Rev. ALEXANDER WELLESLEY MACNAB

Inducted 2010

The Reverend Canon Alexander Wellesley Macnab was born in Cobourg on June 26, 1850 to Rev. Alexander Macnab and Eliza Ann Dougall. His father was born in Belleville and was the Rector of Bowmanville and Principal of Victoria College. On his father's side he was a decendant of Dr. James Macnab UE who was a surgeon during the American Revolution, and Titus Simons UE who settled in York. Through his mother he was a descendant of William Robert Dougall UE of Hallowell.

Alexander Wellesley Macnab was educated at the Bowmanville Grammar School and Huron College in London, then was ordained by the Bishop of Toronto and appointed as Curate to the parish of St. Catharines. In the mid-1870s he moved to England where he worked for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts and served as a chaplain. He returned to St. Catharines in 1878, then moved to Toronto where he served until his death in 1926. In addition to his noted abilities as a lecturer and preacher, he had a keen interest in history and the United Empire



Loyalists from an early time. While in London England, along with his father, he was able to procure a memorial tablet erected in 1876 in St. Paul's Cathedral for his great-uncle Alexander Macnab UE, a Belleville native, who was the Aide De Camp to General Sir Thomas Picton, and along with Picton, was killed in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. During the 1884 Loyalist Centennial Celebrations he erected a memorial Tablet to his great-grandfather Dr. James Macnab, placed in St. Albans Church at Adolphustown.

He became an early member of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Ontario soon after its formation, and by 1901 was a member of the Executive Committee. On the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Toronto in October of 1901 he was among several members of the Association who presented an address to them. The following year, he published "A Canadian UE Loyalist at Waterloo" in the Annual Transactions of the Association. In 1902 he was appointed as Vice President and served as VP until 1906. He was the President of the UEL Association of Ontario from 1906 to 1907, and continued on the Executive Committee following his presidency. When the Dominion Association was being planned, he was one of the original signers for the application, and he received UEL Certificate Number 9 dated September 27, 1913, interestingly one year before the Association was incorporated. He also brought his sister Matilda Macnab Carter and her daughters Hilda Carter Lowe and Georgina Carter White into the organization. He served as Chaplain of the UEL Association of Canada from 1918 until his death in 1926. On his death it was recorded in the Annual Transactions "Another dear friend was lost to the Association in the death or Rev. Canon Macnab who for a number of years was its chaplain. A great deal of credit for the growth of the Association was due to Canon Macnab who took a great interest in all its activities".

The Reverend Canon Alexander Wellesley Macnab is inducted into the Loyalist Hall of Honour for his historical contributions and as a founder of the UELAC.