

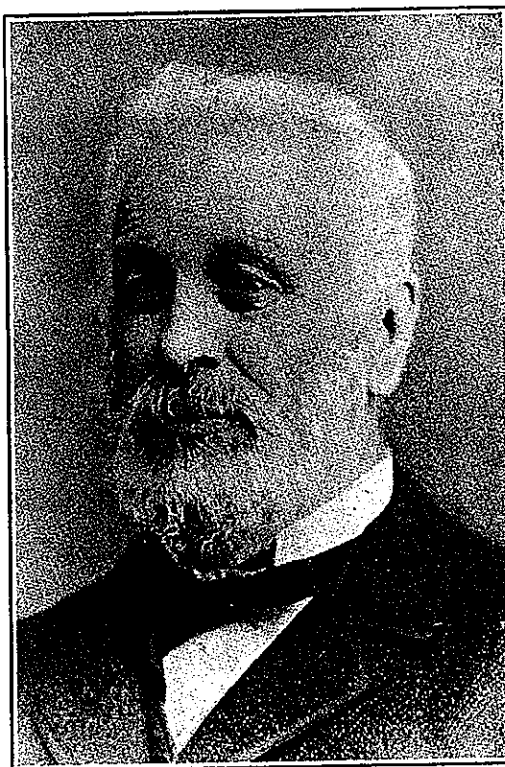
DUNCAN SINCLAIR

The Sinclair family was known in Scotland before the Norman Conquest, and it can be traced to 873 A.D. The Scottish Clan Sinclair, however, trace their descent from Comte de Sancho Claro, a relative of William the Conqueror, who settled in Scotland. William Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld, led a charge against the English invaders in the time of Edward II and drove them back to their ships, with loss.

William Sinclair, Earl of Caithness, who married a granddaughter of Robert III, was slain at Flodden in 1513. Because of their descent from King Robert, eleven of the Sinclair graves are in the Royal Chapel at Edinburgh, where only those having royal blood are interred.

The Sinclair estates in olden times embraced the entire northern part of Scotland from sea to sea, and included the Orkney Islands which were subject to the Norwegian Crown but nothing now remains to the Earl of Caithness. The fifteenth Earl died in 1889, without issue. The seventeenth Earl lived in North Dakota, and died at San Francisco unmarried, a few years ago.

Duncan Sinclair, Sr., of the Perthshire branch of the family married Mary McGregor, daughter of the elder son of Lt.-Col. McGregor, an officer in the Scottish army of James VII. A younger son was father of Rob Roy McGregor, the famous outlaw. Duncan and his wife lived at Alberfoyle. They had the following children: Mary, born 1778, who married Carmichael with descendants in Ottawa district; Isabella, who married Thompson of Township of McNabb, Ont., and a son John, born 1785.



This son John married Catharine Ferguson, and sailed for Canada in 1817. Their first child was born at sea on June 10th, 1817. Upon arrival in Montreal the child was baptized and named Duncan.

Duncan, Sr. came out to Montreal in 1824 when 74 years of age.

After seven years spent in the vicinity of Montreal, the family settled in Chatham Township, County of Argenteuil. John Sinclair became an officer in the Militia and received his commission as Major and served in the 1837-38 rebellion. Mary, a daughter of John, married Alex. 2nd Robertson of Chatham Township. They had three sons and one daughter.

John Sinclair had the following children: Duncan, P.L.S., Donald, P.L.S., Mary, Peter, Janet and John. Donald qualified as a P.L.S., on July 9th, 1850. When a young man he went to Australia during the gold rush, accumulated some property, returned to Canada, purchased a property in Ottawa where he lived unmarried until his death, at a ripe old age. Peter, Janet and John were also unmarried and each lived to a good age.

In June, 1847, Duncan Sinclair married Anne McLachlan, daughter of Alex. 2nd McLachlan and his wife Catharine, well-to-do farmers of Rigaud, P.Q. She was born in 1823, and died in 1855, leaving five children. Catharine Alexandrina, James Bruce, Mary Jane, John Ferguson, and Alexander Lachlan.

In 1857 Duncan Sinclair moved to Ottawa, where he married in that year, Mary Merrick of Merrickville, Ontario, who bore him three sons, George Merrick, Duncan Robertson, and Norman.

(1) James Bruce Sinclair, the eldest son was born at Point Fortune in 1849. He assisted his father in surveys and settled at Strathclair in the Little Saskatchewan Valley, Manitoba, in 1876. In 1882 he moved to North Dakota and in 1895 moved to Kalispell, Montana, where he now resides. In 1918 he was elected to the State Legislature. He has one daughter and three sons, Newman Alexander; Ewart Gladstone and Roy Willard.

(2) John Ferguson Sinclair was also born at Point Fortune, in 1853. He became an expert telegrapher, enlisted as one of Roosevelt's riders from North Dakota in the Spanish-American War, and died at Cincinnati.

(3) Alex. Lachlan Sinclair was born in 1855. He lived with his Uncle John and Aunt Janet at Point Fortune, until 1877 when he left for Manitoba, where he took up land in the Little Saskatchewan River. In 1883 he removed to North Dakota, but later returned to Manitoba, where he now resides. He has a stock ranch on Swan River, Man. He served in the World War. He has three daughters by his first wife, and two sons by his second wife, Wilbur Horace Cary of Swan River, Manitoba, and Gorden Alex., dentist, Plattsville, Ont.

(4) George Merrick Sinclair, LL.D., was born in 1859, graduated from Yale, practised law at Butte, Montana. He died in 1897 leaving no children.

(5) Duncan Robertson Sinclair, M.D., born 1863 at Ottawa, graduated in medicine at McGill, and practised at Bottineau, North Dakota. He died at Edmonton in 1906, leaving no children.

(6) Norman died at Winnipeg in 1878 at the age of eleven years.

Catharine Alexandrina, the eldest daughter of Duncan Sinclair, born 1848, died 1874, married Colin Smith. They had two sons.

Mary Jane, the second daughter, born 1851, married Walter Francis Hyman. They had one son and one daughter.

Duncan Sinclair qualified as a Provincial Land Surveyor in the Province of Quebec on June 20th, 1845. He moved to Ottawa from Point Fortune in 1857. It is reported that he made surveys for Col. Bye, on the Rideau Canal, but these must have been resurveys. He was also actively employed on timber limit surveys and in general practice.

In 1860, he organized a company of Canadian Engineers in Ottawa City of which he was Captain. This Company was in Service during the Fenian Raid of 1866.

In the Autumn of 1862 and the Winter of 1863, memorials were presented to Hon. Wm. McDougall, Commissioner of Crown Lands, praying for a survey of the Montreal River, at which date the River was supposed to drain a comparatively level country lying north of Lake Superior. The Memorialists further requested that Mr. Duncan Sinclair be appointed as he was a person in whom your memorialists have all due confidence and one in every way calculated by experience and ability to do ample justice to the same.

The 1862 memorial was signed by the following:

John Ponpone, M.P., William Morris, Wilson Stitt, John Hamilton, M.L.C., W. Mackey, George Bryson, Walter Smith, Alex. Fraser, J. Maclaren & Co., J. M. Currier & Co.

The 1863 memorial was signed by Wm. McD. Dawson and endorsed by Robert Bell.

In 1867 Duncan Sinclair ran an Exploration line for the Provincial Government from the Montreal River (at a point about 20 miles west of Englehardt) westerly on Latitude 47 deg. 56' N. to the head waters of the Pishkanogami River where he stopped work on January 11th, 1867, the length of line run being 104½ miles.

A. P. Salter, P.L.S., and Robert Gilmour, P.L.S., ran easterly on the same latitude from Michipocoten, Lake Superior. These Surveyors failed to meet. The end of Sinclair's line was afterwards found to be ten miles east and two miles south of the end of Gilmour's line. Gilmour discontinued work on April 13th when he had run 84 miles. (See Report 1922, page 119).

The Sinclair and Gilmour lines continue to be shown on Crown Lands maps, also Mount Sinclair, 1,500 high in the Township of Montrose. This Gilmour line ran about four or five miles north of the Town of Chapleau.

In 1870 Duncan Sinclair qualified as a Dominion Land Surveyor and went to Fort Garry late in that year.

In 1871 he was employed in surveying parish lots in the vicinity of Fort Garry. Mr. John Francis became a student of Mr. Sinclair in 1872 and in 1873 sub-division surveys were made in south-eastern Manitoba. From 1874 to 1881 Mr. Sinclair was actively employed on sub-division surveys and on private surveys.

Mr. Francis was a partner of Mr. Sinclair in 1881 when they subdivided Townships in the S. E. corner of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Sinclair lived at Winnipeg until about 1876, when he moved to Straithclair, Manitoba, where his eldest son had taken up land. Straithclair was the first post office in this district, and was so named by Duncan Sinclair. He was elected warden in 1881.

Many sub-division Surveys were made in Winnipeg, the first in December, 1870, five in 1872, ten in 1873, nine in 1874,

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three in 1876 and one in 1880, but none in 1871, 1875, 1877, 1878 or 1879. He also made sub-divisions in suburban parishes.

In 1881 he entered into partnership with John Francis, and in that season they sub-divided townships in what is now South Eastern Saskatchewan. Mr. Francis, who is now living at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, informs us that Mr. Sinclair was a school teacher before qualifying as a Surveyor, and that after qualifying he engaged in lumbering, with limits near Lake Nipissing. In the late sixties, following two disastrous years, this business failed, and he went to Winnipeg late in 1870. Mr. Thomas Drummond, D.T.S., became a student of his in 1875.

In 1887 Mr. Sinclair's eyesight began to fail, due possibly to exposure in the Winter of 1878-1879 at Prince Albert.

From 1883 to 1888 he resided in Bottineau County, North Dakota, during which time he became totally blind. He returned to Straithclair, Manitoba, in 1888 where he continued to reside until his death on February 29th, 1892. He was buried in the local cemetery with his head to the north.

At the time of Mr. Sinclair's death there were living five sons and one daughter.

He was a Presbyterian in religion and a Reformer in politics.

Duncan Sinclair was one of the early surveyors in our North-West. In 1871 he made subdivision surveys in the vicinity of Portage la Prairie also in parts of the Parishes of St. John, Kildonan and St. Paul. In 1872 he made additional surveys in St. Johns, Kildonan and St. Paul, also in St. James, St. Boniface, St. Vital and St. Hobert. In 1873 he made subdivision Twp. 5-8-E. In 1874 and 1875 he was on subdivision work and on timber limits at Rainy Lake. In 1876 he surveyed an enlargement of Broken Head River Indian Reservation. In 1878 he was employed on surveys of Indian Reserves at Norway House, Moose Lake, Cross Lake, Grand Rapids, and Rossville. In partnership with John Francis, he surveyed parts of Township 1 R1 to 10 and Twp. R9 and 10 W. of 2nd murida in the year 1881.

Duncan Sinclair made surveys in this Province under Government instructions as follows:

River Mattawan (Mattawa)	1847
Outlines Lanark and Renfrew	1852
Lot 39, Con. A. Nepeau	1853
Road Mattawan, to Lake Nipissing	1857
Lots in Pembroke-Mattawa Road	1858
Townships Head and Maria	1858
Pembroke-Mattawa Road (retrace)	1862
Exploration Line, Montreal River and Westerly	1866
Timber limits Huron and Ottawa territory	1869

WILLIAM BOULTBEE

William Boulton, P.L.S., a son of Felix and Mary (Samuel) Boulton, was born in Devonshire, England, on the 15th of March, 1832. Felix Boulton and his family settled in Ancaster on coming to Canada and William was educated



at Dr. Tassie's School in Hamilton, later being apprenticed to John G. Howard, P.L.S. and C.E., in Toronto, becoming a P.L. Surveyor on January 5th, 1855 afterwards having a position as Civil Engineer on the Great Western Railway.

In 1864 he went to India as Chief Engineer of the Madras Railway retiring in 1882.

Mr. Boulton married Marian Mulock, daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Homan Mulock and sister of Chief Justice Sir William Mulock and Mrs. G. W. Monk, of Toronto. He died in Toronto in November, 1902. The children of this marriage were Alfred, Marian, W. Mulock, Horace, Rosamond

and Gladys the last three still surviving. Five other children died in infancy.