

## NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER

**SPRING 2015**

**Volume IX, Issue No. 2**

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### **President's Message:**

With the first quarter of 2015 behind us, let's hope the winter weather is as well! I think most of us have had our fill of it for this year.

Weather has impacted attendance at our branch meetings this year: the January meeting was cancelled because of a storm; there was a good turnout in February in spite of it being a very cold evening; in March no formal meeting was held as we did not have a quorum (however a good discussion was had by those present). With the weather improving and some excellent programs scheduled, we hope to see improved attendance at upcoming meetings.

As most of you know, we have a large collection of family histories in our cupboard (thank you to those who have already contributed) and we always welcome new material. If you've recently completed your research and would like to donate a copy to the branch, we'd love to add it to our inventory.

We'd also like to thank those members from outside the area who send us information, including obituaries, on "strays from away" - former Miramichi residents now residing elsewhere. This is of interest locally and can help direct research to an entirely new locale.

Some advance notice that Miramichi Branch will be participating in a number of events this summer with actual dates and times for our attendance yet to be finalized. We will need

volunteers to work at our display at these events and will be canvassing members prior to each event in order to draw up a schedule. If you have an interest in helping out at one of the following, please let us know:

The Gathering:

Miramichi Heritage Photo Group – June 19-21

Miramichi Irish Festival – July 16-19

Middle Island Heritage Weekend – July 31-Aug. 3

Tabusintac Old Home Week – August 1-8

We thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Read and enjoy!

Although this quotation is from Steve Jobs, I think it is especially applicable to genealogists: "If you haven't found it yet, keep looking."

*Faye Baisley*

### **Meeting by Meeting**

The local members of NBGS Miramichi Branch will endeavor to report to our out-of-town friends on the events at each meeting.

Because of the Christmastime festivities, we do not plan a meeting in December but we were all set to go for the January meeting but were snowed in...or

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snowed out.... on the day of the meeting.

We held our breath and the February meeting was held as planned, although some of our members couldn't come due to heavy snow and poor road conditions.



We made some decisions about expanding our library holdings and discussed plans for Old Home Week in August in Tabusintac, the July Irish Festival and Heritage Days at Middle Island in August. We'll be there. We will also be at the Gathering at the Curling Club in the summer. Meanwhile we are getting organized to revise First Families Volume I and we will have to spend some time at the library to update some of our family information.

Thank you, Judy V.

### Newsletter Publications

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter will be October 15, 2015. Submissions may be e-mailed to [dbharp@earthlink.net](mailto:dbharp@earthlink.net)

We welcome any and all news for publication.

Dave & Melinda Harper, *Newsletter Editors*

### Special Report: Geography and all that.....

The editors hope we all agree as to the value of geography in our family research. The interplay of family information and land ownership is a two way opportunity of clues, deduction, and proofs of the lives of our ancestors. An added benefit is the revealing of community research that is very helpful to other researchers. Below is an excellent example of what can be known and unknown using this one area of investigation of places where our ancestors carried out their daily lives of survival and success.

### THE RESIDENCES OF ALEXANDER MACDONALD OF BARTIBOG

by

Dick MacDougall, Ken Richardson and Carman Williston

### INTRODUCTION

Much has been written about Alexander MacDonald and his stone house at the junction of the Bartibog River and Miramichi Bay. That location, in Lower Newcastle, Newcastle Parish, is often assumed to be his only residence during his time on the Miramichi; however, this is not the case. Prior to his moving into the stone house, now part of the MacDonald Farm Provincial Heritage Place, Alexander and his family lived in at least two other locations along the river. All of his children were probably born in these two locations.

This article identifies the properties that Alexander MacDonald owned along the Miramichi River and attempts to establish on which of these properties he had residences. Combined with other personal data, this property information provides an indication of the possible birth locations of his 13 children.

[Note: In conducting the research for this article, it was noted that the spelling of Alexander MacDonald's and Angus McInnis' names varied from one reference source to another. To avoid confusion for the reader, this article will use a single spelling for each name; viz., "Alexander MacDonald" and "Angus McInnis" regardless of which spelling appeared in the reference document.]

### BACKGROUND TO LAND TRANSACTIONS

It is generally accepted that Alexander MacDonald was one of three "Alexander McDonalds", with the rank of Private, disbanded from the 76th Regiment of Foot in Shelburne, Nova Scotia in November 1783. With the aid of later information, it can be surmised that he was 21 years of age at that time. It is probable that he did not make his way to the Miramichi until the spring of 1784. Where Alexander resided between his arrival on the Miramichi and his petition for a land grant in 1787 is not known.

Starting with a petition (memorial) in 1787, Alexander acquired land along both sides of the Miramichi River and Bay. The following map shows the locations of most of the land parcels owned solely or jointly by him.



Map Showing Alexander MacDonald's Land Holdings

Two issues make identifying the specific properties in which Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog had a financial interest, and on which he possibly built a residence, somewhat challenging:

1. An examination of memorials for land grants indicates a practice of establishing a residence and making improvements to vacant land prior to petitioning for a land grant or to receiving a grant. When a government surveyor arrived afterwards, laid out lots and assigned numbers to the lots, the settlers then petitioned for a particular lot, identifying the lot by the new number and, at times, by who had made the improvements. Occasionally, memorials requested a share of a lot already occupied or granted to another. This was particularly the case with marsh lots due to the demand for access to the hay on them to feed livestock. For that reason, the marsh lots were often shared among a number of petitioners.

2. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, there were a number of "Alexander MacDonald's" on the Miramichi. Frequently, land grants from that period included more than one "Alexander MacDonald". As such, there is some difficulty in determining which Alexander was which, without additional clues. In the case of Alexander MacDonald of the stone house in Bartibog (Lower Newcastle), that evidence includes two deeds of property in 1826 to his sons, James and Ranald. These deeds partially resolve the mystery as they list many of the parcels of land that Alexander had acquired (N.C.R.O. Vol. 32, Pp. 354 & 356)<sup>1</sup> Despite this additional evidence, it is still not always possible to determine exactly how Alexander acquired title to specific properties, in particular marsh lots.

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS & LAND TRANSACTIONS

The following are the land transactions that can be attributed to Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog; as well as other events that may have impacted on his land transactions and on the establishment of residences.

**10 Aug 1787:** Alexander MacDonald petitioned the Lieutenant Governor for a grant to Lot 13 on the south side of Miramichi River given up by Angus McInnis. Angus, on August 1, 1787, petitioned for Lot 69 on the north side at Bartibog, relinquished to him by John Henderson. (N.C.L.M. #122 & 132)<sup>2</sup>

[Note: While the location of Lot 69 is often referred to as "Bartibog", it is actually in Lower Newcastle, Newcastle Parish.]

**8 Nov 1788:** Alexander MacDonald received Lot 13 (157 acres) on the south side of the Miramichi River at present-day Loggieville in Chatham Parish; and Angus McInnis received Lot 69 (144 acres) in Bartibog (C.L.O. Book III, Grant 170)<sup>3</sup>

**13 July 1790:** Alexander MacDonald and Angus McInnis signed an agreement to share Lots 13 and 69, and grant each other half of the other's lot. (N.C.R.O. Vol 1, p.177)<sup>1</sup>

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**February 1791:** Alexander MacDonald petitioned for a lot in the unsurveyed

shares in lots at Grand Downs Marsh. He was granted half (or 16 acres) of Lot 5; half (or 3

vacant lands below the French settlers in Bedeven (Bay du Vin). He stated that Lot 13, on which he has been living for 4 years, proved to have an



inadequate supply of water, poor soil and he cannot grow hay for his cattle. It also asked for a grant of the adjacent lot for Alexander McDonald Jr.<sup>4</sup> who had been on the Miramichi since August 1790. (N.C.L.M #273)<sup>2</sup>

**21 June 1792:** Alexander MacDonald bought Lot 69 in Bartibog from his army comrade, Angus McInnis, for £100. (N.C.R.O. Book 3, p.54)<sup>1</sup>

**6 Aug 1795:** Alexander MacDonald and John McLean bought Delsdernier's interest in the Delsdernier & Benjamin Marston lot on the south side of Bay du Vin at the mouth of Black River from William Atkinson, who had acquired it by Quit Claim deed from John Mark Crank Delsdernier in 1792. (N.C.R.O. Book 3, p. 90)<sup>1</sup>

**6 Aug 1795:** Alexander MacDonald and John McLean acquired John Mark Crank Delsdernier's interest in a marsh lot on the north shore of Black River from William Atkinson, who had acquired it by Quit Claim deed from John Mark Crank Delsdernier in 1792. The location of this marsh lot is not specified in these deeds and the Northumberland County Registry of deeds does not record a transaction whereby J.M.C. Delsdernier acquired the interest. (N.C.R.O. Book 4, p.5)<sup>1</sup>

**4 May, 1798:** Alexander MacDonald and John McLean Sr. were granted Lot 1 of 146 acres in the 3rd Tract (marshes south of Point aux Carr). In this grant, Alexander is identified as "Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog". (C.L.O. Vol. B, Grant 322)<sup>3</sup>

**4 May, 1798:** Alexander MacDonald was granted Lot 70 containing 158 acres, adjacent to Lot 69 in Bartibog. In this grant, Alexander is identified as "Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog". (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 326)<sup>3</sup>

**4 May, 1798:** Alexander MacDonald received

acres) of Lot 17; and half (or 4 acres) of Lot 30. In this grant, Alexander is identified as "Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog". (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 328)<sup>3</sup>

**January 1799:** Alexander MacDonald bought, at a Sheriff's sale, a lot on the south side of Miramichi Bay for £3.5. This lot had been occupied by Duncan MacDonald but was forfeited after he was convicted of murder and hanged. In this grant, Alexander is identified as Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog. Alexander petitioned the Lieutenant Governor that this lot be confirmed and that petition was granted. (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 341)<sup>3</sup> [Note: This

lot is not numbered on the grant plans. It is, however, west of Lot 4 granted to James Thom in 1799 and contains 205 acres.]

**9 May, 1799:** Alexander MacDonald was granted the eastern half of Bartibog Island, comprising 4 acres. In this grant, Alexander is identified as "Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog". (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 340)<sup>3</sup>

**27 January, 1801:** Alexander MacDonald petitioned for a vacant lot between the Delsdernier/Marston lot at the mouth of Black River and the 205 acre lot he acquired in 1799 (west of James Thom). In it, he states that he is living on the Delsdernier lot. (N.C.L.M. # 442)<sup>2</sup>

**6 November, 1804:** Alexander sold Lot 13 to Duncan McRae for £50. (N.C.R.O. Book 7 P.87)<sup>1</sup>

**5 November 1808:** Alexander MacDonald bought, for £8, Lot 6 (136 acres) on the north side of Black River from Dougald McCormack of Mabou, Cape Breton Island through his attorney, James Davidson. (N.C.R.O. Book 8, p.162)<sup>1</sup>

**1 May, 1809:** Alexander obtained, from Ward Chipman, administrator of Benjamin Marston's estate, Benjamin Marston's half interest in Lot 2 on the south side at the mouth of Black River. The lot had been granted to Marston as tenant in common with Delsdernier in 1786. (N.C.R.O., Book 9, p.87)<sup>1</sup>

**22 August, 1818:** Alexander acquired his final grant, 140 acres adjacent to Lot 70 on the Bartibog

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River (in Lower Newcastle). This land had been previously willed to him in

Grant 623, on 3 June, 1812)<sup>3</sup>. It was from this grant that a parcel was conveyed to Northumberland County as

1809 by its occupant, John McDonald, (who also served in the 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot) and Alexander MacDonald petitioned for the lot to be granted to him. (C.L.O. Book 4, Grant 1042<sup>3</sup> and N.C.L.M #697<sup>2</sup>)



**4 April, 1826:** Alexander MacDonald sold to his son, Ranald MacDonald, an undivided half interest in Lot E, containing 157 acres (marshes south of Point aux Carr), granted to Philip Hierlihy (N.C.R.O. Book 26, P.354)<sup>1</sup>. How this interest was obtained by Alexander has not been determined<sup>5</sup>. There was a memorial (N.C.L.M. Memorial # 339, endorsed 22 Mar 1793)<sup>2</sup> by Alexander MacDonald and John McLean, Sr. asking for ¼ each of a marsh lot on the north side of Black River claimed by Phillip Hierlihy, who they claim was not fully utilizing it. This Lot E of 157 acres was subsequently granted to Hierlihy on May 4, 1798 (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 323)<sup>3</sup>.

Previous research, conducted at the time that the MacDonald Farm was being designated a heritage site, also identified several grants that, upon further investigation, have been discovered as being erroneously attributed to Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog:

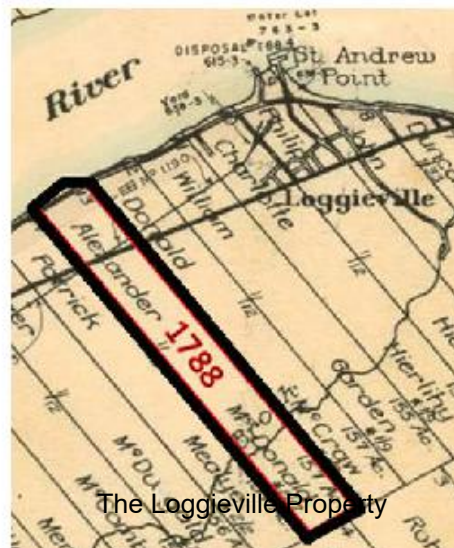
- Lot 4 at Point Aux Carr, 140 acres, was granted to Alexander McDonald, a disbanded soldier of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. (C.L.O. Book B, Grant 322, 4 May 1789)<sup>3</sup>Alexander McDonald, Neil McGrath, Dugald Campbell and James Gunn, all disbanded soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, were settled on the Nashwaak when they requested vacant land at Point Ecarr [sic] between David Goodfellow and William McClerran (N.C.L.M. # 250 )<sup>2</sup>. This Alexander McDonald's heirs sold Lot 4 to James McDonald and John McDonald when this Alexander died intestate. (N.C.R.O. Book 32, p.566)<sup>1</sup>

- Lot 2 on the west side of the Little Branch of Black River, 225 acres, was granted to Alexander McDonald who married Grace McAskill (C.L.O. Book F,

a site for the Little Branch School (N.C.R.O. Book 32, p 490)<sup>1</sup>.

- Lot 6 on the west side of the Little Branch of Black River, 140 acres, was granted to Alexander McDonald of Point Aux Carr (C.L.O. Book F, Grant 623, on 3 June, 1812)<sup>3</sup>. His heirs sold the lot to Simon McDonald when this Alexander died intestate. (N.C.R.O. Book 32, p.563)<sup>1</sup>

## DISCUSSION ON RESIDENCE 1 – LOT 13 AT LOGGIEVILLE



When Daniel Micheau conducted his 1785 survey of the Miramichi River from Bartibog to Newcastle, he laid out lots on both sides of the river and listed the inhabitants of houses already on the different lots. Neither Alexander MacDonald nor Angus McInnis was noted. At that time, John Henderson was on Lot 69 in Bartibog and no name was attached to Lot 13 in Loggieville<sup>6</sup>. There was an Alex McDonald on Lot 41 on the south side of the river, but he was noted to be a disbanded soldier from the Queens Rangers, not the 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment.<sup>7</sup>

In 1786 and 1787, following Daniel Micheau's

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survey, Benjamin Marston was in the region surveying additional lots and making adjustments to Micheau's survey. As noted above, on 10 Aug

This memorial does not appear to have resulted in a land grant for Alexander Sr. but Alexander Jr did receive grants in this area in 1812. The memorial

1787, Alexander MacDonald petitioned for Lot 13 on the south side of the Miramichi (at present day Loggieville)



for himself. In that memorial, he states that he is a disbanded soldier of the 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment, has never received his proportion and has resided on the river for three years (therefore arriving in 1784). His memorial also states that this lot has been "given up" by Angus McInnis, which supports the practice of establishing residence, making improvements, and only then applying for title.

A letter to Donald McDonald, McCullun's Point, Miremeshee (sic), dated 5 January 1788 by Alexander MacDonald, asks Donald, upon his arrival in St John, to check with the Secretary's Office on the status of the petition for Lot 69 on the North side and Lot 13 on the south side. (N.C.L.M. #110)<sup>2</sup> If "a location" has not been made, to remind them of it again and that he (Donald McDonald) knows Alexander and Angus' circumstances. The letter also states that Alexander has been in possession of Lot 13 since May 1787, has made improvements, and that Angus McInnis has a house and much cleared land on Lot 69.

On 8 Nov 1788, Alexander MacDonald received a grant for Lot 13 (157 Acres) at Loggieville and Angus McInnis a grant for Lot 69 (144 Acres) at Bartibog. On 13 July 1790, Alexander MacDonald and Angus McInnis agreed to share Lots 13 and 69, and grant each other half of the other's lot.

Memorial # 273<sup>2</sup>, dated February 1791, is a petition by Alexander MacDonald, Sr.<sup>4</sup> and Alexander McDonald, Jr.<sup>4</sup> It states that Alexander Sr. has resided on Lot 13 these last 4 years (i.e., since 1787) and cannot find a drop of water for his cattle, and cannot grow enough hay, and asks for a lot in the unsurveyed lands below the French settlers at Bedeven (sic), [Note: This is Hardwicke Village at the French River.] and for a lot for Alexander, Jr. adjacent. This memorial states that Alexander Sr. plans to continue improvements on Lot 13 and live there in the summer and on the requested lot in the winter.

does, however, make a case for Alexander Sr. having a residence on Lot 13 from 1787 to 1791 and may indicate that the residences were, at times, seasonal. It is likely, therefore, that Alexander MacDonald married Grace McLean while living on Lot 13, as their marriage is estimated to have taken place in c1790. Their first child, James, was born in December 1792.

A petition by Alexander MacDonald and John McLean, Sr. asking for ¼ each of a marsh lot on the north side of Black River claimed by Phillip Hierlihy, who they claim was not fully utilizing it (N.C.L.M. # 339, endorsed 22 Mar 1793)<sup>2</sup> states that neither has been allowed any marsh or meadows for cattle, but Alexander has a proportion of a marsh lot at Grand Downs which is not fit to maintain one cow. This Lot E of 157 acres was subsequently granted to Hierlihy on May 4, 1798 (C.L.O. Book IV, Grant 323)<sup>3</sup> and Alexander did not receive formal grants of marsh lots at Grand Downs until 1798. While this petition does not identify residences, it does indicate that informal access to marsh lots occurred prior to official grants and, possibly, subsequent to grants.

It is not known how long after the 1791 memorial that Alexander and his family remained on Lot 13. It is known, however, that on 6 November 1804, Alexander sold Lot 13 to Duncan McRae. Thus the longest duration that Alexander could have been living on Lot 13 is from May 1787 to November 1804, but it is likely less than that and part of it may have been seasonal.

#### **DISCUSSION ON RESIDENCE 2 – DELSDERNIER/MARSTON GRANT - HEXHAM**

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The Black River Properties

In 1786, John Mark Crank Delsdernier and Benjamin Marston were granted, as tenants in common, an un-numbered lot on the south side of Bay du Vin Bay at the mouth of Black River. (C.L.O. Vol. I, Grant 25)<sup>3</sup> Delsdernier established a residence on the Miramichi for a time and became Sheriff; while Marston, the surveyor, did not reside on the Miramichi. However, at the same time, they were granted this lot as well as Lots 19, 20 & 21 in Douglastown.

An Oct 5, 1789 memorial (N.C.L.M. #234)<sup>2</sup> by Delsdernier, then Sherriff, states that his residence is some 30 miles up the Miramichi River and he has to bring hay from Bay Devin [sic] for his 10 head of cattle, and plans to move to the lot owned jointly with Benjamin Marston, and asks for another lot on the north side of Black River. There is no record of Delsdernier receiving a grant of land on the north side of Black River; however, he included any interest he had in such a lot when he sold his interest in both Black River lots to William Atkinson for £75 in a Quit Claim deed on 7 Jul 1792 (N.C.R.O. Book 2, p 71)<sup>1</sup>. He also sold the contents of his farm at Bay du Vin (livestock, furniture, clothing) for an additional £40. (N.C.R.O. Book 2, p 74)<sup>1</sup> This would indicate that, while Delsdernier occupied the lot at the mouth of Black River and

erected a dwelling, he probably moved out when he sold his farm and contents in 1792.

On 6 August 1795, Alexander MacDonald and John McLean acquired the William Atkinson interest in the two lots at the mouth of Black River that Atkinson had acquired from John Mark Crank Delsdernier.

It is not known how soon after (or even before) acquiring the Delsdernier lot at the mouth of Black River (in 1795) that Alexander and family moved permanently to that lot. It is known, however, that the family was residing on the lot in January 1800 at the time of the birth of his daughter, Margaret, and in January 1801, as noted in a memorial by Alexander MacDonald (N.C.L.M. #442)<sup>2</sup>. In it, Alexander states that he is living on a half lot, acquired from Delsdernier, and asks for the vacant lot between that Delsdernier lot and another lot that he had purchased (the lot west of Lot 4 that Alexander acquired in 1799). The requested lot was confirmed as vacant and James Horton provided a certificate stating: *"Alexander MacDonald is a frugal industrious man, has a rising family of sons and will soon be sufficient for more land than he has at present."* (N.C.L.M. #442)<sup>2</sup> This petition did not result in a grant of the vacant lot to Alexander, but his son, James, was granted it (325 acres) in 1812. This 1801 petition would indicate that Alexander was living on the Delsdernier lot before 1801, while still owning Lot 13 at Loggieville as well as Lot 69 at Bartibog.

The death certificate for Alexander's daughter, Margaret (MacDonald) Bowie, in 1888, states that she was born in January 1800 at Bay du Vin, NB.<sup>8</sup> A 1920 death certificate for Margaret MacDonald Bergin, daughter of Alexander's son, Dugald, states that Dugald's birth place (in August 1805) was "Bay Side, NB", which is another name for this area at the mouth of Black River.<sup>9</sup>

On May 1, 1809 Alexander MacDonald acquired from Ward Chipman, Benjamin Marston's half- interest in the lot at the mouth of Black River, originally granted to Delsdernier and Marston.

Gubbins New Brunswick Journal<sup>10</sup> includes a

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description of Lt Col Joseph Gubbins' 1813 tour to inspect the militias in the

in 1793 may or may not have meant something relative to residence. However, he also continued

colony, including those in the Miramichi area. He travelled by horse from the Kouchibouguac area along the shore to Point Escuminac and on across the Eel River to Bay du Vin. After spending the



night of July 18 and Sunday July 19 at the home of Mr. Wellisford (Williston?), he inspected the First Northumberland Battalion a mile away on July 20. Gubbins was then rowed about 4 miles across the shallow bay (Bay du Vin) to the home of Major McDonnel (sic) (Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog). On 21 July, with Major McDonnel and Capt. Davidson, they proceeded by canoe across the mouth of the Miramichi River "*which is about 9*

*miles wide*" [Note: This is approximately the distance between the south shore at Bay du Vin and the north shore of Miramichi Bay.] to

Capt James Davidson's home at the Willows (near Oak Point). On July 22 Alexander MacDonald dropped off one of his sons to tend salmon nets at Bartibog as he and Gubbins proceeded up the river. Gubbins' journal, thus, indicates that Alexander MacDonald was living on the south side of Miramichi Bay about 4 miles from Bay du Vin in 1813 while, at the same time, fishing salmon at Bartibog on the north side. Had Alexander had a residence at Bartibog at that time, it is likely that he would have entertained Gubbins there and some mention would have been made of it in Gubbins' description.

Research information prepared for the MacDonald Farm Provincial Heritage Place lists civic offices held by Alexander MacDonald. The first, in 1791, is Town Clerk for the Middle District, South Side, a position he held until 1798. To this position, Clerk for the Middle District, North Side was added in 1793. Later he was appointed Commissioner and Surveyor of Roads for the Bay du Vin District from 1800 to 1813. With the creation of Glenelg Parish in 1814, MacDonald continued in that same position in the new parish from 1814 to 1825. In this position, he was given the task of laying out and constructing roads. Alexander was also a school trustee for Glenelg Parish in 1819 when he signed a request for pay for Hugh McDougall, who had been teaching school in that parish. It should be noted that being appointed clerk for the north side

as Road Commissioner for Glenelg Parish from 1814 to 1825, in part after he built the Bartibog House. Thus, residence may have been less important for appointment to civic offices than owning land in the area. It is also important to note that Alexander MacDonald's role as an officer in the Northumberland County Militia is the public office for which he is best known. While these civic offices provide a snapshot of Alexander's involvement in the local communities, it is difficult to draw any conclusions related to Alexander's residences from them.

At the same time, taken together, these civic office appointments may provide an indication that Alexander MacDonald was at the mouth of Black River from at least 1801 to 1813:

- Being appointed commissioner in 1800 may indicate he is living in the area.
- His term as Clerk, Middle District, South Side, ending in 1798, may signify a move after that date or may indicate that he could not do the task from afar.
- Continuing as Commissioner of Roads after Glenelg Parish was formed could indicate he was still on the south side in 1814. (Continuing in the post until 1825 only meant a 9 mile commute across the bay when needed on the south side, and he had sons living there)

Alexander MacDonald sold the Delsdernier lot at the mouth of Black River to his son, James, on 2 March 1826 for £200. This sale occurred after Alexander's move to Lot 69. One hundred years after James sold this property, the outline of a cellar was visible on the west side of this lot near the point, indicating the presence of a structure.

This history of the Delsdernier and Marston lot at Hexham would indicate that Alexander and family were probably living on that lot by 1795, and possibly as early as 1792. They were definitely there in January 1800 at the time of Margaret's birth; in August 1805 at the time of Dugald's birth; and in July 1813, at the time of Gubbins' inspection of militias. The exact date of departure from this lot

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is uncertain, however, it is known that Alexander was living in the stone house in Lower Newcastle in 1823.

island (4 acres); and in 1818, he acquired 140 acres, next to Lot 70. In all of these grants in 1798 and 1799, Alexander is identified as

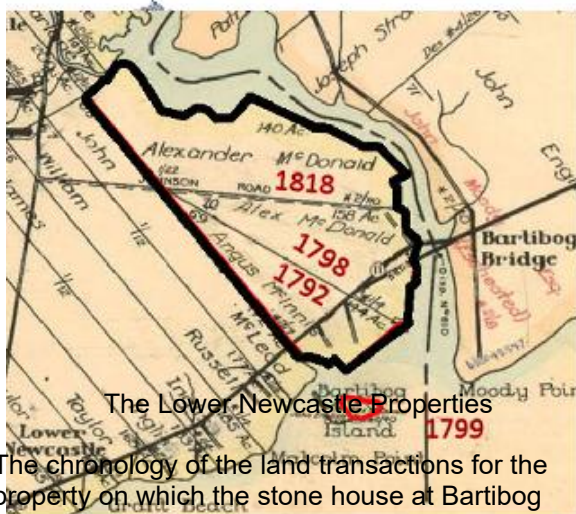


**DISCUSSION ON RESIDENCE 3 –  
LOTS 69 & 70 AT LOWER  
NEWCASTLE**



“Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog” without any indication that he had a residence there.

There is no specific indication of when Alexander moved his residence to this property. Gubbins reports in 1813 that Alexander dropped his son off at Bartibog to tend the fishing nets there; so it is likely that there was a shelter of some sort on Lot 69 in 1813. The research for the heritage status of the MacDonald Farm states that the stone house was built between 1815 and 1820. It is also recorded<sup>11</sup> that Alexander and family were living in the stone house at Bartibog in June 1823 as his son, Colin Coll, born in 1815, was killed there when lightning struck the house. It is likely therefore that Alexander and family moved to Lot 69 after 1815, probably coinciding with the completion of the stone house.



The Lower Newcastle Properties

The chronology of the land transactions for the property on which the stone house at Bartibog stands provides insight on possible years of residency by Alexander MacDonald and his family. Lot 69, on the north side of the Miramichi River at Bartibog, was occupied by John Henderson when Micheau laid out the Miramichi lots in 1785. In January 1788, Alexander MacDonald writes that Angus McInnis has a house and much cleared land on Lot 69. Lot 69 was granted to Angus McInnis, on Oct 17, 1788. On 13 July 1790, Alexander and Angus agree to share Lots 13 and 69. Angus sold Lot 69 to Alexander in June, 1792. It is not known if Alexander established a residence on Lot 69 as a result of this agreement and sale. In his petition of 1791, Alexander states he has been living on Lot 13 since 1787. It can reasonably be assumed, therefore, that Alexander did not live on Lot 69 before 1791.

In May 1798 Alexander was granted Lot 70, adjacent to Lot 69; in 1799, the east half of Bartibog



**BIRTH LOCATIONS FOR CHILDREN  
OF ALEXANDER MACDONALD**

Based on the research above, the following table provides an indication of the possible residences occupied by Alexander MacDonald between 1787 and 1834, and suggests locations for the births of Alexander and Grace’s children:

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**RESIDENCE LOCATION &  
DATES**

Lot 13 at Loggieville (1787 to 1791)  
Possibly on Lot 13 at Loggieville (1791 to 1795) [Note: Alexander owned Lot 69 during this same period, however, it is less likely that

**CHILDREN BORN**

- None
- 1. James MacDonald (b: Dec. 1792)
- 2. Mary MacDonald (b: May 1794)

he had a formal residence there than at Loggieville.]
Probably on Delsdernier/Marston Lot at Hexham (1795 to 1801)
[Note: Alexander owned Lots 69 & 70 during this same period, however, it is less likely that he had a formal residence there than at Hexham. In the 1798-1799 land grants, however, Alexander is referred to as Alexander MacDonald of Bartibog.]
Definitely on Delsdernier/Marsdon Lot at Hexham (1801 to 1813)
Probably Delsdernier/Marsdon Lot at Hexham (1813 to 1815) Probably Lower Newcastle (1815 to 1834)
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION</b>
1. N.C.R.O. (Northumberland County Registry Office), Miramichi, NB.
2. N.C.L.M. (Northumberland County Land Memorials) Memorial numbers are extracted from the compilation " <i>Land Memorials Northumberland County 1783-1819</i> " located at Saint Michael's Museum, Miramichi, NB.



3. Ranald MacDonald (b: Aug. 1795)
4. Donald MacDonald (b: Jan. 1798)
5. Margaret MacDonald (b: Jan. 1800)
6. Alexander MacDonald, Jr. (b: Jan. 1802)
7. Christina Annabella MacDonald (b. Sept. 1803)
8. John MacDonald (b: Aug. 1805)
9. Dugald MacDonald (b: Aug. 1805)
10. Allan MacDonald (b: Jan. 1808)
11. Catherine MacDonald (b: Apr. 1810)
12. Grace MacDonald (b: Mar. 1812)
13. Colin MacDonald (b. June 1815)
None
7. Charlotte Taylor, Her Life and Times, Wishart Period: <a href="http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/charlotte_taylor/Folder1/Wishart%20Period.htm">www3.bc.sympatico.ca/charlotte_taylor/Folder1/Wishart%20Period.htm</a>
8. Vital Statistics from Government Records, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. RS141C5, Vol. 24, Microfilm F13645 Page 48 Line 0
9. Vital Statistics from Government Records, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. RS141C5, Vol. 24, Microfilm F18927 #24099
10. New Brunswick Journal 1811 & 1813, Joseph Gubbins and Howard Temperley, King's Landing Corporation, Fredericton, NB, 1980. ISBN-10: 0888380011; ISBN-13: 978-088838001.
11. Records of St. Peter & St. Paul's RC Church, Bartibog Bridge, NB indicate the death of Colin Coll at the stone house in June 1823.

3. C.L.O. (Crown Lands Office), Fredericton, NB.
4. The terms Senior (Sr.) and Junior (Jr.) appear to have been used in petitions (memorials) and grants to distinguish between individuals with the same name on the same petition or grant. The distinction was possibly based on age but it could have been based on the order in which the names appeared. There is no indication that the terms referred to family relationships.
5. Land transactions were not always registered when they occurred and sometimes were not registered at all.
6. Charlotte Taylor, Her Life and Times, Maps: [www3.bc.sympatico.ca/charlotte\\_taylor/Folder1/Miramichi%20River%20Lots.htm](http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/charlotte_taylor/Folder1/Miramichi%20River%20Lots.htm)

## NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER

**Meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Chatham library at 6:15 pm. Guests and Members are always welcome.**



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