

Handwritten Inscriptions in the William Lyon Mackenzie Family Bible - Part 1

transcribed by Chris Raible - verified by Nancy Lunau

[From the collection of the Toronto Historical Board, Mackenzie House. Accession number X.345.1]

REFERENCE ONLY

A Note by Chris Raible

Among the William Lyon Mackenzie artifacts in the collection of the Toronto Historical Board is a Bible that was once owned by William Lyon Mackenzie:

The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments. Translated out of the Original Tongues and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised, by His Majesty's Special Command. Appointed to be read in Churches. Edinburgh: Printed by Sir D. Hunter Blair & J. Bruce, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1814.

Its flyleaves and blank interleaves contain handwritten inscriptions, most of them in Mackenzie's hand writing, recording family genealogical history.

Isabel Baxter Mackenzie and William Lyon Mackenzie had thirteen children. The Mackenzie's were a close-knit family, yet one that suffered tragedies all-too-common in the 19th century. As these records show, two of their girls did not live long enough to be baptized, three other children died in infancy, and one died when she was twelve. (More is known about family members than is recorded here—a summary follows the inscriptions.)

Mackenzie also entered information for some additional family members, but he chronologically numbered the entries for each of his children. Since the entries were made at different times on different pages, they do not appear in the Bible in order.

William Lyon Mackenzie, born at Springfield, Dundee, Forfarshire, Scotland March 12th 1795 - Baptized on the 29th, by the Reverend Mr. MacEwen, Seceder minister

Isabel Baxter, 2nd daughter of Peter Baxter in Dundee, and of Barbara Baillie, his wife was born at Dundee, July 29th, 1802

No 5 On Wednesday, the eighth day of April, 1829, at nine o'clock in the evening, in the town of York, Upper Canada, wife of William L. Mackenzie was safely delivered of a daughter. Attested by Isabella Benenet



An older William Lyon Mackenzie.
National Archives of Canada C1933.

No 5 Janet, daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, was born in the Town of York April [8] 1829 was baptized April 19th 1829 by me James Harris Minister of the Presbn Congn York

No 6 On Monday the seventeenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, at half an hour past six in the morning, in the town of York, Upper Canada, Isabel, wife of W. L. Mackenzie, was safely delivered of a daughter Attested by me Isabella Bennett

No 6 Helen, daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabela his wife, was born the 17th of January 1831- baptized February the 6th 1831 by me James Harris Minister of the Presbyn Congregation York

No 7 (A copy) Joseph Hume, son of William Lyon Mackenzie, Esquire and Isabel his wife, was born at the House of Mrs Swan, 19 Wakefield Street in the neighbourhood of Brunswick Square in the Borough of Marylebone and County of Middlesex, on the twentyfifth of November, 1832, and baptized on the 23rd of December, 1832, in Brunswick Chapel, Mile



TORONTO TREE

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BRANCH MEETINGS

- 23 OCT**
7:45 p.m. **Toronto Branch Meeting,** Toronto Board of Education Ctr., 155 College St., 6th floor Auditorium, Toronto. **Annual General Meeting.** Also Ron Cushman on "Computers, Bulletin Board Systems and Indexing Projects"
- 11 OCT**
7:15 **York Region Meeting,** Alexander MacKenzie High School, 300 MacKenzie Dr. W., Richmond Hill. The Speaker is Louise St. Denis on "Will Your Ancestors Be Remembered"
- 8 NOV**
7:15 **York Region Meeting,** Alexander MacKenzie High School, 300 Major MacKenzie Dr. W., Richmond Hill. This is our election night. We will also have a "Show & Tell"
- 27 NOV**
7:45 p.m. **Toronto Branch Meeting,** Toronto Board of Education Ctr (as above). Speaker will be Jane MacNamara on "World War I Finding Your Canadian Expeditionary Force Ancestors"
- 2 JAN**
7:45 **Toronto Branch Meeting,** Toronto Board of Education Ctr. (as above) The topic is "Adoption & Case Studies" - Speaker to be announced

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 30 SEPT**
10-4:00 **Norfolklore'95** - 19th annual Genealogy Fair to be held at Eva Brook Donly Museum, 190 Norfolk St., Simcoe, Ont - admission is \$4.00 per person
- 3,4,5 NOV** **Hobby Show** at the International Ctr., 6900 Airport Road., Mississauga. We'll have a booth there and will need lots of volunteers. If you can help call Sally Patrick at (416) 222-0719.
- 19 OCT**
- 7 DEC **English Genealogy - An Introduction.** An overview of resources to begin your English Research. Documents will be discussed in detail as well as the extensive resources at the Morman Church. \$45.00 (includes materials) payable to OGS, Toronto Branch.
- 4 NOV**
1:00-4:00 **A Beginner's Workshop** at the Richmond Hill Public Library, 1 Atkinson Street
Frank Hankins - "Beginning Research"
Mary Lloyd - "Genealogical Resources at the Richmond Hill Public Library" - \$8.00 postmarked before Oct 24th - \$10 at the door (if space allows)
For more information please call: M. Newell, (905) 727-4997, J. Wood (905) 884-5028 or M. Roblin (905) 294-1382

EDITOR'S NOTE, Sally Patrick, OGS#15153

Well summer is over, and once again we are back into a beautiful fall season - I hope you all had a great summer. We had a very good turnout for the **English Workshop** which was held on August 26th in the Auditorium at the North York Public Library. Everyone had a really wonderful day. For the morning presentations Stella Stagg and Harry Armstrong talked about "Why Go To the Public Record Office at Kew?". Than Michael Fitton gave a talk on "Wills, Administrations and Inheritance Practices". After lunch John Tyacke gave a presentation on "Family History Through Property Deeds". Stella Stagg and Harry Armstrong spoke about "And Now For The Others - Censuses, Newspapers and More Unusual Record Office Finds". All of the Speakers were very interesting and informative, and I'm sure we all came

away with lots of useful information that will help us with our own research. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make this workshop a huge success. Since it is obvious that these workshops are quite popular it looks like the workshops will become an annual event.

I'd also like to thank everyone who helped over the summer at the Harbourfront Celtic Fair, Simcoe Day at Fort York and the Thornhill Festival. We'll need lots of volunteers at various events throughout the city in the coming months. If you can help out call Sally at (416) 222-0719.

The November/December issue of the *Toronto Tree* will focus on the Military.

Toronto Tree is published six times per year by Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch, P.O. Box 518, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2G9

Submission to the "Queries" column are free to Branch Members. Non-members remit \$2.00 with each query. Queries should be brief and are subject to editing.

Permission is granted to reprint any material from *Toronto Tree* unless otherwise mentioned, provided the original source is credited.

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information. Toronto Branch cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions and does not vouch for the quality of good or services advertised in this newsletter.

News items, articles, clippings etc., that would be of interest to our readers are welcome, and are subject to editorial discretion.

Next Issue of Toronto Tree: Submission deadline 28 October for 27 November mailing

Meeting Dates: next meeting dates are 23 October, 27 November, 5 December

Meeting Location: Unless otherwise announced in *Toronto Tree* meetings will be held at the Toronto Board of Education Centre, 155 College St., 6th Floor Auditorium, Toronto.

Chairperson:	Irene Derrett	(416) 444-2164
Membership:	Mavis McDonald	(416) 445-4256
Editor:	Sally Patrick	(416) 222-0719

End, in the parish of Stepney, County of Middlesex by me George Evans, Pastor of the Independent Church in that place — Signed 30 March, 1833 Mile End

No 7 A certificate of the birth of Joseph Hume Mackenzie was dated the 20th day of March, 1833, certified to by Hannah Fenton[?] then of 18 Manchester Street, Marylebone, Spinster and William Davies, Surgeon of No. 2 Dean Street, Westminster and "entered, filed and registered according to the custom in use amongst Protestant Dissenters, at the Registry of Births kept at Dr. William's library, Rid[?] Crop Street, Cripplegate, London, this 22nd day of March, 1833" by "John Coates, Registrar" No 3302 (See certificates among papers of the family)

Memorandum The above named Joseph Hume Mackenzie died in Toronto, Upper Canada (then called York) on Saturday the 26th day of October, 1833, aged 11 months and 1 day (His burial place is the Presbyterian Churchyard of Toronto where he is buried)

Daniel Mackenzie and Elizabeth Mackenzie both natives of Kirkmichael, Perthshire Scotland, were married at Dundee by the Rev. Mr. Macewen, on the 8th of May, 1794.

Daniel Mackenzie died at Dundee on the 9th April 1795, leaving only one child, William, then 27 days old.

No 4 Barbara, daughter of W. L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife was born in the town of York, U.C. on the fourth day of May 1827 (Friday) at nine o'clock in the evening. Attested by Isabella Bennett

No 4 Barbara, daughter of W. L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, was born in the Town of York, U.C. on the fourth day of May 1827 (Friday) at nine o'clock in the evening and baptized June 12 1827 by me James Harris Minister York

No 3 Elizabeth, daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, was born in the town of York, Upper Canada, on the afternoon of Wednesday October 12th, 1825 Attested by Isabella Bennett

No 3 Elizabeth, Daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabel, his wife was born in the town of York, Oct, 12th, 1825 - Baptized Oct, 16, 1825 by me James Harris Minister York

No 3 The above named Elizabeth, daughter of Wm & Isabel Mackenzie died on the morning of Sabbath, the 17th day of Sept. 1826 at our house in York, aged eleven months and four days Wm L. Mackenzie
She died a quarter of an hour before one o'clock, and her remains are buried in the Presbyterian burial ground, York, where he is buried

A Copy. Isabel Baxter, unmarried leaves this place with a fair character and in full communion with the Church after a residence of all her life Attested at Dundee this 13th April 1822 see family papers by Patrick Macvicar-Minr. James Cameron - Elder. John Fenton - Elder.

A Copy. William Lyon Mackenzie of Dundas in Upper Canada, Merchant & Isabel Baxter of Dundee in Scotland now at Montreal were married in Montreal by License on the first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twentytwo in the presence of the undersigned witnesses Robert Easton William Lesslie Sarah Webb Mary A Brunton (see family papers)

Mrs. Barbara Baillie, wife of Peter Baxter, and mother of Isabel the wife of W. L. Mackenzie, died on Wednesday the 22nd of January, 1834, in the home of W. L. Mackenzie, Toronto, and was buried beside her son James and her grandchildren in the Presbyterian burial ground of this city.

James Baxter, brother of Mrs W. L. Mackenzie and 3rd son of Peter & Barbara Baxter died in the home of W. L. Mackenzie, on Monday 26th March, 1832, aged 24 years. His daughter Isabel died in the month of Augt, 1832, 5 months old; their remains are buried in the Presbyterian burial ground in W. L. Mackenzie's place of interment.

...continued in the next issue of the Toronto Tree.
from Steve Pleyter



Isabel (Baxter) Mackenzie circa 1833.
Mackenzie House, Toronto Historical Board.

GENEALOGY IN BRIEF

Marjorie Stuart, OGS#6246

Australian Electoral Rolls

(Queensland Family History Society, "Queensland Family Historian", Feb. 1995 - Kevin Ryan)

The author describes his success in "fleshing out the family tree" using this often overlooked source. The rolls are held at the Commonwealth and State Archives. The 1994 Electoral Roll is on fiche on a state by state basis.

Release of Vital Statistics

(Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, "Progenitor", March 1995)

New South Wales - Marriages and Deaths 1919-1945 to be released by the end of 1995.

Western Australia - recently released. Consolidated birth, marriage and death microfiche index 1841-1905. Death Indices 1906-1980 and Marriage indices 1906-1965. Pioneers Index Birth, Marriage and Death Index 1841-1905 on CD-ROM.

Some Nova Scotia

-Bermuda Connections

The Nova Scotia Genealogical Society, ("The Nova Scotia Genealogist", Summer 1995 - Terrence M. Punch, CG(C))

This article shows some of the family connections in the last century along with a wealth of genealogical data.

Document and Photo Preservation

Haldimand Branch O.G.S., "Haldimand Past Times" June 1995

by Linda L. Belyea LINMT@AOL.COM - reprinted with permission)

This is Part 1 of a series of questions and answers. All who "collect" family material need to be reminded of the importance of proper storage.

The Quance Mill at Delhi

(Norfolk County Branch O.G.S., "Norfolks", July 1995 - Victoria Balment)

A mill existed at the site from 1830 until recently. No other business lasted as long or left such a mark on the history of the town and its citizens both past and present. The article contains excerpts from an interview in 1979 with a Quance descendant. Accompanying this article is a "History of the Quance Family".

1838 Muster Roll, Little Lakes Co.

3rd Huron Militia

(Perth County Branch O.G.S., "Perth County Profiles" August 1995)

All able bodied men between age 16 to 60 automatically belonged to the militia. This is a list of those from North Easthope Township showing their age and residence by lot and concession number.

Welsh Patagonian Family History Project

(The Heraldry & Genealogical Society of Canberra Inc., "The Ancestral Searcher", June 1995 - Peta Roberts)

Ms Roberts has compiled an index available on microfiche of Welsh immigrants to Chubut Colony in southern Chile and Argentina from 1865-1915. Welsh nationalists wanted to escape the persecution of the English and to preserve their language, culture and religion.

Important Canadian Dates

(Sault Ste. Marie District Branch, O.G.S., "Sault Channels" Vol. 13, No.2 -submitted by Hal Courchesne)

Hal's father Raymond produced a list of important dates in Canadian history from 1604-1949. It is often useful to know the political events that influenced our ancestors.

German Soldiers Sources

(Sault Ste. Marie District Branch, O.G.S., "Sault Channels" Vol. 13, No.2)

Deutsche Dienststelle (WAST), Eichborndamm 179, D-1000 Berlin 51, Federal Republic of Germany holds records of former German soldiers.

1666, 1667, 1681 Census of New France

(Sault Ste. Marie District Branch, LGS "Sault Channels" Vol 13, No 2 - submitted by Hal Courchesne)

We are reminded of the wealth of information available to researchers in New France.

Huguenot Influence in Quebec

(The Huguenot Society of Canada, "Huguenot Trails", Summer 1995 - Kenneth H. Arnett)

The author chronicles the influential and colourful career of Pierre Esprit Radisson (c.1630-1710) which "lends deep meaning to Quebec's motto - Je me souviens."

Fund Raising for Kirkton Methodist Cemetery

(Huron County Branch O.G.S., "Rooting Around Huron", August 1995)

Funds for care and maintenance in perpetuity are sought from descendants of those buried in this old cemetery. Tax receipts will be issued for cheques that are made to "Kirkton Methodist Cemetery in Trust" and sent to: Mr. Raymond Switzer, Treasurer, R.R. #6, St. Mary's ON N4X 1C8

Reminiscences of Wellington County

(Waterloo-Wellington Branch, O.G.S., "Branch Notes", August 1995)

Wellington County Museum has material from "Heritage '76 Oral History Project" on cassette and a summary on card index. In 1976 summer students interviewed senior citizens. A list of those interviewed, places mentioned and topics discussed accompanies the article.

Early Black Settlement Peel Township

(Waterloo-Wellington Branch, O.G.S., "Branch Notes", August 1995)

It was reported in the Wellington County Museum & Archives Newsletter, CIRCA, Vol.9, No.1, Winter 1995, that the Wellington County Historical Society has donated microfilmed documents relating to early Black settlement

Taken from "Progenitor" Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc. March 1995. Northern Territory Times and Gazette, 6 Dec. 1917

Watchmaker's Epitaph

In Aberconway Churchyard there is this curious epitaph on a watchmaker:- "Here lies in a horizontal position the outside case of Peter Pendulum," watchmaker whose abilities in that line were an honour to his profession: integrity was the 'mainspring' and prudence the 'regulator' of all the actions of his life. Humane, generous and liberal, 'his hand never stopped' till he had relieved distress. So nicely 'regulated' were his 'movements' that he never went wrong, except when 'set-a-going' by people who did not know 'his key'. Even then he was easily 'set right' again. He had the art of disposing his time so well that his 'hours' glided away in 'one continued round' of pleasure and delight, till an unlucky 'minute' putting a period to his existence, he departed this life 'wound up' in hopes of being 'taken in hand' by his 'Maker' and of being thoroughly 'cleaned, repaired', and 'set-a-going' in the world to come."

The Nova Scotia Genealogical Society, "The Nova Scotia Genealogist", Summer 1995

Patents of Nova Scotia submitted by Freda Withrow from a list compiled in 1980 by Gordon G. Phillips. The list is written exactly as the inventions were recorded.

No. 25 - Alexander ANDERSON late of the Township of Markham in the County of York and now of the City of London in the County of Middlesex in the Province of Canada, carpenter, for a potato digger, 17 Oct. 1856.

(see drawing page 15)

Petition to #8 - Toronto 30 Nov. 1855.

Oath sworn before Jno. (E-), Judge of Middlesex County court, London, 23 Sep. 1856. Specifications (with drawings) an axle between two large wheels has suspended therefrom a wide flat pointed shovel the rear portion of which has slots to allow movement therethrough of tines that are mounted for rotation on a shaft mounted transversely of the plow - rotation is in the opposite direction to the land wheels and driven by gears from a land wheel - Witness - Frederick EKHART.

Assignment - to Frederick EKHART for the sum of 100 pounds of lawful money of Canada - William Houghton BELL of Toronto before Thomas BELL, J.P.



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BRANCH MEETINGS

- 22 JAN 7:45** Toronto Branch Meeting, Toronto Board of Education Center, 155 College Street, 6th floor Auditorium, Toronto - the Speaker will be George Tompkins talking about "*Personal Search - Adoption*".
- 14 FEB 7:15** York Region Meeting - subject and speaker will be announced in the next issue of the Toronto Tree.
- 26 FEB 7:45** Toronto Branch Meeting, Toronto Board of Education Centre, 155 College St., 6th floor Auditorium, Toronto - Speaker, topic TBA.
- 30 NOV - 3 DEC 6-9pm** The Christian Blind Mission International is staging "*Bethlehem Live*" and outdoor dramatization to take you back in time. CMBI is located east of hwy. 404 at 3844 Stouffville Rd, just east of Kennedy Rd. For more info - (905) 640-6464.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 19 DEC 11am-4pm** Toronto's First Post Office is having an open house to celebrate the Christmas season. Come out and join the at 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto.
- 23,24,25 FEB** Heritage Showcase'96 will be held at the Scarborough Town Centre - more details TBA.
- 23,24,25 FEB** Hobby Show held at CNE - more details in the next issue of the Toronto Tree.

(lots of volunteers will be needed for these two events and the many other shows we attend throughout the year)

- 17,18,19 MAY** O.G.S. Seminar'96 will be held at Lakehead University Campus in Thunder Bay. More details to follow.
- 5-7 JULY** Scottish Heritage Days in the City of Scarborough commemorate the significant contributions of the Scottish to the community of Scarborough.

EDITOR'S NOTE, Sally Patrick, OGS#15153



As the Christmas season is nearly upon us once again I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

1995 has been a very busy one with many events, meetings and so on during the whole year. 1996 promises to be a great year with the 200th anniversary of Yonge Street - all the communities will be having many celebrations and events going on throughout the year.

In the *Toronto Tree* each issue will feature two or more articles about some of the communities along Yonge Street. Articles for the *January/February* issue will focus on Gwillimbury and Holland Landing. *March/April* will focus on the City of Toronto which includes such communities as North Toronto (Eglinton/Davisville/Deer Park etc.), Rosedale & Yorkville. *May/June* will be the Town of Markham & City of Vaughan and includes Langstaff & Thornhill. *July/August* issue - City of North York which will include Newtonbrook, Willowdale, Lansing and York Mills. The *September/October* write-ups will center

around the Town of Richmond Hill, Oak Ridges, Jefferson and Elgin Mills to name a few. *November/December* is the Town of Newmarket and the Town of Aurora.

Keep in mind that any of the communities along Yonge Street can be included so if you have something you would like to have in the newsletter please let me know. When submitting articles please include such items as when the areas were incorporated; a brief history, prominent families; suggested reading material, where the records for the particular area are kept/locations of museums if possible. Remember this is for the 200th Anniversary of Yonge Street only - we will have other themes for the newsletter as well.

Scarboro will be celebrating the 200th year Anniversary of the settlement of Scarboro in 1996 with festivities going on through July-Nov'96. More details TBA.

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Chairperson:	Irene Derrett	(416) 444-2164
Membership:	Mavis McDonald	(416) 445-4256
Editor:	Sally Patrick	(416) 222-0719

Handwritten Inscriptions in the William Lyon Mackenzie Family Bible - Part 2 of 2

transcribed by Chris Raible - verified by Nancy Luno

[From the collection of the Toronto Historical Board, Mackenzie House. Accession number X.345.1]

[continued from last issue]

No 1 Isabel, daughter of William L. Mackenzie & Isabel his wife, was born in Dundas, Gore district, U.C. on the morning of Saturday, May 3rd 1823 attested Oliver Tiffany, surgn.

No 1 Isabel, daughter of William L. Mackenzie & Isabel his Wife, was born May 3rd, and baptized 10th June, 1823 by me, Ralph Leeming, Minister Ancaster-

No 2 Isabel, wife of W. L. Mackenzie, as on Wednesday morning the first day of Sept 1824, delivered of a female child, which was buried in the Presbyterian burial ground Stamford, Coy of Lincn on the evening of Thursday, the second of that month.

No 1 Isabel, daughter of W. L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, departed this life for a better world at half an hour past one o'clock on the morning on Wednesday, December 22nd, 1824 aged 19 months and 18 days - She was a lovely child, and caught the small pox, on the voyage from Queenston to York (as we think) She was buried on Thursday, in the Presbyterian burial ground of York, U.C. - Her grave with the others where surrounded by a railing

No 8 On Tues day the 12th of August, 1834, Isabel, wife of W.L. Mackenzie was delivered of a daughter, which lived nine hours only. Her remains were buried in the Presbyterian burial ground of the city of Toronto in the place enclosed by a railing.

No 9 At Toronto (York Street) on Saturday the 16th day of August, 1835 abt. 1 P.M. Isabel, wife of W.L. Mackenzie, was safely delivered of a female child. Attested by me Isabella Bennett

No 9 (Certificate) Margaret, daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, was born (York Street) the city of Toronto, on Saturday the sixteenth day of August, 1835, about one o'clock in the afternoon and baptized on Monday the 28th of December, 1835, by me — William Jenkins. Presn Minister Markham. Memorandum. — The above

named Margaret died at 200 Third Avenue, New York, on Wednesday, fifteen minutes before 12 o'clock, noon, June 21st, 1848

No 10 (Certificate) At Toronto (King Street)

[originally written "York St." & crossed out and changed] on Friday the 24th of March, 1837, Isabel, wife of W.L. Mackenzie, was safely delivered of a female child. Attested by me Isabella Bennett.

(Certificate) Elizabeth, daughter of William L. Mackenzie and Isabel his wife, was born in King Street [originally written "York St" & crossed out and changed] in the city of Toronto, on Friday the twentyfourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirtyseven about half an hour before one o'clock in the morning, and baptized in their dwelling house on Sunday, the 9th of July, 1837, by me William

Jenkins Presbn Minister Markham

No 11 Certificate I Euphemia How, Midwife, do hereby certify that Isabel, wife of William Lyon Mackenzie, of this city, Editor of the Gazette, was safely delivered of a male child (William) on Wednesday, January 16th, 1839 at 29 Spruce Street between five and six in the morning. New York January 16th, 1839 Euphemia How The (above copied) certificate of Mrs. How is correct and true to our knowledge as witness our signatures New York, Jany. 16, 1839 †Margaret Baxter +Euphemia Smith †sister of Mrs. M. †wife of James Smith, Printer 89 Sullivan St., N.Y.

No 11 (Original) [blank space]

No 12 Certificate (original) I Ann Shandlow, midwife, do hereby certify that Isabel, wife of William Lyon Mackenzie, of this city, Printer, was safely delivered of a male child (George) on Thursday the eleventh of February, 1841 at the house, No. 74 Exchange Street at half-past-five in the afternoon Rochester, N.Y., 11 Feby. 1841 Ann Shandlow



Isabel Grace (Mackenzie) King.
National Archives of Canada C46524.

No 12 [blank space]

No 13 Original Certificate
I, Isabel MacDonald of 123
Mulberry Street, Midwife
do hereby certify that
Isabel, wife of William
Lyon Mackenzie, actuary
of the Mechanics' Institute,
City Hall, New York, was
safely delivered of a female
child (Isabel) on Monday
February 6th 1843 at 12
Chambers Street, about
four o'clock in the
afternoon. New York,
Feb. 19th 1843 (her x
mark) Isabel MacDonald
The undersigned, sisters of
the infant Isabel, are
witness to Mrs.
Macdonald's mark, made
by her to the above
certificate after it had been
correctly read over to her
on the above day.
Barbara Mackenzie Janet
Mackenzie

No 13 [blank space]

William Lyon Mackenzie b. 12 March 1795, Dundee,
Scotland. d. 28 August 1861, Toronto. m 1 July
1822, Montreal - Isabel Baxter, b. 29 July 1802,
Dundee, Scotland, d. 12 January 1873, Toronto.

- 1 Isabel Mackenzie b. 3 May 1823, Dundas,
d. 22 December 1874, York.
- 2 Unnamed female b. & d. 1 September 1824,
Queenston.
- 3 Elizabeth Mackenzie b. 12 October 1825,
York, d. 17 September 1826, York.
- 4 Barbara Mackenzie b. 4 May 1827, York, d.
17 February, 1860, Toronto. *unmarried.*
- 5 Janet Mackenzie b. 8 April 1829, York, d. 18
July 1906, Toronto. m 22 January 1852 -
Charles Lindsey, b. 7 February 1820,
Lincoln, England, d. 12 April 1908, Toronto.
They had eight children.
- 6 Helen Mackenzie b. 17 January 1831, York,
d. 22 February 1878, Toronto. *unmarried.*
- 7 Joseph Hume Mackenzie b. 24 November
1832, London, England, d. 26 October 1833,
York.
- 8 Unnamed female b. & d. 12 August 1834,
Toronto.

- 9 Margaret Mackenzie b. 16 August 1835,
Toronto, d. 17 July 1848, New
York City.

- 10 Elizabeth Mackenzie b. 24
March 1837, Toronto, d. 1
Sept 1901, Chicago.
unmarried.
- 11 William Lyon Mackenzie, Jr. b.
16 January 1839, New York
City, d. [after 1865, before
1885]. *Probably never
married.*
- 12 George Mackenzie b.
Rochester, NY 1841 Feb. 11,
d. Indiana, 1871 Feb. 11.
unmarried.
- 13 Isabel Grace Mackenzie b. 6
February 1843, New York
City, d. 18 December 1917,
Ottawa. m 12 December
1872, Toronto - John King, b.
15 September 1843, d. 30
August 1916. *They had four
children, their second child
was William Lyon Mackenzie
King.*



Mackenzie House, 82 Bond Street.
Metro Toronto Reference Library S-1-1138.

For More Information

See: Nancy Luno, *A Genteel
Exterior; The Domestic Life of
William Lyon Mackenzie and His Family.* Toronto:
Toronto Historical Board, 1990.



Mackenzie family tombstone, in the Necropolis
Cemetery, Toronto. *Photo Sheila Brown.*

Researching a CEF ancestor

by Jane MacNamara, OGS#8175

If your family was in Canada during W.W.I, you likely have a relative who was part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. We have tremendous resources in Canada to help reconstruct some of that person's experience. This article will help you gather enough data to obtain the individual's Service File, and to make sense of the Service File with other sources of information.

The Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)

The term CEF refers to ground forces—the army—and the many other support staff required to feed, clothe, pay, arm, house, transport, minister to, and heal the front line forces. It does not include the Royal Canadian Navy, and Canada didn't have an airforce in W.W.I.

The British declared war with Germany on August 4, 1914. Canada followed immediately. By August 7, Canada's offer of an infantry division of 2,500 men had been accepted.

Canada had a small permanent force and a reserve militia. There was also a comprehensive War Book developed in 1913, in anticipation of conflict. Both the militia system and the War Book were ignored by Canada's Minister of Militia Sam Hughes.

Hughes ordered the erection of a training camp at Valcartier, Quebec, and called for volunteers. That call was answered quickly, and for all but the last year and a half of the war, the CEF was composed entirely of volunteers.

In all, 616,636 individuals served in the CEF, including 142,588 conscripted under the Military Service Act. 424,589 officers, men and nursing sisters served overseas. 59,544 were killed. 172,785 were wounded or injured.

Regimental Number

Every recruit below the rank of Commissioned Officer was issued an identification number. This number is key to finding your CEF ancestor's Service File. Look for the regimental number on letters sent during the war; newspaper clippings; war memorials; local histories; medals or awards. If you know the battalion, you can check the CEF Nominal Rolls referred to later.

Battalions

The most easily traced unit in the CEF is the battalion. It consisted of about 1,000 men. A battalion, in almost every case, was identified by an ordinal

number, and occasionally, a regimental or nickname. Four battalions and a trench mortar battery were combined to form an Infantry Brigade. Three Brigades along with artillery, engineers, machine gun corps, army service corps, and medical corps formed a Division.

Sam Hughes authorized and encouraged the formation of well over 200 battalions, many of which were raised in a specific geographic region. Other battalions were even more specific, offering highland dress, the company of other sportsmen, Irishmen, Scandinavians, even promising mothers that their sons would not drink. Five battalions tried to recruit an "American Legion" from south of the border. Two recruited "Bantams"—men below the minimum height of 5'2".

Hughes' penchant for new battalions ignored the need for reinforcements for existing troops, and ensured an overabundance of officers. Most higher numbered battalions were disbanded to bring earlier units up to strength. To a genealogist, understanding the profile of a battalion may help locate your CEF ancestor. Check letters, local histories and war memorials for battalions raised in your ancestor's geographic, occupational or ethnic community.

Other Canadian units

Most members of the CEF were part of an infantry battalion or battery, but there were other units which record-wise are just as traceable. For example, the Canadian Field Artillery (CFA) was composed of Field Batteries, Howitzer Batteries and Ammunition Columns. Other units including Engineers (CE), Artillery (CFA or CGA), Machine Gun Corps (CMGC), Army Service Corps (CASC) and Medical Corps (CAMC) were subdivided into battalions, batteries or other units which can be traced.

CEF Nominal Rolls

The *Canadian Expeditionary Force Nominal Rolls*, published by the military in 1915-16, list a battalion (or other subdivision) as it embarked for England. They give the name of the ship, date of embarkation, and list members of the battalion alphabetically. For each individual you will find: regimental number, rank, full name, former service, next of kin, country of birth, date and place of enlistment. These are available on microfilm at Metro Toronto Reference and North York Public Libraries.

Service Files

These are files of personal information kept on every member of the CEF. A

Service File may contain attestation papers, a record of service, medical records, pay records and discharge papers. The contents will depend on the extent of service. Service Files for W.W.I are in the public domain and can be requested from the Personnel Records Centre, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 0N3. Provide them with the person's name and regimental number. Expect to wait up to six months.

Other CEF records

The CEF kept records at all organizational levels, starting with the battalion, battery, or equivalent unit. These records rarely contain names below the rank of commissioned officer. However, they do contain tremendous detail about your ancestor's situation.

WAR DIARIES give a day-by-day account of every battalion while it was in the field. You'll find notes on weather, troop movements, casualties, morale, and battle progress. The War Diaries are all available on microfilm at the National Archives, or on interlibrary loan. The Archives of Ontario has some of these films. See finding aid D-24.

Hundreds of other battalion records are housed at the NAC in RG9 and RG24. These include reports and letters about supplies, finances, operations, casualties, discipline, etc. The NAC reading room has a handwritten finding aid, the *CEF Guide*, which organizes many of these records by battalion.

Records were also kept at the Brigade, Division, War Office and Military District levels. It's really remarkable how much of this material has survived the rigors of the war and the intervening years. These records must be accessed through the extensive finding aids to RG9 and RG24.

Books

There are thousands of books on W.W.I, but only those published in Canada really say much about the CEF. Books published during or soon after the war years, tend to be less than objective. Look for titles about a specific battalion, or its perpetuating regiment. Again, local histories may tell of the local battalion's activities.

Desmond Morton has written several very readable books. I'd particularly recommend *Marching to Armageddon: Canadians and the Great War 1914-1918*, (Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys Limited, 1989) and *A Military History of Canada* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1992).

Births

Clarence Edmund STONE was born March 19th in the year of our Lord 1869.

Charles Francis Milton STONE was born Jan. 27th in the year of our Lord 1872.

Jessie Ladosna STONE was born June 19th in the year of our Lord 1877.

Harry Marcena STONE and Hattie May STONE was born February 4th in the year of our Lord 1882.

Henry Marcena STONE was born March 20th in the year of our Lord 1843.

Jennett Elizabeth STONE was born April 27th in the year of our Lord 1845.

Deaths

Clarence Edmund STONE departed this life April 23rd in the year of our Lord 1869. Age 6 weeks.

Jessie Ladosna STONE departed this life Oct. 20 in the year of our Lord 1878. Age 16 months.

S HURTZ Records on four yellowed and crumbling pages from an old Bible, discovered with the above Stone data.

These are the records of the family of Jennett (Nettie) Shurtz, wife of Henry M. Stone.

Father

George SCHURTZ (sic) was born Febuary (sic) the 6th in the year of our Lord 1815.

Mother

Susanah Ursula SHURTZ was born December the 8th in the year of our Lord 1820.

Births

Henry Perry SHURTZ was born January the 11th in the year of our Lord 1843.

Jennett Elizabeth SHURTZ was born April the 27th in the year of our Lord 1845.

George Frances SHURTZ was born November the 6th in the year of our Lord 1850.

Marriages

George SHURTZ was Married to Susanah Ursula ADAMS March the 22nd in the year of our Lord 1842.

Deaths

Susanah Ursula SHURTZ, wife of George Shurtz, departed this life March the 23d in the year of our Lord 1858, sixteen years to the verry hour from the time she came to this town! Newark, O. George SHURTZ departed this life Oct. 27th in the year of our Lord 1867, age 54. Marshalltown, Ia.

Henry P. SHURTZ departed this life July 28th in the year of our Lord 1870, age 27.

George F. SHURTZ departed this life Feb. 30th (an obvious error) in the year of our Lord 1878, age 27.

M cKENZIE Records from family Bible, printed by Joseph Chapless, Philadelphia, in 1802, last

known to be owned by William J. Rountree of Alhambra, California.

Marriages

Murdock McKENZIE, son of Kenneth and Christie McKenzie, was married to Rebecca TYSON, daughter of Benj. and Ann Tyson at the house of said Benj. in Moore co., North Carolina, by Tho. Tyson, Esq., in presence of Ann Ramsey, Abel McDonald and Larcy Elliott, on Sunday the 12th day of September 1802.

570
FAM

MARRIAGE LICENSE.



Office of The County Judge.

STATE OF IOWA,

Marshall County,

vs.

License is hereby granted to any person authorized by solemnize

Marriages according to the Laws of said State, to join in Marriage Henry
Mc Stone and Kettie E Shurtz of the County aforesaid,
and the person joining them in Marriage is also required to make due return of the
Certificate upward, to the County Court within ninety days, of the names of the parties,
time and place of Marriage, and by whom solemnized.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Court
at my office in Marshalltown, in said County,
this 6th day of June
A. D. 1868.

J. A. Sampman
Judge.

No.

Married June 7th 1868 by

O. A. Holmberg, Pastor
of Pop. Ch. Marshalltown Iowa



Maria McKENZIE was married to Matthew R. MOORE of Stokes co. by the Rev. M. McMillan at her Father's House in Chatham in presence of a large company on the 31st of Jan. 1822.

M. L. McKENZIE, daughter of Henry and A. L. McKenzie, was married to L. N. Taylor on the 27th of August 1874, by the Rev. N. Castec of Florida (Pensucola) (sic).

Henry McKENZIE was married to Amanda Louise TALMAGE on Thursday 19th Feby. 1835 in the Town of Talladega, Alabama, by the Rev. Robt. Holman.

William McKENZIE, son of Henry and A. L. McKenzie, was married in the Presbyterian Church, Talladega City, to Lelia T. HOOD on the 25th of June 1873, by the Rev. R. L. Ewing.

Rosalinder McKENZIE, daughter of Henry and Amanda McKenzie, was married to Wm. M. DUNCAN 8th Oct. 1873.

Eppie R. McKENZIE, youngest daughter of Henry and A. L. McKenzie, was married to Rev. J. E. Farris of Atlanta, Dec. 29th, 1885.

Births

Murdock McKENZIE, son of Kenneth and Christie McKenzie, was born in the town of Stornaway, Lewis Island, in Scotland, on the 23rd day of Decem. 1769. His wife Rebecca, daughter of Benj. and Ann Tyson, was born on Deep River the 6th of July 1779.

Maria McKENZIE, daughter of Murdock and Rebecca McKenzie, was born in Chalk (?), N. C., the 16th of June 1803.

Henry McKENZIE, born the 2nd of October 1804.

John McKENZIE, born the first of Feby. 1806. Died 14th of June 1808.

Sylvia McKENZIE, born the 29th of September 1808.

Born 25th Octo. 1809, a Daughter who died in about 10 hours after.

Jane McKENZIE, daughter of Murdock and Rebecca McKenzie, born the 14th of July 1813.

Born prematurely a male infant.

17th Apl. 1814. Died in 5 hours.

Benjamin McKENZIE, born on the 8th of December 1815.

George McKENZIE, son of Henry McKenzie and Amanda L. McKenzie, was born in Tallagega City (sic) on Monday the 7th of August 1843.

Mary Rebecca MOORE was born on the 25th of June AD 1832.

Amanda Louisa TALMAGE, daughter of Thoman and Tabitha Talmage, was born in Jefferson co., Ky., on the 26th of March 1814.

Maria Louisa McKENZIE, daughter of Henry and Amanda McKenzie, was born in the town of Talladega, Ala., on Thursday Morning at 9 o'clock, 22nd September 1836.

Henry McKENZIE, son of Henry and Amanda L. McKenzie, was born in the Town of Talladega, Ala., on Wednesday night at 11 o'clock, 27th March 1839.

Deaths

Kenneth McKENZIE died Sept. 1776.

Christie, his wife, died the 7th of Novem. 1793.

Donald McKENZIE, their son, died Jan'y. 1782.

John McKENZIE, their youngest son, died Sept. 1790, aged about 15 years.

John McKENZIE, son of Murdock

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

and Rebecca, died 14th of June 1806.
 Jane McKENZIE died the 3rd of June 1814.
 Rebecca McKENZIE, wife of Murdock McKenzie, died in Stokes co. on the 12th of July 1822. Aged 45 years and 7 days.
 Henry McKENZIE, son of Henry and Amanda L. McKenzie, died in Talladega on August 12, 1814. Aged 2 years, 4 months and 16 days.
 Benjamin TYSON, the father of Rebecca McKenzie, died 29th of June 1807.
 Ann TYSON, his wife, died on the night of Monday the 9th November 1807.
 Dr. Benjamin McKENZIE, son of Murdock and Rebecca McKenzie, died in Talladega Feb. 5, 1858
 Amanda L. McKENZIE, wife of Dr. Henry McKenzie, died at 1 o'clock P. M., Sunday, Feby. 22nd 1885. Aged 71. At the "Old Homestead", Talladega, Ala.
 Maria MOORE, daughter of Murdock McKenzie, died Oct. 5th, 1888, age 85.
 Margaret Rosalinder DUNCAN, daughter of Dr. Henry and Amanda L. McKenzie, died in Atlanta, Ga., on Dec. 18th (date illegible), age 52.
 Murdock McKENZIE died on the 3rd of June 1823.
 Rebecca McKENZIE, his wife, died on the 13th of July 1822.
 Laura T. McKENZIE, daughter of H. and A. L. McKenzie, died in Talladega on Sunday Morning at 9 o'clock on 26 June 1853.
 Dr. Henry McKENZIE died June 1st Monday evening, 15 min. past 7, 1863, in Talladega, Ala.
 Dr. George McKENZIE, son of H.

and A. L. McKenzie, was drowned on the 9th of May 1865, near Linden in Meranga county, Alabama.
 Thomas Chalmers McKENZIE, son of Henry and A. L. McKenzie, born March 14th, Tuesday, 1848, died December the 17th, Monday evening in the year 1866.
 Margaret H. JENKINS died in the House of her sister, L. McKenzie, Feby. 14th 1885. Age 81.
 William McKENZIE, son of Henry and Amanda L. McKenzie, was born on Thursday 26 Feb. 1846.
 Thomas Chalmers McKENZIE, son of Henry and Amanda L. McKenzie, was born Tuesday 14 March 1848.
 Margaret Rosalinda McKENZIE, daughter of H. and A. L. McKenzie, was born on Monday night at 10 o'clock Jan. 13 1851.
 Eppie R. McKENZIE, daughter of Henry and A. L. McKenzie, was born in Talladega, Ala., Nov. 1, 1853.
 (The last three entries of Births were recorded at the end of the Deaths, apparently for lack of room in their proper spot.)

ANYBODY KNOW A GOOD MEDIUM ?

Jean Grant of Hollywood wrote earlier this year to the New York Department of Health for a copy of a death certificate for Eliza Adeline Suydam, who was born there October 9, 1816, married on March 8, 1837, Oliver DeForest Grant. She received in return a standard printed form with ten reasons that can be checked as to why the document cannot be furnished. Number 10 had the handwritten notation over the signa-

by Murray G Johnston



Occupants of Plaster Mines 1864
Extract from the A.F. Church map of Victoria County

Were these the first families to settle at the Plaister Mines? Even if not, they were at least the first McKenzies in this corner of staunchly Scottish Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. Doubtless other families were early settlers between nearby Baddeck and the coastline stretching from Big Harbour through Macrae Point to Red Head. But other than these McKenzies, how many cases were there of four families of the same name staking out four land claims side-by-side?

Margaret Mackenzie, an aunt of my grandmother also named Margaret Mackenzie, been lost to me. Somehow her surprising story of adventure and fortitude

eventually surfaced. Aunt Margaret, of Little Gruinard in North Gairloch, married a master mariner named Kenneth McKenzie and was one of many who sailed across the Atlantic to Nova Scotia. After only a few years the pair and young family then sailed off once more this time around the world to New Zealand. I couldn't resist the temptation to discover more about this family in picturesque Nova Scotia - at least that's how it looks today!

John was the first of these McKenzies documented as a Plaister settler - in the mid 1820s. Within the next decade, Kenneth and Donald McKenzie appear. The last of the four lots and closest to Big Harbour was occupied by Murdoch McKenzie from about 1845. In his early days on the property Murdoch may have joined forces with Alexander McKenzie.

Most if not all five McKenzies originated in Ross-shire, which includes the west-coast Highland parish of Gairloch. This was the time of the Highland Clearances when families left the Scottish homelands in droves, seeking to escape the almost impossible living conditions imposed by landowners and landlords.

To date, here is no documented proof that these McKenzies were related. However, there are indications supporting the idea they were brothers. The families lived side by side at the Plaister Mines Settlement for an extended period of time. The sons of the five McKenzies were given names strongly reminiscent of each other: Donald, John, Murdoch, Kenneth and Alexander.

Various other references suggest the McKenzies were related. In New Zealand one published work records that two men, both named Kenneth McKenzie and both migrants to Waipu in the 1850s, were cousins. Therefore their respective fathers, John and Murdoch, must have been brothers. According to eighty-something-year-old Murdoch MacKillop in September 2007, when living at Plaister Mines many years ago, the McKenzie brothers Donald and Roy referred to "Curly John" McKenzie as one of their "uncles". Their broad definition of "uncle" included the cousins of their father, John P McKenzie. John P was a son of Roderick McKenzie, who would have been a first cousin of John M McKenzie (Curly John) if their respective fathers, Donald and Murdoch, were brothers. Roy was fond of saying he got his curly hair from "Curly John". Furthermore, MacKillop recalls that John P McKenzie corresponded with a relative in New Zealand. The relative could have been the son of Murdoch or one of two sons of John, all three of whom participated in the pioneering migration by sailboat from Nova Scotia to New Zealand in the 1850s. Evidence, perhaps, that John was a brother of Murdoch.

JOHN McKenzie, his old lady and a lighthouse

John McKenzie landed at Cape Breton about 1826, less than a decade after the Rev. Norman McLeod's historic journey from Scotland to Pictou and on to St Ann's. With John was his wife Lillias and two little boys: Donald born 1822 at Aultbea in North

Gairloch and Kenneth, in Applecross, April 1825. This Kenneth was the one who later married grandmother's Aunt Margaret MacKenzie and eventually settled in New Zealand. One can closely surmise John's arrival date in the Plaister because the christening of his next child was recorded in September 1827, by the Rev. Donald Allan Fraser while on tour of the Bras d'Or region in the autumn of that year. Furthermore, documented land claims made 60 years later state that Grandmother Lillias, described as "the old lady", and her family had occupied the lot since the early 1820s.

John chose a lot comprising 265 acres on the north shore of Big Bras d'Or. At some point Duncan McRae's grant formed John's western borderline and to the north, the properties of John McDonald and Angus Matheson marked his boundaries. Angus Matheson later plays a role in the events surrounding John's family. The boundary between John and Duncan McRae marked the westernmost point of the four McKenzie lots, about halfway along the five-and-a-half mile stretch between Red Point and Bevis Point at Big Harbour.

Many Scots settlers supplemented farming with an income from the sea. Some say John McKenzie died at sea in a storm. Nothing is currently available to show when he died except that Lillias McKenzie was a widow by the time of the 1860 census of Nova Scotia. At a guess, John was born around 1800 and died in the early 1850s.

The early 1850s was also when the Reverend Normal McLeod of St Ann's was readying his followers for the first re-migrant voyage from Nova Scotia to southern and reputedly more friendly climes. Some of the Scots settlers in the Baddeck area, although somewhat independent of the enigmatic Reverend, decided to follow him. Two of John's four sons had signed up ascrewmen on the *Spray*, owned by the Mathesons and Stewarts, when the small 107-ton brigantine set sail for New Zealand early in 1857. Perhaps John's death in the 1850s provided the impetus for the young men to leave Nova Scotia. One of the migrant sons was Kenneth, who had crewed with the seafaring Matheson brothers around the coast of Nova Scotia in the years leading up to 1857. In New Zealand, Kenneth established a considerable reputation as a rebel and a mariner. From his sea-side base at Omaha beach near Waipu, Kenneth's smuggling and involvement in the slave trade were renowned. Perhaps he curtailed his activities when his own son was horribly killed by savages who attacked his ship while anchored in the Solomon Islands in 1880.

With two sons permanently absent, the management of John's land fell to his widow Lillias, "the old lady", who divided the land among her two remaining sons. One son, also named John, took on the responsibility of maintaining "the old lady" in her home, presumably his parent's original house. The 1864 map by A.F. Church marks two occupants of this property – one was the other remaining son, Donald, on the western portion, while the widow Mrs McKenzie occupied the east-most tract.

In 1874, the McKenzies granted an early lease of mining rights for gypsum, or Plaster

Of Paris. The brothers Donald and John McKenzie jointly signed a lease allowing access to all of the lands "we now live on" except one acre retained for the purposes of building a "Light House". In the following year, the Crown Minister of Marine and Fisheries paid John McKenzie \$150 for about an acre of his property designated for a lighthouse situated on the shore of the Lake (actually an inlet) of Great Bras D'Or. The location took the family name: "McKenzie Point". John, a mariner by trade, did not enjoy the lighthouse for very long. He died in November 1875, possibly lost at sea like his father. John's widow, Margaret, was left to maintain a young family of seven children as well as her widow mother-in-law.

Margaret's brother-in-law was Donald, whose eldest son was the well-known Captain John A. McKenzie. Donald was not to be outdone by his deceased brother John and in 1880 took his own slice of the government pie. For \$100 he sold to the Crown Minister of Marine and Fisheries a right-of-way across his land from the lighthouse to the Baddeck post road. Meanwhile, in 1882 the elderly Lillias sold 50 acres of the family lot for \$100 to Donald's son, Capt. John A, so that John A. could maintain "the old lady". In 1887, Capt. John purchased another 100 acres, being the west half of the 200 acre lot immediately to his east. Those lands were owned by one of Kenneth McKenzie's sons, probably a cousin once removed.

However, it was not until 1887, about 60 years after John McKenzie originally settled, that his family applied for a Crown Grant for title to the land. Capt John A appeared to lead the family effort in the claim, perhaps because he could read and write. Donald applied for 150 acres and two years later was granted 151½ acres. Surveyor Joseph McLean reported improvements comprising a house and barn to the extent of \$600 and that the wilderness land was timbered with small firs. The rear was worth \$60 per acre and the southwest part was cut up with plaster holes, and the property did not boast a harbour. McLean noted that from where he began the survey at McRae's south eastern corner the area was honeycombed with plaster holes, and anyhow should he lose two more days surveying he could not get through the caves, and may never return.

A further 165 acre tranche of John's 265 acre lot was claimed by Capt John A and the heirs of the deceased John McKenzie. Obviously there was confusion as to whose share the "old lady" had depleted with the 50 acres sold to John A. This was eventually sorted out in Donald's favour - doubtless John's heirs had little voice in the matter since most of them had emigrated to the USA - and so John A was granted 50 acres from his deceased uncle's share. The remaining 63½ acres was named for the heirs of John McKenzie, his widow Margaret and seven children. The "old lady" did not retain title to any land.

Only a year later, Donald sold another right of way across his land, this time to Hector McRae, his westerly neighbour. This was likely the resolution of a dispute between Donald McKenzie and Hector's father Duncan McRae over whether or not McRae

had obtained a Crown Grant of a right-of-way across the northwest corner of McKenzie's land before McKenzie's claim of 1887. Donald secured the support of John A Fraser, MPP, who on his behalf wrote strongly worded protests to the Commissioner of Crown Lands demanding that the Commissioner put an end to McRae's impossible claims.

Immediately upon gaining full title to their lands, Capt. John and his uncle Donald leased out their joint properties of about 300 acres for plaster mining, carefully excluding from the lease the adjacent additional 60-plus acres belonging to John's widow Margaret and her children.

By 1890, now nearly 70, Donald decided to sell two-thirds of his 151½ acre lot to his son William. Ten years later, Donald sold the remaining 51½ acres to his daughter Lillee.

Capt. John A McKenzie sold his two adjacent lots totalling 150 acres to a miner named Norman Carmichael of Glace Bay in 1905. Carmichael also had his eye on the 60-plus acre lot next westwards owned by the Widow Margaret McKenzie and her children. Several years passed before he had assembled all required signatures on a contract to buy the land for the price of \$1, and only then after he had tracked down Margaret and her children scattered coast-to-coast across the United States. Perhaps the land had been abandoned, of little real value.

However, Capt John did not leave the area, for in 1911 he leased from his siblings William and Lillee McKenzie the mining rights of their 151½ acres. Almost immediately afterwards, William and Lillee sold the lands outright to Daniel McRitchie of Cranbrook in BC, formerly of Glace Bay, NS. With that, the entire 265 acre lot originally settled by John passed from McKenzie hands. What happened to John's widow, "the old lady" Lillias McKay McKenzie after 1891 remains a mystery; in that year she was still living at Plaister with her daughter and granddaughter.

KENNETH, his schoolhouse and half-house

Kenneth McKenzie and his wife Scots born Christina McKenzie (yes, another one) marked out a 200 acre lot by the late 1830s, which is when his eldest child was born. These lands were east of and adjacent to the 265 acre parcel originally occupied by John McKenzie, who died probably in the 1850s. Oddly enough, Kenneth was the only settler in the area who never formally obtained a Crown Grant to his lot. Nonetheless, by 1860 Kenneth is recorded in the Plaister with a family of eight children. The 1864 AF Church map names Kenneth McKenzie as the occupant of this tract of land.

Regardless of the lack of a Grant, Kenneth's title to his land must have been sufficient to regularize his 1867 donation of a quarter-acre adjacent to the access road for the purposes of building a schoolhouse. The Trustees given title to the land were neighbours and principal occupants of the immediate area, Duncan McRae, Donald

McKenzie (probably Kenneth's nephew), and Kenneth himself.

In 1884, by then 73 years old, Kenneth passed his lands to his two remaining sons. First, the younger of the two John K McKenzie paid Kenneth \$300 for the eastern half of Kenneth's lands. For the price, John K also received half the house occupied by his father, including the kitchen and one room in the main building on the ground floor and half of the chamber or second floor with free access to and from the same by the doors, hallways and stairways. Later in 1884, the elder son Donald K secured the western 100 acres from Kenneth, "for the love and affection he hath for his said son and for \$8".

Evidently, John K's purchase in 1884 was partially ineffective, because two years later he paid another \$40 to his father for legal title to the half-house and the land it occupied. Kenneth continued living in the house he had sold out from under his own feet, for in 1896 his death at the Plaister was recorded at Knox Presbyterian church.

John K McKenzie mortgaged his lots of land in 1888 and redeemed the debt one year later. In 1898 he leased out the lands for plaster mining, but died the year following. Donald K McKenzie did not bask in the love of his father for very long; in 1887 he sold his western half of Kenneth's lands to Captain John A McKenzie. These lands formed the larger part of the parcel later sold by the Captain to Norman Carmichael in 1905. This Donald K McKenzie may have been the first postmaster of Plaister Mines, from the opening of the office in 1882 as documented by Canada Post, until his resignation in 1887.

DONALD, his log house and a post-house

The third parcel of McKenzie lands in the Plaister and next easterly from Kenneth was claimed by Donald McKenzie and his wife Margaret McLennan as early as 1831. He may have been the eldest of the Plaister McKenzies, born 1797 in Ross-shire, Scotland as recorded in 1856 on his gravestone at Man-O-War Point cemetery situated across the Bras D'Or Lake from Plaister Mines. The descendants of Donald and Margaret's sons Alexander ("Sandy") and Roderick remained in the Plaister for well over 100 years. These were two of the McKenzies recorded by the 1864 map by AF Church.

Record of Donald's presence in the Plaister is contained in the Land Grant to his next-but-one neighbour to the east, John Fraser. The survey with the grant of Fraser's land in 1847 records the position of Donald's land which included "Big Pond", itself barely separated from Big Bras D'Or Lake by a thin spit of land. Donald's widow "Peggy" was prompted to secure her family's ownership of Donald's land when she saw her neighbour to the north Alexander Taylor encroaching upon her land. In 1860 she applied for a 196 acre lot, expecting Taylor to be "stopped". Her claim was granted in 1861 for \$82.75. Improvements noted by surveyor Donald Ross included about forty acres cleared, a Log House and a Frame Barn, all made by the petitioner's

late husband and family. The value of the improvements was about £70 and the unimproved value of the land £25. He noted rocks and plaster with which the land was very much cut up, two small brooks, and a good place for anchoring in the Cove, at the Pond.

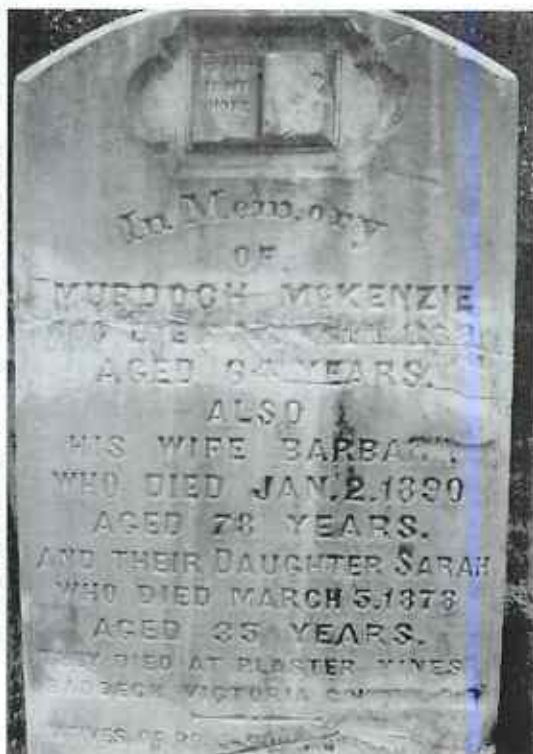
Donald and Widow Margaret's youngest son Norman took himself to Provincetown, Massachusetts, but unfortunately he died while fishing off the South Carolina coast in 1898. Long-time residents near the Plaister area - the MacKillop brothers - recall two great-grandsons of Donald talking proudly of their great-uncles, one of whom lived in Massachusetts. Murdoch MacKillop, testing his long memory in September 2007, thought it also possible another of the great-uncles drowned at sea after overloading his vessel with fish. This might have been Donald's third son John, who disappears from Nova Scotia records after 1871.



Of the four sons of Donald and Widow Margaret, only the elder two, Sandy and Rod, remained at the Plaister to work the 196 acre property. This the brothers did, including leasing out the lands for plaster mining in 1889. Sandy took possession of the eastern half of his father's property and again leased out those lands for mining in 1904. Roderick's occupancy of the western half was not specifically recorded, although he was the second official Postmaster of Plaister Mines from 1887 until he died in 1916. His son John P McKenzie then took over the role of Postmaster for two years, and John P remained on the east lot long enough to again lease out the lands for mining in 1948. In the same year, John "Jack" and Arthur McKay are recorded in possession of the west lot, Sandy's former lands. Sandy's daughter Mary A McKenzie had married Frank McKay in 1911. One of Sandy's sons married Mary "Mamie" Morrison who, as Murdoch MacKillop informed Kathy Kerr, was the first woman in the area to drive an automobile. James MacKillop now in his mid nineties possessed the even longer memory that correctly recalled the forename of the McKenzie son whom Mamie had married about the time "Jimmy" was born - he recited the Gaelic form of "John", for John D McKenzie.

MURDOCH, a post-house and a sticky mortgage

The last and furthest east of the four McKenzie lots was taken by Murdoch McKenzie around 1845. Only a few years before that, Murdoch and wife Barbara were living at Lead Udrigle in Gairloch, Scotland where the baptisms of some of their children were recorded in the parish registers. Murdoch's occupancy in Plaister Mines was first formally recorded in 1847 through the Grant to John Fraser, whose lands formed the eastern boundary to Murdoch's. John Fraser's lot by 1868 is recorded in the possession of Murdoch McRae, and by 1889 Neil McQueen is the occupier of the land. The distance from the boundary line between John Fraser and Murdoch McKenzie to Bevis Point, which includes the grants to Finlay McLeod, represents the halfway mark along the two-and-a-half mile stretch from the Point to the westernmost boundary of the McKenzie lands originally settled by John McKenzie about 1826.



In the early days, Murdoch appears to have shared his 184 acres with Alexander McKenzie. The two "claimed and occupied" the 184 acre lot before 1870 according to title documentation. It seems improbable that the two would co-sign for important rights and liabilities such as a mortgage were they not, for example, brothers. Alexander, however, moved away from the Plaister Mines before 1871.

In 1860, Murdoch's family of nine is recorded at the Plaister. One daughter apparently had died before Murdoch departed Scotland and one son had sailed from Cape Breton bound for New Zealand a few years before. This son and one of John's sons are recorded as cousins in a historical account of settlers near Waipu, New Zealand.

Of the four McKenzie settlers at Plaister Mines, Murdoch and his family experienced the most difficulty holding on to their lands. Early in 1868, Murdoch and Alexander McKenzie and their respective wives secured a mortgage of £68 on the property.

Only months later, Murdoch died, leaving his widow Barbara with a mortgage and a family including the eldest remaining son, John M McKenzie not yet 20 years old. This was when Alexander departed. To further complicate Barbara's life, the year after Murdoch's death Doctor John Cameron obtained a judgement against Barbara for debts totalling \$66.85. Another year later, in 1870, Cameron assigned this debt to the same individual who held the mortgage of £68.

On the same day in 1874 in which the mortgage was released, two debts against Barbara totalling \$145 were assigned to another party. These debts were cleared two years later, but on that day, Duncan McRae registered yet another mortgage against Barbara McKenzie and four of her children. Only in 1877 was the mortgage finally released.

The Widow Barbara's son, John M McKenzie, led the family to lease out the plaster mining rights of the entire 184 acres in 1889. The lease signatories included daughter Isabella and her husband Roderick Kerr, as well as Catherine McKenzie, who could have been John's sister, his wife, or his sister-in-law, all named Catherine. John M was also the instigator of proceedings to obtain a formal grant of his father's lands. Between 1880 and 1893 he corresponded with the Crown Grant office pursuing ownership of the whole 184 acre lot. He was rewarded in 1893 with a grant of 134 acres, after it became clear that John M's sister Isabella and her husband Roderick Kerr had the right to 50 of the 184 acres. Due to an oversight, the Kerr's 50 acre lot was not marked on the Crown Index sheets at the time. Not until 1966, about the time Guido Perera was purchasing many of the Plaster properties, did a sharp-eyed solicitor in Sydney, Cape Breton, ask that the record be corrected.

Mrs McKenzie (the widow Barbara) and Rod Kerr were the occupants of Murdoch's property noted by AF Church in 1864. Church's map was drawn up many years after 1864 and its author evidently did not realize that in 1864, Mrs McKenzie was not yet a widow. Similar confusion may also have arisen with Frazer's lot, next east to Murdoch's, with Neil McQueen noted as the occupier in 1864.

One of John M McKenzie's sons was Daniel, who was appointed the Postmaster of Plaster Mines in 1923 until his resignation in 1926. Also in 1923, John M leased out his 130 acres for mining. By that time, his neighbour to the west was John A Kerr. John Kerr's wife Mary (McIvor) had filled the role of Postmaster after John P McKenzie in 1921 until Daniel was appointed. John M assumed his son's role as Postmaster in March 1926 until his death only two months later. For the next 15 years the position of Postmaster was held by Daniel Carmichael.

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A Schoolmaster Edrom, Berwickshire

That Mr. William Knox was elected Schoolmaster of the Parish of Edrom on the twenty fifth day of January One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty seven. That he was married to Agnes Mitchell on the Eighth of May, One thousand seven hundred and Eighty four. That he has now five children alive Viz Mary born the fifteenth day of March One thousand seven hundred and ninety three, Agnes born on the twenty sixth day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety five, Helen born on the Thirtieth August one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, Alexander born the thirteenth day of November one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine and Peter born on the sixth November Eighteen hundred and one is attested at Chirnside the twenty Eighth day of July Eighteen hundred and ten years by

Will Knox (signature)

Geo McLean Proses

That Mr. William Knox did die on the 22 day of February Eighteen hundred and sixteen years is attested by

John White (signature)

That the aforesaid Vacancy was supplied on the Nineteenth day of April Eighteen hundred and sixteen years by the election of Mr. George Peacock to be Schoolmaster of Edrom Attested at Chirnside the 27th day of July 1816.

George Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock was married to Mary Gilkie on the 5th September 1820, attested at Chirnside on the 28th July 1821.

Geo. Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 10th June 1821 and baptized on the 20th July following named Isabella.

Geo. Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 3rd July 1823 and baptized on the 20 August following – Named Mary.

Geo Peacock (signature)

Jno. Hamilton. Prs. (signature)

That the aforesaid George Peacock and Mary Gilkie had a Daughter born on the 23rd April 1825 and baptized on the 27 May following – Named Christian.

Geo Peacock (signature)

Thos. Ingram P. (signature)

That the aforesaid Parish of Edrom was declared vacant at Whitsunday 1826 and Mr. Charles Airth was appointed Mr. Peacocks successor as Schoolmaster of that Parish – so attested and signed at Chirnside on the 28 July 1827.

Charles Airth (signature)

Jno. Hamilton Prs. (signature)

Source: National Archives of Scotland Ref. CH2/386/18

Contributed by Russell Cockburn