



Margaret C. MacDonald

One hundred years ago, with the news of the British Empire at war with Germany, men from many of the local militias rushed to volunteer. For many of us, this is the iconic view of the beginning of the Great War. But what is less known, in northern Nova Scotia one of the first to serve was a woman, Margaret Clothilde MacDonald of Bailey's Brook. By the 8th of August, 1914 Ms. MacDonald was on her way to serve as Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Nursing Service. Today she is honoured with a national historic plaque in Bailey's Brook.

- Born - Bailey's Brook, Nova Scotia February 26, 1873.
- Died - Bailey's Brook, Nova Scotia September 7, 1948.

Education and training:

- Early schooling: Bailey's Brook School, Stella Maris Convent in Pictou, Mount Saint Vincent Academy in Halifax.
- Nursing: New York City Hospital and Harlem Emergency Hospital, Queen Alexandria's Imperial Nursing Service in London.

Nursing service:

- Spanish American War aiding returning soldiers in New York.
- South African War (Boer War) with both British and Canadian forces.
- Panama Canal Commission.
- Station (Garrison) Hospital Halifax.
- Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Nursing Service / Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (Major). With headquarters in London, England, she was in charge of all Canadian military nurses overseas during World War I.

Again for the Front.
We understand that Miss McDonald, of Bailey's Brook, who won distinction during the South African war by being among the first of the Canadian women to volunteer for Red Cross service, has again left for the front. Miss McDonald's former experience will be of inestimable benefit to her in this war.—Eastern Chronicle.
Pictou Advocate, August 15, 1914

To learn more about Margaret MacDonald we recommend the following book which can be borrowed through any of our branch libraries or online at www.parl.ns.ca.

- *Margaret MacDonald: Imperial Daughter* by Susan Mann. Montreal: McGill –Queen's University Press. 2005.



No 1 Gen Hosp.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No.

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name? *Margaret Elsie MacDonald*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Baileys Brook, Nova Scotia.*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mrs. D. MacDonald - Mother.*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Baileys Brook, Nova Scotia.*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *26th Feb. 1879.*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Army Nurse*
 7. Are you married? *No*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *Permanent*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *Yes*
If so, state particulars of former Service. *Can. P. Am. Serv. O.C. 1st South Africa, 1900-01.*
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*
- Margaret MacDonald* (Signature of Man).
C. J. Hughes (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Margaret MacDonald*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Margaret MacDonald (Signature of Recruit)
Date *28-9-* 1914. *C. J. Hughes* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Margaret MacDonald*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Margaret MacDonald (Signature of Recruit)
Date *28-9-* 1914. *C. J. Hughes* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Quebec* this *25th* day of *September* 1914.

Sgt. E. G. La Bel (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

(Approving Officer)

200 M.-5-14.
H.Q. 1772-1-13

O.C. NO. 1. GENERAL HOSPITAL.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.