



Maud Lewis Gravesite (North Range cemetery)

“Maud Lewis will paint no more”, read the front-page story in the Digby County Courier of August 6th, 1970. The author said, “Maud lived her life with fortitude and courage and she beams of sunshine in the homes of others”. Maud died on Thursday, July 30th, 1970 and was buried in a child’s coffin on August 3rd. Maud Lewis’ final resting place in North Range cemetery is a 10-12 minute drive from the Maud Lewis Memorial Park. The Municipality of Digby has added a bench at her gravesite and, to make it easier to find, there is a painting of two oxen. This small rural cemetery is on the right side of the North Range Cross Road, about 5 kilometers south of Highway 101 in Barton.



Murray Ross Replica of the Maud Lewis house (11585 Highway 217, Rossway)

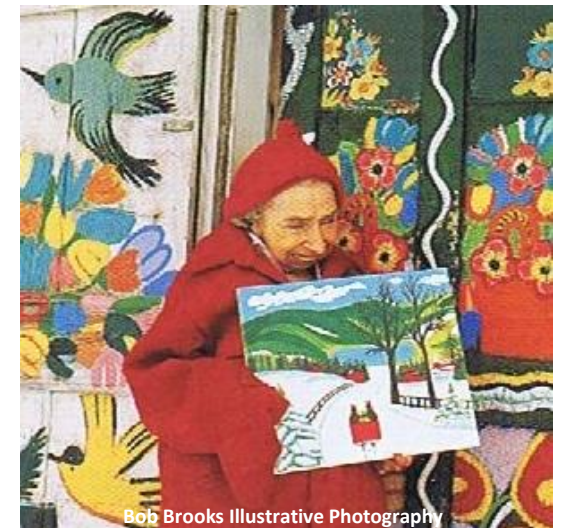
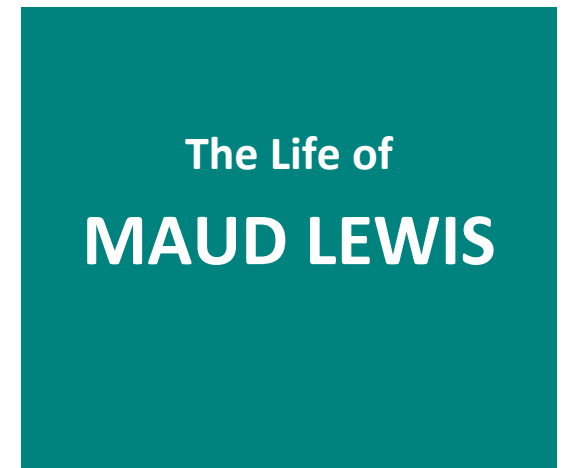
Murray Ross’ family was close to Maud and Everett. Murray met them when he was 10 years old and visited their home. Ross built a replica house about 6-8 kilometers from the Marshalltown Memorial Site. It is located beside his home in Rossway. He went through great efforts to ensure it was authentic. It took Ross about a year to research the original house before he built the replica. After it was built visitors started to arrive, telling Ross their stories about Maud. Copies of Maud’s paintings and framed photographs adorn the walls. The replica house even has a bed similar to Maud’s. Ross also constructed a copy of the shop used by Everett. Ross said Everett used the shop to store firewood and to keep scallop shells and stones for Maud to paint. Ross’ birdfeeders, shaped as Maud’s house, are featured in the shop.



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Digby Area Tourism Association
digbyarea.ca / tourism@digbyarea.ca



Bob Brooks Illustrative Photography



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The Early Years

Maud Lewis (1903-1970) was born to John and Agnes Dowley on the Yarmouth and Acadian shore of Nova Scotia. Although there is some debate about her exact birth place, recent research has revealed that Maud was born in the town of Yarmouth, NS. As a child Maud spent most of her time alone because she felt uncomfortable about her differences around the other children. She had been born with almost no chin and was much smaller than everyone else. However, Maud seemed to be a happy child who enjoyed the time spent with her parents and her brother. Maud's mother encouraged her to paint Christmas cards to sell. This started her career as an artist. Her life and only experience of the world extended to an area between her birth place in Yarmouth County and her married home in Marshalltown, Digby County. In 1935 Maud's father died, followed by her mother's death in 1937. As was typical at the time, her brother inherited the family home.



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After living with her brother for a short time, she moved to Digby to live with her aunt. There she met Everett Lewis, an itinerant fish peddler, and married him shortly after in 1938.

Life in the house

Maud spent the rest of her life living with Everett in their house in Marshalltown. The two had what has been perceived as a formidable companionship, despite any character flaws neighbors found in Everett. Because of Maud's worsening rheumatoid arthritis, she was unable to do housework. Everett took care of the house, and Maud brought in the money through her paintings. The home they lived in was tiny in structure but large in character. Despite the lack of modern amenities like indoor plumbing and electricity, the house shows that Maud's life in Marshalltown was full of enjoyment through her art. Those who stopped after seeing her roadside sign "Paintings for Sale" found a quiet woman with a delightful smile. Her pleasure didn't come from the pride of having done a painting, but the creative art itself and the enjoyment others seemed to get from her work.



Through newspaper and magazine articles, television documentaries and the 2016 movie "Maudie", Maud has become well known around the world.



Memorial Locations

Maud Lewis Memorial Park (Highway 101 Marshalltown)

The Maud Lewis Memorial Park is about 3 minutes west of Digby on Highway 101 in Marshalltown. This site includes a colorful perennial garden, picnic tables, benches and three interpretive panels; one featuring Maud's story and art legacy, a second about the restoration and conservation of her original home, and a third about the steel replica memorial. The steel memorial marks the site where Maud and her husband Everett lived from 1938-1970 in a small house completely painted inside and out with folksy motifs.