

Souvenir

"Old Home Week"

Grand Mira, E. B.



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September, 1916.



Rt. Rev. James Morrison D. D., Bishop of Antigonish

Souvenir

Old Home Week

Held at

Grand Miro, C. B.

September 1916

FOREWORD



THE purposes of this little work are to preserve in permanent form what is regarded by all those who had anything to do with the Old Home Week at Grand Mira, on the first week of September, 1916, as an event that they should like future generations to have an opportunity to read about. Considerable effort was put forth by the residents of Grand Mira parish, as well as the old residents, consisting of over four hundred people, and their descendants scattered throughout the towns of Cape Breton County, to make it an event worth recording. The friends of these who came in hundreds to spend the week with them at Grand Mira spoke so kindly of the treatment that they received, that they made the present and old residents believe they had succeeded. Not only the old and present residents were desirous of having the events of the week recorded, but their friends who attended and some kind friends who showed in every possible way that they should have wished to be present, wanted to have an account of the week. Those who are undertaking the publication are therefore encouraged in every way to give it to the public and expect it to have a wide circulation.

D. J. RANKIN

Grand Mira
Xmas, 1916

THE MIRA RIVER

ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT

The Mira River derives its name from Riviere de Mere, or Lac de Mere, as what the French called Lac de Mere was the part of it now known as Grand Mira. The French called the part of the River now known as Grand Mira, Grand Lac de Mere, for the river is here wider than in any other part of it, being one and one fourth of a mile wide measuring it from the wharf on the Glebe land at Grand Mira to the landing place at the north side at McDougall's Cove. A map of 1739 copied at the Archives at Paris gives these names and reveals also the fact that at the junction of the Mira River and the Salmon River there was a residence of the French Governor of the time. The land along there was also allotted to the officers of the French Navy and Army. On the south side of the river also along the Chemin du Lac de Mere a short distance from the river and not far from a little Lake known to the present residents as Billets Lake, was a French village and a mill operated by water rains. The head of water there is more than ninety feet above the river level. This lake contains very good water for house use, and no doubt some time when the country around it is better known will be used for domestic purposes as well as for water power.

At the time of the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755-56, all the villages and residents along here were destroyed and not till 1812 were there any English inhabitants found on the river. The lower part of the river was not settled during this period nor for sixteen years later. In 1826, however, the first Scotch settlers came to the Mira River.

The first settler to the Mira River after the French occupation was Caleb Huntington, born in 1762 at Seaforth, Conn.U. S. A. Six years later came Christopher Welton, Jerry Severance, one Beaman, and one Shepard and Benjamin Cossit.

It is related by a great grandson of Caleb Huntington, the first settler to the Mira River, that one day in the Autumn of 1826, Mr. Huntington, who was then really the only one living on the Mira River, was surprised to see twelve sturdy Scotchmen come to the house, having made their way through the woods from East Bay. He was very lonely, for both Shephard and Cossit had left before then; and both Brown and Weldon longed for the time when they should return to their New England home. Caleb Huntington was so pleased with the sound of the voice of his fellow being, and was yearning so much for some one to live near him, that he went about the woods looking for a suitable location for dwelling places where his new visitors should settle down and to which they would bring their wives and families when they should have shelter for them. The best of good feeling has always existed between the descendants of Caleb Huntington and those of the McDonald's, McEachern's, McIntyre's, McMillan's, McKinnon's, Gillises', McDougall's and the others who comprised that sturdy band of early Scotch settlers and whose descendants celebrated the 90th anniversary of their settling in the country. It was not only the part of the parish of Grand Mira on the river that was en fete on these days, but the whole parish and those who had formerly lived in any part of the parish and their children and children's children. It was therefore a parish affair, that gathering of the people to the Church property at Grand Mira, and it gave an opportunity to many people who had never seen the River to see it and form an idea of its appearance and its utility as a waterway during the summer for over thirty miles into the interior of the country.

It may be well to remark here, that later on and up to 1841 others came from Scotland to the place, and in 1829-31 and 35 there came to Marion Bridge, Mira Ferry and Hillside a large number of Scotch families from North Uist, Scotland. The people of Grand Mira came for the most part from Morar, and the people of French Road from South Uist. From North Uist, the Isle of Lewis, and a few from Harris, came those who settled at Belfry, Gabarus Lake, Canoe Lake, Big Ridge and New Boston at a later date. These people who came to Grand Mira are shown in one of the papers included in this work and written by a son of one of the pioneers, to be industrious and above the ordinary in intelligence; they built ships themselves, worked at them steadily and sailed in them. Their descendants today are found in all the towns of Cape

Breton and in the City of Sydney, mechanics of more than ordinary skill, and two at least leading Architects. They built boats in the early days of the settlement and fished out of them in the Mira Bay and on the Island of Scaterie, they carried their produce home in them also till roads were built and till Capt. Joseph Philips started to haul timber for the Dominion Coal Co., some twenty years ago. This enterprising man had begun to traffic on the river with a little boat that could hardly tow one scow and continued till today he has two splendid tug boats and some dozen scows. He has also a comfortable passenger boat with which he makes two trips a week up to the wharf at the Glebe at Grand Mira while navigation is open and he runs a daily boat to Marion Bridge during the summer months. This is a great convenience to the people residing on the river, as well as an opportunity for an outing compared with which there is nothing in any part of the world I have visited. It is often wondered at by visitors to the Mira River that the mails are not carried on this boat. Perhaps when bigger men will be leading in the arrangements of mail carrying and kindred affairs it will be found that this is done to the benefit of the Community as well as to the lessening of the expenses to the Governments. Things improve gradually and slowly, very slowly, when people are too tightly tied to party politics.

The Grand Mira Mutual Tel. Co. Ltd., is the only public utility operating in the parish. It was organized on a very small scale in the Fall of 1910 and on the 22nd of Nov. the first telephone message from Grand Mira to Sydney was sent. There were 9 miles of metallic circuit built then and was connected at Marion Bridge to the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company Ltd., that part of the system of the Telephone Co. was about to be taken away when the people of Grand Mira energetically took hold of the matter and built their line metallic. It was out of the question then for the company to refuse communication, but it was proven by them that unless there were more messages sent over the branch it would not pay them to build on the Hillside route. After a meeting at which representatives were present from Grand Mira, Marion Bridge and the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Co., Ltd. the line was built to Marion Bridge, the people of Marion Bridge, Hillside and vicinity furnishing the poles and the Company doing the rest of the construction work. In the meantime the Grand Mira Mutual Telephone Co. was extending its system and two other small Companies, the Mineral Rock and Hillside Mutual Telephone

Co's were incorporated and all three were to come in to the switch at Marion Bridge.

In June of 1916 the Grand Mira Telephone Co., with a subscribers list of 80 got direct communication with Sydney, its central being at Grand Mira. They had at the time of the 90th Anniversary celebration about 70 miles of metallic and nearly 16 of ground-line making in all some 86 miles of a territory supplied with telephone communication extending into every isolated part of the country and helping greatly to keep the young people home on the land and satisfied with their condition.



GRAND MIRA PARISH

Shortly after the first settlers came to Grand Mira in 1826, they built a small church St. Peter's, near the river and directly below the Glebe House at Grand Mira. It was heard that the people gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass whenever a priest came to them and on other Sundays they came to be instructed in their Catechism till the first resident priest arrived in the parish, Rev. Archibald Chisholm. Father Chisholm came in October of 1870 and he at once started the construction of a new church.

The Glebe House one of the most comfortable in the whole Diocese was built in 1869 and continued to be the dwelling place for priests till October 1908 when it was replaced by the present Glebe House, also one of the most comfortable in any of the Country parishes of the Diocese. The outside of the Church was finished and the lathing and finishing on the ceiling was proceeded with when Father Chisholm was transferred in 1876 to Judique, Rev. Alexander McGillivray succeeded him and attended Mira Ferry and Louisburg as well. In July 1879 Rev. Joseph Chisholm took charge of the parish and continued in charge till June 1883. He also attended Louisburg and Mira Ferry. In September 1883 the Rev. John J. McNeil, began to administer to the people of the parish. During his incumbency the interior of the church was finished and the people of Grand Mira had then one of the neatest little churches in any parish of the Diocese, every parishoner was proud of having done his little bit to show his zeal for the honor of his Saviour in building an artistic dwelling place for Him whose pleasure is to be with the children of men.

In December of 1895 the Rev. R. McNeil became pastor of the parish, and administered to the spiritual wants of the people till May 1899 when the Rev. Joseph McDonald was appointed to the charge, to remain as pastor only till November of the same year when Rev. R. McKenzie became pastor, Father McKenzie was succeeded by the Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, in October, 1901, who continued in charge till September 30th, 1905, when the present incumbent

arrived. During Father Gillis time churches were built at French Road and Gabarus, the former for the convenience of some twenty five families the majority of whom were over ten miles from the church at Grand Mira, the church at Gabarus was built to enable the few Catholic families in that village to attend divine service occasionally.

The present pastor Rev. D. J. Rankin has been in charge of the parish since September 1905 and upon others shall devolve the task of speaking about his work, suffice it here to say that with him co-operated the people of the parish to carry out the work of organizing and arranging the details connected with the celebration. From 1905 till the present time the Glebe House has been built, a furnace has been put under the church, and a Parish Hall has been built, and all the buildings including the churches at Gabarus and French Road have been painted at a cost of \$1200.

During this time also the Telephone Company has been organized, the boat has been more generously subsidized so that during the summer of 1916, from the 24th of May up to the 10th of November, only one trip of the bi-weekly trips to Grand Mira was missed, and that was owing to an accident. Three wharves have been built one at Grand Mira South, one at Victoria Bridge and one at Salmon River. An agricultural Society was organized in 1912. The L. O. C., a Catholic Temperance Association was organized in 1906 and the Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1914.

The parish has contributed, to the Belgium Relief Fund most generously, to the Patriotic Funds, and over 30 young men born in the parish have enlisted in the different battalions for overseas service. Of these one is dead and his brother missing in a battle on the 3rd of July, 1916. Another Grand Mira boy took sick while training and died at home.

Here are the names and addresses of those to whom the subjoined letter has been sent.

LETTER SENT.

Grand Mira, July 20th, 1916

Dear Friend,—

A few months ago a Committee of the parish of Grand Mira was appointed to furnish the names and addresses of former parishioners and their descendants, with the view of inviting them to be present at the "Old Home Week," to be held in September beginning on the 3rd Sept.

The early settlers to Grand Mira came from the Isles and Highlands of Scotland to this parish in 1826. 1916 thus marks the 90th anniversary of the coming of those brave people who cleared away the forests and made the homes now occupied by their children and grand children.

In some cases the land occupied for over sixty years by

some families has been left vacant, and in many cases a clear title can not be secured of these properties. It is suggested that this be made an occasion also for making a start in fixing these titles once and for all, so that the land of the brave pioneers may be utilized for the benefit of those who have the strongest claims on it.

It is proposed to have as much of the early history of the place as possible gathered up to be read and discussed on one of the days of the "Week." Public speeches will be made by former residents, and excursions will be held on the River. The people of the parish will entertain and accommodate all their relatives who come to visit the parish.

Further particulars will be forwarded as soon as it is ascertained whether a large number intend being present on the occasion.

Kindly reply as soon as convenient whether you intend coming to the celebration, and offer any suggestion in regard to any matter touched upon herein you think may aid the Committee in celebrating the event in a manner becoming the occasion.

DUNCAN McEACHERN
JOHN A. McARTHUR
JOHN J. McKINNON
ANGUS McLELLAN
JOSEPH A. GILLIS
COLIN McDONALD

P.S.--Please send reply to Rev. D. J. Rankin, P. P., Grand Mira, N. S.

D. H. McDonald, M. D. Upper Melford, Petersville N. B.

Major R. Gillis, Architect, Sydney, C. B.

S. N. McEachern, B. A. Sydney, C. B.

Joseph H. McIntyre, Glace Bay, C. B.

James Campbell, Glace Bay.

Pte. Dan Gillis, Aldershot (now in England)

" Hugh J. McDonald, Bramshot England

" Stephen McCormick, 94th Battalion, Louisburg

" Michael D. McDougall, 25th Battalion, France

" Archie McIntyre, Aldershot now in England

" Archie McLeod, 185th Aldershot now in England.

" Vincent McDougall, 185th, Aldershot, now in England

" Norman McIntyre, France.

" Hugh D. McDonald, "

" John J. McDonald, Halifax

" Dan McCormick, France

" Hugh McEachern, 185th, France

" Dan McEachern, 185th, France

" A. J. McEachern, France

" H. A. McEachern, France

" J. A. Campbell, England

" D. M. Gillis, England

" J. A. McIntyre, France

Sergeant S. Black, Sydney
Pte. A. J. McInnis, England

1. Rev. A. Chisholm, P. P., Judique, C. B.
2. Rev. R. McNeil, N. E. Margaree, C. B.
3. Rev. Joseph McDonald, P. P. Boisdale.
4. Rev. R. McKenzie, P. P., Iona.
5. Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, P. P., New Aberdeen.
6. Major R. Gillis, Sydney, C. B.
1. Mrs. J. R. Gillis, 13 Bismarck St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.
2. Mary Jane McEachren, 13 Bismarck St., Jamaica Plain.
3. Dan Gillis, Byron Ave, Boston, Mass.
4. Christina Gillis, Byron Ave, Boston, Mass.
5. Pius S. McEachren, 13 Bismarck St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.
6. Margaret A. Gillis, Worcester, Mass. (Letter returned)
7. Ambrose S. Gillis, Water St., Dartmouth, N. S.
8. Mr. S. R. Vail, 26 Kings Place, Halifax.
9. Mrs. Thomas Buckley, Kline St., Halifax.
10. Mrs. Wm. Broderick, 36 Dudley St. Arlington, Mass.
11. Mrs. Arthur B. Swift, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
12. Mrs. A. J. McDonald, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
13. Michael McDonald, 93 Hillside St., Roxbury, Mass.
14. Peter J. McDonald, 15 Shorey St., Lynn, Mass
15. Lauchlin Wilson, Walnut St., West Roxbury.
16. Allan McDonald, 60 Adam St., Norwood, Mass.
17. Miss Christy McDonald, Derry, New Hampshire.
18. Norman D. McIntyre, 270 East 160 St., New York City.
19. Mrs. Jacob Brogan, 181 Broadway, Everett, Mass.
20. Mr. Henry Kane, 181 Broadway, Everett, Mass.
21. Mrs. Janie Calfer, 73 Court St., Augusta, Maine.
22. Miss Mary A. Currie, Pondfield Court, Bronsville, N. Y.
23. Mrs. Fred A. Marshall, Church St. Annapolis.
24. Mrs. William King, Tracadie, P. E. I.
25. Pte. J. A. Campbell, 36th Can. Batt., France.
26. Pte. Michael D. McDougall, 25th Can. Batt., France.
27. Mr. Angus Currie, 164 .m St., Keene, N. H.
28. Mr. Daniel Currie, 110 West 84th St., New York City.
29. Mrs. P. J. Roddy, 815 North Main St., Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
30. George B. Marsh, 199 Division St., New Haven, Conn.
31. Stephen Campbell, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
32. Pte Archie McIntyre, D. Co., 85th Batt., Aldershot, N. S.
33. Mrs. D. J. Deamon, 38 Adams Place, Weymouth, Mass.
34. Mrs. Archie Fraser, 229 Brunswick St., Halifax, N.S.
35. Capt. A. J. McInnis, Aldershot, Kentville, N.S.
36. Mrs. Joseph Inagrum, Furness Withy Wharf, Halifax, N.S.
37. Miss Flora McKinnon, 19 Chestnut St., Boston, Mass.
38. Miss Mary McKinnon, 19 Chestnut St., Boston, Mass.
39. Mrs. Albert J. Gau, 320 Layette St.
40. Pte. Dan McCormick, Aldershot, 64th Can. Batt. at front

41. Pte. Hugh McEachren, 185th Batt., C. B. Highlanders.
42. Pte. Hugh McEachern, 36th Can. Batt., Aldershot.
43. Mrs. Howard Carns, 38 Norfolk St., Roxbury, Mass.
44. A. A. McEachren, 690 Shamut Ave., Roxbury, Mass.
45. Miss Mary McEachern, 302 Sandford Ave, Flushing
Long Island, N. Y., care of Mrs. Woodward.
46. Mrs. David B. Lewis, 149 Lemantine St., coming.
47. Mr. James Gillis, Spokane Falls, Washington, U. S. A.
48. Mr. Donald J. McLeod, Trenton, New Glasgow, N. S.
49. Mr. Joseph McLeod, Doffin St., Sydney, C. B.
50. Mr. Michael A. McEachern, carpenter, New Waterford,
51. Mrs. Michael A. McEachern, New Waterford, C. B.
52. Mr. Dan McIntyre, Glace Bay, C. B.,
54. Mrs. John Jameson, Glace Bay, C. B.
55. Mrs. Ann McLeod, New Aberdeen, C. B.
56. Mrs. Dan Jewell, Big Lorraine, C. B.,
57. Mr. Stephen Thomas, 537 Sixth St., South Boston, Mass.
58. Mr. John E. McDonald, Alexandria, Ont., Canada.
59. Mr. James Campbell, 54 Dobbin St., Sydney.
60. Mrs Joh n Madge, Georges St., Sydney.
61. Mrs. Ann Kelly, Louisburg, C. B.
62. Mrs. Dennis O. Day, Back Pit, Port Morien.
63. Mr. John V. McPherson, 281 Townsend St., Sydney
64. Mrs. Dan McDonald, Glace Bay, C. B.
65. Mr. Michael McNeil, Dominion No. 3, C. B.
66. Mr. Hector McNeil, Dominion No. 3, C. B.
67. Dan A. Gillis, Golden, B. C., Box. 48.
58. Joseph J. Black, Shipyard, Sydney.
69. Joseph J. Black, Broadway, Whitney Pier.
70. James Black, Srokane City, Washington.
71. Mrs. John D. McNeil, Dominion No. 3, C. B.
72. Mrs. Frank McNeil, Glace Bay, C. B.
73. Mrs. Dan J. McEachern, Caledonia, C. B.
74. Mrs. Peter McIntyre, Bridgeport, C. B.
75. Mr. John McDonald, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
76. Mrs. John McDonald, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
77. Mr. Archie Mc Donald, New Aberdeen.
78. Mr. Michael McPhee, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
79. Mrs. Michael McPhee, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
80. Mr. Archie McIntyre, Caledonia, C. B.
81. Mrs. Archie McIntyre, Caledonia, C. B.,
82. Mr. Joseph J. McIntyre, Caledonia, C. B.,
83. Mr. Joseph H. McIntyre, Caledonia, C. B.
84. Mr. John McIntyre, Caledonia Mines.
85. Mr. Ronald McIntyre, Caledonia Mines.
86. Mr. James McIntyre, Caledonia Mines
87. Mrs. James McIntyre, Caledonia Mines.
88. Mrs. Alex McNeil, Caledonia Mines.
89. Mr. Hector McNeil, Caledonia Mines.

90. Mr. Neil McLeod, Glace Bay, C. B.
91. Mrs. Neil McLeod, Glace Bay, C. B.
92. Mr. Dan H. McIntyre, Glace Bay, C. B.
93. Mr. Murdock Wilson, Glace Bay, C. B.
94. Mrs. Murdock Wilson, Glace Bay, C. B.
98. Mr. James McLellan, Louisburg, C. B.
96. Mr. John McKay, New Waterford, C. B.
97. Alex M K y, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
98. Mrs. Robert Raxsom, Louisburg, C. B.
99. Mrs. Christy McDonald, Dutch Brook, C. B.
100. Mrs. James McNeil, Glace Bay, C. B.
101. Mr. Joseph McLeod, 41 Gritton Ave., Sydney.
102. Mrs. Joseph McLeod, 41 Gritton Ave, Sydney.
103. Mrs. Ann McDonald, 41 Gritton Ave., Sydney.
104. Mr. John McDonald, 41 Gritton Ave, Sydney.
105. Miss Sarah McDonald, 536 George St., Sydney.
106. Mrs. Dan O'Connor, New Waterford, C. B.
107. Miss Mary McDonald, 536 George St., Sydney.
108. Mr. Ronald McDonald, 536 George St., Sydney.
109. Mr. Allan McDonald, Forbes Court, Sydney.
110. Mrs. Allan McDonald, Forbes Court, Sydney, C. B.
111. Mrs. Elizabeth McNeil, North Sydney, C. B.
112. Mrs. Alex McAdam, Dom., No. 1, C. B.
113. Mr. Joseph A. McIntyre, Glace Bay,
114. Mrs. Walter Brke, Mirra Ferry, C. B.
115. Mr. John McDonald, Birch Grove Mines.
116. Mr. Alexander Black, Alexander St., Sydney.
117. Ronald Hillis, 125 West 96 St., New York City.
118. John McDougall, Pictou, N. S.
119. Mrs. G. Robeson, 34 Bradhrst St., New York City.
120. Mr. George Fraser, Halifax, care Dominion Express Co.
121. Mrs. Rod McNeil, Louisburg, N. S.
122. Rev. A. Chisholm, P. P., Judique, Inv., Co., C. B.
123. John L. Gill's, Louisburg, C. B.
124. John Gillis, Louisburg.
125. Mrs. James McPhee, Louisburg.
126. Mrs. Michael Pope, Louisburg.
127. Mrs. Ronald McPhee, Louisburg.
128. Mr. and Mrs. Donald McLeod, Louisburg.
129. Miss Flora Gillis, George's River, C. B.
130. Mr. Michael J. McKinnon, machinist, 500 Clark Black Butte, Mont.
131. Mr. A. V. McDonald, Box 272, Fort William, Ont.
132. Mr. Angus R. Black, Ard rous Pt., Sydney.
133. Mr. Stephen Black, Grutton Ave., Sydney.
134. Mr. Alex A. Gillis, 60 Anexandra St., Sydney.
135. Mr. Angus A. Gillis, Leonard St., Sydney.
136. Mr. Frank J. Gillis, Weeks Block, Sydney, C. B.
137. D. D. Gillis, New Victoria Mines, C. B.

138. Mary Josephine Gillis, 60 Alexandra St., Sydney.
139. James M. Gillis, Homsville, Michigan.
140. Stephen McDougall, Bell Plain, Sask.
141. D. D. McLellan, Sunset, Idaho, U. S. A.
142. F. X. McLellan, 1118 McKinley St., Berkley, Cal.
143. V. A. McLellan, Plummer Ave., New Waterford.
144. James J. McKay, South Westminster, B. C.
145. Mrs. J. Orrible, South Westminster, B. C.
146. Mrs. A. A. Curry, 164 Elm St., Keene, N. H.
147. Mrs. Martin D. McDonald, 57 Wensley St., Roxbury.
148. Mr. Martin D. McDonald, 57 Wensley St., Roxbury.
149. Mr. Angus D. Gillis, New Victoria Mines, C. B.
150. Mr. A. D. H. Gillis, New Waterford, C. B., N. S.
151. Mr. Thomas Gillis, New Waterford, C. B., N. S.
152. Mr. Donald Gillis, New Waterford, C. B.
153. Bennett Gillis, 45 Pine Ave., Montreal.
154. Mr. Duncan A. Gillis, C. B. Wholesale Co., Sydney
155. Mr. Angus D. Gillis, Johnson St., Sydney.
156. Mr. John J. Gillis, N. Side, East Bay.
157. Mr. Duncan Gillis, N. Side, East Bay.
158. Mr. James J. McDougall, Carpenter, North Sydney.
159. Mr. Angus McDonald, Rockdale Ave., Sydney.
160. Mr. Donald McInnis, Intercolonial St., Sydney.
161. Mrs. Joseph McMillan, Sydney, C. B.
162. Mr. Angus McDougall, Argyle St., Sydney.
163. Mrs. Angus McDougall, Argyle St., Sydney.
164. Mr. Michael Gillis, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
165. Mrs. Michael Gillis, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
166. Mrs. Peter Kinsley, C. B. Wholesale, Sydney.
167. Mr. Joseph Gillis, Intercolonial St., Sydney.
168. Mrs. James McLeod, Sydney, N. S.
169. Mrs. Mollie Gillis, Sydney.
170. Mrs. H. E. Farmer, Sydney.
171. Miss Margaret Gillis, Sydney.
172. Miss Agnes Gillis, Argyle St., Sydney, C. B.
173. Mrs. Frank McSween, King Edward St., Glace Bay.
174. Mr. John Nauffts, Dominion No. 6, C. B.
176. Mrs. Jack McLeod, George St., Sydney.
177. Mrs. John McEachern, Alexander St., Sydney.
178. Mr. Dan D. McArthur, Kings Road, Sydney.
180. Mr. Martin Gillis, Henry St., Whitney Pier.
181. Mr. James A. McEachren, 86 South Bentinct St. Sydney.
182. Mr. Stephen N. McEachren, 86 South Bentinct St.,
Sydney.
183. Miss Kate J. McEachern, 86 South Bentinck St., Sydney
184. Miss Mary McEachern, 86 South Bentinck St., Sydney
185. Mrs. A. J. McEachern, 86 South Bentinct St., Sydney
186. Mrs. Rod McDonald, Sydney, C. B.
187. Mrs. John Murphy, 97 George St., Sydney, C. B.
188. Mr. Murdock Campbell, Louisburg, C. B.

189. Mr. Joseph McDonald, Louisburg, C. B.
190. Mr. Dan H. McDonald, Louisburg, C. B.
191. Mrs. Thomas Cornington, Louisburg, C. B.
192. Mrs. Richard Power, Louisburg, C. B.
193. Mrs. John H. Thomas, Louisburg, C. B.
194. Mr. John H. Thomas, Louisburg, C. B.
195. Mr. Donald McLeod, Louisburg, C. B.
196. Mrs. Allan N. McDonald, Dom. No. 4, C. B.
197. Mrs. Donald McLeod, Louisburg, C. B.
198. Mrs. Fred Kelly, Louisburg, C. B.
199. Mr. James McDonald, 134 Henry St., Whitney Pier.
200. Mr. John McDonald, 134 Henry St., Whitney Pier.
201. Mr. Angus B. McDonald, Furness St., Whitney Pier.
202. Mr. Angus J. McDonald, Whitney Pier, C. B.
203. Mrs. James Cash, Big Pond Centre, C. B.
204. Mr. Da J. McDonald, New Waterford, C. B.
205. Mr. James McIntyre, Dom. No. 3, C. B.x
206. Mrs. Dan McDonald, McLeod's Hill, Whitney Pier.
207. Mr. Joseph Angus Currie, New Glasgow, C. B.
208. Mr. John Currie, Albert St., New Glasgow, C. B.
209. Mrs. John J. McEachern, Sydney, C. B.
210. Mr. Pius McEachern, Sydney, C. B.
211. Mr. Joseph McEachern, Whitney Pier, C. B.
212. Mrs. Allan H. McDonald, Glace Bay, C. B.
213. Mr. Joseph A. McDonald, New Waterford C. B.
214. Mr. William J. McDonald, New Waterford.
215. Mrs. John Morrison, Sydney Mines, C. B.
216. Mr. Michael McMullin, New Waterford, C. B.
217. Mrs. Michael McPhee, Reserve Road, Dom. No. 1
218. Mr. Allan McCormick, Dom. No. 1, C. B.
219. Mrs. Malcolm McMullin, Dominion No. 1, C. B.
220. Pte. Stephen McCormick, Louisburg, C. B.
221. Mr. Alex E. McKinnon, Louisburg, C. B.
222. Mrs. Norman McPhee, 10 Douglas St., Sydney, C. B.
223. Mr. John McPhee, Union St., Glace Bay, C. B.
224. Mr. Dan McPhee, Ferry St., Sydney, C. B.
225. Mr. Archie McPhee, Ferry St., Sydney, C. B.
226. Miss Mary A. McPhee, Vidal Hotel, Sydney, C. B.
227. Mr. Peter McDonald, Gritten Ave., Sydney, C. B.
228. Mr. Angus McDonald, Rear East Bay, C. B.
229. Mr. Joseph McDonald, New Waterford, C. B.
230. Mr. Stephen McCormick, 14 New Waterford, C. B.
231. Mr. Angus McMullin, Dominion No. 2, Glace Bay, C. B.
232. Mr. Dan Campbell, Argyle St., Sydney, C. B.
233. Mr. Angus A. Campbell, Cottage Lane, Glace Bay.
234. Mr. Archie McLean, No. 14, New Waterford, C. B.
235. Mr. John Morrison, Dom. No. 4, Glace Bay.
236. Mrs. Ronald McDonald, Dom. No. 4, Glace Bay.
237. Mr. Hugh R. McDonald, No. 14, New Waterford, C. B.

238. Mr. A. J. McCormick, Architect, Room 13, Ross Block, Sydney.
239. Mrs. Dan McIsaac, Townsend St., Sydney, C. B.
240. Mrs. Hugh McDonald, Chapel Hill, Glace Bay.
241. Mr. John McCormick, Townsend St., Sydney.
242. Mr. Argus McDonald, No. 14, New Waterford, C. B.
243. Mr. Dan McDonald, No. 14, New
241. Mrs. Duncan McDonald, Shaws Building, George St.,
242. Mr. Duncan McDonald, Henry St., Whitney Pier, C. B.
243. Annie Louise, Campbell, Shipyard, Sydney.
244. Joseph R. Campbell, Shipyard, Sydney.
245. Miss Mary Jane Campbell, Shipyard, Sydney.
246. Mr. A. W. Mann, C. B. Wholesale, Sydney.
247. Mrs. Jacob Mann, care A. W. Mann, C. B. Wholesale.
248. Mrs. Fred McKie, Care A. W. Mann.
249. Pte. Hugh J. McDonald, 152nd C. O. F. Winipeg, Man.
250. Miss Della Myers, care of A. W. Mann, C. B. Wholesale, Sydney.
252. Miss Rose Mann, Halifax, N. S.
252. Miss Maggie Slattery, Louisburg.
253. Mrs. Stephen McNeil, Christmas Island, C. B.
254. Mrs. Allan McIntyre, Glace Bay, Mechanics Row.
255. Mr. Dan L. Gillis, New Victoria Mines, C. B.
251. Mr. Joseph Allan McDonald, New Waterford, C. B.
257. Miss Flora Gillis, George's River, C. B.
258. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gurney. Coming.
259. Mr. Michael McKinnon, 107 English St., Sydney.
260. Mr. Stephen McKinnon, 107 English St., Sydney.
261. Miss Sadie McKinnon, Glace Bay.
262. Mrs. Argus McIntyre, Inglis St., Sydney.
263. Mrs. Michael McIntyre, East Bay, C. B.
264. Mr. James W. Mann, C. B. Wholesale, Sydney.
265. Mr. John McPhee, Stiles Lane, Sydney.
266. Mrs. John McPhee, Stiles Lane, Sydney.
267. Mrs. Stephen McDonald, Sterling, Glace Bay.
268. Mr. Neil L. Gillis, 436 Columbus Ave., Boston.
269. Joseph Gillis, 606 Grand St., Troy, N. Y.
270. Mrs. Peter McMullin, Hawkins Ave., Sydney.
271. Mrs. Martin McLellan, 70 Vulcan Ave., Sydney.
272. Mrs. Michael McGillivray, Stellarton.
273. Mr. and Mrs. D. McIntyre, Scotchtown, New Waterford
274. Mr. and Mrs. Edward McKenzie, 14 New Waterford.
275. Mrs. George B. Marsh, 14 New Waterford.
276. Miss Lizzie McDonald, 14 New Waterford.
277. Mrs. Ambrose McKinnon, McKinnon's Harbor.
278. Mrs. Michael McPhee, Argyle St., Sydney.
279. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McIntyre, Whitney Pier.
280. Mrs. William Devero, Whitney Pier, C. B.
281. Lauchlin McDonald, Sydney.
282. Mary McDonald, Sydney.

Other Sydney and Glace Bay and New Waterford business men followed the example of the Shaw & Mason Co., Ltd. The following firms contributed the articles mentioned after their names, and the use to which they were put is also indicated.

- 1 Shaw & Mason Ltd., a Kitchen Range drawn by Anthony McMillan, Grand Mira, who sold it to John R. Curry.
- 2 Thompson & Sutherland, a Grinding Stone drawn by Martin A. Gillis, South Side.
- 3 C. P. Moore, Big Ben alarm clock drawn by John McEachern, Mulgrave, N. S.
- 4 Campbell & Sutherland, a \$5.00 pair of Men's Shoes drawn as a prize for the best sheaf of wheat, J. R. McDonald.
- 5 Wrights Ltd., a Morris Chair drawn by M. J. Beaton and given to Rev. D. J. Rankin.
- 6 John McInnis, a Caddy of best Tea donated as a prize for best pair of socks, hand knitted Mrs. Joseph A. McDougall.
- 7 J. A. McCallum, Wagon Rug, donated as a prize for butter and drawn by Mrs. A. H. McDonald.
8. Frank Gillis, Horse Reins, drawn by Sam Jefferson, Sydney, and given to Rev. D. J. Rankin.
9. D. J. Buckley, 4 boxes of Mira Cigars, sold for cash.
10. The McEachern Harness Co., Horse Collar, by some mistake tickets were not sold on it and will be kept for the Fair to be held September 1917.
11. W. J. McDonald of McDonald & McDonald, New Waterford \$5.00 for 1st and 2nd prize, best butter, drawn 1st by Mrs. James McDonald, 2nd Mrs. James D. McEachern.
12. McDonald & Davis, Sydney, 2 boys Watches, one drawn by Elizabeth McMillan and the other by Rachel McDonald.
18. Centre Piece, donated by Miss Johanna McCormick, was drawn by Neil Gillis, New Waterford.
14. A. prize of \$5.00 for the best collection of Vegetables donated by the Rev. D. J. Rankin. was won by M. D. Curry.

Other prizes won were: Best Head of Cabbage, Angus McMillan, Upper Grand Mira.

2nd prize for wheat was won by A. J. Gillis.

3rd prize for wheat Rev. D. J. Rankin.

2nd best collection of Vegetables, John R. McDonald.

1st prize for best all Wool Quilt and another for best home made Couch Cover won by Mary McInnis, Grand Mira North.

Prizes for Quilts were also won by Mrs Andrew McDougall, Mrs. Martin A. Gillis and Mrs. Joseph Campbell, the two former of Grand Mira North and the last of Salmon River.

Mrs. Stephen A. Gillis, Victoria Bridge, won prizes for Centre piece, Cushion and Hearth Rug.

Miss Margaret E. Gillis, won prizes for Cushion, Mat and Centre piece.

Miss Agnes McAskill and Miss Elizabeth McMillan also won prizes for fancy work.

It speaks very favorably of the industry and thrift of the people that on such short notice they were able to show such a variety of exhibits and it is also an evidence that the Fair of 1917 will be very interesting indeed.

Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, a former pastor of the parish of Grand Mira was unable to attend but has kindly given a synopsis of what he had intended to say in his address that was put down on the program for Sunday evening.

Dr. A. S. Kendall, also kindly consented to speak on some subject of interest to the people but was unable to attend. Perhaps no other single individual in Cape Breton County or for that matter in any other part of the Province has been of such comfort and aid to the Mira River and particularly to Gabarus and Grand Mira as Dr. A. S. Kendall. He has attended sick calls in these places when no other doctor could be procured and now in the absence of our own doctor G. O. Hutchison at the war front, he is attending our sick. It was very much regretted then that the learned and kind Doctor was unable to take part.

OPENING DAY, SUNDAY 3RD SEPT, 1916

On the 3rd of September, 1916, opened an event that will be remembered in Grand Mira as long as any of the present residents live and no doubt will be remembered as an event of more than ordinary importance in the history of the Diocese of Antigonish and in the County of Cape Breton.

The young children who became soldiers of Jesus Christ on this day, and some of whom received our Blessed Lord in the Holy Eucharist, a few days previous for the first time, cannot but look back to it as one of the happiest days of their life and as there was connected with this the paying of due honor and respect to the memory of the pioneer progenitors, they will try to practice the virtues for which they were noted. Among the virtues that were found to be possessed by the Scotch settlers who came to the River in 1826 and in subsequent years were industry, honesty, love of truth and justice and great respect for authority.

About 70 children were confirmed after which the eloquent Bishop addressed them reminding them of their duties as Soldiers of Christ to stand firm by the command of Jesus Christ. He then pledged every one of them; boys and girls to abstain from all intoxicating drinks till they reach the age of twenty one and he hoped that after that they would continue all their lives in the practice of the virtue of temperance.

The High Mass was sung by the pastor Rev. D. J. Rankin, the Glace Bay Choir under the leadership of W. J. Pickup rendering

the music in the most devotional manner. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, many coming by automobile from all the surrounding towns.

His Lordship gave a beautiful sermon after the last Gospel on the Love of God and of Our Neighbour. Before explaining the Gospel he made kindly mention of the Celebration approving of the idea of getting the old parishoners back on a visit and expressing satisfaction at the exhibits, their quality and variety, and praising especially the evidences of industry given by the handiwork, quilts, rugs, knitting and fancy work. He hoped it would encourage them to put forth still greater efforts in this useful work. His sermon was listened to with the most devout attention, and made a deep impression on the vast audience, vast at least relative to the Community. Then followed Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The people of the parish and pastor were sorry to see his Lordship leave so soon after the Service in church, but were grateful for his opening address and his presence on the First day of the Celebration. His Lordship had to leave that evening in order to officiate at the burial of one of the eldest and most respected priests of the Diocese, Rev. Donald Chisholm, who died at St. Martha's Hospital at Antigonish, the proceeding Friday. The weather on Sunday was fine it having cleared up during the previous night, and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, it was ideal, all that could be desired.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Right Rev. Bishop, Rev. Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen—

On this day when such a very large percentage of the 350 guests, invited to the place, and their friends, are present to spend a few happy days with us, it is only proper that we should say a word of welcome. We would say in the good old way our forefathers expressed it "ceud mille Failt" (a hundred thousand welcomes.)

We sincerely hope that the time spent at home will be pleasant, and that you will all long to come back again to Grand Mira.

Ninety years ago the fore-fathers of those who are entertaining to-day chose Grand Mira as a place in which to begin home making and raising families; clearing away forests and cultivating; cutting paths to visit friends and to enable them to practice their Holy Religion.

They were induced to choose this locality rather than any other because, as we learn from a letter written the year previous to their coming out from Scotland, they could all settle together and have their families all take farms around them. The sight of the River today will convince you that they were a people who loved the beautiful things that God had made for man's use, and the fact that over four hundred of their decendants are today

coming home to visit the land of their birth shows what strong loyalty and patriotism must have been inherited by them from their fore-fathers.

And if we go to look for them in blood-streaming fields of Europe, we will find them there too defending the cause of their King and country.

The first settlers came to Grand Mira for the same reasons that they have come from Scotland to many other parts of America; some of the sons and daughters would have to leave the bens and glens at any rate to make a living. For the same reason many who are our guests today have left home to better their condition in life.

From the many letters that we have received in reply to our invitation it is learned that the same love which our fore-fathers had for their place of birth is strong in the hearts of their descendants. This noble affection for the place of birth, far from making one a less interested citizen in his adopted locality, is rather an aid. Evidences of loyal devotion to one's native place are also evidences of a soul full of life.

This Old Home Week and nintieth anniversary of the coming of the first settlers to Grand Mira is held then partly to show the present residents appreciation of the many evidences of this noble trait of character which has always been shown by the old residents. And the friends who have so kindly come to rejoice with present and past residents are no less welcomed, nor can old or new regard them as anything other than true and loyal friends. Friends are rejoicing in the re-union of members of the same family. It follows then that these friends are welcomed by larger numbers so that all are at home for these days.

During these days we should like you to note particularly what we are trying to raise and produce on our land, the land that the brave pioneers cleared and hoed. Descendants of that noble band of people who crossed the ocean in 1826 and in later years learn that no occupation is destined to contribute to the general well-being of the nations more than that which your progenitors followed.

The land of your sires is in some cases growing in forests. Secure a title on it and if you do not use it for the sake of your noble forebears pass it over to some one who will use it for the purpose for which a kind Providence intended it.

I would say in conclusion that we welcome His Lordship who is so interested not only in the spiritual welfare of those entrusted to him, but the temporal welfare of all; the former priests who have helped so zealously the present and former parishoners spiritually as well as temporarily; the kind friends among the business-men of Sydney who have sent articles to be exhibited, and afterwards donated them for prizes.

We hope that all will enjoy their stay among us and derive as real satisfaction from seeing us as the parish of Grand Mira does from having its friends as its guests.

EARLY HISTORY OF PARISH.

(By Major R. Gillis)

Early in the month of June 1826, the ship *Tamerlane* sailed from the tail of the bank at the mouth of the River Clyde, having on board a large number of emigrants from different parts of the Scottish Highlands, but principally from Loch Morar in Invernesshire.

The parish of Loch Morar at present consists of about 30 families, having a beautiful little church built for them by Lord Lovat, who also pays the resident priest.

This is a great favor shown by their kind and generous landlord, who is at all times ready to assist his people and grant every reasonable request.

Loch Morar is a small lake on the western coast of Invernesshire, with rocky shores, surrounded by sterile hills, but when the poor people who were leaving their homes forever looked upon the lake and its dismal shores for the last time, no doubt their warm and generous hearts were sad, and in their minds, if not on their lips were the pathetic words of McCrimmon's lament, "Cha till me tuille."

The *Tamerlane* sailed with its living freight of strong-limbed and hopeful people bound for the shores of the new world, and after an uneventful voyage of six weeks arrived in Sydney, C. B. where the greater part of the emigrants disembarked; some, however, remaining on board until the ship arrived at Quebec, where they scattered to different parts of Canada, and, I hope and have reason to believe, they prospered.

Most of those leaving the ship at Sydney found their way to the beautiful shores of Grand Mira Lake; but by what route they travelled, or how long it took them to get to their journey's end, I am entirely unable to state. Certain it is that there were no roads at that time leading towards their goal—possibly some rough paths—but the people were strong and full of courage, and could not be daunted.

Grand Mira must have presented a beautiful appearance at the time the first settlers arrived there; but with its primeval forest reaching down to the waters' edge, it required great courage and fortitude in those people to settle down to a mode of getting a livelihood so different from that to which they had been accustomed in their native glens and mountains of the rugged Scottish Highlands.

After many hardships and privations, the woods were cut down, the land cleared and cultivated, houses were built, and, in due course, comforts were enjoyed; and if not many luxuries were obtainable, certainly peace and plenty reigned throughout the parish.

It must not be forgotten that these people were pious and god-fearing, as well as sturdy and courageous. So we may easily imagine that after the bare wants of the body were assured, the next thought was to provide a place of worship where the wants of the soul could be administered to. So a fine and commodious church was built, which indeed was a great achievement for such a small and scattered colony as Grand Mira parish must have been at that time. The church to which I refer stood a few yards from the present beautiful edifice, nearer the shore, and was a substantial frame structure, and did service for many years until the present church was built when it was demolished, having done its full share and earned many honors.

My earliest recollections of the old church was the day I was confirmed, which was an event of great importance and never to be forgotten.

That prince among men, the late Bishop Colin Francis McKinnon, sat at the centre of the altar rail in his robes and mitre, and without a doubt, he was personification of princely dignity and grace.

The late James McDougall led the children up to the Bishop, who administered the Sacrament sitting on the throne, and I feel sure that all who took part in this occasion will remember it to their dying day.

The first settlers of this parish, as well as their descendants, were gifted with great and intelligent industry, and with remarkable mechanical talent. They not only built their houses, made their own boots and shoes and all other things that were necessary for their homes, but they built many beautiful boats both for their own use and for the fishermen around the coast.



Lumber being plentiful around the shores of the lake, and the men of such fine mechanical minds, it is not surprising so many of them turned their attention to shipbuilding, and without a doubt this parish has a record in that line second to none in the province, taking the lack of funds and many other matters into consideration.

The first vessel built of which I have any knowledge was a schooner built by Mr. Angus Gillis of the head of the lake. She was called the "water-witch" and was sailed by her builder for some years. This sturdy pioneer was a man of many parts and left a line of descendants, who have made their marks in the different walks of life in which their lots were cast. I may mention one grandson, Capt. Angus Mann, of the C. B. Wholesale, Sydney who is not only a highly respected citizen, but has made a great success of his business, which has made him known and respected far and near.

Another fine schooner was built by the McEachren's near the point opposite the mouth of the Salmon River, and sold to good advantage by the builders.

This family of McEachren's was a very fine one, being remarkably strong of limb, clear of intellect, and all fine men in general I will have something to say later about one member of the family.

I think the next vessel built was a schooner by Archie Gillis, which he not only built and fitted out, but sailed for some time, and being a man of great resource it is said that he made some trips in her in which he was the sole crew. I am not prepared to vouch for the truth of this, but I have heard it stated many times.

The late John McDougall built a very fine schooner directly across the lake from where we stand. She was sold to a party at Gabarus by the name of Timothy Ales, if I mistake not, and was considered a very fine sailor and all-round tidy craft.

This John McDougall was a fine type of the hardy, resourceful pioneer, a remarkably genial and companionable man. He married young in life, Mary Gillis, and a large and sturdy family was born to them. Some of their grand-children occupy positions of trust and honor in many parts of the world.

Capt. Angus MacDonald of the D. C. Co. as fine a sailor as ever trod a quarter-deck, being one, Fred MacDonald, a brother of the captain, is a prominent member of the Dominion Bridge Co. of Montreal, and is indeed one of the brainy men of the concern. Another grandson is the brave and brilliant Major J. A. MacDonald who is at present in command of a battery in France, and one of the best soldiers under the flag. Then there is Sergt. Major Steven Black twice out to South Africa now golding a position of trust in the home service.

As stated, this couple married young and lived to a very great age, both dying at the age of 93 years. A remarkable thing in this connection being that if the husband had lived three months longer, they would have completed seventy years as man and wife.

I think that the next vessel built was a very beautiful schooner by Donald and John Gillis, sons of the late Archy Gillis, whose house was on the farm adjoining. These young men were remarkable for great pluck and push and, as may easily be understood, while they had unbounded intellect and pluck, but being without funds, they had to leave home for a larger field, where opportunities were open to such men. They left home about the time the American Civil War was commencing, and took contracts to finish some gunboats required for the Federal Navy, and having finished their contracts in the wonderfully short space of ninety days their reputations were made, and they got all the contracts they could handle, and made great wealth.

Donald later went west, but John settled in New York and today is one of the most highly respected citizens in that city. I do not know much about Donald, but being of a fine appearance and a charming manner, he must have come well in the West.

James Gillis, son of the late John Gillis, also built a fine big schooner, which was bought by Capt. Farrell of Mainadieu. She was called the "Josephine" and was engaged in the coasting trade for many years.

The last vessel built of which I have knowledge was a small schooner built by the late Alex P. Gillis and sold to the late Michael Slattery of Louisburg, who had her for many years in the coasting trade.

It may be asked if Grand Mira could turn out so many vessels in those days, why not continue the business? This can easily be answered by the statement that all wooden ship-building has been superseded by steel and until the time comes when steel ships will be built in Nova Scotia, that once great industry will be lost to us. More over, new avenues of employment are being developed, the coal mines and later the steel industry giving to all young men openings which were not thought of a few years ago.

This parish, I understand, has been for many years a veritable hive of industry, supplying pit timber for the coal mines, and that too, without necessitating the breaking up of families, by the young men being under the necessity of leaving home for employment in the mines or other works. The pit timbers being found on the farms of those having contracts, the young men simply live at their homes, going to the woods the same as if at the ordinary, everyday farm work; the consequence being that this parish is perhaps one of the best off of the whole diocese, the houses being supplied with all ordinary conveniences found in houses of more pretensions in the mining towns, and without a doubt, the conditions are all that could reasonably be desired.

Hitherto I have endeavored to point out the ordinary, everyday events of the settlers; how their hopes had been realized; their efforts rewarded with a reasonable measure of prosperity and independence, and their frugal and temperate lives borne fruit, now I will turn to another side of the picture—the tragic side. The parish of Grand Mira has had many sad and heart-rending tragedies both by sea and land, and, as is so often the case, it was not the weak or puny who were the victims, but the very best, both physically and otherwise.

First I will mention the case of Argus Campbell, who, as a young man, served his time as a blacksmith in the city of Glasgow. On finishing his apprenticeship, he, with many others, of his compatriots, sought a home in the new world. Arriving at Grand Mira full of hope and energy, he cleared a farm, built a fine house comfortably finished on the outside, and had the inside ready for plastering when he found it necessary to take a trip for supplies, to the port of Mainadieu, which was at that time, the principal place in the Island. He had his boat loaded deeply and sailed for home, full of hope and life, but alas! God willed differently. The boat was struck by a sudden squall off Round Island, and sank immediately, carrying all hands to a watery and untimely grave. On learning of the sad event, the good people turned out and recovered the body which now lies buried in the old graveyard a few rods from his home.

This man came of a very talented family of South Uist, one cousin, the late Argus Campbell, being a man of rare gifts, a poet and musician of no ordinary calibre. Another cousin being the late Monsignor Campbell, prefect of the Scottish College of the Propaganda, Rome.

Many of the older people of this parish will no doubt remember the memorable squall of 1859 off the coast of Fourchu. In one of the fishing boats were three fine young men belonging to the head of the lake, two brothers by the names of John and Dougall Walker, and one John Campbell, all three being lost. This squall, or cloud-burst, as many thought it to be, was a terrible affair. I know a man, who, as a young boy, was in a boat quite close to boats which were swamped. He said that the path of the squall was quite narrow, the boat in which he was receiving very little of the effects, all the water shipped being easily cleared by bailing.

In the early days of the parish, all the avenues of employment open the young men were on the water, either as sailors on the coasting vessels or as fishermen. Among the number who took to the sea as a sailor was a fine strapping man by the name of Argus McKinnon, son of the late Charles McKinnon. The vessel on which he sailed became a total wreck on the shore of St. Margaret's Bay, just west of Halifax, and all hands lost. As far as I can learn the body was not recovered, being probably ground up on the wild and rugged rocks of that inhospitable bay.

I now come to another very sad case, that of Duncan Mc-

Eachren, who was an exceptionally fine specimen of manhood. I have already made reference to this person as one of the builders of a fine schooner on the shore of their own farm. It seems that he, with probably some others, had bought a vessel which had been wrecked on the Island of Scatterie, and were engaged in making repairs to her preparatory to getting her off, when by some cause not known, she bilged over suddenly with the result that McEachren was caught under her and immediately crushed to death.

In more recent years, there were two young men drowned by falling through the ice on the lake; one, Donald Black, while out skating, getting into a hole from which he did not succeed in saving himself, the other one being a young man-servant to the late James Gillis, miller, who when returning from Sydney with a horse and sleigh, fell through the ice a very short distance from his destination.

I now come to the last case, although not chronologically correct, that of a very young girl belonging to the lower part of the parish. She was on a visit to friends at the head of the lake, and started to return home by the ice, which was glib and smooth as glass. The day was cold and windy and the poor young girl, not being clad sufficiently for such severe conditions succumbed to the cold, and was picked up dead and frozen the next morning near the centre of the lake, directly opposite where we now stand.

I am now nearing the end of my talk, but before closing, I wish to say a few words in explanation of some remarks which might seem rather sectional. In referring particularly to the people who came from Loch Morar, I did so not because they were my own relations, but because they were the only ones of whom I had positive knowledge. I know that many of the original settlers were from the Island of South Uist. I also know that six years after the arrival of the Tamerlane, another ship brought a large number of emigrants, many of whom settled, along the French Road distrit, and whose descendants are to be found in many useful walks of life; and who have made names for themselves of which any one might be proud.

My knowledge of Loch Morar is chiefly derived from conversations which I have had with a priest of this diocese; who made a visit to the home of his ancestors in that parish. He told me, among many other interesting things, that he had slept in the house in which his grandfather had been born; also, that he had had the great pleasure of celebrating Mass in the beautiful little church of which I have already made mention.

The parish is poor, but the good Lord Lovat being particularly kind to the small flock, they manage to eke out an existence of more or less comfort, but I have no doubt but those who left the wild shores of the little lake ninety years ago, to take up their life-work in this parish, and whose descendants are here today are much better off from the standpoint of worldly prosperity.



James A. Campbell, Glace Bay

FAREWELL ADDRESS

(By James A. Campbell, Glace Bay.)

Grand Mira, Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 1916

Rev. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As one of the large number of people from Glace Bay and the mining districts who have attended your Old Home Week Celebration during the past three days, before bidding you farewell this afternoon I wish to thank you kindly for your hospitality during our stay at Grand Mira. At such large gatherings as this especially in a district where transportation facilities are but yet in an experimental stage and where there are no hotel accomodations, it is not an easy matter to send everyone away rejoicing; but in this respect, I think you have succeeded admirably, for any one who went away

from here not satisfied would indeed be hard to please. I also wish to congratulate you on the civil and business like manner in which you have carried on this celebration for the past three days. It must indeed be an inspiration to your good parish priest, to yourselves, as well as to the many strangers who have attended from the different parts of the country. Personally I owe much to Grand Mira, for it was in this district that I made my first start upon the rough roads of this world, and it was also in this district that I made what I hope is a very good start on the road to the world to come; for it was in this Church nearby that I was baptized about forty years ago. Naturally I do not remember that occasion but I am reasonably sure that I did not come by automobile, neither by a motor boat. It is more than likely that my good father and my good mother carried me across those hills and lakes on their shoulders, as was the common custom in those days, when these sturdy settlers were struggling hard not only for material things but also for everything high and right. We cannot always live on the glory of our forefathers. We must show by our deeds that we are worthy to invoke the memories of the people of those days no matter where we live or what our station in life may be. When I was but very young in years, I left the farm on which I was born. However it was not by any choice of my own, but because my parents moved to the town of Glace Bay; and although I have no reason to regret the change, as I have, so far at least been fairly successful in the affairs of this world, I say to the young men and women of Grand Mira or any other farming district, "Stay on your farms." You have no poverty at Grand Mira, but we have poverty in the Towns and Cities, and lots of it. You people of Grand Mira are all wealthy, but you do not know it, or at least you do not realize it. There is many a good man to-day in mining districts in Cape Breton who left a good farm, that would like to go back to it, but is too proud to go back much worse off then when he left it. However I did not come to Grand Mira as your adviser, for what you have achieved within the past week is an indication that you are well able to manage your own affairs. But let me say to you, if I was your advisor, my advice to you would be "Stay on your farms," be true members of the Church to which you belong, be loyal to your respected pastor and you will surely be good members of the community in which you live. A community is indeed a lucky one that has a good Parish Priest. Thanking you Ladies and Gentlemen for your kind attention and thanking you again for your hospitality.



Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, P. P.

SERMON

(By Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, P. P.)



ET us now praise men of renown and our fathers in their generation, those men of mercy whose godly deeds have not failed. Let the people show forth their wisdom, and the church declare their praise. (Eccl. 44 ch.)

The inspired writer, looking back through the dim corridors of time, and recalling the illustrious dead whose memory was associated with the glory of Israel, outpoured their praises in the splendid eulogy contained in the 44th chapter of the Book of Ecclesiasticus, from which I have quoted, and wherein he shows how much the people of his own generation were indebted to those men, strong in faith and righteous in word and deed, who made the history of his race one to be justly proud of.

Today, while we look back through the lights and the shadows of the past, in this community; today, while we revive the memory of another generation and bear witness to the sturdy faith, unassumed piety, and splendid force of character which shone forth in their lives, we feel that the words of the inspired eulogist sound the key-note of this celebration. In the language of the same inspired writer "THEY WERE MEN OF GREAT POWER, RICH IN VIRTUE, LIVING IN PEACE IN THEIR HOUSES, AND THEY HAVE TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESENT GENERATION A NAME THAT THEIR PRAISES MAY BE RELATED."

Heroism is always deserving of its quota of praise. It acts like a magnet; it attracts; it draws out every lofty and generous sentiment; it elicits admiration as only a few things can. For as the working out of a noble purpose at the cost of human sacrifice it is the grandest worldly achievement a man can boast of. It soars high above selfish aims and selfish ambition. God gives a character to such deeds and places. His seal of approval is upon them, "It is not every one who says Lord, Lord, who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven."

There is such a thing as the accomplishment of deeds for the glamor of earthly praise. That is not heroism in the true sense. The hero is one who does something for a high and lofty aim. The distinguished American orator Chauncey Depew, puts this well when he says, "The World in all ages has worshipped its heroes, but the Standard of Heroism has always been improving. We reckon," he says "heroism, today, not so much on account of the thing done as for the motive behind the act."

Your sturdy ancestors, whose memory you are celebrating during this week of Jubilation, prove themselves to be greater heroes in accomplishing what they did in transmitting to you the heritage of Faith by which the opportunities you possess have become possible than if they had faced hostile armies on the blood strewn battlefield. Your parish shows abundant evidence of your having possessed, and of your now possessing such opportunities. This commodious church where the unspotted Sacrifice is daily offered as the supreme act of homage to the Eternal Majesty speaks eloquently of it. And not less eloquently do your schools which loom up everywhere through the land bespeak it. There your children are receiving that healthy training in which religion

plays so important a part that the simple, plain, yet sublime, lesson of the Commandments appeals to them with more force and presents a nobler theme than the grandest productions of human learning.

In the early days of the past century the pioneers of the parish were living in the land of their forefathers, where kinship and the many endearing associates of home and environment, bound them to their native soil; but, like the Israelites of old, they felt that another land was destined to become the home of their adoption—a land where they and their descendants were to multiply and increase and become a new community, favored by the Lord with many blessings. Hence did they cast their eyes towards a new home across the wide expanse of sea where they pictured to themselves a land of promise abounding in stores of Nature's gifts. To get there was not a dream of pleasure. It was not the age of automobiles, speeding trains or floating palaces on the bosom of the ocean.

The passage across the Atlantic in a small sailing ship was attended with many perils and inconveniences and discomforts such as we, in our day, have no conception of. But their resolution was formed; they were to found a new home across the seas and in this home glorious possibilities opened before them.

To men of their stamp difficulties seemed to be easily surmounted. Their sturdy faith and trust in God were their "Pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night." What they accomplished in a new land you, their descendants assembled on this glorious occasion, are the witnesses of.

No longer stands the forest primeval but in its place comfortable homes surrounded by well-tilled fields and meadows where each one of you is a landlord on his own estate.

Nor is a home and a country we can call our own a thing not to be valued as one of the gifts of God. Attachment to home and love of Country are sanctified by the inspired Jeremias as he pours forth the story of his sorrows, at the gates of his desolate city, in his pathetic song, The Lamentations.

Today marks an epoch in this parish. You are celebrating ninety years of its history. It is a happy combination of years for such an event, and your zealous pastor must have embraced the opportunity more than by mere coincidence. The fifty years is the time of joy and gladness. This period was appointed by God

himself as we read in the book of Leviticus; "Thou shalt number to them seven weeks of years and thou shalt sanctify the fiftieth and thou shalt proclaim remission to all the inhabitants of the land for it is the year of the Jubilee." The period of forty in scripture is associated with penance and with sorrow. The forty centuries of sighs and tears for the coming of the Messiah, the forty days of the Deluge, the forty days of the impending doom of the Minivites, the forty years of the Israelites in the desert, the forty days of the Saviours fast, and the forty days awaiting the Ascension.

By the happy combination of those two periods of years, the fifty years of joy and the forty of tribulation you have the lights and shadows, the joys and the sorrows, of the community brought home to you in this Home Week—this week which closes the events of ninety years.

PROSPECTS FOR GRAND MIRA

The River, having at Grand Mira an area of 5 miles in length and varying in width from a mile to one mile and three quarters and varying in depth from 30ft. a short distance from the shore at the South side to a depth of some hundred feet out in the middle, could no doubt be used for building certain smaller crafts. There is a considerable amount of Iron, both Hemetite and Manganese on the South Side also. There are some tons of it exposed to the weather for the last seven years since the Nova Scotia Steel Co., had an option on it. The people have expressed their willingness to help any enterprising concern to operate these areas, to help them to bring it to the shore in order to test it at the Steel Plant. There is copper, zinc and iron also found both at French Road, and Eagle's Head. There are lakes on both sides of the river from which any amount of water could be procured and very likely there is sufficient head to make this water available for power as well as for house use. A large proportion of the land in the parish is covered with forests, both spruce and hardwood. In fact the forests have been of greater aid for the people in making a living in the place than any other resource. They grow very rapidly, some of the older people contending that in fifteen or twenty years spruce grows from a seedling to sufficient size for pit timber. The reason for this is that the valley of the river is protected from the winds by the highlands on either side and the distance from the sea breezes.