

Some Notes on the Family of George McGinness, U.E.L.

Ms Catherine Evans, a direct descendant of this family has provided me with some interesting material.

As a United Empire Loyalist, George McGinness, who had fought with Sir John Johnson in the war of American Independence, was entitled to a grant of 200 acres of crown land. Each of his children had the same entitlement when they reached legal age. Among the papers I received are copies of the petition of George, in 1782, and of his daughter, Catherine, in 1817. George was granted lot 11 in Ernesttown, and later donated some of this land for the building of St John's Church and Cemetery in Bath. Catherine's lot was in Violet.

George subsequently settled on Amherst Island, where early maps show some of his sons. In 1879, there is a copy of a document, witnessed by R.A. Fowler, ^{which} records a deed of land to "The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario" by William George McGinness and Caroline McGinness (a great grandson and his mother, Caroline Howard) of lot 12 in the first Concession of Amherst Island for \$1.00. This is the site of the Emerald Anglican Church, now St. Bartholomew's Catholick Church. The home of Delbert McGinness, to my knowledge the last of that surname on the Island, was to the west of this site beside the Daniel Fowler house. The building is presently neglected and owned by someone in Toronto.

William George McGinness was married to Rachel Eva Howard and they were the parents of Annie, who married Kenneth Miller. They were the parents of Stuart Miller and his sisters, Anna Wlasuk and Gwen Lauret. Annie's sister, Ethell, married Royal Wemp, and their son Wallace, married Catherine Filson. The youngest son of the family was Delbert, who married Mavis McGinn. Their children were Harold, Jean, Robert Delbert, Judy and Cindy.. It is interesting to note that William George's wife was a Howard, as were also his mother and grandmother. Other Island names I note in the geneological tables: McMullen, Taylor, McKay, Hopper, Baker, DeForest.

George's daughter, Catherine, married George McLeod whose name appears on the early maps of Amherst Island drafted by Tom Sylvester. In 1841, according to a copy of another legal paper sent to me, George McLeod sold to Stephen Mont Cashel, for the sum of 1000 pounds, "lots 24, the west half of lot 25, and the near of lot 27 on the north of said Island on the shore of the Bay of Quinte". At the same time his wife, Catherine, yielded her dower rights. This land is known as the Glebe and is to the west of the dump road by a road allowance leading to the Hamilton place. Catherine Evans is the Great-great-grand daughter of George and Catherine McLeod, She writes that her great-great grandfather had a cottage on this land and his oldest grand-daughter, Eva, used to row across to Millhaven every Friday evening during the summer to pick up her father from a stage coach.

Thank you Mrs. Evans, for this interesting look at History.

Leslie Barber

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