



Captain Mac: the Life of Donald Baxter MacMillan, Arctic Explorer

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Calkins Creek, 2010

ISBN: 978-1-59078-709-0

Highlights of MacMillan's Life:

- 1874 Born November 10, Provincetown, MA. Third of 5 children to Neil and Sarah MacMillan.
- 1883 Father drowns off the coast of Newfoundland.
- 1886 Mother dies at age 37.
- 1888 Moves to Freeport, ME, to live with married sister.
- 1893 Graduates from Freeport High School.
- 1898 Graduates from Bowdoin College.
Becomes teacher-principal at Levi Hall School, North Gorham, ME.
- 1900 Accepts teaching job at Swarthmore Preparatory School, Swarthmore, PA.
- 1903 Begins teaching school at Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA.
- 1908 First trip to the Arctic, as assistant on Robert Peary's final North Pole Expedition.
- 1913 Leads Crocker Land Expedition, intended to be a two-year expedition, but lasts for four.
- 1917 Enlists in Navy.
- 1921 Launches his specially-designed Arctic exploration schooner, *Bowdoin*. First expedition, winters off Baffin Island.
- 1923-24 Winters *Bowdoin* in Northwest Greenland. First to take movies of musk-oxen. First to receive radio messages from U.S. and send out messages by Morse Code.
- 1925 Commands two-ship expedition to Northwest Greenland. Tests radio transmitting/receiving apparatus and Navy airplanes. Richard Byrd in command of Naval aerial unit. First shortwave radio broadcast ever sent from the Arctic. First color photographs of the Arctic.
- 1926-39 Nine Arctic expeditions, eight of them on Schooner *Bowdoin*.
- 1935 Marries Miriam Look.
- 1941 Schooner *Bowdoin* purchased by U.S. Navy. MacMillan recalled to active duty.
- 1942-45 From Washington, DC, hydrographic office, makes flights to select sites for secret radar installations in the eastern Arctic and take aerial photographs.
- 1946-50 Five *Bowdoin* expeditions, with students.
- 1953 Receives Explorers Club Gold Medal, Hubbard Gold Medal from National Geographic Society, and Bowdoin Prize.
- 1954 Mac's final Arctic sailing expedition (18th *Bowdoin* expedition). Promoted to Rear Admiral, U.S. Naval Reserve (retired).
- 1957 Flight to North Pole for Television documentary.
- 1967 Receives Bradford Washburn Award from Boston Museum of Science.
- 1970 Dies, Provincetown, MA, September 7.