

LEAH BELLIVEAU – first Acadian graduate nurse from St. Mary’s Bay

By Gloria Stephens – July 2014



While attending the Canadian Association History of Nursing, June, 2014 at York University, Gloria was asked if she could identify the person in this picture. Debra North had purchased the picture in Milton, Florida while on a visit there. (Picture taken by photographer in Amherst, NS). After a considerable time the nurse was identified as Leah Belliveau. She hailed from Digby Co., Nova Scotia. Leah graduated from the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing 1908. Leah was the first Acadian nursing graduate coming from the shores of St. Mary’s Bay. Following graduation Leah worked on the Men’s Medical Ward at the Victoria General hospital, and then became ‘in-charge’ of this ward. After a year or two at the VG, Leah accepted a position at the Highland View



hospital in Amherst. While here she met and married Edgar Irvine. In a short time they moved to Ottawa, Ontario. Leah was a Honorary Life Member of the VG School of Nursing Alumni.

After finding the above information it was passed on to Debra North of Ontario, who had made the original enquiry.