

MAKING HISTORY AT GRAND PRÉ



At Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, the other day, three hundred members of the Acadian National Congress assembled, and kneeling reverently at the statue of Evangeline, the heroine of Longfellow's immortal poem, accepted on behalf of the Acadians a gift of two acres of the Evangeline Memorial Park from the Dominion Atlantic Railway.

There were in all about fourteen acres in Evangeline Park, and the two acres were presented to the Acadians on the condition that they would build a church there.

George E. Graham, general manager of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, expressed his pleasure at welcoming the delegates. With regard to the proposed church, the D. A. R. would still further beautify the grounds and would give it perfect fitting. The company would open the old post road that had been closed for fifty or sixty years. He asked them to cast their minds forward the next five years when this chapel would be erected, a beautiful sanctuary in the midst of a beautiful country.

Mr. P. J. Venet, minister of highways for New Brunswick, subscribed \$100 for the erection of the new church and George E. Graham \$100 and the Rev. Father Cormier addressed the people saying that the church would be erected on the site of the old church of St. Charles, 1 1/2 miles from the church of their ancestors.



(1) Evangeline well and the willows, Grand Pré, N. S.
(2) Around the statue of Evangeline at Grand Pré.

Hon. D. V. Landry, Minister, president of the Acadian Congress, formally took possession of the plot and returned thanks to the Dominion Atlantic Railway for the gift.

Men and women knelt reverently on the ground, the tears streaming down their faces, murmuring blessings on the day that had restored to them the land of their ancestors. They plucked flowers and leaves and dipped their fingers into the water, all of which were more sacred in their eyes than words could tell.

The pilgrimage to Grand Pré took upon itself all the characteristics of a pilgrimage to Holy Land. In the past, said Mr. Landry, the Acadians had been regarded as an inferior people. That reproach was now eliminated. The ambition of the Acadians now was to unite in work that would make not only for the returning of progress but for the advancement of all Canada. These sentiments were the sentiments of the whole race.

buying their wares—not even the Chinese Lily bulbs guaranteed to bloom by Essex.

Letters to Billy, whom they had brought up as their own son until he had grown old enough to seize a wild opportunity to go West and make a "pile," had not been answered. Earnestly and often, the aunts assured each other that the letters had never reached him. Yet deep in their old hearts, each felt that the only man in the family to whom they could go, even for advice, had failed them.

And now the day of decision was at hand. Charlie Wallace was coming around at eight o'clock that morning to get their final word as to whether they would sell. And true to their New England tradition, they had laid their burden in the hands of the Lord.

In the morning, Sarah arose an hour earlier than usual to take down the shutters. A passing milkman, fortifying himself with a cruller, might make the very difference between five plus and five minus.

Little by little during the day, rickled in the peninsular dunes and occasionally quivered about three o'clock, the tin box held nearly three dollars. At five, Jimmy Wallace's purchase of crackers and slugs brought the total up to ten dollars. A few minutes later, a neighbor put in a small amount of one dollar. Four fifty! Then came Caroline.

Her purchases came to 25 cents. Then she decided on a bottle of fountain pen ink—she bought a great deal of that—that made 45 cents. The two old women watched her as she pushed her packages under her arm and started slowly for the door, her eyes sweeping the shelves for something she might have forgotten. They looked upon her as holding in her small clutch the very mandate of the Lord; yet not by word or sign a flourish was made.

"I guess that will be all," she said brightly, one hand on the door. At that moment the six o'clock whistle from Parrington's one factory broke shrilly on the air. That meant closing time. The shop never had any evening trade.

As Caroline went out, Sarah looked at Fanny and Fanny looked at Sarah, and in that brief interchange of glances was expressed all that they saw descending upon them—the final putting up of the shutters, the last sight of the filled shelves, the locking of the door, themselves on the outside.

"Oh, I forgot," she said, "the water of the Lord's emulsary on the doorstep." "Did said to bring him home an apple pie, if you had one. Have you?"

"No, I don't," she said, "I almost sobbed Fanny. 'Here it is!'"

When Charlie Wallace came at eight, he had a very short conversation with Sarah, who said that by two years he had transacted all business. Quite content that there was nothing else for the "old girls" to do than to meet his price, he was accompanied to get a refusal, and left with a slightly sarcastic comment as to their folly in refusing such an eminently remarkable offer.

And the two sisters themselves figuratively drew down in their belts as he went out.

"Hello!" Who was that tall broad-shouldered man just blown in like a breeze?

"Billy!" cried the aunts; then, sure of it, "Billy," he said, "Just dropped off the old sixty-five. I got your letter and decided it was quicker to answer in person."

Much excited conversation followed. And at the end, while Billy made way with the mate to Caroline's apple pie, he said quite casually: "I'll buy the house, Aunt Sarah. It's just what I want."

"Why—why, you sound as if you had made your pile," said Fanny shyly. "I sure did," he said, "and there some."

"But will you want so big a place?" asked Sarah.

"I think we will—Caroline and I," said Billy.

"Caroline?"

"Who else?" asked Billy, indignantly. "I always said I come back to be and I just stopped now on my way up from the station to ask her to marry me very soon. She said 'yes.' And you needn't work in this old shop any more."

Sarah and Fanny each gave a little gasp. They would have said it was a sign of relief. "I think we can go back to bed and I just stopped now on my way up from the station to ask her to marry me very soon. She said 'yes.' And you needn't work in this old shop any more."

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FROM HEAVEN VIA CAROLINE

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

Down on their knees before the Lord, their scant front hair twisted in grotesque curls, the two Nelson sisters were saying their prayers. To be accurate it was quicker to answer in person.

Much excited conversation followed. And at the end, while Billy made way with the mate to Caroline's apple pie, he said quite casually: "I'll buy the house, Aunt Sarah. It's just what I want."

"Why—why, you sound as if you had made your pile," said Fanny shyly. "I sure did," he said, "and there some."

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