

# Tryon and Area Historical Society | 2018

## Remembering Edward Sharkey Canada 150 Exhibit in Tryon



Edward Sharkey. *Sheldon Dixon Collection.*

As part of the Canada 150 celebrations in 2017, the Tryon & Area Historical Society, in cooperation with the Community Museums Association of PEI, featured the life and times of Edward Sharkey, 1867-1970, of North Tryon.

### Edward Sharkey: Family Life

Edward John Sharkey was born August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1867 in King's County, PEI. He worked with Douglas Wright, in Bedeque, hauling milk to the Bedeque factory.

Around 1881, he moved to North Tryon to work with Edward Leard, a carpenter, building the Tryon Methodist Church, which is now the South Shore United Church, and a National Historic Site. He would have been 15 years old and probably started his career as a carpenter.



Tryon Methodist Church c. 1917  
(*Sorensen Collection*)

Edward's first wife was Victoria Alberta Thomas, born March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1860. She was the daughter of William Thomas and Elizabeth Pooley.

Edward and Victoria had three children called Emily Sheridan, Charles Colson, and Laura Victoria.

Victoria Sharkey was known for her fine crafts and weaving skills, especially for the weaving of long panels of cloth for home spun blankets. She died on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1934 and is buried in the North Tryon Presbyterian Cemetery.



Coulson, Laura, Emily, Edward Sharkey,  
1962 (*Sandy Foy Collection*)



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Edward Sharkey's second wife was Irene Josephine Blackmore Wood. She was born March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1860, and was the daughter of Joseph Blackmore and Marjorie Clark of Searletown.

Irene had two children from her first marriage to Nathan Wood: Marjorie Eunice and Norman Foster. Irene died on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1957, and is buried in the Tryon People's Cemetery, Tryon.

## Ed Sharkey: Carpenter and Wheelwright

Edward Sharkey was a first class Carpenter and wheelwright, and had worked at Ives' Mill and Chisholm's Furniture Factory in North Tryon.



Chisholm's Furniture Factory, 1862-1942  
(Helen Carr Collection)

The Chisholm Furniture Factory had its beginnings around 1863 when William Chisholm from Sunny Brae, NC, joined with Alexander Morrison of North Tryon in the furniture making business. The Morrison and Chisholm Factory continued until 1893 when Morrison and Chisholm dissolved partnership. William's son James joined with his father and from that date the business was known as Chisholm's Furniture Factory. They operated the factory

until William passed away in 1916. Jim operated the business in reduced fashion until 1942.



Chisholm Hall Tree  
(Dawn Thomson MacFadyen Collection)

November 1891	December 1891
Started to work with James Chisholm Saturday Nov 15 at \$2.00 per day board not included	31st 9 hrs 2.00
Nov 15- 9 hrs in road 2.00	1st 9 hrs 2.00
= 17 9 hrs in shop 2.00	2nd 9 hrs 2.00
= 18 4 1/2 hrs shop 1.00	= 3 9 hrs 2.00
= 20 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 5 9 hrs 2.00
= 21 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 6 9 hrs 2.00
= 22 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 7 9 hrs 2.00
= 24 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 8 9 hrs 2.00
= 25 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 9 9 hrs 2.00
= 26 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 10 9 hrs 2.00
= 27 9 hrs shop 2.00	<del>11</del> 12 9 hrs 2.00
= 28 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 13 9 hrs 2.00
= 29 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 14 9 hrs 2.00
Dec 1st 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 15 9 hrs 2.00
= 2 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 16 9 hrs 2.00
= 3 9 hrs shop 2.00	= 17 9 hrs 2.00
	= 18 9 hrs 2.00
	= 19 9 hrs 2.00
	= 20 9 hrs 2.00
	= 21 9 hrs 2.00
	= 22 9 hrs 2.00

Mr. Sharkey's work record book shows him starting to work with James Chisholm on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1919, at \$2.00 per day, board not included.

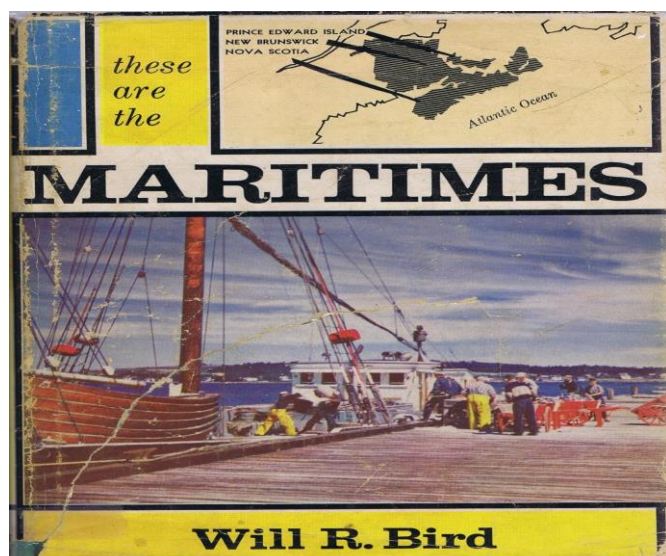
Accounts are also entered during the period of 1923 to 1937 for work completed for various other people including G. Callbeck, R. Dixon, C. W. Ives, A. Kehoe, George Ives, John Howatt, and E. Inman.



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## Ed Sharkey: Fox Farming in the Maritimes

*Mr. Sharkey installed electric burglar alarms on fox ranches all around the Maritimes. Some black fox breeding pairs sold up to \$30,000. After the alarms were installed, not a single fox was stolen. An ignition coil from a Ford Model A or T car is attributed to have been used in the electric alarm system.*



*This is a Maritime travel book which recounts the travels of the author, Will R. Bird, interviewing residents in various communities of the Maritimes. Around 1958 Mr. Bird stopped at Sheldon Dixon's store in North Tryon, and happened to meet up with Edward Sharkey. Edward was 91 at the time and the author remarked that he didn't look 80, and walked as easily as a young man. Here is the rest of the conversation with Mr. Sharkey. (p.211-213) "Each time the alarms worked perfectly and they nearly caught the fellows ... and if they had had cars instead of horses, the constables would have had their man," stated Mr. Sharkey. (Excerpt from Will R. Bird's book "These are the Maritimes", Ryerson Press Publishers, Toronto, 1959)*

## Ed Sharkey: Retirement Years

**In his retirement years Mr. Sharkey worked in his own shop building and repairing just about anything, windows,**

**doors, wheels, etc. He could be depended upon to set and sharpen a saw properly, or put a good cutting edge on a pair of lady's scissors.**

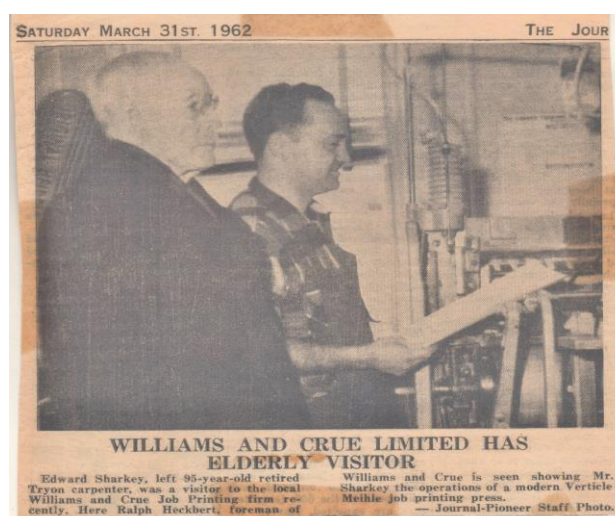
**He liked his early morning walks in the fresh air which probably had something to do with his longevity, living to be 103 years old!**



**Sharkey Home North Tryon  
(Ralph & Loraine MacDonald Collection)**



**Edward Sharkey's Radio  
(Sorensen Collection)**



**The caption reads "Edward Sharkey, left, 95-year old retired Tryon carpenter, was a visitor to the local Williams and Crue Job Printing Firm recently. Here Ralph Heckbert, foreman of Williams and Crue is seen showing Mr. Sharkey the operations of a modern Verticle Meihle printing press. (Journal-Pioneer, Staff photo, Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1962)**

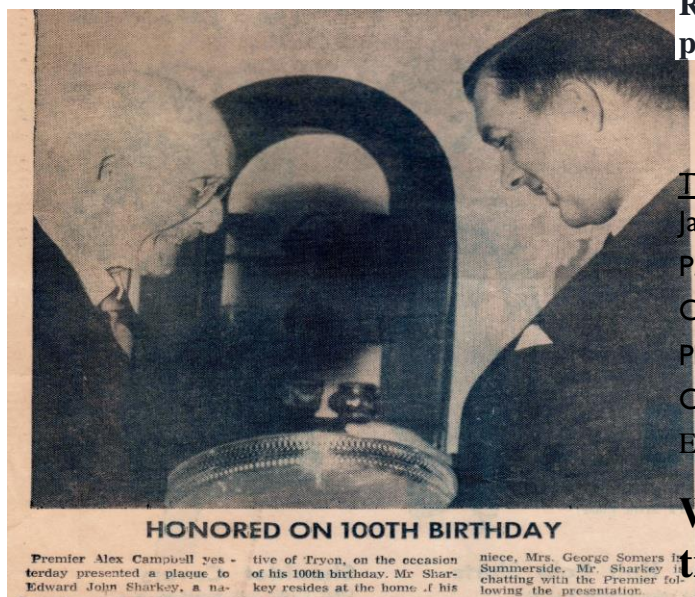


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## Ed Sharkey: 100 Years Old



Edward Sharkey, 1967 (Carl Dixon Collection)



Ed Sharkey and Premier Campbell Honored on 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 1967 (Journal-Pioneer)

*In later years he was cared for by his niece, Emma Somers, of Summerside.*

*Edward Sharkey died on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1970 at the age of 103. He is buried in the North Tryon Presbyterian Church Cemetery.*

*A Sharkey family history was written in 1991 and contains the following reference in relation to Sharkey descendants:*

*"You will find no titans here: neither will you find any scoundrels. The biblical phrase "salt of the earth" comes to mind as an apt description of the family."*

*This in many ways describes Edward John Sharkey of North Tryon.*

To add to our collection of this amazing gentleman, TAHS is asking you to submit stories, pictures, and any information related to Mr. Sharkey and his family. The Tryon Museum is located at #47 Route 10, Tryon. To submit your stories, please call 902-658-2009.

### Tryon and Area Historical Society

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**We're on the web:**

**[tryonareahistoricalsociety.com](http://tryonareahistoricalsociety.com)**

### Upcoming Events:

Watch for up-coming schedule of events which will be e-mailed to members and posted on Facebook.

To renew your membership, or become a member of Tryon and Area Historical Society, please send \$10 to the above address.

Membership gives you free admission to TAHS special activities like talks, displays, tours, etc. and free admission to the museum in Tryon.

Thank you.