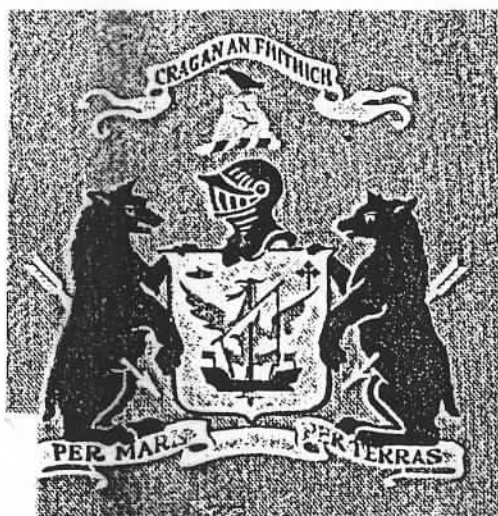


J A MACDONELL (GREENFIELD)

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT



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ALEXANDRIA, ONTARIO

1930

HISTORY

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

David G Anderson

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of "Jack Greenfield" of Alexandria is a document of special interest to students of Glengarry history: firstly, it confirms the existence, certainly as of 1930, of some some excellent items of early Canadiana; secondly, it gives, at a glance, some idea of the importance of the Jacobite Macdonell of Glengarry clan in the formative years of Upper Canada.

John Alexander Macdonell (Greenfield), Q.C. of Alexandria (1851-1930) was born in Kingston, his father Archibald John Macdonell being a law partner of John A MacDonald, the later Prime Minister of Canada. His practice in Alexandria began in the mid-1880's. He was a grandson of Col. Duncan Macdonell (Greenfield), registrar of deeds for Glengarry, and his wife Harriet, daughter of Col. Archibald Macdonell (Leek). His book *Sketches Illustrating the Early Settlement and History of Glengarry in Canada* [Montreal, 1893] was long out of print but was reprinted in 1984 by the Glengarry Historical Society.

The better part of the original bequest was known to be in the possession of the principal beneficiary of the Greenfield will, Judge Ian McLean Macdonell of Toronto, who passed away in the summer of 1992 leaving his collection to his son Mr Archibald Macdonell of Toronto. However, another segment of the bequest had passed to a certain MacDonald of Thunder Bay but were said to have been scattered by neglect during his overseas service in World War II.

We have not given our attention to tracing the other pieces but have hopes that their whereabouts may eventually come to light and that the owners may be encouraged to allow for a wider appreciation of these relics of Canadian history.

We wish to express our gratitude to member-at-large Hugh P Mac-Millan of Guelph for bringing this document to our attention.

Williamstown, Glengarry
26 October 1992

GLENGARRY RESEARCH NOTES is a series of annotated transcripts and notes relating to the early history of Glengarry County, Ontario. Published occasionally by the GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RESEARCH CENTRE, 19730 John Street, Williamstown, ON K0C 2J0 and distributed by the SOCIETY at Box 416, Alexandria, ON K0C 1A0.

THIS is the last will and testament of me, JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONELL of the Town of Alexandria in the County of Glengarry, Esquire, Barrister-at-law.

1- I hereby revoke any and every last will and other testamentary disposition heretofore at any time made by me and declare this only to be and contain my last Will and Testament.

2- I give and bequeath to IAN MCLEAN MACDONELL of the City of Toronto in the County of York, Barrister-at-law, as the representative of the family to which we belong, the following to be held by him as heirlooms and to be left by him at his death to such member of that family as he may consider to be its representative:

Gold Medal for the capture of Detroit presented by the King to Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell, Attorney General of Upper Canada and Military Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to Major General Sir Isaac Brock, K.C.B. both of whom were killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

Trowel presented to Lieutenant Colonel Donald Macdonell on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the monument erected on Queenston Heights.

Colours of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteer Regiment of Foot the first Regiment raised in this Province, Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell (Aberchalder) commanding.

Pair silver-inlaid flintlock pistols which belonged to Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell (Aberchalder) of the Royal Canadian Volunteers Regiment of Foot, Member of the second Riding of Glengarry in the first Parliament of Upper Canada 1792 and Speaker of that House.

Gold watch which belonged to my grandfather Colonel Duncan Macdonell (Greenfield) and which had previously belonged to the Hon. William MacGillivray, Chairman of the North West Fur Company before its amalgamation with the Hudson Bay Company.

Gold "bull's-eye" watch which formerly belonged to Miles Macdonell, Lord Selkirk's Governor of Assiniboia, who brought out the first settlers and established them on the Forks of the Red and Assiniboia River where Winnipeg is today.

Sword blade made by Andrea Farrara formerly belonging to Lt. Col. John Macdonell of the family of Scotus known as 'Spanish John' and father of Miles Macdonell, Lord Selkirk's Governor of Assiniboia.

Watercolour portrait of the Lt. Col. Sir James Macdonell, G.C.B.

Watercolour portrait of Lt. Gen. Sir Alexander Macdonell Aberchalder, Col. Commandant 4 Battalions, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade.

Small silhouette of Lt. Col. John Macdonell (with Detroit Medal coloured underneath).

Small coloured picture of Lt. Col. Chichester Macdonell of the 82nd regiment of Foot (with Corunna medal coloured underneath).

Letter H.R.H. Prince Frederick Duke of York, Commander in Chief, dated Horse Guards 18th May 1820 to Duncan Macdonell transmitting Colonel John Macdonell Gold Medal for capture of Detroit.

Letter from H.R.H. Prince Frederick, Commander in Chief dated 14th May 1812 transmitting Gold Medal of Col. Chichester Macdonell for battle of Corunna.

Letter from Col. Nathl Corrin, dated York, March 28th, 1813 to Alexander Macdonell, transmitting extract of letter received by His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost from Earl Bathurst written by command of H.R.H. the Prince Regent expressing his regret at death of the Attorney General Col. John Macdonell at Queenston Heights. Extract enclosed herein.

Oil painting of Sir Isaac Brock.

Framed copy of York Gazette October 17th, 1812 in mourning columns for the death of Major Gen. Brock and Col. John Macdonell, the Attorney General of the Province, his military Secretary and A.D.C.

All framed letters, papers, etc., relating to battle of Queenston Heights and laying of foundation stone of monument erected thereon.

Commission from Isaac Brock, President of Upper Canada, to Donald Macdonell as Captain 2nd Regiment Glengarry Militia of which my great grand-father Alexander Macdonell, Esq., was then Lt. Col. and such other commissions of Members of our family as are in my possession.

Plaster statuette of Sir Isaac Brock.

Plaster statuette of Tecumseh.

Oil portrait of Captain John Macdonell 'Spanish John' father of Miles Macdonell, Governor of Assiniboia.

Engraving of Prince James Francis Stuart, Chevalier de St George, son of James II and father of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Portrait of Princess Maria Clementine Sobieska, wife of the above and mother of Prince Charles.

Portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart in the robes of the Order of the Garter.

Portrait of Prince Henry Stuart, Cardinal York, brother of Prince Charles.

Picture of the monument of the exiled Stuarts James III, Charles III and Henry IX by Canova.

Portrait of Flora Macdonald.

Coloured portrait in oval frame of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Eight silver buttons (buckling) which were worn on the uniform of my grand-father's grand-father Angus Macdonell, Major in the Glengarry Regiment who

was wounded at Culloden.

Watercolour portrait of Lt. Col. George Macdonell of the Glengarry Light Infantry Regiment in Rifle uniform (with gold medal for Chateauguay and Order of the Bath).

Portrait of his son Lt. Gen. John Ignatius Macdonell, formerly Colonel of the Highland Light Infantry Regiment (with three medals).

Knife with silver handle and cork-screw given to me by Col. John Ignatius Macdonell 71st H.L.I.

Large framed engraving of Prince Charles Edward and Highlanders entering Edinburgh.

Companion picture of Prince Charles in hiding after Culloden.

Companion picture of Prince Charles in the meeting of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and Flora Macdonald after the battle of Culloden.

Large watercolour portrait of the first Bishop Macdonell.

Oil portrait of Col. Duncan Greenfield Macdonell.

Small coloured portrait of Lt. Col. Donald Macdonell (Greenfield).

Portrait of Sir Hugh Guion Macdonell I (Aberchalder).

Silver watch which belonged to one of the Leek family.

Two volumes of Mayo's *Decorations of the British Army and Navy* with numerous plates, given to me by Lord Cochrane.

Framed portraits with Stuart hunting and dress tartan of Mary Queen of Scots and Prince Charles Stuart.

One pair silver shoe buckles.

Pair of decanters with Prince Wales coronet and plume with wreath of maple leaves, used on the occasion of his visit to Canada in 1860, with silver coasters in which they stand.

Portraits of James Grahame, the great Marquis of Montrose, and John Grahame of Claverhouse, the Viscount of Dundee.

Silver christening mug given to me by the Rt. Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, G.C.B. after whom I was named.

Bust of Sir John A Macdonald.

Framed copy of Punch's verses on the death of Sir John A Macdonald.

Order of service in Westminster Abbey on occasion of death of Sir John A Macdonald.

A bundle of private letters written by Sir John A Macdonald to myself and such letters of his to my father as were not destroyed after his death by my mother as being too confidential to be read by others.

A bronze Confederation Medal (framed, given to me by the Hon. Sir Hugh John Macdonald who received it when made a member of the Privy Council of Canada).

Large flintlock musket being one of the so-called 'cannon' which were used for the defence of Invergarry Castle in Glengarry Scotland and which were removed before it was burnt by the Duke of Cumberland's army in 1746 and sent to the Tower in London and eventually restored to the Glengarry family.

All Sir John Macdonald's letters to be regarded as heirlooms.

3- I give and bequeath to my grand niece MARY MCPHEE:-

Large silver candelabra presented to my father Archibald John Macdonell. Claret jug presented to my father. Small silver beer mug. Two small cream jugs. One pair gravy boats. One pair large size silver salt-cellars, mustard pot and cayenne pepper pot. One other silver cream jug (larger). Silver ice cream spoon. Silver asparagus fork (wide).

Silver snuff box with my father's initials 'A·J·M' and crest. Silver wine strainer. Three small silver egg stands. Four silver toddy ladles. Silver marrow spoon.

Large blue Wedgwood jug with hunting scene *Killing of the Fox* which belonged to my mother's grand-mother Mrs Cuming of Kingston, who was the sister of my grandfather Duncan Macdonell Greenfield and of his brothers, Colonels John and Donald Macdonell, and which is of much value.

Oil portrait of my father in oval frame which belonged to Sir John A Macdonald and was given to me after his death.

Share of flat silver consisting of: 1 dozen large forks and table spoons. 1 dozen each, dessert and tea spoons and small forks, and large gravy spoon.

Silver coffeepot, smaller pair silver salt cellars, mustard pot and pepper pot.

Tortoise shell letter clip with silver bugler attached on top.

Two bedroom candlesticks (silver) flat with snuffers and tray.

One dozen large silver forks and spoons, one dozen small silver tea spoons.

4- I give and bequeath to my grand-nephew DUNCAN MCDONALD:-

My household furniture and library of books now in the possession of my wife at Brockville.

Silver wine strainer (small size)

Two preserve pots with silver tops.

Oak writing desk which belonged to my father.

Large oil painting of my father Archibald John Macdonell.

Bog-oak dirk with silver mountings and cairngorm stones.

Silver-mounted sporran.

Large silver beer mug (quart size) which belonged to my mother's grand-mother Mrs John Cuming of Kingston who was sister of my grandfather Col. Duncan Macdonell of Greenfield and his brothers Cols. John and Donald Macdonell.

Bust of Sir Walter Scott.

Three silver-handled paper knives.

Small silver tea pot, sugar bowl and cream jug made by Tiffany, New York.

My silver tobacco box (large one) with crest and coat-of-arms.

Tortoise shell snuff box with silver medallion of King Charles I which is very valuable.

My gold watch chain.

Egyptian scarab and gold chain to which it is appended.

Small silver quaigh.

1/2 one dozen small silver forks and spoons (dessert)

Such silver forks and spoons and such other articles of silver as are not hereby bequeathed to *Ian McLean Macdonell, Mary McPhee* and others.

5- I give and bequeath to LT. GEN. SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONELL:-

Large gold seal with red stone and Crest and Arms.

Small gold seal with red stone with Crest and initial M.

(These were given to me by my cousin Amelia Macdonell with the request that they would eventually be given to him as from here).

6- I give and bequeath to MR & MRS DONALD MCKAY of Alexandria:-

My large silver liquor stand with three decanters and an old fashioned tea caddy and a Chippendale mahogany tray and a pair brass wall candelabra.

Also large gold seal with Coat of Arms and Crest (hand-and-dagger cross and motto *Per Mare Per Terras*).

Gold Seal with Scotch thistle and motto *Dinna Forget*, and smaller gold seal unengraved, also cut glass pitcher.

7- I give and bequeath to DONALD HINGSTON, M. D. of Montreal:-

Four tablespoons with "hand-and-dagger" crest and motto *Per Mare Per Terras* which belonged to my father's and his grandmother's mother's father Lt. Col. Archibald Macdonald of Leek, a U.E. Loyalist Officer King's Royal Regiment of New York and Lt. of the County of Stormont.

8- I give and bequeath to my partner DONALD ALEXANDER MACDONALD:-

My share of the furniture and effects in the office and the larger pair of silverplated side dishes with initials 'J C F' (my aunt Janet Clark French, wife of General Sir George French, who raised and first commanded the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) and a large silver soup ladle.

9- I give and bequeath to GEORGINA SABOURIN:-

A chair in the sitting room covered with blue satin, a pair of short silver candlesticks with crest, the pair of large cut glass vases and the pair of bronze bookends (tiger).

10- I give and bequeath to SIR PERCY SHERWOOD:-

The statuettes of the Duke of Wellington and the Emperor Napoleon I.

11- I give and bequeath to H PEEL, if with me at the time of my death, the sum of three hundred dollars and such contents of my wardrobe as he may wish.

12- I give and bequeath to MRS A G F MACDONALD two large cut-glass bowls.

I hereby authorize and direct my executor hereinafter named to pay and satisfy all my just debts and my funeral and testamentary expenses.

All the rest and residue of my property both real and personal of every nature and kind whatsoever I give devise and bequeath to the REVEREND JOHN J MACDONALD, my executor, to be sold by him to the best advantage and the proceeds to be derived therefrom to be given and disposed of as follows:-

Two hundred dollars for low masses for the repose of my soul.

The balance to the Parish Priest of St Raphaels for such purposes as he may decide in memory of my dear mother MARY CATHERINE MACDONELL and my beloved sister MARY ELIZABETH MACDONELL.

I appoint as the executor of this my last Will and Testament, the Reverend John J Macdonell, parish priest of St Alexander's Church, Lochiel, with power to execute all necessary deeds of my real estate as from time to time he may dispose of the same.

Dated at Alexandria this fifth day of April, 1930.

SIGNED, PUBLISHED AND DECLARED |
by John Alexander Macdonell and |
the abovenamed testator as and for |
his last Will and Testament in the |
presence of us, who both present |
together at the same time in his |
presence, at his request and in the |
presence of each other have hereunto |
subscribed our names as witnesses. |

J A Macdonell

O Luckhardt

John Boyle

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