

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN N. B., MAY 20, 1903.

# MISS JOHNSTON DESCRIBES WEDDING OF A YOUNG BOER COUPLE.

She Becomes One of the Guests and Travels to See "The Englishman," Who Had Met With an Accident—  
She Pays Her Transport Fees by Photographing the Party.



A DUTCH WEDDING PARTY.

Rhenosterfontein, Transvaal, April 12.—Did any student of sociology ever record the fact that there is a perfect outbreak of matrimony after a war? If not, please put the discovery down to my credit.

Weddings have been the only distraction in this kloof for six months. I have known it. The fights are unknown. Such a thing as a concert is far too advanced in social evolution for these primitive Dutch; even prayer meetings have no attractions, and as for church, they trek off to Zeerust every three months in an ox-wagon, on families, attend church, then visit their relatives for a week and gather up a store of gossip to last them for the next three months. Time and again have I seen our neighbor, recently married, drive off in his cart down the kloof, but he never took the wife. It never seems to occur to them to give their wives any pleasure like that.

The first to be attacked by the matrimonial fever are the widows and widowers. Naturally, the cause of the war must be healed, and incidentally, young families looked after. Our landlady, quite 60, drove gaily off to Zeerust in a dashing Cape cart and four mules, to expose an equally ancient widower. Her rejoicing for the event was expressed by a sober brown costume, while her regret for her former partner, only just killed in the war, was symbolized by the heavy trimming of black crepe. Surely she did justice to them both!

They appear to be enjoying life, for they drive back here every few weeks to keep an eye on her property. Only the four mules have given place to four donkeys—they are not susceptible to horse sickness.

One long-bearded widower married a lady "of a certain age." I couldn't help laughing when I thought what an absurd caricature of a bride she was. She was very tall, and very thin and gaunt. Her cheeks were colorless. (They were once rosy, but only just killed in the war.) A dentist would make a fortune in this country.

Another widower with seven children married a widow with nine, so they had a nice little family in the honeymoon. The wedding was long delayed because his grown-up children insisted on having their share of their mother's property handed over to them before he brought home the addition of 10 to the family.

After all the widows and widowers get settled, the old sweethearts take their turn. Hearts that have remained faithful all through the war, that have suffered untold anxieties, at last are united.

But, although they have remained true to one another, fate sometimes wills otherwise. One young man returned from being a prisoner of war in Oeyrand, to find his sweetheart just as fond of him, but her father was going to marry her to some one else. The wedding is to be next month, I believe, and the girl is every day looking more and more wretched. I am sorry for her.

They seem to get married on hopes, principally. This has been a terrible year for farming, with the lack of seed and proper tools, the drought, and the horse sickness. There are only two horses left now in the kloof, and nine are dead. The bridegrooms show no objection to coming home to live with the bride's parents, and helping to work the farm. I heard of one young man who rejoiced in the possession of a pony and a sovereign, and who was on the look-out for a wife. Wouldn't they delight the heart of Jean Jacques Rousseau?

We haven't attended any wedding festivities because we haven't been invited. They seem to think we wouldn't come, way for 24 hours, and it would be 24 more maid had a word to say, while, for my part, they couldn't understand any contributions I might make to the general gloom. When the men came in everybody drank coffee, out of little bowls, not cups. My passage was to be paid in photographs, so I invited the whole party out to the hotel to breakfast.

## MISS WINIFRED JOHNSTON. Fredericton Girl Whose South African Letters Have Been Read With Interest.



The magistrate's office opened at nine. The magistrate offered me his private office to keep from during the ceremony, and was more than willing to be photographed with the party. The bride was in white, with a veil. She was a handsome, big woman and looked, as every bride should look, her best.

When the legal formalities were completed, they went to the church. The picture was to be taken as they came out into the light. I made them carry out a table to rest the camera on, and move a big wagon round to face the setting sun, then I snapped the crowd, sitting in the wagon, the fathers down in front. They must have also a group of the four principals, and I must give my last film to take them after the ceremony in the morning. This much we managed to make one another understand.

Big slices of brown bread, covered with a league on each side of the fort. It is stated in the grant that "he had made various additions to the fort in order to make it habitable and capable of defence, there having been previously only a small wooden house in ruins surrounded by palisades half fallen to the ground, in fact it would have been better to have rebuilt the whole, for he would yet have to make a large outlay to put it in proper condition on account of the total ruin wrought by the Dutch (the Hollanders) when they made him their prisoner in the said fort two years ago."

The little daughter of Soulanges, whose infant slumbers were disturbed by these rude Dutch booms, was afterwards the marchioness de Vaudreuil, the wife of one governor general of Canada and the mother of another.

**Sites of St. John and Fredericton Owned by Soulanges.**

It is evident the authorities at Quebec knew little of the value of the lands on the St. John river or they would hardly have granted them with such prodigality. The Sieur de Soulanges seems to have been highly favored by Frontenac for the three seigniories granted to him included an area of more than a hundred square miles. The one at the mouth of the river possessed all those natural advantages that have made St. John the leading commercial city of the maritime provinces. That at the junction was for a short time the head quarters of French power in Acadia and in its modest way the political capital of the country. The third seigniorie—at the very heart of which lay the site of Fredericton—remains to be described. In the grant to Soulanges it is termed "the place called Natchouan (Nash waak), to be called hereafter Soulanges, upon the River St. John 15 leagues from Gesek, two leagues on each side of said river and two leagues deep inland." The grant was made in consideration of the services rendered by Soulanges and to encourage him to continue those services; it was made so large because it was thought to be capable of cultivation. This seigniorie would include all the present day city of Fredericton and its suburbs, the town of Marysville, the village of Gibson and St. Mary's and a large tract of the surrounding country; the owner of such a property today would be indeed a multi-millionaire.

**La Maison de Jemseg.**

Upon Chamblay's appointment as governor of Granada he was succeeded as governor of Acadia by the Sieur de Soulanges who did not, however, long enjoy the honors of his new position, for he died about the year 1678 and his widow and children soon afterwards removed to Quebec. Count Frontenac's interest in the family continued, and on March 23, 1691, a grant of a large tract of land on the River St. John was made to Marie Françoise Chartier, Gagetown parish in Quebec county. Her seigniorie included the larger portion of the town of Jemseg, the central point being opposite her old residence or, as the grant expresses it, vis-a-vis la maison de Jemseg.

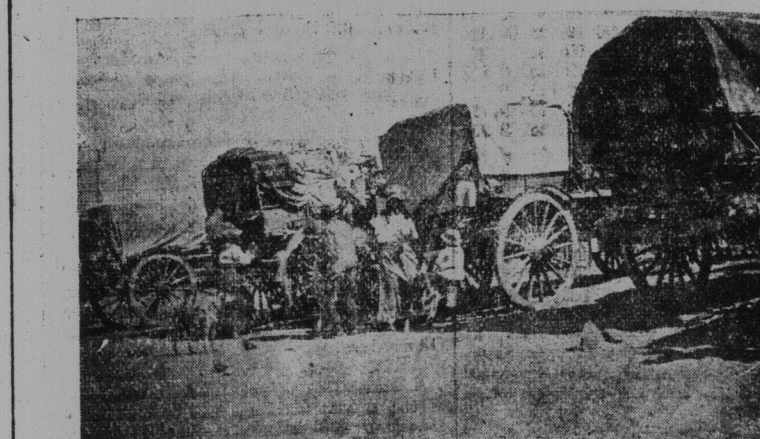
The seigniories granted to Soulanges and his widow proved of no value to their descendants; either the titles lapsed on account of non-fulfillment of the required conditions, or the lands were forfeited when the country passed into the hands of the English.

**An Acadian Marchioness.**

Louise Elizabeth Joubert, the daughter of Soulanges, who was born on the River St. John, was educated at the convent of the Ursulines in Quebec. At the age of seventeen she married the Marquis de Vaudreuil, a gentleman thirty years her senior. She is described as a very beautiful and clever woman possessed of all the graces which would charm the highest circles, of rare sagacity and exquisite modesty. She was the mother of twelve children. Her husband, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, was for twenty-two years governor general of Canada, and her son held the same position when the French possessions passed into the hands of the English; he was consequently the last governor general of New France.

"Dr. Ganong is probably correct in identifying the 'River de Maquo' with Maquapit and the 'mines' with the coal mines at Newcastle, Ontario county. In this case the site of the old Indian village at Indian point where so many relics have been discovered is quite possible that the sieur de Martignou and his wife, Jeanne de la Tour, may have lived there for a time."

The War Has Been Followed by Many Marriages in the Dark Continent—A Very Entertaining Letter by New Brunswick Girl—Her Term as Teacher About Expired.



OUTSPANNED—BOER PEOPLE GOING ON A VISIT.

The door, so I "took a back seat" to wait. But the Dutch minister called me up to the front. In all that big church were only eight people. The minister has a peculiarly sorrowful voice, so that the whole family and visitors, for the vows he gave and the obligations he imposed sounded particularly impressive. I caught the solemnity of it, even if I couldn't understand the words.

The minister arranged the group in the shade outside the door. But I grieve to say the wind was blowing so hard it shook the camera so the picture was a dismal failure. However, later on, I posed the bride and groom in the wedding garments by their own house door.

The wedding equipage is always decorated with gay ribbons on the whip. As she got in the bride's dress was protected from dust by a sheet held over the wheel. The men of the party were adorned by button hole bouquets and bows of ribbon.

The arrival of the wedding party was anticipated with the keenest interest. The children climbed the kopjes to watch the wagon far across the veld. On it was seated, all the men mounted their ponies and dashed wildly off to meet it. Their returning cavalcade had a fore-runner who made up to the house to announce the arrival, and as madly back to escort the bridal party up to the door.

Of course the village turns out for the wedding feast. Just what it consists of I have never been able to discover, but cookies and other very dry cakes seem to be the piece de resistance. (I think I should resist them, myself.) The bridal party take their stand before a settee, draped in the same white sheet that hung over the wagon, to receive congratulations, or rather kisses. The bridesmaid fetches up the men, and the bestman the women, and the whole party kiss one another. When I first saw a grown man enter a room, and kiss another man's wife it used to amaze me, but I've got used to it now. The Boers are the most extraordinary people for kissing one another!

Since the memorable wedding I have frequently seen the bride in far different raiment from the wedding garment, with her hair in a pig-tail down her back, like any girl. Also, when I walked three miles to the other end of the kloof I saw those two pictures I took of the bride in the wagon, framed among the family portraits of the groom's father.

When my photographing was done I went to the hospital, to find the absconding, or set, and the patient doing well. It's all better now.

I'll not see many more weddings in the kloof. By the time you read this my year will be up. Two men are to be sent to this lonely place, and men won't find it so difficult to get about. Neither, perhaps, will they be so interested in weddings.

WINIFRED JOHNSTON.

## HE ONCE OWNED THE SITES OF ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON

Rev. Dr. Raymond, This Week, Treats of the Sieur de Soulanges, and Gives Much Interesting Information of Old Days in New Brunswick—The Old Fort of Jemseg.

BY W. O. RAYMOND, LL. D.  
CHAPTER IV.  
French Commanders of Acadia.

After the capture of Fort la Tour by Sedgewick's Massachusetts invaders in 1664, Acadia remained nominally in possession of the English for twelve years. Half a century and elapsed since the attempt of de Monts to establish his colony, yet the little progress had been made in the settlement of the country; the valley of the St. John remained an almost unbroken wilderness. The first English trading post on the river, of which we have any knowledge was that established in 1659 by Sir Thomas Temple at the mouth of the Jemseg.

As related in the last chapter, la Tour, Temple and Crowne received from Oliver Cromwell a grant that included nearly the whole of Acadia, and la Tour, a fortified post at the Jemseg as more convenient for the Indian trade and less exposed to marauders than the fort at the mouth of the river. There can be little doubt that Temple would soon have enjoyed a flourishing trade, but unfortunately for his prospects, Acadia was restored to France by the treaty of Breda, in 1667. He attempted to hold possession of his lands, claiming that they did not fall within the boundaries of Acadia, but at the expiration of three years, during which there was considerable correspondence with the home authorities, he received the peremptory orders of Charles II. to surrender his fort to the Sieur de Soulanges. In compliance of the order the fort is termed "Fort Gesek, 25 leagues up the formal decree of surrender the fort is termed "Fort Gesek, 25 leagues up the River St. John." It was a palisaded enclosure, with stakes 18 feet high connected by cross pieces fastened with nails to the stakes and firmly braced on the inside with pikete nine feet high leaned against the stakes. The gate of the fort was of three thicknesses of new plank. It was evidently a frail defence, but sufficient for the Indian trade. The armament consisted of five iron guns, varying in weight from 800 pounds to 625 pounds, mounted on wooden platforms. Within the walls was a house 20 paces by 10, two chimneys, a forge, two sheds and a store house. The fort stood on a small mound near the top of a hill, less than 100 yards from the bank of the Jemseg river. It commanded an extensive view both up and down the River St. John. A fragment of the rampart is still visible, and numerous relics have from time to time been dug up at the site or in the vicinity. The fort site is now owned by Mr. Geo. F. Nevins.

**Grand-Fontaine's Census.**

After the treaty of Breda the Chevalier Grand-Fontaine was appointed to command in Acadia, with Pierre de Joubert, Sieur de Soulanges et Maroon, as his lieutenant. One of the first acts of Grand-Fontaine was to have a census taken, from

which we learn that there were then only a little more than 400 people in Acadia, very few of whom were to be found north of the Bay of Fundy. Grand-Fontaine was recalled to France in 1673, and Chamblay, who had been an officer in the famous Chagnon Salieres regiment, succeeded him as commandant. The control of Acadia in New France was now transferred to Quebec, where a governor-general and intendant, or lieutenant-governor, resided.

**"Faith and Homage."**

About this time large tracts of land were granted as "seigniories" by Count Frontenac and his successors. The seignior was usually a person of some consideration by birth and education. He received a free grant of lands from the crown on certain conditions; one of these was that whenever the seignior changed hands the act of "faith and homage" was to be tendered at the Castle of St. Louis in Quebec. The tendering of faith and homage was quite an elaborate ceremony, in which the owner of the land, divesting himself of arms and spurs, with bared head, on bended knee, repeated before the governor, as representative of the sovereign, his acknowledgement of faith and homage to the crown. Provision was made in the grant for fortifications or highways, and of all mines and minerals; the seignior was also required to reside on his land or to place a certain number of tenants thereon and to clear and improve a certain portion within a stated time. From the year 1672 to the close of the century as many as 19 seigniories were granted on the St. John river, besides others in various parts of New Brunswick. The first in order of time was that to Martin d'Arpentigny Sieur de Martignou. It included a large tract at the mouth of the River St. John, on the west side of the harbor, extending six leagues up the river from Partridge Island (Ile de la Penitence) and six leagues in depth inland. This seigniorie would now include Carleton and the parishes of Lansevier, Maquasah and Westfield. The owner of this valuable property is described as "an old inhabitant of Acadia." He married Jeanne de la Tour, only daughter of Charles la Tour by his first wife; she was born in Acadia in 1626. It is stated in his grant that he intended to bring over people from France to settle his seigniorie, also that he was a proprietor of lands on the River St. John "from the River de Maquo to the mines of the said country of Acadia."

After la Tour's death his son-in-law, the Sieur de Maquasah, seems to have taken up his abode at the old fort on the west side of the harbor, which in French was called "Fort de la Tour" or "Fort de Martignou."

**The Sieur de Soulanges.**

In the little world of Acadia, Pierre de Joubert, sieur de Soulanges, played a leading part during his eight years residence. He was a native of the little town of Soulanges in the old French province of Champagne. He had served as Lieutenant in Grand-Fontaine's company of infantry and came with that officer to Acadia. It is said that "he rendered good and praiseworthy service to the king both in Old and New France." As a recognition of those services he was granted, October 29, 1672, a seigniorie at the mouth of the St. John on the east side of the river a league in depth and extending four leagues up the river; this seigniorie seems to have included the present city of St. John—Carleton excepted. The Sieur de Soulanges, however, did not reside there but at the Jemseg. This is evident from the fact that the document that conveyed to him his St. John seigniorie gave him in addition "the house of fort Gesek," which the grant states "he shall enjoy for the time only as he shall hold his commissioned command on the said river in order to give him a place of residence that he may act with more liberty and convenience in everything relating to the king's service." The wife of Soulanges was Marie Françoise, daughter of Chartier de Lothbier, attorney-general of Quebec. Their daughter Louise Elizabeth was born at Fort Gesek in 1673.

**Dutch Marauders.**

The sieur de Soulanges did not long enjoy peaceable possession of his place of residence; disturbance came from an entirely unexpected quarter. A band of Dutch marauders under their leader Armon in the summer of 1674 pillaged and greatly damaged the fort and seized and carried off his commandant, but soon after set him at liberty. As a recompense for this misfortune Soulanges received the grant of a large tract of land at the Jem seg, two leagues in depth and extending

Had to Give up and go to Bed.

Several Doctors Attended But Did No Good.

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**Bulgarian Cabinet Resigns.**

Sofia, Bulgaria, May 15.—The Bulgarian cabinet resigned today. Prince Ferdinand accepted its resignation and summoned M. Petkoff, leader of the Stambouli party. It is possible that a coalition cabinet may be formed.