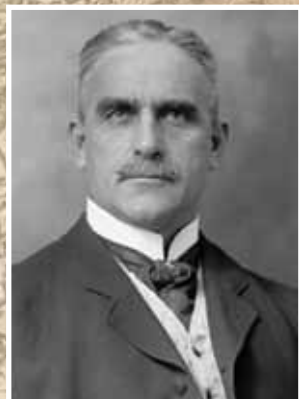


# Ulster & Canada

*Ulster-Scots and the making of modern Canada*



**Ulster-Scots  
Community  
Network**

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...The thistle, shamrock, rose entwine  
The maple Leaf forever!

From The Maple Leaf Forever by Alexander Muir, who emigrated from Scotland to Canada in the 1830s. Muir went on to become a notable Canadian Orangeman, and saw service with the Queens Own Rifles of Canada at the Battle of Ridgeway in 1866.



## Introduction

Canada officially came into being with the passage of the British North America Act of 1867 at Westminster. The newly established Dominion originally consisted of the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. However English and French exploration and settlement dates back to at least the late 15th century. In the 17th and early 18th centuries, 'Canada' referred to the part of New France that lay along the St Lawrence River and the northern shores of the Great Lakes. After 1763 France ceded nearly all of its possessions in North America (including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) to Great Britain. Between 1791 and 1841 Canada was split in two colonies: Upper Canada (now southern Ontario) and Lower Canada (essentially the southern part of modern Quebec and Labrador). In 1841 the two colonies were reunited as the Province of Canada.

Ulster people have a long history in Canada, going back over several centuries, a fact suggested by Ulster places names, such as Armagh (Quebec), Belfast (Ontario and Prince Edward Island), Coleraine (Quebec), Enniskillen (Ontario), Omagh (Ontario) and Londonderry (New Brunswick and Nova Scotia).

The first significant number of settlers to arrive from Ireland were Ulster Protestants, largely of Scottish descent, who settled in Nova Scotia in the early 1760s. Many of these settlers crossed the Atlantic as a result of the efforts of Alexander McNutt. Others came from New England. After the American Revolution many people of Ulster descent who remained loyal subjects of King George III (the United Empire Loyalists) travelled north to make their homes in British North America. As a result of the agricultural slump which followed the Napoleonic Wars, large numbers of disbanded soldiers and struggling small farmers from Ulster emigrated to Canada. For example, in the 1820s 105 families from the Ards peninsula made the

journey across the Atlantic. Adamsons, Armstrongs, Grahams, Croziers and Pattersons were only some of the families attracted by lower rents and the comparatively inexpensive price of land.

Indeed, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries there was significant emigration from Ireland to Canada, approximately two-thirds of which was Protestant. In 1867 the Irish were the second largest ethnic group (after the French) and constituted the largest group in the Anglophone (English speaking) population, constituting 40.1 % of people of British Isles heritage in the new Canadian Confederation.

The strongly Protestant component of this population heavily reinforced the loyalist tradition upon which Anglophone Canada was founded. Their presence and numerical strength ensured that during the first half of the 19th century and the second half of the 20th century the Orange Order was the largest voluntary organisation in Canada. The Orange Order exerted immense political clout throughout Canada and nowhere more so than in Toronto. In the early 20th century the Twelfth of July parade in Toronto was larger than the Twelfth parade in Belfast. The City Fathers there were almost entirely Orangemen and it is often alleged that the Orange Order controlled every appointment in Toronto from mayor to garbage collector.

There was significant emigration from Ulster to Canada in the 1920s. Some of this was a response to the establishment of the Irish Free State on the part of the Protestant population of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan who found themselves on the wrong side of the border after Partition. The postwar downturn in the economy prompted others living in the six Ulster counties still part of the United Kingdom to seek a new life for themselves in Toronto or further afield. Some of these were veterans of the Great War and founded a 36th (Ulster) Division Old Comrades Association in their new homeland.

Because of their numbers, Ulster-Scots in particular had a far greater impact in Canada than in the United States, especially in national and provincial politics. Their influence was also pronounced in the churches, in education, in business and commerce, in the army, in journalism and in sport. The people detailed here convey only a modest flavour of the scale and the diversity of their contribution to the growth and development of the second largest country in the world, one of the world's richest nations (a member of the G8) and one of the world's most successful trading nations.

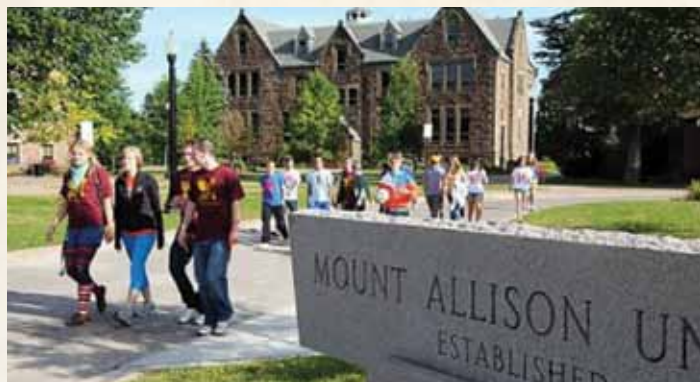
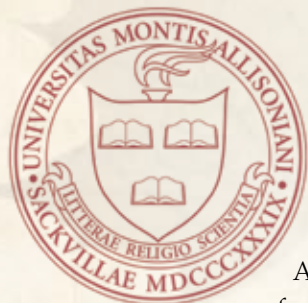
## Charles Frederick Allison

*25 January 1795 – 11 November 1858*

Charles Frederick Allison was a Canadian merchant, philanthropist, and the founder of Mount Allison University, New Brunswick. Charles Allison's grandfather had emigrated from Ulster to Canada in the late 18th century after entertaining a tax collector to dinner. Wishing to impress the man, the family had set the table with their one valuable possession: silver spoons. After entertaining their guest, the Allisons were informed by the tax collector that if they could afford silver spoons, then they could certainly afford to pay more taxes.



The roots of Allison's interest in education lay in a spiritual crisis during the mid 1830s which resulted in his conversion from Anglicanism to Methodism. Through the influence of the Revd William Smithson, he began to attend Methodist services in 1833, and in 1836 he was among those converted at a series of revival meetings held in Sackville by the Revd John Bass Strong.



Allison had joined a denomination which had aspired for some years to open an educational institution in the Maritime provinces but had been unable to raise the necessary funds. In 1839 he resolved this difficulty by offering to buy land in Sackville for a school and to construct a suitable building at his own expense, and to donate £100 annually for its first ten years of operation.

Mount Allison University was the first university in the British Empire to award a baccalaureate to a woman (Grace Annie Lockhart, B.Sc, 1875). Mount Allison graduates have been awarded a total of 51 Rhodes Scholarships, the most per capita of any university in the Commonwealth. Mount Allison is the wealthiest university in Canada on an endowment per student basis.

## Harold Rupert Leofric George Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis

10 December 1891 – 16 June 1969

Born in London and the third son of 4th Earl and Countess of Caledon.

Alexander initially toyed with the notion of becoming an artist rather than a professional soldier. As this suggests, he was by no means a typical soldier, being a gifted linguist and speaking Russian, German and Urdu fluently.



He saw service in the Great War and commanded a brigade at the age of 27. In 1919, during the Russian Civil War, he led a Baltic-German unit against the Red Army. In 1937 he became a major general, the youngest general in the British Army.

During the Second World War Alexander oversaw the final stages of the evacuation from Dunkirk where he was the last man off the beaches and demonstrated *sangfroid* throughout. 'Our position is catastrophic,' a staff officer told him. 'I'm sorry,' he replied. 'I don't understand long words.' He subsequently held high- ranking commands in Burma, North Africa (where he gave Montgomery a free hand), and Italy, including Commander-in-Chief Middle East and command of 18th Army Group in Tunisia. He then commanded 15th Army Group for the capture of Sicily and again in Italy before receiving his field marshal's baton and being made Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean.

In 1946, on the advice of William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, King George VI appointed him as Governor General of Canada, the 17th since the establishment of the Canadian Confederation. He proved to be enthusiastic about the Canadian wilderness, as well as an extremely popular Governor General with Canadians. They regarded him as their 'most thoroughly 'Canadianised' Governor General' and the Canadian government twice asked for his term of office to be extended. He was the last non-Canadian-born Governor General before the appointment of Adrienne Clarkson in 1999.



One episode of his tenure as governor general is of particular interest: the visit of John A. Costello, the Irish Prime Minister, to Canada in 1948. Costello's visit caused Alexander embarrassment because Costello chose to use the visit to announce that Eire was leaving the Commonwealth. It is frequently alleged that the announcement was prompted by a display of Alexander's unionist sympathies at a banquet in Ottawa. Although the decision had been taken in principle some time before, the sudden announcement caused a diplomatic storm and Costello, to deflect criticism, claimed that he had been provoked into making the announcement by a series of diplomatic snubs by Alexander. In his memoirs Costello conceded that Alexander's behaviour had been perfectly civil (as one would expect from a man whose manners were impeccable) and had absolutely no bearing whatsoever on a decision which had already been made. Nevertheless the myth persists.

Less controversially, he found time to paint, created a personal studio in Rideau Hall (the Governor General's official residence) and mounted art classes in the National Gallery of Canada.

On his return to the United Kingdom in 1952 he became Minister of Defence in Churchill's government.

## John Roaf Barber

*5 July 1841 – 3 March 1917*

Born in Georgetown, Ontario, in 1841, his father emigrated to Canada from County Antrim in 1822. His father and uncles had established a paper mill in the area after being involved in woollen milling since 1837. Barber became the manager in 1861. In 1876, with his brother James and John Fitzallen Ellis, he established Barber and Ellis, which would become one of the largest stationery manufacturers and suppliers in Canada. He took over operation of the mills in 1880. In 1881, he helped establish Toronto Paper Manufacturing Company Limited and set up a mill at Cornwall, Ontario. By 1883 this mill was producing newsprint and high quality paper. He visited Europe in 1886 to find alternatives to wood pulp from Quebec, and afterward in 1887 he set up a sulfite mill in Cornwall to supply high quality wood pulp to his plant and others. The only other paper product supplier in Canada in the 1870s was Alexander Buntin, which Barber saw as an opportunity to expand. In 1888, he upgraded the original paper mill on the Credit River to use hydroelectric power, believed to be the first industrial application of this technology in Canada.

Besides his paper mills, he held high ranking positions in a number of other companies. He was president of many small companies such as Leadville Mining Company in Leadville, Colorado, Canadian Brass and Tube works in Toronto, and the Inter-Ocean Mining and Prospecting Company, also in Toronto.



He also served in the militia and was reeve of Georgetown from 1867 to 1876 and in 1882. He saw active duty in 1866. He represented Halton as a Liberal in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1898.

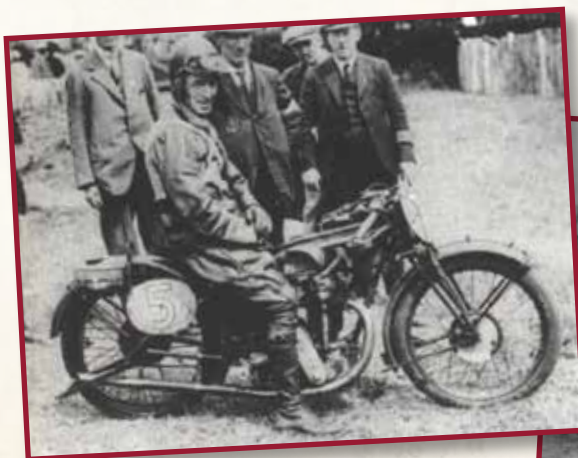
## Alec Bennett

1897 – 1973

From Craigtlet, County Down, Alec Bennett emigrated to Canada with his parents. He returned to the United Kingdom during the Great War with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, in which he served initially as a dispatch rider and subsequently as a pilot.

After the war he competed in the Isle of Man TT, winning the Senior 500cc race in 1922, 1924 and 1927. He won the Junior 350cc race in 1927 and 1928.

After racing with the works Norton team and also with the factory Sunbeam and Velocette teams, Alec Bennett retired from motor-cycle racing in the 1930s to concentrate on his motor-trade business in Southampton.

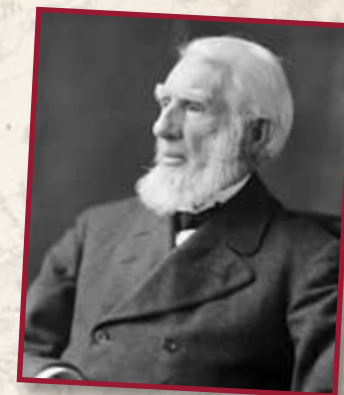


## John Rudolphus Booth

5 April 1827 – 8 December 1925

Born on a farm at Lowes near Waterloo in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, Booth was the son of Ulster parents. At the age of 21 J. R. left the family farm and obtained a job as a carpenter with the Central Vermont Railroad, his first step in career which would see him become a Canadian lumber king and railway baron.

In 1852 he married Rosalinda Cooke and moved to the Ottawa valley. His first business venture was a machine shop in Hull, Quebec, which was subsequently destroyed in a fire. He then opened a successful shingle factory. Later he accumulated enough money to lease (and then purchase) a small sawmill near the Chaudière Falls. He established his own lumber company and won the contract to supply wood for the new Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in 1858.



Eventually he came to control the logging rights for huge tracts of forest in central Ontario and to construct a railway (the Canadian Atlantic Railway) from Ottawa to Georgian Bay to export lumber (and grain) to both the United States and Europe.

## Edward Frederick Clarke

*24 April 1850 – 3 March 1905*

Born in Bailieborough, County Cavan, following the death of his father, Clarke emigrated to Canada in 1864 and settled in Toronto.

There he became a printer with the Toronto Globe and subsequently with the Toronto Mail. In 1872, he was one of the leaders of a printers' strike in the city. He was the editor and publisher of the Sentinel, a weekly newspaper closely identified with the Orange Order, which was widely distributed throughout North America between 1877 and 1896.

Politically a Conservative, he represented Toronto in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1886 to 1894 and West Toronto from 1896 to 1904 and Toronto Centre from 1904 to 1905 in the Canadian House of Commons.

He also served as mayor of Toronto and was the manager of the Excelsior Life Insurance Company of Toronto.



## Lindsay Crawford

*1 October 1868 – 1945*

Born in Lisburn, County Antrim, Crawford was an impressive public speaker and a talented journalist. Until his mid 30s Crawford subscribed to a fairly conventional Protestant and Orange worldview but after 1901 his views evolved in new and unexpected directions which would result in his embrace of Irish Nationalism and to him being described as 'a Fenian Protestant'.

In June 1903 Crawford and Thomas Sloan, the independent unionist MP for South Belfast, founded the Independent Orange Order. As the organisation's ideologue, he was the author of the Magheramorne Manifesto (July 1905). This document was highly critical of all forms of clericalism and urged Protestants and Roman Catholics to unite on the basis of a shared (Irish) nationality. It simultaneously denounced the newly formed Ulster Unionist Council and dismissed unionism as 'a discredited creed'. It exhibited strong sympathy for the interests of Ulster's tenant farmers and Belfast's industrial working class. And it could be interpreted as supportive of Home Rule. Although the Independent Orange Order originally endorsed the document, it rapidly became an embarrassment to the new order. In May 1908 Crawford was expelled from the Independent Orange Order and in January 1910 Sloan lost his parliamentary seat, largely due to the ambiguity surrounding his commitment to the Union on account of the content of the Magheramorne Manifesto.

Unable to find employment in Ireland, in June 1910 he emigrated to Canada. Before the end of the year he secured a post with the Toronto Globe where he was to remain until February 1918. His journalism sufficiently impressed his Canadian employers for them to send him in March 1914 to Ireland as a special correspondent to cover what they imagined were the closing stages of the third Home Rule crisis.

In Canada he proved to be extremely proactive in endeavouring to enlist the support of Canadian politicians, including Sir William Laurier, the Canadian Prime Minister, for Irish Home Rule but without conspicuous success. After the 1916 Rising in



Dublin his politics underwent further change, becoming more republican. Thus, he supported Sinn Féin, the War of Independence and the Anglo-Irish Treaty. In recognition of his support for the Irish cause as President of the Protestant Friends of Irish Freedom and his political activism both in Canada and the United States, in December 1922 the government of the newly created Irish Free State appointed him as its trade representative in New York.

## John Robinson Dickson

*15 November 1819 – 23 November 1882*

Born in Dungannon, John Robinson Dickson was apprenticed to an apothecary in 1829. He did not complete his six-year term and spent some time at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution before entering Anderson's College in Glasgow to study medicine. In 1837, before he had finished his studies, the Dickson family immigrated to Upper Canada and John was apprenticed to Dr John Hutchinson of Peterborough.

He graduated at the medical department of the University of New York in 1842, returned to Canada, settled in Kingston and became prominent as a surgeon. From 1846 till 1854 he was visiting physician to the Kingston general hospital, then for two years visiting surgeon, becoming, in 1856, clinical lecturer, which place he resigned in 1860 to be reappointed clinical lecturer on surgery in 1861. In 1854 he was active in founding the medical department of the University of Queen's College, where he was appointed dean of the medical faculty and professor of surgery.

In 1862 he was appointed surgeon to the provincial penitentiary in Kingston, and in 1869 he became medical superintendent of Rockwood lunatic asylum. While holding these offices, he prepared 'Prison Reports' and 'Asylum

Reports', in which he advocated a wide range of reforms which materially improved the conditions of inmates of both institutions.

In 1866 the medical department of Queen's College became the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, for which he obtained the necessary charter, and of which he was appointed president and professor of surgery, a position which he retained for the rest of his life. He published numerous scientific papers and public addresses in British and Canadian medical journals.

John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister was one of his patients and a close friend. Dickson's daughter Anne became one of the first medical graduates in Ontario.

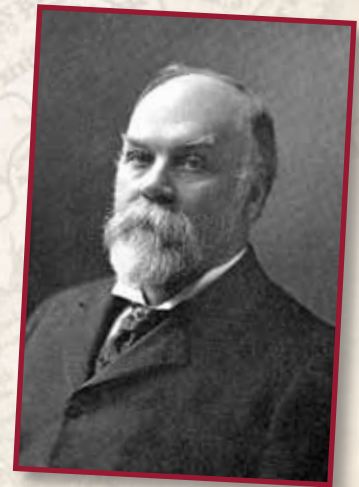
## Timothy Eaton

*March 1834 – 31 January 1907*

Born in the townland of Clogher, near Ballymena, County Antrim, Timothy Eaton was the fourth son of John Eaton, a Presbyterian tenant farmer, and his wife Margaret Craig. Having served his time as an apprentice shopkeeper in nearby Portglenone, the 20-year-old Eaton emigrated to Canada to join other family members already established in southern Ontario.

On 28 May 1862, Eaton married Margaret Wilson Beattie. They had five sons and three daughters.

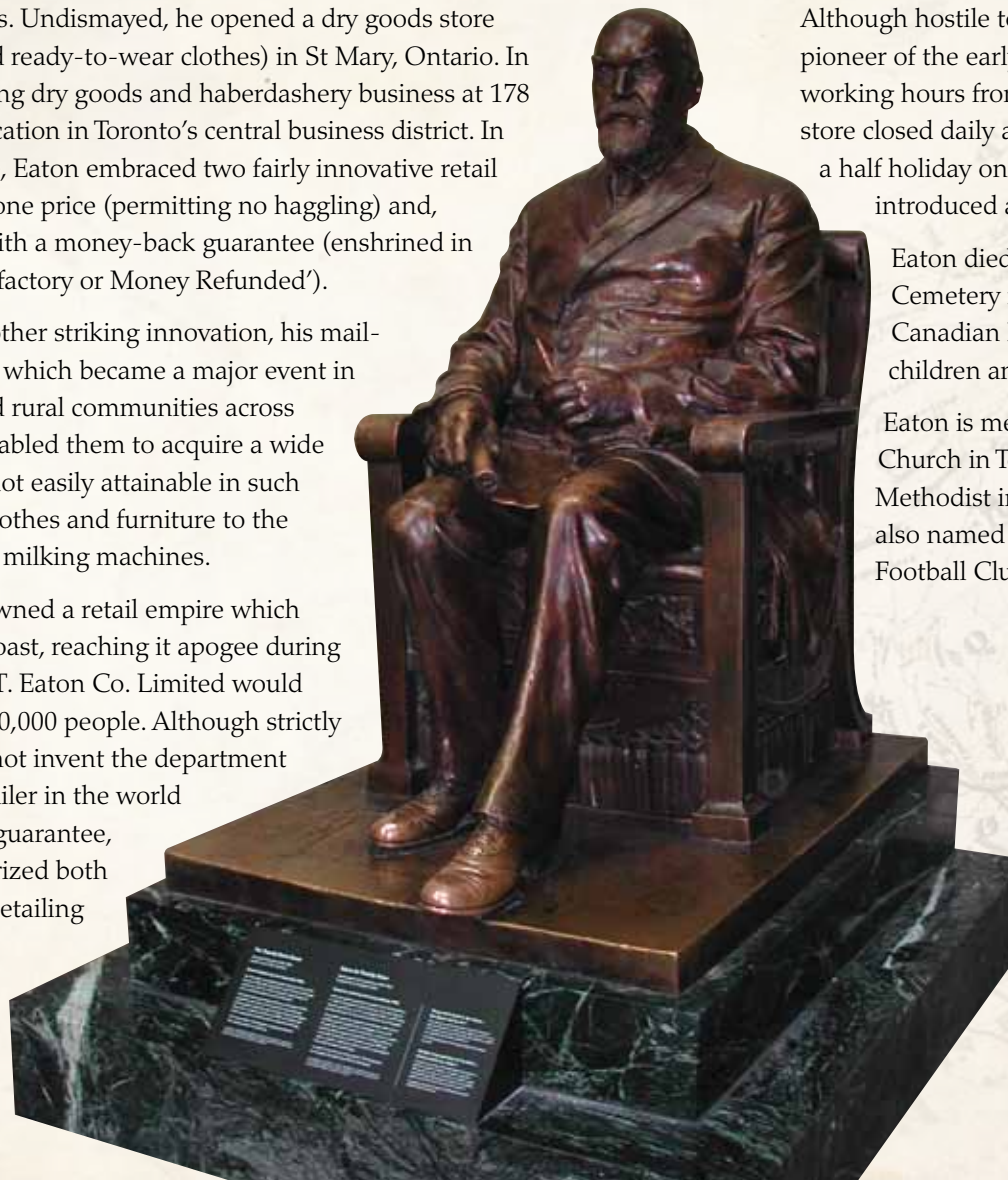
In 1865 Eaton set up a bakery in the town of Kirkton, Ontario, which went



under after only a few months. Undismayed, he opened a dry goods store (i.e. a store selling textiles and ready-to-wear clothes) in St Mary, Ontario. In 1869 Eaton acquired an existing dry goods and haberdashery business at 178 Yonge Street, a prestigious location in Toronto's central business district. In promoting his new enterprise, Eaton embraced two fairly innovative retail practices: first, all goods had one price (permitting no haggling) and, second, all purchases came with a money-back guarantee (enshrined in the store slogan, 'Goods Satisfactory or Money Refunded').

In 1884 Eaton introduced another striking innovation, his mail-order catalogue, the arrival of which became a major event in thousands of small towns and rural communities across Canada. Eaton's catalogue enabled them to acquire a wide array of products previously not easily attainable in such communities, ranging from clothes and furniture to the latest household gadgets and milking machines.

The mail order catalogue spawned a retail empire which would stretch from coast to coast, reaching it apogee during the Second World War when T. Eaton Co. Limited would employ a staff of more than 70,000 people. Although strictly speaking Timothy Eaton did not invent the department store, nor was he the first retailer in the world to implement a money-back guarantee, the chain he founded popularized both concepts and revolutionized retailing in Canada.



Although hostile to trade unions, Eaton was a benevolent employer. A pioneer of the early closing movement, in 1876 he began a reduction of working hours from the 12-hour day then customary. By January 1904 the store closed daily at 5:00 p.m. and beginning in 1886 employees enjoyed a half holiday on Saturdays during the summer months. In the 1890s he introduced a rudimentary medical plan for employees.

Eaton died of pneumonia and was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. Having once told John A. MacDonald, the first Canadian Prime Minister, that his original assets were 'a wife, five children and seven dollars', he left an estate worth \$5,250,000.

Eaton is memorialized in various ways. The Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto is named after him, Eaton having become a Methodist in his early 20s. The town of Eatonia in Saskatchewan is also named after him, as is Eaton Park, the ground of Ballymena Rugby Football Club.

## Robert Hill Hanna VC

6 August 1887 – 15 June 1967

Born at Aughnahoor, Kilkeel, County Down, Robert was educated at the nearby Ballinran School. Aged 18, he emigrated to Canada, settling in British Columbia and joining Ontario LOL No 2226 in Vancouver.

Before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force in November 1914, he had worked as a lumberman. Almost three

years later, on 21 September 1917, as Company Sergeant-Major Hanna he won the Victoria Cross. The official citation, published in the London Gazette of 8 November 1917, explains how he won his VC:

*On the 21st August 1917, at Hill 70 Lens, France, Company Sergeant-Major Hanna's company met with most severe enemy resistance at a heavily protected strong point, which had beaten off three assaults and all the officers of the company had become casualties. This warrant officer, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, coolly collected and led a party against the strong point, rushed through the wire and personally killed four of the enemy, capturing the position and silencing the machine-gun. This courageous action was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical point.*

After receiving his VC, Hanna, by now a lieutenant, visited Kilkeel (the first of a number of return visits



to his home town) and received a rapturous reception at public meeting in the Square attended by upwards of 3,000 people. At the end of the war he returned to Vancouver where he ran a logging camp until 1938. In 1930 he married Hannah, a girl of Scottish parentage. They had two sons.

He paraded with the Canadian contingent at the Victoria Cross Centenary Review held by H. M. the Queen in Hyde Park in London in 1956 and is buried at the Masonic Cemetery, Burnaby, British Columbia, but his officer's sword is proudly on display in Kilkeel's Royal British Legion Club.

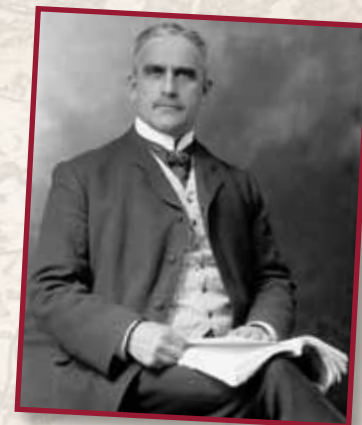
## Samuel Hughes

8 January 1853 – 23 August 1921

Born in Darlington in Canada West, Samuel Hughes was the third son of John Hughes, an Orangeman from Fintona, County Tyrone. His mother was of Scotch-Irish and Huguenot descent.

An interest in military matters features prominently in Hughes' career. From the age of 13 he belonged to the Canadian volunteer militia (45th West Durham Battalion of Infantry) and saw action against the Fenian raids in the 1860s and 1870s. He also served with the Canadian armed forces during the Boer War of 1899-1902 and earned a reputation, among British commanders if rather less so among his own colleagues, of being a first rate leader of irregular forces.

Before becoming the Conservative MP for North Victoria in the Dominion



Parliament, Hughes pursued a career in teaching and journalism, purchasing *The Victoria Warder*, the local newspaper in Lindsay.

Hughes' significance in Canadian history is as the creator of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). At the outbreak of the Great War Canada had a regular army of 3,110 men and a much larger Canadian militia. Robert Borden, Canada's Conservative Prime Minister, ordered Sam Hughes, the minister of militia, to raise and train an army for overseas service, the CEF. The 'ferociously energetic' Hughes was an Orangeman, and although not very popular with French Canadians, created an army of over 32,000 men within two months. The first contingents of the CEF arrived in Britain on 14 October 1914, and were stationed on Salisbury Plain prior to being sent to France. Hughes' achievement was impressive by any standard.

However, Hughes was a man of strong opinions and his opinions were not always soundly based. For example, he insisted on equipping Canadian troops with the Canadian-made Ross rifle, the rifle Hughes preferred for target shooting. The Ross, developed in 1903, proved to be an unsuitable weapon in trench warfare conditions because when fired rapidly it was prone to malfunction. The rifle jammed easily in the mud and its bayonet fell off easily. Canadian soldiers would often take British Lee-Enfield rifles off fallen British soldiers. Hughes and Sir Charles Ross, the inventor of the rifle, remained loyal to their weapon, but Robert Borden authorized its replacement by the Lee-Enfield rifle.

Despite his genuine achievements, a man of Hughes' stamp could be an exasperating political colleague and so it proved. Robert Borden dismissed him from his post on 9 November 1916. However, he was replaced by another Orangeman, Albert Edward Kemp.

Although Canada has a population of over thirty-four million today, in

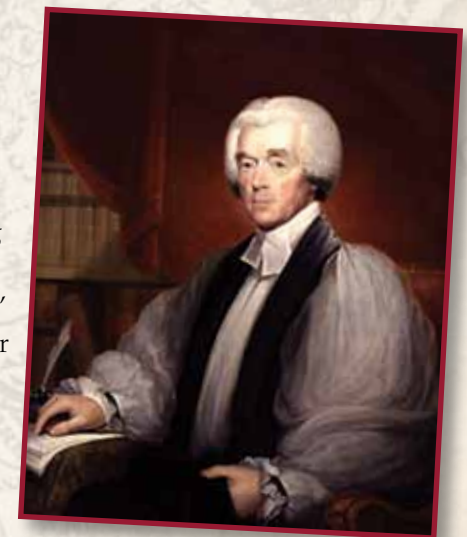
1914 Canada had only a population of only eight million. The latter statistic underscores how truly remarkable Canada's contribution to the war effort was. A total of 619,636 men and women served in the Canadian forces in the Great War, and of these 66,655 were killed and another 172,950 were wounded. The historian Hereward Senior has noted that 'Sam Hughes is becoming a Canadian folk hero and rightly so' because he was 'a figure of transatlantic importance,' among the first to give Canada a place in world affairs' and 'the Canadian Expeditionary Force which left an unmistakable imprint on Europe's military history was largely his creation.'

## Charles Inglis

1734 – 24 February 1816

Charles Inglis was the third son of the Reverend Archibald Inglis, a Scottish Episcopalian who was the Rector of Glencolumbkille, County Donegal, having been previously the Rector of Killybegs in the same county. Archibald Inglis, Charles' great grandfather, had also been a minister in Scotland.

Charles' father's early death deprived him of the opportunity to attend university, so before his 21st birthday he emigrated to the American colonies where he was initially a teacher. He was ordained in 1758, served in Delaware with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for several years (not least among



the Iroquois) and by 1765 was Curate at Holy Trinity Church, New York, becoming Rector in 1777. A loyal subject of King George III, on one occasion Inglis offered prayers for the Monarch when George Washington was in the congregation. The Church was hastily surrounded by the 'Patriot' militia and Charles suffered for his loyalty to the Crown: the church was burned by the 'Patriots', his congregation scattered and his land confiscated.

In 1783 he was part of the great Loyalist exodus to Nova Scotia. On 11 August 1787 Inglis' loyalty to the Crown was acknowledged when George III created the new diocese of Nova Scotia and appointed him the first bishop of the diocese, a position which he held until his death. As Inglis was one of those who had unsuccessfully campaigned for the creation of colonial bishoprics in the early 1760s, the appointment seems very appropriate. Although his title was the Bishop of Nova Scotia, Inglis' territorial jurisdiction initially included not only Nova Scotia but Newfoundland, St John's (Prince Edward) Island, Quebec, and Bermuda.

Inglis strenuously endeavoured to promote Anglicanism throughout his extensive diocese. During his episcopate he founded more than twenty churches. In 1788 he established King's College in Windsor, Nova Scotia, with the twin purposes of educating a well-trained Anglican clergy and the sons of the Anglican elite. Given his background with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Delaware, he gave enthusiastic support to various missionary initiatives to woo the majority of the population away from their deeply entrenched dissenting beliefs but with only limited success.

In 1812 he suffered a stroke which left him largely incapacitated for the last few years of his life.

## Warring Kennedy

*12 November 1827 – 25 June 1904*

Born in County Down, Kennedy was educated in Londonderry and served his time in a dry goods business in Kilrea. He emigrated to Canada in 1858, settling in Toronto. In 1869, he opened a wholesale dry goods firm called Sampson, Kennedy and Gemmell. He became involved in municipal politics in 1871, becoming alderman for St. John's ward. In 1877, he unsuccessfully contested the mayoralty of Toronto and was defeated again in 1893. He was elected in 1894 and was narrowly re-elected in 1895. Kennedy was a member of Temperance Loyal Orange Lodge No. 301 in Toronto, a lay preacher, and Director of the Upper Canada Bible Society. He is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.



## Robert (Bobby) Kerr

*9 June 1882 – 12 May 1963*

Born in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Kerr won the gold medal in the 200 metres and the bronze medal in the 100 metres at the London Olympics of 1908. His family had emigrated to Canada when he was five and had eventually settled in Hamilton.

A fireman, Kerr enjoyed running in his spare time and soon became the best regional sprinter. In 1904 he travelled to St Louis, USA, to compete in the 1904 Olympics. There, he was eliminated in the heats of all three events

he entered (60 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres). However, Kerr's performances got better, and he set Canadian records in all sprint distances between 40 and 220 yards. He won Canadian titles in the 100 yards (1907) and 200 yards (1906 to 1908). In 1908, Kerr travelled to England, where he competed in the British Championships, winning both the 100 and 200 yards. Between the 1904 Olympics in St Louis and the London Olympics of 1908, his performance had improved spectacularly. In the 100 metres, in London, he finished in third and in the final of the 200 metres, held the following day; Kerr crossed the line first with a time of 22.6 seconds.



During the First World War, Kerr became an officer with the 205th (Tiger) Battalion, CEF, (which was popularly known as the Sportsmen's Battalion because many of its members were prominent local athletes). When that unit was disbanded, he was transferred to the 164th Battalion (Halton and Dufferin), CEF and eventually was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, CEF.

After his sprinting career, Kerr remained active in sports after the end of his sprinting career. He coached the athletics and football teams of Hamilton, and was an official at the 1928 and 1932 Olympics in Amsterdam and Los Angeles respectively. Furthermore, he was heavily involved in the Canadian Olympic Association and helped organize the British Empire Games of 1930 in Hamilton.

## Louis James Lipsett

*14 June 1874 – 14 October 1918*

Born in Bundoran, County Donegal, Lipsett was educated first at Bedford School and at Sandhurst prior to receiving a commission as 2nd Lieutenant into the Royal Irish Regiment (18th Foot) in October 1894.



Lipsett served in various colonial campaigns, on India's Northwest Frontier and the Second Boer War. He held a succession of Staff appointments. In 1911 Lipsett was posted to Western Canada as General Staff Officer to implement a policy agreed at the Imperial Conferences of 1907 and 1909 whereby military training was to be standardised throughout the Empire. During this period he was responsible for training Arthur Currie, the future commander of the Canadian Corps during the Great War.

At the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914 Lipsett was given command of the 90th Winnipeg Rifles in the CEF's 8th Battalion. He was subsequently appointed Currie's successor as commander of 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade when the latter was given charge of 1st Canadian Division. In June 1916 he became commander of the 3rd Canadian Division, where he remained until September 1918.

Transferred to the 4th Division in September 1918, Lipsett was killed the following month, when he was struck in the face by a machine gun bullet. The 59th and last British general to die during the Great War, Lipsett's death provides striking evidence that British generals did not spend the war in the safety of luxurious châteaux far removed the front and the hardships experienced by their men.

## Sam (Samuel) McBride

13 July 1866 – 10 November 1936

Born in Toronto and an enthusiastic Orangemen, Sam McBride's grandfather had hailed from County Antrim. Sam served twice as Mayor of Toronto, his first term being from 1928 to 1929. His second term began in 1936 and was brought to a premature end by his death. He was the first Mayor of Toronto to die in office.

He made his fortune in the lumber industry and immersed himself in municipal politics in the first decade of the twentieth century. He served on Toronto City Council for 30 years. His achievements include the creation of the Toronto Transit Commission, building the Coliseum at the Canadian National Exhibition and the early development of Toronto's waterfront.

He was viewed by the left-leaning *Toronto Daily Star* as a progressive and incurred the enmity of the more right-wing *Toronto Telegram*. He was an advocate of an eight-hour working day and the extension of the franchise to women. He was staunchly British in his orientation and hostile to communism.

He was an ardent fan of harness racing, a founder member of Canadian Standardbred Horse Society in 1909 and the Canadian National Trotting and Pacing Harness Horse Association. In 1907 he drove his King Bryson to a world record of 2:19½ for trotters over a half-mile track on ice at Plattsburg, New York.

McBride possessed a ferocious temper. On one occasion he once got into a fist fight with a fellow alderman and on another occasion he threw a can of



beans at alderman Joe Beamish, missing Beamish but leaving a dent in the panelling of the council chamber.

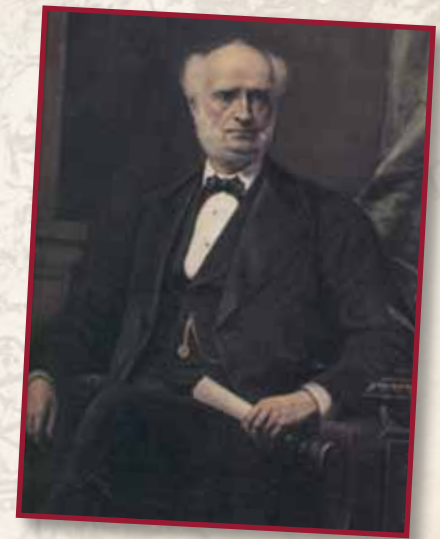
McBride had a cottage on Toronto Island and represented the Island as its Alderman. In 1935 he was instrumental in preventing the building of a tunnel to the Toronto Island that was intended to facilitate an Island Airport. After his death, the City built the Island Airport but without a tunnel. In recognition of his service to the Toronto Island community, one of the ferries operating from downtown Toronto to the Toronto Island was named after him in 1939, and it is still in service.

## William McMaster

24 December 1811 – 22 September 1887

Born in County Tyrone, McMaster emigrated to York (now Toronto) in 1833. A director of the Bank of Montreal from 1864 to 1867, he was a driving force behind the creation of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and was the bank's founding president.

McMaster served in the Canadian Senate from 1867 to 1887 as a Liberal and helped found McMaster University in Toronto, leaving C\$900,000 in his will to establish the institution. McMaster University was incorporated under the terms of an act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1887, merging the Toronto Baptist College with Woodstock College. It



opened in 1890. In 1930 the University relocated to Hamilton. McMaster was controlled by the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec until it became a privately chartered, publicly funded non-denominational institution in 1957. The university ranked 88th in the 2012-2013 Times Higher Education World University Rankings and include two Nobel laureates among its alumni.

## Robert Logan ('Whitey') McDonald

*11 August 1902 – 7 June 1956*

Born in Omagh, County Tyrone, McDonald moved with his parents to Canada when he was two and grew up in Hamilton. He began his professional career with Hamilton Thistle, playing in Spectator Cup in 1921 and 1922. He also spent time with Toronto Ulster United before signing with Bethlehem Steel F. C. (in the American Soccer League) in 1924. He played four seasons with Bethlehem. In 1928 Glasgow Rangers F. C. toured the United States and spotted McDonald in their game with Bethlehem. They signed him in 1928 and he spent ten seasons with them. While a wing back in Canada and the U.S., he played left full back for Rangers.

McDonald earned two caps with Northern Ireland. His first was against Scotland in 1930 and the second against England in 1932. McDonald was enshrined in the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame as an inaugural inductee in 2000. The nickname 'Whitey' was in reference to the colour of his hair which was of a light reddish-blond hue.



## Digby Johns McLaren

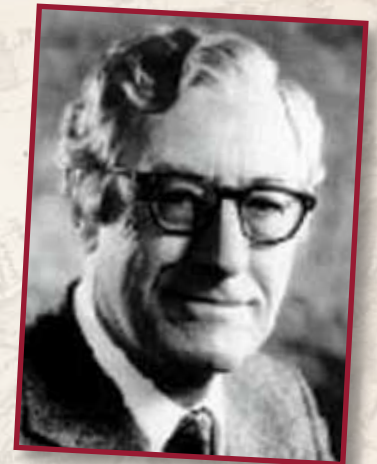
*11 December 1919 – 8 December 2004*

Born in Carrickfergus, County Antrim, and educated at Sedbergh, he graduated with a degree in geology from Cambridge.

During the Second World War he served in the Middle East and Europe in the Royal Artillery. After the war, he received a Master of Arts in geology from the University of Cambridge in 1948. He then moved to Canada, joining the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). In 1951, he received a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

From 1959 to 1967, he was the head of the palaeontology section of the GSC. In 1967, he became the first director of the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology of the GSC and in 1973 he was appointed Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. In 1981, he became Assistant Deputy Minister of Science and Technology for Energy, Mines and Resources.

He authored over 100 publications and maps in the fields of palaeontology, biostratigraphy and regional geology. He was one of the early theorists of the Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event. From 1987 to 1990, he was the president of the Royal Society of Canada. He was also President of the Geological Society of America.



## Alexander McNutt

1725 – 1811

Born near Londonderry, McNutt was an army officer, colonist and land agent. Perpetual motion seems to be one of the great themes of his life. He emigrated to America prior to 1753 and settled in Staunton, Virginia and by 1756 he was an officer in the Virginia militia. By 1758 he had moved to the Ulster-Scots settlement of Londonderry, New Hampshire. Between April and November 1760, McNutt was serving as an officer in the area close to the present-day border between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

During the Seven Years War (1757-63) the British expelled the French-speaking Acadians from Nova Scotia and recruited planters from New England to replace the Francophone population. McNutt was responsible for settling a group of fifty families from New Hampshire in and around Truro.

McNutt secured the approval of the Board of Trade for the settlement of 7,000 to 8,000 Ulster Protestants in Nova Scotia but his plans were vetoed by the Privy Council because it would be damaging to the British interest in Ireland.

However disregarding the Privy Council, in May 1761 he advertised throughout Ulster. He held out the inducement of 200 acres to 'industrious farmers and useful mechanics' and a further 50 for each family member. His efforts resulted in the arrival of 300 settlers, mostly from Counties Donegal and Londonderry, in Halifax in October.

In the autumn of 1762 170 more settlers sailed from Londonderry and settled in New Dublin and elsewhere. He also settled a group of disbanded New England soldiers along the Saint John River. However ambitious plans for the settlement of 2,300,000 acres came to nothing.

However when the provincial surveyor visited McNutt's settlers in 1764 he found that the sixty families in Truro were 'a very industrious set of people; have large stocks, and tho' they have settled but two years will this year raise grain sufficient for their support, save for a few families'. The fifteen Ulster families in the township of Londonderry, north of Cobequid Bay, were also industrious, 'doing extremely well, considering they had neither money nor stock'.

When the American revolt broke out McNutt chose the 'Patriot' side and lost all his Canadian lands. At one time he had title, albeit somewhat shaky, to nearly three million acres in Nova Scotia. After American independence he lived near Lexington, Virginia, and he died unmarried in 1811.

## Malcolm Smith Mercer

17 September 1859 – 3 June 1916

Born on the Peel - York County boundary, an area of strongly Ulster-Scots settlement, Mercer's family were large landowners in Peel County. As a young man he joined Port Credit L.O.L. No. 163. A lawyer by profession, he opened his law office in Cooksville, Ontario.

Although a sophisticated patron of the arts, Mercer's first love was military life. As a young man he had served with the Queen's Own Rifles in the 1885 North-West Rebellion. He stayed with the regiment after the rebellion and by the outbreak of the Great War he was a Lieutenant Colonel.



Mercer was an experienced militia commander and had demonstrated a great flair in training and organising raw Canadian recruits during the opening months of the war. He also demonstrated courage under fire, visiting the front lines on numerous occasions at the height of battle and personally directing his forces in the face of poison gas attacks and heavy shellfire.

He became a Brigadier General on 29 September 1914 and a Major General on 22 November 1915. He was given command of the 3rd Canadian Division on 24 December 1915 and was awarded the Companion of the Order of the Bath in that same year. He was mentioned in despatches on three occasions.

Mercer was killed at Mount Sorel in Flanders on 2 June 1916.

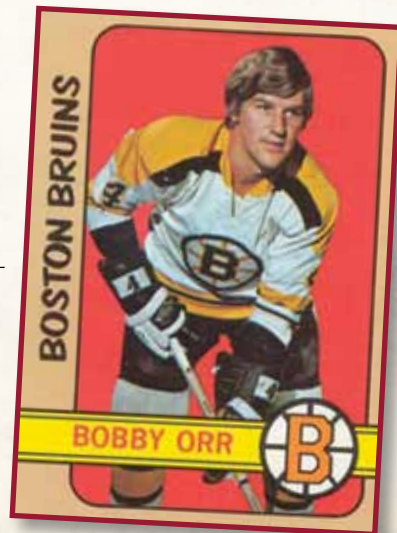
Mercer was an efficient and capable organiser who never got the opportunity to demonstrate the tactical skill which he had displayed in training and exercises. He remains the highest ranking Canadian officer to be killed in combat.

## Robert 'Bobby' Gordon Orr

20 March 1948 -

Bobby Orr, widely acknowledged as one of the greatest Ice Hockey players of all time is of Ulster-Scots descent. His grandfather Robert Orr (an accomplished local footballer) emigrated in the early 1900s from Ballymena, County Antrim to the small town of Parry Sound, Ontario.

Orr became the star defenseman of the National



Hockey League and led his team, the Boston Bruins, to their first League championship in 29 years. He scored the winning goal in overtime of the fourth game of the Stanley Cup Finals on 10 May 1970. The famous picture of Orr's goal is considered by many to be the single most defining image in NHL history.



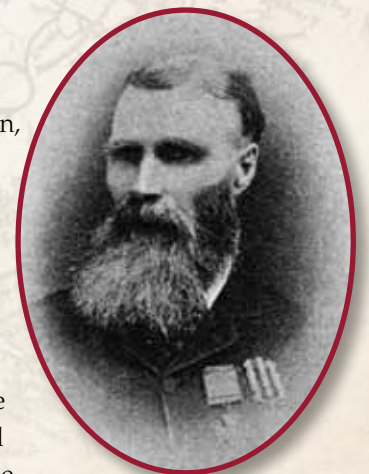
In 1979, the Hockey Hall of Fame elected Robert Gordon Orr to be inducted into its hallowed halls. At 31 years of age, Bobby was, and still is, the youngest player ever to receive this accolade.

## George Richardson VC

1 August 1831 – 28 January 1923

Born in Derrylane, Killeshandra, County Cavan, George Richardson was the son of John Richardson, a linen weaver, and his wife Anne.

He served in the Cavan militia prior to enlisting in the 34th (the Cumberland) Regiment of Foot in 1855. He served with great distinction during the Indian Mutiny, evidenced by the fact that he turned down a field commission and was recommended for a Victoria Cross on four separate occasions. On the fourth occasion he was awarded the VC for an incident in which a Lieutenant Laurie



was attacked by six mutineers at Kewarie Trans-Gorga, near Cawnpore, on 27 April 1859.

Sergeant Richardson, despite having his arm broken by a rifle bullet and his leg slashed by a sword, went to Laurie's assistance. Within a short time five of Laurie's assailants were dead and the sixth fled.

Returning home to Killeshandra, he joined the Orange Order in 1861. In 1862 he emigrated to Canada, and settled in Montreal, Quebec, where he was employed as a coachman. In 1865 he enlisted in the Prince of Wales Royal Rifles to help counter the activities of the Fenians. In later life he became a close friend of fellow Orangeman Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia. He died of pneumonia in Westminster Hospital, London, Ontario, and was buried with full military honours in the Prospect Cemetery in Toronto.

## Matthew Richey

*25 May 1803 – 30 October 1883*

Born in Ramelton, County Donegal, his family emigrated to Canada when he was still a child. His devout Presbyterian parents secured for him a solid education in the expectation that he would enter the Presbyterian ministry but he actually became a Methodist one, an educationalist and an important figure in Canadian Methodism.

Richey served on several circuits in the Maritimes before being transferred in 1835 to Montreal in the Lower Canada District. In 1836 he was appointed the first principal of Upper Canada Academy in Cobourg, the Methodist coeducational preparatory school that became Victoria College in 1841. Richey was installed formally on 18 June 1836 and remained in office until 1840.

Richey, whose attitudes had been shaped by his Ulster upbringing and the conservative outlook of the Wesleyans in Britain and Nova Scotia, was insistent that Methodism should be purified 'from the pollution of politics' and stamped 'with the resplendent signet of true British loyalty'.

## Matthew Henry Richey

*10 June 1828 – 21 February 1911*

Richey was the son of the Revd Matthew Richey. He studied law in Windsor, Ontario, was called to the bar in 1850 and practiced law in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He served on the city council and was twice elected mayor of Halifax.

A Conservative in politics, in 1878 he was elected to the Canadian Parliament. In 1883, he became the fifth Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, a position he still held at the time of his death.

## Joseph Medlicott Scriven,

*10 September 1819 – 10 August 1886*

Born at Seapatrick, Banbridge, County Down, Joseph Scriven was the son of Captain John Scriven of the Royal Marines and Jane Medlicott, sister of a Wiltshire vicar, the Revd Joseph Medlicott.

A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Joseph at the age of 25 decided to emigrate to Canada following the accidental drowning of his fiancée the night before they were to be married. In Canada he fell in love again and was about to marry when the young lady suddenly fell ill and died. He then

embarked upon a life dedicated to preaching and to helping others, earning the well-merited description of 'the good man'.

For example, for years he tended the cow of a Port Hope widow and carried the milk to her customers. He sawed wood for those who could not pay. He sold his watch to replace someone's lost cow. He gave more than he could spare to the needy.

Nevertheless, Joseph Medlicott Scriven's fame is essentially derived from his authorship of 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'. In 1855 he received news that his mother was very ill, prompting him to write a poem, entitled 'Pray Without Ceasing', to comfort her. Charles Crozat Converse later set the poem to music and renamed it with its now familiar name. Joseph never dreamed that his poem would become the basis of the favourite hymn of millions of Christians around the world.

## Thomas Scott

c. 1842 – 4 March 1870

Probably born at Clandeboye, County Down, Scott, who, according to Lord Dufferin, when governor general of Canada, 'came of very decent people – his parents are at this moment [1874] tenant farmers on my estate in the neighbourhood of Clandeboye – but he himself seems to have been a violent and boisterous man such as are often found in the North of Ireland'.

Scott achieved fame through his death rather than his life. As a result of the Red River Rebellion, Louis Riel, the leader of the French-speaking (and Roman Catholic) Métis, had established a provisional government and an independent state in the region in what is now Manitoba. This was

challenged by Anglophone (and Protestant) settlers in the area, including Scott who was a Presbyterian, an enthusiastic Orangeman and a member of the 49th Hastings Battalion of Rifles. Scott was sentenced to his death by Louis Riel's regime for 'plotting' against 'the Provisional Government of the Red River Colony' and executed or murdered, depending on one's perspective, by Francois Guillemette.

The Red River Rebellion confronted the newly established Canadian Confederation with its first serious crisis and Scott's death forced the Confederation to dispatch Colonel Garnet Wolseley's expedition to enforce federal authority and to quell the rebellion.

English-speaking Canadians tended to view Scott as a martyr and his death symbolized one of the unresolved problems of the new Canadian confederation. Was the Canadian North-West to be the patrimony of Ontario or was its settlement to be a joint venture of English and French Canadians? Toronto Orangemen resolved on 13 April 1870:

*Whereas Brother Thomas Scott, a member of our Order was cruelly murdered by the enemies of our Queen, country and religion, therefore be it resolved that . . . we, the members of L.O.L. No.404 call upon the Government to avenge his death, pledging ourselves to assist in rescuing Red River Territory from those who have turned it over to Popery, and bring to justice the murderers of our countrymen.*

The Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, Princess Street, Winnipeg, is named in his honour.

## Edmund De Wind VC

11 December 1883 – 21 March 1918

Edmund De Wind was born in the Ulster-Scots heartland of Comber, County Down, his father being the chief engineer of the Belfast and County Down Railway.



Edmund was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and began employment with the Bank of Ireland in Cavan. In 1910 he emigrated to Canada, as did a sister and a brother, and there entered the employment of the Bank of Commerce. Working in the Edmonton branch of the bank at the outbreak of the Great War, he joined the 31st Battalion (the Calgary Regiment) of the Canadian Army as a private, arriving in France with 2nd Division of C.E.F. (the Canadian Expeditionary Force) in September 1915. Between September 1915 and April 1917 he served in the Calgary Regiment's machine-gun section. He saw action in latter stages of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and at Vimy Ridge in 1917, earned a commission in September 1917, and was posted to the 15th Battalion, the Royal Irish Rifles (North Belfast Volunteers).

Edmund won the Victoria Cross for action during the *Kaiserschlacht* (the 'Kaiser's battle' in English), the huge German spring offensive which began on 21 March 1918. Thirty-four year-old Second Lieutenant De Wind was one those who valiantly endeavoured to hold the Germans at bay against overwhelming odds. The award was announced in the London Gazette on of 13 May 1919, the citation describing how he won his VC:

*For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 21st March, 1918, at the Race Course Redoubt, near Grugies [southeast of St. Quentin]. For seven hours he held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically*



*single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help. On two occasions, with only two N.C.O.s, he got out on top under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many. He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order.*

Edmund's posthumous VC was presented to his widowed mother in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in June 1919. As De Wind has no known grave, he is commemorated on the *Pozières* Memorial to the Missing. A tablet to his memory may also be found in Comber Parish Church and in All Saints Cathedral in Edmonton. He is commemorated in a number of other ways. There is a memorial pillar at the main entrance on the west front of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. The pillar bears his name and the date of his death. There is a plaque to his memory in his *alma mater*, Campbell College, Belfast. A housing estate in Comber is named in his honour as is Mount De Wind, a mountain in Jasper Park, Alberta, Canada.



## Taking it further

There is more information about many but not all of the people considered above in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* and, in French, *le Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*. Fifteen volumes have so far been published with more than 8,400 biographies of individuals who died between the years 1000 and 1930. The entire print edition is available online, along with some additional biographies to the year 2000.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has a rich and diverse archive of material relating to Ulster and Canada covering a vast range of topics. These include shipping lists, school records, regimental records and travelogues. *Northern Ireland & Canada: A Guide to Northern Ireland Sources for the Study of Canadian History, c.1750-1992* represents by far the best starting point to accessing these archives and is available for consultation at PRONI.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland may be contacted at 2 Titanic Boulevard, BELFAST BT3 9HQ, or by telephone on (028) 90534800 and by e-mail at [proni@dcal.gov.uk](mailto:proni@dcal.gov.uk) The PRONI website may be found at <http://www.proni.gov.uk>

Bruce S. Elliott, *Irish Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach* (Kingston, Montreal & Belfast, 1988) focuses on 775 families who emigrated to Canada from County Tipperary between 1815 and 1855 and could serve as a model for research on Ulster emigration.

## Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Brian McConnell, Digby, Nova Scotia for the information contained in his article 'Ulster-Scots in Canada' which can be found on our website: [www.ulster-scots.com/articles](http://www.ulster-scots.com/articles)





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