

Home of 'Little Rebel' Opened to the Public

Queenston, June 18 (Staff).—Into this sleepy Niagara village on Saturday swept a police escorted motor caravan. Ignoring more pretentious dwellings the glittering limousines drew up before an old stone house more than 100 years old. Out of a car stepped a figure in grey top hat and morning coat.

It was Prime Minister Mackenzie King come to declare open to the public the original home of his rebel grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie.

As the Prime Minister advanced for the ceremony nearly a score of relatives of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount, who were hanged for treason in Toronto, gathered about the speakers.

Following an address of welcome, A. J. Haines, M.P.P. of St. Catharines, presented Mr. King with a gold key to the front door. After turning the lock the Prime Minister made a tour of inspection in company with descendants of the Mackenzie family. Senator Raoul Dandurand and members of Provincial and Dominion Governments and Niagara Parks Commission also inspected the home.

Built by Loyalists.

Mr. King expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Ontario Government in restoring the William Lyon Mackenzie home. He spoke of the fine old colonial architecture and recalled that the home had been partially destroyed by fire in 1842, and had been in semi-ruin until recently. He thought it had been built originally by United Empire Loyalists.

"The Niagara district is replete with Mackenzie associations," declared Mr. King, "and I know of no better way of fostering the traditions of the past than by the preservation of these historical sites."

The Prime Minister recalled that it was at Queenston that Mackenzie had published the first 1,200 copies of the Colonial Advocate. The printing press was later seized and thrown into Lake Ontario.

"My grandfather," said Mr. King, "used the Advocate as a weapon to attack the abuses of the day. He was a leader in the struggle against the Family Compact, and it was here in Queenston that the first agitation for responsible government began."

Mr. King recalled that Mackenzie came to Queenston first in 1823, and the first issue of his newspaper was published a year later.

Seed of Reform.

The Premier pointed to two acacia trees in front of the restored building, and said they could be visualized as the result of the seed of reform sown by Mackenzie. The trees were first planted by the famous rebel in 1824.

Senator Leo Dandurand spoke on behalf of French-Canadian followers of Mackenzie, and other speakers included Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways and Chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission; Hon. W. L. Houck, Minister without portfolio; A. B. Damude, Fonthill; Senator A. C. Hardy, Brockville, Chairman of the Mackenzie Memorial Fund of Toronto.

Members of the Premier's party included his sister, Mrs. H. M. Lay and Mr. Lay, Barrie; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lay Jr., Toronto; Misses Jean and Isobel Lay, Barrie; Dr. William Lyon King, Connecticut, and Arthur MacDougall King of Peterborough.

Although no direct descendants were present, the following attended as grandchildren and great-grandchildren of brothers and sisters of Lount and Matthews:

Homan Mulock Lount, William E. Lount, Harrison Boyd Lount, James Mackenzie Lount, Mrs. L. B. Braiart, Mrs. E. H. Brooks, Mrs. J.

Gailee, Mrs. F. McKay, Mrs. George Atkinson, Mrs. George G. Brooks, Anna B. Norman, Mrs. J. W. Irwin, Mrs. Lena May Nicholson and Walton Wells.

Other descendants of the families of the two men who attended included: Stanley Lount Springstein, Windsor; Albert Norman, Galt; Charles Taylor Lount and Frank R. Lount, Winnipeg.

● King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 24) "Colonial Advocate"
● Building and Memorial Arch - Dedication
● at Niagara Falls - Clippings June 1938

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