



**BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

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## **Bedeque Area Historical Society Newsletter 22**

**June 2021**

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## A Message from the President of the BAHS

Members and Friends of Bedeque Area Historical Society,

15 June 2021

History is repeating itself! As last year, I am again sending you this Newsletter from Belfast in Northern Ireland where I spend my winters. I would normally have returned to Prince Edward Island in the first week of May, but this year with the increased restrictions on entry into Canada due to the covid pandemic, I have not been able to return, and unlike last year, when flights restarted in July, I am less hopeful of being able to get back.

**Because of the corona virus, the summer of 2020 was a very unusual one for the Bedeque Area Historical Museum.** As reported in our Fall Newsletter our total visitations fell from 889 visitors in 2019 to just 135, and we are not expecting numbers to be any higher this summer. As was so last summer, we will not be able to hold the four new exhibits we had planned, nor our Monday evening history talks, our fund-raising strawberry and ice-cream social, or our seafood raffle.

**This is once again going to have a severe effect on our income for the year.** Last year, as reported in our Fall Newsletter we managed to raise the \$10,500 needed to remain solvent – and **\$1,130 of this came from the support of you our members in the form of the renewals of your annual memberships**, supplemented by **an additional \$1,166 in private donations from members**. We also received another **\$720 in business and personal sponsorships** of the Museum's work. Especially welcome was a **covid-related grant of \$5,000 from the federal government's Museum Emergency Assistance Program** and an additional **\$1,667 from Young Canada Works in support of student wages**, plus **\$420 from provincial refunds related to covid**. This additional \$7,087 coming from government has prevented us from becoming insolvent! **We especially appreciate all of those individuals who contributed through membership subscriptions and by making special additional donations.**

However, **as of April 30 we have entered a new financial year and have to start all over again to raise another \$10,500 for the current year.** And, as was so last year, we will not be able to rely on our usual fund-raising events (paid entrances to the museum, donations at talks and other events, our strawberry social and our seafood raffle).

Despite these difficulties, the Board has again decided it is important to keep the Museum open this summer. We have already received funding from provincial and federal sources for two student employees – though we still have to make up 25% of the wage bill from other sources.

**There will be some new additions to our exhibits this summer and of course our permanent exhibits will be on show, and so we encourage you to come along to support the Museum.** We will keep you informed by email of any changes that may occur in our program, should restrictions be eased, such as to allow gatherings.

All best wishes,

Doug Sobey.

President,

(on behalf of the Board of the Bedeque Area Historical Society)

**A REMINDER:** Your membership is renewable in July of each year (except for those who have already done so since January). In past years most people have renewed their memberships at the AGM (which this year falls on July 19) or at one of our Monday evening talks. However, this year it is again unlikely that we will be able to hold the AGM in the normal way due to the restrictions caused by Covid-19.

We thus ask you to please renew your membership either by stopping in at the Museum during the summer or by posting a cheque made out to the Bedeque Area Historical Society to the address on the first page of this newsletter, along with your name and contact methods, including email, or by PAYPAL (see below). The annual subscription is \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families or households. These subscriptions are an important source of our income enabling us to carry out our programs and they are especially important this year when other methods of fund-raising are restricted.

We also greatly appreciate any additional donation that you are able to make. We are able to give tax receipts for donations of \$20 and above.

The PAYPAL option is on the museum website contact page:

<http://www.bedequemuseum.ca/contact.html> Click on the yellow "DONATE" button which then brings up a page where you put in your email, the amount, and state whether this is for a membership, a donation, or both. There is also the option on that second page to donate by debit or credit card which takes you to another page asking for your card number, etc.

## SUMMER OPENING HOURS

This summer **the Museum will open to the public from Tuesday 29 June to Sunday 6 September**. Our hours are the same as last year: **Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm (closed Mondays)**. The Museum can also be opened by special arrangement outside these times, and off-season, by contacting members of the Board (see below for their names). We will be following the government directives for social distancing for visitors to the Museum.

## SUMMER STUDENT WORKERS

We have received government grants to enable us to employ two students to staff the Museum this summer: a federal 'Young Canada Works' grant for eleven weeks, and a provincial 'Jobs for Youth' grant for eight weeks. However, as of the date of this newsletter, interviews are still ongoing for the posts and so we aren't able to name our summer workers at this time.

## THREE NEW EXHIBITS PLANNED FOR 2021 ARE POSTPONED DUE TO COVID

**We had planned four new exhibits for this summer** (all previously postponed from 2019) and their official unveiling would have been held on Saturday 3 July, but due to the continuing restrictions caused by Covid-19 we have not been able to complete the preparations for the new exhibits, nor are we able to hold an official opening, nor are we likely to have many visitors to see them. **The Board has thus reluctantly decided to postpone completely two of the four exhibits to 2022, and part of a third exhibit.** The exhibits completely postponed are listed on the next page.

## **THE THREE EXHIBITS PLANNED FOR 2021 POSTPONED TO 2022 ARE:**

**(1) A major display of antique clocks** ranging from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to about 1930. The clocks were to be selected by Wendell Feener of Summerside from his large collection. In 2019 we displayed three of Wendell's long-case clocks all in working order and Wendell also gave a demonstration on clocks and their workings at the free opening day in August. We will thus have to wait until 2022 to see the story of clocks through a display of more than fifty different styles and types.

**(2) An exhibit telling the story of the Mizuno family in Bedeque** – The Mizunos were a Japanese family interned during the Second World War in British Columbia. When the war ended George and Kimiyo Mizuno with their four children came to Central Bedeque where from 1946 to 1952 they farmed on land provided by the Callbeck family. After they moved to southern Ontario they retained an affection for and contact with their Island friends. The posters for the exhibit have been finished but we wanted members of the Mizuno family to be present for the opening, which is impossible given the Covid travel restrictions and so we will hold this exhibit in 2022.

**(3) An exhibit on the history of Freetown** was to coincide with a Freetown Community reunion initially planned for July 2020, then postponed to July 2021 because of Covid, and now postponed again. We intended to show again the Freetown signature quilt dating from 1928 (belonging to Katherine Dewar and containing 147 names from the Freetown area) and there were to be four new posters connected with the history of Freetown. The one on the history of Freetown and on the first farm in Freetown, belonging to the Burns family have not yet been finished.

**However, two components of the exhibit will be on show this summer:** one is a poster telling the story of the **Freetown Royals**, a champion hockey team from the 1930s to the 1950s, for which we already have a display in the Museum (see further on). The other tells the story of **Jacob Gould Schurman**, a Freetown- and Summerside-educated boy, who went on to play a role on the world stage. We feature elements from the Schurman display later in this newsletter. We hope to have a more extensive display on Jacob Gould Schurman and on the Freetown Royals in the full Freetown exhibit in 2022.

## **The new exhibit added this year is on 'The Acadians at Bedeque'.**

**2020 was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of French and Acadian settlement on Prince Edward Island in 1720** and we had planned a poster display to coincide with the event, telling in particular the story of the Acadian presence in the Bedeque area, both before and after the deportation of 1758. The four posters will now go on display this summer instead. We cannot show the supporting materials we had planned but will leave those till next summer, as well as any talks connected with the exhibit. We give you a taster of this exhibit later in this newsletter.

## THE PERMANENT EXHIBITS CONTINUING ON VIEW THIS SUMMER

### 'THE BORDEN FERRY-100' EXHIBIT

Ten posterboards tell the stories of the various vessels that served in the crossing of Northumberland Strait and also of some of the people who worked on the ferries. Also on display are many objects connected with the ferries, loaned from private collections.



The S.S. *Prince Edward Island* made its first crossing in 1917 and continued in service until 1968. The above photo was taken in the 1960s.

### AN EXHIBIT ON MI'KMAQ CULTURE AND WAY OF LIFE

Three panels describe the culture of the Mi'kmaq and their way of life prior to the arrival of Europeans, and during the French and British colonial periods. It includes a display of Mi'kmaq baskets and we show several short films on Mi'kmaq heritage created by Ron Zakar for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island.



Mi'kmaq baskets from the Howard Clark collection. The flag is that of the Grand Council of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

## THE BEDEQUE HARBOUR LOYALISTS

A large display tells the story of the United Empire Loyalists and the settlement of Loyalist families around Bedeque Bay in 1784, led by William Schurman and Thomas Hooper. The families who arrived with Schurman and Hooper (or followed shortly after) include the names Darby, Green, Lefurgey, Linkletter, MacFarlane, Murray, Silliker, Small, Strang, Waugh and Wright. The exhibit includes maps showing where particular families settled and explains why they settled in the 'Bedeque Harbour' area. Part of the exhibit tells the story of the 'Valley Farm', which has been in the Schurman family since 1839.



## CALLBECK'S STORE

This exhibit tells the story of Callbeck's general store, which was the focal point for the Bedeque area for almost one hundred years, from 1899 to 1993. The Museum is housed in the original store building and displays many artifacts from the Callbeck family collection.



## HOWARD CLARK'S RED BARN MUSEUM

We have a large display of many objects from the late Howard Clark's Red Barn Museum in Chelton. The exhibits are spread over two floors and relate to the social and cultural history of the wider area. Howard created his museum after returning from service on a hospital ship in World War II and he donated his collection to the BAHS in 2010.

## LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY AND BEDEQUE

Two panels, and photographs, tell the story of Maud Montgomery's romance with Herman Leard, a young farmer with whose family she boarded in 1897-1898 when she was teaching in Lower Bedeque. She recorded in her journal that Herman was the only man she ever really fell in love with.

## A GRANT FROM THE P.E.I. COMMUNITY MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

This year we have received a **Community Museums Development Grant of \$2,778** from the P.E.I. Community Museums Association which is to be spent on three projects:

**(1) The purchase of audio-visual recording equipment**, comprising a camrecorder and voice recorder, both of a high digital quality, to facilitate our continuing recording of older members of the community talking about particular aspects of their experience or life. Since our founding in 2010 our members have been contributing to our collection of video and audio interviews using their own cameras and recorders, but the time has come for the Museum to have its own equipment.

**(2) The purchase of add-ons to the Bose sound system** used in our public talks, consisting of a stand-up microphone which can also be hand-held and used by multiple persons (without having to clumsily transfer the microphone between speakers' lapels and pockets during the talk).

**(3) The purchase of items related to exhibit development and construction**, comprising: (a) a **long extension step-ladder** which will enable us to safely reach the very high shelves built into the walls of our main display area; (b) **colour cartridges** for our computer printer, for printing signage and labelling for the exhibits; and (c) the **printing of five posters** for new exhibits.

## THE BAHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Our eleventh AGM will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday July 19 in the William Callbeck Centre.** However, due to the current Covid restrictions related to the room size, only eighteen persons are permitted to attend. Should there be any changes before then in this limit we will let you know by email. We will also have to register attendees in advance and will give you notice of this in July.

**The AGM includes the election of members to the Board. The present Board members are:** Doug Sobey (President), Valerie Curtis (Vice-President), Don Jardine (Secretary), Susan Leard (Treasurer), Percy Affleck, Seymour Desroches, Lloyd MacCallum, Natalie McDonald, Danny McLure, Paul H. Schurman, Earle Smith, and recently retired Bill Callbeck.

**The Board is always seeking new members.** If you have an interest in local history and in the Bedeque Museum, do consider serving on the Board. You may discuss your interest with any of the present Board members whose names are listed above and whose telephone numbers are in the phonebook. **It is also possible to assist the Museum as a volunteer member without being on the Board.** If you have an interest in doing so and any particular areas where you can assist, ranging from fund-raising to publicity, to administration, to researching local history, do let us know.

## THE NEW POSTERS ADDED FOR THIS SUMMER

**In the next eight pages are extracts from three new poster displays telling the story of: THE FREETOWN ROYALS, JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN, and THE ACADIANS AT BEDEQUE.** (*The extracts here are reduced in size compared with the posters.*)

# THE FREETOWN ROYALS HOCKEY TEAM (1938 TO 1985)



## THE CHAMPION TEAM OF 1956:

Front (from left): Eldon Roberts, Walter Campbell, Allison Reeves, Des Roberts, Clayton Mill (captain). Back row: Prowse Gardiner, Eric Taylor, Eustace Reeves, Albert Waugh, Zeke Roberts, Robert MacMurdo, Ray Smith.



Clayton Mill (on left, on a visit to the Museum in August 2019), one of the few remaining members of the team, has been instrumental in providing information and items for the display on the Freetown Royals which was originally set up in about 2013. The new poster is a major addition to the exhibit and outlines more completely the story of Freetown's hockey teams and especially the famous Royals. We plan to revise and expand the display for the Freetown exhibit in 2022, to coincide with the Freetown reunion.

# JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN (1854-1942) – A FREETOWN BOY

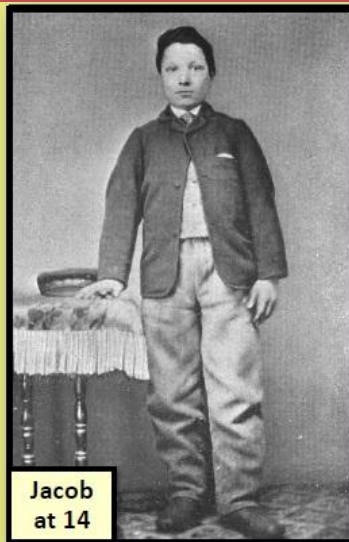
## THE MONUMENT IN FREETOWN

In Freetown next to the United Church cemetery and in the shade of hardwood trees, there stands a monument erected by the Historic Monuments Board of Canada. It commemorates Freetown's most famous son. However, few people nowadays know much about the man it honours. This poster tells the story of that man – Jacob Gould Schurman – and especially of his family background and his life and education on Prince Edward Island.



### 1. JACOB GOULD'S ROOTS

Jacob Gould Schurman was born in 1854, the second son of Robert Schurman and Lydia Gouldrup of Freetown. The name Jacob Gould came from his grandfather on his mother's side Jacob Gouldrup (Gould was a shortening of Gouldrup). Jacob grew up on his father Robert's farm at the corner of the North Freetown and Kelvin Grove roads [see map]. He attended school in Freetown and at age thirteen started work in Summerside.



### HIS DESCENT:

WILLIAM SCHURMAN  
1743-1819  
|  
CALEB SCHURMAN  
1782-1872  
|  
ROBERT SCHURMAN  
1821-1875  
|  
JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN  
1854-1942

### 2. THE INFLUENCE OF A MOTHER

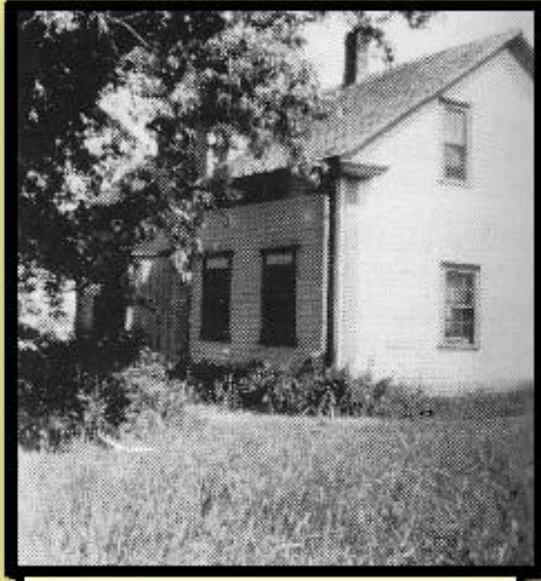
Jacob's father Robert died in middle-age, leaving eight children, the youngest only seven. Robert's wife, Lydia Gouldrup, from all accounts a woman of marked ability, encouraged the children to make something of themselves. A grand-daughter recalled that she ran a tight ship. There was a blackboard for correcting the children's English and the older ones were expected to teach their younger siblings; if any punishment was given at school, the same was given again at home. Despite this discipline, it was a high-spirited family, full of tricks and fun. They had a fondness for practical jokes: once the boys got under the hired man's bed in the loft raising the mattress and scaring him terribly.

[Adapted from Margaret MacFarlane's book, *The M. F. Schurman Company*.]

*Being small of stature, he was required to climb into large wool sacks and pack down the wool with his feet as it was thrown down from above. It was inside the stifling wool sack that he decided to become educated.*

#### JACOB G. ON THE FREETOWN SCHOOL:

*"Whatever may have been its deficiencies, the work of the school was thorough. The teacher was an old-fashioned drill-master, and whatever he drove into our heads he put there to stay. I went to this school summer and winter until I was thirteen, and by that time I had learned to read and write and spell and figure with considerable accuracy".*



The house he grew up in.



Left: The house where Jacob was born survived into the 1990s. It was moved to Freetown village in the late 19th century and became the home of Charles Beairsto and later Manny Handrahan. Above: Upper Freetown school, which opened in 1854, the year of his birth, gave Jacob his first step on the education ladder [see left].

### 3. JACOB'S TIME IN SUMMERSIDE

His father got him a job in a Summerside store where he was paid \$30 a year. After one year he moved on to Sinclair and Stewart's store at \$60 per year. By the time he was 16 he had saved \$80 and with that money he set out to get a post-secondary education. He attended Summerside Grammar School for one year, where "*I studied harder than I ever have before or since*", and then got a valuable two-year scholarship to Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown [see right].

#### JACOB GOULD ON THE PRINCE OF WALES SCHOLARSHIP:

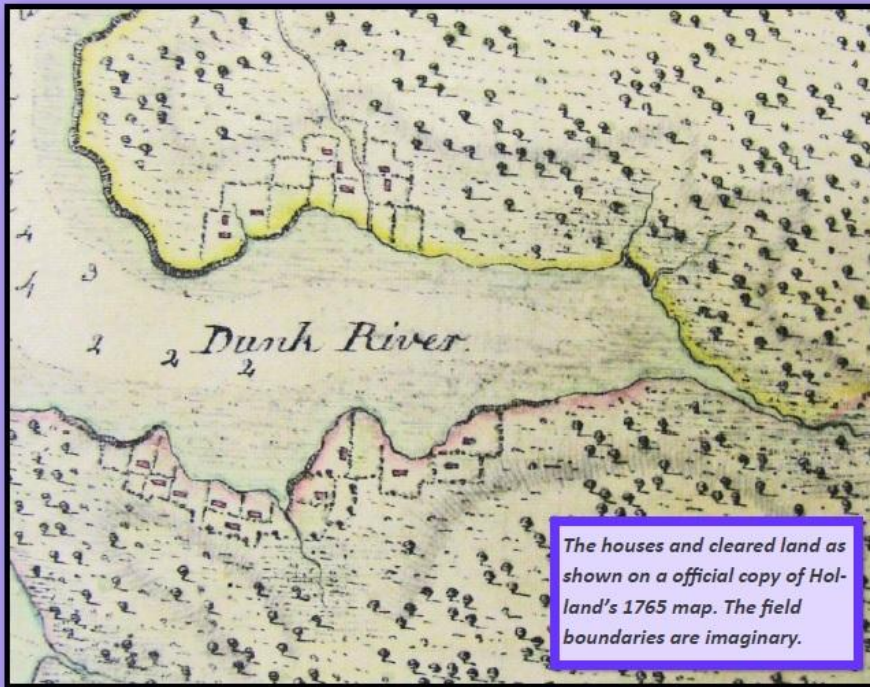
*"It seems little enough but I can say that the winning of it was the greatest success I have ever had. I have had other rewards, which, to most persons, would seem immeasurably greater, but with this difference: that first success was essential; without it I could not have gone on. The others I could have done without if it had been necessary".*

#### JACOB GOULD'S TRIBUTE IN 1906 TO PROFESSOR ALEXANDER ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL OF PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE FROM 1868 TO 1901:

*"I have sat under many instructors – speaking in different languages – German, English, French, Italian, but I have never yet met such a great teacher as Professor Anderson. I believe there is none to whom, all considered, I personally owe so much."*

After studies at Prince of Wales and Acadia College in Wolfville, N.S., followed by studies at the Universities of London and Edinburgh (funded by a Canada-wide scholarship), Jacob Schurman returned to Canada to teach at Acadia and then at Dalhousie in Halifax. He then went on to teach at Cornell University in New York state, becoming its president in 1892, and serving for almost thirty years. After he retired he began a diplomatic career as the American ambassador to China and then Germany in the 1920s. The poster also highlights these achievements of his later career, as well as providing more information on his Freetown background.

# THE ACADIANS AT BEDEC 1750-1758

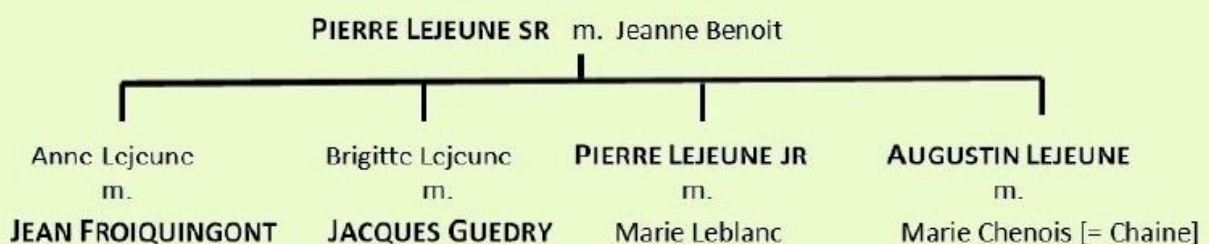


We know a lot about the Acadian settlement at Bedec because of a detailed census carried out in the summer of 1752 by Joseph de La Roque. He recorded the names of the inhabitants and their ages (including the children), when they had settled at Bedec, how much livestock they owned and how much land they had cleared. At Bedec La Roque recorded eight separate households made up of 42 persons. There were three principal 'clans': the extended families of Pierre Lejeune, Joseph Terriaud and Jean Robichaud. From Samuel Holland's map of 1765 we can see where their farmsteads were. The posters tell the story of all of the families but the extracts in this newsletter follow only the Lejeunes.

## 3. 1750: THE LEJEUNES ARRIVE

In the summer of 1750 **PIERRE LEJEUNE SENIOR** (then aged 68) and two of his sons, 30-year old **PIERRE JUNIOR** and 24-year old **AUGUSTIN**, came over from Pisiqid (near present-day Windsor, Nova Scotia) to the *Rivière de Bedec*. With them was 35-year old **JEAN FROIQUINGONT**, a native of France, who was married to Anne Lejeune, their sister. All four men brought their families with them and they all chose farm sites on the south side of the estuary in what is now Lower Bedeque, presumably beside each other, and probably near the salt-marshes of the Bradshaw River where in 1765 Acadian houses were still standing.

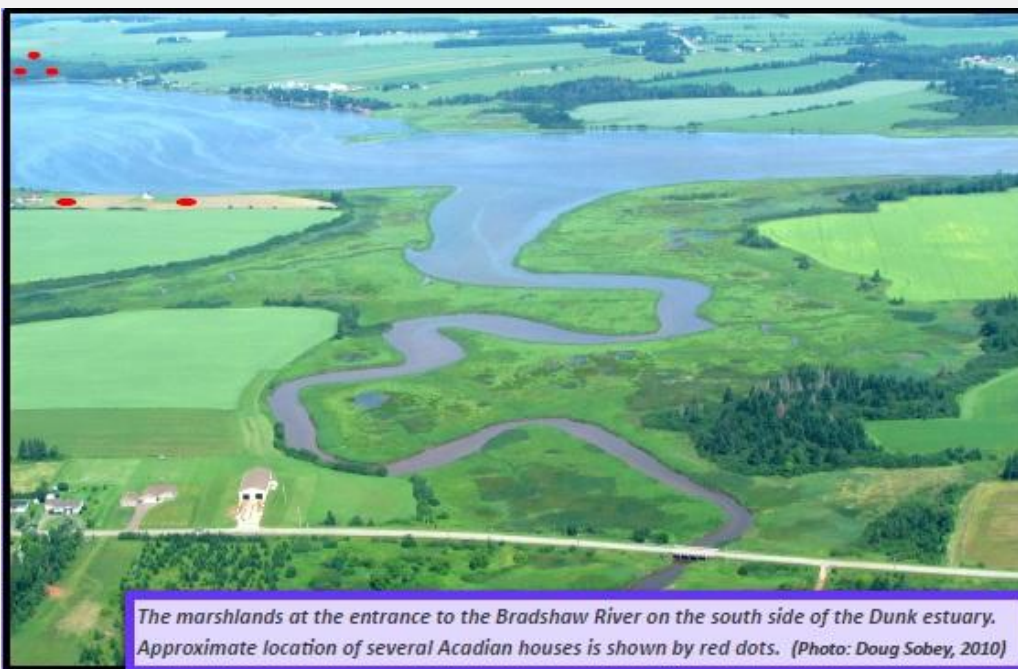
### Family Relationships at Lower Bedeque:



## 7. THE LIVESTOCK OF THE SETTLEMENT

In 1752 the eight families owned 76 head of livestock but only three chickens [see below]. Almost all of these, except for the younger animals, would have been brought over from the mainland in small boats. There were 43 cattle (one bull, 15 oxen, 18 cows, three heifers and six calves), 26 pigs (three were sows), five sheep (two male sheep and three ewes) and two horses.

HOUSEHOLDS	Oxen	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Bulls	Wethers	Ewes	Pigs	Horses	Hens	TOTALS
Jean Robichaud	4	9	1	4	1	1	2	5			27
Jacques Guedry		1	1					4			6
Alexis Terriaud	2	2		1				4	1		10
Joseph Terriaud	2	1				1		1	1		6
Pierre Lejeune Sr.	3	1						2			6
Pierre Lejeune Jr.	2	1						2		1	5 (+1)
Jean Froiquingont								1			1
Augustin Lejeune											0
Joseph Terriaud	2	2	1	1				3			9
Alexis Henry		1					1	4		2	6 (+2)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76+3</b>



The marshlands at the entrance to the Bradshaw River on the south side of the Dunk estuary. Approximate location of several Acadian houses is shown by red dots. (Photo: Doug Sobey, 2010)

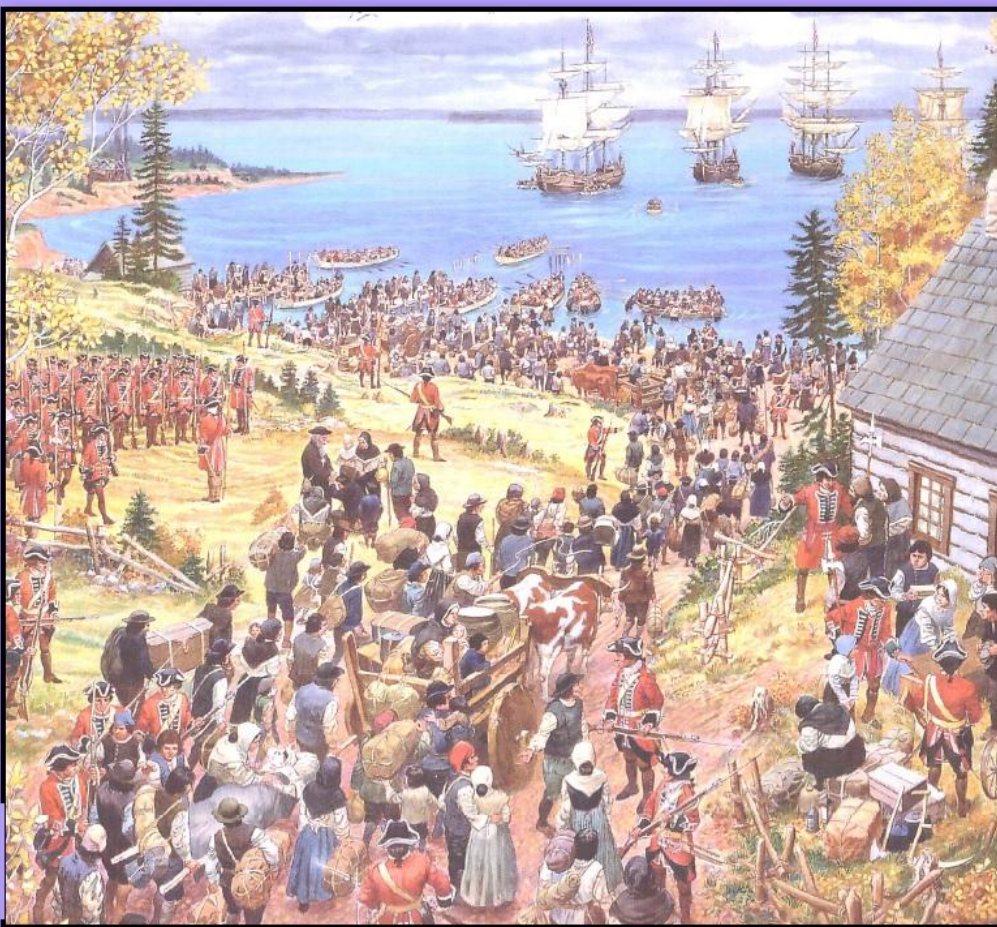
The eight families came over from the mainland in either 1750 or 1751 because of political and military unrest at Chignecto and elsewhere. It is likely that the settlers depended on the salt marshes at Bedeque to feed their stock in summer and for winter feed as marsh hay. From Samuel Holland's survey in 1765 we learn that by 1758 (the year of the deportation) 225 acres had been cleared on the North Bedeque side and 560 acres in Lower Bedeque. Sadly, however, these Acadian families were not to reap the fruits of their back-breaking work. For in 1758, they were deported to France, except for a few who fled to the mainland.

# THE DEPORTATION OF THE BEDEC ACADIANS IN 1758

## 3. THE FALL OF LOUISBOURG AND THE DEPORTATION OF 1758

In 1756 a new war broke out between France and Great Britain (later to be called the Seven Years' War). In 1758 the British attacked Louisbourg and on 26 July the French surrendered the fortress and the town. The British army then began to make immediate preparations to transport the entire French populations of both Cape Breton Island and its dependency Île St-Jean to France. British ships arrived at Port La-Joie on 17 August and between then and November British troops rounded up the Island's inhabitants and loaded them onto fifteen transport ships, which finally set sail for France on 4 November.

The most recent estimate is that out of about 4,250 Acadians on the Island, about 3,000 were deported to France. Of these, 890 died from disease during the crossing, while another 515 were drowned when two of the ships sank in the English Channel, while a third ship was wrecked near the Azores with the loss of 110 lives.



Detail from 'THE EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS OF ÎLE SAINT-JEAN' by Lewis Parker, Environment Canada.

## 7. THE FATE OF THE LEJEUNES

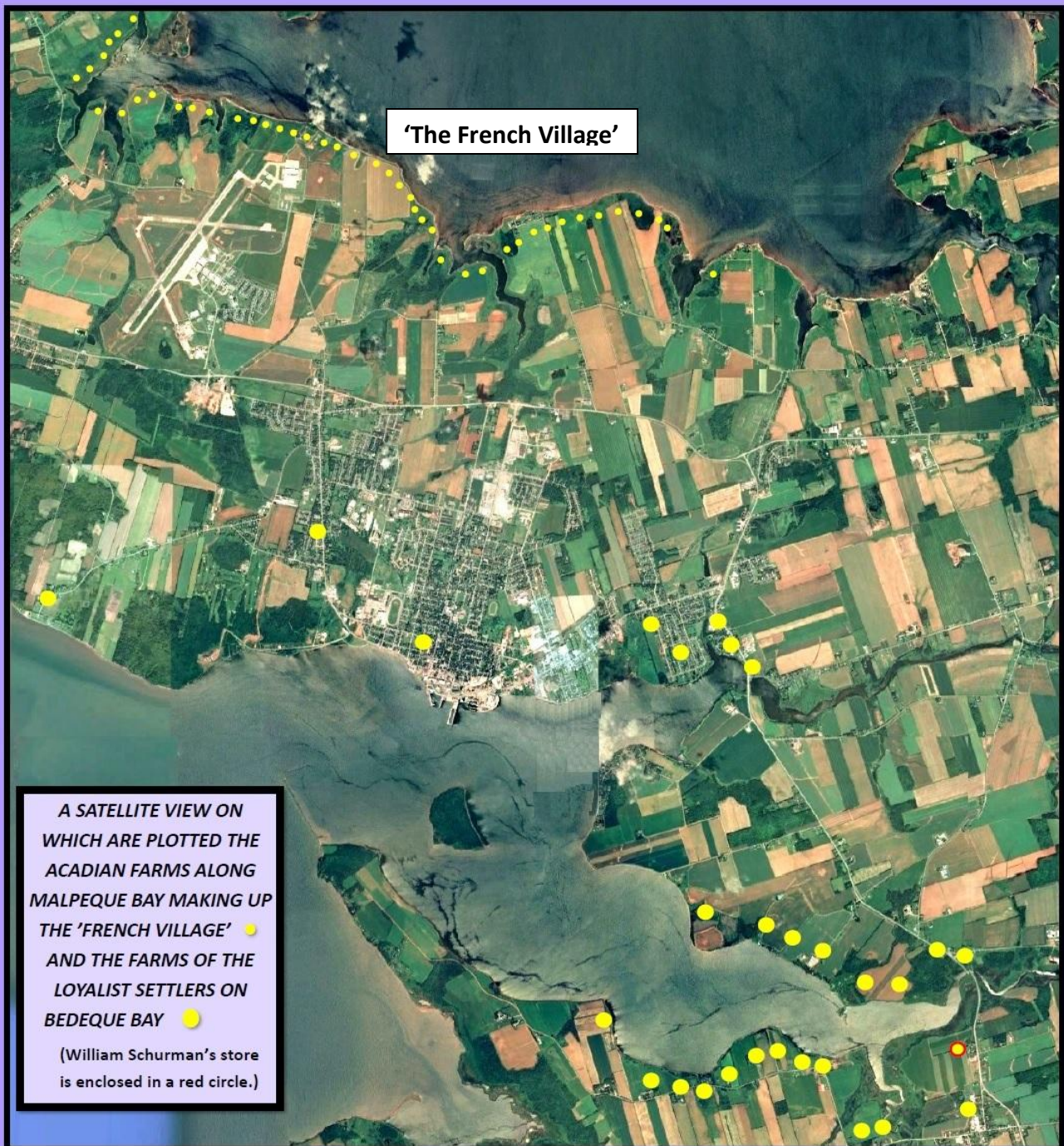
The Lejeunes, who lived on the Lower Bedeque side of the Dunk estuary, were not only deported but had the added misfortune of being on one of the three vessels that sank. Thus **PIERRE LEJEUNE SENIOR** (that is, if he were still living in 1758 – he would have been 76 years old) and his wife Jeanne Benoist, who would have been 66, and his sons **PIERRE JUNIOR** and **AUGUSTIN**, and their families (they had five children in 1752), all drowned. Drowned also were Pierre senior's two daughters: **ANNE** and **BRIGITTE** and their husbands **JEAN FROIQUINGONT** and **JACQUES GUEDRY**, and all of their children – the six living in 1752 (if all were still living) and any born after.

Also drowned with them was another of Pierre senior's sons, **ELOI LEJEUNE**, who had been living not at Bedec in 1752, but instead was recorded by La Roque at Grande Ascension [today's Vernon River] along with his wife Rosalie Mius and three young children, who also drowned.

However, French records reveal that a fourth son, **JEAN LEJEUNE**, who had also been recorded by La Roque at Grande Ascension with his wife Marguerite Leblanc and two children, died at St Malo on 30 March 1759. Thus Jean Lejeune and his family could not have been on the same vessel as his siblings.

# THE RETURN OF THE ACADIANS

Some of the Acadians who had evaded the deportation returned to the Island and were sought out as fishermen by British entrepreneurs who were aiming to make a profit from the Island's unexploited fish stocks, especially cod. Some of the new proprietors, who had been granted townships in 1767, in order to fulfil one of the terms of their grants, encouraged these Acadians to settle on their lands. The most significant of these new Acadian settlements occurred in Lot 17 where the agent for the lot settled about sixteen Acadian families in 1775 along the southern shore of Malpeque Bay in what is now North St. Eleanors and Sherbrooke. Most of these Acadians had connections with the pre-deportation community of Malpec (at present-day Port Hill), which had escaped deportation by flight to the mainland.

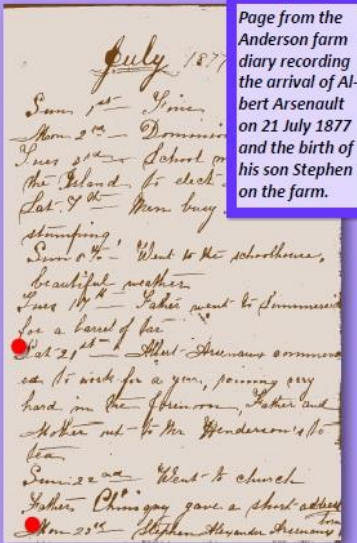


## 6. WORKING ON LOYALIST FARMS

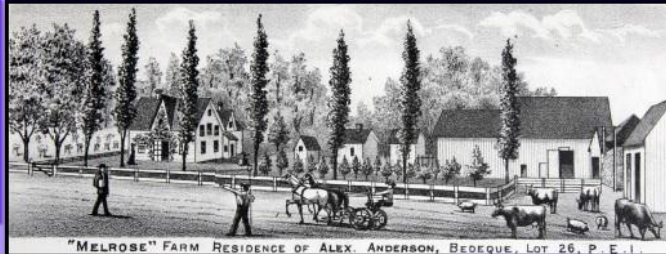
From about 1850 onwards young Acadian men, members of large families with no land of their own in their home districts, began to seek employment in anglophone communities. Evidence for this in Bedeque comes from the farm diary of Alexander Anderson (the third of that name) of Sea Cow Head, for the years 1877 to 1881. He had the misfortune (for a farmer) of having five daughters and only one son, who was only eight years old in 1877. Between 1877 and 1881 Anderson employed seven different Acadian men, all named Gallant or Arsenault and all from Egmont Bay or Mont Carmel [see below]. Some were employed over a long period and some for only special tasks. This tradition on the Anderson farm of hiring Acadian farm workers continued into the 1930s, with perhaps the last to be employed being Amos Pineau from Rustico who brought his wife and raised his children in a house provided by the last Alexander Anderson (the eight-year-old son of 1877) [see below].



Right: Amos Pineau (1898-1972) from Rustico, the last Acadian farm worker employed by the Andersons.  
Below: his wife and children.

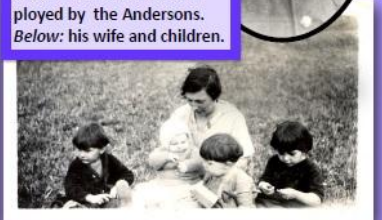


Page from the Anderson farm diary recording the arrival of Albert Arsenault on 21 July 1877 and the birth of his son Stephen on the farm.



ACADIANS EMPLOYED BY  
ALEXANDER ANDERSON FROM 1877 TO 1881  
Columbine Arsenault (1877-1881) (Mont Carmel)  
Albert Arsenault (1877-1879) (Egmont Bay)  
Stephen Arsenault (1879) (Mont Carmel)  
Flavien Gallant (1878) (Mont Carmel)  
Vanteur (Bonaventure) Arsenault (1880) (Egmont Bay)  
Adolphe Arsenault (Egmont Bay)  
John Gallant

Above: the Anderson farm at Sea Cow Head in the late 1870s (from the 1880 Meacham's Atlas).



Pineau family photographs are from the collection of Charles Pineau.

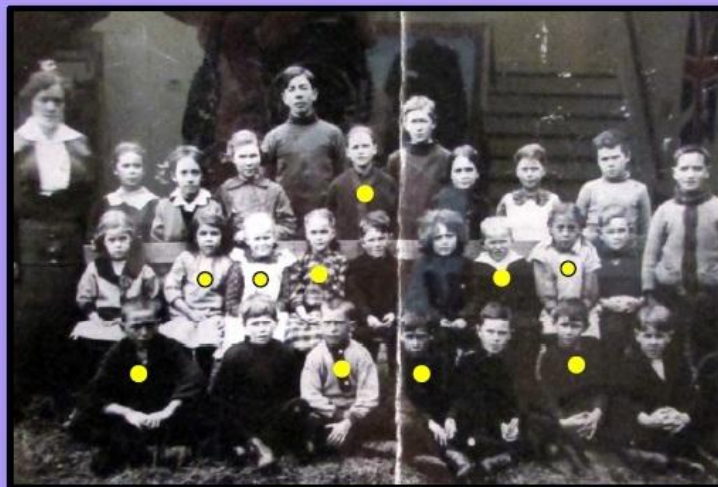


Above left: Amos' wife Agnes Blacquièrre (1896-1988) and three of their children. From left: Louis, Theresa, Edward and Edna.

Beginning in 1799, the Acadians began to abandon the 'French Village' in North St. Eleanors, leaving to settle in places further west. One factor was that the various proprietors of lots 19, 17, and 16, on which the Acadian farms were located, began to demand payment of unpaid rents. Rather than stay, the Acadians decided to move to places distant from proprietors and anglophones. By 1817 most of the Acadians of the French Village had left to found new settlements at Tignish, Cascumpec, Egmont Bay, Mont Carmel and Miscouche – with the last family leaving in 1820.

## 7. INTEGRATION AND ASSIMILATION

The children of resident Acadian farm workers attended the local schools [see below] and assimilated into the English-speaking community. Their parents attended the Roman Catholic churches at Seven Mile Bay or Kinkora, leading to intermarriage with anglophones, and their descendants now form part of the mixture of people that makes up the Bedeque area of today.



In this 1914-15 school picture of the Lower Bedeque school, 10 of the 26 children (38%) are Acadian. They are marked by yellow dots and are named Gallant, Arsenault and Desroches and probably come from only three families.

## MOVING THE LOWER BEDEQUE SCHOOL



The Lower Bedeque School in 2019.

We outlined extensively in Newsletter No. 20 of June 2020 the background and rationale of this very significant project for us which involves the moving of the L. M. Montgomery Lower Bedeque Schoolhouse to the Monument Park in Central Bedeque where it will be operated as part of the Bedeque Area Historical Museum. The building will be moved this summer, and it will then be refurbished, and opened for the summer of 2022.

### Financing the move

A major obstacle was the cost of moving the building and re-establishing it in the Central Bedeque Park, but we have been successful in raising the funding from various sources, including the province, the municipality of Bedeque and Area, and other public and private sources (see below).

In September 2019 Hon. Jamie Fox, Minister of Fisheries and Communities, informed the BAHS that the Government of Prince Edward Island would meet 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$50,000. This has worked out so far at \$37,854, which has come from the Community Revitalization Program.

Other funding, amounting to \$42,500, has come from the following organisations and individuals:

Central Development Corporation (Bedeque Development Fund)	\$15,000
Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area (Gas Tax – Capital Investment Plan)	\$15,000
Friends of L. M. Montgomery Lower Bedeque School	\$5,000
Royal Bank of Canada	\$2,500
Personal donation from Rasha El Sissi and Tom Sutton	\$5,000

The Board extends our heartfelt thanks to the organisations and individuals who are funding the project.

In 2020 we called for tenders for the move and the bid of Robert Keough Construction was accepted. The total cost of the project including permits and insurance is about \$80,000. Preparatory work has begun and the schoolhouse will be moved this summer, followed by structural and refurbishing work on the building. We plan to have it open for the summer of 2022.

## OUR NEIGHBOUR

**Baba's Kitchen, Antiques and Gifts** directly next door to the Museum is a popular eating place in the area. The decor is traditional, with a kitchen atmosphere, and the food and prices are attractive.

**When you visit the Museum, why not stop in for a meal or an ice-cream cone.** It is open every day except Mondays and Tuesdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone 902-218-4512 for exact times and days of opening.

