

## **UEL HALL OF HONOUR: GENERAL SIR GEORGE MACAULAY KIRKPATRICK, KCB, KCSI, UE**

George Macaulay Kirkpatrick was born in Kingston on 23 August 1866, son of George Airey Kirkpatrick and Frances Jane Macaulay. He was educated at Trinity College in Port Hope, then attended the Imperial Service College in London England. He then attended Royal Military College in Kingston, graduating from there in 1885. Following his graduation, he was appointed as a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on 30 June 1885. He worked with the Engineers as a surveyor, and in 1892 published maps on the towns and environs of the Fez district of Morocco. Later in 1892 he was appointed as aide-de-campe to the General Officer in command of the Thames District of the Royal Engineers in London, and then promoted as a captain in 1894.

With the outbreak of the Boer War, Kirkpatrick was deployed to South Africa where he took part in the Relief of Kimberley during February of 1900. He was promoted to the rank of Major in November 1900 and served as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for Intelligence for the Orange River Colony until peace was declared in 1902. During his service in 1902, he was twice mentioned in Despatches.

At the end of the war, he left Cape Town and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed as the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General for Intelligence in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During this time in Canada until 1904 he surveyed the Canada/US border from the American side in order to determine where any horse dependant troops could operate in case of any border incursions. Later in 1904 he was appointed as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General of the Army Headquarters in London. He was deployed to India in 1906 to serve as Assistant Quartermaster General, and joined the staff under Lord Kitchener. He travelled with Kitchener to Australia in 1910 where he was appointed to serve as Inspector General of the Military Forces in Melbourne. In 1911 he was made a companion of the Order of Bath and later helped to establish the Australian Military Academy in Canberra.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Kirkpatrick was recalled to India to serve as the Chief of General Staff in that country, serving in that post until 1916. In 1917 he was awarded the Star of India for his service, then in 1918 became a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath. He was appointed as a general, and was sent to Hong Kong in 1920 as General in command of all British Forces in China and Military Attache, serving there until 1923, when he returned to India as Commander in Chief of the North Western Region until 1927. Kirkpatrick returned to England and was asked to lead the Royal Engineers on parade at Aldershot for the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. He retired in 1939 and moved to Toronto during WW2. He returned to England in 1945 and settled in Roehampton, a suburb of London.



He was married to artist Mary Lydia Dennistoun on 16 December 1896 in London. She was originally from Peterborough, Ontario. They had a family of three daughters: Georgina Helen born in 1898, Kathleen Mary born in 1899 and Margaret Charlotte born in 1904. His wife died 15 August 1945. General Kirkpatrick died at his home near London on 6 February 1950 but was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery. Kingston Ontario.

Kirkpatrick was one of the few Canadians ever to reach the office of General in the British Army. He was a descendant of two Bay of Quinte Loyalists, Judge Alexander Fisher of Adolphustown, and Robert Macauley of Kingston.

(Sir George Macauley Kirkpatrick was inducted into Bay of Quinte Branch UEL Hall of Honour at their regular meeting on November 12, 2022 by Brian Tackaberry)