

## ***A Long, but Liberating Walk for Emily Payne***

A man by the name of Fred Payne married a woman named Nellie. Fred and Nellie had a daughter. Nellie experienced and suffered from homesickness and frail health and she died. Fred was left with the possible responsibility of raising his daughter as a single parent, unless he was quick to act.

Fred almost immediately proposed to Nellie's sister, Emily, who was known as Emm by her family and close friends. She thought it was only right to accept the proposal since she felt sorry for the motherless child. It was not until after they were married that Fred told Emily that the daughter had died from scarlet fever in the children's home. One could assume that Fred wanted to be cared for regardless of what had to be said or done. They did however stay together and have children.

Once the horrible truth was out, that the niece she had been prepared to raise as her own was dead, Emily came to the natural conclusion that she had to rid herself of a deceitful man, and start her life again. She never forgave him for deceiving her and she spent the rest of her life "honorably" trying to distance herself from him.

Mrs. Payne walked to Sackville from Halifax. Emily walked a total of 16 miles. She purchased two acres from a widow named Mrs. Robinson and hired a carpenter named Mr. Scott to build

As a WWI raged in Europe, the city of Halifax had its share of sailors arriving in port, seeking the warm embrace of a woman's comfort. Many illegitimate children were born and needed to be cared for. At one point, Emily cared for twenty-five babies in her home. She showed these wee tots love and attention. She embraced them, as if they were her own.

She embraced life. She loved to sing hymns and visit her sister Lou in Bedford. One way she asserted her independence and tenacity was through her love and joy of bird hunting. She often told stories of bird hunting expeditions from her childhood.

Freedom requires individuals to be free to use their own resources in their own way. As a result of being tricked into marriage, Emily soon realized the importance of liberty and determining one's own destiny through their

independence. She used the resources she had at her disposal to her benefit.



**Emily Payne (in the centre) pictured with some of her family members.**