



# The Old Train Station News

Newsletter # 111

April 2019

Dear friends,

I was in the store the other day and noticed – I’m sure you noticed too - the preparations for the Easter season. It made me wonder . . . how did the Easter bunny get into Easter?

When I was a child of about five years old, my mother worked for a German family of men. They seemed to get great pleasure out of teasing me. It often made my mother angry and caused me a great many tears. On this particular occasion, I was looking forward to Easter and certainly looked forward to the Easter bunny coming with his basket of treats. My mother was preparing supper one evening when “John” came home from the village. The first thing he said when he came in the door was that he had a small accident. This dumb rabbit hopped across the road in front of him with a basket filled with coloured eggs. He didn’t even have time to react and he ran right over the rabbit. What a mess! All those eggs smashed and the rabbit dead in the ditch!

I can just imagine the look on my face before I let out a howl. I couldn’t stop crying and my mother was trying to reassure me by telling me John was only joking. He didn’t see the Easter rabbit and I would see in the morning that the Easter bunny was fine and would leave something special for me. My mother thought it was the cruelest thing to do to a child, but I think it fell on deaf ears. I recovered! A mother’s hugs always help.

Sometimes we accept our traditions without thought. Easter bunnies are for the children while we deal with the serious matters of death and new life. But there is a connection. The egg is an ancient symbol of new life which has been associated with the celebration of spring. Christians see eggs as a representation of Jesus’ emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Orthodox churches have a custom of abstaining from eggs during the fast of Lent. So, the eggs wouldn’t be wasted, they would be boiled and then painted, traditionally red (blood of the sacrifice) or green (new life), for the post-Lenten celebration. Thus, we get the beautiful Ukrainian works of “egg” art known as pysanky.



I am getting to the Easter bunny! The association of “hares” with giving birth to large litters in the early spring, led them to be symbols of the rising fertility of the earth at the Vernal Equinox. In Northern European tradition, the “osterhase” (egg-laying hare) would lay her coloured eggs in nests made by the children in their caps and bonnets in preparation for Easter. Carrots were often left out for the hare in case he got hungry. As at Christmas, only the good children would receive eggs. This tradition was brought to North America by protestant German immigrants.

As with most traditions, the meaning gets lost and commercialization takes over so that we have today many variations on the original theme. It is certainly more elaborate now, but who can argue with Chocolate Eggs and Bunnies!

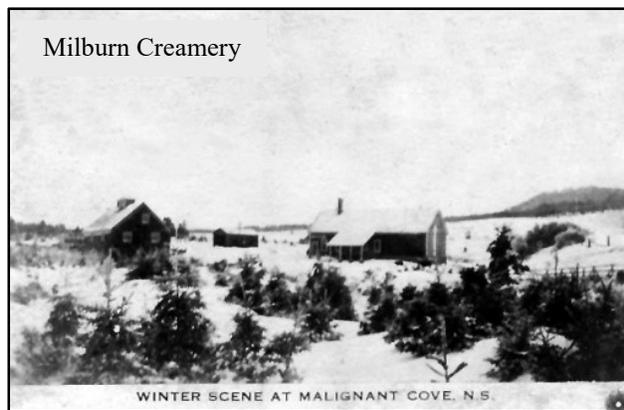
*The Epistolarion*

### **“The Book Sale” - You’ve Been Waiting For**

Every year we receive numerous used books offered from our patrons for the benefit of the Museum. These books are excess to our Museum needs and cover Antigonish, Guysborough, Cape Breton and other areas of the province. The published material being offered include Pamphlets, Coffee table books, Crafting Books, Tourism books, Research books and books of general interest.

**April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 3:00pm**

### **Milburn Creamery at Malignant Cove**



Milburn Creamery

The **Milburn Creamery Company**, which was organized in September 1914 at Malignant Cove, has completed the construction of an up-to-date plant for the manufacture of creamery butter. The first churning from the newly completed creamery was made on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1915. The initial output was 800 pounds and that output has quickly increased to 2400 pounds per week. **“Milburn Creamery Made”** was the winning slogan for advertising a premium butter product.

The formal opening took place on Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> with speeches from experts in the agriculture field followed by a grand community picnic. To celebrate the success of the business *The Casket* reported that the Malignant Cove settlement was to be thereafter known as Milburn. The new name never caught on with the local residents.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915 *The Casket* reported “the Milburn Creamery Company shipped practically five tons of butter. This large shipment went to Halifax. It means a money circulation of over \$2,500 in the communities served by the new creamery.” By April 1919 the creamery continued to remain successful with hopes the area would become “one of the most successful dairy districts in the Province.” The Milburn Creamery remained in operation until 1935.

We would love to hear from anyone who remembers their family working for or producing milk for the Milburn Creamery.

## CREATING A DISPLAY - WORKSHOP

**Jocelyn** will be offering a hands-on workshop covering all aspects of the display process. Participants will come up with a display idea, collect items, arrange and label the display, and then put away unused items. This is a great opportunity to learn the creative process and understand how displays are created. Bonus: get a better understanding of our collection. Refreshments after the workshop. – *Please register with Jocelyn*

**Tuesday, April 23rd from 1:30 to 3:00pm**

**Correction:** Sandra Perro has informed us that Bill Scranton owned the second-hand store not Sam Facey.

### Albert Livingston

Fishing is a way of life for many people living along our coasts; going out in the boats, even at a very young age, is commonplace even today. Albert Livingston of Cape George recalled that he didn't like fishing at all because it was such hard work, *"I remember my father saying fishing was even harder when he was a boy."* Albert started going out fishing with his father when he was about thirteen and by fifteen, he was working at it full-time. During fishing season, they would be up, have breakfast and head to the shore before daylight. According to Albert, *"There were no haulers or engines; you rowed with oars and you had to set your traps by hand."* By noon time, the big job was getting back to shore, especially when the seas were rough."



Trapping lobsters was the big cash crop but they also caught ground fish to salt and preserve. They didn't smoke salmon like today, that was reserved for ham and bacon. After a hearty dinner, it was time to get the farm work done. Albert left the fishing behind for many years while he put his efforts into his love for carpentry. He recalled that he went back to lobstering only when it was necessary – *"fishing was a way I could pay for the grocery bills. It was not difficult to get a licence to fish at that time."*

When Albert retired, he went back to his love of wood and became a well-known local woodcarver for his own pure enjoyment. Today the fishing industry is much different, but it is still hard and dangerous work.

*"When the April wind wakes the call for the soil, I hold the plough as my only hold upon the earth, and, as I follow through the fresh and fragrant furrow, I am planted with every foot-step, growing, budding, blooming into a spirit of spring."*  
- Dallas Lore Sharp



## April is Membership Month

It is that time of the year again when memberships are once again due. Our work here involves promoting and preserving our understanding of the culture of Antigonish Town and County. We can't do our work without your support. If you are not a member, we would love to welcome you on board. Membership forms are available on our web page or drop by the Museum.

## Connecting New Glasgow and Antigonish

Previous to 1850, the only road from New Glasgow toward Antigonish was by Merigomish round Malignant Cove, or in winter, over the Antigonish hills. About this time, the Hon. W.A. Henry, member for Antigonish (then called Sydney) cooperating with the representatives for this county, obtained a legislative grant for Marshy Hope Road which was opened in '51, being previously located by the brothers Adam and John McKenzie.

The first winter road was open for travel. Mr. Henry was expected to pass this way to attend the meeting of Assembly. The residents along the line and as many teams as could be mustered for the occasion – the procession led by Adam McKenzie and Peter Fraser the piper; turned out to meet the Honorable member for Sydney and to give him a hearty send off in honor of his efforts on behalf of this necessary thoroughfare.

*By H.H. Bruce Feb 18, 1886 in The Eastern Chronicle*

### AT THE MUSEUM

#### From our Displays:

**April:** Alistair Hamilton has provided an interesting **Loyalist Era Military Costume** with accoutrements for display.

We are adding **lights** to our display cabinets. What a difference!

Drop by and buy tickets on our **quilted wall hanging** and support our efforts to buy display panels for the windows.

#### Books for Sale:

**We are having a book sale! April 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 3:00pm**  
Large selection and there are always a few of those ones you haven't been able to find. You won't want to miss it!

#### Mark your Calendar:

**Creating a Display workshop with Jocelyn! Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00pm**

### Blessings

Blessed is the young lady  
whose father deals in cotton;  
It will cost very little for  
bustles.

Blessed is he who sleeps  
on a straw bed:  
he will not be pricked  
by the points of feathers.

*The Casket*  
Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1852

