

Some stories from Rob MacDonald

Alexander MacDonald of Kilmuir, Skye left from Uig in August 1841. They had tried to immigrate the year before, but he had to stay behind and care for his mother (who died that winter). In 1841 there were two ships sailing for North Carolina. They got separated in a storm and the Washington ended up on Prince Edward Island. They lived in the old school house for almost 20 years. They would clear land and chop wood all winter. In 1862, while they were getting ready to build a new house, Alexander's son Malcolm MacDonald was killed by a falling tree. He was recently married and his wife was pregnant. She miscarried the baby a month later.

Elizabeth MacKenzie of Applecross emigrated in 1803 with Lord Selkirk to Belfast. She married Peter Ballem, whose father was a Hessian (a German mercenary fighting for the British) killed in the Revolution. At the time of their wedding, she was 17, Peter was 37. This was the first mass emigration where the people were able to buy their land. The first two days they all huddled by campfires on the beach. They had no idea how to deal with the old-growth forest that grew right to the edge of the cliffs. They build log cabins the first winter, and lived in them for up to 20 years before they could build a proper house. The dark forest was unlike anything the folk from Skye had seen before. The sound of the wind in the trees was frightening, and the sounds of all of the forest animals was terrifying.

Donald Taylor of Skipness in Kintyre emigrated in 1820. He and his children owned the Wood Islands long before the ferry terminal was built there. He was a sea captain, as were several of his descendants.

Donald Macintosh emigrated from Skye in 1820 to Strathalbyn on PEI. He and his wife Christina Murray had 13 kids between 1834 and 1862, all of them baptized by Rev. Donald MacDonald.

Ewen Lamont emigrated from Bernisdale on Skye to Lyndale. He was headmaster of the Uigg Grammar School, and elder and precentor in the Church of Scotland in Belfast, and was also a hymn writer in both Gaelic and English.

Alexander Mutch was from Aberdeenshire. He joined the Black Watch in 1775 and served in the American Revolution. After the war, he came to PEI in 1786 as aide-de-camp to the new governor Edmund Fanning. He settled in Fullerton's Marsh, not far from Charlottetown. In 1788 he was charged with giving two tax collectors such a ferocious beating that *of their lives it was greatly despaired.* He reportedly unearthed a cache of treasure that was hastily buried by Acadians during the deportation. He made at least one trip to St. Pierre & Miquelon to exchange French coins for Pounds. He had 15 kids by two wives, the second of whom was 30 years younger than he. He died from injuries he sustained by being hooked by a bull.

Donald MacRae of Glenelg emigrated in 1805. He paid 75 pounds 12 shillings (!) for the passage of 8 people on the ship *Northern Friends*.

Robert Jones emigrated from Paisley in 1809. He was a trained draughtsman and cabinetmaker. He operated Lord Selkirk's sawmill on the Pinette River. He built St. John's Church in Belfast in 1824.