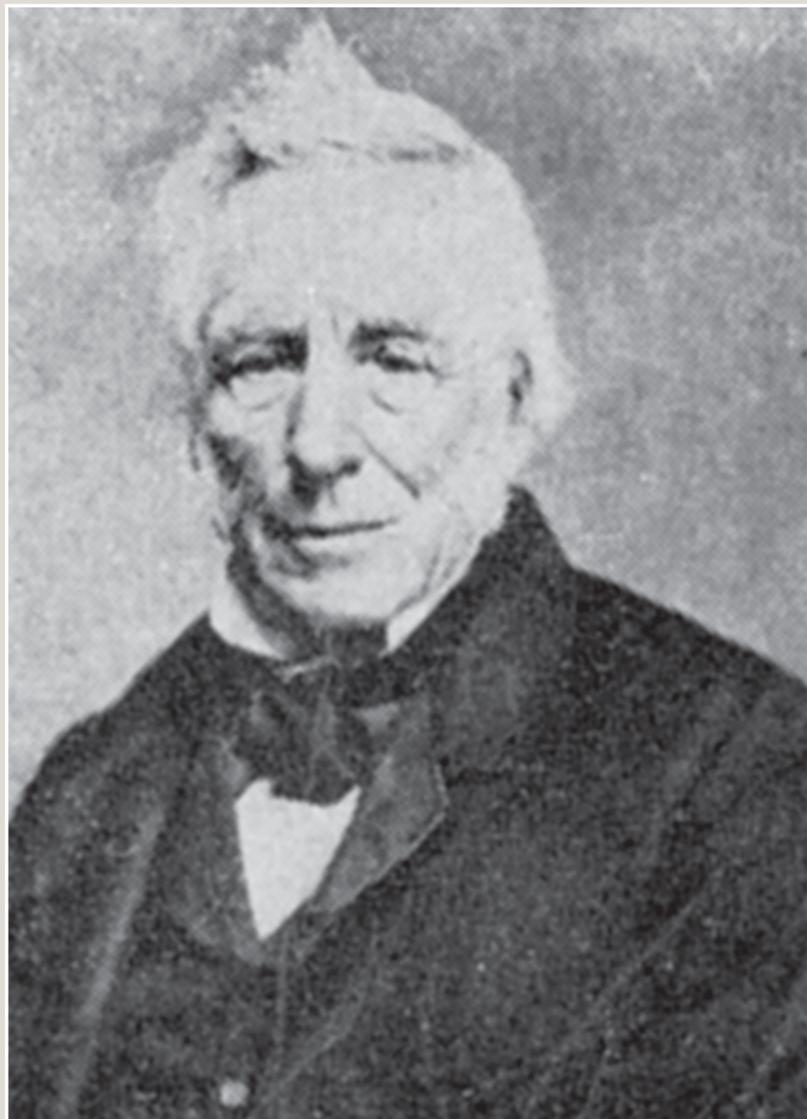


PROMINENT FAMILIES OF THE PERIOD

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD MACDONALD 1788-1872



Captain Archibald Macdonald

WHO HE WAS:

Archibald Macdonald entered the military at age 16 in the 35th Regiment of Foot and saw active service during the Napoleonic Wars. In Corfu he was put in charge of a plague camp where **he earned much praise for his zeal and ability**. After settling in Cobourg he was made a colonel in the 2nd Regiment on the Northumberland Militia.

HOW HE GOT HERE:

In 1819 Captain Macdonald received 800 acres in Asphodel Township north of Rice Lake. While clearing his land he severely injured his leg. While in Cobourg recovering, he learned he would never be healed sufficiently to carry on a rigorous pioneer life. This led him to buy a cleared farm east of town.

WHAT HE DID HERE:



Catherine Boswell Macdonald

Recovering in Cobourg, he met his wife Catherine (1804-1881), daughter of another half-pay officer, Captain Walter Boswell. According to family tradition, before she knew him **she once taunted this "lazy fellow"**, unaware of his injury. Apparently he took up the challenge! He brought her to his farm, named Marina, which happened to be directly east of her father's.

Macdonald and his father-in-law did not agree in their political views. Macdonald identified with the reformers like Robert Baldwin who were seeking political reform but not rebellion.

Macdonald was well-connected in the colony.

- His sister Magdalen was the wife of Sir William McGillivray, senior partner of the North West Company.
- His brother John Macdonald of Garth was a well-known fur trader in the same company.
- His sister Helen was the wife of Sir Archibald Campbell, one time Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

Macdonald devoted most of his time to his farm, his various business interests and his family of 12 children. But he also **found time to serve as a member of the House of Assembly and a magistrate.** Having moderate reform views Macdonald experienced both the popularity of being elected to the Assembly and, on occasion, the discouragement of being shouted down by his fellow citizens.

In addition to his involvement in the Militia, Macdonald was a director of both the Northumberland Agricultural Society and the Cobourg Harbour Company.

When the Macdonalds first moved into their farm house it was a small frame dwelling built by the pioneer Ash family. Archibald and Catherine enlarged it considerably until it was a five-bay two-storey frame house with a hipped roof. Located at the mouth of Factory Creek, the house eventually fell victim to erosion by Lake Ontario's waves and was slowly washed away.



Catherine Boswell Macdonald