



*With the Compliments of  
R. W. McLachlan*

Two

Canadian  
Golden Wedding  
Medals

By

R. W. McLachlan,

Honorary Curator, Chateau de Ramezay Museum.

Montreal.

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THE POWELL MEDAL.



THE SUTHERLAND MEDAL.



## TWO CANADIAN GOLDEN WEDDING MEDALS

BY R. W. McLACHLAN



ALMOST every conceivable event in human history has, in some form or another, been so commemorated by a coin or a medal that a well selected numismatic cabinet is an epitome of the progress of mundane affairs — in fact of the social and political history of the world. In the endless variety of subjects treated of by medals hardly any incidents in every day life have been overlooked. Among them the different phases of the marriage relation have long held a prominent place; and to depict these phases medalists have vied with each in employing the many attributes and symbols of conjugal affection, in the most artistic way possible, either singly or in conjunction. Thus a collection of marriage medals forms a most interesting and instructive panorama of social life.

In Canada only two such medals have come to the knowledge of collectors. The first, although long known, is very scarce and commands a high price (1). It was struck, in 1825, to commemorate the golden wedding of Chief Justice Powell of Toronto. The design displays no portrait or family emblems, only such as relate to the marriage tie.

The medal may be thus described:

(1) Only about six copies are known. Such as have been offered at auction have sold as high as twelve dollars.



*Obv.* WILLIAM DUMMER POWELL AND ANN MURRAY  
*Exergue*: INTERMARRIED | 3rd OCTOBER | 1775. The  
hand of a woman to the left and of a man to  
the right together clasping and holding a  
lighted torch over an altar.

*Rev.* TO | CELEBRATE | THE | FIFTIETH | ANNIVER-  
SARY | UPPER CANADA | 3rd OCTOBER 1825. The  
whole within a circle of true-lover's knots. Size  
39 millimetres.



*Wm Dummer Powell 69*

William Dummer Powell was a United Empire Loyalist, whose grandfather, John Powell, a descendent of the Powells or Ap Howells of Montgomeryshire, was born in Shopshire. When a young man he came to America and married a daughter of Jeremiah Dummer, who was the father of William Dummer, Governor of Massachusetts and of Jeremiah Dummer, colonial agent in Great Britain.

There issued from this marriage three sons and two daughters the oldest of whom was John the father of the subject of this sketch. The second Jeremiah become chief Justice and President of the Council of Massachusetts. John married Jane, daughter and heiress of Sweton Grant, of Newport R. I., a son of Donald Grant of Inverness, Scotland.

William Dummer Powell, the eldest son of John and Jane Powell, was born in Massachusetts in 1755, and, at an early age, was sent over to England to be educated, where he become imbued with that love of the Mother Country that led him to forsake his relatives and embrace the Royalist cause. In 1773 after his return to America he made an extended trip to Quebec and Montreal, which visit, no doubt, was an important factor in influencing him to settle permanently in Canada. On the breaking out of the rebellion he removed to England where he resided for several years (1).

(1) It is claimed that he took part in the early part of the struggle but this is hardly probable as his marriage occurring so shortly after the Commencement of hostilities seems to point to his embarkation for England early in that year (1775), most likely in disgust at the treasonable attitude of his countrymen.



*Yours Affectionately*

*Anne Murray -*

In the month of October, 1775, he was married, in Norwich, England, to Anne Murray, daughter of Dr. J. J. Murray of that place. During his residence in England he studied for the Bar and on his admission sailed for Quebec, which he reached after a tedious voyage of seventeen weeks. On his arrival he was cordially received by Governor Haldimand

and Lieutenant Governor Cramahé. After having been licensed to practise he removed to Montreal where he formed an extended connection in the practice of law with Montreal business and professional men of that time; among whom were many of the most familiar names in the history of the city; such as James McGill, Pierre du Calvet, the Cuthberts, Mactavishes, McGillivrays and the Frobishers. Subsequently he entered into partnership with Mr. (afterwards Justice) Monk under the style of Monk & Powell.

Lord Dorchester appointed him chairman of the Board of Inquiry to look into and deal with the causes of complaints made by the early settlers of Sorel and other points in the Province. He was also appointed President of the Commission to inquire into the navigation and cost of transport in the upper lakes.

When the district of Hesse was set apart Mr. Powell, who was appointed its first judge, took up his residence in Detroit (then Canadian territory). Subsequently, in 1816, he was appointed Chief Justice of Upper Canada which position he held until 1825.

It was during Justice Powell's tenure of office that the Selkirk trials were held, and consequently he was the presiding judge on the occasion. These trials came about through the fierce competition, in the Red River settlement, between the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies which culminated in open hostilities and bloodshed.

He died on the 6th. of September 1834 and his wife on the 6th. of March 1849.

Chief Justice Powell had the arms of his maternal ancestors Dummer and Grant quartered with those of his father : First and fourth party per fess or and argent, a lion rampant gules (for Powell) second party per fess, or and azure chief a lion rampant. Sable naissant, three fleur de lys, or, (for Dummer); third a border engrailed gules three eastern crowns or (for Grant). Crest The Sun, or, within clouds proper Motto "Aude."

When the second medal become known to collectors to it was surmised from its similarity in design to the first that not only were the dies from the hands of the same medalist but that there was same intimacy between the two families. The emblems are exactly the same only the inscription differs and even that is arranged in the same way. The medal may be thus described.

*Obv.* DANIEL SUTHERLAND AND MARGARET ROBERT SON. *Exergue* : INTERMARRIED | 1st SEPTEMBER | 1781 Hands clasping torch over altar as in last.

*Rev.* TO | COMMEMORATE | THE | FIFTIETH | ANNIVERSARY | QUEBEC | 1st SEPTEMBER | 1831 within a circle of true-lover's knots as on last. Size 39 millimetres.



MR. DANIEL SUTHERLAND

As the following letter, discovered among the correspondence of chief Justice Powell, clearly proves the connection I give it here in full.

Quebec 17th. August 1831.

" My Dear Sir,

" As the 1st September is fast approaching and  
" is the anniversary of our marriage, I wish to  
" surprise Mrs. S. on that occasion with a gold  
" medal, but cannot find any workman here capable

" of striking one. May I therefore request the favor  
" of your informing me where yours were made?  
" Have the goodness to remember me most cordially  
" to Mrs. Powell in which Mrs. Hallowell begs to join  
" as also to Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis and Miss Powell.  
" Mrs. Sutherland is still absent but expected home  
" tomorrow."

The Hon.  
W. D. Powell Esq.  
&c. &c.

*Very truly yours*  
*D. Sutherland*

The following postscript is written across the back of the letter.

" Have the goodness to say what the Die & each  
" of the Bronze & Silver Medals cost you, that I  
" may provide accordingly, whether in London, or  
" the United States. Excuse this liberty & oblige  
" D. S."

This letter clearly proves that he purposed giving his wife a gold medal, his relatives impressions in silver and guests and friends impressions in bronze, and that he had been a guest at the golden wedding of Chief Justice Powell. Evidently this letter was promptly answered giving the necessary details; but the answer could not have reached Quebec early

enough to have the medals struck, even in the United States, in time for the anniversary they were intended to celebrate. At that time it took over ten days to get an answer from Toronto, and as long, if not longer, from New York. This would bring an answer from New York ten days too late without allowing for engraving the dies and making the medals which could not be done in less than a month. But the style of workmanship shows clearly that the dies were not prepared in the United States. As no vessel sailed for Quebec during the winter months the earliest date at which the medals could have been procured from London, or more properly Birmingham, where they were evidently struck, would be towards the end of May or the beginning of June, 1832.

I have not been able to collect many details regarding the history of Daniel Sutherland. As his name, and that of his wife, seem to indicate he came to Canada from Scotland, shortly after his marriage in 1781, and entered into business in Montreal, (1) which business must have continued for a number of years, for in the year 1800 he, associated with four other citizens, petitioned the House of assembly for incorporation as a company for the purpose of "supplying the city and suburbs of Montreal with pure water." In this petition he is described as "Daniel Sutherland, merchant, of the city of Montreal (2). But it was not until the next session that

(1) Nearly all the business of Montreal at that time was carried on by Scotsmen.

(2) Journal of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada for 1800 page 43.





MRS. DANIEL SUTHERLAND

a charter was secured under the title of "The Company of Proprietors of the Montreal Water-Works (1). This company, with a capital of £8,000 (about \$35,000), afterwards raised to £12,000, commenced operations at once, bringing its supply of water, in wooden pipes, (2) from springs on the west side of

(1) Statutes of Lower Canada 1801, 41st., George III, Cap X.

(2) One of these original wooden pipes was dug up recently in one of the streets of Montreal and is now deposited in the Chateau Ramezay Museum.

the mountain ; but, on account of the bursting of the pipes and the intermittent character of the springs, the company did not prove a financial success and, in 1815, its whole assets and franchise were sold for £5,000.

From the close intimacy disclosed by the letter above cited, there can be no doubt that the friendship between the Powells and Sutherlands had been formed by frequent intervisitations extending over a number of years. This would fix Mr. Sutherland's arrival in Montreal at not much later than 1785; for Mr. Powell's elevation to the bench, with residence at Detroit, would indicate that he removed from Montreal previous to the subdivision of the Province of Quebec, in 1792, or at least previous to the handing over of Detroit to the United States, in 1795.

How long he continued to do business in Montreal, I have not been able to find out; but he appears to have accepted the position of post-master of Montreal sometime before or during the War of 1812 (1). He received his appointment from George Heriot (2) Deputy Post-Master General, who was an officer appointed by the home government.

On the retirement of Heriot, towards the close of 1816 or the beginning of 1817, Mr. Sutherland was appointed in his place; and became Deputy Post-

(1) In appendix, PP, to the journals of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada for 1832; a report of an inquiry into the Post Office department, Mr. Sutherland states: "At the time I was Post-Master at Montreal, there was very little communication between this Country and the United States."

(2) This is the Heriot who wrote a book of travels in Canada, published in 1807 and also a History of Canada.

Master General of British North America (1). This gave him jurisdiction over all the post offices of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. As the Post Office department of Canada, like that of all the other British Colonies was administered by the Post Master General in London, the Canadian government had nothing to do with its affairs or officers. The position was a most remunerative one, the salary was £500 sterling and the perquisites which consisted of, among other things, the postage on all the newspapers circulated in Canada and a commission of twenty per cent for collecting the postage on unpaid letters from the United States. As these perquisites according to the report above cited considerably exceeded the stated salary, Mr. Sutherland's income as Deputy Post-Master General must have reached to about \$7,000, something princely for the City of Quebec of that period.

About the time of his appointment as Deputy Post-Master General, the Bank of Montreal was founded, and, as a subscriber to the stock and active organizer, he was appointed agent of the Bank at Quebec, on his removal to that city to assume his new office. This was on the 18th. of November 1817. Later on, as the Minute Book of the Bank shows, a branch of the Bank was established under the title of "Office of Discount and Deposit of the Montreal Bank at Quebec" with Daniel Sutherland

(1) In an official letter dated 24th. Nov. 1819, he signs D. Sutherland D. P. M. G., B. N. A. See appendix O to journals of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, 1820-21.

as its first cashier, appointed on the 3rd. of July 1818. I cannot understand how this office could be held at the same time as his official one, except that it may have been more like that of a local president which only required his presence for an hour or two on discount days. This position he held until the 17th. of June, 1824.

The Postmastership he resigned in 1827 and was relieved of his position in April, 1828, by the appointment of Mr. T. A. Stayner, his deputy at Quebec, as his successor.

These Medals are most interesting as illustrating incidents in the lives of two distinguished families and in bringing out clearly their connection with the early days of the British regime in Canada.

