

Biography: Eldon Mullin, Educator 1849 - 1903

Eldon Mullin, according to the 1861 census of the Parish of Cambridge was born in 1849, the 4th child of Joseph L. and Rachel Mullin. Joseph L. Mullin was a school teacher at Lower Jemseg and had been born in Ireland. They were a Baptist family and Rachel lists her country of origin as Wales. The children and their ages in 1861 were: John 17, Joseph 14, Amelia 15, Eldon 12, Sarah 10, George 8, Thomas 7, Melbourne 5, Barnet 3, and Hedley 1.

The Mullin children were clever and records show they stayed in school well into their teens. Eldon followed in his father's footsteps, attended the Provincial Normal School, and taught in various localities. He was teaching in Queen's County in 1868 but by 1883 had become the Principal of the Provincial Normal School. In the interim he had earned a doctor's degree and Dr. Mullin remained in that post until 1901. During his term of service he was instrumental in bringing about some progressive changes in the status of the School. It became a professional school from that of an academic school. Additional instruction in the theory and practice of teaching was introduced. A Manual Training Course was established for male students in 1899. He was invited, by a delegation from South Africa visiting the province to study the organization of schools, to go to South Africa to assist in setting up an educational system. He left for South Africa in February of 1902, followed by his family in October of that year. He was appointed Principal of the Normal School at Johannesburg. Dr. Mullin died on February 12, 1903, of enteric fever. He is buried in South Africa. Descendants of Dr. Mullin remained in South Africa and became prominent citizens there. His wife, the former Annabelle Sophia Keith, remained in South Africa and died there during the 1940's. \*\*\*A.P.H., M.D.B.

Uncle Davey's Mill

"Full many a flower is born to flush unseen  
And waste its sweetness in the desert air."

These lines might be applied to the man I am going to tell you about, a man born, we might say, out of his century.

In 1783 Alexander MacDonald left New York with his family and came with a group of Loyalists to Saint John. He was given a grant of land on the Washademoak Lake which subsequent to his arrival became known as MacDonald's Point.

His son David married and built a home just up the slope from his father's house and there brought up his five sons and five daughters. It is about the third son, also named David, that I wish to tell you.

David MacDonald was born in February of 1814 and when old enough attended the local school for the usual period customary at that time. He became a prolific reader and read everything that he could get to read about, inventions and customs and habits of other people. As he grew older he subscribed to various magazines and newspapers, thus keeping in touch with current events. It is said that he was the first and for some time the only member of the community to subscribe to a newspaper.

In the course of time, David married and was given a considerable portion of land by his father. This land bordered on the lake and extended back some distance into land forested by virgin growth. To this place he moved the "ell" or kitchen part of his grandfather's house and set up housekeeping. Since he needed lumber not only to enlarge his house and build barns and other buildings, but also for making fish crates, for he was a fisherman as well as a farmer, he found it necessary to build a saw mill. This mill was perhaps his greatest achievement.

The mill was patterned after Dutch windmills. "Uncle Davey" as he was commonly called, doubtless had read about and seen pictures of them many times. The building, which stood about 25 feet high, was made almost entirely of wood. The only metal parts were the saw and a gong-like affair which I will tell you about later. Even the nails were of wood. A wooden shaft ran through the roof to which the sails were fastened on either end. The center of this shaft was "V" shaped, and to it was attached a vertical pile to which the saw was connected. The saw was a cross cut type with long sharp teeth. At one side of the mill was the carriage onto which the logs were rolled and the saw worked up and down cutting the log into boards. The power, of course, was supplied by the wind and in order to set the mill into motion the sails had to be turned into the wind. To accomplish this, "Uncle Davey" had erected a long pole, which he attached to the roof. The pole had at the bottom end a large wheel and when this was rolled along the ground it turned the whole roof in the direction desired.

The gadget of metal I referred to previously was rather an innovation. A piece of iron was fastened to the saw and this struck a plowshare at the end of the carriage when the log was cut through. When this gong sounded it was a signal for "Uncle Davey" to come in from the field where he was perhaps ploughing or doing some other chore and reset the saw. It is said that the gong could be heard all over the neighbourhood. There was usually a weather vane on top of the mill. One in particular delighted the children. It was a small wooden man dressed in gay coloured breeches and coat made by "Uncle Davey's" wife. The little man was in a sitting position with a rod through his hands and when the wind blew he appeared to be rocking back and forth.

The folks in the community didn't seem to realize that the mill was unusual or that "Uncle Davey" had produced any thing out of the ordinary simply bearing out the old truth that "a prophet is not without honor, except in his own country". People from outside and those who had been away for a few years and had returned considered it a remarkable structure. Several engineers were among those who visited it and all were impressed at the ingenuity displayed. The finished product was rather crude but the principles involved were sound and the mill really worked.

"Uncle Davey" contrived various schemes to make his work lighter, to modernize his methods of labor and to save time. Some were successful, others were not. But one thing I would like to mention briefly and that is his clock. He had dreamed and planned of producing perpetual motion, and he used a clock to try to put this theory into effect. The clock was made by cords and weights made from heavy stones. A pendulum was an old fashioned marble attached to a string. When the cords were wound on a large wooden wheel the clock ran for seven months without rewinding - not quite perpetual motion, but a start! This clock was admired by everyone and talked about for years.

These inventions, if you can call them that, have long since been done away with. The mill was for many years after "Uncle Davey's" death a favourite haunt for the youngsters of the community but was finally dismantled. I don't know what became of the old clock but presume it went the way of a great many old relics - into the rubbish heap. So all we have left are a snapshot of the old mill and fond memories of a kindly Christian gentleman who was a near genius.

This mill was located at McDonald's Pt., Queen's Co., N.B.

\*\*\*Allan MacDonald

Excerpt from Samuel Crawford's Journal

Samuel H. Crawford was born in 1861, probably at Pleasant Villa, the son of William and Charlotte (Brown) Crawford. Census records show that his brothers and sisters were Assa B. B. 1857, Josephine b. 1859, Charlotte b. 1867 and Alice b. 1870. When his brother Thomas died at Gagetown in 1941 Samuel was still living there. He never married, and is remembered as a friend by many Gagetown residents.

As a young man in his thirties he lived and farmed at Upper Hampstead. From January 1896 to August 1902 he kept a journal recording the events of each day. This diary is interesting as social history because it records the yearly round of farm activities at the turn of the century. It also mentions many local residents. To give you the flavor of this journal we are publishing the notes for the month of January 1896:

Upper Hampstead January 1896

Wed. 1st. Fine bright day with high wind, cut wood, 7 foot cord.  
Thu. 2nd. Fine and bright, cut wood, cord 9 feet high.  
Fri. 3rd. Rainy day, river still open.  
Sat. 4th. Fine and bright but cold, cut wood, cord 7 feet high.  
Sun. 5th. Fine but cold, zero weather, river froze over last night.  
Mon. 6th. Fine but cold, 14 below zero this morning. I was over to saw's, A. P. Slipp drove upon Ice.  
Tue. 7th. Fine but cold, 10 below zero, good Ice for driving.  
Wed. 8th. Fine day, swamped road afternoon.  
Thu. 9th. Fine, helped Gilchrist kill cow in morning, swamped road in afternoon.  
Fri. 10th. Fine, got Blondy shod, snowed in the night.  
Sat. 11th. Blustery, laid stable floor, made better the sled.

- Sun.12th. Fine day, meeting in afternoon, took North Wind Jr. out.\*\*
- Mon.13th. Snow in morning, went fishing afternoon.
- Tue.14th. Snow flurries in morning, fine afternoon, took North Wind Jr. out.
- Wed.15th. Fine day, snow last night, took North Wind Jr. out, Mr. Foster's Donation.
- Thu.16th. Fine, 14 below zero, hauled wood, took North Wind Jr. out.
- Fri.17th. Fine but snow last night, hauled wood, took North Wind Jr. out.
- Sat.18th. Fine, helped make snowlough and took North Wind Jr. out.
- Sun.19th. Snowflurries, John Rathburn Buried was to funeral.
- Mon.20th. Snowflurries, got North Wind Jr. shod.
- Tue.21st. Snowflurries, hauled wood for S. Cameron.
- Wed.22nd. Fine, was up to Gagetown with North Wind Jr. Mr. Dougan Buried.
- Thu.23rd. Fine, helped kill Gilchrist's bull and hauled hay.
- Fri.24th. Fine, was up to Gagetown with North Wind Jr.
- Sat.25th. North east wind, snow at 3 o'clock, was to horse race on Otnabog Lake.
- Sun.26th. Snowed all day.
- Mon.27th. Fine, hauled wood for S. Cameron.
- Tue.28th. Fine but cold, hauled wood for S. Cameron.
- Wed.29th. Fine, 14 below zero, hauled wood in morning, went to Gagetown with North Wind Jr. in afternoon.
- Thu.30th. Fine and bright, went to Gagetown with North Wind Jr.
- Fri.31st. Fine, hauled wood and took North Wind Jr. out.

\*\*North Wind Jr. was a trotting horse. The entry for Sat. Feb. 1st: "fine, hauled wood in morning, horse race at Gagetown afternoon, Trotted North Wind Jr. and got first place". On the opposite page S. Crawford recorded "Gagetown, February 1st, 1896: 3 year old colt race five heats

S. H. Crawford's North Wind Jr.	1 place
L. A. Slipp's Jems	2 place
Frank McAlpine's Roy	3 place

It is interesting to note that this is the only mention in the whole journal of his participating in horse races, although North Wind Jr. was around for several more years, and seems to have trained for races.

One Company Queen's Co. Militia

This was Capt. David Brill's company and seems to be almost wholly from the Parish of Canning on the West side of Grand Lake. The spelling of the names is taken from the list where they signed their own names where possible. Those whose names were illegible or who were on the roll but did not sign are indicated thus \*. The original document may be seen at the Provincial Archives:

"Grand Lake Queen's County Aug. 14 1790 -

We the subscribers inhabitants of Queen's County in New Brunswick and Belonging to Capt. David Brills Company of Militia observe with Great Satisfaction the Patriotic Exertions Now making by so many of our fellow subjects at this eventful moment by offering their Contributions in and of the national means for Prosecuting the Present War Actuated by an inviolable attachment to our most Gracious Sovereign and the British Constitution we Earnestly Desire to immitate as far as our Circumstances will enable us so lawdable an example and do Promise to Pay to our Captain on or before the first Day of November next insuing the Date here of the Sum expressed against our Respective names to be by him Paid into the hands of our Colnel and transmitted to his Excellency the Duke of Portland one of his Majestys Principle Secret ry of state in such mode as his Excellency the Lieutenant governor of this Province may be Pleased to Direct

Name of the Subscriber

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| David Brill (Capt.)      | Lodewick Sypher  |
| Daniel Stilwell (Lieut.) | Peter Young      |
| John Marshall (Ens.)     | Samuel Austin    |
| *Justis Earl             | Ephraim Seely    |
| Vincent White (Sarg.)    | *Cornelius Field |
| John Sypher              | David Sypher     |
| Thomas Bridgman          | *Jonathan Park   |

\*John Palmer (Corpl)  
John Soward  
\*John Bellmain  
\*Ebenseyar Slocumb  
Jacob Wiggins  
Stephen Sands  
John Davis  
Andrew Smart  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Milles  
Thomas Carle  
Thomas Carl Junr.  
Arthur Vandine  
Stephen Thorne  
Dow Vandine  
Eber Stone  
James Scott

William Clark  
Samuel Denton  
Gershom Clark  
William Bridgman  
\*Sam'l Mun (?)  
\*John Park  
Israel Powell  
Joseph McKenzey  
James Hunter  
\*John McKinzie  
\*William Bolster  
John Hanselpacker  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Boyne  
Alexander Clark  
Lewis Powall  
William Balmain  
David Sim

Note: For Your Information

Tim and Carol Dilworth (our guests in March 1983) are coordinating a series of Workshops on antiques to be held at King's Landing in the late spring. A description says "King's Landing has the most comprehensive collection of antiques in the province. It is therefore an ideal learning environment to discuss furniture, china, glassware, silver, rugs, quilts and jewellery...." For further information about these workshops (four Workshops on Saturdays) please contact the U.N.B. Dept. of Extension and Summer Sessions. Their address is U.N.B., P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5A3 and their telephone is 453-4646.

Winter Programs at King's Landing

King's Landing will be open each Sunday from January 22 to March 4 for winter outdoor activities such as skiing, sliding and skating. There will be sleigh rides on a first come, first served basis. Meals will be available at the Axe & Plough cafeteria, and hot drinks and desserts served at the King's Head Inn.

Open hours are 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food service 12:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Minimal charge - \$1.00 per adult. Children free.

- February 5 Trees in Winter - w/ slides, displays and nature walks.  
Winter sports, music and hot meals.
- February 12 Victorian Valentine Sunday - Old fashioned candy and desserts.  
Winter sports, music and hot meals.
- February 19 Acadian Sunday - with Acadian music and a visit from Le Village Historique Acadien. Winter sports, music and hot meals.
- February 26 Winter Snow Frolic with prizes for the best snowman, snow fort and snow sculpture. Winter sports, music and hot meals.
- March 4 Closing Weekend with 19th Century Winter Olympics such as one legged ski races, obstacle snowshoe courses, etc.. Winter sports, music and hot meals.