

was, to some extent, entrusted with the disposal of Crown Lands. These settlers all had means. One of them, Benjamin Stearns, built the first frame house in the county. Another, Thomas Symonds engaged in business.

Benjamin Stearns.

Possessed considerable medical knowledge, and, during the six years which he spent in Antigonish his services were eagerly sought for by the settlers. Dr. Page says that he came to Truro at about 1810, and that he practised medicine in Colchester while able to do so. He died at the residence of his son, Henry, in Pictou. He lived, while in Truro, on Biblehill, and there raised a family of nine children. Many of his descendants live in Nova Scotia.

Alexander Macdonald, M. D.

Dr. Alexander Macdonald was the most notable of the pioneers of medicine in eastern Nova Scoti. He was born in 1784 on the Isle of Skye, and graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1805. Prior to studying medicine he was an officer of the 42nd Highlanders (Black Watch). His brother was a captain in the same regiment, and was with Sir John Moore in his famous Spanish campaign. He was later engaged at Quatrebas, where only Captain John Campbell was unwounded.

Dr. Macdonald was never in actual service, for after joining the regiment as ensign in Edinburgh he broke his leg on parade, and the surgeon attending him said he never would be able to march, so he resigned and took up medicine with the intention of joining the service as a surgeon. Soon after graduation, through the influence of the Macdonald of Armadale, he was appointed surgeon aboard a ship coming to Charlottetown, P. E. I., with emigrants. Doctor Macdonald and a Colonel Rankin were the only cabin passengers. The master of the ship was an awfully brutal man, and he misused the highland emigrants in every way, and there was a perpetual row on between him and Dr. Macdonald in which Colonel Rankin took the part of the Highlanders and the Doctor. The captain again and again threatened the Doctor, saying, "Wait my young cock, you will not have your d--d Highlanders and Colonel Rankin with you going