
CHAPTER XX

LATER SCOTTISH FUR TRADERS OF NOTE

THE proportion of Scotsmen who rose to leading positions in the Company, such as Chief Factor and Chief Trader, was very great. The following figures are very suggestive. Under the Deed Polls of 1821, 1834, and 1871 there were 263 commissioned officers, and it is estimated that their nationalities were as follows:—

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|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| French Canadians | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Irish | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| English | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| Scottish | ... | ... | ... | ... | 171 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 263 |

We have deemed it best to give for reference the year in which they were appointed. It will not be forgotten how good Archdeacon Cochrane in writing to James Hargrave, the great Hudson's Bay Company's forwarding agent at York Factory in Sir George Simpson's time, and who had been complaining of slow promotion to a Chief Tradership, said: "Are you likely to get another feather in your cap? I begin to think that your name will have to be changed into MacArgrave. A

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'Mac' before your name would produce a greater effect than all the rest of your merits put together. Can't you demonstrate that you are one of the descendants of one of the great clans? "

List of Scottish Hudson's Bay Company Officers, Mainly Chief Factors, from 1821 to 1896.

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|------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1821 | John Macdonald | 1840 | James Douglas |
| | John Thompson | | Donald Ross |
| | James Leith | 1842 | Archibald McDonald |
| | John Haldane | 1845 | Nicol Finlayson |
| | Colin Robertson | 1846 | John Work |
| | Alexander Stewart | | John Sieveright |
| | James Sutherland | 1847 | Murdo McPherson |
| | John George McTavish | | George Barnston |
| | George Keith | 1848 | John Ballenden |
| | John Dugald Cameron | 1850 | John Rae |
| | John Stuart | | William Sinclair |
| | Alexander Kennedy | 1851 | Hector McKenzie |
| | John McLoughlin | | William McTavish |
| | James Keith | | Dugald McTavish |
| | Angus Bethune | | James H. Lawson, Factor |
| | Donald McKenzie | | Ewen Macdonald, Factor |
| | Alexander Christie | 1854 | John Swanston |
| | John McBean | | John McKenzie |
| 1823 | William McIntosh | 1855 | James Anderson, (A) |
| 1825 | John Rowand, | 1856 | William McNeill, |
| 1827 | James McMillan | | William F. Tolmie |
| 1828 | Allan McDonell | 1859 | James Anderson, (B) |
| | Peter Warren Dease | | Roderick Finlayson |
| 1830 | Roderick McKenzie, Sr. | 1860 | William J. Christie |
| 1832 | Duncan Finlayson | | Charles Dodd |
| 1834 | Peter S. Ogden | 1861 | John M. Simpson |
| 1836 | John P. Pruden | | James A. Graham |
| | Alex McLeod | 1862 | James R. Clare |
| 1837 | Angus Cameron | | Wemyss M. Simpson |
| | Samuel Black | | Donald A. Smith |

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| 1864 James S. Clouston Joseph Gladman | 1874 John H. McTavish Alexander Munro |
| 1866 William McMurray | 1875 Roderick McFarlane Roderick Ross, Factor |
| 1867 Robert Campbell Robert Hamilton | 1879 Colin Rankin Peter Warren Bell |
| 1869 James G. Stewart | Archibald McDonald |
| 1872 James Bissett George S. McTavish | 1887 James McDougall |
| 1873 Robert Crawford, Factor William H. Watt, Fac- tor John McIntyre, Factor. | 1888 Peter McKenzie 1892 William Clark 1896 Alexander Matheson Factor |

NOTE 1.—In some few cases the nationality is not clearly made out.

NOTE 2.—Short notes are given referring to some of the above, to be found by the dates. In these cases it is when they have not been otherwise more largely noticed in the history.

Notable Officers.

James Leith, Chief Factor of 1821, a Scotsman, in 1838 bequeathed £12,000 to be expended for the benefit of the Indian Missions in Rupert's Land. Leith's family disputed the will, but on the addition of £300 a year being offered by the Hudson's Bay Company the Court decided the will in favour of the Church, and £700 a year is thus provided for the Bishop of Rupert's Land.

George Keith, a Scotsman, became a Chief Factor in 1821. Having spent most of his fur-trading life in the districts of Athabasca, Mackenzie River, and the Great Slave Lake, and having

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the pen of a ready writer, he wrote at the instance of Roderick Mackenzie interesting tales of the Beaver Indians.

Alexander Kennedy, an Orkney man, became a Chief Factor in 1827, and was in Cumberland House when his son, afterward Captain William Kennedy, one of Lady Franklin's captains, was born. A grandson of this Chief Factor was also Alexander Isbister, the distinguished advocate of the half-breeds of Red River in London in 1847.

Peter Warren Dease, who became Chief Factor in 1828, was the celebrated explorer, who in company with Thomas Simpson followed out the coast-line of the Arctic Ocean west of the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

Robert Crawford, an out-and-out Scotsman, who became a Factor in 1873, on retiring from the Hudson's Bay Company went into business, settling at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. He was a man of strong religious disposition, and did much to advance the interests of the Church of his Fathers where he settled.

John McIntyre, a sturdy Highlander, became a Factor in 1873. He accompanied Sir George Simpson in his great voyage round the world in 1841. He was for many years in charge of Fort William on Lake Superior, where he welcomed a great number of distinguished visitors, and lived to see Fort William the centre of a rising city.

John Sieveright, a worthy Scottish Factor, 1846, passed many years in the fur trade and was in charge of posts at Sault Ste. Marie and on the

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Ottawa. He was a pleasing letter writer and a man typical of those who upheld the honour of the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company.

George Barnston, Chief Factor, in 1846, was for many years in charge of the trade in Montreal.

John Ballenden, an Orkney man, became Chief Factor in 1848. He was for a time in charge as Governor of Red River, and rendered distinguished service to the Company and his co-religionists in the Red River Settlement in facilitating the coming of Rev. John Black, the apostle of his Church on the Red River.

James H. Lawson, Factor in 1851, has been connected with the commercial side of Hudson's Bay Company, and has for years lived in Victoria, British Columbia.

Roderick Ross McFarlane, for many years an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, became a Chief Factor in 1875. He is a native of the Island of Lewis, and in his long residence on the Mackenzie River became an authority on the natural history of that region. He is now a resident of Winnipeg and interests himself in congenial studies.

James McDougall became a Chief Factor in 1887. He did good service in the Upper Country and was in charge when the Hudson's Bay Company withdrew from Alaska.