

**Email correspondence with Bob MacDougall on September 16, 2009, regards  
information about a Schooner Pond (Cape Breton Island) grave site and the  
Alexander McPhail land grant.**

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Hi Jim, my name is Bob MacDougall and I live in Donkin, Cape Breton, about a mile from Schooner Pond. While searching for the pioneers of Schooner Pond, I came upon your MacPhail genealogy site and about Archie in particular.

I have always been interested in the history of Schooner Pond since my wife's ancestors had a farm there in the early 1800's and my Aunt is married into the MacLean family whose ancestor Rory [Roderick] MacLean came from North Uist, Scotland and settled in Schooner Pond sometime between 1835 and 1843. It is this first generation of Scots, mostly from North Uist that I am interested in, but there is scant information about them. Subsequent generations are easier to find through census, marriage certificates, headstones etc. and I have information on them.

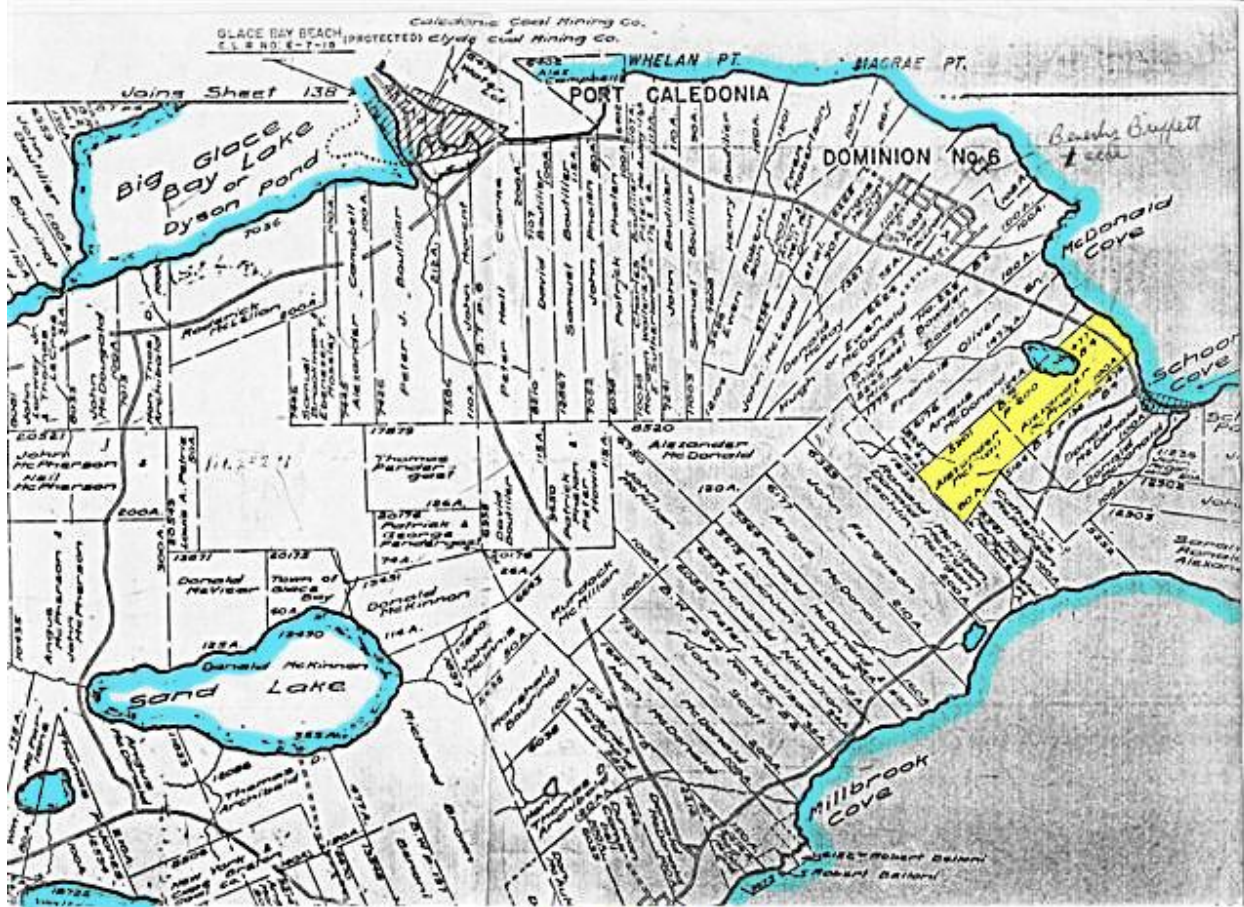
I am sending you an attachment of an old land grant map [it is overlaid with some later developments such as Dom/ #6 [Donkin] etc., but the land grants date back to the 1840's and 50's and included is the name Alexander McPhail-100 acres + 80 acres. Is this Archie's father? Rory MacLean had 3 sons, John, Donald, and Rod, they would be older than your Archie, but he would certainly have known them, especially Donald who was born in 1835. Do you have anything in your records about Archie that mentions these people or others from Schooner Pond in that era?

In May of this year, an archaeological dig at Schooner Pond discovered a gravesite with 15 graves. Only the topsoil was removed, and artifacts uncovered such as hand hammered nails dated it to 1830's -1850's. A cairn is to be placed at the site sometime in the future. Rory's great grandson [now deceased] once told me that Rory was buried at that site.

Others of his generation might be buried there also since the earliest Presbyterian church in this area was only established in 1864.

- Bob MacDougall

[map below]

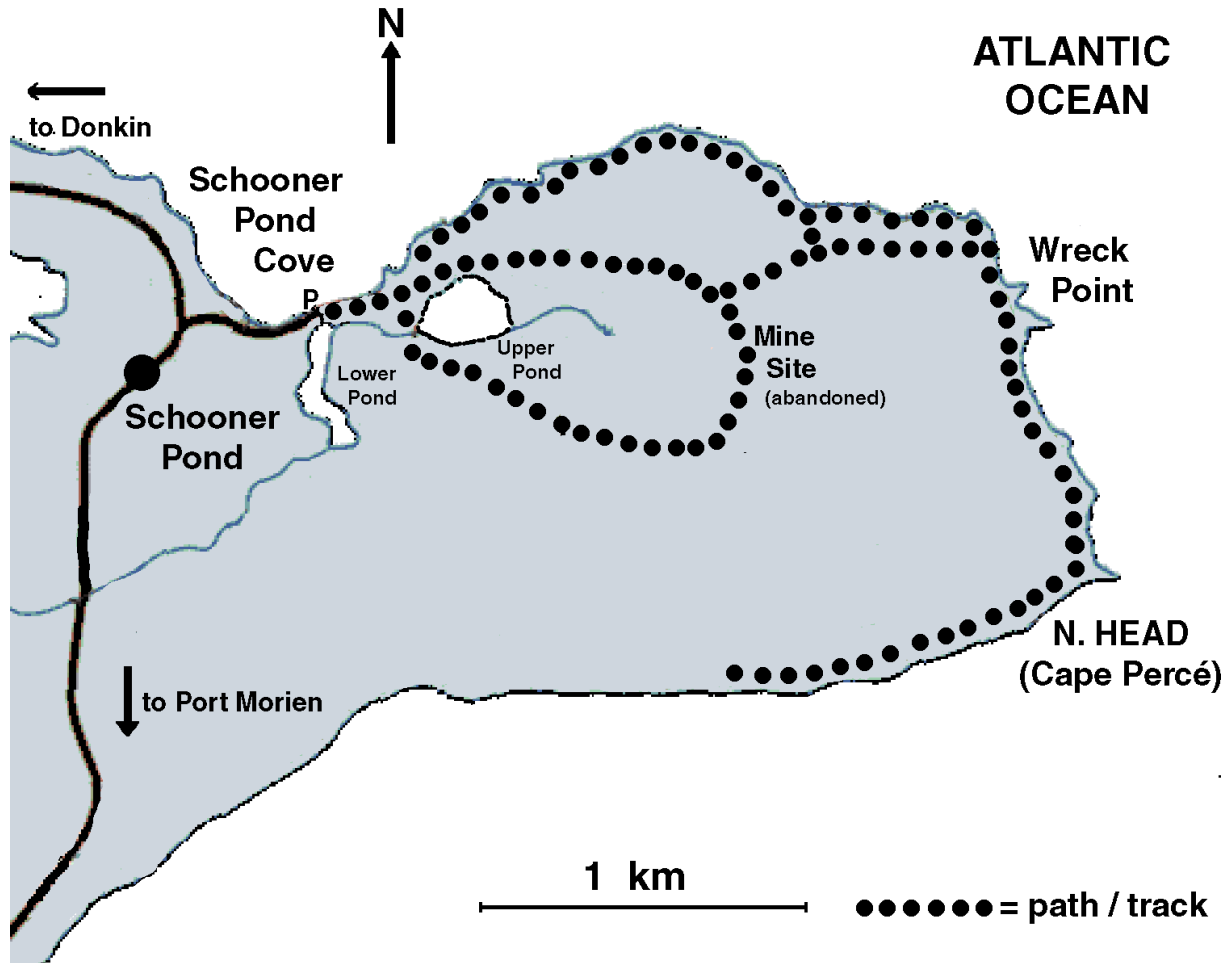


Schooner Pond land grant to Alexander McPhail: 100 acres and 80 acres  
 Image courtesy Bob MacDougall of Donkin, Cape Breton (16 Sept 2009)

## Schooner Pond, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

Lower Schooner Pond is by the parking area, and is typically quiet, so walk to Upper Schooner Pond, where Pied-billed Grebe and Sora both nest, as do American Bittern and Ring-necked Duck. The path divides at Upper Schooner Pond, with an obvious track continuing along the coast, ascending the headland, and proceeding around the coast 3.5 km to Cape Percé (Northern Head) along a wonderful strip of barrens between the forest and the ocean. Note: keep well away from the cliff edge, as it actively erodes.

[map below]



map © 2006 by Blake Maybank

Cape Percé (Northern Head), a 30 metre-high headland, supports a small colony of Black-legged Kittiwakes and a few Great Cormorants, and Black Guillemots nest in the rocks all along the base of the headland. Flint Island Lighthouse is visible 3 km to the E. There is a larger colony of Great Cormorants south of Cape Percé, with several hundred pairs present. This latter colony marks the end of the coastal trail; at this point you must retrace your route along the coast to the mine site and Schooner Pond.