

[Page 74 - Advert: Cape Breton's Magazine](#)ISSUE : [Issue 63](#)

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who settled in Louisiana after the Acadian expulsion and those who couldn't settle anywhere. My great-great-grandfather took one last look at the world from his deathbed and announced, "If you prac? tice ignorance long enough you will excel." He made moonshine for years and took his recipe to his grave. Our cousin Alfreda made a name for herself by inter? preting forerunners. I would have to mention the great dancers in the family, those that Grandmere believed set the world on fire un? der their feet. And having researched as far as I could, I went to work on my tree. I made the tree out of cardboard and set it up in a can. On little white pieces of paper I hung the names and occupations of my relatives. Then I filled out the tree with my own inventions. I turned my great-great-grandfather into a philosopher. I gave my uncle five or six greats back the title "music critic." All the moonshiners in the family became distil? lery inventors. I turned Rheal into a prophet. I went to school and placed my tree on the table set up at the front of the class. In the contest, I got fourth place. I wondered which of my ancestors would have set? ded for that. On the day of the judging, I looked out the window. Beyond the hill, in the graveyard, the headstones dart? ed in and out of the fog. END

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