

Pensie Macneill fonds, F 4

Fonds: Pensie Macneill fonds

Reference code: F 4

Dates of creation: 1886-1894

Physical description:
6 centimetres of textual records

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of twenty-four letters Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote to her cousin Pensie Macneill in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island (PEI). Sixteen of the letters were written by Montgomery when she lived in Prince Albert, North-West Territories (now Prince Albert, Saskatchewan) with her father, Hugh John, and stepmother, Mary Ann (McRae) Montgomery, in 1890 and 1891.

Also includes summaries of the letters that are typed on envelopes with William V. Stevenson's name and return address monogrammed on the flap of the envelope. Two letters (dated November 3, 1890, and April 22, 1891) have their original envelopes. One letter (November 3, 1890) contains a poem written by Montgomery titled My Friend's Home.

Biographical sketch:

Pensie Maria Macneill was born on July 16, 1872, the sixth child of Charles and Mary (Buntain) Macneill of Cavendish, PEI. Her siblings included: Albert Walter (1860-1928); Leila Ada Bernard (1863-1942); Robert Buntain (1865-?); Minnie May Toombs (1867-1933); Alexander Charles (1870-1951); and Russell Herbert (1874-1950).

Macneill was a second cousin to Lucy Maud Montgomery. She was married to William Benjamin Bulman (1871-1947) by the Reverend George C. Robertson on July 13, 1898, in New Glasgow, PEI, and they had one child, Chester Stanfield Bulman (1899-1966).

Pensie Macneill died from tuberculosis on February 28, 1906, in New Glasgow, PEI, at 34 years of age. She is buried in the People's Cemetery, New Glasgow.

Restrictions on Access:
No restrictions on access.

Terms Governing Use:
Records are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on reproduction for research and private study.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The records were purchased from William V. Stevenson (grandnephew of Pensie Macneill) on April 17, 1974.

Related Material:

- Bolger, Francis W.P., *The Years Before Anne* (Halifax: Nimbus Publishing, 1991).
- Fishbane, Melanie, *Maud: a novel inspired by the life of L.M. Montgomery* (Toronto: Razorbill Canada, 2017).
- Letters from L. M. Montgomery to Penzie MacNeill, circa 1886-1894 (UPEI Archives and Special Collections. Call Number: PS8525.O68Z5466 1985).
- Rubio, Mary, and Elizabeth Waterston (editors), *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume I: 1889-1910* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Former codes:

75/3002

Notes:

When Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote to Pensie Macneill from Prince Albert, the city was still geographically located within the Northwest Territories. Prince Albert became part of Saskatchewan when it was established as a province in 1905.

How to order:

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

Finding Aid:

File list available.

Authority Records:

- **Macneill, Pensie**

Pensie Maria Macneill was born on July 16, 1872, in PEI. She married William Benjamin Bulman (1871-1947) on July 13, 1898, in New Glasgow, PEI, and they had one child, Chester Stanfield Bulman (1899-1966). Pensie Macneill died on February 28, 1906, in New Glasgow, PEI, at 34 years of age from tuberculosis. She is buried in the People's Cemetery, New Glasgow.

- **Montgomery, Lucy Maud**

Lucy Maud Montgomery (LMM) was born in Clifton, PEI, on November 30, 1874, the only child of Hugh John Montgomery (1841-1900) and Clara Woolner Macneill (1853-1876). Montgomery's mother died from tuberculosis when LMM was twenty-one months old. Her father's second marriage was to Mary Ann McRae, with whom he had four children (Kate, David Bruce, Hugh, and Ila).

Except for one year spent with her father and stepmother in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, when she was sixteen, Maud was raised in Cavendish by her maternal Macneill family. At the Macneill homestead, Montgomery was in the care of her Aunt Emily from age two to eight, after which she was cared for by her grandparents, Alexander Marquis Macneill (1820-1898) and Lucy Woolner Macneill (1824-1911).

From 1893 to 1894, Montgomery attended Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown and took two years of training in one. In July of 1894, she began teaching in Bideford, PEI. With the money she saved from teaching and some financial help from her grandmother, Montgomery attended Dalhousie College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1895 to 1896, where she studied English Literature. Lacking the money to continue her studies, she returned to PEI, where she taught in Belmont from 1896 to 1897 and Lower Bedeque from 1897 to 1898.

Montgomery's grandfather Alexander died in 1889, after which she returned to Cavendish to live with her widowed grandmother. From 1898 to 1911, Montgomery established herself as a professional writer by publishing hundreds of stories and poems and her most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, in 1908. During this time, Montgomery spent nine months in Halifax (September 1901 to June 1902), working for the Daily Echo as a proofreader and journalist.

During this time, Montgomery also became secretly engaged on October 12, 1906, to the local Presbyterian Minister, Reverend Ewen Macdonald. Still, they delayed getting married until after the death of her grandmother Lucy Macneill in 1911. After Montgomery and Macdonald were married, LMM moved to Ontario to accompany her husband, who was serving two parishes in Leaskdale. In 1926, they moved to Norval

and made one final move to Toronto in 1935. The last 31 years of Montgomery's life were spent in Ontario with her family.

Montgomery and Macdonald had three sons: Chester (1912-1963), Hugh (stillborn, 1914), and Stuart (1915-1982).

Montgomery died on April 24, 1942, in Toronto and was buried in the Cavendish Community Cemetery on PEI.

Montgomery published 22 novels, over 500 short stories, an autobiography, and dozens of poems in her lifetime. She received the Order of the British Empire (1935), was the first Canadian woman to become a member of the Royal Society of Arts and Letters (1923), made a National Historic Person in Canada (1943), and her Leaskdale, Ontario and Cavendish, PEI homes were designated as National Historic Sites.