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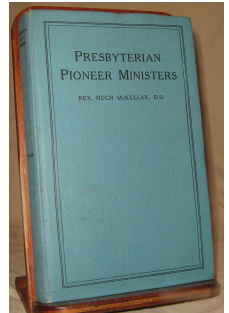
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Presbyterian Pioneer Missionaries - 1924 CA0239

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About this CD.

Presbyterian Pioneer Missionaries

The title continues - *in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia*. This book was authored (although edited might be a more accurate description) by the Rev. Hugh McKellar, D.D. in 1924. In his introduction the Rev. Hugh makes it clear that he was motivated to make a permanent record of the pioneer missionaries who helped to carry the Presbyterian ministries into the developing prairie and western provinces of Canada. The Rev. Hugh does not lay any claim to the completeness of his record but to judge from the listing of ministers and missionaries sent into the western provinces included in the rear of the book it would appear to be quite exhaustive.

The reason I use the term "editor" rather than "author" is that many of the later biographies and reminiscences are attributed to other writers, either in answer to Rev. Hugh's inquiries, or in writing about the subjects for other purposes, i.e., church reports. Many of the written reports are accompanied by photographs - or in a couple of instances - drawings - of the subjects, sometimes including their spouses and occasionally showing the buildings from which they conducted their ministry.

Clearly the primary reason for inclusion in this book is work done in the provinces from Manitoba westward but so many of these individuals had previously established ministries in the east and so the book also includes much of the personal history of the Presbyterian church personnel in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

While the book is primarily about the lives of the missionaries their stories are inextricably bound up with the story of the development of the Canadian west so that the reader will find this is also a history of the settlement of western Canada starting with the idealistic settlement along the Red River, championed by Lord Selkirk - the source of so much political wrangling and violence.

A valuable resource both for its personal histories and as a guide to the early history of the Canadian west. Fully computer searchable with searches speeded up by our use of FastFind technology.

Presbyterian Pioneer Missionaries

in

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta
and British Columbia

by

Rev. Hugh McKellar, D.D.

PRICE \$2.00

TORONTO
MURRAY PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED
1924

INTRODUCTION

THE chief reason for writing and printing the following sketches is to keep in remembrance the names, life and work of the pioneer missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Manitoba and the North West Territory, (now organized into the two Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta). There are also recorded sketches from and of several of the early missionaries in British Columbia, besides interesting facts given by some of the pioneer settlers other than missionaries.

It is true the labors of the leaders will be recorded and kept in remembrance in different ways, but the names and labors of the great majority will be left unrecorded. This applies to other callings and professions as well as it does to the Gospel ministry. It is an instinct deeply seated in the human breast, wishing to be kindly remembered by one's own friends. The Master Himself left a memorial of His dying love with His true followers.

REV. HUGH MCKELLAR, D.D.

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CHAPTER I

BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTES RE THE PLANTING AND GROWTH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MANITOBA AND NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

THE story of the Red River settlement established early in the 19th century on the banks of the Red River is most interesting, especially to Presbyterians.

The Earl of Selkirk in 1810 secured from the Hudson's Bay Company one immense tract of land including the Valleys of the Red River and the Assiniboine. He undertook to establish a colony within a limited time and assumed the cost of transport, of outlay for the settlers, of Government, of protection and of quieting the Indian title. This contract was made with the Hudson's Bay Company.

There were two rival companies at the time, *viz*: The Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. The North West Company was bitterly opposed to the Earl's plan and protested against the Hudson's Bay Company selling lands to him and objected to establishing an agricultural colony in the North West.

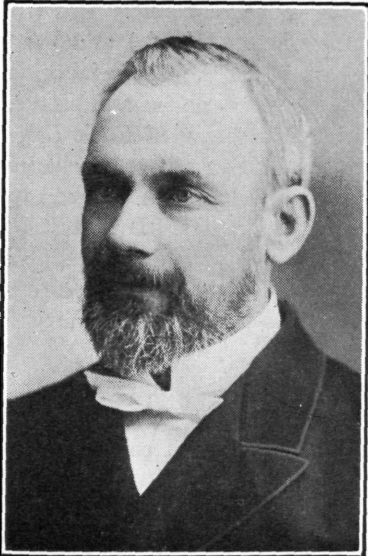
In the face of this opposition the Earl sent out a company of settlers consisting of seventy Highlanders, chiefly from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and about fifteen or twenty natives of the west of Ireland, who after a tedious journey, reached Red River in 1812. Here they found themselves unwelcome visitors, because of the opposition of the North West Company. They were compelled to spend the winter in Pembina—seventy miles to the south. A majority of them were persuaded to be transferred to Upper Canada, now Ontario, where they were offered two hundred acres of land per family, where their descendants may be traced to the present day. The remnant betook themselves to Norway House, north of Lake Winnipeg, but were brought back under the protection of the Hudson's Bay Company.

CHAPTER II

THE EARLY MISSIONARIES

Rev. James Farquharson, D.D., Pilot Mound, Man., writes:

“YOUR card of January came to hand. I am not sure that I can give you much help in writing up the early ministers of Southern Manitoba as memory is my only available source of information at present.



REV. AND MRS. JAMES FARQUHARSON, D.D.
Pilot Mound, Southern Manitoba.

So far as I know, the Rev. H. J. Borthwick was the first missionary in that region. He began his first work at Tobacco Creek and surrounding country, the district in which Carmen is situated. How long he labored there I do not know, nor do I know exactly when he left it; but it was probably in the fall of 1879. At any rate he spent the winter of 1879 and 1880

me to look up the Peace River, and Grande Prairie country. Mrs. Forbes and I started out with ponies and buckboard and covered about 1,200 miles, visiting Athabasca Landing, Lesser Slave Lake, Peace River Crossing, Dunvegan, Spirit River and its various points, and everybody (only a few) on Grande Prairie. In February following we returned to take up the work and here we have remained.

"Mr. Robert Simpson was the first to be sent to Peace River district and settled at Spirit River, I think, about the year 1903. He remained two years. In the interval it was vacant.

"In 1909 I had service there and made periodical visits there, visiting and holding services until, I think, 1913, when Rev. Mr. McVey was sent out. Then followed Rev. J. Thompson for six months, and now Rev. J. Pritchard. Peace River Crossing was always Anglican, until larger settlement, when Methodists and Presbyterians went in, and our man, Rev. W. Graham was appointed there in 1914, I think.

"I may say that Rev. J. Thompson was also six months at Pouce Coupe. That is eighty miles west of here. Country has developed and it is still developing. Railway came in 1916. Hospital opened, 1913, and several churches built. Plenty of room for extension. Dr. McQueen and Mr. Simons know a good deal about the work here."

The Rev. James Chalmers Herdman, D.D. (From Knox Church Magazine, Anniversary Number, Calgary, October, 1919).

We are privileged to give in this number appreciation of the late Dr. Herdman by his brother, the Rev. A. W. K. Herdman, who is engaged in the active work of the ministry in the Presbytery of Calgary, by Mr. James Short, who knew him intimately; and by the Rev. Hugh McKellar.

Dr. McQueen, of Edmonton, writes:

"Dr. Herdman came to Calgary from Chatham, N.B., I think, in the fall of 1885, just after the turmoil of the rebellion of that year had subsided, and remained as pastor of Knox church until his appointment as Superintendent of the Synod of British Columbia and Alberta by the Assembly of 1902. Calgary was in the Presbytery of Regina for some time prior to the

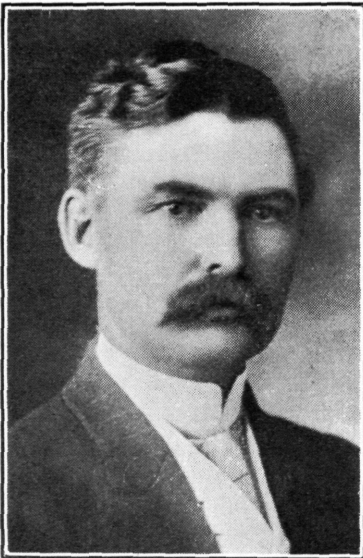
CHAPTER X.

SKETCH OF MISSION WORK IN ALBERTA

BY REV. G. R. LANG

MRS. Lang and I, with our two young children, arrived from Ontario at Olds, Alta., a little town fifty-six miles north of Calgary, the sixth day of November, 1901.

I was appointed to take charge of that ordained mission field by the late Rev. James Robertson, D.D., who was at that



REV. G. ARTHUR, M.D., LEVOY, ALBERTA
Formerly in charge of Vegreville schools.



REV. G. R. LANG, STROME, ALBERTA
Formerly of Vegreville, Alberta.

time Superintendent of Missions for the whole country lying between the east boundary of Manitoba and the Pacific Ocean. My predecessor was the Rev. Hector MacKinnon, one of the many MacKinnons from the Maritime Provinces, who have devoted their lives to the work of the Presbyterian Church.

CHAPTER XV

LIST OF PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES IN MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

1. Mr. James Sutherland, Elder, 1816-1818.
2. Rev. John Black, D.D., Kildonan, 1851-1882.
3. Rev. James Nesbet, Manitoba and Prince Albert 1862-1874.
4. Rev. Wm. Fletcher, Portage la Prairie, 1868.
5. Rev. John MacNab, Little Britain, 1868.
6. Rev. Alex. Matheson, native of Kildonan, 1866.
7. Rev. D. B. Whimster, teacher in Kildonan Mission School.
8. Rev. Dr. George Bryce, Professor of Manitoba College, 1871.
9. Rev. Thomas Hart, Professor Manitoba College, 1872.
10. Rev. Dr. W. C. Clark, 1872.
11. Rev. Samuel Donaldson, Meadowlea, 1872-1873.
12. Rev. Alex. Frazer, High Bluff, 1872-1873.
13. Rev. Edward Vincent, Prince Albert, 1873.
14. Rev. James Robertson, D.D. Winnipeg, 1873-1874.
15. Rev. Hector Currie, Manitoba, 1874.
16. Rev. Hugh McKellar, Prince Albert, 1874.
17. Rev. James S. Stewart, Gladstone, Man., 1875.
18. Rev. Alex. Stewart, D.D., 1875-1876. Prince Albert (Chaplain Mounted Police Force).
19. Rev. Allan Bell, Portage la Prairie, 1875.
20. Rev. D. C. Johnston, Prince Albert, 1876.
21. Rev. D. McRae, D.D., Neepawa 1879, and Victoria, B.C.
22. Rev. H. J. Borthwick, Mountain City, Man., etc. 1876.
23. Rev. James Duncan, Manitoba and Prince Albert.
24. Rev. Finlay C. J. McCord, B.A., C.P.R. Construction Camps, 1879.
25. Rev. W. R. Ross, Southern Manitoba, 1880.
26. Rev. James Seivright, Prince Albert, 1880.
27. Rev. D. Stalker, D.D., Gladstone, Man. 1881-1892, then called to Calumet, Mich.