



Baddeck and that sort of thing: The Book that Brought Alexander Graham Bell to Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Charles Dudley Warner, John A Johnson

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A re-publishing of the 1874 bestselling travelogue written by Charles Dudley Warner with added illustrations, photos, reviews & more. This is the book responsible for Alexander Graham Bell coming to Baddeck, Nova Scotia for the first time in 1885. It was just 9 years after the telephone was patented and the young inventor and his wife, Mabel Hubbard Bell were looking for a place to get away from the unwanted attention his fame was bringing where they lived in Washington, D.C. Warner's description of the peaceful Scottish village intrigued the Bells and they serendipitously arrived in Baddeck to see for themselves. Falling in love with the Village of Baddeck and the Island of Cape Breton, they proceeded to establish a second home there. Named Beinn Bhreagh (Beautiful Mountain in Scottish Gaelic) it grew to an estate of 450 acres and was a beehive of activity over the next 37 years. The telephone was just the first of Bell's innovative accomplishments. Before he died in Baddeck in 1922 at age 75, he and his associates achieved many other successes - two of which were the first powered flight in Canada by the Silver Dart in 1909; the fastest boat in the world, his hydrofoil, the HD-4 in 1919. He and his wife are buried on the mountaintop of their estate, Beinn Bhreagh, which is still used and maintained by the Bell family descendants. Baddeck is now the site of a world class museum, the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, run by Parks Canada. The publishers, Deja Vu Press, have gathered a fascinating collection of related pieces - relevant photographs to enhance the original publication, notes on Warner and Twichell's comments and experiences while in Baddeck; reviews of Dudley's book from the days when it was a best seller; a follow up article written 20 years later by famed author and editor, William Webster Ellsworth; numerous Publisher's notes; and a new introduction. An added bonus is the foreword, written by Alexander Graham Bell's great grandson Hugh Muller, who with his wife Jeanne live in retirement at Beinn Bhreagh. As with many of Bell's descendants, they are actively involved in the community, especially the museum. It is a simple fact to state, that, as result of reading Warner's "Baddeck and that sort of thing", the Bells' influence changed Baddeck forever and put its name in the history books.

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