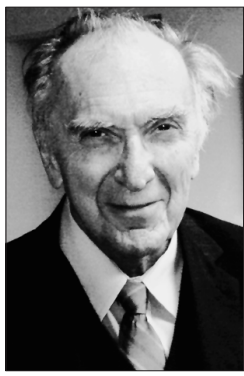


*In Those Days in Victoria County*

# Twigs on the Hawley Tree



by Jim St. Clair

On July 9th and 10th, descendants of Mathew Hawley gathered in Port Hood, Inverness County where Mathew had his first land grant in the late 1700s. They came from many

places in North America for a time of meeting one another, sharing information, enjoying lobster, attending church, and going to ancient cemeteries to see the graves of their ancestors.

For all of them, there was the interesting task of trying to place themselves on the family tree. It is a bit curious that the Hawley name probably is derived from the haw tree of England – and the family's remote ancestor apparently lived near such a tree in a grassy meadow or lea back in the Middle Ages.

While many of the descendants of Mathew remained in Inverness County for several generations (one son lived in Guysborough County), particularly in the Mabou area where they were among the earliest settlers of European background, one branch moved in the 1870s to the Ingonish area of Victoria. Several other Inverness County families, some related to the Hawleys, made the same trek, probably by boat.

These were some of the children of Mathew Hawley, Jr., as mentioned in his will and as found on the census records of Ingonish. For instance, on the 1901 federal listings, Isaac, Thomas, and Mathew Hawley, aged forty-seven, forty-three, forty-seven respectively, as well as the children of their brother James are to be found one after another with their children and grand-children.

Although some people in Ingonish feel that some of the Hawleys came directly from Ireland to Ingonish, it is evident from the probate and census and marriage records that all the Ingonish group and their offspring are properly to be assigned to Mathew Hawley's family tree.

While it is known that the progenitor of this extensive Victoria County family, Capt. Mathew Hawley, was born in the

inland Connecticut community of Waterbury, in 1751, the son of Obediah and Sarah (Wheeler) Hawley, and was assigned land in Guysborough County as a Loyalist settler, much mystery surrounds his marriages or alliances and certain periods in his life.

Much discussion always takes place wherever Hawley descendants and local historians gather about the mother of the four sons of Capt. Mathew (James, William, John and Mathew Jr.) and his daughter Ann. Capt. Mathew had three children by his first wife, two of whom did come to Cape Breton; it appears that the mother of these children (her name was Chloe Brown) never lived in Cape Breton.

No evidence exists for her death or for any legal divorce for Capt. Mathew and his first spouse. But the name of his second partner, Abigail Squires is well known by tradition. But who was she? Where did she come from? Was she Irish? She was Roman Catholic, although Mathew was Protestant, probably Anglican or Congregational.

On the census records, only the children of Mathew Hawley Jr., the son of Capt. Mathew and Abigail Squires, identify themselves as Roman Catholic and Irish – and these are their grandchildren and great grandchildren who lived in Ingonish. So, there is a clue to Abigail's origin – certainly she was Roman Catholic, probably Irish as her descendants claim that origin – while Capt. Mathew was English by descent for many generations. Tradition also suggests that she was from Newfoundland where there is an extensive Squires family in which the name Abigail is found.

And maybe family lore is correct when it is suggested she had red hair.

Mathew the immigrant signs his name with an "x" on a deed in 1821 to which his sons Mathew Junior and James put their name. So he was still living at that time. But his name does not appear on the 1818 census or the 1821 document of people calling Rev. William Millar to be the minister of the newly formed Mabou-Port Hood Presbyterian Church. Where was he at the times of those listings?

Capt. Mathew is buried in the First Settlers, Pioneer, Presbyterian Cemetery in South-East Mabou, while the mother of his children, Abigail is buried in the

Pioneer Roman Catholic burial ground in West Mabou. It is also known that she was the mother of several additional children by early settlers in Mabou area named Whitehead and Breen. They were born long before Capt. Mathew died, but after her Hawley children.

So among the Hawleys of Victoria County and those of Cape Breton County and those of Inverness County and many other places, the mysterious aspects of Mathew Hawley's life and that of the mother of his children born in Port Hood remain open for discussion. But they can place their names on the appropriate branches of the Hawley tree and rejoice in the occasional gatherings.



## Féis an Eilein - Eilean na Nollaig

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaelic Concert Series

#### "Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh" "I Would Willingly Return"

**July 12<sup>th</sup> A' Ghàidhlig Anns A' Cheòl - Gaelic in the Music**  
Enjoy an evening of traditional fiddling, piano & dancing. Join Gaelic singer Mary Jane Lamond, Shelley Campbell and Carl MacKenzie (fiddle), Sandy MacDonald (guitar), and Pat Chafe (piano), the Iona Gaelic Singers and Barry George, and step-dancer Anita MacDonald.

**Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 7-9 Step-Dance Workshop**  
Intermediate/Advanced Session - Instructor Anita MacDonald - Admission \$10

**July 19<sup>th</sup> Ceòl Eadar Càirdean - Musical among Friends & Relations**  
Fear an Taighe Jeff MacDonald will welcome Kyle Gillis (fiddle), Dawn MacDonald-Gillis (piano) and Patrick Gillis (guitar), Kyle MacNeil (fiddle), Seamus MacNeil (piano) and Monica MacNeil (Celtic Saxophone).

**All Concerts at 8:00 pm - Admission \$10, children 14 & under \$5**  
feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca • <http://www.feisaneilein.ca> • Ph/Fax: 902-622-2627  
Christmas Island Firehall, 8539 Grand Narrows Hwy (Route 223)







## FIDDLER'S CORNER *by Paul S. Cranford.*

If you have a tune you would like to share with other Cape Breton fiddlers or a musical event that could be promoted in this column contact The Victoria Standard or Cranford Publications ([www.cranfordpub.com](http://www.cranfordpub.com)). Email [psc@cranfordpub.com](mailto:psc@cranfordpub.com)

### Mémère's Birthday

Leanne Aucoin, SOCAN

reel

The image shows the musical notation for the reel 'Mémère's Birthday'. It consists of four staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and trills. Chord markings 'A' and 'G' are placed above the notes. The piece is marked as a 'reel'.

Leanne Aucoin is a fiddler, step dancer, piano player and music teacher based in Halifax. Originally from Sydney Mines she is in the area for a few weeks teaching at The Gaelic College in St. Anns.

Although *Mémère's Birthday* was previously published in *The Cape Breton Fiddlers Collection*, it is corrected above (transcribed from a recent recording of Leanne - if you have the book, get out your red pen!

• July 23, 8:15 PM - **The Fiddlers on the Hill**, St. John Parish Hall, North Ingonish. Performers include Leanne Aucoin, Brenda Stubbert, Sarah Beck and Paul Cranford.



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## Victoria County's Residential Curbside Organics Collection

**Garbage Shipped to Guysborough**  
For the month of June, 2011, **298.35 Tonnes** of garbage were shipped bringing the total to **15,480.53 Tonnes**

Residents can now put organic material such as vegetable peelings, table scraps, meat, fish, poultry, dairy, bones and soiled paper in transparent green bags to be collected weekly along with recyclables and garbage. Special transparent green bags for compost are now available in grocery & hardware stores in Victoria County.

For more information on Recycling or Composting Programs, call Cape Breton's **Recycling Hotline at 1-877-567-1337** or see "Recycling" in the Aliant Yellow Pages.

**Organic Materials Collected**  
For the month of June, 2011, **17.26 Tonnes** of organics were collected bringing the total to **877.31 Tonnes**