

LAST OF SELKIRK SETTLERS DIES

LAST OF THE SELKIRK COLONISTS

John Mackay, Who Came to Red River District Ninety-Three Years Ago, Passes Away.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 2.—The last of the Selkirk settlers died here to-day in the person of John Mackay, of 70 Ontario street, at the age of 94. He was born at Kildonan, Scotland.

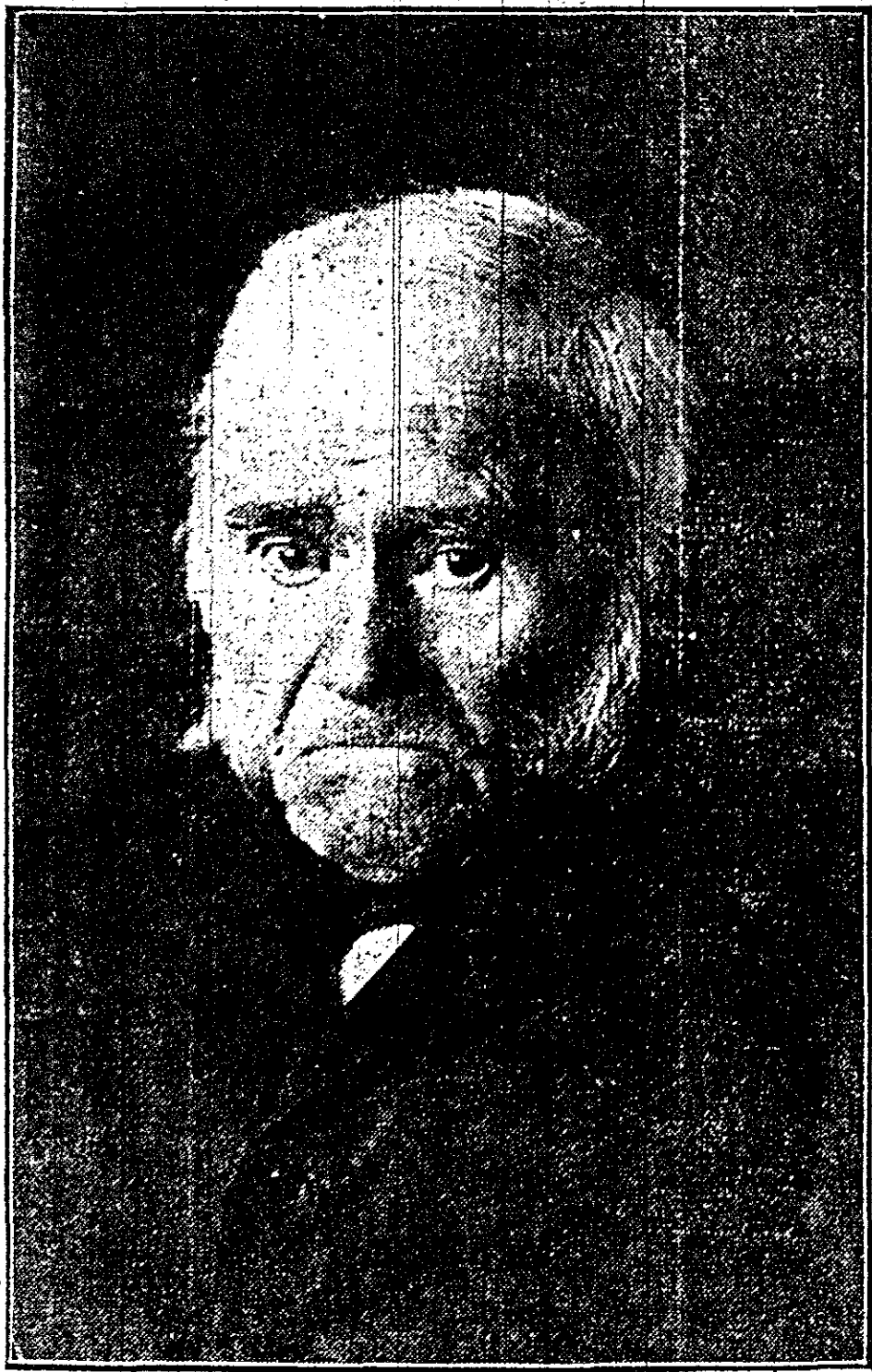
The movement of Highland Scotch settlers taking its name from Lord Selkirk, the founder, was a scheme to found a settlement of Highland Scotchmen on the plains over which the Hudson's Bay company ruled.

The first shipload left Scotland in 1812, followed by others after considerable interval of time. In June, 1815, the *Hadlow* sailed from the port of Cromarty, Scotland, for Hudson bay. The passenger list of the *Hadlow* reads like the muster roll of one of the great Highland regiments of former days. Among the Mackays there was one Donald and his wife, Catherine Bruce, and their infant son, John Mackay, who died to-day.

In June, 1816, when the *Hadlow* was in mid-ocean, the great conflict of Waterloo was waged, yet these settlers knew nothing of that event until more than one year had elapsed.

Mr. Mackay was 18 months old when he sailed from Scotland. The trip to York Factory, Hudson Bay, occupied eleven weeks, and August was well advanced when the intrepid immigrants began their 60 mile boat voyage to Red river by way of the Hayes river and Lake Winnipeg. They reached Kildonan in November, hoping to find the friends who had preceded them, but in this they were doomed to disappointment. Instead of a glad Highland welcome they found nothing but ruins and desolation.

The first settlement had been broken up by a rival of the Hudson's Bay company, and the settlers dispersed. With winter staring them in the face the party were forced to push on to Pembina, where they joined a hunting party in order to gain a subsistence during the winter. The spring of 1816 found them back at Point Douglas. This year the settlement was again dispersed by the Northwest company's men. The next year there was a plague of grass-hoppers and the crops were completely ruined. The same thing happened in 1819, and on account of these sore trials a number of the colonists, including the Mackays, packed up their belongings and proceeded to Canada in company with some couriers des bois who were returning to Montreal. The Mackays first located at Newmarket, Ont., and after two years settled in West Gwillimbury where land was taken up. John Mackay removed to Toronto in 1870 where he continued to reside until his death.



JOHN MACKAY,
Who Came to Red River With His Parents in 1815, and Who Died in Toronto Yesterday.

PASSING OF PIONEERS

Tribute to the Memory of Mrs. George Weldon, First Lady Telegraphist.
On November 20 there passed away

storm the young wife weathered; and many a wanderer, lost and bewildered in the driving sleet and storm, found the beacon-light in the Weldon home in that lone spot—the only spot of life—in the great Lone Land!

Mrs. Weldon was an expert telegraphist. Perhaps the first woman to

when the work of construction will be started, but it is not improbable that grading will be begun next spring.

MAY HAVE TO DEFER VOTE

Oversight May Prevent Submission of Ideal Option By-law at Emerson.