

**HUGH MACDONELL.**

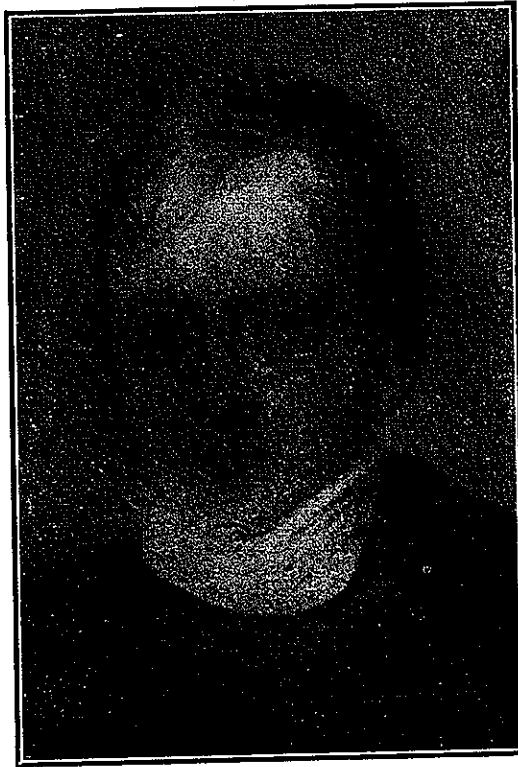
The Macdonells of Glengarry, always Jacobites, espoused the cause of the Stuarts under Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745-6, and all of the name stood by him to the last. At Culloden in 1746 their hopes were finally shattered; Invergary Castle, the seat of their Chief, was burnt, their homes were laid waste, the leading men of their clan were ruined, while some, exempted from the Act of Indemnity, became fugitives and sought service in the armies of France and Spain.

But if the dynasty had changed it had changed in spite of them and that was the end of it; the new conditions had to be faced and accepted; the Monarchical system remained and in that principal they believed; it was a cardinal article of their political faith; it was binding upon them in conscience and as men of honor they obeyed it and were bound to fight and maintain it against all comers and everywhere; moreover, they liked fighting.

After some years of repression and hardships the British Government formed the plan of raising regiments of Highlanders for military service abroad. This proved a great success and numberless fiery Celtic spirits found congenial employment under Wolfe and elsewhere during the Seven Years War.

Some of Wolfe's Highlanders were disbanded in Canada after 1763, and many of their descendants are to be found in the Province of Quebec to-day. The majority of them intermarried with the inhabitants, and many of their descendants who bear Highland names can speak no language but French.

After the close of the war in 1763, the situation in the Highlands of Scotland had, from various causes, become practically intolerable, and thousands ultimately emigrated to America, some



to the Carolinas and others to the then Province, now the State of New York.

In 1773 three Macdonell brothers—John of Leek—Allan of Collachie—and Alexander of Aberchalder—with John Macdonell of the family of Scotus who had previously been an officer in the Spanish Army, serving in Italy, with six hundred Highlanders of their clan, making a total party of some eight hundred persons, sailed from Scotland for New York on the vessel "Pearl." They had made arrangements with Sir William Johnson who was Chief Superintendent of Indian affairs for the Province of New York, for a grant of land on the Mohawk River near Albany. They arrived in New York late in the season and the leading gentlemen were given a banquet by the Mayor and Corporation of the city.

The settlers were allotted land in what was then known as Tryon County, which name was during the Revolutionary War in 1784, changed to Montgomery County, being so named after the American General who was killed at the seige of Quebec in December, 1775, the former appellation having fallen into disfavor owing to the fact that Governor Tryon, from whom it had been called and who had previously been Governor of the Province of New York and afterwards of Carolina, was one of the most prominent and devoted loyalists.

Sir William Johnson had taken an active part in the campaign against the French in 1755-60 and lived in feudal state at Johnstown N.Y. He had great influence with the Indians through his second wife, Mary Brant, sister of the renowned Chief, Joseph Brant, of the Six Nations, that great native ally of Britain who on the conclusion of the Revolutionary War settled at Wellington Square (now Burlington) in Upper Canada.

Upon the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, in 1776, Sir John Johnson "Knight and Baronet," son of Sir William (who had died suddenly in 1774), and who had succeeded his father as Commandant of the Militia of the Province of New York, was commissioned to raise a Regiment to be known as "The King's Royal Regiment of New York" and to which a second Battalion was added in 1780. Amongst those who obtained commissions in this famous partizan Corps were Captain Alexander Macdonell and his son Hugh, the subject of this sketch. Another son, John Macdonell, "The Swift and intrepid Captain of the Rangers," first commissioned in the 84th, or Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment, subsequently obtained a Company in Butler's Rangers and served with great distinction throughout the war, while a third son, Chichester, was also a second Lieutenant in the Rangers.

In all, no less than fifteen gentlemen of this name and family connection, Catholics to a man, fought through the War, holding Commissions in the 1st and 2nd Battalions K.R.R., N.Y., Butler's Rangers and the 84th (Royal Highland Emigrants) while another served in 71st Regiment.

After the treaty of Versailles was signed on Sept. 3rd, 1783, the Highland officers and soldiers of the disbanded Loyalist Regiments were allotted land in Upper Canada, the great majority of them settling in the most easterly part of what was then called the Lunenburg District, in what is now known as the County of Glengarry, so named after the home of their forefathers in Scotland. The Macdonells of Glengarry outrank in number any other three individual names which appear in what is known as "Lord Dorchester's List of U.E. Loyalists," prepared by Government in 1789.

Captain Alexander Macdonell, with his sons John and Hugh, obtained the very extensive grants allotted to officers of their former rank in the Army, principally in what is now the township of Charlottenburg, in the Lunenburg District. He erected on the North bank of the Saint Lawrence, on Lot Number 25, a stone residence, which is said to have been the first stone building in the Province. This mansion he called "Glengarry House" after his home in Scotland. The property remained in the Macdonell family until a very recent period. Mrs. Simcoe, wife of our first Provincial Governor, was hospitably entertained here on her journeys between Montreal and Newark, as well as all other distinguished visitors to the Province in early years. The building was destroyed by fire in 1813 and the site is now locally known as "Stone House Point." It has recently been suggested that the Point be preserved as a Government Park to commemorate its historical associations.

Hugh Macdonell was appointed a Deputy Land Surveyor in 1788 and appears to have followed his profession except during the period in which he was on service with the Royal Canadian Volunteer Regiment of Foot, in the 1st or Quebec Battalion of which he was Senior Captain, until his departure from the Province in 1804.

When what now constitutes the Province of Ontario was separated from Quebec and Parliamentary Institutions were accorded to it, in 1792, Hugh Macdonell was elected member for the first Riding of the County of Glengarry, his brother Colonel John Macdonell being the other member of the County, which had two representatives in a House of sixteen members only. Of the first Parliament of the Province which met at Newark (now Niagara-

on-the-Lake) on the 17th September, 1792, Colonel John Macdonell was elected Speaker.

In 1788 Hugh Macdonell made surveys in the townships of Yonge, Escott and Lansdowne in the Lunenburg District, now County of Leeds. In 1793 he was associated with William Chewett in the surveys of the township of Mountain, Winchester and Finch. There can be no doubt that his services as surveyor were also in demand in what was afterwards Glengarry.

In 1803 Hugh Macdonell was Lieutenant Colonel of the Glengarry Militia Regiment, of which his elder brother, John Macdonell (the former Speaker), was Colonel as well as Lieutenant of the county, and he was appointed by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe to be Adjutant-General of the Militia forces in the Province, and as such laid the foundation of our Militia system as it exists in Canada to-day.

When the treaty of Amiens (1802) was compassed and the Royal Canadian Volunteer Regiment was included in the reduction of the Army which followed upon that event, Hugh Macdonell, after twenty-six years' service, was retired without rank, half-pay or any remuneration whatever. He repaired to London in 1804 when under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, whose friendship he had acquired when the Duke was on service in Canada, he was appointed Assistant Commissary General at Gibraltar to which command the Duke had recently been named.

In 1810 he accompanied Lord Cochrane (grandfather of the present Lord Dundonald) on a mission to Algiers, and in 1811 was appointed Consul-General there, a position he filled until 1820. Algiers was then the headquarters of the Algerine and Barbary pirates, and the lives of Macdonell and his family were in constant jeopardy. He was not infrequently imprisoned and in August, 1816, his release was secured only upon the bombardment of the place by Lord Exmouth. He was pensioned in 1820, and passed the latter years of his long and useful life at Florence.

A brother of Hugh Macdonell, also a Loyalist officer in the Revolutionary War, was Lieutenant Colonel Chichester Macdonell. He did not remain in Canada after the conclusion of the War, but continued in the service and died in India.

Janet Macdonell, a sister of Hugh Macdonell, married in Scotland, Alexander Macdonell of Greenfield, who afterwards came to Canada and was the progenitor of a well known Canadian family.

Hugh Macdonell was twice married, first to a Miss Hughes of a formerly well known Lower Canadian family, and secondly to a daughter of Admiral Ulrich, Danish Consul at Algiers, who

after Mr. Macdonell's death, became the wife of the Duke de Talleyrand-Perigord. She died at Florence in 1870 at a very advanced age.

Hugh Macdonell's eldest son, Lieut.-General Sir Alexander Macdonell, K.C.B., followed a military career. From a Lieutenant in the Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade in 1837, he advanced to Col. Commandant in 1886. He served in the Kaffir War 1846-7; the Crimean War 1854-56; the Indian Mutiny 1857, and on the N.W. Indian frontier in 1864. He died on April 30, 1891.

The youngest son of Hugh Macdonell, the Right Hon. Sir Hugh Guion Macdonell, G.C.M.G., C.B., received his commission in the army at the early age of sixteen years. He served on the Cape Frontier and in the Kaffir war, where he contracted rheumatic fever, that disabled him for further active field service. He subsequently entered the diplomatic service, concluding his eventful career as Minister to Portugal, where he served Britain well during the Boer War. He died at London on Jan. 25, 1904. His widow published in 1913 an entertaining volume entitled "Reminiscences of Diplomatic Life."

Hugh Macdonell was a prominent man of affairs during his sojourn in Canada, in military affairs, in public life and as a land surveyor.

The family of the Macdonells of Greenfield are the nearest kinsfolk now in Canada of Hugh Macdonell, of Aberchalder, Major-General Sir Archibald Macdonell, now Commandant of the R.M.C., Kingston, is a son of Samuel S. of Windsor, grandson of Alexander, Sheriff of Toronto, and great grandson of Allan of Col-lachie, brother of Hugh's father, Alexander of Aberchalder. Brigadier General, the Hon. Archibald Hayes Macdonell, now a Senator, is a son of Angus Duncan and grandson of Sheriff Alexander. John Alexander Macdonell, K.C., of Alexandria, Ont., is a son of Archibald John of Kingston, and grandson of Duncan (Greenfield).