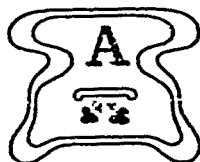


ARNPRIOR.

1831--1909



ARNPRIOR received its name in 1831 from Messrs. George and Andrew Buchanan in compliance with the request of Archibald McNab, the last chief of the McNabs. Probably no district in Ontario had a more historic inception and it is doubtful if there could be found anywhere better examples of industry, perseverance and sturdy independence than that manifested by the first Highland settlers. For much of the information contained in the following brief history The Chronicle is indebted to old file copies of this journal and to "The Last Laird of McNab," prepared and published by Mr. Alexander Fraser.

In the year 1823 Archibald McNab, an imperious Highland chieftain, left his paternal estate of Kennell, Scotland, to take refuge with his cousin, the last Buchanan of the house of Arnprior, also in Scotland. The affairs of McNab were thought to be involved beyond extrication, his estate was mortgaged to the Earl of Breadalbane and the officers were on his track. By a clever ruse he escaped his pursuers and with the aid of his friends, one of whom was Mr. Peter McIntyre who died in Calabogie in 1868, he set out for Dundee and from there he sailed for London, thence to Quebec, with the intention of founding a settlement, retrieving his lost fortunes and eventually to return to his native land in better times. He was now a free man. McNab landed at Montreal and journeyed on to Glengarry where he met Bishop McDonnell who first spoke to him of the Ottawa. Chief McNab opened negotiations with the government of Upper Canada offering to found a Highland settlement with his clansmen of loyal character like that which existed on the banks of the St. Lawrence. The government informed him that a township had been lately surveyed adjoining Fitzroy and comprising 81,000 acres. It was not yet named and if he undertook the