

Emma Albani - *Cont'd from page 9*

to

Picton, taking her three children with her.

Later when Wormith of Kingston, who was a piano manufacturer, learned that Albani had taken her first piano lessons on one of their pianos, he was determined to have it. He traded the best up-right piano he made and some cash to acquire that same piano.

Emma moved with her family to Albany New York where she continued her training. The Wingfields, protectors of the Lajenesse family, returned to England and were lost at sea along with a fabulous sterling silver collection. In those days, late 1800s, Marysburgh residents, sailed from the dock at Bongards, situated at the end of the crd named after them.

Emma left Albany for Europe to study in Paris and made her debut at Messina Italy in the famous opera La Sonambula in 1870. In 1872 she had reached the pinnacle of fame in a marvelously short time.(2) Madame Albani became a very close friend of Queen Victoria and stayed with her on many occasions. It was mistakenly thought that she received her name from the city of Albany New York where she studied music. Her name, in fact, came from an old Italian family. In 1860, she sang when the Prince of Wales opened Victoria Bridge in Montreal. Over the next 40 years, he heard her sing many times and in 1901, as King Edward V11, invited her to sing at a private family funeral for her close friend Queen Victoria.

The young lady that first studied music in Waupoos and sang at St. John's church and became the most famous female opera singer in the world once lived in a humble home in Waupoos.

There are some who have some doubts about Abani living here due mainly to the fact that several books were written about her life and no mention is made of her time here in he County. My friend Gerry Rayner, who edited "East and West of The Rock" confirmed that he was unable to find any reference to the County when he examined her autobiography. I have no doubt that she lived her in the 1860's based on the fact that Mrs. Vorce and Mrs. Chamberlain both highly respected people, were childhood friends of Albani and when interviewed by the Picton Gazette related stories about their experiences with Emma. Perhaps she was ashamed of their families reliance on the Wingfields for their welfare during their time here in Marysburgh.

(1) East and West of the Rock, a History of The Parish of Marysburgh;W.G. Cowan; EcoPrint Picton, 2005

(2) Picton Gazette, Charlotte Talcot-Cox, April 1930

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