

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

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Editor and Publisher

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Landmarks of Mackenzie

SINCE William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Liberal leader, has been visiting some of the shrines of his illustrious forebear, from whom he gets his Christian names, it is permissible for the average citizen, regardless of his politics, to do the same.

The remains of the rebel leader rest beneath the low spread branches of a mountain ash in the Necropolis in Toronto. Within a small plot, bordered by a hedge, four little stones, only a few inches high, mark a row of graves. One bears the word "Father" and below "William Lyon Mackenzie, next to it is a stone marked "William Lyon and George Mackenzie," and the fourth "Barbara and Helen." A substantial monument has been erected to William Lyon Mackenzie in the same God's acre where a granite shaft commemorates Lount and Matthews, two of his chief lieutenants, who gave up their lives for the faith they had in their leader and his cause.

Parts of the basement walls of the old Toronto Jail, in a cell of which Lount and Matthews were kept till their execution, are still traceable in the office building at the southeast corner of Toronto and Court streets.

From the Necropolis we pass to Bond street where at No. 82 stands the three-story dwelling in which Mackenzie died. Toward the end of his strenuous life, which was one of almost continuous opposition to things as they were, some of the rebel leaders' friends, moved by sympathy for his condition, presented this property to him, though against his will, for his native Scottish independence never forsook him.

Here he spent his closing years—years of gloom and despair, it is said, and with a consciousness that he had not achieved all he sought in the realm of reform. After sixty-six years of strenuous struggle he passed away, and with his passing a page of Canadian history was closed.

As one sits at the old desk used by Mackenzie when a member of the Upper Canada Legislature (now preserved in the cabin of the York Pioneers in Exhibition Park), it is easy to conjure up the exciting scenes in which he figured and of his five successive expulsions from the old Front street chamber. It must be admitted that he drew fire as when he wrote that "the House was an assembly of scoundrels" and the Government "a band of public robbers." "If a Government emanating from England can cherish such a corrupt star chamber crew (as the Family Compact), then the days of the infamous Scroggs and Jeffreys are returned upon us! They were tools of a servile power, official fungi more numerous and pestilential than the quagmires and marshes that encircle Toronto!"

No wonder there was a "come back" "William Lyon Mackenzie" was a comparatively gentle rejoinder. He was, according to his enemies, a renegade, a spoiled dog, a seditious little bar, a firebrand, a political mountebank, a scamp scribbler who began to feel his importance among small people and, like the frog in the fable, to swell with puffs and vanity.

Another Mackenzie reminder in Toronto still exists in the old Doel house, on the northwest corner of Adelaide and Bay streets. John Doel became associated with the leaders of "the Party of Reform." During the exciting days preceding the actual outbreak of the rebellion at the skirmish at Montgomery's Farm, the house was a rendezvous for Mackenzie sympathizers, while larger gatherings were held in the adjoining brewery where "The Canadian Alliance Society" was probably discussed if not formed, and other plans laid for the raising of an armed force, and where their leader no doubt frequently met with them.

Yet another visible reminder of Mackenzie is a pleasant one in his portrait, in the City Hall, as the first Mayor of Toronto, in 1834; indeed, as the first mayor ever elected in Upper Canada. It was during his year of office that the "little mountebank" proved to be a hero in personally risking his life during a cholera plague; in fact, he was stricken with the disease, but fought it successfully.

Among the Mackenzie relics in the John Ross Robertson collection in the Toronto Public Library are some of the military orders issued by Mackenzie and his rebel army, as well as the proclamation offering \$1,000 for his capture. A curio in the Normal School Museum is a cane apparently given to Mackenzie by some political enemies in a spirit of irony, the lettering reading: "This vine was cut on Navy Island, C. W., after the Lion

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(Mackenzie) and his pirate followers fled to the boats on January 16, 1838, finding the grape of Canada too potent for their relish." (Signed) "HEMP."

More than one old Ontario farmhouse has legends of having given him sanctuary during his flight. A cave near Dundas is still pointed out as one of his hiding places, while, in the same town, the building which he once occupied—the Leslie House, has survived the passing of the years. Queenston also holds a pathetic reminder of the turbulent Scot in the ruins of his old printing office, in which the Colonial Advocate was first printed and which so exasperated Sir Peregrine Maitland and all the Government rulers of the day, and, generally, a glimpse of Navy Island, in the upper Niagara, tells its story of the short-lived Provisional Government there set up by Mackenzie, ere he finally escaped to the American shore. —Frank Yeigh in Star Weekly.

Thoughtless.
Guide: "This castle was built by Henry the Eighth."
Perspiring Tourist: "Well, why on earth did he build it so far from the railway station?"

TIME TABLE
Waterdown Bus Service

Leave Waterdown	Leave Hamilton
6 a. m.	6.45 a. m.
1.30 p. m.	3.30 p. m.
5.15 p. m.	6.15 p. m.

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For Sale
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A Clock, owner can have same by paying adv. Review Office.

For Sale
1 Quebec Heater, 1 2-burner oil stove, 1 Rug, new, worth \$60 for \$20. H. Weaver.

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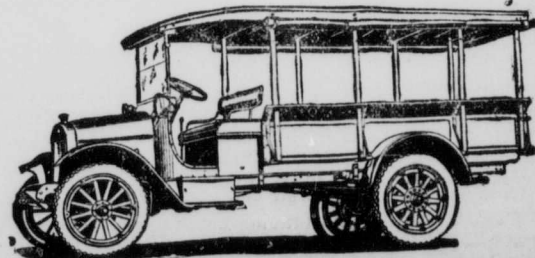
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