

Sarah Gwinn: I had a baby born out there with no doctor. My husband brought the things I needed. I had lifted a trunk and it was quite heavy. I knew I wasn't the same. I was seven months pregnant. There was a storm. The lightkeeper's wife and her husband must have been an hour and a half before they got to our place. She was



Sarah and Wilson Gwinn and two daughters on St. Paul's

very nervous. There was nothing she could do for me at all. I said You go sit out in the hall till I call you. Dr. Munro sent a message to press down on the lower part of my stomach, so I did. Then I just took two bad pains and the baby came. The telegram was on the chair. Wilson brought me up a spool of coarse thread. I twisted it. The telegram said to tie an inch and a half from the mother and an inch and a half from the baby and cut both places, so I did. Then it said to knead my stomach down. I gave it three hard pushes and the afterbirth came. After that came I was frightened of hemorrhaging. I called Mrs. MacLennan. She just took a blan-

ket and rolled the baby right up in it. The doctor wouldn't let me nurse it. Kept putting a little warm water in her mouth. Mrs. MacLennan did. But she washed the baby, which she wasn't supposed to do. Didn't do any harm though. It was 24 hours before Dr. Munro got there. He made little jackets out of cotton cloth and he'd stick them in warm olive oil and rolled her up in it. We kept her on top of the warming closet in a little shoebox. She was about 10 inches and she didn't weigh quite four pounds. But with the help of the Lord she lived, and she's married down here and she has three daughters married. But I lost a little boy out there. He was only five months when he was born. He's buried alongside an old captain's grave, just a little piece from the southwest light. Wilson always looked after the captain's grave. He kept a cross made for it.

Wilson Gwinn: Dr. Munro made quite a few trips out there for us. When that baby was born he came out and there was a storm on. The government steamer took him out, the Stanley, and they wouldn't put a boat off at the island at the south side. And me and the wireless operator offered to put our boat out, and that kind of nettled the captain. He came along to the other side of the island, landed the doctor there. And when the doctor was through and called the ship she was anchored in Bay St. Lawrence. He was left out there seven days in December. The weather shifted northerly and the Stanley had to go on to Sydney. And I didn't like the look of 50 dollars a day. That was what they charged then, but Dr. Munro didn't charge that much. You know, it never occurred to us to worry about being so far from a doctor. The children never got sick. If you could get by there for six months you'd never get a cold on St. Paul's Island. Unless somebody came from the mainland to bring it.

Sarah Gwinn: Once Wilson went ashore for the mail I think. He left in the morning. He intended to come back that evening. It started to blow hard. So he wired a message out from Dingwall that he couldn't. Well that's the only really time that ever I was scared. I was frightened if I'd fall asleep, that I wouldn't get up. You had to go out every four hours to wind this light. I set the alarm. Oh, it wasn't nearly as far as from here to the road at all. But it was just the ocean on one side and a

QUESTION: Why do you shop at GEORGE'S DAIRY?

ANSWER: That's a good question.

Located 2 miles from the Canso Causeway on Route 105

Antiques Unlimited

Open 7 Days a Week, 9 AM to 9 PM

CARA SHOPS

Maritime Locations
Sydney Airport
North Sydney Boat Terminal

Town and Country

RESTAURANT