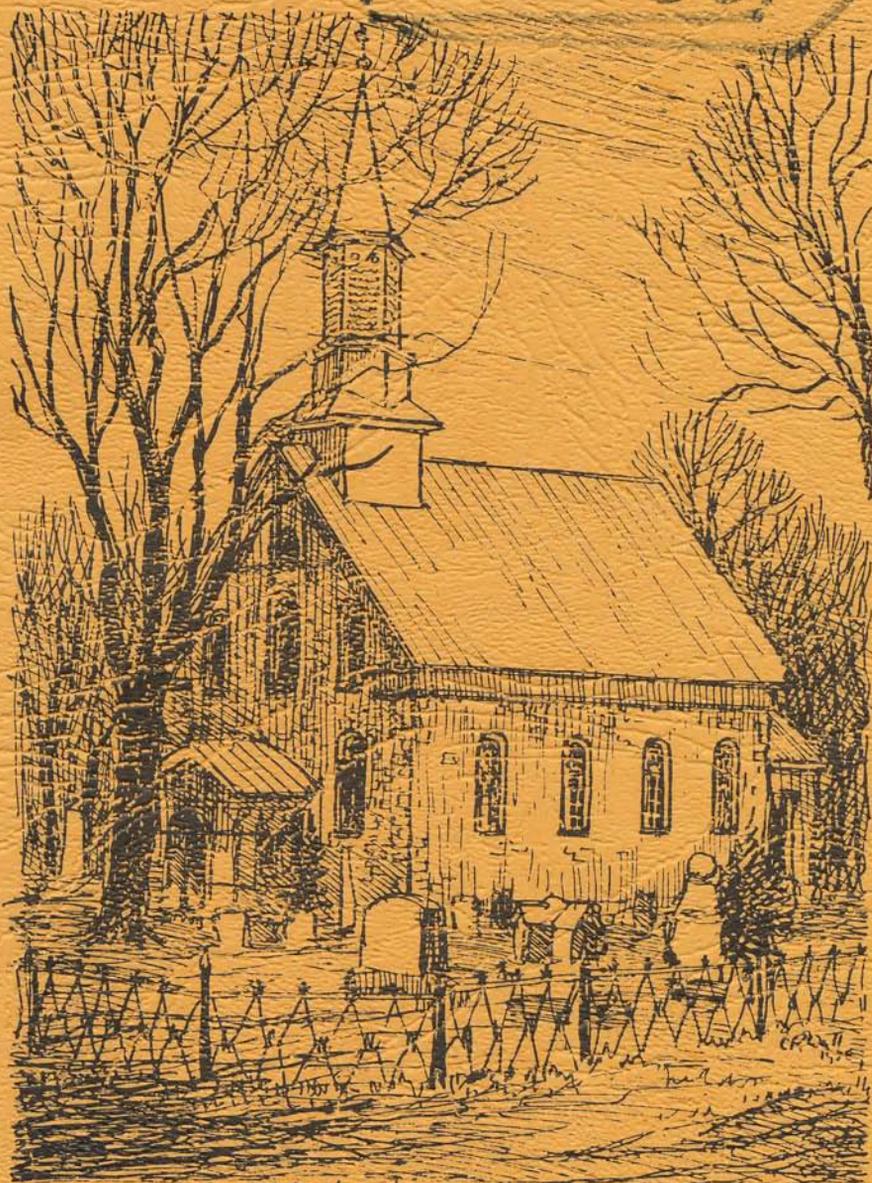


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St Andrew's Williamstown

*Glengarry Historical Society 1987*

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### GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Society assumes no responsibilities for the statements or opinions of authors or various articles.

## INTRODUCTION

Letters, penned by knowledgeable persons, in some cases in incredible situations, have often become valuable material for later historical research. Two illustrations may be given. Soon after the 1939-45 World War, a little book, 'Letters and Papers from Prison', was published. Its author was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the son of a distinguished Berlin neurologist and psychiatrist, and considered to be one of the ablest and most promising theologians in Europe before the war. His criticism of Hitler and his involvement in underground opposition to the Nazi programmes led to restrictions on his freedom and eventually to his arrest. During the final two years of the conflict, he suffered not only the privations of a Berlin prison but also the increasing ordeals of the Allied bomber raids and then, in the final month, execution by the retreating Nazi army. All through this testing time, Dietrich had been in touch with his family and friends through letters often smuggled out of the prison by sympathetic wardens and orderlies. At the end of the war, the value of these letters was soon evident. Amazingly, Bonhoeffer through his contacts had an intimate knowledge of events, not only in the German armed services and in the plots to assassinate Hitler, but also of the progress of the Allied war efforts. As a chaplain with R.C.A.F. overseas, I kept a diary and I have often compared its contents with Bonhoeffer's letters. To my surprise, it is evident that the imprisoned Bonhoeffer day by day was far better acquainted with what was happening. It is little wonder that his 'Letters and Papers from Prison' have been prized by research students in many fields of study.

My other illustration has a Canadian setting. More recently, some letters of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of the popular 'Anne of Green Gables' and other books, were published under the title, "My dear Mr. M: Letters to G.B. MacMillan". MacMillan was a Scottish newspaper writer whom she and her husband, the Rev. Ewen MacDonald, met while they were in Scotland on their honeymoon in 1911. Montgomery's letters, written between 1903 and 1941 and long unrevealed to the reading public, manifest the full range of her interests - domestic concerns as well as her professional literary career, and of course her love for Prince Edward Island. For my part, her so-called 'Leakdale Letters', 1911-26, have a special interest in that quite a few of her books were penned on a dining room table in the Leakdale Manse, familiar to me from visits during 1948-52, while my brother, Eldred, was minister in Leakdale, Ontario.

The members of the Editorial Committee of 'Glengarry Life' are to be commended for publishing from time to time letters related to the early years of the Glengarry area. It is to be wished that a great many more may yet be discovered and made available. No doubt, each one of us has his own particular wishes on this theme. For my part, it seems to me that there would be most interesting reading in letters between three early Glengarry ecclesiastics who probably knew each other far better than most of us realize — the Rev. John Bethune, Williamstown; the Rev. John Strachan, Cornwall; and the Rev. Alexander Macdonell, St. Raphaels. Or again, a series of letters between Mary (Mrs. Daniel) Gordon, Indian Lands, and her sister, Margaret Robertson, Montreal, would be very enlightening concerning life in the northern parts of Glengarry in the years, 1853-71.

Dr. D.N. MacMillan

# HIS COMING WAS LIKE THE SOUND OF BAGPIPES

Edgar Andrew Collard

Two centuries ago this month there was a stir among the Scots of Montreal. A Highland minister, Rev. John Bethune, had arrived. His coming roused the Scots like the sound of the bagpipes. At last they could look forward to having a congregation of their own — a congregation of Presbyterians.

Until that month of March 1786, Montreal's Scots had been attending the only church they could — the Anglican church that today is Christ Church Cathedral. Anglicanism, in the eyes and hearts of Scottish Presbyterians, was no substitute for their own kirk.

In Montreal the substitute was all the more unsatisfactory because they could not really understand what the preacher was trying to say. The clergyman in charge of the Anglican congregation was Rev. Charles Chabrand Delisle, a native of France. He had been chosen by the government as the minister for Montreal's Protestants.

This odd choice had an explanation. The government hoped he might be influential in converting the French-Canadians to Protestantism.

The trouble was that Rev. Chabrand Delisle, though French-speaking was not really bilingual. When he preached in English, as he often insisted on doing, he was incomprehensible. Nor could he easily understand English when he heard it.

When a true Highland preacher arrived in town, bilingual in English and Gaelic, the Scots rallied to him. They rapidly left the Anglican congregation to form a Presbyterian one.

Support for John Bethune was certainly liberal. Much of it came from the Scots who were partners in the Northwest Company — the fur-trading company, headquartered in Montreal, that had established a trading empire from Lake Superior to the Pacific, and from the sources of the Mississippi to the Arctic Ocean. On the subscription list, donations of 10 guineas (a substantial amount in the money value of 200 years ago) stands opposite the name of each of the "Gentlemen of the Northwest Company".

The first service of the Presbyterian congregation took place in a room on Notre Dame St. on March 12, 1786, 200 years ago.

Rev. John Bethune had everything Montreal's Presbyterians could wish for in a minister. He was a true Highland Scot, born on the remote, historic Isle of Skye. He was a Gaelic-speaking man, "well schooled" at the University of Aberdeen. Hardships in the Highlands had driven him, as they had driven so many other Scots, to emigrate to North America.

After settling with some 2,000 Scots from Skye, in North Carolina, he made his choice when the American Revolution broke out in 1775. Loyal to the Crown, he became the chaplain to a regiment of Loyalists. Defeated in battle, he was among the prisoners of war.

When released he went to loyal Nova Scotia. There he helped to raise another regiment, the Royal Highland Emigrants, and was appointed chaplain to the first battalion.

He served with his regiment in Quebec, when an American army of invasion, commanded by Gen. Richard Montgomery, was repulsed in its attempt to take the city on the last night of 1775.

His record certainly commended itself to the Scots of Montreal. So did his character.

He was described as "a man of noble countenance", with the self-possession that characterized Presbyterian ministers, a sense of "the dignity of the cloth".

When he died, 29 years later, the Gazette said, "Mr. Bethune was a man remarkable for the mildness and agreeableness of his manners, but at no time deficient in that spirit which is requisite for the support of a Christian and gentleman. He understood what was due to 'the powers that be', without losing sight of that respect that was due to himself".

From March 12, 1786, until May 6, 1787, Rev. John Bethune preached in that room on Notre Dame, St. He then left for Upper Canada.

Whatever considerations may have influenced his decision, one was probably greater than all others. He had a large and growing family. It amounted in the end to nine children — six sons and three daughters. The responsibility of caring for his family weighed upon him.

He had few resources, having lost everything through his loyalty in the American Revolution. In one way, and in one way only, could he hope to provide for every member of his family.

Bethune, like all veterans, was entitled to land grants from the Crown for his military service. Having been an army chaplain, his award would be equal to that of a captain — 3,000 acres. What was more, all his children (whether born or born later) could receive grants.

Bethune made his claim. The land granted him was at Williamstown, in the Glengarry region of Upper Canada. At the time, it was rough bushland, but bushland with a potential. It was certain to rise in value, as settlement spread.

Bethune's sons all did well, some even achieving places of their own in history. John and Neil joined the Anglican Church. John became dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal and principal of McGill University. Neil became bishop of Toronto. Angus went into the fur trade — at first as a partner of the Northwest Company, then as a chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

A great-grandson was Dr. Norman Bethune, world-renowned for the medical creativeness of his services on battlefields in Spain and China.

Rev. John Bethune's move from Montreal to Glengarry in 1787 by no means meant that he was giving up the ministry for the sake of the land. On the contrary, he entered upon a new ministry under even harsher conditions.

In fact, the range of his ministry had widened immensely in addition to Williamstown itself, he ministered in Martintown, Cornwall and Lancaster. He even went into the borderlands of Lower Canada — into Coteau and Dundee.

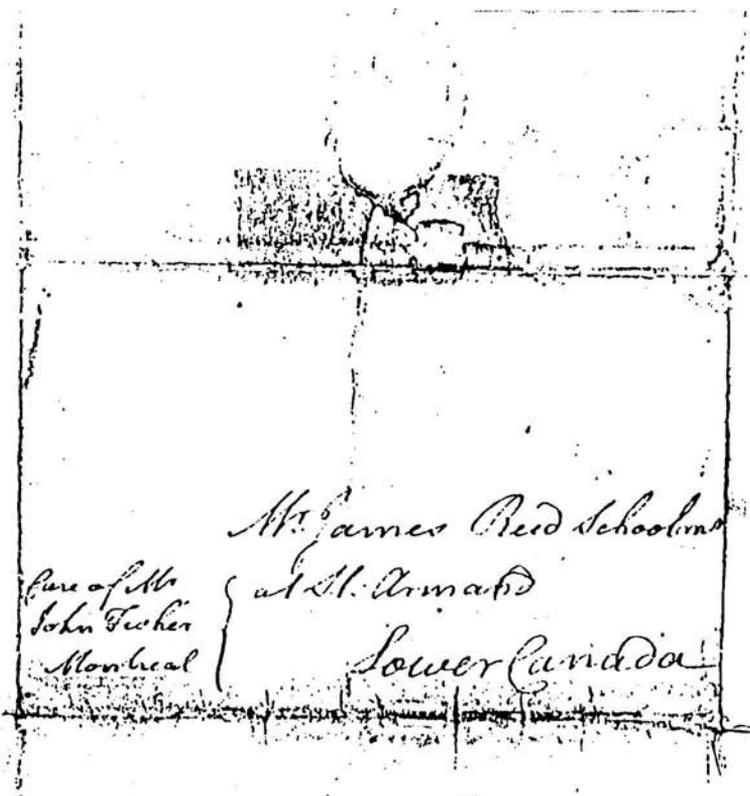
He was a Presbyterian version of the saddlebag preacher, riding rough country roads or wilderness trails. The extent of his ministry is seen in the records. After moving to Glengarry, he performed 200 baptisms.

He was exacting on himself and expected action from his people "No excuse can.....be sustained from want of means", he said. "The only real want there can be is want of will".

In the war of 1812, when the frontier was menaced by American invasion, he reverted to his old role as an army chaplain. He accompanied the force that crossed over the frozen St. Lawrence to destroy the fort at Ogdensburg in the state of New York.

Rev. John Bethune died at Williamstown on Sept. 23, 1815, "in the 66th year of his age and the 44th of his ministry".

This article first appeared in Montreal Gazette and is reprinted by their kind permission and that of the author.



SECTION OF THE WRITING PAPER USED FOR THE ADDRESS  
(not unlike a modern airmail letter in the way of folding)

THIS LETTER BEARS THE SIGNATURE OF THE  
REV. MR. BETHUNE

Dear Sir

Glengary 10<sup>th</sup> June 1843

I have just time to acquaint you, by a woman of this Village going to Montreal for the benefit of her health, that I have this day received of Messrs. Pilon Mac Arthur & Hugh Mac Donald, on your account, £20..6..10, which shall be sent to Mr John Fitch & Montreal, by the first safe conveyance, in order to be forwarded to Mr Quiter of Missions de St. Jean, according to your desire. The present opportunity being only a sickly help-less woman, I do not think an eligible one to send money by. I am sorry the payment has been, both tardy & short of the balance, you had a right to expect, last winter. As for the instalment due on that of last month, you may suppose from the delinquency in this payment, that none of it is collected. Seven or eight subscribers have not yet paid a single shilling.

Our Highlanders are not fond of paying money, even when they have it; - are, of course, rather negligent in providing for the payment of their debts. Archibald McArthur one of the Trustees, & several other individuals died this spring, of the pleuritic fever which prevailed during the winter. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of last Nov. I have lost no fewer than twenty-two grown persons in my congregation, chiefly in Charaltonburg. We never had so many deaths before, in three years - with but comparatively few Mr Reid, Esq. in am. & Mr

Mr Reid.

Yours very humbly  
John Bethune

The original of this document is to be found in the Registry Office in Alexandria, Ont. It deals with a grant of land from Sir John Johnson to Niel McLean to be used as a fairground site at Williamstown.

Transcription see page 9.

N<sup>o</sup> 50

A Memorial to be registered Pursuant  
to the laws of the Province of Upper Canada  
of an Indenture bearing date the twenty  
fifth day of June — in the year of our Lord one  
thousand eight hundred and fourteen —

Between Sir John Johnson of the City of Mon.  
~~that is to say~~ in law a sole  
Proprietor of the one part, and Niel McLean  
Sheriff of the Eastern district in the Province  
of Upper Canada of the other part  
Witnesing to be a deed of gift of certain  
certain parcel or tract of land, situate in the  
Village of Williamstown, containing by  
admeasurement about twelve acres, Statute  
Law, ~~more or less~~ ~~but not less than~~  
and may be more or less.

Beginning at a boundary mark of stone at  
the South easterly corner of the land of the  
said Alexander McHarris Esquire, from thence  
South 84 degrees East along John street  
12 chains 84 links to a boundary mark of  
stone from thence along the street boundary line  
to the school lot (number 106) North  
44 degrees East, 3 chains 50 links to a  
boundary mark of stone, thence North  
24 degrees West, 24 chains to a boundary mark  
of stone, thence South 84 degrees West, 12 chains  
more or less to a boundary mark of stone, thence  
along the Easterly line of the land of the said  
Alexander McHarris Esquire, South 44 degrees

Recorded Oct 9 1855  
of Aug 1855  
Lib. A  
Vol. 106  
Page 106  
of the Province of Upper Canada  
the 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of August  
1855  
Registry

...but in the year 1719 in regard to the  
proceedings of extending from the river  
to the river. Together with all and singular  
the hereditaments and appurtenances there-  
unto in any way belonging and the roads  
and passages, remainder & remainments,  
rights and profits of all and in subject the  
premises and every part and parcel  
To Have and to Hold the said premises  
the appurtenances unto the said Sir  
M<sup>r</sup> L<sup>ord</sup> Sheriff and his successors  
in said office, in trust for the party  
for the purpose of holding a fair and  
the said village of Williamsstown and  
for the use of the said

Which said Indenture is witnessed  
by Alexander W<sup>m</sup> Kinge of Williamsstown  
in the County of Albany  
in the Eastern District of New York  
James and Esq<sup>r</sup> and Elizabeth  
Governor of New York in the  
of Lower Canada

Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of

I do hereby certify that I have read  
my hand and seal this twenty fifth  
June 1815

Signed & sealed in the presence of } John Thomas

Alexr. McKim

Wigwotok Bevine

Alexander McKim gave and subscribed  
my witness to this Memorial and the dies  
of Benjamin F. Smith to which it relates  
on the eighteenth day of July 1815 that  
saw both duly executed  
A. McKim

Witnessed  
Benjamin F. Smith  
John Thomas

To  
A. McKim Esq  
Dated 25 June 1815

PROPERTY OF THE  
REGISTRY OFFICE

Filed June 25 1815

No. 50 A Memorial to be registered Pursuant to the laws of the Province of Upper Canada of an Indenture bearing date the twenty-fifth day of June - in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen - between Sir John Johnson of the City of Montreal in the Province of Lower Canada, Baronet, of the one part and Niel McLean Sheriff of the Eastern District in the Province of Upper Canada aforesaid of the other part. Purporting to be a deed of Gift of all that certain parcel or tract of land situated in the Village of Williamstown, containing by admeasurement twelve acres - - - and - , and may be described as follows. Beginning at a Boundary mark of stone at the South easterly corner of the land of Alexander McKenzie Esquire, from thence 87 degrees. East along John street 10 chains, 87 links to a Boundary mark of stone, from thence along the West Boundary line of the school lot (Number Twenty). North 11 degrees, East, 3 chains fifty links to a Boundary mark of stone. Thence North 24 degrees, West, 24 chains to a Boundary mark of stone, thence South 66 degrees, West, 12 chains more or less to a Boundary mark of stone and then along the Easterly line of the land of the said Alexander McKenzie Esquire, south 24 degrees, east to the place of beginning, with the privilege of extending from John street to the River. Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto in any will belonging and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, issues and profit of all and singular, the said premises and of every part and parcel thereof. To have and to hold the said deeds with the appurtenances unto, the said Niel McLean, Sheriff and his successors in said office, in trust for the purpose of holding a fair in the said Village of Williamstown and for - - whatsoever.

Which said indenture is witnessed by Alexander McKenzie, of Williamstown in the County of Glengarry in the Eastern District of Upper Canada Esq. and Elizabeth Brenier (?) of Argenteuil in the Province of Lower Canada, is hereby required to be registered by Sir John Johnson, the grantor to the said Indenture mentioned. In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my hand and seal this twenty-fifth day of June 1814.

Signed and Sealed in }  
the presence of

John Johnson

Alex. D. McKenzie  
Elizabeth Brenier

Alexander MacKenzie Esquire, one of the subscribing witnesses to this Memorial and the Deed of Bargain and Sale to which it relates, given on the Eighteenth day of July 1815 that he saw both duly Executed,

D. MacDonell. Registrar.

Recorded at 9 o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday the 19th day of July 1815

Lib. A. Folios 106 & 107. D. MacDonell Registrar.

Indian Land Glenarry  
July 15<sup>th</sup> 1819.

Dear Brother

I Rec. your letter three months  
after date. with great pleasure to hear  
of all your well things. I have  
reason to be thankful for the good  
health I enjoy since I came to  
this country. James Anderson, and  
Betts our sister is my well. They  
have got a girl added to their family  
in Dec. 1818 named Janet. I have  
200 acres of land for myself  
and another 200 for you beside  
myself, and if you intend to come  
to possess it the sooner the better.  
I will advise you to come forward  
I will not but this I tell you  
that I am satisfied and content  
in this place beside when in  
Scotland and much more so

You may consider yourself that  
coming here is a long journey and  
one does not know what trouble or  
fatigue people may meet with on  
the way. As for my ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> part I did

not meet with any thing to cause  
trouble or fatigue or any that came  
along with me. but that is not the  
case with everyone that comes here  
for everyone has their own luck.  
As for to advise my aunt to  
come here I do not well know  
what to say, for young people  
if they think will have pleasure  
here. but as for persons of her  
time of life they cannot expect  
to see much pleasure in this place.

I believe it will be hard enough  
for her to part with you and stay  
behind so I think you should  
stick together. You know that  
yourself. with regard to the Gospel  
we have no sermons nearer than  
Ten miles as yet, but expect it  
nearer by and by, but there is  
- Sabbath meetings regular kept  
here and there within this neighborhood  
I am as yet working at my trade and  
whatever comes in my way. I did not  
clear any of my own land yet, but I  
intend to go to it shortly now. I have  
got no Beasts yet, people will come  
in to kill them as they can by degrees.  
Jas. Andersons has got two cows, two  
oxen and about five acres cleared.  
Let me know where Janet and her

husband is and how they do.

You will bring your needs from 12 porter to 45 porter. bring also your temples and shuttles all iron work is very dear here so you will better bring with you whatever your loom requires. endeavour to furnish yourself well with bed and body clothes especially wearing clothes. woollen clothes is high in price here, as for linen it is little used here for it stands no time in this place. Check shirting is commonly used, made of wool.

As for your voyage, again you will provide a good quantity of oat meal for you will not lose it - suppose you <sup>wish</sup> have some to spare landing. This will also be useful while at sea. a little old cheese, butter, tea & sugar, whiskey, potatoes and sowans and such light-meat as that. Now if you intend to come forward it will be your interest to come as soon as you can, and if not let me know. that I may dispose of the land for at least me two dollars, and three bushels of wheat yearly dues or rent, therefore if you will not come I'll sell it for

The money will be useful to myself  
I shall now proceed to answer your  
questions concerning the wild beasts  
you mentioned, the Bears indeed  
used sometimes to much freedom  
with their cattle. But very seldom, the  
Wolves also sometimes attack the  
sheep and swine. This seldom happens  
two. I never heard of any of them  
attack a man. They are often to be  
seen through the

wild forests, as for serpents they are  
but a small size in this place and do no  
hurt, but as for lye again they are  
extraordinary troublesome during the  
months of June and July. My little  
game and no fishing on account of the  
so far from the rivers. Roads are very  
bad in this place. but getting by degrees  
as for stones there is some parts of the  
land encumbered with them, lime  
stones is also very plenty in this part  
of the country. as for clay it can be had  
nearly in every place but coals are  
found out here yet. window glass is  
plenty here and cheaper than in Scotland  
with regard to the seasons, the winter  
commonly long and stormy, snow from  
Martinmas till the latter end of April.  
Summer again very warm. The Roads  
as I said before is bad. but most  
the Carriage

is performed in winter on the sleighs  
stopped on the frost and snow. The nearest  
mill and store is ten miles from us.  
Grocery goods can be had at the same distance.  
I have taken my land in the 17<sup>th</sup> concession  
where Malcolm Fisher and Donald McDougall farm  
on the one side, and a man from the north  
on the other side, and the people from Agassiz  
in the 16<sup>th</sup> concession about the distance  
of a mile from us. James Anderson near  
who wrote this letter is in the 15<sup>th</sup> concession  
keeping a school he and family are well, you  
will not neglect to give his compliments  
to Donald's wife & family that he says is  
the lady of her husband and his dear friends  
also to Dougall and family, when you see  
them and Donald Thomas, and sons.

So all conclude, by sending my best  
compliments, my sister joins me in our  
best respects to yourself, my aunt Elizabeth  
Dougall's wife & family, Donald's wife &  
family, my step-mother and family, Janet  
and her husband Alex Sinclair, Mary big  
and family and Alex Campbell, Wrightson  
and sister.

I am dear brother yours

Hugh McEwen

Direct me

Indian Lands  
Zemgary, N.P.P.C., Canada.

27 July 1877

Mr. B. Malcolm Fisher joins his respects  
to you and all friends you will tell his son  
Jim if he is not coming that he need not  
expect any word from them till they hear  
from him H.M.E.

This is the third time  
I wrote you

(Ceiling was used  
here no stamp  
no envelope.)

Mr. John McEwen  
Wearr Ardronary  
Perthshire by Killin.

July  
1875

Pioneers in isolated places must have been desperate for their children to receive an education. This couple even indentured their two children on condition that they be sent to school, when the agreement was not carried out the indenture was broken and the parents were awarded two hundred dollars. The document bears the signature of the lawyer J. Sandfield MacDonald.

Dated 26 Aug 1844

Mary Bernhart  
& others

to

Benjamin Clarke

Release

---

This Indenture, made the twenty sixth  
day of August 1844,

Between Mary Bernhart of the Town

of Cornwall in the County of Stoughton  
the wife of Solomon Parubarth, the said  
Solomon Parubarth of the same place  
Moulder, Isaac Lauber and Mary  
Lauber of the same place of the  
First Part, and Benjamin Clark of  
the Township of Charlottenburg in the  
County of Gungarry Yeoman of the  
Second Part.

Whereas the said Isaac Lauber  
and Mary Lauber, in consideration of  
being fed, clothed and sent to school  
agreed to work as servants for the said  
Benjamin Clark, and Whereas the  
said Isaac Lauber and Mary Lauber  
~~have instituted legal proceedings against~~  
the said Benjamin Clark for damages  
for breach of agreement for not sending  
them to school.

And Whereas the said Isaac

Lauber and Mary Lauber in consideration of one hundred dollars to each of them paid by the said Benjamin Clark, have agreed to release and discharge him from all and every responsibility and claim in respect of damages for breach of Agreement, and

And whereas the said Mary Berubardt, the mother of the said Isaac Lauber and Mary Lauber, and the said Solomon Berubardt the step-father of the said Isaac Lauber and Mary Lauber, have also agreed in consideration of the payment of two hundred dollars as aforesaid to release and discharge the said Benjamin Clark from all and every claim whatsoever.

Now These Presents Witness, that in consideration of the premises and of the sum of two hundred dollars paid as

aforsaid to the said Isaac Lauber and  
Mary Lauber, at or on the sealing and  
delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is  
hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto  
of the First Part for themselves their  
respective heirs, executors and adminis-  
-trators, do hereby, demise, release and  
forever acquit and discharge the said  
party of the Second Part his heirs, Exec-  
-utors, administrators and assigns and  
all his lands, tenements, goods, chattels  
estate and effects respectively, whatsoever  
and wheresoever of and from all debts,  
dues and sums of money, accounts reckon-  
-ings, actions, suits Cause, and Causes  
of action in said claims and demands  
whatsoever, either at Law or in Equity  
or otherwise howsoever, which the said  
parties of the First Part or either of them  
now have or has or ~~and or~~ ought

or could have against the said party of  
the Second Part, on any account, what-  
soever of, and concerning any claim  
for wages or any matter, cause or thing, what-  
soever, from the beginning of the world down  
to the day of the date of these presents

In witness whereof the said parties  
hereto have to these presents set their hands  
and seals the day and date first above written,

Max<sup>sr</sup> X Barubant  
mark.

J. Huppert

Isaac<sup>sr</sup> X Lauber

mark  
Mary X Lauber  
mark



Lined sealed and delivered  
in the presence of, having  
been first read and con-  
firmed  
H. Paulfiet, mediator

# MORE NEWS FROM THE EARLY SETTLERS

## — THE McKERCHER LETTERS —

Osgoode, May 1855

May Dear Duncan,

I received your kind letter which gave us a great start, owing the death of our dear wife which we are very sorry for you to be a widdo so young, but we must consider it was the lord almight will, we most be thenfell in this world whatever is our lot.

Mary says she is glad that the poor little child is coming on well, there is no danger of her now if she will be in health we are glad to hear that Gillie has a son he will be proud of him I am getting my health better but Mary complains her head and pains in her eys the heat of the cast metall does not agree with her the fire hear is confined in a stove like a cheast to heaten the house and there is cooking stoves with fireholes for cooking at wonce.

They cost from 6 pounds to 10 pounds but that is too dear for me yet I am still working with Stewart the snow left the ground about the 2nd April and I am commenced ploughing among the stimps and a hard work it is I would rather work a month in Breadalbane than one work in this brute of a place.

It is getting so hot now you would think the wind is coming off a burning mountain and the flies are commencing now there is a kind they call them myfscatties they are verry bad and poisonefs and very thick for 2 months I bought a cow for 5 pounds and little Jefsie got a sheep from her cousin and she has a lamb if I will sell the place I bought I shall return to auld Scotland again for it is far better than this.

There is some hear has got on well them that had a strong family but as for one man to commence in the bush and take his living out and pay the land in 10 years he is a dead man the most of the men hear is half dead with work and heat I went down to the Indian land to see my friends there and I did not think much of them there children is like the tinklers in Breadalbane and more ragged them that were brought up in this country are ignorant sencelefs afses they know nothing but tearing among the woods and stumps.

I saw Peter McGregor Patrick Dhonil and Duncan on they are stoping near my cosins I think they are not pleased and when a man comes to this country he must be pleased for he cannot leave it there is Lairds hear this 15 years that has not a chair or a bed in there house yet but lie on the floor like the dogs but they dae well as the grain is high in prices wheat per bushel 2½ dollars that is some ten shillings your money everything that is eatable is high in price this Stewart that I am with made well he has 300 acres and about 100 clear.

He is saving 50 pounds a year he has 300 pounds out of interest and getting 8 persent on it and a good stock on the farm he has 5 horses young and old there is 23 years since he came and he had only 23 coverings of money when he bought the land but lands were sold at 5 shillings an acre which you would give 16 shillings an acre for now

Donald would doe well hear as a schoolmaster a son to the miller of Artalnng came out last year and he got a place as teacher and 60 pounds a

year ten months he had the offer of four places and he is only a plough slow fellow if he would come out this harvest he would be sure of a situation imdiatly in the winter he would do first rate on musick for there is none of the kind hear I am sorry I did not being with me a bagpip for all the highlanders hear is angry at me for not taking one they would gather a day now and then to help me with the clearing if I had the pips you shall send this letter to Gilbert it will doe as well suppous I will send another for I am a poor hand at writing leters I got a letter from John Menzies from the Huron district and he took a farm on rent I suppose John is not better than myself but he must be content he heard that Sandys McTavish and Bob Anderson went to the Queens Busch for to buy lands.

That is about 1300 miles from Quebeck Sandy was saying that he would rather live on top of Ben Lavers then in this raged place He would not see a place like Taymouth gardens in America. (Ends)

.....

Dear Gilbert: I should write yourself seperatly but you shall excuse me for I am not good at using the pen and getting worse every day I need not mention to you the troubles on my vouage to this raged country as you have heard of it already I am well in health and I think when I shall goe on my own place I will be pleased better I think of going in October I dont like to be under a master in Cannada for they work from sunrises till she sets and that is from 4 oclock in the morning till 8 at night breakfast at 6 dinner at 12 supper at 5 oclock and maybe tea 3 times a day and no sugar used in the tea in Cannada.

It would be to expencive there is onley one certain time in the year that the sugar will run off the Mappel tree that is in april but there is geart trubble in making it this country is very rough for a stranger to look at it is so level and covered with woods but sinkholes hear and there the trees are one third longer here than in the auld country and thicker than drummond hill three times and the trees are but cabbage plants beside the timber there you shall not see a hill nor a glen heer nor a burn running I would rather one sight of lock Tay than all I saw in Cannada.

But it is a rare chance if we shall ever see Scotland Tell Donald he will do well here and if he would not be pleased he could return back again hes no like me with a wife and family he would save 20 pounds a year hear if you would speak to John McPherson and ask him if he would sell any of his prize pipes I would buy one from him if Donald would come out he would bring them but you shall write to me as soon as you can Jefsie minds on Blair yet and little Duncan he is a smart child he was born on the 28th July 60 miles below Quebeck. Write me soon both of you we join our compliments to you all Mrs. McLaren and Donal and Duncan and not forgetting yourself Gilbert

I am your dear Uncle until death depart us from one another

Daniel McKercher

Adrefs Lot 24, 9th Concefsion Osgoode, Canada Weste.

Dear Gilbert

I write you these few lines to let you know how I am coming on in this new country I am in good health and so is Mary and little Jefsie and wee Donauch McKerchar is a fine growing boy although he was born on the sea he is very like Duncan your brother about the mouthe.

I was very much unpleased in this country the first we got great trouble on the sea and little Anns death which made America black for us at first. When we came to her sisters house she had a large family and very egnorent children and we were not pleased with them I bought a place 12 miles from her place the price of it was 100 pounds I paid 50 pounds down and the rest in March 1857 which will be hard on me but I will get it on interest but I must give 10 per centre which is very high there is 100 acres and about 20 acres clear lands is getting very high in price now there is so much people after land I would get 200 pounds for my place if I would sell it.

After I bought the place I had to engage myself a year with Alex Stuart at 25 pounds and I cam on my own place in December last my stock is but little yer I have 2 cows and 3 calvs and 3 sheep and 3 pigs and 1 cat and a number of hens.

I was not pleased in this country first it is so wild and rough bad roads you never saw so bad I was setermined to goe back to auld Scotland but every person was making a fool of me but I am a little more pleased now as I am on my own place a man will be worth more money in this country through time than in the old country when he has a property paid.

Supous I would stop in Stronfernan all my lifetime I would not be worth 200 pounds but the climate is not so pleasant hear hot in summer and extra cold in winter it is a level track of land but great many places very stoney I thought there was no stones in America but there is a great maney the woods are very thick and large hamlock is the longest and some 5 feet through the length of the heavy timber is from 90 to 100 feet in length the acre is 70 yards square and when the little poles and brush is cutt out there is about 40 and 50 large trees in the (acre) and a good axeman will chop that in 8 days and make them in short pieces 15 feet long and pile the brush and when summer comes we set fore to the brush and then get the oxen and make the heavy timber in large piles and burn them and we call that clear land (clear)

Hill of stumps about 4 feet high but they will come out in 10 years times I have excellent wheat among the stumps you would think in the night it is men standing among the wheat. There is a great mixture of people in this country there is French Dutch Irish English and Scotch and Hiylanders.

My neighbor on the North side is an Irishman and on the south side an Englishman but there is a great many from Loch Tay side around me which they were very angry at me I did not bring our a bagpipe they tole me that they would rise 4 pound by subscription if I would get one out from the auld country I suppos I mentioned in a letter about this I sent to Duncan I told him to send it to you if you would be so good and speak to my auld companion John McPherson and maybe he would have one to spair of his prize pips but I would like a good black ebene and mounted with ivory if Donald is about ther he can arrange about one.

I think John McPherson can get one made with McDougall Perth for 4

pounds if he no one himself if you would be at the trouble and write to me and let me know the price of a good one and I will send you the money and I shall get then out next summer with somebody there is a great many came from Breadalbane this simmer if I would get a pipe I would get great many of the highlanders to chop and clear the land while I was down in the Indian land last winter seeing my friends they are not very well of they have very poor lands there. I got a cow from Donald McKerchar my cousin, I am 50 miles above them.

The people in this country are far back in cloths the first day I went to church hear the most of the men had nothing on them but their trousers and shirt and some of them bairfooted and a straw hat about 6 pence worth, men that has properties worth 500 pounds going so raged but I dont see them half so poor now because I am a custom to see them the people when they are a while in this country they will lose their coular they turn so dark the regular food people takes here is floor bread and pork and tea without sugar and potatoes they have cooking stoves which is very handy there is 3 places for cooking and an oven to backe bread all joined together but they are dear from 6 to 10 pounds when they are new I bought a second handed one at 5 pound.

It is very hard for a poor man to commence in this dear country but if I will keep in good health I shall get over it there is to be a large gathering of the sons of temperance and if I had a pipe I would get 10 dollars that is 2 pound sterling and I am losing great many chances for not having a pipe I think I could get one out from Glasgow to Montreal with store goods the merchants of Montreal gets goods from Glasgow but if you fine out a good black ebene pipe and the price of it I would get them out someway provision is not so high this year here we shall get good green tea for half a dollar a pound that is 2 shillings sterling the people in this country are terribel tea drinkers Stewart that I was with last year spends about 60 pounds of tea every year there is no sugar used in the tea in this country I saw more poor people here than ever I saw in Scotland but not any of them from Bredalbane.

All that I saw of them are doing well but some Irish and great many French are miserable poor 3 or 4 families stopping in one house like the tinklers in the kilns in the auld country the people in general looks very poor and thin with the heat in summer and cauld in winter and drinking strong tea without milk or sugar there is a great heat in this country.

Mary made a kind of garden and she has about 4 bushels of water mellons and cookumbers there very fine to eat on a warm day you shall excuse me Gilbert for not writting you sooner if you would be so good as to send me a newspaper now and then I am fond of Scotland yet I must finis my best respects to all friends Mary sends her compliments to Mrs. McLaren and not forgetting yourself be sure and write as soon as pofsible no more

Copy of a letter written by Donald McKercher 1856.

These accounts are an interesting indication of what was available in local shops and what people bought.

Mr. David Clark To Mr. Carmichael

1837					
Febry	2	To Balance due on a/c	Rendered	£	7.12.8
March	5	5/4 lb Molesters	By	49	1.4.11
"	16	1/2 lb Rum 4/6 1/2 lb Honey	"	1	<del>1.1.11</del>
"	"	1/2 lb Prun 4/6 1/2 lb Sugar	"	1	1.1.11
June	23	1/2 lb Tea	"	15	"
July	15	1/2 lb Sticks of Tobacco	"	7	7
Sept	25	1/2 lb Tea	By	3/4	1/4
October	11	1/2 lb St. Indigo	"	1/4	3.6
"	17	1/2 " Galing. Brown, Dungs	"	2	3
Decr	29	1 lb St. Grace. Soap	By	"	5.6
"	"	1 1/2 lb Sole Leather	"	1/6	18.9
"	"	1/2 " Old Brown of 1/2 lb Rum	"	5	4.7.11 1/2
				£	12.0.6 1/2
1837		Or			
Febry	23	By Cash on a/c		1	"
March	3	" Cash on a/c		4	"
"	"	1 Tub Butter <sup>36 Sns</sup> 3 1/2 lbs	"	1	6
"	16	1 Tub do <sup>36 Sns</sup> 4 1/2 lbs	"	1	18.9
June	15	1 " do <sup>32 Sns</sup> 27	"	1	3.9.5.0
Balance due Mr. C. This day				£	2.15.6 1/2
Corrected					
1 <sup>st</sup> January 1838					

Mr Clarke  
 To Peter Chesley

4	5 1/2 yds Purnella 4	£1. 13.
	1 1/2 lb Cotton 1/2	1. 9
	3/4 Padina 4/8	3. 6
	3/4 Barb Cloth 1/6	1. 1 1/2
	3/4 Blk Silk 4/4	3. 3
	1 Twist	" 4
	5 lbs I Silk 4	" 1 8
	6 Thread	3
		<hr/>
		£2. 4. 10 1/2

Cornwall  
 10 May 1837

Rec'd payment  
 by Peter Chesley  
 P. McDonald

RECEIPT WITH DAVID THOMPSON'S SIGNATURE

£1.0.7<sup>9</sup> - Received of Mr David  
 Clarke the sum of one  
 pound and 7<sup>9</sup> - this  
 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1832 - in  
 full of all demands

M. Brown  
 D Thompson  
 P. Thompson

## PRE COMPUTER FINANCING!

Bytown, 11th January 1849

Mr. Duncan McMartin  
Martintown

Dear Duncan,

I am in receipt of your finances of the 5th per Angus McDonald with 143 bushels oats. I am also in possession of your former letter per Kennedy with 100 bushels, all of which I delivered Gilmore and Co., the 100 at 1/7 pence and the 143 at 1/8 pence. I made a contract with Gilmore to deliver them 500 bushels at 1/8 pence, the 143 bushels if given on account of contract. I have not drawn any money from Gilmore for any of the oats nor do I want to do so until the 500 bushels are delivered. When that is completed, I will send you the amount. As to division of profits, that we will arrange but if you charge 1/3 pence per bushel for yours and 4 pence for bringing them up, leaves 1 pence profit. I have to go up and see them all, rather small wages for a man of my size. What you buy, I am willing to go shares with you, but will make all these matters right. One of my horses is very lame and has been ever since he came home. He must have been lame for some time. I would send them down if the horse was able to go out but he cannot do anything.

The bearer of this goes down for a load, I gave him 4 pence per bushel. I told him that it would not cost him anything while he was at Martintown. I send by him 111 bags. You must pick out what belongs to yourselves. Send up as many as will fullfill the contract as soon as you possibly can. I will write you more particularly next time.

Yours truly,

James McCracken

Mr. Duncan McMartin  
Martintown  
per Joseph Podway

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

I Robert Harley of the Township of Charlottenburgh in the County of Glengarry Farmer hereby declare this to be my last Will and Testament this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1876

I give all my real and personal Estate to my Executors hereinafter named their heirs Executors and Administrators upon trust to sell and convert into money as soon as Convenient after my decease either by Public Auction or private Contract and the proceeds arising from such sale to be applied as follows: -

1<sup>st</sup> In payment of my just debts and funeral and Testamentary Expenses and of the balance the sum of four hundred dollars to be paid to my wife in lieu of all dower the sum of four hundred dollars to each of my three Children Mathias Carr Harley, Robert Blackwood Harley, and Mary Ann Elizabeth Harley to be paid to them by my said Executors ~~when they attain the age of twenty one~~ years or sooner if my said Executors think it necessary for their support maintenance and Education and until the said legacies are paid to my said Children as aforesaid my said Executors are to invest the said Money in Dominion Stock upon real Estate security and the income arising from such investments to be paid to my said Children in proportion to their Legacies invested from time to time <sup>or at such times</sup> as my said Children attain the age of twenty

one year as to my Executors shall seem meet but in the event of any of my said Children dying before the payments to them of the said Legacies or before they attain the age of twenty one in either event without lawful issue then I devise the Legacy or Legacies of such Child or Children as may die as aforesaid to the survivor or survivors of said Children

2<sup>nd</sup> I hereby direct my said Executors to apply the sum of four hundred dollars out of the proceeds of such sale as aforesaid to the support and maintenance of my Mother Christina Harley from time to time as they shall deem necessary and proper according to her age and Station in life but in the event of her dying before the said sum of four hundred dollars is exhausted the balance if any I devise in equal Shares to my Children Christy Ann Harley and Catharine Harley to be paid to them when they attain the age of twenty one years or Marry

3. The residue of the proceeds of the said sale by my said Executors after payment of the Legacies hereinbefore mentioned I devise to my said Children Christy Ann Harley and Catharine Harley to be paid to them upon their attaining the age of twenty one years or when they Marry or sooner if my said Executors think it necessary for their support Maintenance or Education

I hereby appoint Benjamin Clark and Samuel Harley to be Executors of this my Will

Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses the words "any" of and "dollars" interlined before Execution on second page and the word "of" and "Blackwood" interlined on first page before Execution

signed/

Robert Harley

Signed/ Drummond Thomas McPherson M.D.

Signed/ James Leitch

NOT NEGOTIABLE  
AS IT IS A TRIFLE OUT OF DATE

No. 17 -

Still Licence for the Year 1840

PROVINCE OF } SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, K. C. H. Lieutenant Governor of the Province  
UPPER CANADA. } of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY CONCERN:

This Licence is granted to

of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ District,  
to have and to use **ONE STILL**, for the purpose of Distilling Spirituous Liquors,  
containing \_\_\_\_\_ Gallons, and no more.

This Licence to be in force until the fifth day of January, one thousand eight hundred  
and forty \_\_\_\_\_ and no longer.

GIVEN under my Hand, at Toronto, in the County of York, this

day of

one thousand eight hundred  
year of Her Majesty's reign.

and \_\_\_\_\_ in the

By His Excellency's Command.

*W. Macaulay*  
INSPECTOR GENERAL.

RECEIVED from the said  
the sum of \_\_\_\_\_

Lawful Money of

this Province, being the full Duty of Two Shillings and Six Pence per Gallon, directed to  
be paid on this Licence, by Acts of the Provincial Legislature, imposing Duties on Stills  
according to the admeasurement thereof.

*Alm. M. Donell, Ins. Auditor*

This letter of sympathy from the two churches has some signatures that may be of interest to residents of the Maxville area.

To Mrs. Peter McKercher

Dear Madam,

We the teachers of the Presbyterian and Baptist Sabbath Schools of this neighbourhood desire to express to you and your family our tender and heartfelt sympathy in your present sore bereavement, in one death of a husband and father.

God has asked much of your hand, but he can supply all your lack. We commend you and the fatherless children to Him Who is the God of all Grace and of all consolation.

The voice of human sympathy is vain, friends can only weep with you, but Jesus, the most sympathising of all friends has a balm for every wound and all enduring power to comfort you. His love is most fully manifested in the time of our greatest tribulation, when we are called upon to part with our dearest treasures and to have, as it were, the roots of our affections torn up; it is then that He manifests himself as our allsufficient portion, and makes the darkest hours the more resemble heaven, by hiding creature comforts from our view, and far more than supplying their place with his own presence. We as teachers deeply lament the departure of M. McKercher from our midst. So punctual was he in attendance, discharging the duties of Teacher and Superintendent in the Presbyterian Sabbath School that his presence could almost always be relied upon. His piety was evident, earnest and fervent, yet most humble and unobtrusive. He now rests from his labors and his works do follow him.

Roxborough July 31st 1879

Alexander Fraser  
Duncan Mckercher  
D.D. McKercher  
Duncan McDiannic  
Donald Bennett

R.C. McGregor  
Charles Algar  
Eliza McGregor  
Henriette Doree  
Maggie McPhail

Caroline Bennett  
Mary Ann Cameron  
Mary McGregor  
Jane McPhail  
John Fraser

