

## MURDOCH JOHN McLENNAN

Was born at Williamstown, Ontario, on November 13th, 1866; and died at Cornwall, Ontario, December 20th, 1933, and was buried at Williamstown on December 22nd, in the family plot, in St. Andrews Church Cemetery. He was unmarried.



He was the third son of Duncan McLennan and his wife Christina Brown. Duncan McLennan was the third son of Farquhar McLennan of Williamstown, a native of Morvich in Kintail, Ross-Shire, Scotland, who came to Canada in 1802 and his wife, Flora McLennan, also of Kintail. Farquhar had returned to Scotland in 1812 and was married there in 1815, returning to Canada with his wife in 1816.

Farquhar McLennan was an uncle of Roderick McLennan, O.L.S., whose biography appears in the 1932 Report.

Christina Brown was the second daughter of James Brown, of Williamstown, who was born in Kintail and came to Canada in 1817 and his wife, Catharine McGillis, a daughter of John McGillis, and a niece of Hugh McGillis, who was a partner in the North West Company. The McGillis's came to New York State in 1773 from Perthshire, Scotland, and were U.E. Loyalists. Mrs. Brown's grandmother had the unenviable experience of having two husbands killed in battle. The first at Culloden, the second at the second battle at Greenbush during the American Revolution. Hugh McGillis bought the historic Sir John Johnston's property at Williamstown in 1821. This consisted of a residence, still called the Manor House, a farm and grist and saw mill and a number of village lots, some of which were leased for nine hundred and ninety-nine years. At the death of Hugh McGillis this property passed to a

nephew, John McGillis, who about 1871 sold it to Murdoch McLennan, who was the uncle of the subject of this sketch, and at his death it passed to his sister's children, and is now owned by Col. D. M. Robertson, of Toronto, and Kenneth Robertson, of Montreal, Que.

After attending the Public and High School at Williamstown, the subject of this sketch took a course in Civil Engineering at McGill University, and having served an apprenticeship with David R. Brown, O.L.S., of Cornwall, he was appointed an O.L.S. on the 13th Nov., 1893, and he was a D.L.S.

The accompanying picture of him was taken a few years ago on the farm which once belonged to John McGillis, U.E.L.

The following were the brothers and sisters of M. J. Mc.

1. Farquhar Duncan McLennan, Cornwall, Ont., Manager of the R. R. McLennan estate, married Jean E. Oman, of Castletown, Caithness, Scotland, no family.

2. James Alexander Brown McLennan, Williamstown, Ont., Division Court Clerk, unmarried.

3. Flora Ann McLennan, deceased, was married to John McLennan, Charlottenburg, farmer. Their family was Randolph McLennan, married Helen McDougald; Agnes, married Archie Robertson; John F., unmarried.

4. Donald Randolph McLennan, a graduate of Queen's University in Medicine. Was also prominent in football, hockey and other sports, resides at Mayo Landing, Yukon Territory.

5. Catharine Marion McLennan, married John Prentice, now deceased, of Norwich, England, resides in Vancouver, B.C., one son, Prentice.

The subject of this sketch had no other occupation than surveying and engineering. He was drainage engineer for a number of surrounding townships, and had a solid grasp of its underlying principles. He had no hobbies except that he was interested in politics in the Conservative interest.

He spoke both English and French, and if he got into a hole and the only means of extricating himself was by the Gaelic, then he would get out.

He had the almost unique experience of never having attended one of our Annual Meetings. But had it not been for his untimely death the writer believes he had him almost persuaded to attend our last Annual Meeting. He was of the all round solid type surveyor and engineer.

He was an enthusiastic and capable member of our Biographical Committee, whose position it will be difficult to fill.

This biography reveals that he was a lineal descendant of a long line of prominent and historic ancestry who conquered the pioneering hardships and made Eastern Ontario what it is to-day. That he belongs to the home of Sir John Johnston, who was the worthy son of Sir William Johnston, both of whom were spearheads in rescuing Upper Canada from barbarism. That he was a Williamstown neighbor of David Thompson, that intrepid North American explorer, and that he attended schools in Cornwall, the solid foundation of which were so solidly laid by that distinguished Cleric and educationalist, Dr.—afterwards Bishop—Strachan. So, why should M. J. Mc. consider that he would gain by leaving the Williamstown background to attend our Annual Meetings in Toronto, for which all he may care may yet be "Muddy York."

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