

QUEEN'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Vol. 2, #1  
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At the beginning of the second year of publication of this bi-monthly Newsletter which goes to over one hundred members of the Queen's County Historical Society, we ask for suggestions as to how it may be improved.

At present, probably a half dozen people do most of the contributing to the Newsletter. These people have no desire to monopolize the space in our Newsletter. There is enough material for 4 pages at each printing but to be most interesting to the majority of our readers, these facts and anecdotes should come from every corner of the County. Some corners are not now inhabited, but our ancestors lived in many areas which have been abandoned. The inhabitants of these abandoned settlements are now largely bears, beavers and bunnies and they cannot help us. Let us rescue the pages of the past. What are our sources? They include the older people who can tell us many an interesting story. Find the old newspapers, scrapbooks and early histories. Let us get information on Annidale, Bald Hill, Hibernia, North Forks, Speight Settlement, California Settlement, Cornwall, to mention a few. Let us find out more about county-born people who made history on land and sea in the uttermost parts of the earth. Let us find more about our sea captains, ship carpenters, pioneer doctors, etc.

If each of the hundred members allows five other people to read his Newsletter copy, then upwards of several hundred people will have been in contact with a lot of history. Request that these people give you some item for the next Newsletter. We request more stories of the past, poetry, and anecdotes from people in your locality.

Yours for an even better Newsletter in 1982.

\*\*A.P.H.

QUEEN'S COUNTY BIOGRAPHY: Jonathan Titus McDonald, Physician

The Newsletter Committee has recently received 13 pages of closely typed well researched material relating to the life of Jonathan Titus McDonald. It was prepared by Society member, A. Leslie Denton, and the material for this biography is excerpted from it.

Jonathan T. McDonald, a grandson of Donald McDonald of Isle of Skye, was born at Washademoak Lake, probably at McDonald's Corner. His parents were "Squire" Lewis McDonald and his second wife, Martha Titus (McGready) McDonald. He seems to have had a brother Charles, sisters Harriet and Martha Jane, and at least 5 half brothers and sisters, namely Eleanor Ann, Joseph, Susan, Delilah, and James. The 1861 Census for Cambridge Parish indicates that he was born in 1857. No doubt he attended the local school, and like many McDonalds before and since, there is little doubt but what he was clever.

Records show that he attended Colby University in Maine and participated in their commencement exercises on July 28, 1880 by delivering an address called "The Genius of Truth". Then in 1885 he appears as the Principal of Livermore Public School in Alameda County, California. In fact this is "the scene of his farewell" and his achievements over the last four years are lauded because among other things he was influential in establishing a college preparatory program at this institution. It is no secret where he is going for records from the same time period include a letter dated Oct. 25, 1884 notifying him of his admittance to the Cooper Medical College for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

It seems that he studied there successfully for in an account of his marriage on Nov. 27, 1887 he is called "Dr. J.T. McDonald of New Brunswick". Miss Clara Rebecca Hutchins was a native of Petaluna, Wisconsin, but apparently they were married in San Francisco because the account states that the groom "has only resided in this city during the past three years". She was a clergyman's daughter and seems to have been both devout and musical having been "in charge of the music in the Sabbath School for some time". Two of the many guests at the nuptials were Calvin McDonald and Wilmott McDonald, who one guesses were relatives of the groom.

The next notice we have of Dr. McDonald's career is a business card dated Nov. 1, 1893 stating that Dr. Jonathan T. McDonald "who for the past year has been pursuing clinical, hospital, and laboratory studies in the East and Europe has returned to San Francisco and has assumed practice". We

do not know when he left San Francisco for Honolulu but an American Medical Association paper on leprosy dated June 6, 1903 was written by "Jonathan T. McDonald, A.M., M.D., Pathologist to the Hawaiian Territorial Board of Health, Secretary Hawaiian Territorial Medical Society, Consulting Physician the Queen's Hospital etc., etc."

Dr. McDonald's wife Clara died May 17, 1904 while she was visiting her relatives in San Francisco. She was only 42 at the time of her death and the account states that she suffered from heart disease. She was buried at her childhood home in Wisconsin.

J.T. McDonald stayed in Hawaii until 1922, reducing his private practice in 1918 to take over the Kalihi Station, a Leprosy Investigation Station run by the United States Public Health Service. A press clipping at that time states Dr. McDonald "was virtually commandeered for the position by Uncle Sam" having been told by Dr. Trotter of the Health Service that "it was his patriotic duty to take hold". During his years in Hawaii he had obviously specialized in this field and a similar social notes states that Dr. McDonald "world authority on tropical diseases, especially the treatment of leprosy with chaulmoogra oil, has left the Whitcomb Hotel for Europe" where in Paris he will address "an European assembly of physicians on the treatment of tropical diseases".

It appears that the treatment of leprosy with derivatives of chaulmoogra oil was at an experimental stage at this time. Dr. A.S. Dean, A.M., Ph.D. and Professor of chemistry at the University of Hawaii seems to have been Jonathan's closest associate. In fact the treatment followed was called "administering the Dean derivatives", substances likely isolated by the chemist in his laboratories. It seems from the data available that one problem was to persuade the public that leprosy was not an incurable disease, and a second problem was the severe side effects of the chaulmoogra oil on the digestive systems of the patients. Obviously experimental work went on over several years, but apparently more and more people were released from the Station virtually cured. Dr. McDonald is cited as "one of those who helped perfect the treatment" and by 1922 "good results" were being reported from other stations in the Phillipines and India.

In 1922 when Jonathan McDonald left Hawaii he had "not had one day of vacation for four years" and his intentions were to travel, lecture, and "take things easy". Among other things he intended to confer with the surgeon general in Washington, and one wonders whether he visited his relatives at Washademoak at this time. If indeed he did, we the editors, would be interested to hear your reminiscences about this internationally known physician. Dr. McDonald seems to have lived on into the thirties a respected and well-loved figure in San Francisco.

\*\*A.L.Denton, M.D.B.

#### The Armless Wonder

The story of the legless man brought back to me something which happened about 65 years ago, somewhere between 1915-19. This should have been told in 1981, the year of the handicapped. I think it shows how people with determination managed with dreadful disabilities back before there were wheelchairs and ramps to accommodate same. Mind you I think aforementioned are wonderful things and modern day therapy is the greatest.

Professor Baldwin as he called himself was born without arms (before Thalidomide, too). I distinctly remember his wife dropping his shirt so that my mother could see that there was no sign of an arm, no place for an arm, the shoulder rounded and smooth like an egg. He had tiny feet with four toes on each. When I knew him, he was probably between 40 and 50 years of age, he was about 3½ ft. tall and measured the same around - adults remarked that "his girth the same as his height". This is a child's impression of age and size but he and his wife boarded at our house for several weeks, so although my memories are sketchy, otherwise they would have been more so.

The Little Man was posher than most of us since he had his clothes made to order. The pockets in his trousers were in the front (not side) and were very deep - that's where the money was kept. He also had a special chair, which was much like a child's chair (table and chair set) but had a wider seat and a wider leg spread - on this he sat to eat his meal from the edge of a plate at the edge of the table. One would gather from this that the

body was much longer than those short little legs. He could only toddle, like a baby learning to walk, needing support and no hands with which to grab.

The Professor was described as "The Armless Wonder" in the posters advertising his show - it was most impressive, especially to a child. He had two puppets, they were Johnny Green, a white boy, and Sambo, a colored boy - being a ventriloquist he thrilled us with the conversations he carried on with them. The ability to throw his voice, as the locals called ventriloquism, often gave us amusement at home, too. It was not unusual for an old Irishman with a strong brogue to call to us from some other room in the house and when that same old man spoke to one of the children from immediately behind his or her chair, you can imagine the squeals. Scary! But fun!

When the Little Man was ready for Show Biz he wore socks in which the toes were out and the edge bound with soft suede or leather. Slip on shoes slipped off and on very easily, so all of his act was done from his special chair and using those very limber toes he could hit the bullseye with his bow and arrow about 10 to 15 ft. away. He could pick up things like you and I can with thumb and index finger - he whittled, hammered nails and wrote his name. His running commentary was amusing - when his hammer was upside down in his toes and he was ready to do his hammering act he would say "Little boy (from the audience) will you turn my hammer for me?" But, before the little boy arrived, thanks to those frisky toes, the hammer flew in the air and came down right side up and his remark then was "Oh! it turned over itself". He would write his name and have the paper passed around, then say, "Perhaps not a very good hand but you'll have to admit it's a pretty fair foot".

The Little Man's wife, Mae, a nice looking young woman, was a great manager. She took care of their horse, she moved the props and she did all of the heavy work, some of which wasn't easy. She would have liked to do more of the show since she was the 7th daughter of the 7th daughter and thought to have witch-like powers. One thing she did do was to take wee squares of white paper (I saw her cut them from used envelopes), place one on a fan's palm, place a dampened pink square over top and when removed there was the picture and name of his or her future spouse. Mine was Ruth and I never did see her but the picture reposed in our Family Bible for years. Mae wasn't allowed to do much of the show because the professor said she'd only be gypping the public while he was giving a good honest show of what he could do in spite of his handicap.

I don't know what their show cost, probably never did know, because since they were at our house, we went in for free. All their money, but a very little was kept in those aforementioned trouser pockets. If one wanted to thieve who would think of attacking a little helpless man like the Professor?

This happened in Lawfield, Queen's County, where I was born and brought up and I know that Professor Baldwin performed in all the nearby communities like Gagetown, Queenstown, Summerhill, Upper Gagetown, Swan Creek, Greenfield, etc. We heard that the following winter Mae and the Professor lived with Tom and Martha Martin, a bachelor and his spinster sister at Headline. A few years later we heard that our Little Man had died up in Northern N.B., not far from his original home. Does anyone else in Queen's County remember Professor Baldwin, The Little Man?

\*\*J. Guy McGowan

GENEALOGY: William and Elias Seacord, Loyalists

At Newboro, N.Y., he went about his farm work. His cattle and horses grazed and his grain grew beside the quiet Hudson River. But then came the war, the Revolutionary War in the Americas. William Seacord (Secord), as all other citizens of the Colony, made his choice. He crossed the line and joined the British in New York City, 1777. William became a lieutenant in the Orange County Volunteers. After the war in July, 1783, he came to Sunbury County, Nova Scotia, now New Brunswick.

Elias Seacord (Secord) met others at White Plains, Westchester County, New York. It was there that 312 men declared allegiance to their King on 13 April 1775, as recorded in the American Archives. Since there seems to be no record of an Elias Secord, Loyalist, going to Ontario at that time period he must have been my ancestor. Microfilm A 400 National Archives, Ottawa, gives: Muster Roll, Prince of Wales Royal American Volunteers, Capt. Haldens

under Brig. Gen. Browne August 1777 a "Cpl. Secore, Elias, General Hospital, New York, sick. Feb. 1778 as before. To be discharged April 1778". This would mean that the record of his discharge would not be in the main body of discharge papers.

According to Roger Sicard of Paris, France, Ambroise Sicard left France after the Edict of Nantes was revoked, 1685. He was a salt producer at Mornac, a short distance South of LaRochele. Roger's book "Histoire D'Une Famille De Languedoc" gives the origin of the name Sicard as taking place in the 5th or 6th century. The name came from "the prefix Sig-(victory) and the suffix hard-(brave)...to some Visigoth or Franc soldiers, or a Gallo-roman that wanted it..." "a permanent gesture". The surname was to be handed down from "Father to son". Roger gives the source of each piece of data. I have forgotten too much Latin to translate his last source. This suggests, if my translation is correct, that members of the family could be of Visigoth, Franc or Gallo-roman descent.

History shows that the West Visigoths lived on the North side of the Black Sea. They crossed the lower Danube in 376 to Thrace and reached southern France in 412. The work of ancient historians, Greek and Hebrew would indicate the Visigoths could have been descendants of Tubal, son of Japheth son of Noah (Gen.10). The Franks or Franks, it seems were of Teutonic origin. Germans are generally considered to be descendants of Gomer, son of Japheth son of Noah. They reached North France in 420.

Ambroise Sicard 1666-1733, the Huguenot refugee escaped to England with his wife, his sons Ambroise, Daniel, Jacques and daughters Marie and Silvie. From England they went West to America. They reached New York City in ca. 1686 but without the Mother. Ambroise Sr., according to my American friends, spent much of his life in New Rochelle, N.Y., where he is remembered by a statue as well as an avenue. He formed a number of variations of the name Sicard. Huguenots tended to become part of the culture of the country which gave them refuge. So perhaps Ambroise was striving for an English spelling of the name. The variations I have seen in use are: Secor, Secore, Seacord, and the one used here, Secord. The original spelling, Sicard, is still in use in the U.S.A.

Who were the parents of Elias and William Secord? So far, no success. Perhaps due to the conflict of 1776, the record has been lost or destroyed. The First Presbyterian Church of New York City sent me a photocopy of the bbt 1775 of Ruth Hunt b.1758, wife of William Secord. The parish of Trinity Church in New York City sent me a letter bearing the date of bbt 9 June 1783 of Elias William Seacord b.3 May 1783 son of Elias and Abigail Seacord; sponsors, Gasper Hart, Mary Hart and the father. I have no date of birth for William but my great, great grandfather, Elias was born 30 Oct. 1748. This date came from the late Frederick Secord of Chicago, Ill. Correspondence with him started 11 Feb. 1946 on the lineage of the family. A few years ago while searching at the N.B. Archives, I read a letter from the above Frederick to a woman of the Fredericton area dated Aug. 10, 1946. In this letter Frederick stated "I have seen the original of the family bible of Elias, the Loyalist, and has the names and date of the births of his children..." He had the names correct so the date of birth of my ancestor Elias must be correct. The 2 oldest sons of Elias, James b.1785 and Henry b.1787 went to Ont. in the early 1800's. They were married with children as can be seen in the records of St. John's Anglican Church, Gagetown, N.B. As yet I have only circumstantial evidence to indicate that Elias and William were brothers. The genealogy of the family after coming to this province is lengthy and well documented. I would be happy to discuss it with anyone who is interested. \*\*George W. Secord.