

“A Family Legacy”

Rev. & Dr. Thomas and Isabella (Walker) McCulloch had nine children. While not many records of all nine children have survived throughout history, especially the women, there is enough records to prove that most if not all nine McCulloch children followed their father’s footsteps in one way or another.

The only children whose names and lives were recorded, though small or miniscule in amount, were the elder sons, (the first three that were born in Scotland), Michael, William and David and three other sons born in Pictou, Robert, Thomas Jr. and James Walker McCulloch. Alongside the six sons, there were three Miss McCulloch’s. The only daughter that has been recorded is one Elizabeth McCulloch who had unfortunately died of consumption in her youth. As was usual in the 17th and 18th centuries, names of women, including some wives (if not considered “important”) and daughters were often excluded in official records besides the obvious birth records that rarely survived the trial of time. Which is the prime reason as to why the other two Miss McCulloch’s names have remained unknown.

What family records show is that the two eldest sons, Michael and William were very active in the affairs of education and their father’s Pictou Academy. Michael McCulloch, having had received both elementary and secondary education by his own father, became a fellow teacher and schoolmaster for the younger classes in his father’s Academy. Not soon after, Michael had married and started his own family, and with the various financial and political trouble the Academy faced in its time, Michael had no other choice than to secure himself with a more dependant form of work and had later moved his wife and family to Halifax and became a teacher and schoolmaster at the Grade and Normal schools there.

William McCulloch followed even more closely to his father’s shadow and became himself a licenced minister and Doctor of Divinity. William aided his father’s religious side of reformation and ministered alongside Thomas in the First Presbyterian Church as well as answering to other Presbyterian missions in Truro where he had lived for a time with his own family. It was William who had compiled family history into a bibliography he had written about his father and family titled, “The Life of Thomas McCulloch, D.D.” in 1920. From which, researchers of the McCulloch family continue to use as a source of information and genealogy of the McCulloch family.

David McCulloch, contrasting the paths of his older brothers, deciding to busy himself with the matters of Office and Town of Pictou. He became one of the first Customs Officers of Pictou and worked at the Old Custom’s House on present-day Depot Street from 1873 to the later 1880s. David also was known to study general

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medicine and had opened a general surgery from his own home just a few minutes walk from his father's homestead off of Haliburton Road on West Cottage Street. There is much less known about Thomas' other three sons, Robert, Thomas Jr. and James Walker McCulloch. Robert McCulloch died of an unfortunate accident of scalding as an infant. He would have been under two years of age at the time he passed. Records neglect to give any more information other than that.

James Walker McCulloch was recorded to have studied Law aside from studying both elementary and secondary education at his father's academy as most of the McCulloch children did. James completed his degree and licence in Law and worked in the office of fellow Lawyer and student of Thomas McCulloch, Jotham Blanchard. James died quite young of an illness when he was only 23.

What can be said about the other two sons is quite limited. In a personal letter from Thomas McCulloch to one of his fellow ministers of the various Presbyterian churches in Pictou County, he expressed his gratitude toward his son Thomas Jr. for "endeavoring to creep into the family business" as Thomas Sr. put it. That could mean that Thomas Jr. might have helped his father with the Academy or the affairs of his ministry.

"Providence has blessed me with a dutiful family, by whose means the work as carried on when it could not otherwise have existed respectively." ~ Rev. Thomas McCulloch, 1834.

Quote taken from: McCulloch, William. *The Life of Thomas McCulloch D.D.* Halifax: Dalhousie, 1920. (Citation: Chapter XIV, pg. 154-55.)