

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.