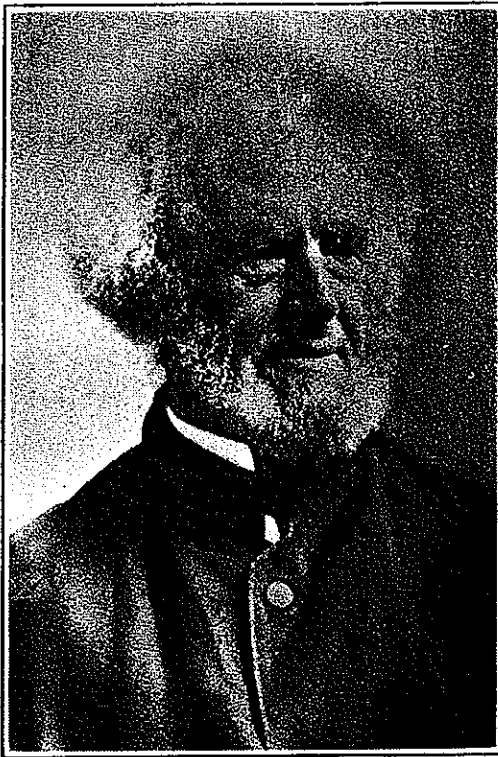


## JOHN McDONALD

By A. P. Walker

John McDonald, the first Surveyor for The Canada Company, and who made many of the original Surveys between the City of Guelph and the Town of Goderich, was born at Balachladdick, in the Parish of Dores, Invernesshire, Scotland, in May, 1794.



While John was still a young man, his father, Evan McDonald, and his father's brother, Alexander, emigrated to America with their families. The two brothers settled first at Caledonia in New York State, but in 1823 left the States and moved to Canada, taking up land in the Township of Dumfries, County of Waterloo, near the present Town of Galt. Evan subsequently moved with his family to near the present City of Guelph. John, the eldest of this family, and the subject of this sketch, had been educated in the profession of Engineering in Scotland and on his arrival in Canada, qualified as a

Deputy Provincial Surveyor on 26th April, 1823. Shortly afterwards he became associated with John Galt and Dr. William Dunlop, the fathers of The Canada Company, and was present at the founding of the City of Guelph, and the cutting of the first tree, as graphically described in the autobiography of the late John Galt. John McDonald was in charge of the Surveys of the road from Guelph to Goderich which was cut through the dense forest in 1828 at the expense of The Canada Company, who had been granted about one million acres of land for settlement in the Huron District. The field notes of the Survey of this road from the Township of Wilmot to Goderich and which now forms part of King's Highway Number Eight, are still on file in the office of The Canada

Company in Toronto. In this Survey, McDonald was assisted by David Smith, D.P.S., and also by his cousin Donald, the youngest son of his uncle Alexander, then a lad of 12 or 13. This same Donald, after remaining with The Canada Company for many years, was elected to the Legislative Council of Upper Canada in 1858 for the Tecumseh Division, and became a member of the Senate of Canada at Confederation. He died at Toronto 20th January, 1879, leaving a large family, one of whom Charles Egerton McDonald still resides in the City. Col. Van Egmond and his men cut out and roughly graded the road to Goderich and the following quaint description of this work, which seems hardly to agree with present-day practice, is taken from Robina and Kathleen Lizar's book, "In the days of The Canada Company" "Three went on as axemen, a couple more carried provisions, and another, understanding the methods of an Engineer, carried the instruments. The axemen cut continuously down a line through the underwood and a flying level was taken. Sometimes to get their bearings, they selected the highest ground, found a tall pine, piled the trunk high with dry brush, and as night came on, applied the torch. Up flamed the pyramid of fire, by which these modern Israelites spied out their promised land." In the above mentioned book our hero is described as "large, fair, sanguine complexion, Highland in voice and accent, painstaking, and a trifle slow." A story is told of him after his arrival in Goderich illustrating his great strength. Tiger Dunlop had built a small log house on top of the cliff, facing the lake, and bordering the river, at the present light-house point, and known as "The Castle". When the four walls were put together, it became a question how the pork and flour, waiting in barrels below at Goodings, could be brought up the steep hill to the "Castle"—"Ach" quoth McDonald "a ken tek one up" and he did, not one but all on his brawny back. Afterwards he was known as "Stout Mac". Gooding was the first white settler at Goderich, and he traded with the Indians, who came in great numbers, and camped on the river flats. John McDonald continued to survey for The Canada Company for many years, and the Surveys of the following Townships were either made by him, or under his direction, viz.: Blanshard, Bosanquet, Colborne, Downie, Easthope (North and South), Ellice, Fullarton, Hay, Hibbert, Hullett, Logan, McGillivray, McKillop, Stanley, Stephen, Tuckersmith, and Usborne. Goderich Township only is certified as being surveyed by David Gibson, D.P.S.

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

John McDonald was thrice married. First to Elizabeth Amelia Mitchell, daughter of Judge James Mitchell of the London District Court. An account of this marriage, written evidently by a neighbour of Judge Mitchell's of the "Hermitage" near Simcoe, has been preserved amongst the papers of Francis A. Gordon of Ottawa, a grandson. It reads: "Marriages in those early days were peculiar. Courtships were short. My father and mother were visited one morning, about 1825, by Mr. McDonald of Goderich, the young Surveyor for The Canada Company, and afterwards sheriff for the Huron District. He had ridden through the forest from Goderich to Long Point Bay, hearing that Judge Mitchell had two fine daughters, and desired my father's and mother's opinion as to which one they would recommend him to marry. The elder was recommended, and they all went to the Judge's house, a few miles off. The eldest daughter was interviewed, and the next morning she left for Goderich married, travelling 150 miles on horseback, on a pillion behind her husband. No one but a Surveyor and in the employ of The Canada Company could have accomplished that feat in those days." This writer has been unable to ascertain the exact date of this marriage, but it could not have been in 1825, as the bride was born 7th March, 1815, and would, therefore, in 1825, be only ten years old. It is probable it took place about 1832 when the bride would be 17, and the groom 38. By this union there were six children, all dying in infancy, with the exception of the eldest daughter, Elizabeth Amelia, who was born at Goderich, 19th November, 1836. She married firstly, John Bell Gordon, son of Captain William Gordon, who at one time commanded the steamer "City of Toronto" and who died in Toronto, during the cholera epidemic of July, 1849, and secondly, Hon. William Weir Carroll, Senator, and son of Sheriff James Carroll of Woodstock. Mrs. Carroll died at Ottawa, 4th December, 1918, in her 83rd year.

John McDonald's first wife died on 22nd June, 1850, and shortly afterwards he married Mary Jane Carroll, daughter of James Carroll of Woodstock, sheriff of Oxford. There were six children by this marriage as follows:

- (1) John Carroll McDonald married Grace Dunlevie. No children.
- (2) Mary Margaret married Percy Walton Marling. Had two sons and two daughters.
- (3) Victoria Frances married Michael Krum Dunlevie.

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Had one daughter and two sons. All living in Toronto.

(4) Jane Frederica. Unmarried.

(5) Charles Carroll. Unmarried.

(6) Frederick Carroll. Unmarried. } Twins.

All the above children are dead with the exception of Charles Carroll McDonald, who is said to be living in North Vancouver, B.C.

John McDonald's second wife died 4th June, 1861, and shortly afterwards he married for the third time, Mary Fraser, daughter of James Fraser of Inverness, Scotland, who survived him. His widow afterwards married Rev. Robert Ure, D.D., pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church, Goderich. She died 1st May, 1897.

On the death of Henry Hyndman, the first sheriff of the District of Huron, which comprised the United Counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce, John McDonald was appointed to that position on 31st May, 1845. He continued to hold this position until his death on 31st July, 1873, in his 80th year. He was a very active man, and extremely fond of horseback riding, and a fall while attempting to climb a fence hastened his end. His remains, as well as those of his wives and several sons, lie in Maitland Cemetery, Goderich, where a fine monument has been erected to his memory.

A photograph of the sheriff is published herewith.

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**ARTHUR JUNIUS MADDOCK**

By Col. A. J. van Nostrand

The subject of this sketch was born December 3rd, 1848, in a small town outside Calcutta, India. His father, the Rev. Edward Knight Maddock came from one of the oldest families in Hampshire, England, and for seventeen years served as Military Chaplain with the British forces in Calcutta. He married Miss Lucinda Smith, an American, who bore him two sons and one daughter, Arthur Junius being the younger son. Returning to England to spend his later years he placed his younger son in the Blackheath Preparation School where he completed the full course. There he distinguished himself in athletics, particularly as a long distance runner, a number of silver cups won by him being still in the possession of his family. In later years he became an accomplished horseman and horse master.