

I have a "3-ring" notebook containing family genealogical information thought to have been recorded by my Uncle Jim MacLaren (James Edward, 1897-1952) and thought (by his daughter, my cousin Shiela) to have been "misplaced" by my father, Thomas F. MacLaren. Looking at its contents today (7/25/2019) I find it is not "the" notebook, but does contain many pages copied from Jim's collection by both my father and my Uncle Neil.

The following is some of the information saved by Tom and his brother Neil (. . . and now me. Updates labeled "gem" made 7/26/19.)

-=Grant Edward MacLaren=-

Death of TG MacLaren Jan 6, 1905

New Glasgow Enterprise Jan.1905

It is with feelings of profound regret that we today record the death of Mr Thomas Grant MacLaren, the junior member of the firm of MacLaren Bros., Meat and Provision Dealers. Mr MacLaren was the son of Mr & Mrs MacLaren of French River and had moved to New Glasgow about 14 months ago, when he purchased the Duncan McKeracher farm on the outskirts of town, and where he has lived since. On the evening of Dec 26th he was taken ill with plura-pneumonia, and while he made a brave fight for life, aided by the best skill of several physicians and a trained nurse, he passed away on Friday evening, Jan 6th (1905) after 11 days illness. He was 32 years and 11 months of age, and leaves a widow, whose maiden name was Miss Finlayson, of Merigomish, and five little children. The eldest only 8 years of age and the youngest two months. He leaves two brothers —JW in the ship building business in New York, and Neil (See TFM's recollections of his uncle elsewhere. gem) of this town. Two sisters also survive, Mrs Butler, Missionary, now in Central Provinces, India and Mrs. DP McDonald, of Little Harbor.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, the services being conducted by staff-captain McLean, of the Salvation Army, and were very impressive, and participated in by a large number of Salvation Army people. The funeral procession was an immense cortege, one of the largest seen in town for some time, for Tom was a genial favorite with all who knew him.

Of a pleasant disposition, general manner and presence, he made friends everywhere. He was a hard worker, industrious, intelligent, honest

and upright. He early made a profession of religion and for some years a good soldier of the Salvation Army. He leaves his family in comfortable circumstances. He had life insurance in the Great West. The Enterprise in the name of many sympathizing friends extends its sincere sympathy in their hour of sorrow

Impressive Funeral Service

The impressive service at the hall was conducted by staff Captain McLean, assisted by the officers in charge of the local corps. The hall was crowded, and numbers unable to gain admission, remained outside, and joined in the funeral procession, which was headed by the band playing several pieces that speaks of the "Land Beyond the River." A large crowd remained at the grave to witness the lowering away of the remains of a true and faithful warrior of the Cross.

We commend dear Mrs MacLaren and the little ones to his care who has promised to be as "a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless."

Copied from James E MacLaren's diary page 67 by Neil B MacLaren;

Our father was buried in Riverside Cemetery New Glasgow Nova Scotia. Beside him is our mother (Amy Finlayson MacLaren) and our sister Catherine Mabel.

Neil B MacLaren

March 1, 1967

Thomas Grant MacLaren and Amelia Finlayson MacLaren

After Tom's death in January 1905, his family continued to live at Linacy (Nova Scotia) for several years. It was a large place to keep up, and in 1909 Amy decided to let the house and property.

She started in Nursing at Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island while the family "broke up" as below.

She later became supervisor at Butler Hospital and after further study at Bellevue Hospital and Columbia University, New York she became supervisor at State Hospital, Warren Pennsylvania. She was there about 13 years during which time she became president of the Pennsylvania Association of Registered Nurses and represented the state at several national conventions. On one occasion going to California. In Washington

she later took charge of the General Hospital at Warren but did not remain there very long.

She visited her son James E MacLaren in England in 1925 and afterwards went to Concord New Hampshire as superintendent of the state hospital. (Known to family as "Mummy Mac" she was an imposing, no-nonsense, likable person. She visited us in Drexel Hill a few times. gem)

In her later years she resided with her daughter Eva (Mrs. A.D. Martin) In Colver PA. She was buried in New Glasgow Nova Scotia.

Thomas G. and Amelia F. MacLaren had five children;

James Edward Nov 4, 1897

At French River with grandparents MacLaren. Went to Portsmouth when 14. Stayed with Hislops and went to school. Went to Providence Rhode Island in 1913. He went to Tech High School. Graduated. Served apprenticeship at Brown and Sharpe. Was sent to England in 1918 to act as an instructor in British Ministry of Munitions. After armistice he stayed in Great Britain with Buck and Hickman. Became manager of Buck and Hickman Limited, Scotland and Ireland in 1924. Later became managing director BSA Birmingham England. Died 1951. Ashes strewn in Scotland. Daughters Shiela and Iona. (I remember Uncle Jim visiting us (maybe twice) at 916 Collenbrook, Drexel Hill during WW II on a war-related mission. gem) After his death, his wife, Aunt Claire (Claire Emily Brodie 1903-88) lived with (divorced from John W. Ragle) daughter Shiela Mairi in Vermont. I visited them circa 1961. gem)

Catherine Mabel. June 10, 1900

After 1909 she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Oliver and went to school in New Glasgow. Later went to Merigomish and stayed with David Finlayson until 1915. She came to Boston where she was met by brother James E. MacLaren and proceeded to Warren Pennsylvania where she went to school and later trained as a nurse and became an R.N. She became an invalid due to rheumatoid arthritis. Died in Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, 1951. Buried in Riverside Cemetery, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. (I remember visiting "Aunt Mabel" on many Sunday afternoons in a nursing home in rural PA. She read constantly, turning book pages with a rubber tipped stick and very limited hand motion. gem)

Neil Butler July 30, 1901

July 30, 1901

When 6 years old he went to Merigomish to Finlayson's with Aunt Becky Flavin. Went to Merigomish school until 1913 when he went to Halivar Academy. Was there until 1917 when he went to Providence, RI and lived with James E. at Y.M.C.A. Went to T.H.S. and served 4 years apprenticeship at Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co. He then went to Winnipeg University and spent 3 years living part of time with Uncle John and Aunt Ruth Finlayson. He entered Boston Tech (M.I.T.) in 1923 and graduated in 1926. Again entered B & S Mfg. Co's employ 1926. Assist. Prof at M.I.T. 1926. Married Alvena Isabel Dunbar May 29, 1930, Son Bruce, Martin daughter Joyce Elizabeth. (Children's middle names per gem)

Eva Finlayson

December 10, 1902

After 1909, she went to Merigomish where she lived at Finlayson's and went to school until 1915, when she went to Ottawa to go to school. Lived with Uncle George and Aunt Isabel Finlayson. Later went to Warren, PA and trained as a nurse. Got her "RN" and was in Cleveland for a time. Was married to Dr. Alex Douglas Martin (Ontario) on December 1, 1924. (TFM said Eva lived with "Uncle David Finlayson and Aunt Estella about 1909" on "the next farm" - to Edward Finlayson's.) Sons Niel Douglas "Doug" (1930) and James MacLaren "Jim" (1935), and daughter Evalyn Mae (1937). Both sons had scholarships for study of medicine in Europe. Both died of cancer. Evalyn Mae served in the U.S. Air Force, retired to Colver.

Thomas Forrest MacLaren

October 30, 1904

Lived at Merigomish from 1909 to 1920.

Went to Pictou Academy, Pictou, Nova Scotia In 1922, then went to Providence, RI with brother James E., and completed his apprenticeship in 1926. Then attended M.I.T., graduating with degree in Mechanical Engineering. Married Hope Elizabeth Merchant Sept 8, 1934. Son Grant Edward, 1936 and daughter Sandra Hope in 1938.