

EARLY ISLAND SETTLERS

The first settlers to the Island were United Empire Loyalists. Descendants of these first settlers are still on the Island. A list of early United Empire Loyalist families as taken from Mr. Herrington's History of Lennox and Addington include the following names as first settlers on the Island - Hitchen, Howard, Instant, McKenty, McGuinness, MacDonald, McMullen, Richards and Wemp. The United Empire Loyalist families settled near "The Head" of the Island.

The next settlers were Irish and they settled near "The Foot" of the Island. The same source gives this list of Irish families who became early settlers on Amherst Island - Allen, Burleigh, Cochrane, Cousin, Gibson, Girvin, Glen, McQuoid, Paterson, Preston and Saunders.

Mr. H.W. Moutray, first resident agent on the Island, can be considered of double importance - first, because of his kindly, understanding and helpful manner of dealing with the people of the Island and secondly, because his ancestry can be traced back to 1060. His family are direct descendants of Robert II and Robert the Bruce of Scotland. The family tree also shows that had Henry VIII died childless they would have been in direct line for the throne of England.

A pioneer missionary, the Rev. John Langhorn from Kingston, held the first religious services on the Island; Rev. Langhorn represented the Anglican Church.

Rev. McLeise of Ulster held the first Presbyterian services but the Rev. Mr. Cumberland is probably the most noted of that church's preachers on the Island.

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson was responsible for the building of the first Methodist Church on the Island.

Prominent early teachers were - Robert Burleigh, George Wright, John Robb and Miss Moffat.

The Canadian artist, Mr. Daniel Fowler, had his residence near "The Head" of Amherst Island.

Samuel Pentland who died in 1831 is believed to be the first white person buried on the Island. His grave is in the old Pentland Cemetery.

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