

Michael Macdonald

From: "archives" <archives@brunnet.net>
To: "Michael Macdonald"
Sent: 13 September 2001 00:41
Subject: Re: For Mary McDevitt

Dear Michael,

I found the baptismal record for which you were looking:

From the records of St. Malachys Catholic Church in Saint John:

Baptism # 723- "On the same day [23 October 1842] I baptized Edmond Alexander, aged 6 weeks, son of Jackson McDonald and Mary Ann Wall. S.S. Moore and Catherine McDonald." [Father] James Dunphy."

This is a verbatim transcription, spelling as found. This is from a very good microfilm copy and unfortunately, I am unable to make a print out. (Obsolete machine....new ones cost a ton of money ... small budget...) It was very legible and the transcription is, I feel sure, an exact one.

The last part of the baptismal record is a bit strange. "S.S." means "Sponsors" - i.e. godparents. I don't know if Father Dunphy simply inadvertently omitted the first name of the male Moore sponsor, or if in fact, a couple, 'Moore' and Catherine McDonald, were the godparents.

I checked and found no "Moore" married to a Catherine McDonald in our records for that period. I also found no 'Moore McDonald'.

There was no further reference to the McDonald - Wall family in the St. Malachys, or any other, Catholic records for that whole period (1812 to 1880). Presumably, this was the only child born to this couple in Saint John. Did they go back to Boston shortly after Edmond's birth?

You probably already have this, but I found the death announcement of Alexander McDonald in the 26 September 1829 edition of "The New Brunswick Courier": "Died Wednesday morning, MCDONALD, ALEXANDER, age 54. Residence Dock St. [St. John]."

(Dock St. was permanently re-named "St. Patrick Street" a few years ago, during local St. Patrick's Day celebrations.)

Hope this helps you out!

Mary Kilfoil McDevitt
 Archivist
 Diocese of Saint John

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Macdonald <michael@gmac38.fsnet.co.uk>
To: archives@brunnet.net <archives@brunnet.net>
Date: Saturday, October 06, 2001 6:01 AM
Subject: For Mary McDevitt

Dear Ms McDevitt,

The Saint John NBGS have given me your name as a contact and I am wondering if you would be able to trace the baptismal record of Edmund Alexander McDonald, born in Saint John on 8 April 1842.

His parents, my g-grandparents, were Jackson and Mary (Wall) McDonald. Jackson's family, presbyterians, came to Saint John from Ireland in 1823. His father, Alexander, died there in 1829 and Jackson moved to Boston where he met and married a good Catholic girl in Boston's Catholic cathedral, though he only entered the Church in 1845. Edmund would certainly have been baptised in a Catholic church and I am hoping there might be a record of his Godparents, possibly related to Jackson.

I should be most grateful for any help you could give me.

Yours sincerely,
 Michael Macdonald