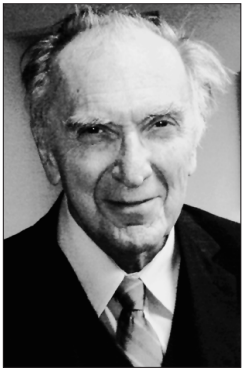


In Those Days in Victoria County

No wedding invitation issued



by Jim St. Clair

The wedding invitations to the royal wedding have all been issued. Lists were checked many months ago to be certain that relatives and appropriate public officials were

invited at least to the ceremony, if not to the reception.

But one family group with a long history in Victoria County seems not to be included – an oversight, perhaps; or more likely the contact has been lost through the years.

When Bariah Rice arrived in Cape Breton in 1787 from the Annapolis area of mainland Nova Scotia, he left behind an extended family group. But he had hopes for his own future and that of his children. He probably had little information about his family's connection with the British monarchs of years past.

Looking ahead, in 1801, he petitioned the government of the Colony of Cape Breton for a lot of land up the Baddeck River in Big Baddeck. He stated that he had been in Cape Breton since he was fourteen years of age, ca. 1787.

He furthermore stated that he wished to “establish a village of his own family.” He and his wife, a member of the Ingraham Family, had certainly made a good start for he includes in his petition that they have ten children. No village resulted but several generations of his progeny remained in the area.

But the Rices apparently were a family accustomed to picking up and moving on. Beriah's father of the same name had left Massachusetts for Nova Scotia as Planters to take up land that had formerly been settled by the Acadians. Beriah Rice, Sr., was the great-

grandson of Edmund Rice (1594-1663) who had left England, on the border of Wales, for Massachusetts as a Puritan settler.

Perhaps Edmund knew of the life of his great-grandmother, Catherine Howard, the wife of Griffin Rice (or Rhys Ap Griffith), for she is believed by some researchers to have been the aunt of the well-known Catherine Howard, one-time wife of Henry the Eighth.

Through the family of the Howards, Edmund and his progeny in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia are the direct descendants of John Howard of the 1200s whose wife Joan de Cornwall was a great-granddaughter of Henry the Second, King of England.

To be sure, the centuries are many between Beriah of Big Baddeck and the Plantagenet Kings of England. But lines of descent among royalty and nobility (as the Howards were) are quite well documented.

Among the curiosities to be found in searching through those documents is the certainty that both Prince William and his future wife, Kate Middleton, are descended as well from Henry the Second, several times over through the Nevilles and other noble families.

The bride and the bridegroom are therefore 17th and 18th cousins to each other – hardly near enough to worry about being too closely related.

But there we are as well looking at the ancestry of the Rices, early settlers in Big Baddeck. They, too, are distant kin to both William and Kate – of the 17th to 19th degree. They are certainly not kissing cousins nor eligible for inclusion on the invitation list.

They can, however, claim a connection. The romp through the genealogical records also provides an opportunity to renew one's interest in British history – including the life of

the ill-fated Catherine Howard.

Many members of the Rice family seem to have been interested in moving on and exploring other places. The life of George W. Rice, the photographer on the Adolphus Greely expedition to Ellesmere Island and points north, has been noted in the press and in new publications recently.

So hurrah for Big Baddeck's claim to genetic alliance with both members of the young couple! Best wishes to all!



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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). Email psc@cranfordpub.com

Carl MacKenzie's Reel

reel

Jimmy MacLellan



Recently fiddler Yvon LeFort of Westmount, sent me a link to a YouTube video of a medley of tunes performed by the late Billy MacPhee of Sydney (in You Tube search “Billie McPhee” sic). Back in the 1980s, Billy was a regular at the Saturday afternoon Ceilidhs which Carl MacKenzie hosted at the Intercontinental Restaurant in Sydney River, and, during that era, Carl recorded the tune on an LP which he titled *Tradition*. These days Carl plays a different Saturday ceilidh, afternoons 3-6 upstairs at Governor's Restaurant, Esplanade Street, Sydney in Bunkers Pub. Yvon is a regular guest fiddler there (Bunkers - both Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings).

The composer, the late Jimmy MacLellan, was a Cape Breton fiddler born in Rose Blanche near Broad Cove, Inverness County. He made a couple of 78 records in the early '50s before moving to Sudbury where he raised a family and spent the rest of his life. In 1990, a book of Jimmy's compositions (now out of print) was published by his protégé, Ontario fiddler Mike Farrell. This tune was not in that book, instead the setting above is my transcription from Billy's YouTube performance.

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\$20 up to 25 words, plus 10¢ for each additional word.

If a photo is involved in an announcement, the rate is as follows: \$25 up to 25 words, plus 10¢ for each additional word.

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Garbage Shipped to Guysborough

For the month of March, 2011, **202.45 Tonnes** of garbage were shipped bringing the total to **14,701.22 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 March, 2011, **7.35 Tonnes** of organics were collected bringing the total to **843.20 Tonnes**