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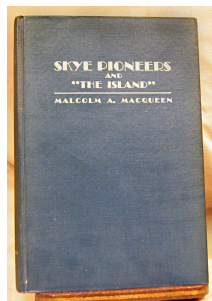
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# Skype Pioneers & “The Island” -1929 CA0391

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## About this CD.

The author of this book, Malcolm A. MacQueen, is descended from a family which lived for many years on the Isle of Skye, one of the inner Hebridean Islands of Scotland, which accounts for his emphasis on the Scottish settlers from that area. His book, however, is actually about the settlers from all over Britain brought to, and settled in, Prince Edward Island (PEI) by Lord Selkirk's program of emigration starting after c1803.

Lord Selkirk sold off portions of his estates on PEI to these emigrants, which meant that all of this settlement took place on the western side of the southern most promontory of the Island - the settlement origins being around Belfast. The early part of the book concentrates on the initial development of this area - not only the physical but also the social and communal aspects - with quite a concentration, as is appropriate for a committed Presbyterian community, on the development and leadership of the church.

Moving along, and taking account of the arrival of additional settlers, the book studies the expansion of surrounding centres of development such as Orwell, Uigg, and Murray Harbour Road. While detailing the development of the physical farms, mills, churches and buildings is necessary, the author also recognizes that none of this would be important without the people, so he takes great care to ensure that individuals and families are named, and recognized, as they relate to their settlement on individual parcels of land. As the story progresses through the book it becomes more and more about the people until, towards the end of the book, it is essentially a report of the growth of local families, including in many cases, a family "tree" stretching to several generations.

The book notes that there were quite a few Scots emigrating to North Carolina over a period of the 60 years leading up to the early 1800's Selkirk emigrations but it was becoming a more and more difficult process, so the Selkirk emigration was a good solution to any Scott looking for a life in the New World. Further, once landed in PEI further westward movement (onto the mainland) was difficult due to both physical and political conditions so the emigrants tended to stay where they landed.

Besides the settlements of Orwell, Uigg and Murray Harbour Road mentioned above the other centres of Selkirk sponsored development mentioned in the book are: Alberry Plains, Dundee, Lyndale and Vernon. So if you know you had ancestors on PEI, who arrived from Britain during the early 1800's there is a good chance this book will contain something of your ancestors story.

This book contains 162 numbered pages and 9 illustrations.

# SKYE PIONEERS AND “THE ISLAND”

By

MALCOLM A. MACQUEEN



*“Ye dreams of my boyhood, how much I regret you.  
Unfaded your memory dwells in my breast;  
Though sad and deserted, I ne'er can forget you :  
Your pleasures may still be in fancy possess.”*

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FOREWORD

BY

JAMES T. MITCHELL, F.S.A. (SCOT.)—  
EDITOR, WESTERN HOME MONTHLY

I am honored in being invited by the publishers to write a word or two in the form of an introduction to this most interesting volume from the pen of my good friend Malcolm A. Macqueen.

The author is a successful lawyer and man of affairs, as well as a facile writer, but he is more than that—he is a Highlander, with that pride of race surging through his blood-stream that has for years stimulated his people to high ideals and noble action—and that in brief has brought to the Gael the respect of all other peoples. Though three generations have separated him from the land of his fathers, the Isle of Skye, his enthusiasm has not grown cold, but rather have his affections for all that the Highlander stands for as a citizen of the Empire and a factor in the world's civilization been intensified. He combines with a strong admiration for the early Scottish Canadian pioneers, a mystical and spiritual love for all that is beautiful in life—a truly Hebridean characteristic.

The book will be received with a real joy not alone by his many friends throughout Canada and by his ain folk in his beloved Island home, Prince Edward, but by all who admire the perseverance, endurance and nobility of character displayed by those who faced the struggles of an unexplored land.

The narrative goes back to 1803 when Lord Selkirk arrived with his first Canadian settlement of Highlanders. Graphically and tenderly he takes up the story from the moment of the landing and traces his people in genealogical succession as well as their influence throughout all parts of the continent of America.

For this masterly labor of love no amount of research seemed too great or too tedious for the author. Indeed he has placed all of us whose hearts still go out in warmth to the old home across the seas, under a very deep obligation. While all other peoples manifest

a regard for the place of their birth and the ashes of their fathers, it seems to me that in the Hebridean this worthy sentiment finds its most beautiful expression. Time and distance in his case do not weaken it—neither do generations efface it.

It was because of his admiration for those who set the path and blazed the trail that we are privileged to read a book of this nature—and a more worthy subject he could not have chosen.

Fortunate indeed is Canada or any other land that has among its intellectual citizens men like the author, who from the pressing exactitudes of professional, commercial and social life, take time to preserve memories that will always be an uplifting and patriotic influence.



## FOUNDING OF BELFAST

## LORD SELKIRK—THE FRENCH—THE POLLY—LAND TENURE

When Jacques Cartier, on June 20, 1534, discovered L'Isle St. Jean, the present Prince Edward Island, he found the trees there "Marvellously beautiful and pleasant in odour—cedars, pines, yews, white elms, ash trees, willows and others unknown. Where the land was clear of trees it was good, and abounded in red and white gooseberries, peas, strawberries, raspberries, and wild corn, like rye, having almost the appearance of cultivation. The climate was most pleasant and warm. There were doves and pigeons and many other birds."

Since then North America has been settled almost entirely by peaceful pioneer groups and individuals, mainly seeking greater freedom, either civil or religious, or wider opportunities for economic advancement. They and their descendants have, in three centuries, transformed a continent. They found a wild waste of dismal swamp and gloomy forest, abode of stealthy savage and majestic deer; treeless plain, alternately scorched by summer's blistering sun and chilled by winter's bitter blast; dark forbidding mountain, temple of mystery. Where once the buffalo roamed in thundering millions the settler now garners crops of golden corn. The iron rail and metalled road displace the labored oar. Nature has been subdued and broken by the will of man, and today these wastes of yesterday provide the happy home of many millions. The cost in human toil and anguish of this, an accomplishment so stupendous, can be estimated only by such as reckon the vast number of those that shared the toil and now lie sleeping in Earth's bosom.

A settlement of Highland Scots is believed to have been made in North Carolina as early as 1739. Following the collapse of the rebellion in 1745, and the breaking down of the clan system, a great wave of emigration from the Highlands of Scotland set in. Fifty-four vessels full of emigrants from the Western Isles and the Highlands sailed for North Carolina between April and July, 1770. In 1772 the great Macdonald emigration began and lasted until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1776. Boswell in his "Journal of a

Entering the humble cottage of the early settler one found an abode of Arcadian simplicity. If at meal time, there might be half a dozen healthy blue-eyed children, with their parents, seated on planks around the rough board table. The simple fare consisted of potatoes and pickled herring or dried salt cod. Oatmeal porridge was the staple breakfast dish. It was many years later before wheat flour was used daily. In the meantime, barley and buckwheat varied the oatmeal diet. Many meals were partaken without forks and knives, and those in use were made generally of horn. The teapot was always on the hearth. The Scots were inordinately fond of tea and drank copious quantities of that beverage. As soon as a caller entered the house the kindly housewife, with unbounded hospitality, proffered a cup.

Of adornments there were none. The walls and ceilings were of untouched native wood. Later it was customary to whitewash the whole interior with slaked lime. This sanitary practice continued until wallpaper was introduced.

The bedstead consisted of a rough hewn frame on which lay a huge home-made linen tick, filled with grass, and in later years the choicest oat chaff. This made a warm, clean and comfortable resting place. At least once a year, at threshing, it was emptied and refilled. As a supply of chaff for ticks was stored in the barns they could be changed whenever the housewife so desired.

As domestic geese were raised in large numbers, feather ticks became common and the guest chamber was generally equipped with one. The houses were cold. The open chimney, although healthful, allowed most of the heat to pass off without tempering the air in the chilly rooms. Beside the fireplace hung the boot-jack, fashioned from the crotch of birch or maple, while over it rested an old Queen Anne rifle. Newspapers were unknown. Other books were rare, but the Gaelic Bible was in every home. By the fitful glow of the pine knot on the fireplace, the father read the nightly lesson from its sacred pages. All were warmly clothed. The men wore natural grey homespun, the women drugget. Their shoes were made in neighboring homes from cowhide tanned in the settlement. Well rubbed with warm sheep's tallow, they were impervious to water.

The settlers started at once cutting down the forest. "How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke." They reserved all

was soon established at Mount Buchanan. There Dr. Angus Macaulay set aside a parcel of land from his estate for a cemetery, and there that good man was buried. This burial-ground was called Cleachd an' leighaich (the Doctor's burying-ground).

The first person buried in it was one of the Doctor's infant children. It continued to be used by many families for years after the new churchyard beside the church was opened, and is used by some families today.

On the Macaulay tombstone in the Mount Buchanan burying-ground is the following inscription:—

In Memory of

ANGUS McAULAY, M.D.

Chaplain of H. Majesty's First West  
India Regiment.

He settled Belfast with emigrants  
from Scotland in the memorable ship  
"Polly" in 1803. He died Dec. 6,  
1827, aged 67 years.

Also his wife, Mary, died April 9,  
1857, aged 99, daughter of Samuel  
McDonald, of Sartle, Scotland, Capt.  
in H. Majesty's Army during the  
American Revolution.

The first person interred in the burial-ground about the Belfast church was, according to some, Mr. Beaton of Flat River, while others aver it was John Gillis of Orwell Cove. Almost as early must have been the following, to whose memory existing stones bear witness:—

ALEX. MACKENZIE

died Feb. 28, 1824, aged 76.

women and children could be usefully employed gathering slash from the cut-over land, when seasonal work failed. Only the wilfully idle had an easy time.

"Social conventions assumed a more important part in the life of the district as wealth increased. When the famous Highland minister, Roderick MacLeod (known as Maighstir Ruairidh), then visiting at the Nicholson home in Orwell, came down to breakfast in bare feet, the daughters of the house were so surprised at the strange sight that they ever recalled it with amusement.

"The early settlers had few holidays. Christmas passed unnoticed. New Year's Day was the great day of the year. On the Eve of that day 'striking parties,' composed of young folk of the district, armed with sticks, marched through the settlement. When they arrived at a house they surrounded it, and to the accompaniment of music from the sticks beating the log walls, vigorously sang a Gaelic refrain, which may be translated:—

Get up auld wife, and shake your feathers,  
Dinna think that we are beggars,  
We're jist bairns come oot to play,  
Get up and gie us oor hogmanay.

"If, as happened but rarely, there was no 'Scotch' on hand, they were given cakes. But these were poor substitutes for what they sought, and the eager haste with which they directed their fleet footsteps to the light beckoning from the nearest neighbors' window, revealed an intention to ignore substitutes, and an anxiety to slake their inherited thirst by the only means known to them and to their forefathers for generations. When the log houses were replaced by shingled ones, these parties were discouraged and finally abandoned.

"There was no market for farm produce. The result was that laborers were paid paltry wages, as the following entry in an old Minute Book will show: 'Dec. 20/61. Norman McPherson began working with John McQueen for three years to serve at rate £2 for first year, £2 4s. for second year and £4 for third, and if proves well gets £6 for third year.'

"We were as content with our lot then as we are today. We denied ourselves what we knew we could not afford. This was an

Roderick MacKenzie of Flat River. Never in my life have I met a woman of higher culture and greater charity than that wonderful woman. About her there centered to the end, which came only a few years ago, when she was over ninety-one years of age, the distinguished and charming family of sons and daughters, who gathered each summer at the old home, attracted by one of the most beautiful characters it has ever been my privilege to know."

The Mackenzies of Belfast as a clan were noted for nobility of looks and character. Even among them Mrs. MacLeod was pre-eminent.

Another interesting old lady, full of the lore of old Belfast, is Jessie, daughter of William MacLeod, of the Glashvin, Pinette family of that name. Her father fought in the Napoleonic Wars, and from his own lips she heard many romantic tales of stirring scenes in foreign lands. Although eighty-nine years of age her memory and hearing are unimpaired.

William Saighdear, as he was commonly called by his Gaelic speaking neighbors in Uigg and Orwell, was a sergeant in the 42nd Highlanders—the famous Black Watch. He enlisted when sixteen years of age, and continued with the colors for twenty-one years, when he was honorably discharged with several medals and a pension. After returning from the wars he married Catherine Macpherson. In 1831 the family emigrated to Uigg, P.E.I., and here in 1840 Jessie, the youngest and sole survivor of their ten children, was born. Her husband, Angus R. MacSwain, Lorne Valley, died a few years ago, and she now resides with her daughter, Christine A. Gurney. She is perhaps the only woman now living whose father fought at Corunna. She recently spoke of him as follows:

"He stood six feet three inches, and was a magnificent specimen of manhood. Skye gave many such men to the British Army. Their bravery did much to augment Britain's glory. He had many harrowing experiences in the Peninsular War, through which he fought under Sir John Moore and Wellington. On three occasions bullets were extracted from his body, and on one occasion he received a sabre wound in the shoulder. At Corunna he was left badly wounded on the field. An English officer and orderly came upon him. The orderly examined the wounded Highlander and told the officer that he was too far gone to do anything for him. On hearing this, father, turning

## PART II

### THE FOUNDING OF UIGG

In a little Minute Book in the custody of Samuel MacLeod, Uigg, in the handwriting of Malcolm MacLeod, K.C., a native of Uigg, is the following brief authoritative history of the founding of that district.

Uigg in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, was settled in the year 1829 and 1831 by immigrants from the Isle of Skye, Scotland. The immigrants of 1829 were chiefly from Uig, in Skye, and in memory of the place of their birth, they called their new home in the woods of Prince Edward Island, Uigg. The first map in this book shows the original farms and the names of their first permanent occupants. Beginning on the eastern side of the Murray Harbor Road (which was made through this settlement in 1828) and on the south side of the settlement, there are William MacPhee, Donald Kelly, James Campbell (who had bought out one Allan McDonald, called Allan MhacHamish), Norman MacLeod and Alexander Martin; who had entered into possession of their farms in 1827, James Campbell, however, only going into actual possession in 1829 as successor to Allan MhacHamish. Donald Ross and David Ross (whose father lived on the road crossing from Orwell to the Murray Harbor Road) had taken their farms but did not go into actual possession till a few years after 1829, probably 1833 or 1834. Roderick McLeod and John McLeod (with their father, Norman McLeod), Angus McDonald, James McLeod, Murdoch McLeod, Malcolm McKinnon and James McDonald, went into possession in 1829, the year in which they arrived from Skye. A few years afterwards the Rev. Samuel McLeod bought and entered on the north half of James McDonald's farm. Michael Chisholm, whose people were from Strathglass, near Inverness, was several years later in coming. To the westward of the Road were Donald Gordon, Donald McDonald and William McLeod (known as Ulliam Sceighdear), who arrived from Skye in 1831. Donald Shaw was born in Pinette on this Island, and he and John Matheson (from Skye also) went on their farms about 1833. The farm marked Fletcher was originally occupied and before 1829,

THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF BELFAST ATTENDED THE BELFAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Malcolm James MacLeod (Dal. Princ.), Minister, Collegiate Reformed Church of St. Nicholas, Fifth Ave., N.Y.

Hector MacLeod, banker, Hutchinson, Kansas.

David W. Mackenzie (Dal.), M.D., Royal Vict. Hosp., Montreal.

Ewen Mackenzie (Dal.), Barrister-at-law, Lethbridge.

Harry Mackenzie (Dal.), Barrister-at-law, Charlottetown.

Kenneth J. Martin (Dal.), Barrister-at-law, Charlottetown.

Donald C. Martin (Dal.), ex-M.P., Barrister-at-law, Charlottetown.

Daniel A. Macdonald,\* C.J., Court of King's Bench, Manitoba.

Angus A. McLean, Barrister-at-law, ex-M.P., Charlottetown.

Hector C. Macdonald (McGill), ex-Atty. Gen. P.E.I., late County Court Judge, Charlottetown.

Robert Anderson, ex-Mayor of Vancouver.

Angus MacSwain (McGill, Harv. Edin., and Lond.), M.D., Santa Clara, Cal.

James Nicholson, ex-M.P., Eldon.

John A. Nicholson (McGill), Registrar, McGill Univ., Montreal.

Daniel Macdonald, M.D., North Pinette.

John D. MacLean (McGill), M.D., ex-Premier of B.C., Victoria.

Donald A. Macdonald (Dal. and Yale) Minister, Point Prim.

Archibald Murchison, Minister, Point Prim.

John Murchison (Lane Theo. Sem.), Point Prim.

Dr. Beaton (Dartmouth), Flat River.

Dr. Riley (U. of Penn.), Flat River.

Daniel McDonald, M.D., New York City.

Whitfield Larrabie (Harvard), M.D., Eldon.

Margaret Eliza Mackenzie (Dal.), M.D., Pinette.

Florence McDonald (Trinity), M.D., Pinette.

Annie D. McRae (Trinity), M.D., Pinette.

Annie McRae, M.D., Los Angeles (Ponds, Belfast).

Roderick C. McRae (Dal.), C.E., Chicago.

Donald McRae, Belfast.

Annie Young, M.D., Pinette, Dean of Schools, Florida.

\*Son of Capt. Alexander Macdonald (and his wife, Mary MacRae), son of Hector Macdonald (and his wife, a sister of Angus MacLean), son of Findlay Macdonald, who emigrated to Belfast, in 1805 on the brig "Ruther," from Mull, Scotland.

### PART III

#### THE MUNROS OF ORWELL, ALBERRY PLAINS, AND LORNE VALLEY

It is believed that the ancestors of this family emigrated from Caithness or adjoining county, to Skye at an early period. George Munro, the "fair miller," or "miller of Strath," in Skye, is believed to have married Jessie Nicholson, with issue, among others:

- I. **ANDREW**, an officer in the naval service, taken prisoner by the Barbary pirates, escaped and subsequently went to South America;
- II. **JOHN**, married Fanny, daughter of Capt. Kenneth Macdonald of Cuidrach, living in 1842 at Grantown, Inverness-shire, with issue, among others:
  - ANDREW**, at that date serving with his regiment at Cape of Good Hope, and on August 13, 1862, living with his mother and his aunt, Mary Macdonald, in Forres, Scot.
  - GEORGE**, married to Miss Donaldson, with issue: four sons and three daughters, living on August 13, 1862, and for thirty years prior thereto, in Dundee, Scotland;
  - KENNETH**, married, with issue, living in Grantown, Strathspey, Scotland, in August, 1862;
- III. **JAMES**, born in Skye in or about 1768. In 1785 and 1786 he entered as a medical student at the University of Edinburgh, and took classes in Chemistry, Anatomy, Surgery and Practical Medicine. The complete course of medical instruction at Universities and Colleges in Scotland at that time was two years. There was no Medical Licensing Board regulating who should practice medicine, and anyone could practice that profession, male or female, trained or untrained. Not until 1858 was there state supervision of Medicine. After that no unqualified person could pose as a "Doctor." In 1786 he began the practice of his profession in his native





JACOBINA MUNRO CRAWFORD

The MacHamish MacLeods who at one time lived on Farm 10, now part of John MacLeod's farm, were notable for their great size. Their average height was about six feet two inches. James was six feet five, Roderick six feet four, Alexander six feet two, Christy, Mary and another sister were all about six feet. They moved to the U.S.A. in the eighties.

Alexander MacLean, miller, Montague River, who came from Skye in 1829, died December 10, 1878, aged 80. His wife Margaret Macdonald d. April 13, 1899, aged 68. Their daughter Catherine, wife of John Macqueen, died when about 96.

On the triangular parcel of land near the Baptist Church lived Alexander Nicholson. One of his sons was Rev. Alexander B. Nicholson (b. 1845) for many years professor of Classics at Queen's University, Kingston. Another son, John, was a banker, in Ellis, Kansas.

In Orwell lives Mrs. Samuel Jardine, daughter of the faithful Frederick Augustus Kidson,\* for many years minister of the Baptist churches at Uigg and Belfast, died South Maitland, N.S., July 3, 1912, aged 83. Edith one of her seven daughters lives with her.

Norman Murdoch MacLeod of Uigg, later of Orwell River, and his wife, who was Miss MacLean of Portage, Belfast, moved to Charlottetown where in partnership with J. D. MacLeod he carried on an extensive grocery business. His daughter Mary (d. Sept. 1929), after graduating in music in Paris, France, married Dr. Macdonald, Calgary. Marion is wife of Dr. G. F. Dewar, Charlottetown, Maud is widow of Dr. Stuart Carruthers, Catherine lives in Charlottetown. Murdoch, Sidney and Milton live in Alberta.

Peter Gordon of Uigg, brother of Rachel and Margaret Gordon, was father of J. A. Gordon, M.A., D.D. (b. June 24, 1844), the distinguished and eloquent Baptist minister, now of Montreal, who was the centennial orator at Uigg, 1929. The latter is father of: Alva H. Gordon, one of the leading physicians of Montreal; Peter W. of Hamilton; Herbert of Ottawa, and John P., who, with Samuel MacLeod, owns the well known dry goods firm, Moore and MacLeod, Charlottetown.

\*Son of Samuel Augustus Kidson, of Hereford, England.