

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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RESEARCH REPORT

Client

Michael Macdonald
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David F. March
NEHGS Enquiries Service
26 October 1998

Subjects

The six brothers of Dr. William Gregory Macdonald (1858-1910), client's grandfather: James, Edmund, Francis, Jerome, Alfred, and Albert Macdonald.

Background Information

With his letter of 19 August 1998 client includes Macdonald family tree, showing that James was born in Maine ca. 1839-40; Edmund A. in New Brunswick ca. 1842-43; Francis in Massachusetts ca. 1844-45; Jerome there ca. 1848-49; Alfred there ca. 1852-53; and Albert there ca. 1854-55. Part of a newspaper cutting (no date shown) describes Edmund as the City Collector of Boston who died in Brighton; his daughter Florence married a Leo or George Oswald and bore two boys and three girls. Jerome had three daughters, Agnes, Molly, and Nell, one of whom married a Quincy and had a son, Jerome Macdonald Quincy, resident in Quincy in 1957. Alfred had a daughter, Jane, who married a Grogan and had sons Peter and Laurence, of Washington, D.C. A photocopy of the 1860 federal census of Boston (Ward 12, 2974.4588) lists Jackson McDonald, 42, moulder, born Ireland; wife Mary, 42, born Newfoundland; James, 20, machinist, born Maine; "Edwd," 17, bookkeeper, born New Brunswick; Francis, 15, clerk, born Massachusetts; Jerome, 11, born there; Alfred, 7, born there; Albert, 5, born there; and William, 2, born there.

Objective

Priority a: details of the six subjects and their descendants.

Limitations

Eight hours.

Repository

NEHGS library.
Microtext Department, Boston Public Library.

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Records Searched

1. [Bost-direct:] Boston city directory (microfilm F73.2.B67).
2. [Camb VR:] *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*. Boston, 1915.
3. [Census 1880-A:] Census of the United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston, E.D. 694, sheet 1, lines 22-24, 1880.
4. [Census 1880-B:] Census of the United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston, E.D. 773, sheet 16, lines 2-5, 1880.
5. [Census 1900-A:] Census of the United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston, Ward 25 (Allston), E.D. 1540, sheet 9 B, lines 79-83, 12 Chester Street, 8 June 1900.
6. [Census 1900-B:] Census of the United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston, Ward 25 (Brighton), E.D. 1542, sheet 1 B, lines 27-31, 677 Cambridge Street, 1 June 1900.
7. [Globe:] *Boston Globe* (microfilm, Boston Public Library).
8. [MA-VR:] Massachusetts vital records, 1841-1905 (microfilm F 63.M3).
9. [MA-VR-IN:] Index to Massachusetts vital records, 1901-1976 (printed).
10. [Transcript:] *Index to Obituary Notices in the Boston Transcript*. American Antiquarian Society, 1940.

Research Results

In general, these six Macdonald brothers lived near each other and held government jobs at different levels.

James M. Macdonald, born Feb. 1840 in Maine, single, machinist [Census 1900-A; Bost-direct 1870, p. 427, boarding at 160 Broadway, South Boston, with Jerome] (father b. Ireland; mother Mary b. July "1818" in Newfoundland, to parents b. Ireland, and immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1824, bearing 9 children, of whom 5 now living [Census 1900-A]).

Edmund A. Macdonald, born Sept. 1843 in Massachusetts [Census 1880-B; Census 1900-B] at Boston [marr. cert.], South Boston [obit.]; **died** 23 April 1906 suddenly of heart disease at his home in Brighton [a neighborhood of Boston] [Transcript; Globe, 23 April 1906, p. 7; MA-VR-IN 1906; 10:301]; **married** 8 Oct. 1873 at Cambridge, Mass., by W.A. Blenkinsop, pastor, to Eliza (Lizzie) F. Babbidge [MA-VR 1873; 254:141, reg. 350, 255:161, reg. 2881], born Nov. 1848 in East Cambridge, Mass. [Census 1900-B; son's birth cert.], to Levi F. and Elizabeth Babbidge (Levi b. 1824 at Deer Island, Maine [Camb VR, 2:20]; Elizabeth b. Mass.), and died 1906 at Boston (after her husband) [MA-VR-IN 1906; 12:288].

Edmund resided in 1870 at 158 Broadway, South Boston (next door to James and Jerome), a clerk in the post office [Bost-direct 1870, p. 427]; resided in 1873 at Boston, clerk [marr. cert.]; resided at 56 P Street, South Boston [Census 1880-A]; resided at 677

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Cambridge Street in Brighton [Census 1900-B; obit.]. He first entered the city collector's office in 1877, was appointed collector by Mayor Collins 28 April 1902, and was well known at City Hall [obit.]. Funeral conducted at Saint Columbkille Church, Brighton, and burial in Mount Hope Cemetery, Boston [ibid.].

Edmund's son, **Albert E. Macdonald**, born 3 July 1874 at Hyde Park (now a neighborhood of Boston), where his parents resided [MA-VR 1874; 260:284, reg. 71]. Single, messenger for the U.S. Marshal's office (for his uncle Francis?) [Census 1900-B].

Edmund's daughter, **Florence Louisa Macdonald**, born 25 Feb. 1878 at Metropolitan Avenue, Boston [MA-VR 1878; 297:204, reg. 9180], possibly with a twin, Jerome {MA-VR 1878; 296:257}; **died** 1962 at Manchester, Mass. [MA-VR-IN 1962; 68:59]; **married** 11 Oct. 1904 at Saint Columbkille Church, Brighton, by A.J. Rossi, priest, George P. Oswald, coal salesman residing at 406 Centre Street, Boston, b. ca. 1877 at Roxbury in Boston to Jacob P. and Jane (Kennedy) Oswald [MA-VR 1904; 549:218, reg. 4991] and d. 1963 at Newton, Mass. [MA-VR-IN 1963; 82:20].

Children (there may have been others): Elizabeth Babbidge Oswald, b. 6 Sept. 1905, residing at 56 Mapleton Street, Boston [MA-VR 1905; 553:206, reg. 9243]; Jane Macdonald Oswald, 1907 [MA-VR-IN 569:41]; Florence Oswald 1908 [MA-VR-IN 577:101]; George Peter Oswald, 1909 [MA-VR-IN 585:372].

Francis X. Macdonald, born Jan. 1845 in Massachusetts, single, Department of the U.S. Marshal [Census 1900-A]; chief of that department, Room 103, Post Office Building, Boston [Bost-direct 1900, pp. 1019-1020]; may have died 25 April 1907 [Transcript; MA-VR-IN 1907; 11:378].

Jerome S. Macdonald, born 2 Aug. 1849 at Fourth Street, South Boston [MA-VR 1849; 36:224, reg. 2825] (father was then a moulder); **died** ? (before 1900?); **married** 5 June 1879 at Boston, by J.M. Mulcahy, to Mary F. Collins, born ca. 1854 at Boston to James and Hannah Collins [MA-VR 1879; 309:61, reg. 1096].

Jerome worked in 1870 at 5 Court Street, Boston, and resided at 160 Broadway, South Boston (with James) [Bost-direct 1870]. At his marriage he was a real estate broker.

Children (there may have been others): Mary Catharine Macdonald, b. 8 March 1880 at 56 P Street, South Boston [MA-VR 1880; 315:157, reg. 7021] [Census 1880-A].

Alfred F. Macdonald, born 29 Jan. 1853 at 147 Fourth Street, South Boston (father was then a moulder) [MA-VR 1853; 74:36, reg. 1587]; **died** after 1900; **married** 6 June 1881 at Boston, by D. O'Callaghan, to Annie M. Collins, born ca. 1857 at Boston to John and Mary Collins [MA-VR 1881; 327:71, reg. 1275], and died before June 1900.

Alfred was a letter carrier at his marriage and was an auctioneer and real estate broker working at Room 4, 209 Washington Street, Boston, and living at 12 Chester Street in Allston (a neighborhood of Boston) in 1900 [marr. cert.; Bost-direct 1900, pp. 1019-1020; Census 1900-A].

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Albert Macdonald, born 7 April 1855 at 147 Fourth Street, South Boston (father was then a moulder) [MA-VR 1855; 92:32, reg. 1401]. An Albert G. Macdonald died 19 Nov. 1903, and an Albert S. Macdonald on 6 Feb. 1921 [Transcript].

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Continue research on the six brothers of the present report, or their descendants of interest (4 hr).
2. Move to priority b, researching the Kinney and Galligan families (8 hr).
3. Move to priority c, locating the marriage of Jackson Macdonald to Mary Wall (perhaps in Maine?) (3 hr).

Research Notes

Searching for a common name like Macdonald , in an area where it was and is common, led to many false starts and blind ends.

I could not locate (to date) Agnes Madonald, child of Jerome, or Jane Macdonald, child of Alfred, nor any Quincy family (Jerome Macdonald Quincy) in Quincy, Mass.

I could not locate birth certificates for James, Edmund, or Francis Macdonald (Maine and Massachusetts).

Holyhood Cemetery (est. ca. 1892) is located on Lagrange Street in West Roxbury, a neighborhood of Boston (site of the Kinney lot?).

No. 240 Newbury Street, on the southeast corner of Newbury and Fairfield Street, Boston, appears to be a store that replaced the townhouse there in 1899.