

THE TOWNSHIP OF WESTMINSTER

(copied from McColl, H. Some Sketches of the Early Highland Pioneers of the County of Middlesex, Gaelic Society of Toronto. 1904)

Next to Deleware this is the oldest settled township in the county. Lieutenant Governor Simcoe and his party in the course of their journey through Western Ontario in 1793, camped one night at Westminster ponds. The survey was commenced in 1809-10 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor Simon T.Z. Watson, continued by Col. Mahlon Burwell in 1812, and finished by Col. Bostwick in 1820. Albert S. Odell, John Odell and James Lester. But as far as can be learned, there were not for many years any Highland settlers.

Miss Flora McColl, one of the prominent teachers of East Middlesex, contributes some valuable sketches of the early Highland ~~men~~ pioneers of this township. There were comparatively few of them and the dividing line was the sixth concession. South of that and bordering Yarmouth, the majority were Highlanders from Argyleshire and Invernesshire. The names, places of origin in Scotland, and date of settlement of the following are given: John Munro, Melford, Argyleshire, 1831, with sons Malcolm, Archibald, John, the last now living aged 80, with sons, Cr. George, Hohn architect, Kenneth and Edward; Colin and Duncan Ferguson, Melford, 1832; Wm. Buchanan, Lochgilhead, 1832, son Malcolm now on ~~old~~ homestead; Duncan McDougall, Kintyre, 1832, grandson on the old farm; Donald and Duncan Crawford, Lochgilhead, 1832; Ales McCallum, Craignish, 1836; Donald and W John McGregor, Perthshire, 1836, left in 1890, son James came to Caradoc; Peter Smith, Lochgilhead, 1836, died in 1885 at 86; Hector and Arch Cameron, Lochgilhead, 1836; Samuel, Malcolm and Donald McColl, Kilmorrie, Ardnamurchan, came to Lower Canada in 1827, and to Westminster in 1837, Malcolm's son Duncan, is on old farm at Glanworth, and John S. McColl, ~~and~~ adopted son of Samuel's is on his old farm; Wm. Hair and sons, Arch and James, Kintyre, 1838; David and Duncan McGill, 1838; John McColl, father of Duncan McColl (Chatechist) Ardnamurchan, 1841, with four sons and three daughters; Archibald McLachlan, Argyleshire, 1845; Duncan McPherson, W Carradaie, Kintyre, Argyleshire, with his sons Arch, Hugh, John and Dugald, 1848.

Alex McCallum died five years ago. In his family were seven sons, all remarkably clever, four of whome were Doctors of Medicine and one a civil engineer. Only two survive, Dr. Hugh McCallum, of London, who has a very large practice, and is a professor in the Western University, and Professor A.B. McCallum, of Toronto University, who ~~is~~ is a reconized authority in physiological researches, not only in Canada and the United States, but also in Great Britain.