

MACAULAY FAMILY

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Irish born Robert Macaulay (1744-1800) immigrated to Willisboro, N.Y. in 1764. His farm and lumber business there were confiscated or destroyed by the rebel forces during the American Revolution and Macaulay was twice imprisoned. In 1778, he escaped to Canada. In 1780, he was established as a merchant trader on Carleton Island and was captain of the Associated Loyalists on the Island. When the British garrison moved to Cataraqi (Kingston) in 1784, Macaulay did likewise, forming a trading partnership with Thomas Markland. The partnership was dissolved in 1791, but Macaulay's business continued to flourish with a store and wharf opposite his house (at the present intersection of Ontario and Princess Streets).

In 1791, Macaulay married Ann Kirby (1770-1850) at Crown Point. There were three children: John (1792-1857), William (1794-1874) and Robert (1796-1823), age 8, 6 and 4 respectively when their father died. One of the executors of Robert's estate was the Honourable Richard Cartwright. Ann Macaulay continued the Macaulay business in conjunction with her brother, John Kirby until her son John was grown.

The Honourable John A. Macaulay (1792-1857) was born in Kingston, the eldest son of Robert and Ann Macaulay. A lawyer, he also became agent for the Bank of Upper Canada and postmaster of Kingston. For seven years, he owned the Kingston Chronicle. In addition, he had a distinguished career of public service. He served a term as Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions, was a Commissioner of Inland Navigation (1822) and in 1828 served on a commission with regard to prison systems. He became a Legislative Councillor and Surveyor General of Upper Canada (1836). In 1838, Macaulay became civil and private secretary to Lieutenant Governor Sir George Arthur, and Inspector General of Public Accounts, a post he resigned on principle in 1842 when the office became an elected one. Thereafter, except for six months as Collector of Customs for the Port of Kingston, he confined himself to his law practice and business affairs.

John Macaulay married twice: in 1833 to Helen Macpherson (1807-1846) and in 1853 to Sarah Phillis Young (1816-87). He was survived by three of his eight children: John Kirby (b. 1842); Frances Jane (b.1845) and Charlotte Jane (b. 1855).

William Macaulay (1794-1874), John's brother, was Anglican rector at Picton for forty-seven years. Brother Robert (1796-1823) was a lawyer.