

## William Joseph Robichaud Goes to War



**Armand G. Robichaud and Paul Delaney**

**August 2021**



Written by two recently acquainted Acadian cousins,

- Armand G. Robichaud and Paul Delaney.

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**Delaney** has also written about the history of the Acadians, and is the author of Charles Ricketts's biography. Both are distant relatives from different branches of William Joseph Robichaud, the second husband of Edith Broadbent (later Hacon, later Robichaud)

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Blog number 500, on the same subject, written by Paul Delaney and Armand Robichaud, was published on the Blog Web Site of Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon, January 2021. It presents mostly artistic elements related to this story: <http://charlesricketts.blogspot.com/>.

This present document was submitted to the blog of the Dornoch History Links Web Site: <https://www.historylinks.org.uk/>

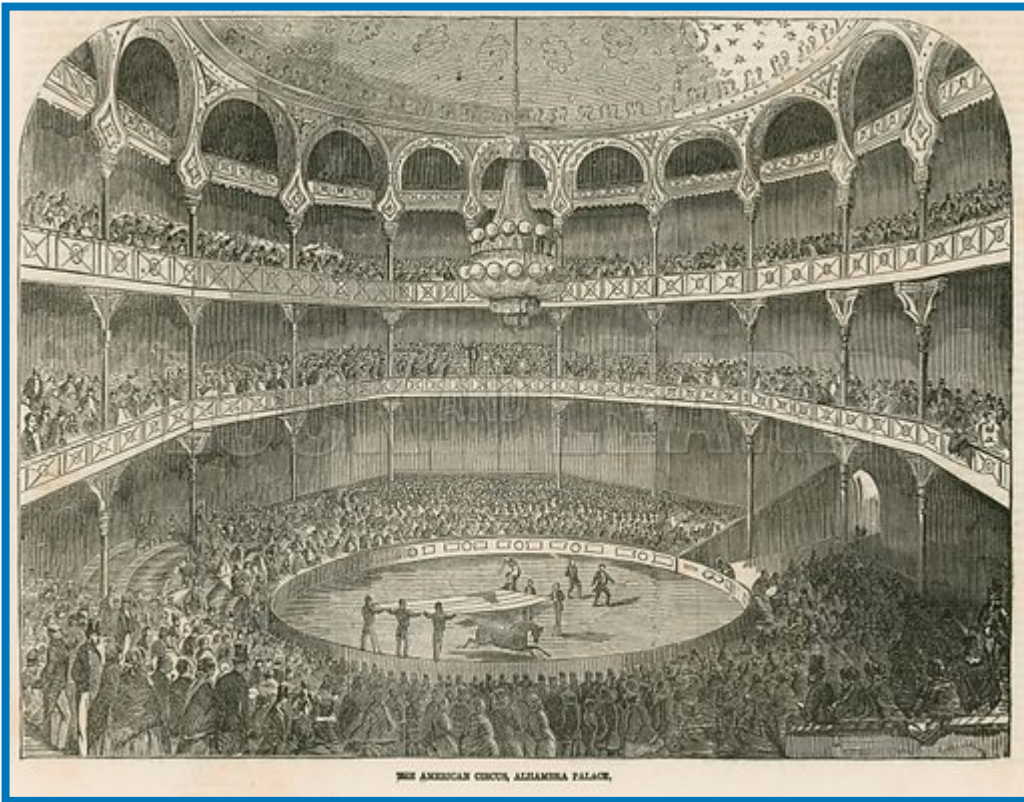
This text will also be published as story # 42, with other related documents, in the Robichaud Stories Web Site: <https://armandrobichaud.wixsite.com/robichaud-2014-en>

August 2021

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	5
<b>WILLIAM ROBICHAUD</b>		
2.	William Joseph Robichaud Goes to War	8
3.	Battle of Mount Sorrel	10
4.	Canadian Forestry Corps	14
<b>EDITH CATHERINE</b>		
5.	Who was Edith Catherine?	17
6.	Edith Catherine, Model and Muse	20
7.	The Impressionists	24
8.	William Llewellyn 'Lee' Hacon	27
<b>MR &amp; MRS HACON</b>		
9.	Artists Friends of William and Edith Hacon	30
10.	William and Edith - International Socialites	35
11.	Death of William Llewellyn Hacon - Last Will and Testament (1910)	43
12.	Edith - Philanthropist, Suffragette	45
13.	'Silver Darlings'	47
14.	War Nurse: Scottish Ladies at Royaumont, France	50
15.	'Castle' at Tracadie Beach	53
<b>RETURN TO SCOTLAND</b>		
16.	Awards - Edith Catherine, Head of the Girl Guides	57
17.	Adoptions - Antony and Raymond	59
18.	Return Trips Between Acadie and Scotland	63
<b>LAST YEARS</b>		
19.	Death of Edith Catherine Robichaud, Last Will and Testament 1952	65
20.	Two Years in Prison	68
21.	Euclide Chiasson Testimonial	70
22.	Death of William Robichaud	73
23.	Antony, Raymond, Lydia and Their Descendants	74
24.	Bibliography	75





‘Paris à la belle époque - Aquarelle de J. Lavernhe.’ <https://www.chanson-libre.net/chansons-amour/aquarelles/aquarelle-belle-epoque.htm> [Image 1]

‘The American Circus at the Alhambra Theatre.’ <https://www.lookandlearn.com/history-images/XJ102955/The-American-Circus-at-the-Alhambra-Palace-Alhambra-Theatre-Leicester-Square-London> [Image 2]

## 1. Introduction

This is the eventful life of William Joseph Robichaud and of his wife, Edith Catherine Hacon, a widow whom he married in Scotland while he was a soldier during the First World War. They came from two different worlds, but the war brought them together.

In the following pages we will visit, in Europe and in Canada, four “castles”, related to their stories.

1. One is a lodge in Dornoch, in the north of Scotland, named Oversteps,
2. Another is a Canadian convalescence hospital set-up in a stately home in England, Bear Wood,
3. The third is a Scottish ladies war hospital set-up in a large former monastery in France, Royaumont, and
4. The last is a specially constructed house in Tracadie, in northern New Brunswick, Canada.

William Robichaud was an Acadian (a French-speaking Canadian) from Tracadie in northern New Brunswick, Canada. Edith Catherine Hacon was an English born widow living in Dornoch Scotland. They married in Dornoch, Scotland, on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918. Family and friends were invited to Oversteps for a reception. They were a most unlikely match.



## WILLIAM ROBICHAUD

William Robichaud was born on April 25th, 1886, the son of Olivier Robichaud, and Marie-Claire Légère of Tracadie Beach, in northern New Brunswick, Canada. William's father, Olivier, the son of Jean (or Jani) Robichaud, from the Robichaud family line of François dit Niganne, was born in Tracadie on December 13, 1848. He married Marie-Claire Légère on May 19, 1871. They had eleven children, and William Joseph (little Willie or William, or Bill) was the ninth. Olivier, Willie's father, was a schoolteacher, member of the health bureau for Gloucester and Northumberland, and commissioner of the court in the civil parish of Saumarez. He died on August 30, 1898. Willie was then only 14 years old.

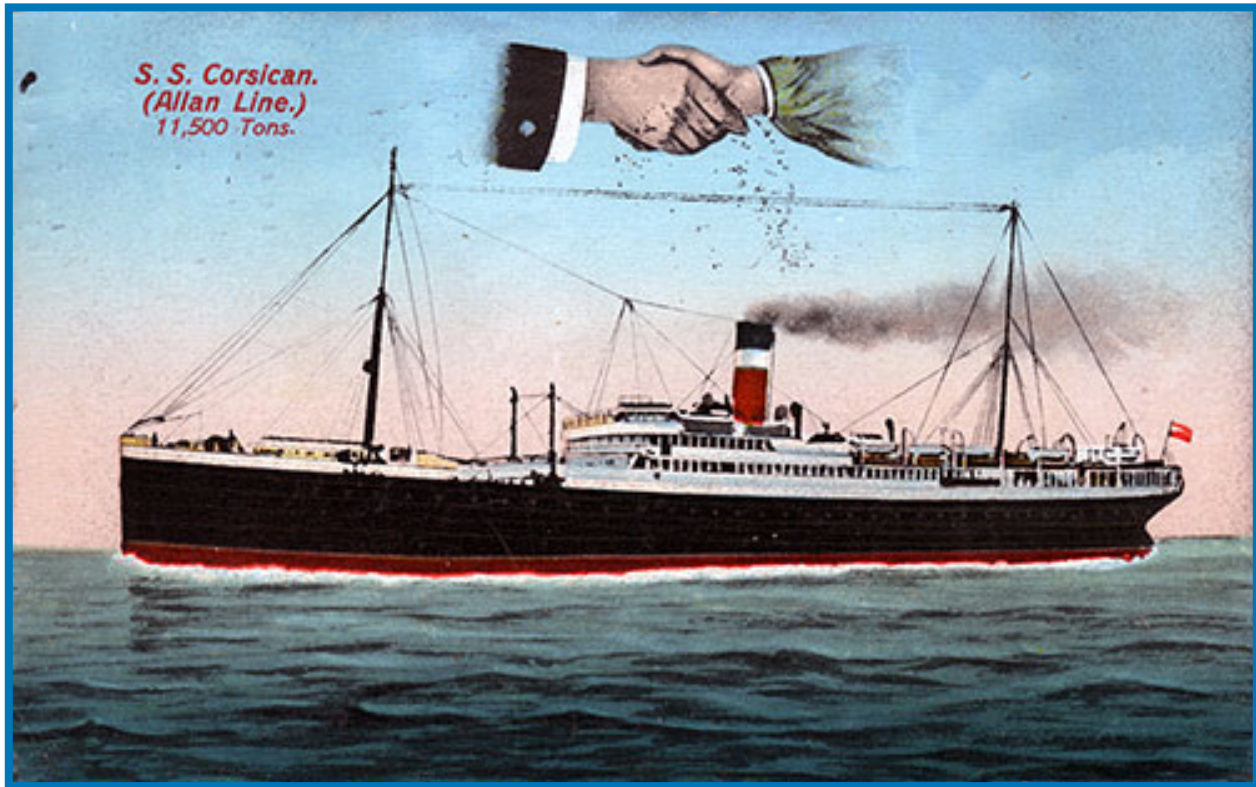
Through his descent from Marie Leborgne de Bellisle, wife of François Robichaud le jeune, William Joseph was a direct descendant of King Louis IX of France (St. Louis), William the Conqueror, the Spanish national hero El Cid, and other royalty, including another famous King of France, Charlemagne. However, he was probably not aware of this illustrious descent.<sup>1</sup> Here is his paternal genealogy:

William Joseph Robichaud	Olivier Robihaud	Jean, dit Jani Robichaud	François	Jean	François, le jeune	François, dit Niganne	Étienne	Unknown
m. 1918	m. 1871	m. 1835	m. 1808	c1772	m. 1739	c1702	c1663	?
Edith Catherine Broadbent/ Bacon - London	Marie-Claire Légère - Tracadie, New Brunswick	Françoise Sonier, N.-B.	Anne Savoie, Tracadie, N.-B.	Marie Levron dit Blanchard, Tracadie, N.-B.	Marie LeBorgne de Bellisle, St John River, N.-B.	Marie-Madeleine Thériot, Port-Royal	Françoise Boudreau, Port-Royal, Acadie	Michel Boudreau & Michelle Aucoin, France

<sup>1</sup> <https://armandrobichaud.wixsite.com/robichaud-2014-en> (see story # 3.)



Google Earth [Image 3]



S.S. Corsican<sup>2</sup> [Image 4]

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gjenvick.com/OceanTravel/Postcards/AllanLine.html>



## 2. William Joseph Robichaud Goes to War

In Tracadie, William was known as Guillaume, or as Willie to his friends and family. Aged 29, he volunteered to become a Canadian soldier on 15 April, 1915. He signed a certificate of allegiance to the King of the United Kingdom and Canada and became soldier, number 444584, of the 55th Infantry Battalion (New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island ), his profession being ‘Gasoline Engineer’. He already had some military experience in the Canadian militia. He was five feet five inches tall, had black hair and grey eyes. [see Image 5] His enlisting was undoubtedly to help his widowed mother financially. His salary was \$ 1.10 a day as a private and at the end of the war, up to \$ 3.00 a day with his promotions. His mother, and then after his marriage, his wife, received a pension of \$ 15 per month, then \$ 20, then \$ 25, and from September 1, 1918, \$ 30 per month.

William Joseph Robichaud was older than most of the other soldiers, so he was probably given more responsibility. He was promoted to corporal on May 10, 1915. However, he was described as a deserter on October 26, 1915 and thus was demoted to the status of a private soldier. Willie returned in time to embark from Montreal to England on the S. S. Corsican (Allan lines) on October 30, 1915. [see Image 4]



*William Joseph Robichaud in a Catholic Closed Retreat. Source: private collection of Hédard McLaughlin, with his consent. No other photos of William Robichaud were found. [Image 5]*



*Canadian Soldiers at Mount Sorrel - Canadian War Museum : <https://www.warmuseum.ca/> [Image 6]*

On November 9, 1915, his ship arrived in England. William was appointed sergeant, but then became a private again, then "acting corporal" in Westenhanger, in the south of England. Here again, in December 1915, William Robichaud was accused of being a deserter. He explained himself in a letter of January 6, 1916 and was able to rejoin the ranks.<sup>3</sup>

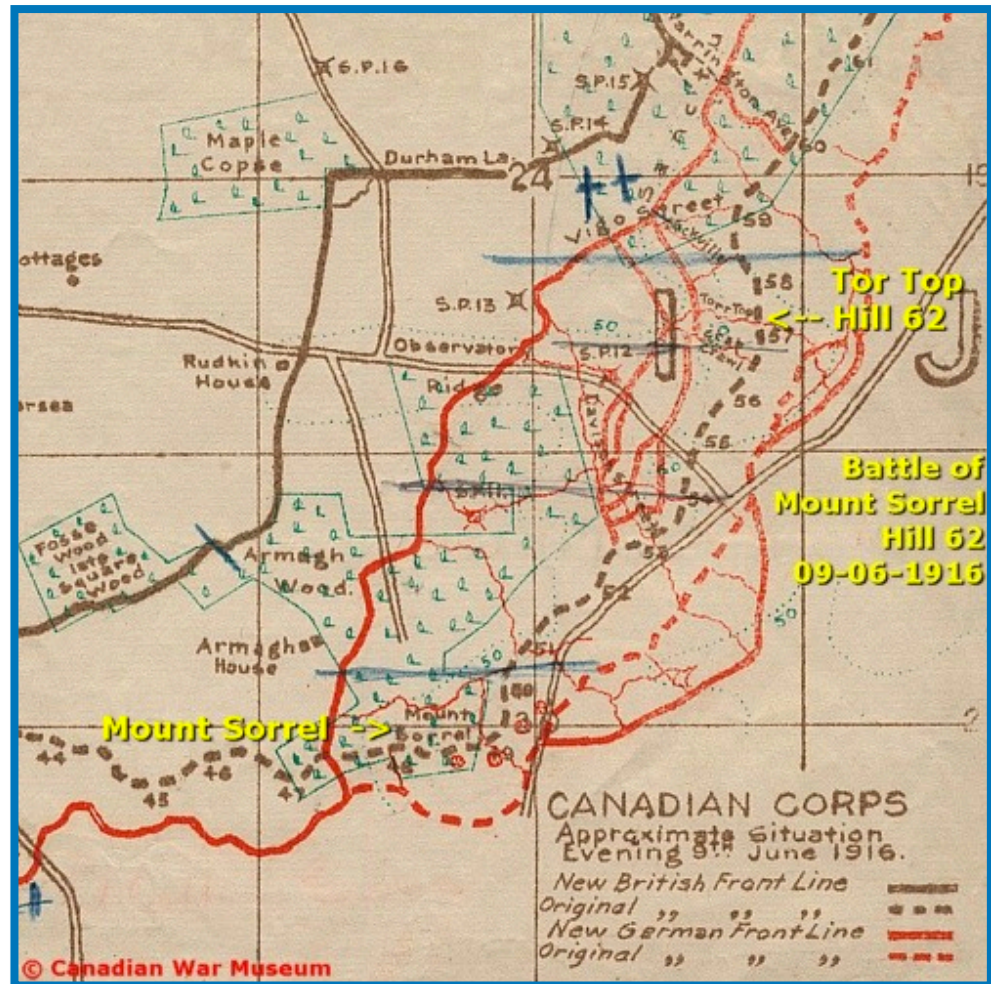
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<sup>3</sup> *Military Service Files, William Joseph Robichaud, regimental number 444584 – <http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B8372-S071>*



### 3. Battle of Mount Sorrel

The Canadian War Museum presents on their web site, a description of the June 1916 Mount Sorrel battle, where Canadian soldiers played a key role [see Images 6, 7, 8]. It's at this battle in June 1916, that Willam Joseph Robichaud was seriously injured.



Canadian War Museum [Image 7]

« The Canadians fought the Battle of Mount Sorrel in the Ypres salient from June 2nd to 13th, 1916.

**German Attack in the Ypres Salient** - In the summer of 1916, the Canadian Corps held the southern part of the Ypres salient. The Germans attacked the Canadian lines to secure the last remaining high ground still in British hands. They also sought to divert Allied resources from the large offensive they knew was being prepared in the Somme region.



Canadian Soldiers at Mount Sorrel - Canadian War Museum: <https://www.warmuseum.ca/> [Image 8]

**German Bombardment and Mining** - The 3rd Canadian Division, which had been formed in December 1915, was the target of a crushing German bombardment on the morning of June 2. The barrage devastated the forward Canadian positions and killed hundreds, including the division commander, Major-General Malcolm Mercer. German infantry then swept forward, capturing Canadian positions at Mount Sorrel and on two surrounding hills. A hastily organized



counterattack on June 3 failed. Three days later, the Germans exploded four mines under the Canadian positions and captured the village of Hooge.

The Canadian Corps commander, Sir Julian Byng, was determined to retake the lost ground and attacked, after a heavy artillery bombardment, during the early hours of 13 June. In this major set-piece battle, the Canadians drove back the Germans and recaptured much of the lost ground.

The Battle of Mount Sorrel lasted for almost two weeks and cost the Canadians over 8,000 casualties. Having lost the first two phases of the battle, the Canadians achieved victory in the final operation. Careful planning and concentrated artillery bombardments had begun to tip the balance on the First World War battlefields in favor of attackers over entrenched defenders.»<sup>4</sup>



Canadian Bear Wood Convalescent Hospital, 1914-1918, England [Image 9].

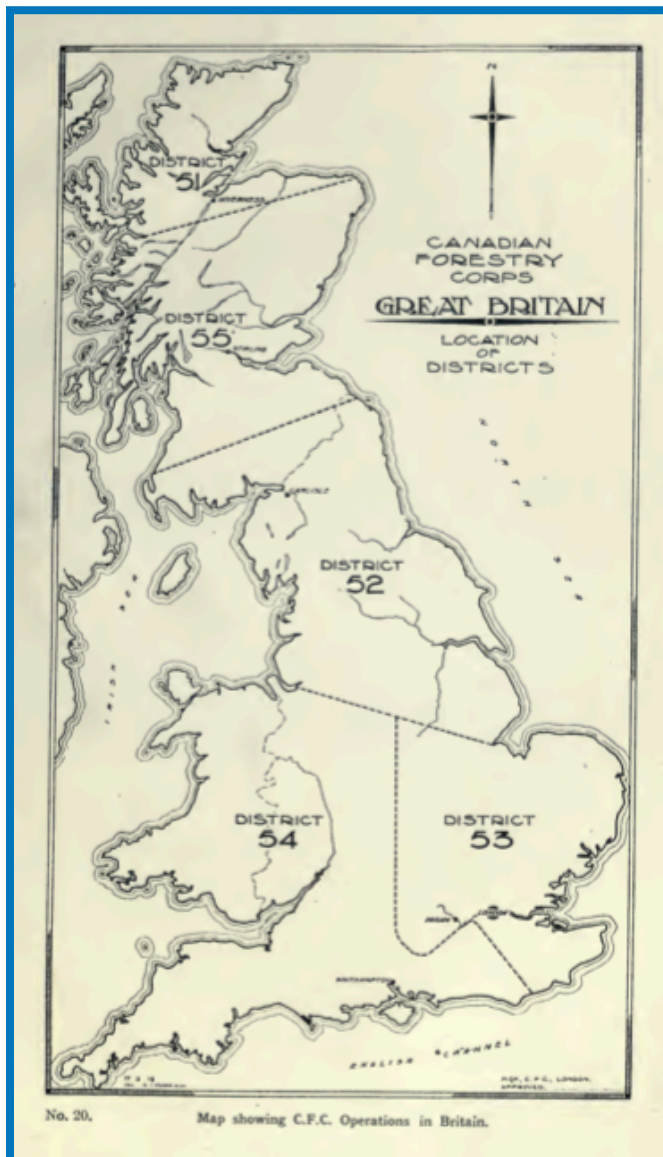
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bearwood\\_House,\\_Sindlesham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bearwood_House,_Sindlesham)

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/land-battles/mount-sorrel/>

On June 3, 1916, William Robichaud was wounded in the battle of Mount Sorrel, Ypres ( Zillebeke neighbourhood) in Belgium, ‘GSW Side Chest’ - Gun Shot Wound - shot in the chest, his right lung is punctured.”<sup>5</sup>

‘On June 4, 1916, William was admitted to Camiers military hospital, Pas-de-Calais department in France, until June 13, 1916. The wounded man was then shipped to England. On June 21, 1916, he was at Folkestone Canadian Air Base in England, then transferred to North General Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, northern England until July 15, 1916.



Canadian Forestry Corps [Image 10]

<sup>5</sup> Military Service Files William Joseph Robichaud, regimental number 444584 – <http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B8372-S071>



#### 4. Canadian Forestry Corps

Then he was at the Canadian Army Bear Wood Convalescent Hospital, Wokingham, Berkshire [Image 9] for over a month. Finally he was discharged on August 24, 1916. This ‘castle’ was the private residence of John Walter III, president of The Times of London, who loaned it for war purposes. It could accommodate up to 700 soldiers at a time.<sup>6</sup>



Canadian Forestry Corps [Image 11]

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<sup>6</sup> *Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire, 1915-1918* – [https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9\\_09546/1?r=0&s=1](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9_09546/1?r=0&s=1)

After being released in August 1916 from the Bear Wood Canadian Convalescent Hospital in England, William was transferred to the Canadian Forestry Corps [see Image 10]. On June 7, 1917, he was transferred to the 20th Reserve Battalion, moved from Shoreham to Shorecliffe and elsewhere, to establish forest camps. His last posting was with Company 129 in District 51 in the north of Scotland.



Canadian Forestry Corps [Image 12]

More than 33,000 men worked in the forest service in England, Scotland and France, mostly Canadians, with a few Portuguese, Finns and also some German prisoners [see Images 11, 12].

The Canadian Forestry Corps had five districts in Great Britain (51, 52, 53, 54, 55, north to south). [see Image 10]. The District 51 base depot was in Inverness, in the north of Scotland. Twelve sawmills were operating in District 51, including two in Dornoch. We know that William was in Company 129, that operated the Dornoch No. 2 sawmill from November 22, 1917 until the end of the war.

It is very likely that William Robichaud and Edith Catherine Hacon were both in Dornoch after November 22, 1917 [see Image 13]. On October 21, 1918, William obtained permission from the army for his marriage. On October 30, 1918, William Joseph Robichaud married Edith Catherine Hacon 'according to the forms of the Roman Catholic Church' Margaret Davidson of Dornoch was a witness to this ceremony, and signed the certificate. So did Hector M. Mackay. On November 11, 1918, the armistice was signed, and the war was over. In January 1919, William was still a lumberjack sawyer in England with the Canadian Forestry Corps.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> C. W. Bird, *The Canadian Forestry Corps, Its Inception, Development and Achievements*, Timber Supply Department, London, 1919, 98 p. – <https://electriccanadian.com/forces/canadianforestry00bir-duoft.pdf>



Dornoch in northern Scotland, population 2 570. The Sutherland Registry County has a population of 12 650. Wikipedia, Google Earth [Image 13]

### Dawn

Here in the little room  
You sleep the sleep of innocent tired youth,  
While I, in very sooth,  
Tired, and awake beside you in the gloom,  
Watch for the dawn, and feel the morning make  
A loneliness about me for your sake.

You are so young, so fair,  
And such a child, and might have loved so well;  
And now, I cannot tell,  
But surely one might love you anywhere,  
Come to you as a lover, and make bold  
To beg for that which all may buy with gold.

Your sweet, scarce lost, estate  
Of innocence, the candour of your eyes,  
Your childlike pleased surprise,  
Your patience: these afflict me with a weight  
As of some heavy wrong that I must share  
With God who made, and man who found you, fair.

Arthur Symons

### To Muriel: At The Opera

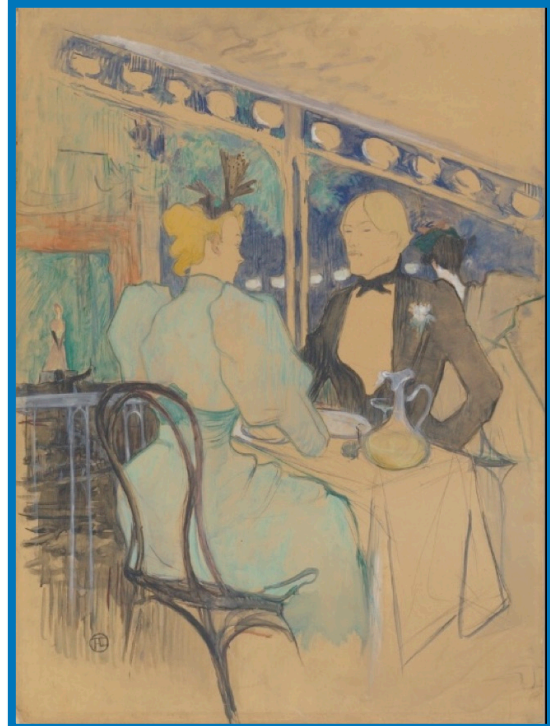
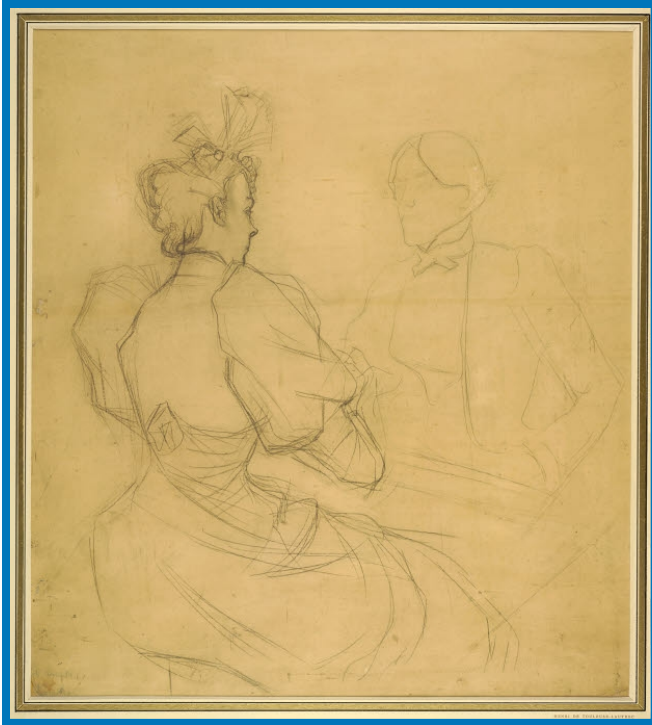
Roses and rose-buds, red and white,  
Nestled between your breasts to-night,  
And, lying there with drowsy breath,  
Sweetly resigned themselves to death.  
Ah, cruel child! that would not so  
Suffer the perfumed life to go,  
But, hungering for the rose's heart  
Of midmost sweetness, plucked apart  
Petal from petal: 'Ah!' you said  
(With lips that kissed white roses red)  
'To live on love and roses!'

Well,  
But if the rose were Muriel?

Arthur Symons

Arthur Symons, *London Nights*, L. C. Smithers, 1895, 104 pages.



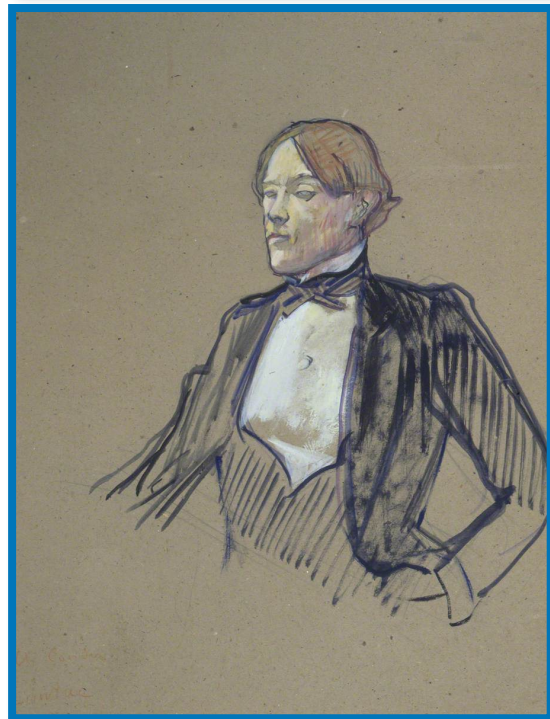


## EDITH CATHERINE

### 5. Who was Edith Catherine?

Edith Catherine [see Images 17, 47] has proved to have been an elusive character. She did much to obfuscate her true origins.

Consistently, in her two marriage records, she claimed that she was the daughter of John Broadbent, born in England, and Margaret Rayment, born in Ireland, but no such couple occurs in the civil marriage records. According to the age she gave in various records, she was born about 1874/75, but there is no civil record for her birth and no mention of her in the 1881 or 1891 censuses. She should certainly be somewhere in the census of 1881. In the record of her first marriage,



Henri de TOULOUSE-LAUTREC, *France*, 1864-1901, Charles Conder, Three sketches for *'Fashionable people at Les Ambassadeurs [Aux Ambassadeurs: gens chics]*, 1893, Charles Conder as model & possibly Edith Broadbent. <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/charles-conder-18681909-107990> [Images 14, 15, 16]



she claims that her father was a gentlemen. In that of her second marriage, she says he was an artist painter. None of the information she gave on official documents can be substantiated.

A ‘fictionalized’ proposed novel, an account of her life, was started by Arthur Symons, the first two chapters of which, were published in the literary journal *The Savoy*.<sup>8</sup> In this account, it is claimed that her father was a gentleman. He was said to have broken with his family when he married a lower-class girl, an Irish lass. Living in a “modest cottage,” Edith Catherine's parents could not afford to send their only child to school. Her father worked part-time as an accountant, and it was he who taught Edith Catherine. He was also a painter and artist.

Her mother was ill and bedridden for a long time. When she was 12, Edith Catherine was orphaned. Within a few months, she lost her mother to illness and her father in a roadside accident, a stagecoach horse stamped a horseshoe in his face.

The little orphan girl lived with an uncle and an aunt. At 18, Edith Catherine was pregnant with a child, whose father was an older cousin. She gave birth to her baby in a London hospital.

Rejected by the family of her uncle and aunt, at 19, Edith Catherine was alone in the streets of London with her child, homeless and knowing no one. Her infant only lived for a few months. She found herself working as a laundress and as a maid. She later met some members of the art world and her life was changed forever.

As evidence of the life of Edith Catherine, this account, just as much as the information she gave in official documents, is in large part unproven. The only true element we can substantiate was her given name Edith.

At some point not long after this, she and a friend decided to go to London. There she became a model, a muse, a friend of artists and writers. Her life amongst the decadent



*Edith Catherine Broadbent (Ryllis), photo, 1894, in ‘The World of Charles Ricketts’, by Joseph Darracott, published by Eyre Methuen, London, 1980, p. 45.*

[Image 17]

<sup>8</sup> [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Savoy](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Savoy)

painters and authors has intrigued historians of the period.<sup>9</sup>

<b>Family Name</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Note</b>
Bradshaw/ Rayment	Edith Catherine	Her mother's family names?
Broadbent	Edith Catherine	Her father's family name
Broadbent	Edith Catherine Mary Dolores	Her baptismal name
Broadbent	Amaryllis	Her name as a model
Bradshaw	Ryllis or Phyllis	Her name as a muse
Broadbent	Muriel, Mukins or Mu	other model or muse names used
Llewellyn Hacon	Edith Catherine	Her first husband's name
Hacon	Mrs William	Her first husband's first and family names
Newcome or Newcombe	Lucy	Her name in Symons short stories
Bradshaw	Edith	Delia in a painting by Charles Shannon
Head Char or	Mother Hacon	nicknames given at Royaumont hospital
Robichaud	Edith Catherine	Her second husband's name
Robichaud	Mrs William	Her second husband's first and family names
Robichaud	Edith Catherine Mary Dolores	Name in her will

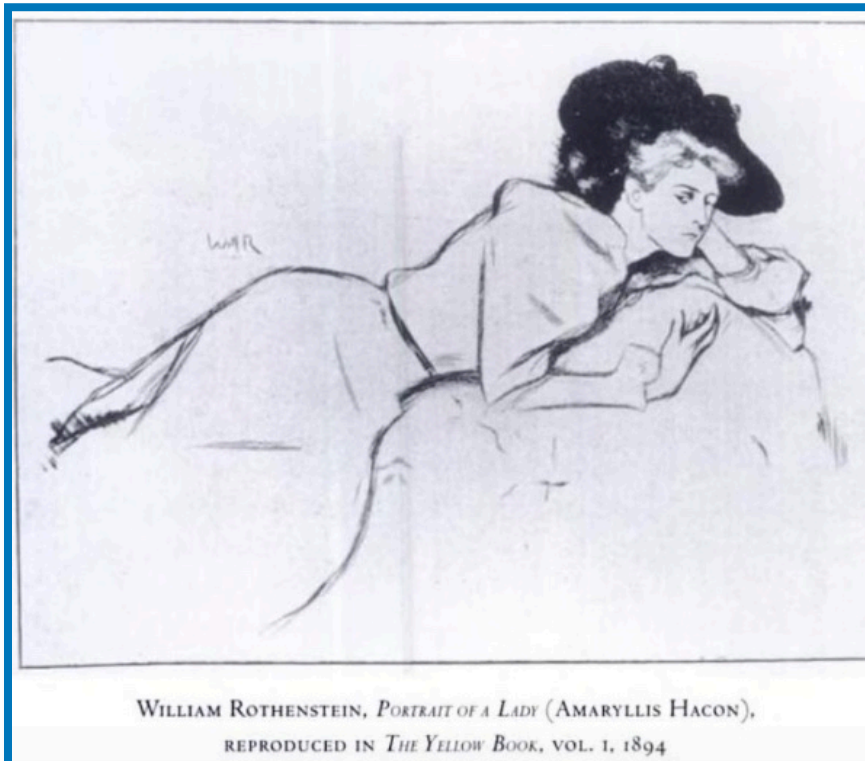
Note : Broadbent and Bradshaw are family names Edith Catherine used in her first years in London. No official documents or any letter or report gives us any explanation on the origin of these names. It may be the names of a maternal grand-parent or simply names she made up?

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<sup>9</sup> Edith Catherine Mary Dolores, [https://wiki2.org/en/Edith\\_Hacon](https://wiki2.org/en/Edith_Hacon)

Keep in mind that Symons's short stories are fiction, inspired by the real Catherine Edith. Arthur Symons, related Short Stories are: 1. *Pages From the Life of Lucy Newcome*, the Savoy, London, April 1896. 2. *The Childhood of Lucy Newcome*, the Savoy, London, December 1896. 3. *The Life and Adventures of Lucy Newcome*, 1985, in Alan Johnson, *English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920*, ELT Press, vol. 28, n<sup>o</sup> 4, 1985, p. 332-335.

## 6. Edith Catherine: Model and Muse



Once in London, she was discovered in January 1893, outside the Alhambra Theatre, by the writer, Arthur Symons. He later recalled their first meeting in a memoir: ‘She was one of the youngest and one of the most beautiful girls I have ever met. Her youth, her rare beauty, her amazing and absolute innocence, her delicious sense of

William Rothenstein, *Portrait of a Lady*,  
The Yellow Book, Vol. 1, 1894. [Image 18]

surprise, because I had both, pleased and surprised her... and that joy of life which

was part of the freshness and the fairness of her youth: all that, which was not exactly new to me, instilled into my very blood a sense of pity.’ She became the lover of Herbert Horne [see Image 38], who set her up in an apartment, Arthur Symons [see Image 42] and Selwyn Image [see Image 37], signed a lease for the flat and affirmed ‘with a Latin solemnity’ that she was ‘an honest woman’.<sup>10</sup> Symons continued to see her ‘fairly often, for several years.’ She is the subject of at least two poems by him published in *London Nights*, ‘Dawn’ and ‘To Muriel: at the Opera’ (see p. 16); several other sexually charged poems in the book probably also relate to her.

She became an artist’s model. In this role, she changed her name again, to Muriel or Mu Broadbent. In 1894, she inscribed a photo of herself with ‘All my love Yours Mukins’. She had an opulent beauty and golden auburn hair, reminiscent of the women painted by Titian and

<sup>10</sup> A Symons on Herbert Horne, manuscript from the late Prof Ian Fletcher, of Reading University. Prof Fletcher said the MS was at Princeton, but we have not located it there.





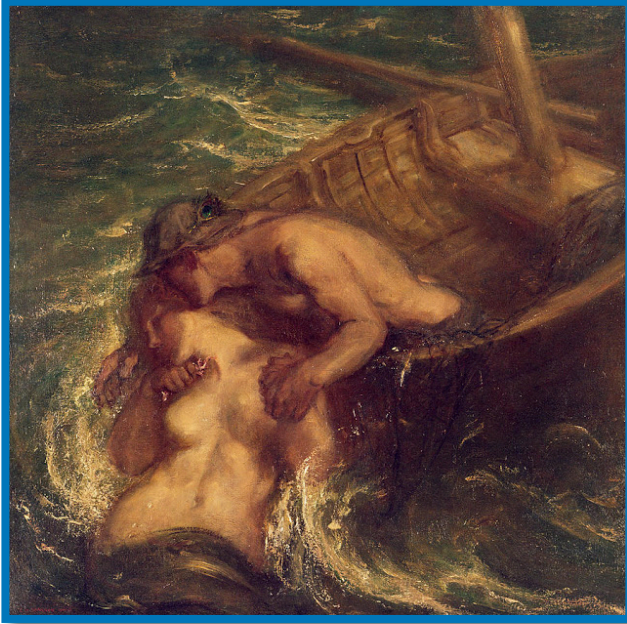
*The Shore at Dornoch* (c.1896), by Charles Conder (British, 1868-1909). Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums.

<https://atsunnyside.blog/2018/05/29/books0977-the-shore-at-dornoch-c1880-charles/> [Image 19]



Charles Conder, *The Ord of Caithness* <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/the-ord-of-caithness-highlands-106779> [Image 20]



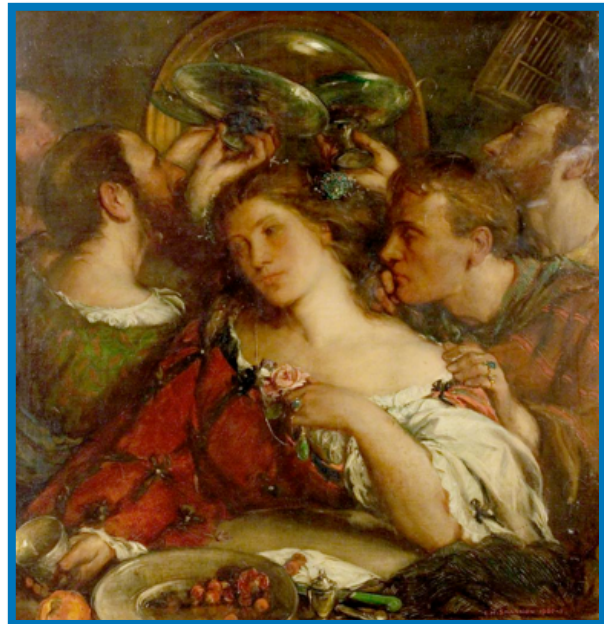


Charles Haslewood Shannon, *Fisherman and the Mermaid*, Edith Catherine model  
<https://zaidanca.wordpress.com/2018/11/16/charles-haslewood-shannon-fisherman-and-the-mermaid-01-paintings-and-tales-of-mermaids-with-footnotes-6c/>  
[Image 21]

painters and prose writers; and to such an extent that they all got mixed up in that queer head of hers.”<sup>11</sup>

Though her origins and early life were deliberately obscured, her days as a beautiful muse, model (and at times actress?<sup>12</sup>) are widely documented. ‘Edith’ being too prosaic a name for such a beauty, she was dubbed Amaryllis, or ‘Ryllis’ by Charles Ricketts. Horne had introduced her to him and Shannon,

Rossetti. In his memoir of Herbert Horne, Arthur Symons recalled her thus: “ She was frightfully nice and kind to me; one of those women who are sensual and excitable though not passionate. There was something bright and attractive about her, apart from her erotic nature... She often took refuge with me when her men made her exasperated; and when I opened the door after she had knocked on it, she burst in, flushed and feverish, then flung herself on the sofa and became hysterical. She got mixed up in an indiscriminate fashion with young lords and younger poets, with Jews and Gentiles, with



*Tibullus in the House of Delia* (or *In the house of Delia*), Charles Shannon - <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/tibullus-in-the-house-of-delia-46971> [Image 22]

<sup>11</sup> Symons on Herbert Horne, op. cit.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/31530>, <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/315309>

and they presented her to William Rothenstein [Image 40]. She posed for Rothenstein's *Portrait of a Lady* published in the first volume of *The Yellow Book* in 1894 (p. 150), [see Image 18]. To him in 1899, she inscribed a photo of herself. For Charles Shannon [Image 42], she posed for *In the House of Delia* [see Image 22], which he did in several versions, in oil, pastel and lithography, and for his lovely *Lady with the Green Fan* [see Image 23]. According to her niece, Cecily Hacon, she also posed for a 'portrait of a mermaid (Ryllis) out of a boat with lots of men.'<sup>13</sup> This must be an early version of *The Mermaid*, (c1909) [see Image 21] depicting a man leaning out of a boat to embrace a mermaid in the water. In this painting, there is only one man. This too was done both as an oil and a lithograph (1918) ... The hair color of the girl in the painting would be consistent with Edith being the model. Charles Ricketts did a portrait of her sculpted in gold in a jewel commissioned by her first husband in 1900 [See Images 53 and 54]. She bequeathed it to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Before her marriage in 1895, Ricketts and Shannon gave her a copy of George Meredith's *Jump to Glory Jane*, one of a special issue of 100 copies, inscribed to "Ryllis Broadbent from: C.R. & C.H.S." in Shannon's hand.<sup>14</sup>



*The Lady with the Green Fan* - <https://www.art.com/products/p22114359922-sa-i7648408/charles-haslewood-shannon-the-lady-with-the-green-fan-portrait-of-mrs-hacon.htm> [Image 23]

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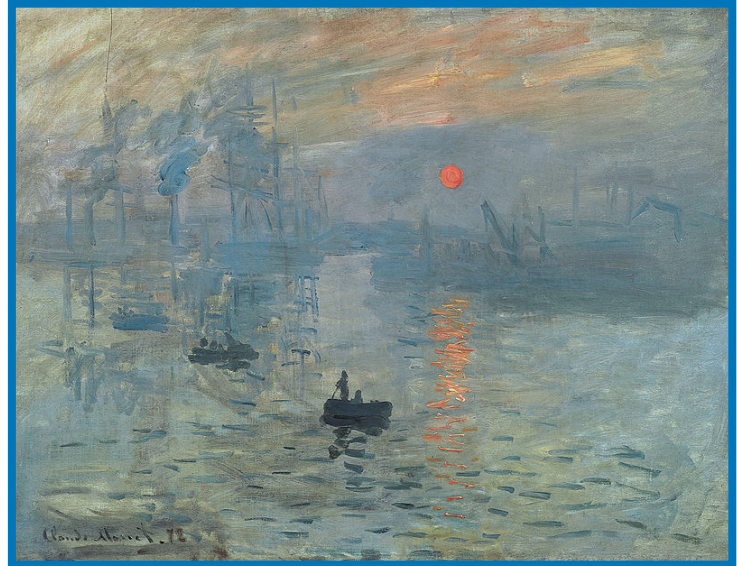
<sup>13</sup> Interview with Miss Cecily Hacon by Paul Delaney, 22 January 1977.

<sup>14</sup> Shown to Paul Delaney by Mr Russell.



## 7. The Impressionists

The *Fin du siècle* (End of Century) Decadent Art Movement is recognized as being mostly from France, however aspiring artists travelled throughout Europe for the discovery of new styles and/or attended universities in large cities such as London for classical training. The dominating decadent styles of the late 19th Century were the works of symbolists and impressionists artists in Paris, (France) replacing former styles of romanticism, and aestheticism. Claude Monet's c.1872-74 painting titled *Impression, soleil levant* [see Image 24] is deemed to be one of the Impression movement defining icon, with large brush strokes, bright colors and blurred objects.<sup>15</sup>



*Impression, soleil levant*, Claude Monet, c1872. [Image 24]



*Lune de miel* <http://www.artnet.com/artists/charles-conder/lune-de-miel-rszgYjGz5fq14AQgdLRynQ2> - 1893, This is a painting by Charles Conder. It is not known if Amaryllis is the model? [Image 25]

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<sup>15</sup> [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impression,\\_soleil\\_levant](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impression,_soleil_levant)

In the painting *Lune de miel* ((Honeymoon, 1893) [see Image 25] by Charles Conder [see Image 35] we see one main model and several blobs, that could represent ‘impressions’ of persons? When we compare the main model in this painting, with other Conder paintings of this period (table below), we see similarities. The *Lune de miel* model could be Edith? The calendar dates seems to correspond. Edith was discovered in January 1893, *Lune de miel* was painted by Conder in September 1893, Edith married William Hacon in February 1895. She was probably an artist’s model from 1893 to 1899 and later.



This small 1896 pencil and watercolor drawing by Charles Conder of *Two Nude Figures on the Beach* allows us to guess the presence of two women, but doesn’t provide enough information to identify the models. A note on the back of the print identifies a former owner of the painting, as Mrs Hacon, who was likely one of the models. "Received from Mrs Hacon (Robichaud), as a gift in Dornoch, Sutherland." <https://www.vialibri.net/years/books/7557729/1896-conder-charles-original-pencil-and-watercolor-drawing-of> [Image 26]



2 *The Vale*, London (Modern Ordnance Survey, 2018) [Image 27]



2 *The Vale*, London photo, 1894, in ‘The World of Charles Ricketts’, by Joseph Darracott, published by Eyre Methuen, London, 1980, p. 15. [Image 28]

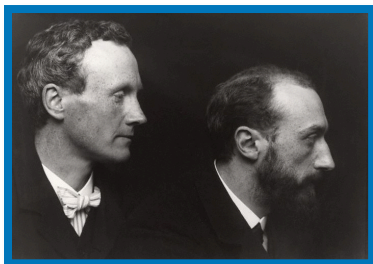


### Edith Catherine - Some of her Confirmed Modeling Projects

In the painting *Lune de miel* (Honeymoon, 1893) by Charles Conder we see one main model and several blobs, that could represent ‘impressions’ of persons? When we compare the main model in this painting, with other Conder paintings (table below), we see similarities, the *Lune de miel* model could also be Edith. The calendar dates seems to correspond. Edith was ‘discovered’ in January 1893, *Lune de miel* was painted by Conder in September 1893, Edith married William Hacon in February 1895. Edith was probably an artist model from 1893 to 1899 and later.

Event	Date	Event	Date
Edith Catherine was born	c 1875	Edith ‘discovered’ in London	Jan 1893
<i>Lune de miel</i> - Charles Conder - <b>Edith model ?</b> [see Image 25]	Sept 1893	Mariage Edith and William Hacon	1895
The <i>Shore at Dornoch</i> - Charles Conder - Edith model [see Image 19]	c 1896	<i>Two Nudes Figures at the Beach</i> - Charles Conder, <b>Edith model ?</b> [see Image 26]	1896
<i>Ord of Caithness</i> - Charles Conder, Edith model [see Image 20]	1896	Photo of Edith [see Image 17]	1894
<i>Tibulus in the House of Delia</i> , Charles H. Shannon, Edith model [see Image 22]	c 1900	<i>Mermaid</i> , Charles H. Shannon, Edith model - several versions [see Image 21]	c 1909

Note : Comments by Doreen Christie, daughter of John Raymond Robichaud, regarding the painting *The Shore at Dornoch*, c1896. [see Image 19] « I wonder if Edith Catherine actually had some painting material in her lap. I note however, that she is not holding a paint brush. Barry Humphries (stage name Dame Edna Everage) is an Australian art collector and expert on Charles Conder. Many years ago he wrote a paragraph in an English newspaper about the fact that he was researching Edith Catherine’s possible art work and described her as an obscure ‘artist’. » (Email from Doreen Christie to Armand Robichaud, January 21 2021.)



Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon  
[https://www.manchesterhive.com/\(Wikipedia\)](https://www.manchesterhive.com/(Wikipedia)) [Image 29]

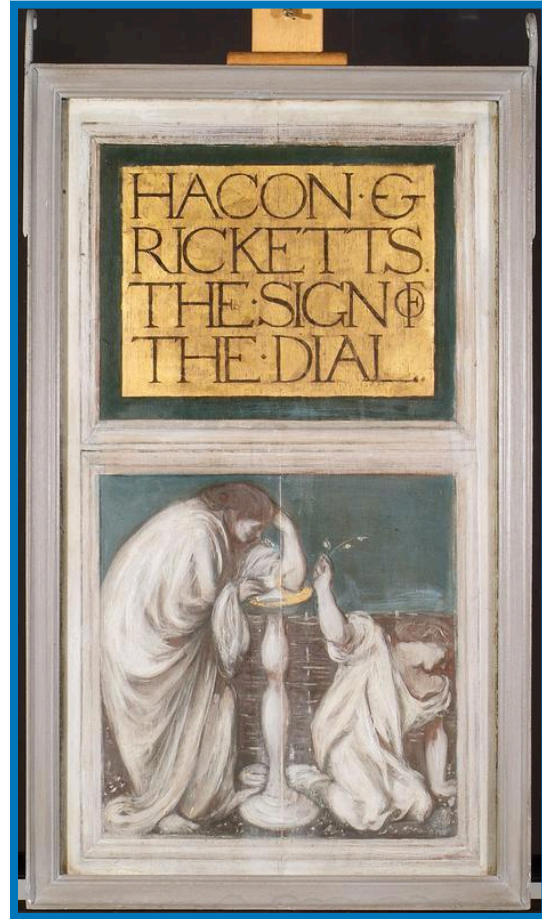


Barry Humphries / Dame Edna Everage (1934-) Australian actor, artist, author, comedian and satirist. He is an art critic and collector of Charles Conder art. (Wikipedia). [Image 30]

## 8. William Llewelyn “Lee” Hacon



*William Hacon*, Lithograph by Charles Shannon, Archives, Special Collections, Woodson Research Center, Rice University, Houston, Texas. [Image 31]



*At the Sign of the Dial* (painted signboard for the Vale Press) (recto) - Charles Haslewood Shannon (1863–1937), Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums  
<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/at-the-sign-of-the-dial-107858> [Image 32]

It was through a pastel drawing [see Image 18] of Edith by Rothenstein that she came to the attention of William Llewellyn Hacon [see Image 31]. Rothenstein had met her at the Vale, and the pastel he did of her was exhibited at a joint show with Shannon in May 1894. Hacon bought the drawing. Known as Lee in the family, he was a barrister by education, but, having inherited private means, he never took a brief. A widower, he had lost his first wife in childbirth. Through Rothenstein, Hacon was able to meet the original sitter for his drawing, when they were both invited for a day’s yachting at the Isle of Wight.



Rothenstein also introduced Hacon to Ricketts, and Hacon invested in the printing venture that Ricketts was hoping to set up. Thus was founded the firm of Hacon and Ricketts, the Vale Press. The business was operated mostly by Ricketts, at their shop located at 52 Warwick St, in London (in the fashionable Soho district, London about 7 miles (11 km, from their home at the Vale, in Chelsea district, London) [see Images 27, 28].



James McNeil Whistler, *Whistler's Mother, Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1*, 1871 [Image 33]

Ricketts and Shannon lived at the Vale from 1890 to 1894, having taken it over from the American born James Abbott McNeil Whistler. His painting, *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1*, better known as *Whistler's Mother* [see Image 33] is considered the most important American



work of art residing outside the United States. It was bought by the French state in 1891 for the Musée du Luxembourg in Paris and later became the first American painting to enter the collection of the Louvre; it was transferred to the Musée d'Orsay in 1986.

When this painting was painted, in 1871, Whistler and his mother lived on Cheyne Walk in London's fashionable Chelsea district. Later Whistler lived at 2 The Vale, from 1886-1890 and the houses was subsequently occupied by Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon and then William Hacon and his wife Edith Catherine. The Vale was later demolished and completely rebuilt.

Shannon painted a sign to hang outside *The Vale* Press shop, which was given to Edith Hacon when the firm closed. Ryllis later presented it to the Art Gallery in Aberdeen [see Image 32]. Hacon, a sleeping partner, got a good return on his investment when the press was wound up in 1904, but the final financial settlement gave little return to Ricketts, on whose hard work and talent the entire success of the venture had depended. This led to awkwardness between them. On 11 November 1904, Ricketts wrote in his diary: 'Hacon to dinner, we found it difficult at times to avoid forbidden subjects'.<sup>16</sup> It was perhaps for this reason that Hacon left Ricketts 100 pounds in his will, one of only three bequests apart from that to his wife.

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<sup>16</sup> BLMs 58102

## MR & MRS HACON

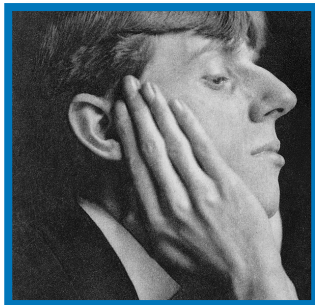
### 9. Artists Friends of William and Edith Hacon

The **Décadence Art Movement** has its roots mostly in Paris, France.

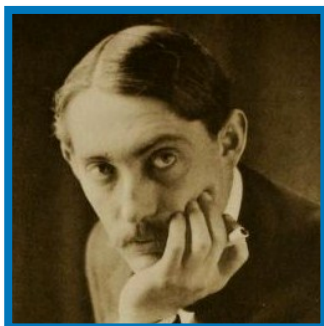
Writers, Théophile Gautier, Charles Baudelaire (*Les fleurs du mal*, 1857), and other poets used the word decadence proudly to represent a rejection of what they considered



banal "progress". The same principles were applied to visual arts. In England, the Chelsea area of London was a favorite gathering place for the young artists, writers and poets. The following visual artists, poets and writers are known to have been friends of William Hacon and his wife Edith. (Source: Wikipedia - text summary and photos)



**Aubrey Vincent Beardsley** (1872–1898) was an English illustrator and author. His black ink drawings were influenced by Japanese woodcuts, and emphasized the grotesque, the decadent, and the erotic. He was a leading figure in the aesthetic movement, which also included Oscar Wilde and James McNeill Whistler. Beardsley's contribution to the development of the Art Nouveau and poster styles was significant despite his early death from tuberculosis. He is one of the important British Art Nouveau artists. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 34\]](#)

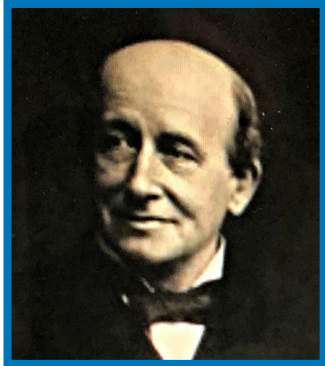


**Charles Edward Conder** (1868-1909) was an English-born painter, lithographer and designer. He immigrated to Australia and was a key figure in the Heidelberg School, arguably the beginning of a distinctively Australian tradition in Western art. In 1888, Conder moved to Melbourne where he met other Australian artists. Conder

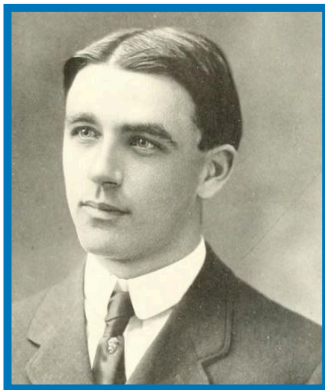
left Australia in 1890, and spent the rest of his life in Europe, mainly in Britain, but visiting France on many occasions. His art was better received in Britain than in Paris. In 1892, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, painted his portrait [see images 14 & 15]. (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 35]



**Ernest Christopher Dowson** (1867–1900) was a London, England, poet, novelist, short-story writer, often associated with the Decadent movement. He was a member of the Rhymers' Club, which included W. B. Yeats and Lionel Johnson. He was a contributor to such literary magazines as *The Yellow Book* and *The Savoy*. Dowson is best remembered for such vivid phrases as « Days of Wine and Roses » and « Gone with the Wind ». (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 36]



**Selwyn Image** (1849-1930) was an important British artist, designer, writer and poet associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement. He designed stained-glass windows, furniture, embroidery, and was an illustrator of books. Image was the seventh Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford from 1910 to 1916 Image was also a close associate of Arthur Symons and an intimate friend of Muriel (Edith Broadbent). (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 37]

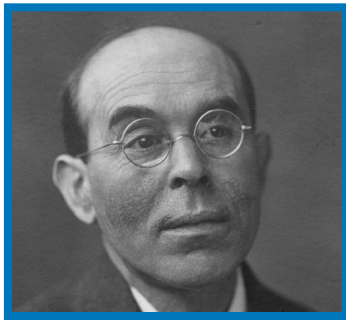


**Herbert Percy Horne** (1864–1916) Born in London, he was an English poet, architect, typographer and designer, art historian and antiquarian. He was an associate of the Rhymers' Club in London. He edited the magazines *The Century Guild Hobby Horse* and *The Hobby Horse for the Century Guild of Artists*, which he founded with fellow architect Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo, in 1882. Horne was closely associated with Arthur Symons and his mistress Muriel (Edith Broadbent). (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 38]





**Charles de Sousy Ricketts** (1866–1931) was a British artist, illustrator, author and printer, known for his work as a book designer and typographer and for his costume and scenery designs for plays and operas. On his 16th birthday he met the painter and lithographer Charles Haslewood Shannon, with whom he formed a lifelong personal and professional partnership. In 1894 his finances were put on a more secure footing when he was introduced to a rich barrister, William Hacon, who invested £1,000 and became Ricketts's business partner in the firm, the Vale Press, which published fine books designed by Ricketts. In his will, Hacon left a substantial amount to Ricketts, the only person outside his immediate family mentioned in his will. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 39\]](#)



**Sir William Rothenstein** (1872–1945) was an English painter, printmaker, draughtsman, lecturer, and writer on art. Emerging during the early 1890s, Rothenstein continued to make art right up until his death in the mid-1940s. He covered many subjects – landscapes, the two world wars, portraits, ... More than two hundred of Rothenstein's portraits of famous people can be found in the National Portrait Gallery collection. Rothenstein was knighted in 1931 for his services to art. In 1894, William Rothenstein did a drawing of Edith Broadbent, that was published in *The Yellow Book*, vol. 1. William Hacon, lawyer and art patron bought the drawing, which led to the marriage of Edith and William. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 40\]](#)



**Charles Haslewood Shannon** (1863–1937) was an English artist. He became best known for his portraits, which can be found in several major European collections. A lifetime partner of Charles Ricketts. Amongst his portraits, *The Lady with the Green Fan* (portrait of Mrs Hacon) is well appreciated. The British Museum and the Berlin and Dresden print rooms have

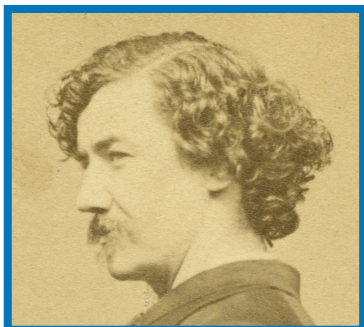
acquired complete sets of his lithographs and etchings. He was awarded a first-class gold medal at Munich in 1895 and a first-class silver medal in Paris in 1900. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 41\]](#)



**Arthur William Symons** (1865 –1945), was a British poet, critic and magazine editor. His later verse is influenced by a close study of modern French writers, Charles Baudelaire and Paul Verlaine. He reflects French tendencies both in the subject matter and style of his poems, in their eroticism and their vividness of description. Symons contributed poems and essays to *The Yellow Book* including two chapters of his novel ‘à la carte’, on the Life of Lucy Newcome. A third chapter was published posthumously. Edith Broadbent, an artist’s model and muse under the names “Amaryllis” and “Muriel,” was Symons’s mistress. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 42\]](#)



**Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa** (1864-1901) was a French painter, printmaker, draughtsman, caricaturist and illustrator whose immersion in the colorful and theatrical life of Paris in the late 19th century allowed him to produce a collection of enticing, elegant, and provocative images of the modern, sometimes decadent, affairs of those times. While in London in 1892, he met and befriended Oscar Wilde. When Wilde faced imprisonment in Britain, Toulouse-Lautrec became a very vocal supporter of him, and his portrait of Oscar Wilde was painted the same year as Wilde's trial. (Source: Wikipedia) [\[Image 43\]](#)



**James McNeil Whistler** (1834-1903) is best known for the painting, *Whistler’s Mother, Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1*. Born in Lowell Massachusetts, by 1855 he was studying painting in Paris. After a few bohemian years, James Whistler settled in London. His mother's portrait was done in 1871, when he and his

mother lived at 96 Cheyne Walk, in London, which is not very far from The Vale. Whistler lived in the house at 2 the Vale from 1886 to 1890, after which Charles Ricketts and Charles Shannon took over the lease. After their marriage Edith and William Hacon were the occupants. (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 44]



**Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (1854-1900)** was an Irish poet and playwright. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, the early 1890s saw Oscar Wilde become one of the most popular playwrights in London. He is best remembered for his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), and for his epigrams and plays, especially *The Importance of being Earnest* (1895), and for the circumstances of his criminal conviction for gross indecency for consensual acts in "one of the first celebrity trials" imprisonment, and early death from meningitis, at age 46. (Source: Wikipedia) [Image 45]



### Elle était une bergère

Artist : Charles Edward Conder  
(1868 - 1909)

Sitter : Amaryllis Robichaud

Size: 29.8 x 41.5 cm

Watercolor on Silk

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and  
Museums

Object number : ABDAG003322

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM>

[Image 46]



## 10. William and Edith - International Socialites

**William Llewellyn Hacon and Edith Catherine Broadbent** were married at the fashionable St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London, on 18 February 1895. Hacon had converted to Catholicism while he was at Oxford, and Ryllis too became Catholic at some point, so it is a bit strange that they should have married in an Anglican Church.

They still moved in artistic circles. Hacon was very sociable and good company. Ricketts and Shannon had moved to Beaufort St in late 1894, and the newlyweds took over the lease of their house at the Vale, where they entertained. The Hacons kept a virtual open house in Chelsea and it was here that they received Ricketts and Shannon, Rothenstein, Max Beerbohm, Charles Conder, the young Laurence Binyon and many other figures in the artistic and literary world.



*Ryllis Hacon, 1899, Archives, Special Collections, Woodson Research Center | Rice University, Houston, Texas. [Image 47]*

However, the Hacon's marriage soon came under strain. Edith had gained weight and Hacon was drinking too much. On 25 June 1904, Ricketts wrote in his diary: 'Hacon made a confession of failure, the failure of affection, lust, companionship, daily habits. I believe I said things I did not quite believe as consolation, though I have felt also at an age when one puts

one's house in order. Hacon again made reference to his undue share in firm. I felt embarrassed.<sup>17</sup>

In 7 December 1904, Ricketts made the following enigmatic entry: 'tragic grub with Hacon and his wife'.<sup>18</sup> On the same date, Shannon noted the following engagement in his diary: 'Dine with Hacon at Monaco Grill Room.' Afterwards he wrote, ' "Had most uncomfortable dinner with Hacon who arrived apparently drunk & spent the evening in insulting his wife. He afterwards ran away & we ... met him later at his rooms.<sup>19</sup> Herbert Horne also recorded that 'there were terrible scenes between' Ryllis and Hacon. He also recalled: "Once I was walking with him in Chelsea when Muriel waved her hand from a cab; his face became livid and furious; and in his surly voice, he said, "Let us turn down the next street and escape her."<sup>20</sup> Later, things calmed down between them, and there are no further accounts of such awkward moments.<sup>21</sup>

Despite these difficulties, they continued with their active social life.

[Image 48]



<sup>17</sup> British Library Ms 58102

<sup>18</sup> *Oversteps, home of the Hacons in Dornoch*. Now a seniors special care home, Oversteps, Eventide Home. <https://www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/oversteps> [see Image 48]

<sup>19</sup> British Library Ms 58102

<sup>20</sup> British Library Ms 58116

<sup>21</sup> A Symons in Herbert Horne.



*Aguado Street, Dieppe, France, 1901 (Wikipedia) [Image 49]*

Conder visited Dieppe in 1895. The Hacons had a flat there, on fashionable Aguado Street, [see Image 49] and Conder stayed with them there in March 1896. They invited him to spend the summer with them at their house at Scotland, and he readily accepted. It gave him the chance to get out of the city and to paint ‘en plein air’ along the Scottish coast, the coast being one of his favorite themes. Their relationship developed into one that was important to both him and them: “this was perhaps Conder’s most successful artist-patron relationship and it lasted into the new century. Conder’s dreamy elusiveness was a foil to the rumbustious Hacon and must have been a source of diversion - even relief - to his wife”.

The Hacons had moved to Dornoch, Scotland, because they found life in London too expensive and because Hacon loved golf and yachting. Dornoch is a small town on the coast of the Dornoch Firth in the county of Sutherland in the northeast of Scotland. It is about 40 miles north of Inverness. It is known for its beaches and its celebrated golf club. [see Image 50] Golf is



first recorded here in 1616, though the club itself dates from 1877. A mecca for golf lovers, it is said to be one of the oldest and best golf courses in the world.



*Royal Dornoch Golf* - <https://blog.holidaysplease.co.uk/2019/07/top-5-golf-courses-in-the-world/> [Image 50]

The Hacons are listed at Oversteps, Dornoch [Images 48, 51], in the 1901 census, along with a cook and a maid. The house had originally been built as a deanery and was renovated in the Arts and Craft fashion c1898 by the Hacons. “It was set on a hillside a little to the right of the town and overlooking the golf course, with a glorious view of Dornoch Firth and Sands. The house had recently cast off all clerical associations to be remodeled in the fashionable ‘vernacular’ style, with a steely pitched roof and picturesque half-timbered gables. Facing south, it opened on to a croquet lawn.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Ann Galbally, *Charles Conder: The Last Bohemian*, Melbourne Univ. Publishing, 30 déc. 2004 - p. 168. Oversteps - a provocative name for William and Edith's residence in Dornoch in the north of Scotland - Overstep - to go beyond, exceed, to overstep one's authority. Overstep means to exceed the limits, to take one more step,... a name which fits perfectly with the revolt of these young decadents.



Oversteps - <https://www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/oversteps> [Image 51]

*At Dornoch, ... throughout July and August (...) Conder allowed himself little distraction from painting, finding inspiration both in the surroundings and in his model, the obliging Amaryllis. Conder was never attracted by the merely picturesque. The oil studies made on the Scottish coast continue to feature the interest that coastlines had always had for him - human interest."*

*The Shore at Dornoch*, [see Image 19] (c 1896), an oil on canvas by Conder (1868-1909) is on display at the Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums. The lady reading on the beach is Amaryllis Hacon (Robichaud). Conder apparently painted her reading a book on the Dornoch Sands, seated in an upright positioning looking a little uncomfortable but very smart in a white linen suit with black boots and a black feather in her draw hat. Conder inscribed the oil, now known as *The Beach at Dornoch*, 'To Mrs Ryllis of Dornoch' and gave it to her.

He explored further up the coast at Caithness [see Image 20], painting Ryllis again - this time as a much tinier figure on the rocky beach beneath the dramatic red sandstone cliffs at a

point where a gorge breaks into the sea. This oil, known as the *Ord of Caithness* - [see Image 20] if it was painted on the spot - must have involved a journey by boat as the site is inaccessible by horse and carriage, and so the occasion was very probably a picnic outing with Hacon and other guests. There is no doubt Conder enjoyed the company of Ryllis and appreciated her willingness to act as a model."<sup>23</sup> (...)

Renovated c 1898 by the Hacons, the 'castle' of Oversteps was converted to a seniors home in 1958. Eight new bedrooms, a new kitchen, extensions to treatment rooms, a new staircase and a sunroom were added. "Oversteps is now a first-class facility, and is fully equipped to serve the population of Dornoch and the surrounding area far into the future."

The project was awarded the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) award for 'New Life for Old Buildings' in the 'Highland North' region in 2008.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Galbally, Ann, *Charles Conder: The Last Bohemian*, Melbourne Univ. Publishing, 30 dec. 2004 - 311 pages.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.rias.org.uk/for-the-public/practices/white-and-mcginn-architects-/extension-and-refurbishment-of-oversteps-eventide-home-dornoch>



## *Hacon / Broadbent Genealogy*

William Llewellyn **Hacon** : Born – 1861 in Bray, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough, Berkshire, England

Death: 23 July, 1910 (aged 48-49) Dornoch, Highland, Scotland

Burial: Dornoch Free Church Cemetery, Dornoch, Highland, Scotland

Father: William **Mackmurdo** Hacon: 1821–1885

Mother: Mary Llewellyn 1841–1894 (died aged 24-25)

William's First Wife: Mary Leslie **Champion** Hacon : Born : 24 November 1861 (m. 1886) Death : 1887 (One year after their marriage in a miscarriage.)

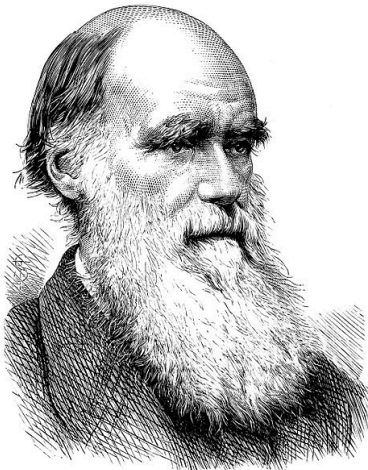
Burial: Willesden, London Borough of Brent, Greater London, England

Second Wife: Edith Catherine **Broadbent** / Bradshaw / Llewellyn / Hacon / Robichaud

Born: c. 1885-1886

Death : August 1952 (76 years old), Glasgow, Scotland

Burial: Dornoch Free Church Cemetery, Dornoch, Highland, Scotland<sup>25</sup>



William Llewellyn Hacon (1861-1910), was a London lawyer. His father William Mackmurdo Hacon (1821-1885) was also a London lawyer. One of Mackmurdo's client was the famous naturalist **Charles Robert Darwin** (1809-1882). Darwin's letters, which are digitized and available on the web, refer to marriage contracts for Darwin's sons, his will, ... documents prepared by Hacon, father.<sup>26</sup>

Charles Darwin [Image 52]

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183036764/william-llewellyn-hacon>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/>- Wikipedia



[Image 53]



[Image 54]

Charles Ricketts designed this brooch, with the face of Amaryllis Hacon in a medallion, commissioned by her husband, William Hacon. (The design drawing is at British Museum, London. / The brooch is at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.)

## 11. Death of William Llewellyn Hacon

Meanwhile, William Hacon occupied himself with his golf. A top-notch player, he acted as club secretary and was elected captain of the Royal Dornoch Golf Club from 1899 to 1903. However, in the latter years, he began suffering from serious health problem. He started hemorrhaging from his left lung and was diagnosed with consumption. This in those days before penicillin was usually a death sentence. Rest and fresh air were the suggested remedies. Perhaps in search of sea air and a milder climate, he went on his own on a sea voyage to Melbourne Australia, departing London on 5 October 1903 and arriving at Melbourne on 16 January 1904. He appears to have travelled on to New Zealand in search of health.



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183036764/william-llewellyn-hacon> [Image 55]



Despite such drastic measures, he died on 23 July 1910, a year and a half after Conder, who had died on 9 February 2009. Hacon’s funeral was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July at the Dornoch Free Church. He was buried [see Image 55] in the church cemetery a stone’s throw from his beloved golf course. A prize bearing his name, the Dornoch Academy Llewelyn Hacon Cup, is still presented to young golfers.<sup>27</sup>

In his will dated, 4 September 1903, and proved on 9 September 1910, he made Edith Catherine his chief beneficiary, ‘in the event of her surviving me,’ receiving all his possessions. If she died before him, then his brother was his heir.

He made only four other bequests, his brother Ernest Noël Hacon and two cousins, Arthur Llewellyn and Jane Sevestre Hacon plus his friend and business partner Charles Ricketts.

#### Last Will and Testament of William Llewellyn Hacon

Last Will and Testament	William Hacon	9 september 1910	
Family	Amount	Friends and Associates	Amount
Edith Catherine Hacon	All lands and heritages ...	Charles Ricketts, business partner	100 pounds
Ernest Noel Hacon, brother substitute	in case of death of Edith		
Arthur Llewellyn, cousin	100 pounds		
Jane Sevestre, Hacon cousin	100 pounds		
wife	200 pounds		
Executors:	Edith Catherine Hacon	Hector Munro Mackay, solicitor	

Source:<sup>28</sup>

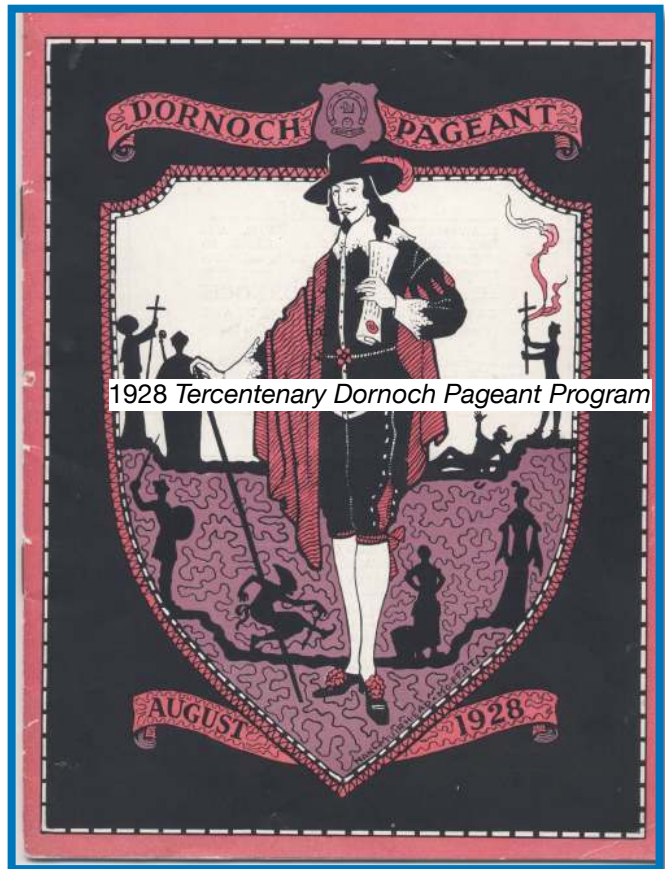
<sup>27</sup> <https://royaldornoch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Royal-Dornoch-Junior-Section-2018-.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Sheriff Clerk’s Office, Sheriff Court, Dornoch, Scotland. Retrieved by Paul Delaney, 30 April 1979.

## 12. Edith - Philanthropist, Suffragette

Now Edith was well off; the 1911 census noted that she had ‘private means’. With her racy and glamorous life behind her, Edith devoted herself to philanthropic works, but she also kept up some of her 1890s connections. In a letter to Herbert Horne, dated 5 February 1913, she wrote, ‘I was in Edinburgh last week and on Sunday saw Fr John Gray. He is very much beloved in Edinburgh and leads a splendid life and does heaps of work.’<sup>29</sup>

*1928 Tercentenary Dornoch Pageant Program*  
*Pageant [Image 56]*

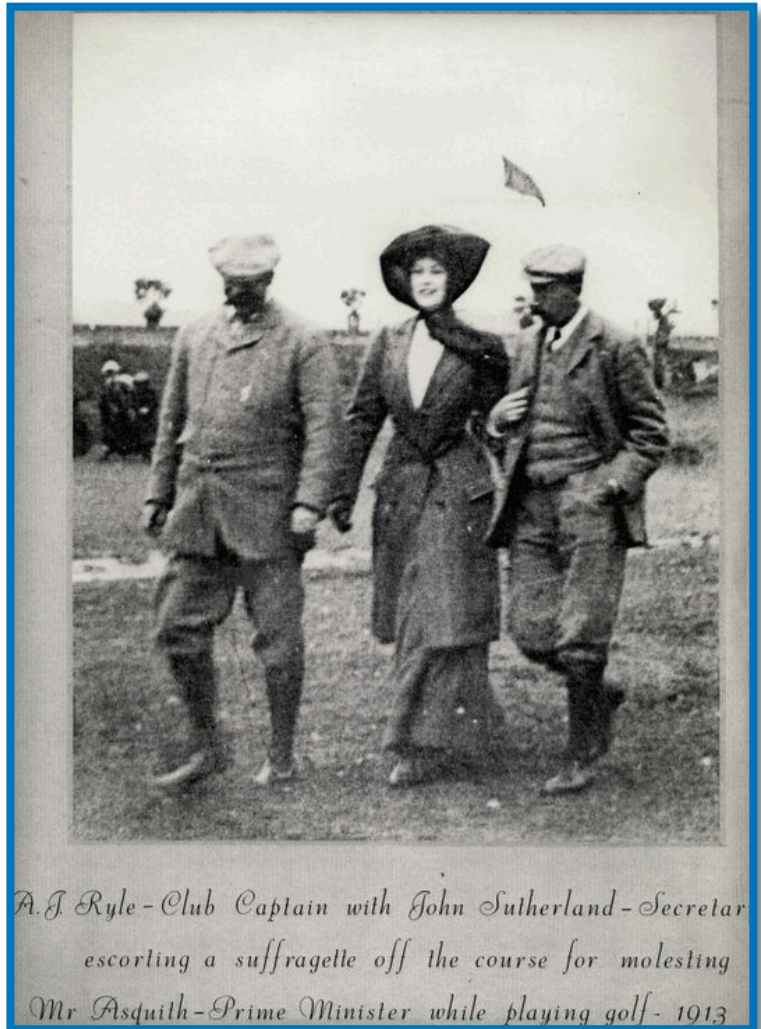


She was a close friend of Margaret Charlotte Davidson, who was a leader of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). Margaret was a modern language teacher at Dornoch Academy, the secondary school. In about 1906, the Hacons had planned to return to London, and had packed up, but their plans were changed when their friend Margaret — also known as ‘Daisy’—Davidson, was looking for a place to stay. They took her in, and she never left. She acted as a buffer and helper in the house. When Hacon wanted to drink, Edith could never refuse him the key to the cellar, so she gave the key to Daisy who could say no. Daisy is listed as a ‘boarder’ in the 1911 census, but there were also three visitors listed as living in the house. ‘Ryllis took in boarders. Frequent guests included Herbert Henry Asquith, Earl of Oxford

<sup>29</sup> Ryllis Hacon to Herbert Horne, 5 Apr 1913, copy from the late Prof Ian Fletcher, of Reading University to Paul Delaney.

and Asquith, then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1908 to 1916, for several years took his summer vacations at Oversteps.<sup>30</sup>

A few websites mentions that Edith Catherine was an actress. Except the 1928 Tercentenary pageant and Royaumont events, in our research we did find any specific mention of any play or film in which Edith Catherine was involved as an actress. (The Lumière Brothers had their first commercial film projection in Paris in 1895. It was the beginning of motion pictures as entertainment.) We know that the staff of the Royaumont hospital provided recreational events, sports, music, amateur theatrical and other



*A. J. Ryle - Club Captain with John Sutherland - Secretar  
escorting a suffragette off the course for molesting  
Mr Asquith - Prime Minister while playing golf - 1913*

years of performances to entertain the troops. Edith was likely involved.<sup>31</sup> She was also part of the 1928 Tercentenary pageant, in Dornoch, where she played the roll of the Abbess.<sup>32</sup>

*A suffragette is escorted out of the golf course at Dornoch for tipping off the hat of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, 1913. [Image 57]*

<sup>30</sup> <https://historylinksdornoch.wordpress.com/tag/prime-minister-asquith/>,  
<http://www.thegolfballfactory.com/the-golf-course/hole19/british-suffragettes-attack-golf-courses.htm>

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/sites/default/files/21\\_-\\_jan\\_1956\\_no.16.pdf](https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/sites/default/files/21_-_jan_1956_no.16.pdf), Crofton, Eileen, *Angels of Mercy: A Women's Hospital on the Western Front, 1914-1918*, Birlinn, 2013, 313 p

<sup>32</sup> « Born Edith Catherine Broadbent, she had worked as an artists' model and is reputed to have been the mistress of the art historian, Herbert Horne, among others. Following her marriages, she lived her life as a society hostess, particularly within the art world. That she played the part of a religious woman may have caused some amusement to those who knew her, ...» <https://historicalpageants.ac.uk/pageants/1049/>



### 13. 'Silver Darlings'



*Fish packing was an industry that employed many women. [Image 58]*

Edith kept herself busy with her good causes and met with success and recognition. In 1912, she was a founding member and president of the Women's Liberal Association at Dornoch, and they hosted a tour of leaders from the Scottish women's organizations, encouraging local support for the cause of women's suffrage. [see Image 57]

In 1914, she became vice president of the Dornoch National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) branch and she was able to report that half of the electors had signed their petition in support of women's suffrage, whilst campaigning at the Northern Burgh's by-election that year. The NUWSS membership had grown to 60 members under her leadership and had regular visiting speakers from the national groups.<sup>33</sup> Hacon and Davidson also took part in the 1928 *Tercentenary Dornoch Pageant* marking the granting of the Royal Charter to the Burgh of Dornoch by Charles I, in 1628.

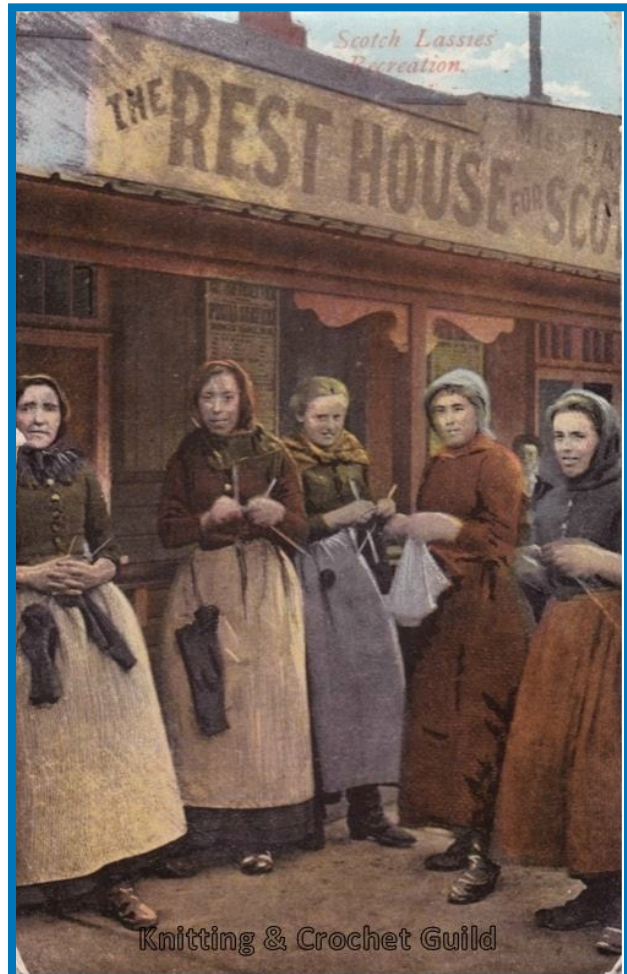
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<sup>33</sup> Interview with Miss Cecily Hacon by Paul Delaney 22 January 1977.

As well as political, she also supported Catholic causes. When in 1911 a new church was built in Lerwick, the only Catholic church in the Shetlands and the northernmost Catholic church in the British Isles, she presented the church with a solid brass tabernacle and provided flowers for the official opening ceremonies.<sup>34</sup>

Edith was also involved in improving the lots of women workers. She “did charity work in 1912-13 in Shetland with 'Irish fisher girls' who were supported by the Catholic church in the 'gutting' season traveling with the fishing fleet, [see Image 59] including contributing to building a rest home, called 'The White Rest’.” In her letter to Herbert Horne, she noted the irony of her helping these vulnerable young girls: ‘I rarely go to London now, my interests are all here in the North, and lately I have taken up work among the girls at the Herring Fishing in the Shetlands. I fancy I see you smile at the idea. -- all the same – I am very keen on the work, and am very happy over it.’<sup>35</sup>

“During the herring boom in the late 1800s and early 1900s, a boom which saw 1000s of girls employed as fish gutters, following the fishing fleet along the coast from Shetland to Yarmouth and Lowestoft as the herring season progressed. The women



<http://barbaraknitsagain.blogspot.com/2015/03/herring-lassies.html>, [Image 59]

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.shetlandtimes.co.uk/2011/06/10/times-past-119>

<sup>35</sup> Ryllis Hacon to Herbert Horne, 5 Apr 1913, from the late Prof Ian Fletcher, of Reading University to Paul Delaney.

played a vital role in the Herring Fishery, often working long hours onshore, in all weathers, gutting, curing & packing the “silver darlings”.

“They worked in squads – 2 gutters and a packer. Skilled gutters could clean an average of 60 to 80 herrings per minute. By the beginning of the 20th century the women and girls followed the boats from port to port, commencing on the West Coast North to Caithness and down along the Eastern Coastline until the end of the Season at Yarmouth in England. The boom of 1913 was the peak of the Scottish Fishing with over 30,000 fishermen and nearly 10,000 boats catching over 200,000 tons of herring. The cured fish was exported worldwide to Russia, the Baltic Sea, the Caribbean, ...

Women knitted whenever they had free time, and incorporated patterns they saw in other areas. In the morning they had to wait for the arrival of the herring boats. Thus most gutters became knitters. [see Image 59] A former herring girl told of the rivalry between knitters and the one-upmanship of using a new pattern that no-one else in the village had.”<sup>36</sup>

#### LATE MRS. E. C. ROBICHAUD

The death occurred in a Glasgow hospital yesterday (August) of Mrs. Edith Catherine Robichaud, Oversteps Cottage, Dornoch. Mrs. Robichaud went to Dornoch 57 years ago as the bride of the late Mr. William Llewellyn Hacon, barrister-at-law, who predeceased her in 1910. An intimate friend of Millicent Duchess of Sutherland, who founded the former County of Sutherland Nursing Association, she was the founder and first president of the Dornoch branch. Also an ardent supporter of the British Red Cross, she was actively associated with the Red Cross auxiliary service to the Red Cross cause in Sutherland. She had been in indifferent health for some time.

Mrs. Robichaud remarried in 1918, and is survived by her husband, who lives in Canada.

ROYAUMONT NEWS-LETTER  
[https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/sites/default/files/21\\_-\\_jan\\_1956\\_no.16.pdf](https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/sites/default/files/21_-_jan_1956_no.16.pdf)

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<sup>36</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith\\_Hacon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Hacon), <http://www.mcjazz.f2s.com/FishingIndustry.htm>,  
<http://www.mcjazz.f2s.com/FishQuines.htm>



## 14. War Nurse: Scottish Ladies at Royaumont, France



<https://www.valdoise-tourisme.com/les-incontournables/asnieres-sur-oise-et-labbaye-de-royaumont/> [Image 60]

During the 1914-18 war, the suffragists put their demands on hold, the country had to be saved. So the women of Scotland set up a soldiers' hospital in France, run and operated entirely by female doctors, nurses and orderlies, all female volunteers from Scotland. The French government provided them with a former Cistercian monastery founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Royaumont Abbey, located in the hamlet of Baillon, in Asnières-sur-Oise in the Val-d'Oise, about thirty kilometres north of Paris. [see Image 60] The Royaumont is one of the largest religious buildings in France. This auxiliary hospital number 301 was located near the front lines.

At Royaumont, 477 Scottish ladies treated 8,700 soldiers, and 159 soldiers died there. [see Image 61] By the end of the war, more than 1,000 Scottish ladies volunteers will have served in 14 establishments run by these Scottish women: in France, Serbia, Russia, Romania, Corsica, Malta and Greece.

Margaret Davidson was in Royaumont from May 23, 1915 to August 29, 1917, working first as a nurse's aide, an orderly, and then later as a nurse. Edith Catherine Hacon was at Royaumont from February 1, 1915 to February 1, 1917, as an orderly and superintendent of the kitchen [Image 62]. She was known as 'Head Char' or 'Mother Hacon'. Nurse Davidson is listed on the First World War Honor Roll, placed in the entrance porch of Anglican Cathedral at Dornoch. Ryllis Hacon being a Catholic, was not listed on the brass plaque.

Where and how did widow Edith Catherine Hacon (from Dornoch, County of Sutherland, Scotland, UK) meet her Canadian soldier, William Joseph Robichaud (from Tracadie Beach, County of Gloucester, Province of New Brunswick, Canada), during the First World War? It is known that Edith was a nurse's aide at Royaumont military hospital in France, and that William was wounded in Ypres in Belgium by a gunshot to the chest. It was possible that William and





Edith met in this military hospital. However, military records show that William was treated in several hospitals in France and England, but never at Royaumont.

According to his military record, William Robichaud was in England before his arrival in France on April 15, 1916. He was wounded in the battle of Mount Sorrel on June 3, 1916. On June 4, he was taken to Camiers hospital in Picardy, then crosses the English Channel, June 16, 1916, to find hospitals in England. Edith Catherine Hacon was at Royaumont from February 1, 1915 to February 1, 1917, as an orderly, then as head of the kitchen. The distance between Ypres and Camiers is approximately 150 km. Between Royaumont and Camiers, the distance is over 200 km. So if Edith and Willie met in France, it might have been during a holiday, between April 16 and June 2, 1916. At a social event? For more than two years, William was in England, then in Scotland.



Scottish Women's Hospital - Royaumont Unit - Kitchen with head cook and "Michelet of Royaumont ».png

[Image 62]



## 15. “Castle” at Tracadie Beach



From his military record (number 444584) we know that in 1919, less than a year after the end of the war, William Joseph and his wife Edith Catherine left Scotland to settle in Canada. On June 2, 1919, William and his wife are in Liverpool, Britain, on board the SS Lapland, bound for Canada. On June 9, 1919, they arrived in Saint-John (New Brunswick). William Joseph Robichaud was demobilized on June 10, 1919.<sup>37</sup> [Image 63]

William and Edith Robichaud moved to Tracadie Beach, or more precisely, to the Pointe-des-Robichaud in New Brunswick, also known as the parish of Saumarez, or the village of Sheila. Around 1920, William, probably with financial assistance from his wife, bought a sawmill and began building the “castle” he had promised his wife.



*William Robichaud house, Armand G. Robichaud, 2009* [Image 64]

<sup>37</sup> <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bb/Lapland.jpg>

He started by building the sawmill, which allowed him to cut the timber for the frame himself. At 37, chemin de la Pointe-des-Robichaud, he constructed a modern house with a gable roof and a large dormer with a central gable in front. [see Images 64, 65, 66] The interior of this central projecting dormer was completely finished in hardwood. On either side of the house, William built hipped dormers in the roof, and a shed roof dormer at the rear, giving the house a distinctive character. ‘A real castle!’ This ‘castle’ made use of the most modern techniques of his time and includes different shapes of dormers, a main door with sidelight windows. All other interior walls and ceilings were lath plastered. The house had four bedrooms, two sitting rooms, a large kitchen and enclosed porches. The porches were later removed to accommodate an office and a garage. The unfinished basement has full height double cement walls, four feet apart, to accommodate the weight of the heavy timbered structure and water reservoirs in a wet and soft environment - the basement floods every spring - thus making a tunnel that surrounded the house. The interior of the tunnel was partially infilled and can be accessed by crawling.



*William Robichaud house*, Joanne Losier, 2009, [Image 65]



William Robichaud house, Armand G. Robichaud, 2009 [Image 66]

His house was one of the first in the region to have running water. William's mill employees would carry water to a reservoir in the attic of the house each morning before starting their shift work. Gravity would bring water to the kitchen and bathroom, where stoves were used to heat the water. William was a successful businessman, being amongst the first in his community to own an automobile.

According to her niece Cecily Hacon, Ryllis's marriage to William 'was not a success. She went out to Canada, but didn't like it and returned afterwards to Dornoch.' She was still at Tracadie Beach in the Canadian census of June 1921, where she is listed in the hamlet of Saumarez, with her husband, and her husband's niece, Lydia, aged 15, described as a 'fille adoptive', (adopted daughter). The orphan niece of William, Lydia (1906-1976), was born in Shippagan (New Brunswick), the daughter of William's brother François and Salomé 'May' Roy. François died, aged only 29, on 25 March 1913, and his wife soon remarried. Though never formally adopted, Lydia became a member of the William and Ryllis's family and went with Ryllis when she returned to Scotland. The 'castle' is still a landmark in Tracadie.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Discussion with Cicely Blanche Hacon, niece, in interview with Paul Delaney. January 22, 1977, Armand Robichaud, Discussion with Alphonse Cormier, February 2020. Photo by Joanne Losier, 2009.



## RETURN TO SCOTLAND

The date of Edith's return to Scotland is not certain, but it must have been not long after the 1921 census was taken. Miss Hacon recalled: 'She brought a niece of William Robichaud back with her in Dornoch, called Lydia Robichaud. At 16 years old, Lydia gave birth to a child by the post boy aged 17. Ryllis thought them too young for marriage, put the child in a foster home until they were 20 and 21 and allowed them to marry and get the child. They had one other child. Lydia became a Mrs Mackenzie.'<sup>39</sup> "Lydie Mary" Robichaud married Donald Alexander Mackenzie. Born in February, 1906, Lydia would have been sixteen in 1921, by which time she was in Scotland, which suggests that Ryllis left Tracadie before the end of 1921. In her later years, Lydia operated a tearoom in Dornoch. She died in Dornoch in 1976 and is buried in the Proncynain Cemetery, in Dornoch.

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<sup>39</sup> Miss Hacon to Paul Delaney, 22 Jan 1977.

## 16. Awards - Edith Catherine, Head of the Girl Guides

In 1928, Edith Robichaud was Dornoch's representative at the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, Sutherland Federation. In 1931, Edith Robichaud (aged 55) was the leader of the Girl Guide troop in Dornoch.

November 5, 1936:

“Lady Baden-Powell, in Inverness on Saturday, after inspecting the guides at their gathering, performed an interesting ceremony when she presented Mrs Robichaud of Dornoch with a special service medal. Ms. Robichaud has been interested in the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements in Sutherland County for many years.” (Northern Times)

At Royaumont hospital in France, Hacon served for three years, and for this service, was awarded a Silver Medal « Médailles des épidémies" by the French Government, and both the British War Medal and the Victory Medal by the British Government.<sup>40</sup>



Girl Guides, seated, Miss Davidson, 5th from left, Mrs Robichaud, 6th from left. [Image 67]

<sup>40</sup> [https://wiki2.org/en/Edith\\_Hacon](https://wiki2.org/en/Edith_Hacon)



*Girl Guides at Oversteps, 1931* Edith Catherine Robichaud, standing, rear, center.  
(History Links) [\[Image 68\]](#)

## Awards

Role	Organization	Awards
Orderly nurse / head of kitchen at Royaumont	French Government	médailles des épidémiques (silver medal)
Orderly nurse / head of kitchen at Royaumont	British government	British War Medal
Orderly nurse / head of kitchen at Royaumont	British government	British Victory Medal
Girl Guide Leader	Lady Baden Powell	Special Service Medal



## 17. Adoptions - Antony and John Raymond

William and Edith adopted two boys, Antony and John Raymond. We do not know if Antony (1919-2001) and John Raymond (1920-1982) were adopted in Scotland or in Canada, and we don't know the dates of their adoption, nor the names of their biological parents. On first row seated, Antony, 4th from left, and John Raymond, fifth from left, are shown on the medallion, on the photo below. [see Image 69]



Boy Scouts and Cubs, 1930, (History Links Archive) [Image 69]

Here's what a member of the Robichaud family from Dornoch tells us about the adoptions:

“I believe Raymond was adopted in Scotland from some sort of "house" run by nuns in Aberdeen, Scotland. I also believe that there is no biological connection between Raymond and

his brother Antony. The story goes - and I'm sure Miss Davidson told me as a child - that Antony was adopted. Antony, being a little boy, spoke to the trees, so a brother was adopted as a companion.

I believe there is a strong possibility that Miss Davidson is Antony's birth mother. I've always wanted to find out the truth about it, but never had the time. I think Antony's birth name was Willie Adams. The story goes that he was picked up at Dornoch station and greeted by, "You are Antony Robichaud", to which he replied: 'No, I am not. I am Willie Adams'. "Another cousin thinks Miss Davidson may be Raymond's mother instead. Documents are missing to enable us to solve this mystery.

**Family Tree**

**Robichaud Family Tree**

as of August, 2021  
Dornoch, Scotland

prepared by : cousins Linda Robichaud, Antonia Dickson, Doreen Christie and Armand Robichaud.

**William Robichaud** | **Edith Catherine Robichaud**  
(formerly Hacon - widowed, nee Broadbent)

Adopted – **Lydia Marie Robichaud** (February 15, 1906) Married to Donald Alexander Mackenzie in Dornoch (died 1976) – two children - Francis & Cecilia

Adopted - John **Raymond Joseph Robichaud** (known as Raymond) died November 1982

Elizabeth L Robichaud (nee Lauchlin Smith) died June 1984  
Three children :

Adopted **Anthony (Tony) Robichaud** (1919-2001)

marriage:

**Donella Jane Murray (1950)**

William H Christie

**Doreen E Christie** (nee Robichaud) born 12 February 1954 – 3 children

**Ian Robichaud**  
6 April 1955 – 27 August 2012. Died offshore (Equatorial Guinea).  
March 1960

**Antonia (Toni) Robichaud** (1950) & Alexander Dickson –  
2 daughters :  
**Melissa** (1973)  
Russell Stevenson

1 daughter :

**Mark R Christie** (Married 2017)

**Jonathan M Christie** (Married 2018 to Michelle Ann Pascua - lives in USA). 1 child – Nongnut Chokchareon).  
**Adam** William Christie No children.

m. 2008 Fani Diaz Hernandez  
1 child, b. 28/07/2004 – **Ian Aaron Robichaud**, Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico.

**Lynsay** (1977)  
Andrew Ross -  
Two sons : **Euan** (14) **Gregor** (12)

1 daughter :  
**Florence** (8)





### Family Photos:

- The first photo being of Tony on his tricycle, aged about three.
- The second photo shows Tony with his wife Donella and baby Antonia.
- The third photo shows both boys Raymond and Antony aged about eleven, with Edith Catherine. Robichaud Family Dornoch. [Images, 70, 71, 72]



## 18. Return Trips Between Acadie and Scotland

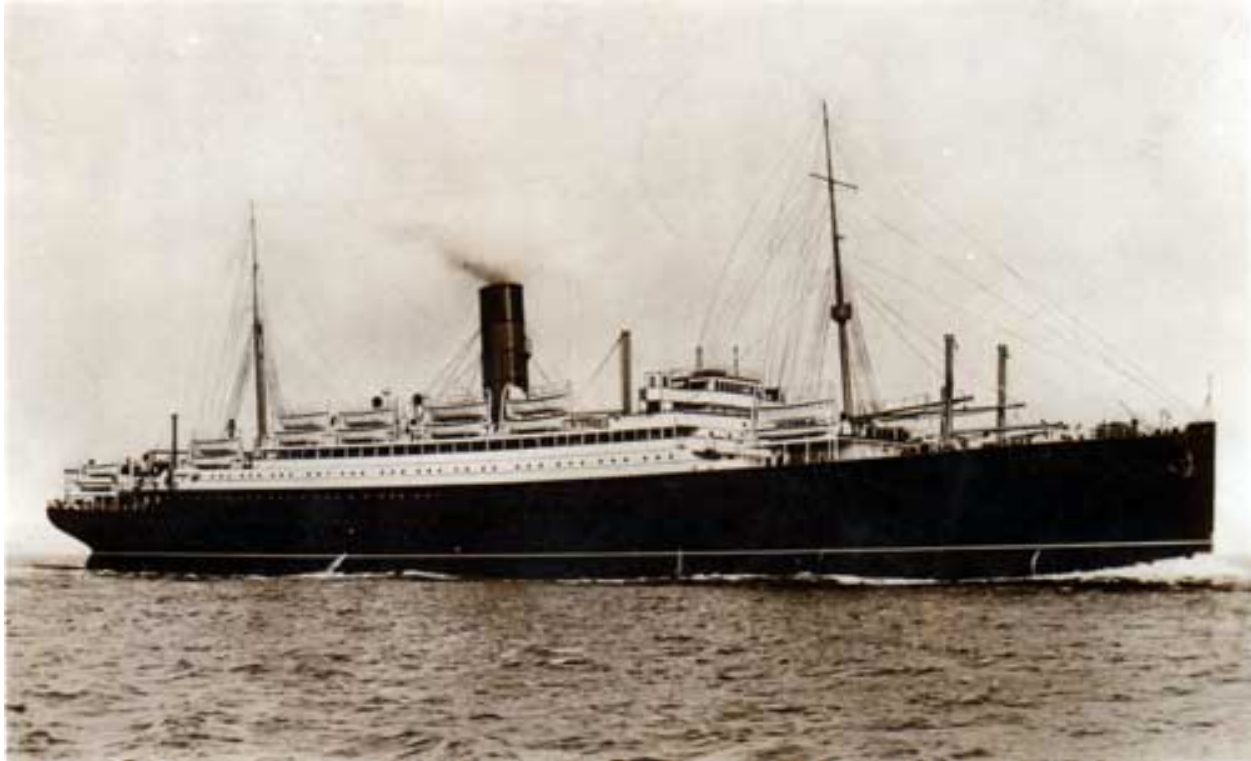
Eight years after her first trip to Canada, Edith returned to Tracadie with their two adopted sons, Anthony, 8, and Raymond, 7. It is not known when she went out, but on September 18, 1927, she returned to Scotland from Canada with her two boys. Miss Hacon recalled : “Ryllis went to Canada twice, the second time with her two adopted sons, but she couldn’t stomach the life and returned.<sup>41</sup>

Name	Date	Event	Age	Note
William Robichaud	Oct. 30, 1915	ship SS <i>Corsican</i> – Montreal to England	William 29	William goes to war
William Robichaud with his wife Edith Catherine Robichaud	June 2 to 9, 1919	ship SS <i>Lapland</i> – from Liverpool (England to Saint-John, New Brunswick)	William 33 Edith 42	Return to Canada William Robichaud with his wife Edith Catherine
Edith Catherine, Anthony, Raymond Robichaud	Sept 18, 1927	ship <i>Athenia</i> – from Montreal to Glasgow	Edith 50, Antony 8, Raymond 7	Edith, Antony and Raymond travel from Canada to Scotland
Anthony Robichaud	June 19, 1937	ship <i>Antonia</i> – from Greenoch to Quebec and Montreal	Antony 18	Antony visits his father in Canada
Raymond and Joseph Robichaud	July 31, 1938	ship <i>Aurania (1924)</i> – from Quebec to Plymouth and London	Raymond 18, William Joseph 56	William (Joseph) accompanies his son Raymond returning to Scotland

There were further trans-Atlantic visits. On June 19, 1937, Anthony, aged 18, took the boat *Antonia* from Greenoch, Scotland, to Québec and Montréal, to visit his father. On August 5, 1937, the Bathurst Northern Light newspaper in Canada reported that Tony Robichaud from London, England was visiting his father Willie in Tracadie. Raymond followed him to Canada the next year, On July 31, 1938, William (Joseph) Robichaud accompanied his son Raymond, 18,

<sup>41</sup> Interview of Miss Cecily Hacon by Paul Delaney, 22 January 1977.

on his return to Scotland, departing on the *Aurania* from the city of Québec to Plymouth and London. Thus, there was still connections between William Robichaud and Ryllis and her family.



S. S. Aurania, Cunard Steamship Line, [\[Image 73\]](#)

Passenger Lists on Ancestry, researched by a Tracadie cousin, Viateur Robichaud.



## LAST YEARS

### 19. Death of Edith Catherine Robichaud 1952 - Last Will and Testament

Edith Catherine Robichaud died in Glasgow on 20 August 1952 at the age of 77 years. She was buried alongside her first husband, William Hacon, in the cemetery of the Free Church, of Dornoch. No member of her own biological family attended her funeral or was mentioned in her will.

Here is a table of her many bequests:

In her will dated 7 March 1951, she made many bequests, to her children, her nieces, her friends, her doctor, her parish priest, her domestic help, the Mother Superior of a Convent in Aberdeen, and she even left 100 pounds to William's sister Marguerite Gautreau in Tracadie, but to William himself she bequeathed nothing. However, in a second codicil dated 24 March, she explained, 'Considering what sums I have already expended and sunk in his business enterprises I hereby leave to my husband William Joseph Robichaud a legacy of Two Hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling and I hope that he will find it of some assistance.'<sup>42</sup>

#### Last Will and Testament of Edith Catherine Robichaud (1952)

Last Will and Testament		Edith Catherine Hacon / Robichaud		5 september 1952
Family	Amount	Friends and Associates	Amount	
John (Raymond) Robichaud, son	house Oversteps, all furniture and plenishing	Miss Margaret C. Davidson, friend	200 pounds	
John (Raymond) Robichaud, son	1000 pounds	Nazareth House Reverend Mother Aberdeen	<del>200</del> 100 pounds	
Antony (William) Robichaud, son	1000 pounds	Margaret Moyse Fraser domestic help	50 pounds	

<sup>42</sup> Sheriff Court of Caithness, Dornoch, Scotland. Retrieved by Paul Delaney, 10 September 1976.

**- I Will Build You a Castle -**

FINAL VERSION 1.1

Last Will and Testament	Edith Catherine Hacon / Robichaud	5 september 1952	
Anne Antonia (Mary Elizabeth) Robichaud, grand daughter	200 pounds	Christina Fraser, daughter of Margaret	20 pounds
Cecilia Margaret Mackenzie, daughter of niece Lydia	100 pounds	Dr Kenneth Maclean Ann Mackenzie Maclean	25 pounds 25 pounds
		Alistair, Lorna and Colin Maclean	20 pounds x 3
Cicely Blanche Hacon, niece	100 pounds	Father George Kerr	20 pounds
Lydia Mckenzie, niece	<del>50</del> 200 pounds	Four executors - John Maclean, bank manager, John Raymond Robichaud, Margaret Davidson, Cecily Blanche Hacon	50 pounds x 4
Margaret Gautreau, sister in law	100 pounds		
<b>Codicils</b>		James, Doran, Robert Strachan	20 pounds x 3
William Joseph Robichaud, husband	250 pounds	Miss Daisy Ross, nurse	20 pounds
		Matherine Hamilton Bruce	50 pounds gold watch
Grace Melrose	10 pounds	Ashmolean Museum, Oxford	Rickett medaillon
		Links House	20 pounds
		Mrs Jean Grant or Fraser and Jessie Fraser	20 pounds x 2
		Mrs Ruth Mackay	30 pounds
		Donald Mackay, infant child	20 pounds
		Alistair, Lorna and Colin Macra	20 pounds x 3
		Dr Aeneus D. Macleod	25 pounds
		R... Grant, Links House	20 pounds

1. The two wills are very different. William Hacon (in 1910) cedes everything to his wife or to his brother (in the event of Edith's death). William Hacon gives a small amount of money (100 pounds) to a few members of his family and also a 100 pounds to a single friend, Charles Ricketts.

2 Edith (in 1952) gives a substantial amount to all the members of her immediate family and smaller amounts to several of her acquaintances near or far: her grandchildren, her nephews and nieces, her servants, doctors, nurses, priests, nuns, museum, even to her husband, William Robichaud, with whom she has not lived for a long time.

3. Edith treats her two sons, John Raymond and Antony very differently. She leaves the house, all real estate, all furniture to John Raymond, who is one of four will executors. She must trust John Raymond to deal with any perceived discrepancies.

4. Antonia Robichaud recalls « My father, Antony, was buried in the graveyard on the Poles Road. He did not have a good relationship with his mother but we don't know the reason for this. While my uncle Raymond and his family were living at Oversteps in 'the Castle', we were living with our father Antony and other members of our family in a trailer in the country ». <sup>43</sup>

5. Lydia Robichaud Mackenzie is listed as a niece of Edith and therefore was probably never formally adopted by Willie and Edith. Lydia had two children, Francis (1926) and Cecilia (1932).

By her marriage to Donald Alexander Mackenzie, Lydia Robichaud became a member of one of Scotland's oldest and powerful clan. The Mackenzies can trace their ancestors to the 12th century. At the height of their influence, the chiefs of the Mackenzie clan lead the 4th most powerful clan in Scotland, being usually strong supporters of the Stewart kings. Their lands extended from the Island of Lewis in the west, though to Ross on the east coast of the mainland. During the Jacobite Revolution (1688-1746) the clan is divided, however most Mackenzies supported the defeated catholic Stewart princes, and Mary Queen of Scots. (Wikipedia)



**Eilean Donan Castle**, destroyed by government ships in 1719 occupied by McRaes, MacDonalds, MacKenzies and others. The castle was rebuilt by John MacRae-Gilstrap, starting in 1912. Recognized as 'Scotland's Best Castle'.

[Image 74]

<sup>43</sup> Several emails from Antonia (Toni) Robichaud / Dickinson & Melissa Russell Stevenson to Armand Robichaud, winter 2021.



## 20. Two Years in Prison

*King*  
- vs  
*William Robichaud*

*Court opens at 2 o'clock April 13<sup>th</sup> 1951. Accused present in Court. Information read the time to which he pleads "Guilty." Court held in camera. Court adjourns for sentence until April 20<sup>th</sup> 1951, at 2 o'clock. P.M.*

*E.C. Dumaresq*  
*Magistrate for Gloucester County*

*Judgment is adjourned. Court opens at 2 o'clock April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1951. Accused present in Court.*

*It is adjudged that the said William Robichaud be imprisoned for a term of (2) two years in the Maritime Penitentiary in Dorchester, N.S.*

*Accused committed* *E.C. Dumaresq*  
*Magistrate for Gloucester County*

[Image 75]

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK  
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

The information of J.F. Meraw, a member of the R.C.M. Police on behalf of His Majesty the King taken and sworn this 13th day of April A.D. 1951, before me, the undersigned F.C. Dumaresq Magistrate for the County of Gloucester, who saith that WILLIAM ROBICHAUD of Sheila, in the Parish of ~~SANMARZ~~ Saumarez, County of Gloucester Province of New Brunswick between June 15th. 1950 and April 10th. 1951, at Sheila, in the parish of Saumarez, County of Gloucester, Province of New Brunswick, being a male person did unlawfully and indecently assault <sup>10(3)(b)</sup> another male person, contrary to section 293 of the Criminal Code of Canada and amendments thereto

[Image 76]

When the executors of Edith Catherine’s Will located William Robichaud in Canada, they discovered that he was in prison. On 13 April 1951, having plead guilty, he was convicted of having “unlawfully and indecently assaulted another male person, contrary to section 293 of the Criminal Code of Canada.” He was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment at the

Maritime Penitentiary in Dorchester New Brunswick. According to stories told in the Tracadie region, William Joseph Robichaud had engaged in inappropriate behavior with a few young boys, at least one in Tracadie and another boy in Bathurst. One Bathurst lady, who is now 98 years (in 2021), felt that it was inappropriate that William attacked her young son, taking advantage of her being in hospital.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup> King vs William Robichaud, T – 149. Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. We wish to thank Ms Meredith Batt of Archives NB for her help in locating this record.

Before this incident, William had continued to live in the house that he had built for Ryllis at Pointe-des-Robichaud and to run a business in Sheila, on the south side of Big Tracadie River. He manufactured windows, doors and furniture in his mill factory. He also manufactured hardwood student desks for several schools of the province in a building on the north side of the river, in Sheila.

Shown below is the probable type of student desks that Willie Robichaud manufactured? The province of New Brunswick took control over most local schools boards starting in 1904. Provincial standards were set up for most equipment and programs. This desk, where the front part was used for seating and the back of the desk was the table for the student in the rear, could seat four students. Round holes were used to insert ink bottles.

Hardwood school desks, that could be more than 100 years old were found in 2017 in the attic of a one room school in Sussex New Brunswick, these desks probably hadn't been seen light for 75 years or more.<sup>45</sup> [see Image 77]



[Image 77]

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/history-sussex-schoolhouse-new-brunswick-1.4308260>

## 21. Euclide Chiasson Testimonial



[Image 78]

Not long after returning from prison, William moved to the Saint-Camille-de-Lellis Special Care Home (now Foyer Notre-Dame de Lourdes), in Bathurst in 1954. He stayed there 8 years and seven months. He got room and board for his services as a cabinetmaker. In 2000, the building, shown above, was replaced.

The house at Pointe-des-Robichaud was sold at some point, and was occupied by the family of another Willie, Willie Duguay, and then by Alphonse Cormier. A young neighbor in Bathurst, Euclide Chiasson, recalled Willie's last years in the special care home in Bathurst.

“Here are my memories of Willie Robichaud, who we called Monsieur Robichaud at the time. I was 12-13 years old when my mother strongly encouraged me to become an altar servant at Foyer St-Camille-de-Lellis, on Saint-Pierre Boulevard, in Bathurst, which was a very short walk from our home. It didn't pay much. We got 10 cents per mass and the priests were often grumpy, short-tempered, in other words bad employers.



I didn't have much choice because I had an aunt on my mother's side, who was a nun from the same community that ran the home, the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph. However, it allowed me to meet residents of the home, including Willie Robichaud. Willie was a special resident because he was there as a cabinetmaker in residence, from the start of construction or at least the layout of the building. He built most of the furniture in the special care home, including the chapel furniture. He had his well-equipped workshop attached to the rear of the building.

Mr. Robichaud liked to tell stories about his life and a little about the first great war. He even showed me once the place where a bullet went through him from the back forward and punctured a lung, I believe. He loved opera and told me he went to Boston to hear the great Caruso sing. I felt he had a life rich in experience. He told me that he had had a sawmill in his hometown of Sheila and I believe the father of the Scottish woman he married in Scotland also owned a mill or a factory.



I still have a small table that Mr. Robichaud made (photo by Roméo Cormier, Dieppe, NB) [Image 79]

He taught me how to smoke. He received Export A cigarettes each month from the Canadian Legion in special red packets rather than the green one found in stores. He told me that after the war he drove for a few years Tracadie's stage coach to Newcastle and slept in a hotel. He told me he never went to bed sober, but by the time that job was over he never touched alcohol again.

Willie told me that when he was a successful entrepreneur. He went to St-Joseph College and Bathurst College to distribute bursaries to students from his area. He would bring them to the parlour and distribute the money. He also paid for the tuition fees of some priests.<sup>46</sup>



Chess built by William, still in use by Robichaud descendants.  
Photo by Ernest Ferguson [\[Image 80\]](#)

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<sup>46</sup> Euclide Chiasson founding president, 1972-76, of 'Le Parti Acadien', a provincial political party which favored the separation of northern New Brunswick, in order to create an Acadian province in Canada. No member of this party was elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. Euclide was also president of 'la Société nationale de l'Acadie', 2000-2004. Discussion of Euclide Chiasson with Armand Robichaud, February, 2021. Translation of Euclide Chiasson text by Armand Robichaud.

## 22. Death of William Robichaud

Willie died, aged 76, on 26 August 1962 at the special care home in Bathurst where he had spent his last years. His cause of death was 'myocardial infarction caused by arteriosclerosis.' He was buried in the Bathurst Catholic Cemetery on the same day.

rec'd Nov. 28/62 005029

PROVINCE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK—CERTIFICAT D'ENREGISTREMENT DE DÉCÈS

1. LIEU DE DÉCÈS: Sous-district d'hygiène de GLOUCESTER Circonscription (ou, sans paroisse civile) BATHURST, N. B.  
 Si dans une cité, une ville ou une paroisse civile: Foyer St-Camille de Louis, Bathurst, N. B. No. de la maison 00604

2. SÉJOUR (en années, mois et jours): (a) Dans la municipalité où le décès est survenu 8ans 7mois (b) Dans la province TOUJOURS Au Canada (s'il s'agit d'un immigré)

3. NOM DU DÉFUNT: ROBICHAUD (Nom de famille) WILLIAM JOSEPH (Noms de baptême ou patronym)

RÉSIDENCE No. 1250 Rue St-Pierre Cité, ville, village ou paroisse civile Bathurst Province N. B.

4. SEXE: M 5. NATIONALITÉ (Citoyenneté): CANADIENNE 6. ORIGINE RACIALE: Française 7. Célibataire, marié, veuf ou divorcé: VEUF

8. LIEU DE NAISSANCE: Sheila, N. B. (Province ou pays)

9. DATE DE NAISSANCE: 25 avril 1886 (jour) (mois) (année)

10. ÂGE DU DÉFUNT: Années 76 Mois 4 Jours 1 Si âgé de moins d'un jour: hrs. ou min.

11. Métier, profession ou occupation, ex. Retiré 12. Causes d'industrie ou d'entreprise, tel que Retraite 13. Dernière date à laquelle le défunt travaillait à ce travail 14. Numéro d'ancien occupé dans cette profession

15. Si le défunt était marié, nom de son conjoint: HACON EDITH

16. Nom: ROBICHAUD OLIVIER

17. LIEU DE NAISSANCE: TRACADIE, N. B. (Province ou pays)

18. Nom de fille: LEGER MARIE CLAIRE

19. LIEU DE NAISSANCE: RIVIERE DU PORTAGE, N. B. (Province ou pays)

20. Nom de la personne fournissant les informations: SOEUR BUJOLD  
 Adresse: 1250 Ave St-Pierre, Bathurst, N. B.  
 Sa parenté avec le défunt: Supérieure du Foyer (voir date removal)

21. Lieu de l'inhumation: Hogau Date de l'inhumation: Avril 26 1962

22. Enterré dans des pompes funéraires: Hogau (Nom et adresse)

CERTIFICAT MÉDICAL DE DÉCÈS

23. DATE DU DÉCÈS: 26 (mois) août (année) 1962

24. JE CERTIFIE PRÉSENTEMENT que j'ai constaté mes soins au défunt depuis le 11 août 1962 jusqu'au 19 août 1962  
 que je l'ai vu vivant pour la dernière fois le 19 août 1962

CAUSE DE DÉCÈS

I Cause immédiate: infarctus du myocarde  
 Mentionner la maladie, blessure ou complication, causal, tel que: crise cardiaque, anémie, etc. de à (a) athérosclérose

II Autres conditions morbides (rapporter les seulement ayant contribué au décès sans d'après, comme portée sur la cause immédiate):

25. S'il s'agit d'une femme, y avait-elle été enceinte? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Y a-t-il eu intervention chirurgicale? \_\_\_\_\_ Date de l'opération: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Caustatisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Y a-t-il eu autopsie? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Dans les cas où le décès est attribuable à des causes extérieures (violence):  
 Accident, suicide ou homicide: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Manière de la blessure: \_\_\_\_\_ (Donner quelle circonstance)  
 Nature de la blessure: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Indiquer si la blessure a été infligée au lieu du travail, dans l'habitation ou dans un endroit public

Signature: E. Gaudy (M.D.)  
 Adresse: 215 Main, Bathurst N.B. 1962

28. Sous-régistrateur adjoint No. 66

29. Déposé: Nov 23 1962  
M. J. Gaudy  
 Sous-régistrateur adjoint.

FORMULE 1-C  
 LE RÈGLEMENT 210 SUR LES STATISTIQUES VITALES OBLIGE L'ENTREPRENEUR DE POMPES FUNÉRAIRES OU LA PERSONNE QUI REMPLIT SON RÔLE À SE PROCURER TOUS LES DÉTAILS QUE DOIT CONTENIR LE "CERTIFICAT D'ENREGISTREMENT DE DÉCÈS" ET DE REMETTRE CE CERTIFICAT AU SOUS-RÉGISTRATEUR ADJOINT QUI DELIVRERA LE PERMIS D'INHUMER.  
 ÉCRIRE LISIÈREMENT AVEC UNE ENCRE INÉLÉBILÉ. CE CI EST UN DOCUMENT PERMANENT.  
 Chaque information doit être donnée minutieusement. (Voir un verso pour instructions.)

Archives NB [Image 81]



## 23. Antony, John Raymond and Lydia Robichaud and Their Descendants

What happened to the two adopted sons of William and Edith, Antony Robichaud and Raymond (or John Raymond) Robichaud, who appear to be around 10 or 8 years old in a 1930 photo (see Boy Scouts image 68, page 58). Today, in 2021, they would be around 100 years old. Did they leave offsprings? I found the names of Ian Robichaud and Linda Robichaud (brother and sister) on the web, attending a meeting in Inverness in 2008.

**Lydia Marie Robichaud**, William's niece, born in February 15, 1906, accompanied Catherine Edith in Scotland. Lydia was then 15 or 16 years old. "Lydie Mary" married Donald Alexander Mackenzie. They had one daughter, Cecilia and one son, Francis. According to witnesses, in her later years, Lydia operated a tearoom in Dornoch. Lydia Marie Robichaud Mackenzie died in 1976. Her husband Donald died in 1986. Both are buried in the Proncynain Cemetery, in Dornoch.<sup>47</sup>

**Antony Robichaud** (1919-2001), son adopted by William and Edith in Dornoch, married Donella Jane Murray, who had first married a Campbell. Antony and Donella had one daughter:

1. *Antonia* (Toni), wife of Alexander Dickson. Antonia and Alexander have two daughters:

1. *Melissa* (1973) who married Russell Stevenson (one daughter, Florence 8 years), and
2. *Lynsay* (1977) who married Andrew Ross (they have two sons, Evan 14 and Gregor 12).

**John Raymond Robichaud** married Elizabeth Smith in Dornoch. They had three children:

1. *Doreen Robichaud*, born in 1954, married to William Christie (three children and one grandchild). Mark Raymond Christie, son of Doreen, née Robichaud, is married to Michelle Ann (née Pascua - marriage 2017) his brother, Jonathan Michael Christie, is married to Nongnut (née Chokcharoen - marriage 2018) and the third son is Gavin Paul Christie. Doreen's only grandchild is, called Adam William Christie, the son of Mark Raymond Christie.

2. *Ian Robichaud*, born in 1955, died on August 27, 2012 (in Equatorial Guinea). He had been living in Mexico and in Dornoch. He married in Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, Fani Diaz Hernandez on 30 May 2008.

They had a son called *Aaron Robichaud*, born on 28 July 2004. He calls himself Ian Robichaud just like his dad or is referred to as Ian Junior. At the time of his death Ian's base was in Dornoch and not in Mexico.

3. *Linda, Robichaud* born March 2, 1960, without offspring (the last of this clan to bear the name Robichaud in Scotland ?) She still lives in a small cottage in Oversteps, Dornoch. By a phone call to Oversteps Eventide Care Home, we learned that Linda Robichaud lives at Oversteps Cottage, in Dornoch (a small house on the same land as the 'Eventide Home').

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<sup>47</sup> See <https://www.ancestry.ca/genealogy/records/lydia-mary-robichaud-24-kjxmh7>  
Cicely Blanche Hacon, niece, interview with Paul Delaney. January 22, 1977.

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