones swallowed up by an oftentimes merciless Atlantic Ocean. Both of her grandmothers were compelled to face more than their fair share of grief.

Her paternal grandmother, Eleanor (Gayton) Goodwin, lost first a nephew and then a brother in the short span of less than two years. In December of 1878, James A. Gayton, master of the schooner *Moero* was on a voyage from Yarmouth to St. Kitts, carrying fish and lumber. He drowned in a violent storm which overturned the vessel and his body was recovered by two crew members once the dangerous weather had passed. The tragedy was recorded in J. Murray Lawson's *Record of the Shipping of Yarmouth, N.S.*, as well as Jackson Ricker's *Historical Sketches of Glenwood & The Argyles*.

On Monday morning the wind moderated, and they were able to lighten the vessel by clearing away the masts which were broken off, and the chains and anchors. The vessel then came back on her bottom and they were enabled to recover the Captain's body from the cabin. On getting the body up to the deck they discovered a deep wound in the side of the head which must have rendered him unconscious, in which condition he was drowned. They regarded it as quite probable that Captain Gayton was thrown violently from his berth when the vessel capsized, and struck his head against the stove. He had been closely wrapped in his quilt and it still remained around him. While they were caring for the body of their Captain the sails of a barque came in view. Her course would have taken her two miles from them, but she saw their signals of distress and was coming to them. A sad and most pathetic incident in this terrible experience of these two survivors was the necessity of burying the body of their Captain in the sea before leaving the wreck. They had secured his Bible which had floated out of the cabin. The mate read a chapter and offered prayer, then weighted with an iron bar and wrapped in his quilt, the Captain's body was launched into the deep and the sad duty of these sailors was ended. By this time the barque had run down close to the wreck and sent a boat to the two men and soon carried them aboard.

—*Historical Sketches of Glenwood & The Argyles*, p. 45.

Less than two years had elapsed since her nephew's passing when Eleanor received the news that her brother, Jeremiah Gayton, lost his life in an accident while crossing the Atlantic. The family was once again sent into mourning. In his published work *The Gayton Genealogy*, the Hon. Albert Gayton recorded the following about Jeremiah's death:

JEREMIAH GAYTON, son of Thomas 1st, of Argyle, died at sea April 7th, 1880, on board barque *Clydesdale*, W. E. Trefry master, on voyage from Liverpool, England to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, aged about 50 years. Death was caused by falling from aloft on the vessel. He married Mary Wilson, of Liverpool, England, and had issue: A boy and a girl. The mother and these two children died before 1880.

—*The Gayton Genealogy*, p.7.

On the maternal side of Evelyn's family, her grandmother Martha had three sons who were all lost on the same ship in 1872, the *White Eagle*. This was a particularly devastating blow for the community as the master of the vessel and seven of the crew were Argyle and Pubnico men. Jackson Ricker referenced the disaster in his book, stating that "this sad occurrence would be cited by sailors and fishermen in support of a superstition that bad luck follows the vessel that carries three brothers in her crew" (p.47). The *Yarmouth Tribune* reported on the incident with particulars presumably taken from a Gloucester paper:

The fishing schr. *White Eagle*, of this port, Capt. Goodwin, sailed March 1st on a trip to the Grand Bank, and was detained by ice at Argyle, N.S., nearly a month, since which time nothing has been heard from her, and there is no reason to doubt that she had been lost with all on board. The *White Eagle* was a fine vessel of 70 tons burthen, built at Bath, Me., in 1869, and was owned by Messrs. Rowe & Jordan.

The Dispatch from which we quote gives a list of the crew of the *White Eagle*, of whom eight belonged to Argyle, in this County. The names of those belonging to Argyle are as follows: — Nelson Goodwin, master (leaves widow and 7 children); Warren Goodwin and James N. Goodwin (brothers of the master); Samuel Goodwin and Asa Goodwin (brothers); Jedediah Goodwin, Simeon Goodwin, and David Hines.



Photograph of a parallel rule used by Capt. William A. Goodwin. Photo supplied by George Whitehead III.

—*Yarmouth Tribune*, 25 September 1872

While hyperbolised tales of great catches and choppy waters were undoubtedly exchanged in her presence as she grew into adulthood, the very real and sombre story of her three uncles going down with the *White Eagle* left a lasting impression on Evelyn. Born after these moments of loss on both sides of her family, she was nonetheless affected by them on a personal level. As her granddaughter Shelley Masterson shared with me, it was evident that the “pain remained with her.” These complex layers of trauma and loss are important factors to consider in understanding Evelyn’s experience growing up in a coastal community where many families learned to navigate

the delicate balance of risk and reward inherent to the many forms of seagoing employment.

My direct knowledge of Evelyn’s younger years is limited, but we can ascertain and infer certain facts by drawing on available records. As we are about to examine developments in her life through documentary evidence, I wish to underline the fact that one of my major sources of information is a series of community news columns published in a local newspaper which are by nature limited in scope and detail. What follows is an incomplete and perhaps impersonal account, but I trust that it will serve to communicate, at least in part, her experience as she progressed through childhood and the trajectories of her close family members. What I have endeavoured to create is a mostly chronological and cohesive narrative from a very close reading of a large number of sources.



1888-1893

From a young age, Evelyn would quickly become accustomed to her father’s necessary pattern of absence due to the seasonal rhythm of the fishery. Although only cursory mentions are made, community news columns for Lower Argyle from the *Yarmouth Light* record his many trips. Notably, Evelyn’s birth fell within the period during which her father skippered A. N. Whitman & Co.’s schooner, *Geraldine*. Research carried out by Jerry Titus and deposited at ATCHA states that as master, Capt. William A. Goodwin piloted this boat which was at one time “the largest fishing schooner in Nova Scotia.”

The 1891 census paints an interesting picture of the Goodwin family. Unsurprisingly, Capt. Goodwin is referred to as a “master mariner.” While the enumerator indicated “fisherman” as an occupation for both Fred (19) and Locke (13), the same designation is extended to every child in the family, including Evelyn (3). It would seem probable that the older boys likely had some experience at sea, however, I have my doubts that Evelyn was working on a boat at that age. Generations of Goodwins had relied on the ocean and its bounty to make a living, but the cycle was bound to be broken. Fred and Locke would later seek land-based employment in adulthood.

Photograph of Captain William Alfred Goodwin. Photo supplied by Douglas Crawford.

By the 1890s, Evelyn's oldest siblings, Fred, Martha, and later Locke, were making the door of the family home swing quite frequently with their own coming and going. Mobility was a defining trait in their family. Community news columns in the *Yarmouth Light* for Lower Argyle point to Evelyn's older brothers spending time in Halifax, where they both take up residence for a short period, and later Massachusetts. Fred is noted to have returned from a trip to Gloucester. One of the earliest traces of his trips to the United States dates to June of 1887, which he



ATCHA Heritage Property Inventory photograph for the dwelling of Captain William A. Goodwin at Lower Argyle. HPI Film #110-8.

referenced in a claim made in his "Declaration of Intent" when applying for citizenship. Martha's movements are more difficult to follow, but there is reason to believe she may have traveled even further than her brothers. In June of 1891, a Lower Argyle community news column reported the following: "Miss Mattie Goodwin left here for Halifax on Monday June 8th. She intends going from there to the West Indies for a short time."

It is my impression that Capt. Goodwin and his wife Melissa understood very well that their children would greatly benefit from a suitable education. In keeping with the school sections of the era, Evelyn's older siblings would have attended the schoolhouse at Lower Argyle South, which was only a few minutes' distance from the Goodwin home. By the time Evelyn reached school age, her family had moved to a different part of the village, meaning that she would likely begin her formal education at the Lower Argyle Harbourview School, recently established to serve a growing community.

In September of 1892, a few months following Evelyn's fourth birthday, William and Melissa Goodwin purchased property belonging to James H. and Martha McLarren at Lower Argyle. Here, they appear to have remained on a mostly permanent basis until the mid-1910s. This relocation is interesting for several reasons, two of which I will highlight. Firstly, it brought the family to the completely opposite end of the village and much closer to Evelyn's paternal aunt, Lydia (Goodwin) McLarren, who was affectionately known as "Tidd." Secondly, it removed the family from land granted in 1867 to William and his uncle, Nathan Goodwin, after a complex history of occupation by Goodwins reaching back nearly 80 years to William's grandfather, David Goodwin (1784-1836).

Evelyn's father was involved in several land transactions before and after their move. He continued to be assessed for real estate in two tax districts until 1896, suggesting that he put his former home up for rent, possibly to family, while settling into his new abode. I note that the crown land grant had since been subdivided into several lots, by means of more than one division, and that they appear to belong to members of the extended Goodwin family.



Photograph of Harry Goodwin. Photo supplied by Douglas Crawford.

With a new home came new neighbours and a stunning view of a section of the harbour where many schooners anchored. Some of the children and possible playmates around Evelyn's age living in the vicinity and school section were Amanda Ryder, Sayward McLarren, Roswell Gayton, and Ida Greene. All members of the family kept busy following their move, especially Martha, who became superintendent of the Lower Argyle branch of the Band of Hope movement, a temperance association for children organised under the auspices of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She also took up a position in J. F. McLarren's store, a short distance from the family's new home.

At some point between the fall and spring, Evelyn received the news that she would no longer be the youngest sibling: her mother was expecting a child. Born at the close of the month of May, her younger brother, Harry, featured in the community news column in the *Yarmouth Light* when the Lower Argyle correspondent announced that the "home of Capt. and Mrs. W. A. Goodwin has been brightened by the arrival of a little son." The Goodwins had much to celebrate over the summer. One event attended by Evelyn's family during her childhood and recorded in the *Yarmouth Light*

community news columns was her maternal grandfather's eightieth birthday celebration. He was a widower residing with his son, Alonzo Goodwin, at Lower Argyle.

On Aug. 1st quite a gathering assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Goodwin for the purpose of celebrating the 80th birthday of Mr. Warren Goodwin. There were present one of his daughters, fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. During the day the old gentleman was presented with several little tokens of esteem, including a sum of money. The day passed off pleasantly.
—*Yarmouth Light*, 14 September 1893.

S. LeBLANC. Wm. MOMBOURQUETTE.

ALBION HOTEL,



S. LeBLANC & CO.,
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\$1.50 PER DAY.

The most Central
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Near Custom House,
Post Office, Principal
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HALIFAX, N. S.

Travel in this family showed no signs of slowing down. The back and forth between Lower Argyle, Halifax and beyond continued into the fall. During this period, Nova Scotia's capital city seemed to exert an attractive force on the Goodwins, undoubtedly due to Evelyn's father relocating there for at least part of the year. Mattie took a week's vacation and spent it in Halifax, presumably to be with family. Evelyn also accompanied her mother to the city on a quick trip in mid-September. When working out of Halifax, her father opted to board at the Albion Hotel, 20-22 Sackville St., where he could be found based on the

Advertisement for the Albion Hotel at Halifax, N.S. from the 1898-1899 edition of McAlpine's Halifax City Directory.

listings in McAlpine's Halifax City Directories for 1891-92 and 1892-93. William's brother, Nathan Goodwin, took up residence at the same hotel. In terms of location, this would have been a favorable place of lodging for sea captains as it provided quick access to the waterfront and port.

1893-1900

Fall marked a turning point in Evelyn's life as it signified her first year of school and all the related new experiences. Miss Jane "Jennie" B. Murphy, daughter of Capt. Edward Murphy of Shelburne, would have been her first teacher at the Lower Argyle Harbourview School. What sort of education could she expect to receive as a pupil?

In the tail-end of the Victorian era, the provincial public education system was in many respects a product of its time. With monarchist thought still predominant, an emphasis would have been placed on fostering loyalty to the British Crown among the young scholars and it is no surprise that later on in Evelyn's childhood, the community news column reported that her school celebrated Empire Day "with suitable exercises." Reading, writing, and arithmetic were certainly a focus, but other aspects of a well-rounded education such as natural science were also to be explored. Something akin to an academic curriculum outline can be found in abridged form in *The Nova Scotia Journal of Education* which sets out the essential elements of the "Prescribed Course of Study" for a primary department for the 1893-94 school term.

Her first years at school correspond with educational reforms rendering temperance education mandatory for pupils in the province. This was a result of a concerted lobbying effort by associations such as the Sons of Temperance and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In her article "National Pressure Groups and Provincial Curriculum Policy: Temperance in Nova Scotia Schools 1880-1930," researcher Nancy M. Sheehan observed that when Evelyn began her schooling, "Nova Scotia had a compulsory temperance course for both elementary and high schools, graded textbooks, examination questions, and training for prospective teachers [on that subject]" (p.79). To what extent this aspect of her learning was stressed in the local school during these formative years I cannot say, but whether by public education, religious influence, family values or a mix of the aforementioned, Evelyn later described herself as a "tea-totaler."

Public education was not the only learning expected of Evelyn at this stage in her life. As a child, she most surely attended Sunday School at the Lower Argyle Free Baptist Church, where a class of children was taught by her sister, Martha. While religious in subject matter, the reading of biblical passages and the recitation of "memory verses" certainly contributed to the development of her literacy skills. A record book for the "Free Baptist Sabbath School of Lower Argyle" held at ATCHA contains brief minutes of its weekly meetings, confirming some elements of Evelyn's experience as a Sunday School attendee. She was one of upwards of forty pupils, although attendance appears to have greatly varied from week to week. Naturally, devotional exercises such as worship songs, responsive readings, collections, and prayer featured among the activities in which she would have participated. This was a social gathering that connected her with older girls and women in her community. In 1893, locals involved with the Sabbath School at Lower Argyle included contemporaries of Evelyn's sister Martha such as Annie R. Goodwin and Oretha Spinney.

While she spent her days at school, travel to the United States in Evelyn's family appears to accelerate the following year with her father receiving his American citizenship via the Circuit Court of the United States at Boston in 1894. He was staying at 47 Prospect St., Gloucester, the same address where other Argylers with surnames such as Goodwin, Gayton, Rankin, Spinney, and VanAmburg were boarding according to a directory for 1894-1895. Curiously, it does not place Capt. William A. Goodwin there.



Photograph of Evelyn Mayne Goodwin, unknown age.
Photo supplied by George Whitehead III.

Based on information provided in his petition, cross-border movement in the Goodwin family stretches back much further than the 1890s. Mariners and fishermen from Nova Scotia were drawn to the seaports on the eastern coast of the United States and frequently spent time between there and home. For seagoing Argyle families, this is an easily recognisable pattern. Capt. Goodwin declared that he first arrived in the United States at Beverly, on the 20th of June, 1864 while still a minor. Did he often reminisce about that particular voyage now finding himself around thirty years into a long and successful career on ships when making his declaration? What stories did he swap with the other mariners boarding at 47 Prospect St. along with him?

From the 1890s onwards, members of Evelyn's family begin to move to the United States more permanently. In the next part of this article, we will delve into their movements and activities in Massachusetts. Stay tuned!

PRIMARY.

Reading.—Primer and Reader No. 1, with wall cards or blackboard work.

Language.—Story-telling by pupil. Easy script letters, words and sentences.

Writing and Drawing.—Writing on slate, paper or blackboard. Drawing of easy interesting figures, plans of platform and school room, or, as in *Manual Training*, No. 1, to end of Section IV, with *Primary Freehand Drawing Book* No. 1.

Arithmetic.—All fundamental arithmetical operations with numbers, the results of which do not exceed 100, to be done with concrete and abstract numbers, accurately and rapidly.

Lessons on Nature, etc.—Power of accurate observation developed by exercising each of the senses on simple and appropriate objects. Estimation of direction, distance, magnitude, weight, etc., begun. Common colors, simple, regular solids, surfaces and lines. Simple observations on a few common minerals, stones, plants and animals. Simple songs
Hygiene and temperance.

Excerpt taken from the October 1893 edition of the Nova Scotia *Journal of Education*, p.93.

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S VISIT

by
Ray Amiro

Audrey Amirault, a girl of four years old, lived in the little Acadian fishing village of Lower East Pubnico; a pleasant little village with a church, a general store, a post office, a train station, a government wharf and a lighthouse.

Audrey's father, Simon Amirault, was the village barber. He had a round barber chair, that had once been a barber's chair on a ship, set up in the living room of his modest home. There was a sofa for the men to sit as they waited for their turn in the chair.

Audrey's mother, Ann, along with managing her domestic and garden chores, which were plenty, ran an ice cream shop in a small porch on the house facing the road, out of which she sold ice cream and ice cream floats. In those days, people did what they had to do to make a living.

Audrey loved it when the village men came to her house for haircuts. She loved visitors and would dance and sing as her father cut the men's hair. The men were kind to her and sometimes even brought her treats from Nemerise's General Store down the road. She was asked to be quiet and considerate and not to interrupt conversations, but was encouraged to engage with the visitors.

Austin à Mandé à Marc, was also an 'Amiro', who spelled his family name differently from hers. In typical Acadian tradition, he was also known as "Austin Light" because he was the lighthouse keeper. He was a regular visitor at Simon's and looked forward to chatting about village and global events when he went there to get his hair cut, or just visit.

On a summer's evening in 1953, while having his hair cut, Austin saw four-year old Audrey bouncing about the room with a ruler held on her shoulder like a violin, rubbing a pencil across it like a bow. She was 'playing the fiddle' and singing along. Austin smiled at the little girl who was having such fun, and she appreciated his attention.

"That is very good, Audrey", he said. "You are a very good fiddler. I think some day you will be a professional and play for lots of people, not just Simon and me."

Audrey smiled and left the room happily, in search of her mother, saying, "Mom, Austin Light said I am going to be a professional musician some day and play for lots of people."

Simon finished cutting Austin's hair and Austin headed home, with a smile. Audrey waved him good-bye from the ice cream shop window.

The next time Austin came to get his hair cut, he had a cardboard box under his arm, about the length of his arm. Alphonse d'Entremont was having his hair cut when he arrived. The men greeted each other and Austin took a seat on the daybed. He placed the box on the end of the daybed, and said to Simon, "Do you mind if I leave this here?"

"Why of course not," said Simon. "It will be fine there." Just about then, Audrey came into the room, and saw the box.

"What's in the box, Austin? Can I see?"

“Perhaps you can see it later. It is a present for a special friend,” Austin said.

Simon smiled, and as Alphonse left, he invited Austin to sit in the barber’s chair. Audrey nestled in beside the box and looked at it very carefully, trying to figure out what it was. When she shifted the box to see how heavy it was, her father said, “Be careful, sweetheart, it might be very delicate, like you.”

“Is there a little girl in there, Papa?”

The men laughed, and Simon said, “Maybe it is made of glass and will break if it falls down.”

“OK Dad, I will be careful.”

She sat by the box, busy with her coloring book, waiting for her father to finish cutting Austin’s hair. When he was finished having his hair cut, he sat on the daybed next to Audrey and put the box across his lap. “What do you think it is, Audrey?” said Austin Light.

“I don’t know,” said Audrey, maybe some glasses, or dishes, or a lamp. Papa said it was delicate like me.” She smiled a sheepish grin.



Tessie “Ben” and Austin “Light” Amiro at their home in East Pubnico around 1965. Photo contributed by the author.

Austin gently opened the box to reveal a long narrow case. He put the box beside him on the floor and opened the case to reveal a beautiful old violin. He left the violin in the case and showed it to Audrey.

“It’s a fiddle,” said Audrey. “Just like the one I am going to play when I get big and become a professional and play for lots of people.”

“Exactly” said Austin.

“Can I hold it?” asked Audrey.

“Sure, you can, just sit here beside me and I will hand it to you. But first, let me show you how to hold it.”

With that, Austin took the fiddle from the case and put it up to his shoulder, bracing it against his chin. He then took out the bow and played a few notes to show Audrey how it worked. Austin wasn’t really a fiddler, but he knew a few simple tunes, so he played one for Audrey.

“Can I try,” said an excited Audrey.

“Sure... here, let me help you.” answered Austin.

First, he gave her the bow and, while he kept the fiddle on his shoulder, he put her up on his lap, inviting her to run the bow across the strings, while he held the instrument. Her eyes lit up as she excitedly bowed the strings.

“Gently, Audrey,” he said, “You have to be gentle with a violin. Remember, they are delicate, just like you.” They smiled at each other. He then placed the fiddle by her shoulder showing her how to hold her hand and chin to support the instrument. He then placed the bow in her hand and, while giving her some help holding it, let her try it for herself.

“Very good, Audrey.” said Simon. “You are a quick learner, isn’t she Austin?”

“Indeed, she is,” he replied. And then Austin said, “This fiddle is for you, Audrey. You are the ‘special friend’ I am giving it to. I want you to have it, so you can learn to play and someday be a professional musician.”

“Really.... for me?” she said, surprised and excited.

“If you get some lessons and practice a lot, I’m sure you will be a wonderful player. I have no doubt.”

Her father smiled at her and Austin with great appreciation. “Thank you so much Austin.” He said and turned to Audrey. “That is a beautiful present. What do you say to Austin Light, Audrey?”

“Thank you, Austin Light. Thank you!” With that, she jumped off of Austin’s lap and ran across the room into the arms of her mother who had come into the room when she had heard the fiddle. She lifted the excited child up as she said, “Austin Light gave me a fiddle, Mom. I’m going to practice very hard and someday I will play for lots of people.”

“I’m sure you will my child. I’m sure you will. You have a good ear for music and I’m sure hundreds, if not thousands of people will love your music for many years.”

Audrey stood over the fiddle case delighted with her present while Austin and Simon smiled, shook hands and said goodbye. That night, and for many more nights, she took the fiddle to her bedroom with her, to dream of a day when she would play music for many people from many places.



Epilogue:

Audrey Amirault-Alexander continued her interest in music and became a professional musician. She moved to Halifax from Pubnico in 1955, at age 6, and was introduced to music lessons by the nuns that taught her in school, as well as other well-established music teachers in the Halifax area. They included Mrs. Mae Baker, Mary Dee Girroir and Ariel Watson, a voice teacher at the ‘School for the Blind’, a school that Austin’s son, Delmar, attended when he was a child in the 1920s.

Audrey studied violin, piano and dance, and emerged as a regular performer on stage and television, including occasional performances on the “Don Messer Show” and as a weekly regular on “Singalong Jubilee.” She worked mostly as a children’s performer for 20 years in a duet called ‘Audrey and Alex’ with her musical partner Alex Vaughan. They were popular in Atlantic Canada for many years. In their heyday, they did between 300 and 350 performances a year and shared the stage with many big-name acts like Anne Murray, The Band, and Bruce Cockburn. They performed all their own original material.

Audrey is a multiple recipient of East Coast Music Awards (ECMAs) and has also directed choirs for many years with up to 46 people in them.

For 50 years she has been married to Ken Alexander, who stuck by her as her biggest fan and supporter, making it possible for her to pursue her love of music. She and Ken had three children, twin sons Rene and Leigh, and a daughter, Shelley. Being on the road for many years Audrey was aware that she sacrificed many special times with them, but also knew how proud they were of her accomplishments.

She lived the life of a musician, spending days in cars and busses going from gig to gig, taking ferries, and even flying in private jets. She saw many thousands of new faces over the years, and signed thousands and thousands of autographs. Though she was doing something she loved, her family always pulled at her heartstrings. She knew that she was one of the fortunate ones that had a great ride with her music, and a wonderful family, who loved her enough to support her. They are her pride and joy.

The little girl whose first instrument was a ruler and the pencil, now plays her grand piano, a 12-string guitar, a six-string guitar, an electric guitar, a lap steel guitar, the ukulele, melodica, autoharp, violin, accordion; and toys around with a few other instruments. She has fond memories of the gift of the violin from the lighthouse keeper, Austin 'Light'.

The preceding story is a fictionalized account based on family histories.

In the summer of 2021 Audrey contacted her sister, Sandy Amirault-Ford, about what she should do with the violin that she had kept for nearly 70 years. Sandy suggested that she pass it along to Ray Amiro, grandson of Austin, with whom Sandy had performed with in Variety Shows in the '60s at St. Pat's High School in Halifax. Audrey gave the instrument, which is labeled as a 'Stradivarius Copy' of unknown origin, to Ray in a gesture of thanks, who is having it restored in the hope that it will be played by future generations.



The "Stradivarius copy" violin in 2022 before it was repaired. Photo contributed by the author.

Editors note: "The Lighthouse Keeper's Visit" was presented here and initially written as a children's story. A deviation from the usual tone of our offerings in *The Argus*, Ray Amiro's piece refreshingly captures the beginning of Audrey's career and the impact of then well-known local personality, Austin Amiro.

Fiddle vs Violin... what's the difference? It is our pleasure to lay this long-discussed debate to rest! The two names apply to the same instrument. The only difference is the music that it plays. So, if it's classical music the performer is playing a violin. If it is folk or country music, they are playing a fiddle... unless the performer is a rebel, then all bets are off!

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