

POOR DOCUMENT M C 2035

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1923

MRS. JOHN M'FEE, MOTHER OF NOTED WRITER, VISITS SAINT JOHN AFTER ABSENCE OF FORTY-SIX YEARS

Brings Out the Story of a
Remarkable Family
Record.

BORN ON BOARD SHIP

Son First Saw Light of Day
on a Vessel Built at
Courtney Bay.

The Province of New Brunswick cannot claim William McFee, one of the most brilliant of the younger novelists, as a native son, for he was born on the Atlantic ocean; but the ship on which he was born was built in Courtney Bay, St. John, and his father and mother were both natives of this province. John McFee of Hanford Brook, St. John County, and Elida Wallace of Upper Cove, Albert County, were married in St. John in 1873, and in September, 1877, a few months after the great fire, they sailed away on the maiden voyage of the ship Erin's Isle, which was on the stocks in Courtney Bay at the time of the fire, and of which John McFee, her designer, sailed as master. For three years they sailed from port to port, making the circuit of the globe, with only three weeks ashore. They sailed again from London to Calcutta, and back to London. Their son William was born while they were on this voyage, in 1881, and in the same year they retired from the sea and settled in North London, where the captain died in 1889.

Mrs. McFee arrived in St. John last Wednesday, the first time since she sailed away on the Erin's Isle. She has been in Winnipeg, visiting her brother and the widow of one of her sons who was killed in the war, fighting with the Canadians. From Winnipeg she came to Baie Verte to visit a sister, Mrs. Mary Vaughan, and then to this city to visit another sister, Mrs. Anne Stevens, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Grover Watts, at 81 Alexandra street. Mrs. McFee is accompanied by her daughter, Miss Josephine McFee, and they will leave this week for Westport, Conn., where William McFee's home is.

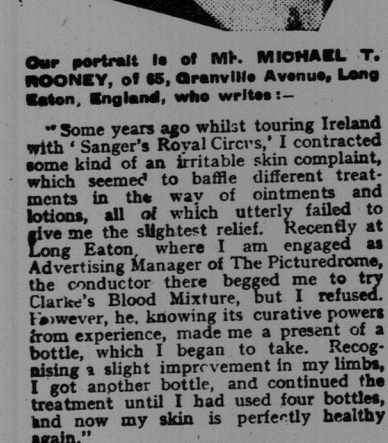


Mrs. Rose Craig

SPARKLING EYES FOLLOW GOOD HEALTH

"My earliest recollection," says the Toronto, Ont., "from the time of my mother's death, I have been a sufferer from Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for women's ailments, so it is not at all strange that after I married and had backaches, nervous spells and other distresses that I should remember what my mother had always said of this Prescription, and I found it relieved me of my aches, pains and nervousness. It gave me renewed health and strength and so greatly benefited me that I have no hesitancy in saying that Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription is absolutely perfect as a tonic and nerve for women who are ailing or nervous." Mrs. Rose Craig, 327 Seckville St.

You'll soon feel better if you obtain this Prescription. Dr. Pierce's at your nearest drug store, in tablets or liquid, or send 10c to Dr. Pierce's Laboratory in Bridgeburg, Ont., for trial package tablets. Write for free medical advice.



Our portrait is of Mr. MICHAEL T. ROONEY, of 55, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton, England, who writes:—

"Some years ago whilst touring Ireland with 'Singer's Royal Circus,' I contracted some kind of an irritable skin complaint, which seemed to be different treatments in the way of ointments and lotions, all of which utterly failed to give me the slightest relief. Recently at Long Eaton, where I am engaged as Advertising Manager of the Picture Palace, the conductor there begged me to try Clark's Blood Mixture, but I refused, however, he, knowing its curative powers from experience, made me a present of a bottle, which I began to take. Recognizing a slight improvement in my limbs, I got another bottle, and continued the treatment until I had used four bottles, and now my skin is perfectly healthy again."

Of all Dealers—see that you get

Clarke's Blood Mixture

"Everybody's Blood Purifier."

Gifted Writer; and His Mother Now in City



WILLIAM M'FEE.



MRS. JOHN M'FEE.

novelist now lives. Thence they return to their home in London.

The Wallace Family

Mrs. McFee spent the first twenty-two years of her life the home of her father, John Wallace, at Upper Cove, six or seven miles above Moncton, on the opposite side of the river, in Albert County. Moncton was still known as The Bend, and one of the surprise of Mrs. McFee's present tour was the change from the straggling, muddy little place where her childhood shopping was done, to the modern city of Moncton, with its fine houses and its clean streets lined with trees.

Marsden Wallace, the brother who has lived in Winnipeg for over twenty years and is now retired, was formerly a Moncton merchant, a member of the town council, and highly respected citizen. The surviving members of that Upper Cove family are—Mrs. Anne Stevens, St. John, 86; Mrs. Mary Vaughan, Baie Verte, 80; Marsden Wallace, Winnipeg, 77; Mrs. John McFee, London, 74.

Mrs. McFee's great-grandfather was Rev. William Black, the father of Methodism in Canada. William J. Robinson of Moncton, father of J. C. W. Robinson, was her cousin. Another cousin was the father of Lewis Smith, M. P. for Albert County. There are many distant family connections in Albert and Westmorland Counties.

The Four Brother Captains

The parents of Capt. John McFee of Hanford Brook, St. John County, had seven sons. They hoped to make farmers of them, but four became sea-captains and ended their days in England. The names of the four were Thomas, Wesley, John and Charles. Thomas and Charles on their retirement from the sea settled in the suburbs of Liverpool, Wesley in Hampton, west of London, and John in North London. It is fitting that a son of one of them should be a man of the sea, first in peace and then in war; and that he should begin to write on shipboard the names of the day. Born on the Atlantic, on the good ship Erin's Isle of Courtney Bay, he is said once to have humorously remarked that he had passed his birthplace, but was unable to recognize any of the landmarks.

Ships of Courtney Bay.

About half a century ago the British firm of Francis Carville & Son had five vessels built in St. John. They were designed by John McFee, who supervised their construction and had a small share in each. The members of the firm were Irish, and the McFee family were originally from Ireland; therefore it was fitting that three of the ships should have Irish names. The names of the five were: Frank Carville, P. G. Carville, Erin's Star, Erin's Gem, and Erin's Isle.

Miss Hilda Wallace came from Upper Cove to St. John in 1873. Here she met John McFee. In 1873 they were married, and two years later, at the earnest and repeated solicitation of the owners, he agreed to go to sea again, as master of the newly-launched Erin's Isle. He was no novice, for he had taken to the sea when he was sixteen years old, and though a young man, was a seasoned mariner. After he retired from the sea he was an inspector for a big firm of ship brokers in England until his health broke down.

Memories will throng upon at least some of the older people of St. John as they read of the four McFee brothers from Hanford Brook, who became master mariners and sailed "the ships of grey St. John," to find their final haven under the skies of England. It is fitting that a son of one of them should be a man of the sea, first in peace and then in war; and that he should begin to write on shipboard the names of the day. Born on the Atlantic, on the good ship Erin's Isle of Courtney Bay, he is said once to have humorously remarked that he had passed his birthplace, but was unable to recognize any of the landmarks.

The Son Who Died.

Mrs. McFee had four children. One, a girl, died at the age of ten. The other three, a son, fell at Wancourt, near Arras, in the Great War, in August, 1918. He had come to Canada ten years before the war, and settled in Winnipeg. When the war broke out he enlisted in a Canadian battalion, went to the front, and fought until almost the end of the war. His mother and his widow recently had a reunion in the western capital. But William, the novelist, also had a war record. He came to the United States in 1912, and was a marine engineer with the United Fruit Company, in a steamer plying between New York and the Gulf of Mexico. When the war broke out he paid his way to England to enlist in the navy, but there were at the moment no vacancies. Then he tried the army, but was rejected because of somewhat defective hearing. He therefore returned to the merchant marine, but after a year or two the steamer he was in was made a transport and went to Fort

At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a large engineering firm in London. From 1890 to 1893 he was occupied as a mechanical engineer, and then went to sea in the engine room of a tramp steamer. He continued at sea, serving in steamers in all parts of the world, and holds a chief engineer's certificate in both the British and American merchant marines. In 1918, at the instance of an artist friend who had known him all his life, he settled down in Nutley, New Jersey, to embark upon a literary career. His knowledge as an engineer, however, brought him other work, and when the war broke out he was in New Orleans, inspecting boilers for the United Fruit Company. Then he went to the war.

A Writer's Discouragements.

Before he went to sea, but especially on shipboard, William McFee essayed to put his literary talents to some use. He was always writing, and always having experiences which enlarged his outlook, stimulated his imagination, and appealed to his heart. His product included scraps of verse, sketches of sea life, and rough drafts of novels. The manuscript of his first book, An Ocean Tramp, was rejected by several publishers, but was finally accepted and brought out in England in 1909, and has gone through many editions. He has since published Allens, Captain Macdonald's Daughter, Casuals of the Sea, Command, Harbors of Memory, and Port Said Miscellany. He has also written many short stories, technical articles for engineering magazines, and fragments of verse. An American writer describes him as "a master of refined English prose," and another as "a novelist of great gifts."

Mrs. McFee recalls that when a publisher who had rejected one of her son's manuscripts repented several years later and wanted it, the fact that she had preserved it was his salvation; for the author knew not where it was. In 1914, Mrs. McFee received from him a letter containing a twenty-dollar bill and the publishers' sent back his manuscripts. He was actually declared, and firmly fixed in his mind. She was also careful to correct any imperfections of language, and so set him on his way to become a master of pure English speech. More than that, he had a boy's workshop, and she taught him the use of the saw and plane. It is therefore fair to say that his mother's moulding influence had a marked effect on his character and career. After he had gone through the public schools he took a course at Bury St. Edmunds.

Got No Encouragement.

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Plain Sailing Now.

Mrs. McFee was engaged for several years on his novel, Casuals of the Sea, and completed it while living at Nutley, New Jersey. It was to be published by several publishers. At Nutley also he wrote the novel Allens. Since he was there referred to Mrs. McFee in London, and the check was sent to her. On arrival it showed traces of sea water, for the vessel had been hit by a torpedo. It could not be cashed without her son's signature. She therefore sent it to the Mediterranean, and in due course it returned. It had made three voyages through seas infested by submarines, and was finally cashed.

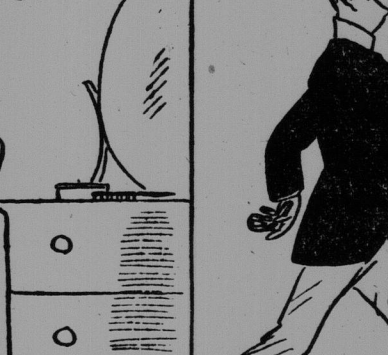
Is made in two forms—

CUT FINE for CIGARETTES

CUT COARSE for your PIPE

SOLD EVERYWHERE

In 15c and 25c packages and 1/2 lb. tins.

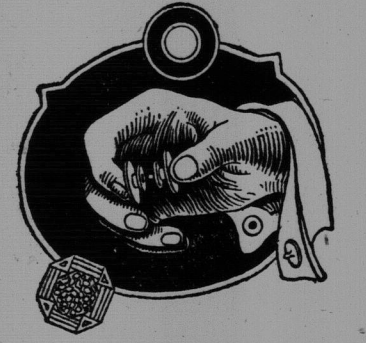


HOW TO START THE DAY WRONG



By "BRIGGS"

Use the Want Ad. Way



here's the whole story

and they're open

click

and they're shut

a cuff-button that does

what it should do—snap

Sold by jewellers and

the better men's shops

Only the Genuine are Stamped

KUM-A-PART

UFF BUTTON

The Snap that Lasts a Lifetime.

this son of New Brunswick parents

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Best of all, he has genuine power.

A writer of virtue power is a rarity

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His Mother Honored.

On the voyage en route to Canada

in June last Mrs. McFee was enter-

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sengers when they learned she was

the mother of the novelist, with whose

books they were familiar. On arrival

at New York she was the guest of

her son's publishers, Doubleday, Page

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mammoth printing plant, to see every

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While in Winnipeg Mrs. McFee went

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books on the list. She goes with

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thence to London. She says it has

been a delightful experience, not only

to visit Winnipeg, but to greet old

friends in Baie Verte, Albert County,

Moncton and St. John, after an absence

of forty-six years. At seventy-four

years of age she is in excellent health

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She attended service in Courtney

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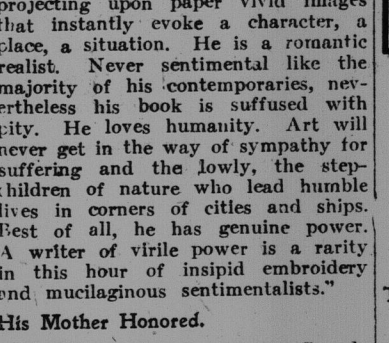
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bered from the old days, not know-

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Use the Want Ad. Way



here's the whole story

and they're open

click

and they're shut

a cuff-button that does

what it should do—snap

Sold by jewellers and

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Only the Genuine are Stamped

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Use the Want Ad. Way

DRUGS EXCITE THE KIDNEYS, DRINK WATER

Take Salts at First Sign of Bladder
Irritation or Backache.

The American men and women must

guard constantly against kidney trouble

because we often eat too much rich

food. Our blood is filled with acids

which the kidneys strive to filter out;

they weaken from overwork, become

sluggish, the eliminative tissues clog

and the result is kidney trouble, blad-

der weakness and a general decline in

health.

When your kidneys feel like lumps

of lead; your back hurts or the urine

is cloudy, full of sediment, or you are

obliged to seek relief two or three

times during the night; if you suffer

with sick headache, or dizziness, or

spells, acid stomach, or if you have

rheumatism when the weather is bad,

begin drinking lots of good soft water

and get from your pharmacist about

four ounces of Jad Salts. Take a

tablespoonful in a glass of water be-

fore breakfast for a few