
CHAPTER VIII

THE SCOTSMAN IN NEW BRUNSWICK

*They were a simple rugged folk,
A lonely people by the sea :—
But round their coasts old ocean broke,
One vast shore-sounding harmony :—
And from the old unrest awoke
A spirit surging to be free.*

WHILE there are not as many people of Scottish descent in New Brunswick as in the sister province of Nova Scotia, there are a large number of the population who are proud of having in their veins the blood of the race of Albion.

In the year 1761, Fort Frederick in St. John Harbour was garrisoned by a Highland regiment, and during the same year the harbour was for the first time regularly surveyed by a Scotsman, Captain Bruce, of the Royal Engineers, and a map then made is still extant.

In the following year, an exploring party, consisting of about twenty persons, came to St. John from Newburyport in New England, and journeyed up the river as far as Fredericton and beyond. They found at the mouth of the Nashwack River

The Scotsman in Canada

the remains of a very old fortress. The single Frenchman whom they encountered told them that it was originally built by a party of settlers from Scotland, who were without doubt those sent out by Sir William Alexander, under Claude de la Tour.

In 1764, William Davidson, a native of the north of Scotland, most probably Caithness, came and settled at Miramichi, and received extensive grants of lands. With him was associated a Mr. Cort of Aberdeen. Four years before, in 1760, a prominent trader named Walker, who also hailed from Scotland, founded a trading post on Alston Point. These were a few of the very early, hardy pioneers who settled on those coasts and who were of Scottish birth.

As already shown, a large portion of the United Empire Loyalists and Treasury or Military Loyalists were of Scottish birth or extraction. They were for the most part soldiers. In McGregor's "British America" it is shown that of the thousands of Loyalists who poured into the province, many were of Scottish descent. They settled principally on the St. John and St. Croix rivers, and the list, which is still extant, shows their origin and place of settlement.

It would be impossible in a work of this limited nature to include the names of all the United Empire Loyalists of Scottish origin who settled in Canada or the Maritime Provinces.

A few of the leaders in New Brunswick will, however, be referred to. A prominent Scotsman was Captain Archibald McLean, who settled in St.

The Scotsman in New Brunswick

John in 1783. Another founder of that city was Charles McPherson. Hugh Mackay and two others of his clan were early settlers at this time, and the military Loyalists furnished eleven Macdonalds.

The county of Restigouche was a leading Scottish settlement, as the place-names of Dunlee, Glenlivet, Glenelg, Campbelltown, and Dalhousie show. The settlers here were direct from the Old Land. Many were fisher-folk, and not really by experience fitted to till the soil. But they were a sturdy folk in the main, and managed to make their way.

A great many of the Scotsmen entered the lumber trade on the different rivers in the province, and many acquired large fortunes. The great drawbacks to the settlements for nearly a century were the terrible fires that swept the country, partly owing to the great areas of pine lands.

One of the Governors, Sir Howard Douglas, who was a Scotsman, took a deep interest in education and the general improvement of the people. He did much to foster the foundation of colleges and schools, and, being of that Church, he encouraged Presbyterianism.

John Fraser, father of the Hon. John James Fraser, Provincial Secretary, was an early settler. He came from Inverness-shire in 1803, and settled at Miramichi. Alexander Wedderburn of Aberdeen was an author and a public officer in the province. His son was the Hon. William Wedderburn, Speaker of the Assembly. Urbain Johnston, Member of Parliament for Kent County, was the

The Scotsman in Canada

representative of a Scottish family which inter-married with the Acadians.

In connection with the history of the Scotsmen in New Brunswick, there is no more interesting chapter than that dealing with the Queen's Rangers, Simcoe's famous regiment, as there was a large element of Scotsmen among its soldiers. It was the most noted of all Royalist colonial battalions, chiefly because Simcoe was its commander. In official documents it was sometimes called "The King's First American Regiment." It was founded in 1776, in the colonies of Connecticut and New York, and soon mustered fully four hundred men who were at first all American Loyalists. But as time went on, the composition of the regiment changed, and it became more European than American. According to the muster rolls, dated August 24, 1780, out of the forty commissioned officers attached to the regiment, nineteen were of Scottish birth. This was during the period when Colonel Rogers held the command and before Colonel French succeeded him. French had as his successor a Scotsman, Major Wemyss, under whose command the regiment on September 11, 1777, at the victorious battle of Brandywine, covered itself with glory. The worst of the battle fell upon the Rangers, then about four hundred strong, and a detachment from the 71st Regiment under another Scotsman, Major Ferguson. After this period the regiment consisted of eleven companies, one of which was purely Highland, with kilts and a piper.

The Scotsman in New Brunswick

The regiment, on its disbanding, settled mainly in New Brunswick, and there are many descendants of the officers and men in the province.

The muster roll of 1781 includes the following list of Scotsmen, who were officers and privates :—Major Richd. Armstrong ; Rev. John Agnew ; Quartermaster Alex. Matheson ; Surgeon's Mate James Macaulay ; Capt. John Mackay ; Ensign John Ross ; Sergeants, Donald Macdonald, John Macdonald, and George Sutherland ; Corporals, Geo. Walker, James Gunn ; Drummer Wm. Mackay. Privates, John Craigie, Alex. McKinnon, Alex. McLean, R. McDougal, Angus McDonald, Hugh McKinlay, Murdoch McLeod, Alex. McDonald, Lachlan McKinnon, Alex. McClure, Alex. Curry, Wm. Smyth, John McLachlan.

Capt. Stephenson's Company : Capt. Francis Stephenson ; Lieut. Alex. Matheson ; Corporals, Michael Burns, George Miller ; Privates, Carbray Burras, Wm. Chisholm, Thos. Lowe, David Oliver, John White, N. Ayres, Jos. Dawson, Jas. Sparks.

Capt. McCrea's Company : Capt. R. McCrea ; Lieut. Chas. Dunlop and Lieut. Patterson ; Sergeant W. Burnett ; Privates, Digory Sparks, Wm. Davidson, Michael McIntyre, James Smith, Michael McDonald, Peter Wood, John Brown, Thos. Robertson.

Capt. Murray's Company : Capt. Jas. Murray ; Ensign Edward Murray ; Sergeants, Jas. McConell and Samuel Burnett ; Privates, N. Huston, J. McEwen, John Burns, Wm. Kirk, Alex. Ross, Jas. Gremer, J. B. Miller.

The Scotsman in Canada

Capt. Kerr's Company : Capt. Jas. Kerr ; Ensign Creighton McCrea ; Privates, Jas. Cochrane, Patrick Read, Wm. Armstrong.

Capt. Agnew's Company : Capt. Stair Agnew ; Lieut. Hugh McKay ; Ensign S. Armstrong.

Capt. McGill's Company : Lieut. Adam Allan, Robert Richey ; Privates, Patrick Allan, T. Coyne, J. Brown, Wm. Scoby.

Capt. Smith's Company : Ensign Andrew Armstrong ; Sergeant S. Stevens ; Privates, Wm. Burns, John Thomson, Wm. Graham, Alex. Johnson.

Capt. Whitlock's Company : Capt. John Whitlock ; Sergeant John King ; Drummer Daniel McKay ; Privates, Henry Adam, Chas. Boyd, Chas. McKinley.

Capt. Shaw's Company : Capt. Æneas Shaw ; Lieut. Andrew McCan ; Ensign Jos. Matheson ; Drummer Black Prince ; Privates, Hugh Morris, Jno. Scriver, John Smith, Jas. McFarland, Geo. Murdock, Thos. Patterson, Thos. Crawford, Jno. Hamilton.

Capt. Wallop's Company : Lieut. St. John Dunlop.

Cavalry Hussar Troop : Lieut. Allan MacNab (father of Sir Allan MacNab) ; Quartermaster John McGill ; Privates, Robt. Ferguson, John McConnel, Saml. Lindsay, David Lindsay, Andrew Shields, H. Cochrane, David Mitchell, John Stephens, Jas. Campbell, Geo. Killan, Duncan Campbell, Jno. Munro.

Capt. Shanks' Troop : Lieut. Geo. Spencer ;

The Scotsman in New Brunswick

Privates, Angus McIntyre, N. Gladstone, John Houston, Jas. Johnston, Jos. Mitchell, F. Miller, Archd. McKinley, Jno Clark.

Capt. Saunders' Troop : Corporal John Haney ; Privates, R. Brown, Jas. Campbell, J. Inglis, J. Sparks, J. Blair.

Capt. Sutherland's Troop : Cornet B. Thompson ; Quartermaster Wm. McLachlin.

At the settlement of the regiment in Nova Scotia at the peace in 1783, the return of the Rangers totalled 575. They were disbanded at St. John on October 13, 1783, and settled largely in York County, the parish of Queensbury being named after the regiment, and formed the largest body of military Loyalists that settled in the Maritime Provinces.

Of the officers, Major James Wemyss was afterwards Lieut.-Col. of the 63rd Regiment. In 1819 he petitioned the Prince Regent from New York for assistance. He was then in his old age, and said he had hopes to end his life in Scotland, his native land. But he suffered a loss of property, and at the time of the petition was in indigent circumstances. He was of the noted Scottish family of whom the Earl of Wemyss is the head. Capt. Arthur Ross was killed in the West Indies. Capt. Michael Armstrong saw a great deal of service. Simcoe recommended him. He went with the regiment to New Brunswick, where he received a large grant of land at the mouth of the Nacawick. He became a magistrate, and was afterwards Lieut.-Colonel of the Militia, but finally rose to be Lieut.-

The Scotsman in Canada

General in the British Army. He died at Fredericton in 1817. The Rev. John Agnew was of an old family in Wigtonshire, of which shire he was a native. He became Rector of Suffolk, Virginia. He settled in New Brunswick, and became a member of the House of Assembly. He died in 1812, aged eighty-five. Capt. James Kerr was born in Dumfries, was in New York at the time of the Revolution. He raised a part of a company of the Rangers. He returned to Scotland, but later settled in Nova Scotia at Parrsboro. He died at Amherst on June 6, 1830, in his seventy-sixth year. He was a Colonel of the Militia, and had several sons : Thomas, an ensign in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, was killed at the battle of Frenchtown ; James died in the Navy on board the *Royal William* ; another son, John, became a wealthy merchant of St. John, New Brunswick ; and another, Joseph, an extensive mill-owner at Wallace, Nova Scotia.

Capt. John McGill was a native of Scotland. He went to St. John at the peace, and had lands there ; but he moved to Upper Canada, and became a member of the Legislative Council.

Capt. Stair Agnew, son of the chaplain, followed the war, and being captured, was imprisoned at St. Malo, in France, until the peace. He settled in York County, New Brunswick ; was a member of the House of Assembly for thirty years, and a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for York County. Capt. Jas. Murray drew land in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, close to Capt. Kerr, but did not

The Scotsman in New Brunswick

remain there. Capt. John Whitlock settled in Queen's County, was colonel of Militia and a Justice of the Peace. Capt. John Mackay, a native of Scotland, settled in York County, where he died in 1822. Lieut. Allan MacNab settled in Upper Canada. Ensign Hugh Mackay, settled at St. George, New Brunswick, and was elected a member of the Assembly during thirty years. He was a colonel of Militia and Senior Judge of Common Pleas for Charlotte County. He died in 1843, aged ninety-seven. Adam Allan settled in New Brunswick in York County, and became lieutenant in the King's New Brunswick Regiment.

From many sources there was a continual influx of Scottish peoples, until in the year 1843 the census showed about 30,000 persons of that descent in the province. Many of them were, as is shown, of United Empire Loyalist or military ancestry. Many soldiers of the famous Black Watch Regiment, or 42nd Highlanders, settled on the St. John close to Fredericton. The towns of Bathurst and Dalhousie on the Bay of Chaleurs were also largely of Scottish origin.

The following list of Scottish Presbyterian families in New Brunswick in the year 1843 may be of interest in this connection: St. John City, 300 to 400 families; Kingston, 100 families; Parish of St. James, Charlotte County, 150 families; St. Andrews, Charlotte County, 150 families; Digdequash, 100 families; Magaguavédick, 100 families; Sudbury County, 150 families.

There were also many settlers of Scottish origin

The Scotsman in Canada

at Nashwack, in York County, at Fredericton, Newcastle, Chatham, Richibucto, Restigouche, Dorchester, Norton, and Woodstock. It must not be forgotten that many of these Scotsmen were of Ulster Scottish origin—as a large number of Ulster Scotsmen came into the country. A noted Ulster Scotsman was the late Senator Wark, of New Brunswick, who was sitting as a Senator of the Dominion at Ottawa only a few years ago, in his one hundred and first year—and still having all his faculties. He died a year later aged one hundred and two. There is a fine portrait of the old Senator, aged one hundred and one, painted by a leading Canadian artist, which is now hanging in the gallery of the Senate at Ottawa. It may be interesting to know that the portraits of almost all of the Speakers of the Senate or Upper House at Ottawa that are not Frenchmen are those of Scotsmen. The names are : Ross, Miller, McPherson, MacNab, Allan, Sir William Campbell, and Sir Alexander Campbell.

Some notable Scotsmen in early New Brunswick are well worth chronicling. Many of the clans and families were represented. Daniel Grant, who settled at the purely Scottish colony of St. Andrews, was from Golspie in Sutherlandshire, where Dunrobin Castle stands. He died in 1834, aged eighty-two. The family of Gray, Scottish United Empire Loyalists, numbered thirteen, children of Joseph Gray, who settled at Halifax. A brother William became a magistrate in King's County, New Brunswick, and died in 1824, aged

The Scotsman in New Brunswick

ninety-six. The Scottish settlements in New Brunswick date from the very earliest period, that of Sir William Alexander's settlement on the St. John River. While the present population is not as distinctly Scottish as that of Nova Scotia, there are many people of that and Ulster Scottish blood in the province, and no chronicle of this province can be perfect without reference to the influence and personality of the Scotsman.

Further mention of Scotsmen in New Brunswick will be found in the chapter on Scottish societies.