

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAYTHE LIFE AND TIMES OF DANIEL McPHERSON  
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The remarkable career of this native of Invernesshire Scotland, an emigrant to Philadelphia in America and thence as a Loyalist to Sorel and Douglastown, who became Seignior of Crane Island and died at St. Thomas de Montmagny at the age of 87 years.

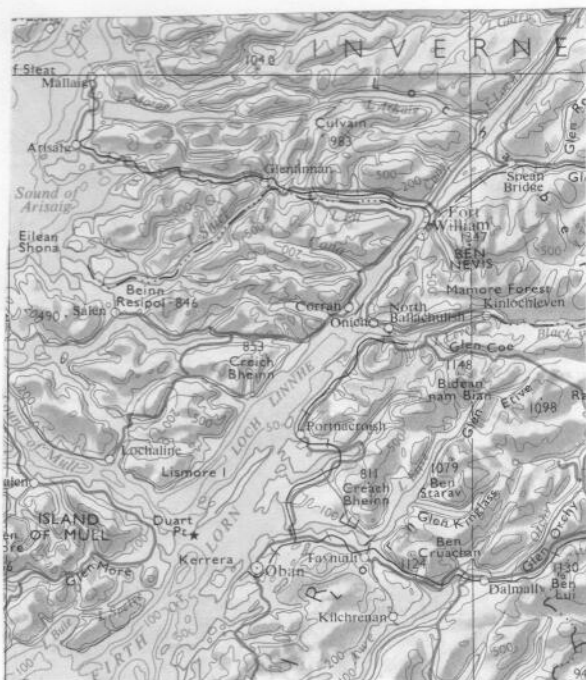
KEN ANNETT

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DANIEL McPHERSON

The traveller eastbound from L'Islet-sur-Mer to Saint Jean Port Joli may notice a side road on the right leading to LAC TROIS SAUMONS. Along that road, near the lake, lies a small Protestant cemetery known to generations of the local folk as "le cimetièrre des Anglais". Among the few gravestones within this small, remote burying ground a grey stone slab bears the inscription -

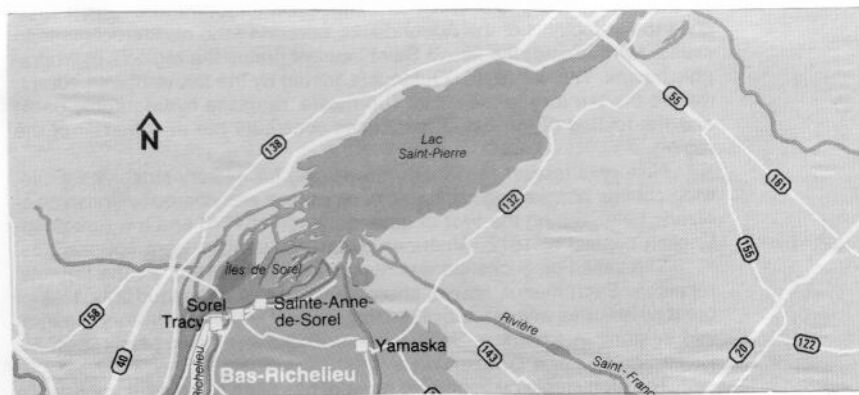
"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF DANIEL McPHERSON  
OF CRANE ISLAND IN THIS COUNTRY, NATIVE  
OF BADENACH IN SCOTLAND, WHO DEPARTED THIS  
LIFE ON THE 1st OF JUNE, 1840, AGED 87 YEARS".

It is here, far removed from his native land of Scotland and from the sea-girt shores of Douglastown and Point St. Peter in Gaspesia where he spent some twenty or more years of his active career, that the remains of the man that GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY seeks to recall and honour, rest.

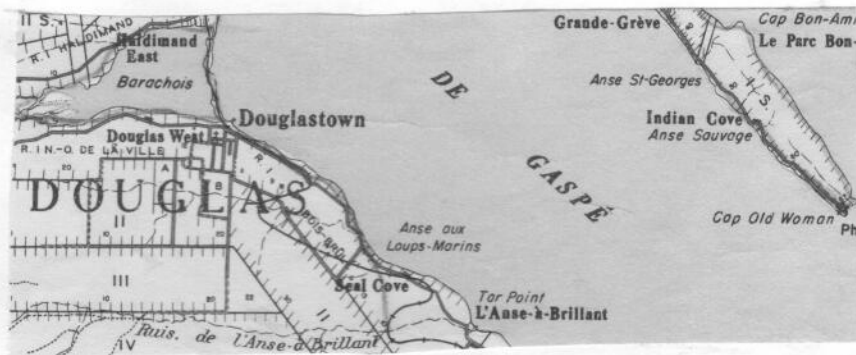


Daniel McPherson was born in 1753 in Invernesshire, Scotland, near Fort William and the landmark of Ben Nevis. As a youth he emigrated to America and at the time of the American Revolution was a citizen of Philadelphia. The recent historical novel, REDCOAT by Bernard Cornwell, provides a vivid and detailed account

of the stress and terrible problems that the Revolutionary War brought to the people of Philadelphia. As an ardent Loyalist Daniel McPherson faced persecution and possible death. He sought refuge in Canada and made his way to Sorel at the junction of the rivers Richelieu and St. Lawrence where other Loyalists had found temporary shelter. There he acquired land that he would later dispose of and there he married Miss Mary Kelly some ten years his junior - her year of birth being 1762.



The Loyalists sought more permanent homes. In 1784 Felix O'Hara of Gaspé Basin surveyed lots for Loyalist settlement at New Carlisle and Douglastown and the following year Daniel McPherson and his wife left Sorel for Gaspesia to settle at Douglastown. The story of the early Douglastown settlement has been recorded by Doris and David McDougall in their article, "DOUGLASTOWN BEFORE 1800", published in an early issue of "SPEC".



THE McPHERSON  
FISHERY

At Douglastown, Malbay and Point St.Peter Daniel McPherson proceeded,with traditional Scotch prudence and business acumen,to develop a fishery that withstood the test of time and won the respect of his chief competitor, Charles Robin. In his "REMARKS ON THE SETTLEMENTS IN LOWER CANADA SINCE THE CONQUEST", Robin noted:

"...numberless other trials from different quarters in different posts have been attempted and have all failed except Daniel M'Phersons' Fishery and supplying business at Point St.Peter, Malbay and Douglastown which has answered very well..."

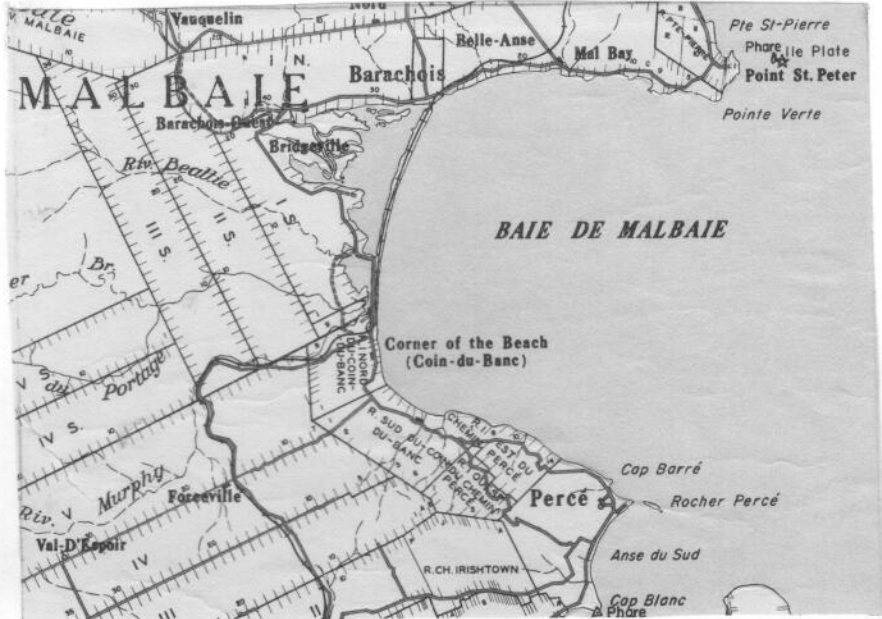
We have an interesting echo of the fishing station at Point St.Peter in the following extract from Daniel McPherson's grandson, James McPherson Le Moine, in his volume, "CHRONICLES OF THE ST.LAWRENCE" ;

"... The bay,at Mal Baie, is a splendid sheet of water bounded by Percé on the one side and Point St.Peter on the other...  
Right well can I recall Point St.Peter; its pebbly beaches; its symmetric long rows of boats, anchored, at night-fall, in straight line - in view of each fishing station - all dancing merrily on the crest of the curling billows; its fearless, song-loving, blue-smocked Jersey fishermen. Can I ever forget its storm-lashed reef; its crumbling cliffs; its dark caves made vocal at each easterly blow with the wild discord of the sea ? Plateau, its foam-crowned ledges, surrounded by noisy sea fowl :  
Where are now the leading men of Point St.Peter I knew of yore ? Where the Johnstons, Creightons, Packwoods, Collas, Alexanders of years ago ? Gone, one and all, or nearly so, to their long home..."

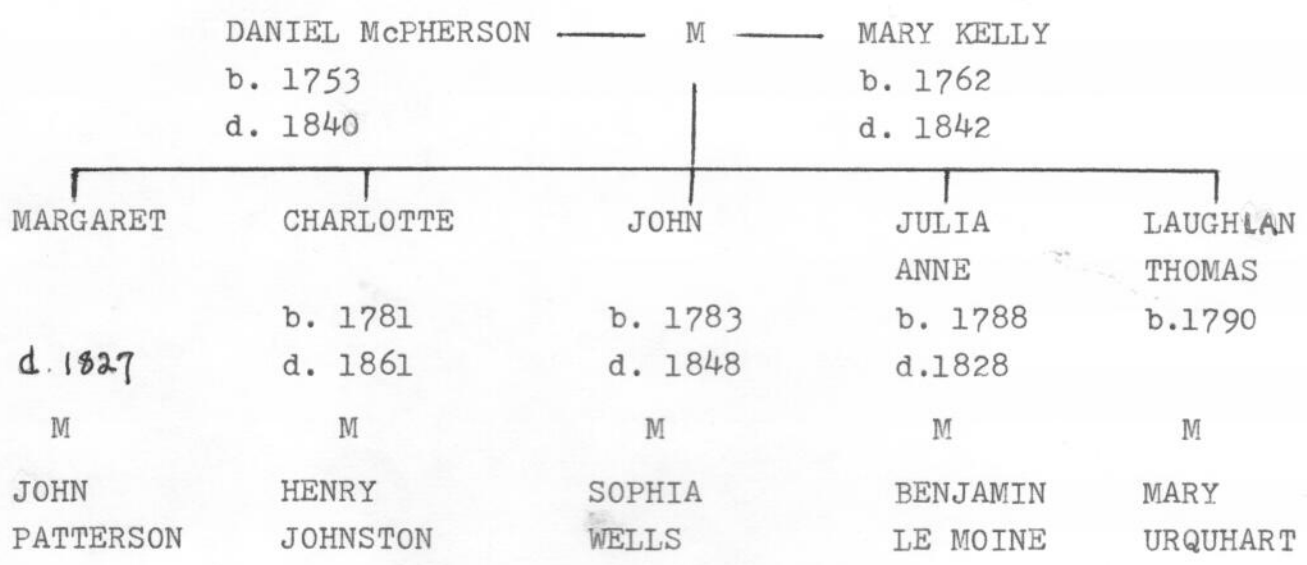
As for Daniel McPherson his success in the Gaspé

THE McPHERSON FISHERY (ctd)

fishery and supply business provided him with the capital to acquire, in 1802, the St.Lawrence River Seigniory of l'Ile-aux-Grues (Crane Island) which would be his home, as Seignior, until 1829, and to his descendants for generations.



THE FAMILY



[ Notes on members of the family follow.]

THE FAMILY

(ctd)

- \* Daniel McPherson lived in the Manor House on Crane Island from 1802 until 1829. He then moved "ashore" to St. Thomas de Montmagny and lived there until his death in June, 1840 at the age of 87 years.
- \* Mary Kelly McPherson was living in Québec City, possibly at the home of her son, L.T. McPherson, N.P., at the time of her death in November, 1842 at the age of 80 years.
- \* Margaret McPherson of Douglstown, presumed to be a daughter of Daniel and Mary McPherson, was the second wife of John Patterson of the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay. (Ref. "ANCESTRAL RECORD OF ANDREW B. PATTERSON - 1976." Three sons and two daughters were born of this marriage.
- \* Charlotte McPherson became the wife of Henry Bisset Johnston. Together with his brother-in-law, John McPherson, Henry Johnston carried on the business founded by Daniel McPherson. As a Colonel of Militia, Justice of the Peace and active Churchman he was a prominent figure in the Gaspesia of his time.
- \* John McPherson succeeded his father, Daniel, as the Seigneur of Crane Island in 1829 and was widely known for his hospitality and ecumenism. He maintained close ties with Gaspesia. He left three daughters, the youngest of them, Sophia Eliza, married Henri Benjamin Le Moine, the eldest son of Benjamin Le Moine and his wife, Julia Anne McPherson.
- \* Julia Anne McPherson's husband, Benjamin LeMoine, descended from a family that had been in Québec since the late 17th century - the line being known as Le Moine des Pins. Their son, James, became the noted Sir James McPherson LeMoine.

THE FAMILY  
(ctd)

- \* As a Notary Public of Québec City, Laughlan Thomas McPherson's Deeds date from 1816 to 1837. He knew personally many of the men of Gaspé and the Bay Chaleur and prepared Deeds for them. His wife, Mary, was the daughter of a Québec City Merchant, John Urquhart
- \* James McPherson LeMoine was only three years old when his mother, Julia Anne McPherson LeMoine died. He and two of his brothers went to live with their maternal grandfather, Daniel McPherson - first in the Manor House on Crane Island and subsequently at St. Thomas de Montmagny. Educated in the Law, James was admitted to the Québec Bar in 1856 and in the same year married Harriet Mary Atkinson, daughter of Edward Atkinson of Quebec. A noted historian and author, a President of the Literary and Historical Society of Québec and of the Royal Society of Canada, James McPherson LeMoine was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1897.

It should be noted that Sir James LeMoine maintained his links with Gaspesia, travelled extensively there and through his writings made Gaspesia and its people better known.

THE  
McPHERSON  
SEIGNIORY

It appears remarkable that Scots were so active and successful in obtaining Québec seigniories in the years following the Conquest. "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" has recalled in previous articles the roles of Donald McKinnon and Simon Fraser as Seigniors of Matane; of John McNider in the development of Metis; of Matthew Stewart in the Bay Chaleur Seigniory of Shoolbred. Beyond the limits of Gaspesia John Nairne acquired the Seigniory of Murray Bay while the names of Malcolm and Alexander Fraser are honoured for their association with Rivière-du-Loup. In becoming the Seignior of Crane Island (l'Île-aux-Grues) Daniel McPherson was in good, Scotch company!

Crane Island which lies in the River St. Lawrence off the community of Montmagny is at the approximate center of the group of some twenty islets and islands that comprise the Montmagny Archipelago. Today, as from time immemorial the islands of this archipelago are noted for the great flocks of wild fowl that pause there in their annual migrations. Indeed the first Seignior of l'Île-aux-Grues and adjacent l'Île-aux-Oies, Governor de Montmagny of New France from 1635 until 1648, used the islands for a shooting preserve, having a camp on the site of the later Manor House. The story of the Seigniory has been well documented in such volumes as that of Dr. J. M. Lemieux, "L'ÎLE AUX GRUES ET L'ÎLE AUX OIES" published by LEMEAC in 1978. When it was purchased by Daniel McPherson in 1802 the Deed of Sale had as title:

"ACTE DE VENTE DE XAVIER ROCH DE LANAURIERE  
COMME PROCUREUR DE DAME MARIE-GENEVIEVE LE  
MOYNE DE LONGUEUIL, VEUVE DE LOUIS LIENARD  
DE BEAUJEU, A HENRY JOHNSTON, POUR ET AU  
PROFIT DE DANIEL MCPHERSON, ECUYER, DU FIEF  
ET SEIGNEURIE DE L'ÎLE AUX GRUES ET DE LA  
PETITE ÎLE AUX OIES, AVEC LES BATTURES ET  
TERRES ADJACENTES."



THE  
McPHERSON  
SEIGNIORY  
(ctd)

Daniel McPherson was succeeded as Seigneur of Crane Island by his son, John who had the reputation of an hospitable and generous man. Upon his death at the age of 65 years John was laid to rest beside his father in the little Protestant cemetery of LAC TROIS SAUMONS. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN McPHERSON,  
ESQ., SEIGNEUR OF CRANE ISLAND AND GOOSE  
ISLANDS, BORN JAN. 2, 1783. DIED MARCH 7,  
1848: AGED 65 YEARS AND 64 DAYS.

ALSO OF SOPHIA WELLS, HIS WIFE, BORN 28  
DEC. 1784. DIED MAY 10, 1852, AGED 67  
YEARS AND 133 DAYS.

THIS TOMB IS ERECTED AS A LAST TRIBUTE  
OF RESPECT BY THEIR CHILDREN, E. MELINDA  
McPHERSON, MARY J. McPHERSON, SOPHIA J.  
LE MOINE.

ALSO IN MEMORY OF A DEAR CHILD BY HIS  
PARENTS - WELLS, INFANT SON OF BENJ. H.  
LE MOINE AND GRANDSON OF JOHN McPHERSON,  
DIED AUG. 24, 1839, AGED 6 MONTHS.

With the death of Melinda McPherson in 1872 and that of her sister, Mary Juliana in 1873 the Seignior of Crane Island passed into the hands of McPherson LeMoine, son of Sophia J. McPherson by her marriage to Benjamin LeMoine. Residents of Boston, Mass., McPherson LeMoine and his wife Mary Brigham annually brought their family and friends to the old Manor House of Crane Island and assumed the role of "grand seigneur".

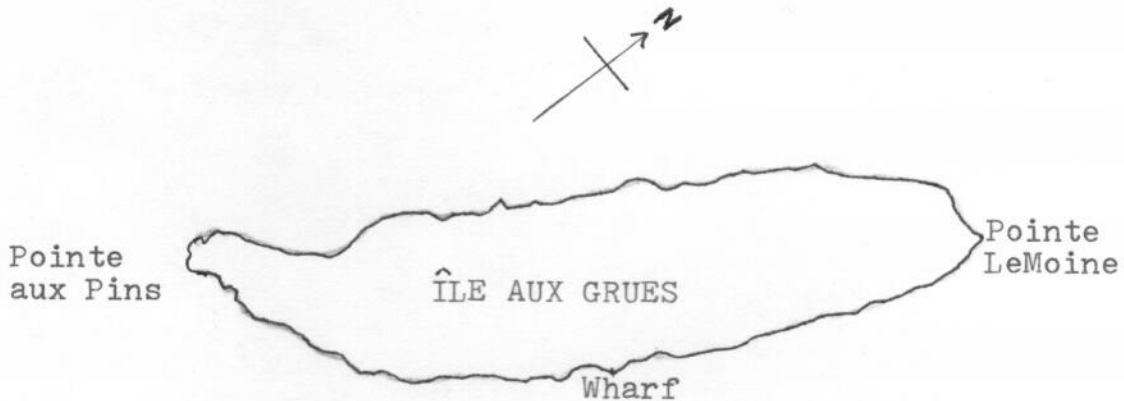
In 1931 the Seignior was given by McPherson LeMoine to his son, Charles, who sold it in 1936 to Nathaniel Holmes of New York.

THE  
McPHERSON  
SEIGNIORY  
(ctd)

It seems appropriate to leave the last word of this brief account of the McPherson Seigniory to Sir James LeMoine who always treasured the happy days he spent there as a lad with his grandfather, Daniel McPherson.

"...The old Manor House, its groves of trees, its orchards, its veranda, its flagstaff and its many out-buildings, can be seen from ships going up or descending the South Channel. Behind the Manor House are two old windmills which served in former times to grind the wheat raised by the Island's farmers.

Nothing can surpass in magnificence the panorama that this Island offers on a sunny summer day when with the rising tide a fleet of merchant ships emerges from the St.Roch-des-Aulnais passage: at first appearing as small white spots on the horizon then gradually getting larger on the surface of the river until they pass close enough to the shore for one to hear the commands given on board..."



APPENDIXREGARDING CLAN MACPHERSON

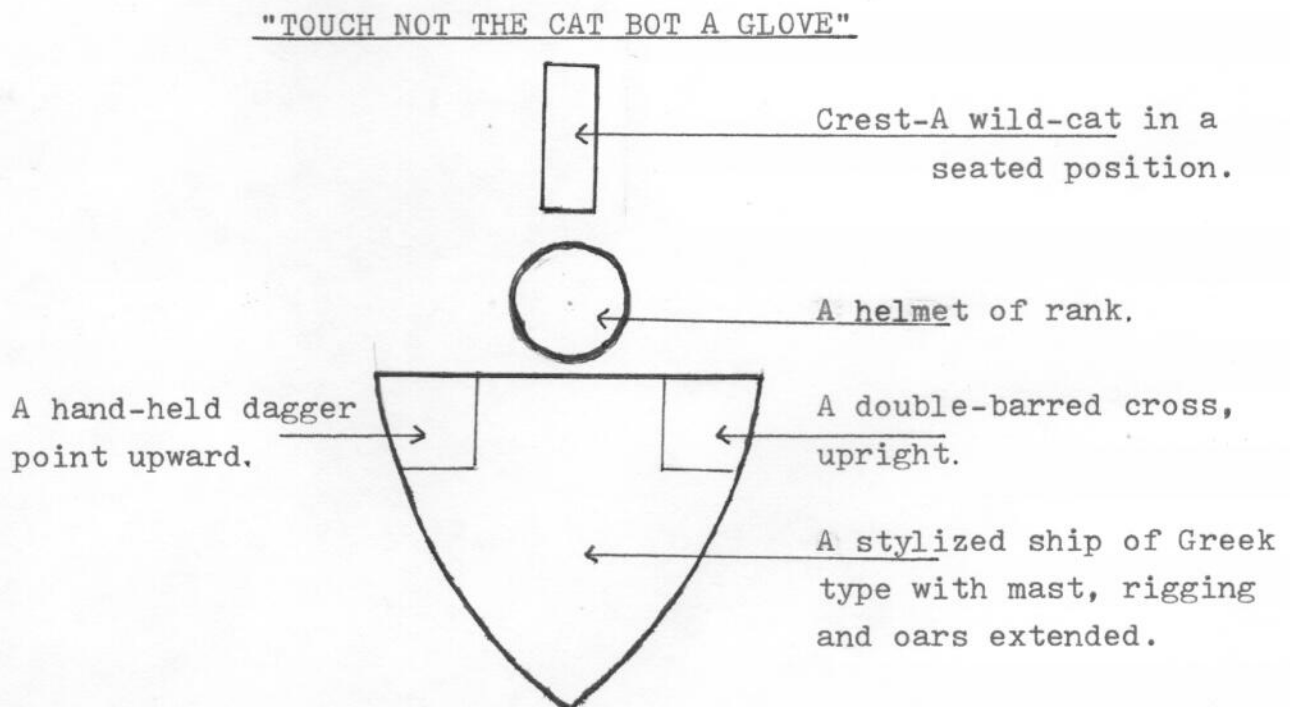
In the arcane language of heraldry, the armorial bearings of "Cluny" Macpherson states as follows:

PER FESSE OR AND AZURE, A LYMPHAD OF THE FIRST WITH HER SAILS FURLED, OARS IN ACTION, MAST AND TACKLING ALL PROPER, FLAGS FLYING GULES, IN THE DEXTER CHIEF POINT A HAND COUPED GRASPING A DAGGER, POINT UPWARDS GULES, IN THE SINISTER CHIEF A CROSS CROSSLET FITCHEE OF THE LAST.

CREST - A CAT (WILDCAT OR CATAMOUNT) SEJANT PROPER.

MOTTO- "TOUCH NOT THE CAT BOT A GLOVE"

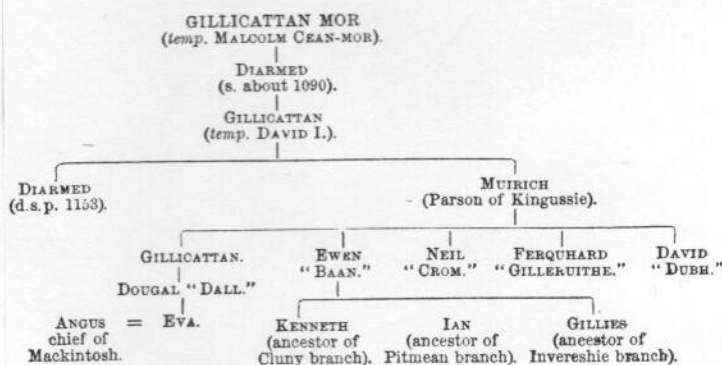
This heraldic account might be translated as in the rough armorial sketch below:



A detailed and fascinating account of Clan Macpherson is given in HISTORICAL MEMOIRS OF THE HOUSE AND CLAN OF MACKINTOSH AND OF THE CLAN CHATTAN by Alexander Mackintosh Shaw published in London in 1880 by R. Clay, Sons, and Taylor. The following are extracts from this scholarly work of more than 600 pages.

## CLAN CHATTAN.

Two different versions of the descent of the early chiefs of the tribe are extant; one given and upheld by Mr. Skene on the authority of the MS. of 1450, the other given by Sir Æneas Macpherson, who wrote an account of his race in the 17th century. The first is as follows, going back from the end of the 13th century;—Shaw, son of Ferchar, son of Gilchrist, son of Malcolm, son of Donald called "of Cowall," son of Muirich, son of Swen, son of Heth, son of Nachtan, son of Gillicattan (A.D. 1004)—and back for several generations more. The following is the descent given by Sir Æneas Macpherson :—<sup>1</sup>



According to Sir Æneas Macpherson's genealogy, Muirich, grandfather of Dougal Dall, had five sons, the second of whom was Ewen "Baan" (the fair). Ewen, said to have been designated *Mac-in-Phairson* from the original vocation of his father, is stated to have had a son Kenneth, who on his cousin Dougal's death without male issue became the eldest male representative of the chiefs of Clan Chattan, and was adhered to by a portion of the clan as the proper chief. So the Macpherson traditions; but these seem to be somewhat at variance with a Macpherson genealogy of 1680, in which Kenneth is made to take part in the battle at Invernahavon in 1370; if both tradition and genealogy are correct, Kenneth must have reached a very advanced age indeed.

That such a person actually existed there can be little doubt; but it seems very probable either that Sir Æneas has given him too early a place in his genealogy, or that the tradition is subsequent to the genealogy. If he had lived at the time of the marriage of Mackintosh with the heiress of Clan Chattan, and had been supported as the tradition says, we should scarcely find him and his supporters side by side with the Mackintoshes in arms soon afterwards. The first occasion on which there is mention of dissension between the Macphersons of Cluny—the descendants of this Kenneth—and the Mackintoshes, was in 1591, when the former, prompted by the Earl of Huntly, declared themselves independent of Mackintosh, whom up to this date they had steadily followed; and there is no real ground for supposing that their action at this time had any connection with their subsequently alleged right to the headship of Clan Chattan.

Mr. Skene<sup>1</sup> has warmly, though unsatisfactorily, advocated the cause of the Macphersons, and on the testimony of tradition and the results of his investigations into the history of the tribes of Moray, he declares that “the fact of their being the lineal and feudal (!) representatives of the ancient chiefs of Clan Chattan rests upon historic authority, and that they possess that right by blood to the chiefship of which no charters from the Crown, and no usurpation, however successful and continued, can deprive them.”

MACPHERSONS OF CLUNY.—The principal branch has always been that of Cluny, descended from *Kenneth*, eldest son of Ewen Baan, and from him known as Sliochd Kynich. Kenneth's son *Duncan* m. Isobel, daughter of Ferquhard 9th of Mackintosh,<sup>1</sup> and had two sons, *Donald Mor* and *Bean*, the latter ancestor of the Brin family. Donald Mor's eldest son *Donald Dall* had nine sons, from two of whom, Malcolm and John, descended respectively the families of Blaragie Beg and Crathy Croy. The eldest, *Donald Og*, m. a dau. of Gordon of Ardbrylach, and had four sons,—Ewen his successor, and James, Paul, and William, founders respectively of the Pittourie, Dalrady, and Kingussie-beg (Laggan) families. *Ewen* m. a dau. of Donald Mackintosh of Strone, by whom he had Andrew; William, whose only son left no issue; and John, founder of the family of Nuid, afterwards of Cluny.

*Andrew*, Ewen's successor, had a long chiefship. We find him, as "Andrew Makfersone in Cluny," on 16th May 1591 engaging in a band of manrent to Huntly, and in 1648, fifty-seven years afterwards, he is excused, on account of his age and inability to travel, from appearing before the Synod of Moray to answer for his loyalty to Charles I.<sup>1</sup> As has been seen, he and his immediate following took part with

<sup>1</sup> The genealogy here given is from Sir Æneas Macpherson's MS. in the possession of Cluny Macpherson. This contains, besides a history of the clan, a genealogy of each family of the Macphersons down to nearly the end of the 17th century. So far as can be gathered from bands of manrent and other contemporary documents, the descents of this genealogy in the 16th and 17th centuries seem to be correct. By its help the genealogy of the Cluny family given in Douglas's *Baronage* and Burke's *Landed Gentry* is proved to be full of grave inaccuracies. Thus in the *Baronage* we have the *Andrew* here mentioned succeeded by his brother *John*, who dying in 1600 is succeeded by his son *John*, who gets a charter of Tullich in 1613 and is succeeded by his son *Ewen*; *Ewen* dies about 1640 and is succeeded by his son *Donald*, a staunch friend of Charles I. During the period occupied, according to the *Baronage*, by Andrew and these four successors, the MS. has Andrew only at the head of the clan, with his son Ewen leading it under Montrose. That the MS. is correct and the *Baronage* wrong is evident from the facts (1st) that Andrew's name appears in the Band of 1591 to Huntly, in the Band of Union in 1609, in his son's contract of marriage in 1642, and in the Record of the Moray Synod in 1648, where his age is mentioned as a reason for his non-appearance; and (2nd) that his son Ewen is known to have been the leader of the Macphersons under Montrose and a "staunch friend of Charles I.," and in 1648, several years after the *Baronage* speaks of his death, is mentioned in the Moray Synod Record as being under the ban of the kirk.

Huntly against Mackintosh in 1591-4, the other principal branches of Clan Mhuirich remaining faithful to Mackintosh. He must at this time have only recently succeeded to the headship of his clan. After the cessation of the feud, when Huntly ungratefully cast him off, his assertion of independence of Mackintosh was withdrawn, and we find him in 1609 subscribing the Band of Union among Clan Chattan. Andrew had one son only, Ewen, whom he survived. In 1642 this son m. a dau. of Duncan Forbes of Culloden; and in 1647 he was one of the first to attach himself to Alaster Macdonald when on his way through Badenoch to join Montrose. With a body of his clan he took part in nearly all Montrose's battles, and was placed under the ban of the kirk in consequence. Andrew, according to the Rev. L. Shaw, lived until 1660, his chiefship thus extending over about seventy years. He was succeeded by his grandson of the same name,

*Andrew*, elder son of Ewen, who it will be remembered refused to accompany Mackintosh against the Camerons in 1664-5 except on certain conditions (see chap. x.). Dying unm. he was succeeded by his brother,

*Duncan*, who like his grandfather had a long chiefship, succeeding about 1671 and dying in 1722. In 1672 he set on foot measures for declaring himself independent of Mackintosh, and the "only and true representer of the ancient and honourable family of Clan Chattan" (see p. 64). He is named in the Proclamation of 1678, and in the Valuation Roll of 1691 for lands in the parishes of Kingussie and Laggan. He was twice married, 1st to Isobel, dau. of Provost Ross of Inverness; 2nd to Elizabeth, dau. of Gordon of Arradoull, by whom he had a son who d. young. A daughter by his first marriage became the wife of Archibald, second son of Campbell of Calder, and in 1689 Duncan attempted to nominate his son-in-law as his successor both in his estates and in the headship of the clan. His attempt was frustrated by the energetic action of his indignant clansmen, who subscribed a band declaring the rightful successor to be the heir-male, William Macpherson of Nuid (see p. 442).

On Duncan's death in 1722, the representation devolved on the family of Nuid, descended from John, 3rd son of Ewen mac Donald Og,—John's great-grandson, Lachlan, son of the William named in the band just referred to, becoming "of Cluny." John, founder of the Nuid family, m. in 1613 Ann, dau. of Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, and had four sons, the eldest of whom, Donald, by his first wife Isabel, dau. of Alexander Rose of Clova, had also four sons. William, the second of these, m. in 1667 Isobel, dau. of Lachlan Mackintosh of Kinrara, brother of the 18th chief of Mackintosh. This connection may partly account for the willingness of William's eldest son, Lachlan, on succeeding to Cluny, to drop the vexatious proceedings of some of his predecessors in regard to Mackintosh's right to the headship of Clan Chattan, and to acknowledge that right, as he did in 1724 (see p. 444).

*Lachlan*, who became "of Cluny" on his kinsman's death in 1722, had m. in 1704 Jean, dau. of Sir Ewen Cameron of Locheil, by whom he had a numerous family. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

*Ewen*, who distinguished himself by his attachment to the Stuart cause in 1745-6. At the commence-

ment of the Rising he was in the service of the Government, but circumstances compelled him to take up arms on the opposite side. In August 1745 he was captured by a detachment of the Jacobite army, and as his own sentiments were in favour of the Stuarts, his family and clan had no great difficulty in persuading him to transfer his allegiance. He joined the prince with about 120 of his name, and took part in the march into England, he and his men, on the retreat from Derby, bearing the brunt of the skirmish at Clifton, near Penrith. Here the enemy's horse came up with the Jacobite rear-guard, and Cluny was ordered to post his men at Clifton bridge for the purpose of covering the passage of the baggage and artillery. An account of the action written by Cluny himself about ten years afterwards is given as a note to chap xxx. of "Waverley." The enemy were driven back with the loss of only twelve men to the brave Clan Mhuirich; many arms were captured, among them Col. Honeywood's sword, which is still preserved at Cluny Castle.

During the winter of 1745-6 the Macphersons remained at home, by permission; and the last meeting of the hostile forces at Culloden was so sudden and unexpected that they had not time fully to answer the summons sent to them. They were on the march, and had reached Moy, when they were met by news of the disaster.

After Culloden, the house of Cluny was burned to the ground, many papers and deeds being destroyed in the fire. The estates also were forfeited. Cluny remained in hiding in Badenoch, chiefly near his ruined home, for nine years. For a few months after Culloden he lived with his cousin, the younger Locheil, on Benalder, and here they were joined by the prince after his romantic adventures in Skye and Glenmoriston. One of Cluny's first cares after Charles's arrival was the rather unromantic one of providing him with a change of linen, for which purpose he set his three sisters to work.<sup>1</sup> On Charles's departure from Scotland in September, Cluny and Breakachie younger accompanied him on his way to the coast as far as Locheil's country, where they took leave of him, Cluny preferring a home, though a

<sup>1</sup> These sisters were Isabel, widow of William Mackintosh of Aberarder; Christian, wife of Macpherson younger of Breakachie; and Anne, afterwards wife of Macpherson of Dalrady.



precarious one, among his own people and fastnesses to one in a foreign land. Before parting, the prince gave him a letter acknowledging his services and promising reward.<sup>1</sup>

In compliance with a request from Prince Charles, Ewen of Cluny went in 1755 to France, where he died in the following year, leaving by his wife Janet, dau. of Simon Lord Lovat, a son,

*Duncan*, born in 1750. The estates, which had been forfeited after the '45, were restored to the family in his person. He was lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Foot Guards, and m. Catherine, dau. of Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern, by whom he had Ewen, his heir; Ewen Cameron, 48th Bengal N.I., d. 1832; Archibald Fraser, colonel Bengal Army, d. 1877; John Cameron, lieut. colonel 42nd Regiment, d. 1873, leaving issue; and four daughters. Duncan d. in 1817, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

*Ewen*, born in 1804, formerly captain 42nd Regiment, and now lieut. colonel Inverness-shire Rifle Volunteers—one of the best known and most

<sup>1</sup> This letter was presented by Sir Walter Scott to the present Macpherson of Cluny, who has favoured the author with a copy. It is as follows;—

“M<sup>r</sup>Pherson of Clunie, As we are sensible of your and clan's fidelity to us dureing our adventures in Scotland and England in the years 1745 and 1746, in recovering our just rights from the Elector of Hanover, by which you have sustained very great losses both in your interest and person, I therefore promise when it shall please God to put it in my power to make a gratefull return suitable to your suferings, Charles P. R.—Dirielugich in Glencongeir of Locharkay, 18 Sept. 1746.”

respected of Highland chiefs. He m. in 1832 Sarah Justina, dau. of Henry Davidson of Tulloch, by whom he has Duncan, C.B., lieut. colonel 42nd Regiment, born in 1833, m. Emily Ellen, dau. of Major General Philip Harris; Ewen Henry Davidson, lieut. colonel 93rd Regiment; George Gordon, formerly captain Coldstream Guards; Albert Cameron; and three daughters.

From the Cluny branch sprang at various periods the families of Macphersons at BRIN, ESSICH, BREAKACHIE (latterly CRUBENMORE), CRATHIE CROY, PITTOURIE, BALLACHROAN, and NUID. The last named family, as already stated, became “of Cluny” in 1722. The family of GLENTRUIM, now represented by Lieut. Col. Lachlan Macpherson, is descended from John, youngest son of Donald of Nuid and Isobel Rose.

(COPY-to John Luther Smith)

Port Daniel Centre,  
June 11th, 1925.

Dear John:-

When I was out in Vancouver my Son, Jim, asked me if I knew anything about our Ancestors on the McPherson side, and I told him that some sixty-two years ago my father had got me to write a biography of his family as far back as he could trace, and that if I could find it I would sent it to him, so I overhauled my old journals and I found it, as well as a biography of my Mother's family as far back as should could trace, at the same time, of which I now enclose you a copy which no doubt will amuse and interest you in your old days.

Regarding the McPherson Branch, we belonged to the Clan of which Cluny was Chief, and like all the other Highland Clans of those times, they lived principally by plundering and robbing their English and Lowland Scotch neighbors, by stealing their cattle, sheep, etc., and driving them up into their mountains where they lived like fighting cocks at the expense of their better-off neighbors. However, in 1819 my Grandfather left with his four sons and three daughters and emigrated to America where they all intermixed by marriage with other nationalities, and their heirs are all scattered over the American Continent, and as far as I know, trying to live honestly, and doing fairly well.

Old John Hall has also passed to that Unknown Land. He was a man I always liked - a good old man.

Will Scott is also in the last stages with cancer in the face. It is getting common.

There is some excitement in Carlisle now. I was up to our last Masons' Meeting, and I stayed all night at Albert Caldwell's, and he kept me up nearly all night, talking about the division in our church. The Caldwells are all against Union, as they want to be against McCurdy the Minister, and they are going to build another Church in Carlisle. Abe is giving the ground and frame, so he says; so, I told him, well, you will have to go and preach, there will be lots will go to hear you. I would drive all the way from Port Daniel to hear your first sermon. He had to laugh. Poor old Albert with one foot in the grave, as he is in a poor state of health, but the vindictive spirit is as strong as ever. And the whole of the Caldwells, in fact all the old Presbyterians, have

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left the Church since McCurdy has come here, and to tell you the truth I do not know what religion in this world is coming to. My religion is Free Masonry - I believe the best of all if properly followed up.

I am in the salmon business again, and doing fairly well. Cold spring, just about finishing our crop. All hands well. I was going to start another page but I wont, for you might think I am a little bit off, but I am not.

Kind remembrances to all your family, from -

Your Cousin,

Wm. A. McPherson.

## APPENXIX.

BISHOP G.J.MOUNTAIN BRAVES STORM TO BURY JOHN McPHERSON

The Mountain Letters, as reviewed in the 1987 book, TEN RINGS ON THE OAK by Donald and Marjorie Masters, refer to the death and burial of John, son of the late Daniel McPherson and the successor to his father as the Seignior of Crane Island, in March, 1848.

The "Mr.McPherson" who came to Bishop Mountain to ask him to journey to Montmagny was undoubtedly Laughlin Thomas, the brother of the late John McPherson. As a Notary Public he was a resident of the City of Québec. As a visitor to the Gaspé Coast from the 1820's onward, Bishop Mountain would long have known the McPherson family - both in Gaspesia and as Seigniors of Crane Island.

At the week's end the weather deteriorated. A March storm blew in with heavy snow and lashing wind. Mrs. Mountain was at Springfield a day earlier than was her usual custom. To her surprise the Bishop came out to Springfield to bring her word that he had to start out on a journey 18 miles down the south shore early the next morning. Preoccupied with her own problems, Mrs. Mountain did not become concerned about the Bishop's journey until after he had left Springfield. She began a letter to Harriet:

March 9, 1848

The Bishop, when he paid me a visit this afternoon, expressed his intentions or expectations of being obliged to go eighteen miles (tomorrow) below St. Thomas's *to bury a man*, and not to be back till Monday! the day we expect Armine, and so *I must be* in Town and

here too at the *same time*, rather a hard task to perform, which if I can perform I shall do better than "circumstances allow" and so better than "angels" could do.

Not a word have we heard of that boy Armine since he arrived at Lennoxville, yesterday week, a shame he didn't send us a left hand scrawl at least, to tell of t'other hand. *If* he left you on Tuesday he must have had awful travelling yesterday which was *here* the biggest storm we have had this winter.

Still at Springfield on the next day, March 10, she continued:

March 10, 1848.

Here am I again in the *old place* and at the old hour, for to my sorrow I found that I could not excell "the angels" so poor Kate is left to her fate, all alone tonight. Royston came out about 3 o'clock en cariole, only to tell me (besides bringing your letters) that he *could not* take me in, in the raging storm, that he was upset several times coming down here from the road, and once lost sight of Gondi, all

but *his ears*, so I had to undress again for I prepared to go to *the Baby* [Kate] but imagine my dismay, my horror to learn that the Bishop had actually gone at 10 o'clock across to P. Levi in the hurricane and drift which even hid Mr. Leaycraft's house from our view.

I thought of the "wild storm" that swamped "the Pilot's" brother's boat, and I tried still like him to "fear not" but it was no easy task. In a few hours Royston returned with the welcome news that the Bishop had crossed in safety.

I don't care if he sticks by the way just to punish him for being so wilful and *disobedient*, as I got up at 6 o'clock this morning to send him *an order* not to go. Kate sent me word not to mind about her, that she would manage very well without me and take good care of herself. I hope she will, poor Child —

How we are dispersed at this moment! two here; Kate at Rectory; Bishop probably in a snowbank; Armine ditto, in another place; You, you know where; Jacob with the murderous Turk.

On March 11, the Bishop gave Harriet his own description of his journey to Port Joli, eighteen miles below St. Thomas on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence to conduct the funeral service. A Mr. Mcpherson was the Bishop's companion in his "disobedience" to Mrs. Mountain's order:

March 11, 1848

At the right moment for crossing, the canoe came, not sailing nor yet impelled by paddles but drawn upon the snow through St. Peter Street, from the market slip, and so on to the India wharf where we embarked. It was twenty-seven and a half feet long and we had ten

canotières, active fellows, who knew what they were about. The snow-storm and easterly gale continued with unabated fury, and the latter had driven back an immense accumulation of loose ice, jammed together, upon which, for all the former part of our passage we were dragged by the men, with scarcely the exception of two or three open spaces, not wider than the canoe itself. As we approached the P. Levi side the water was open and a good deal agitated. It took us a full hour to cross.

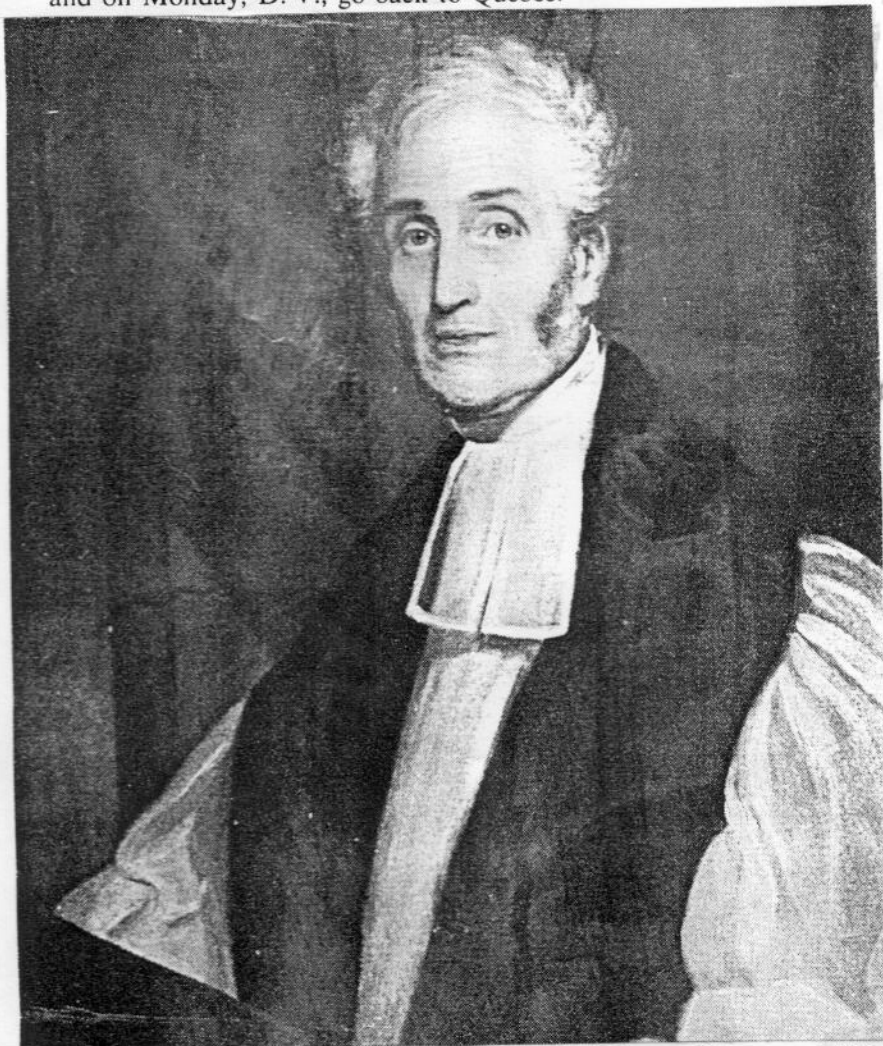
After a considerable detention at P. Levi, we got two carters, each with a light cariole and one horse, being the only way in which we had a chance of getting through the drifts. I have faced many a rough wintry day, but certainly never faced a worse. Eyes of men and horses were closed with the snow first melting from contact with the animal heat and then freezing and encrusting the eyelashes so as to draw the lids together, and the drivers had to rub open the eyes of the poor brutes as well as their own. Their whiskers were in huge clots of ice.

With great efforts and after many little misadventures in struggling through the drifts, which had formed and were still augmenting from the fast-falling snow and vehement wind, so that, in facing the [blizzard] of snow, you could scarcely see your way. We reached a house within about a mile of Fraser's, at Beaumont, which, you know, is twelve miles below P. Levi, and here the men stopped, declaring that they could go no further and that we must put up for the night, not a very agreeable prospect, since we could have no beds nor any endurable kind of refreshment. But when the fellows found that the accommodation for their horses was as unpromising as that which awaited the gentlemen whom they were driving, they acquiesced in the reasoning of Mr. Mcpherson, in itself not very easily resisted, that he saw another cariole pass down and that therefore the impossibility of the thing could not be maintained. On we went,

therefore, to Fraser's which we reached at five o'clock, and in due time sat down to a beef steak and a cup of hot coffee. — and then betook myself thankfully to a comfortable bed in one of the little *cabinets*.

After an early breakfast this morning, we set off and found the roads, although, for the most part, very heavy, without any obstacle to our progress, unless the retardation of our speed be so called. The great drifts had been cut through by the spade[s] of the Habitants. It was a beautiful bright day and the wind was now in our backs. Even in winter the drive is beautiful, with all the varieties which the shore presents on which you are travelling and with the stern-looking mountains of the north, rising opposite to you, across the icy expanse of the St. Lawrence.

When we reached St. Thomas, Mr. Mcpherson went straight on to prepare all the arrangements. I drove to the Manor House and took up my quarters with Mrs. Patton, Mr. Patton being absent. The two older boys are here. Service is to be held here tomorrow at half-past nine, after which I go down to St. Jean [Port Joli] for the funeral and shall probably have service there, too. I then return here to sleep<sup>1</sup>, and on Monday, D. V., go back to Quebec.



George Jehoshaphat Mountain (1789-1863). Bishop of Montreal 1836, Bishop of Quebec 1837-63.