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generations

The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

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Cover: The Brandon Agricultural Extension Centre, where the Manitoba Genealogical Society held their SEMINAR '82. This building was formerly Brandon Teachers' College.

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The Chairman of Publications invites articles and news items from all members of the Society and from anyone else having an interest in genealogy. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced, with adequate margins.

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THE GROWTH OF THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT

by Barbara Johnstone
former Curator of the Hudson's Bay Museum

The history of the Red River Settlement at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers goes back to the geographical feature of the rivers and the extremely arable land along the banks - the rivers as highways and the land as being good for grass and vegetable crops. Today it is hard to realize that at one time goldeye could be scooped out by the dozen with one scooping, and that sturgeon were gaffed in what is now a very muddy water about Winnipeg, which is an Anglicized form of the Indian word meaning "muddy water".

To tell the story of the growth of the Red River Settlement one must have an understanding of the locations of various parishes and ten specific groups who, between about 1810 and 1870, made up the settlement. Three forts were built at the forks in the northwest quarter of land about where the C.N.R. Station and Hudson's Bay House now stand: Fort Rouge, Gibraltar (North West Company), and Upper Fort Garry. There was another fort along the Red River between McDermot Avenue and Notre Dame East called Fidler's Fort which was built around 1819 for the Hudson's Bay Company. Then, close to the present C.P.R. Station, was Fort Douglas built on the point of land on a big bend of the river across from the mouth of the Seine River. About twenty miles lower down the river was Lower Fort Garry.

Fort Rouge was not a fort in the sense that we think of a palisaded fortress, rather it was a wintering house built by LaVerendrye for temporary use. Fort Gibraltar was built strictly for fur trade use; Fidler's Fort apparently also strictly fur trade; and Fort Douglas, while it was a Hudson's Bay Company fort, was the defence area for the Selkirk Settlers.

In 1826 we had one of our destructive floods and Governor George Simpson, on the advice of the Indians who said that the land where Lower Fort Garry would be built had never been flooded to their memory, decided to move the main fort and colony to this location and construction work began in 1832. Another reason for its being built here was because there were rapids at St. Andrews necessitating unloading and portaging of cargo from the fur trade brigades, and Lower Fort Garry being below the rapids meant that this nuisance was eliminated. However, the settlers who had lived at "The Forks" and started their homes could not be persuaded to move and so our city has grown up in what we knew to be a flood area.

There are six parishes going north from Winnipeg along the Red River, five Anglican and one Presbyterian. St. John's was adjacent to the Fort Douglas area and was the first Anglican church in the West. The present Cathedral is the third edifice and not only is a beautiful church but is in the centre of a graveyard in which lie the oldest white citizens of this first colony in the West. Just north of St. John's (at what was called the Frog Plain), in 1851, the Selkirk Settlers who had been here for forty years built their Presbyterian church called Kildonan after the parish in Scotland from which so many of them had come. Just north of Kildonan, at what was called the Image Plain (and as you drive along the highway north and look over to the prairie on your left in the summertime heat you may often see mirages which is likely the reason for the name of this Plain), the middle Anglican church of St. Paul was built in

1829 in what today is called Middlechurch. People who lived here were retired fur trade servants and in the little wooden church of St. Paul you will find a rather unusual window in the chancel: instead of stained glass it is painted. The Old Folks Home at Middlechurch used to be an Anglican industrial school for Indian boys and girls. Here the boys were taught carpentry, printing and farming and the girls were taught how to take care of a home as well as being taught their three "R's".

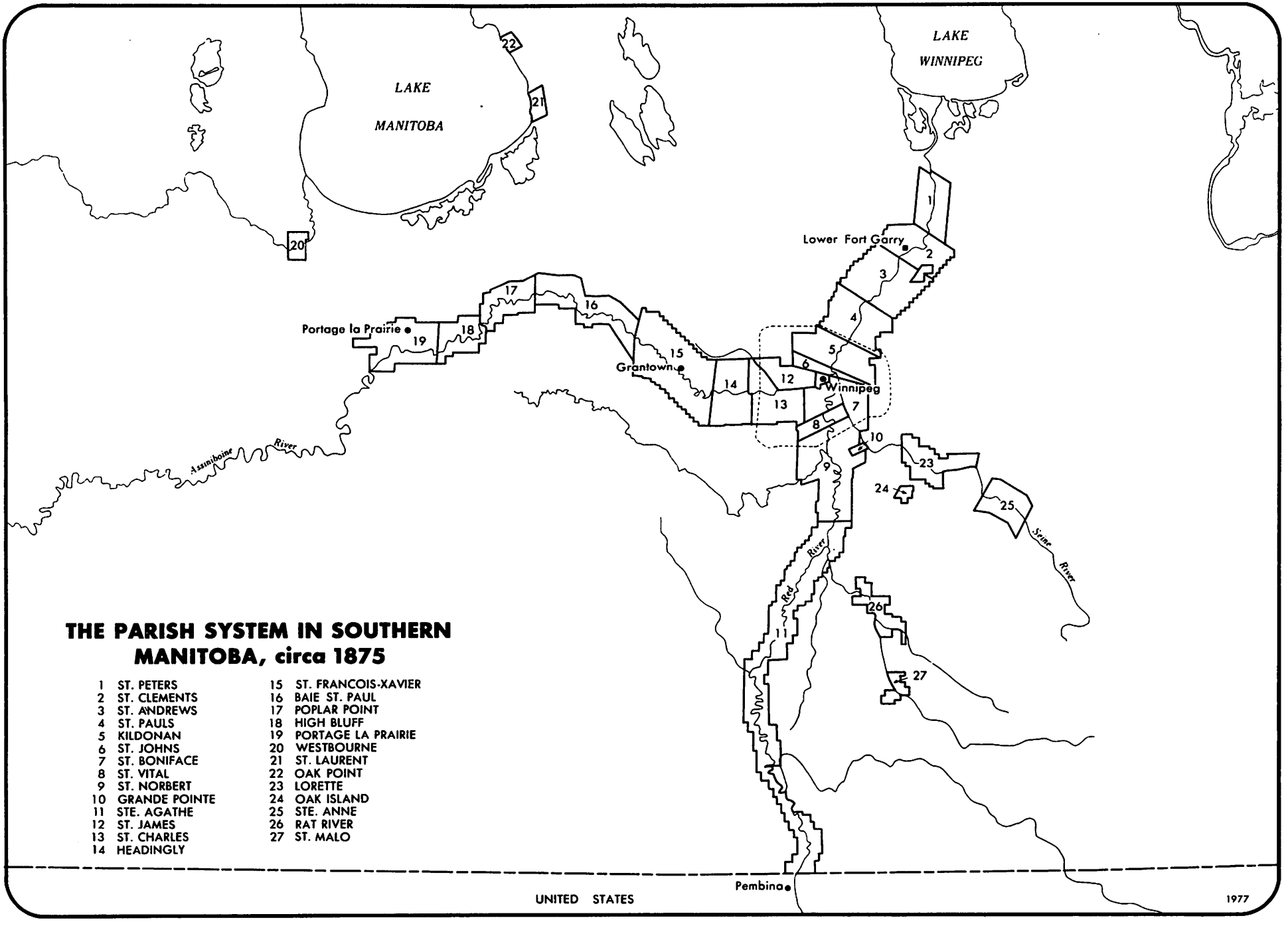
The next parish north was St. Andrew's, which had the largest population of all the parishes and the most wealth, for here the officers and servants of the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies retired after the union of the rival concerns in 1821. Many of them had spent years in this country and so had considerable finances invested in the Old Country so that they not only were able to send their children to the Old Country to school and university but also they were able to set them up as Red River Cart or York Boat freighters in the days when these forms of transport were the parallels of our trains and trucks of today. The fact that their fathers were fur traders meant that most of the sons followed this form of life and as they grew up they, too, went into the North West and for this reason, 150 years later, it is hard to find on the mail boxes many names associated with these settlers, but here again there is much history in the churchyard of St. Andrew's. The present old stone church was the second one and was begun in 1832 and consecrated in 1849.

Between Lower Fort Garry and Selkirk on the river road you will come upon a little stone church which looks as if it has been transported from England. This is the parish church of St. Clements, which was known as the Garrison Church of Lower Fort Garry. In its tower John West's bell, from the first St. John's Church, now hangs.

Below the town of Selkirk (six miles) on the east side of the river is a beautiful little stone church which is called St. Peter's. This was the centre 140 years ago of an extremely progressive Indian farming settlement. In its graveyard lies Peguis, the Saulteaux chief, who was such a good friend to the settlers, and anyone familiar with fur trade history finds innumerable stones to the memory of Indian boatmen and dog team drivers who were most faithful servants and friends of both fur trader and settler.

Back at "The Forks" along the eastern bank of the Red and stretching south until it joins the parish of St. Norbert, then Ste. Agathe, is the parish of St. Boniface, the centre of the Roman Catholic faith and that church's first parish in the West. Many people remember Whittier's poem about the bells of the turrets twain: "and the bells of the Roman Mission that call from their turrets twain to the boatmen on the river, to the hunter on the plain." This was not the church he referred to because it has suffered several fires, but it still has two turrets. As you walk up the sidewalk to St. Boniface Cathedral, on the left is a large stone over the grave of Louis Riel, and here, too, are the graves of such outstanding pioneers as John Rowand Jr., and many another giant of our pioneer days.

from GENERATIONS Vol. 2, No. 3 Fall 1977



THE PARISH SYSTEM IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA, circa 1875

1 ST. PETERS
2 ST. CLEMENTS
3 ST. ANDREWS
4 ST. PAULS
5 KILDONAN
6 ST. JOHNS
7 ST. BONIFACE
8 ST. VITAL
9 ST. NORBERT
10 GRANDE POINTE
11 STE. AGATHE
12 ST. JAMES
13 ST. CHARLES
14 HEADINGLY
15 ST. FRANCOIS-XAVIER
16 BAIE ST. PAUL
17 POPLAR POINT
18 HIGH BLUFF
19 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE
20 WESTBOURNE
21 ST. LAURENT
22 OAK POINT
23 LORETTE
24 OAK ISLAND
25 STE. ANNE
26 RAT RIVER
27 ST. MALO

West along the Assiniboine from "The Forks" the land stretching from about Donald Street west around Armstrong's Point was an area occupied, around the 1850's and thereafter, by pensioners who came here as police-settlers, and also Hudson's Bay Company servants who retired and took their grants here. Then we come to the parish of St. James whose settlers were primarily those people who came out as farm labourers with the Hudson's Bay Company's experimental farms in the 1840's and 50's. West of St. James we come to another plain called the White Horse Plain and to the parish of St. Francois Xavier, which was formerly called Grantown after Cuthbert Grant, the Warden of the Plains, who as warden was the leader of the Metis buffalo hunters who called this section of the Assiniboine their home when not on their nomadic wanderings in search of the buffalo.

It should be noted that the original settlers' lands were all grants of so many chain lengths along the rivers and that they stretched two miles back and each lot had a further two miles which was called hay privilege. Some lots were paid for and others were granted to people in exchange for services to the Hudson's Bay Company. We can understand more clearly why we have the peculiar street formations in the wholesale district in Winnipeg in that angle of land between Main Street North and Portage Avenue when we realize that this section is at the apex of the triangle of lands which fronted on the Assiniboine and ran back, and on the Red and ran back. Main Street used to be called the King's Road and was originally of course an Indian trail along the Red. Portage Avenue was the Portage Trail because it was the trail leading to Portage la Prairie from which place trails branched off to the west or north.

Insofar as some of our early streets are concerned, Alexander Ross, a chief trader in the Hudson's Bay Company's Columbia District, who when he came to this colony on retirement became a sheriff here, held a land grant on the west bank of the Red River between Bannatyne Avenue and a point about four blocks south of the C.P.R. Station. When his sons grew up he divided his land frontage and the boundaries of their land are now known by their Christian names: William, James and Alexander Avenues. Similarly, when Alexander Logan, who had bought what was left of Fort Douglas and the land around it, divided his land between his sons, we have the formation of Henry, George and Robert Avenues running back from the river.

The ten groups of people who established the Red River Settlement and who each made their own particular contribution were:

1. The Indians of this area before the white man's time: Assiniboine, Ojibway, and later Cree.

2. The Metis (French Canadians and Indians) - St. Boniface and St. Francois Xavier mainly - buffalo hunters or trip men (Boats, carts and dog teams). Without these people who went into the southern country around Pembina, where the Sioux held power, in order to obtain supplies of pemmican and robes, not only to

feed the crews of the fur trade boats but also to feed the settlers, particularly in the areas of flood, famine and pestilence, this colony could not have survived.

3. Fur trade settlers in the St. Andrew's, St. Paul's, St. John's, St. James, St. Boniface and St. Vital parishes. These people knew how to live in this country, many of them were what they called English natives (mixture of Scot or Orkneyman and Indian). They understood the handling of the natives and they had finances which other settlers were not fortunate enough to have.

4. Lord Selkirk's Settlers (1811-1815). These were the people whose contribution lies in their holding the land as regular colonists through a number of difficulties ranging from being caught in a fur trade war to floods and grasshopper plagues.

5. The Des Meurons, 1816. Actually the Des Meurons were one part of a group of three disbanded regiments which had served Britain in the War of 1812 who were hired by Lord Selkirk in 1816 so that he could take the Red River Settlement back from the North Westers. They lived around the mouth of the Seine River and adjacent to Fort Douglas and their contribution was the defence of this colony.

6. French Canadians from Quebec, 1818. These families, who were good farmers, were brought out to Pembina with the hope that the rather wild Metis buffalo hunters would intermarry with them and settle down to a more civilized way of life. When the boundary line (49th Parallel) was drawn and it was found that these people were on the American side, many of them came north and settled in the parishes of St. Boniface and those south and east of St. Boniface. Like the Selkirk Settlers they contributed to the steadiness of the settlement.

7. Swiss, 1822. These were people sent out by Lord Selkirk's agents from Switzerland. They were mechanics and labourers. They were not farmers or buffalo hunters. They had no equipment and they had a very difficult time; indeed, they eked out an existence here by doing any other jobs that any other colonists would give them to do. When the flood of 1826 came, they had had enough. The Hudson's Bay Company arranged transport for them into the Minnesota territory where there were towns in which they could practice their several trades. But in the Swiss party was a sixteen year old boy, Peter Rindisbacker, who painted over forty pictures of people and life activities in the Red River Settlement which were the first pictorial series that we have for a record.

8. H.B.C. Experimental farmers. These farms which the Company established were not successful due to administration and some of the people brought out were among the lowest of types, but as in any group there were some of outstanding calibre, the leading man in this group being Gowler, and several others who had excellent farms in the St. James area.

9. In the 1850's pensioners from the British Army came out to replace soldiers who had been stationed at both Upper and Lower Fort Garry in 1846-7. They stood for the law and also became responsible settlers along the Assiniboine.

10. The Ojibway (Saulteaux) and Cree Indians at St. Peter's across from Selkirk provided a nucleus of boatmen and labourers and as long as they had sufficient supervision on their farms their small farming settlement did very well, but the earliest giants of the Anglican church - Cochrane, Smithurst - were not succeeded by men of similar stature and so the farms of the Indians declined over the years.

It is interesting to notice that we have always been, in the Winnipeg area, a cosmopolitan people. For instance, in 1843 the census figures tell us that there were 571 Indians, 151 Canadians, 61 Orkneymen, 49 Scotsmen, 22 Englishmen, 5 Welsh, 2 Swiss, and one each from Wales, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland, United States, and one Eskimo.

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GENERATION GAPS

HUDSON

William Hudson, 1825-1908, married Alcy Fairbairn 1848. Children: Robert, Jane, William, Annie, George, Thomas, John (twins - deceased?) Wakefield, Quebec. Any information.

Mrs. Loraine Boisjoli, R.R. #1, Dugald, Man. ROE OKO

JOSLYN

John Howard Leslie Joslyn b. 24 Dec 1855 to John Joslyn and Hannah Wilkins Joslyn, was Methodist circuit rider in Ontario & Manitoba, in Miami/Morden area 1899. Did he leave any church records? Any information on his ancestors.

Jonathan Bacon, Box 14853, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215, USA

SEARCHING THE SMALL CEMETERY

by Linda West *

Since the summer of 1978 the Brandon Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society has been researching cemeteries in the western Manitoba region. The survey includes both cemeteries currently in use and long-forgotten burial grounds which are located on private property and often date back to the 19th century.

The majority of cemeteries are easy to locate, being situated in churchyards or maintained as commercial or government ventures. While these provide interesting research for the genealogist, the real challenge is in locating the very old private cemetery.

This is often a difficult task because of the small size of these burial grounds and the fact that most are overgrown with vegetation and have fallen into a state of general disrepair. Many have been damaged by vandals.

Searching out these cemeteries involves talking with oldtimers, checking with local historians and walking many a country mile following diverse clues. Patience and a firm belief in the importance of the task keep the genealogist out in the field searching when his feet are sore and he feels like giving up.

Because the private cemetery often predates the keeping of written records for the area it served, these relics of the past are a valuable source of information. It is here that dates and other details not available anywhere else may be discovered and recorded pertaining to pioneer families.

Locating an old cemetery is only the beginning in terms of hard work. The determined genealogist may have to use a saw and hatchet to chop away brush and clear a path to entangled headstones.

Poison ivy, sunburn and insect bites are all normal hazards of the job. Encountering wildlife such as skunks who react strongly to being disturbed is another possibility.

Once a weathered marker is reached, it may prove almost impossible to read. Chalk or charcoal are sometimes rubbed on a stone to bring into relief worn lettering. These materials wash off with the next rain and do not harm the stone.

Nor is the genealogist content to settle for what meets the eye. A metal prod is carried to help locate any markers which may lie buried a foot or more under ground. A shovel and crowbar come into play in unearthing and lifting submerged stones and a stiff brush is employed to scour the stone of moss, lichen and earth.

As may be imagined, a sore back and blistered fingers are occupational hazards the genealogical field worker takes for granted.

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* Note: this is adapted from an article in the BRANDON SUN September 1, 1979, and is reprinted by permission of the author.

The recording of information is meticulously handled. Two or more people work separately to record data, then cross-check for accuracy. Only what can be read with certainty is recorded as fact. In the case of hazy lettering, opinions such as "may be Mary Smith" are sometimes included in the transcription.

Generally, the older the stone the more information it bears. Today's inscriptions tend toward brevity and often contain only the deceased's name and years of birth and death. These terse markers are a potential source of disappointment for future generations of genealogists seeking information on ancestors living in our time.

Among the information recorded on an old gravemarker may be the names of other relatives and details such as military service and membership in clubs or fraternal organizations. These extra facts provide clues the genealogist can follow up if he wishes to expand his knowledge of the life of an ancestor.

Many of the old stones mark the resting places of children. Some record the death of an entire family within a few days, mute evidence of the virulence of epidemics such as diptheria which decimated the populations of many pioneer communities.

Inscriptions like "Our Angel, July 7, 1887, Aged 3 Months 4 Days," bring home to the heart the high price many families paid for the building of a new country.

When a cemetery has been fully researched, a booklet is prepared containing information on the location and history of the graveyard, an alphabetical listing of the names of all individuals interred within it and a map of the grounds which notes everything from the position of each grave to the location of roads and landscape features such as trees and shrubbery. Each plot is numbered on the map and cross-referenced to the alphabetical listing.

The final portion of the booklet is devoted to the meticulous reproduction of the inscription on each and every gravemarker, right down to a description of decorative features such as praying hands or a cross.

Copies of each booklet are placed in local libraries, rural and national archives and in the library of the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

By contacting any of these sources, the genealogist or historian can have a search made and acquire all the information he desires from a particular booklet for a nominal fee. The fruit of local research is expected to prove a boon to people living in other parts of the world who are searching for early family roots in the western Manitoba area.

Editor's Note: To date the Brandon Branch has completed transcribing about 76 rural cemeteries and three Brandon cemeteries, with a total of approximately 90,000 names. An overall index of the three Brandon cemeteries is being compiled for those who don't know which cemetery to search.

THE 49TH PARALLEL AND THE NORTH WEST ANGLE

by Marjorie Forrester

The following is a combination of two articles, "Shooting the Stars and Chaining the Land" and "That Northwest Angle", which appeared in The Beaver published by Hudson's Bay Company, and is reprinted with the permission of the author and the publishers.

Though the 49th Parallel had been set in 1783 as the boundary between the United States and Canada, it was not until 1871 that numerous incidents and disagreements forced the American and British governments to set up a joint commission to mark the International Boundary from the northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of about 860 miles, which would make the line continuous from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. The boundary from the Rocky Mountains west to the coast had been agreed upon in 1846 and marked by 1862.

Colonel J. S. Hawkins of the Royal Engineers, who had been the commissioner in charge of establishing the boundary at the west coast in 1858-62, gave a full description of the work to be done, the terrain to be covered, the clothing needed for the great variety of weather to be encountered, an estimate of the probable cost, and of the time likely to be taken. He recommended the use of large working parties on account of the short summers and suggested the routes which could be followed to Red River where operations should begin.

A note was included in the report to the effect that early maps indicated that the meridian due south from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods seemed to cut off a piece of land, leaving it in United States territory, and "this land should be retained for Canada if possible."

Captain S. Anderson, R.E., who had been on the previous commission, was made chief astronomer with the new British boundary commission. The Canadian government requested that Captain D. R. Cameron, R.A., (the son-in-law of Sir Charles Tupper) be named as the British commissioner. Captain A. C. Ward, R.E., was chosen as secretary to the commission and accompanied Captain Cameron to Washington in advance of the main party. There these officers were able to meet and discuss matters with the American officials with whom they would be working.

The remainder of the British Commission consisted of three astronomers, Captains Anderson and Featherstonehaugh and Lt. Galwey, all from the Royal Engineers; surveyors Colonel Forest of the Canadian Militia, Mr. Lindsay Russell, P.L.S., deputy Surveyor-General to the Canadian Government, and Sergeant Kay, R.E.; a group of sappers from the Royal Engineers, most of whom were trained to various trades which included carpentry, blacksmithing, harness making, photography, tailoring, and shoemaking.

Besides this, some sub-assistant astronomers and many hired scouts, axemen, teamsters, and haymakers were engaged in Canada. Dr. Burgess was the medical officer, assisted by Dr. Millman; Captain L. W. Herchmer, formerly of 1st Ontario Rifles, took on the position of commissary, Dr. Boswell was the veterinarian and Professor G. M. Dawson the geologist and botanist. These last mentioned Canadian officers were given financial allowances equal to those received by the British officers.

The British party, with supplies, left Liverpool on the 22nd of August 1872. After landing at Quebec they travelled by lake boat to Toronto, by train to Collingwood and by steamer to Duluth. With permission from the government of the United States, the party went up the St. Louis River and took the train to the Red River of the North. At Moorhead Commissioner Cameron and Secretary Ward joined them, and the march to Frog Point took place, by way of the old coach road. From here they embarked upon the Dakota to reach their final destination.

On 20th September 1872, Her Majesty's North American Boundary Commission was settled under canvas just a little north of the Hudson's Bay post of North Fort Pembina. Captain Featherstonehaugh wrote of this settlement: "There were at that time only about three or four buildings where the boundary strikes the Red River, called North Pembina. One was the Canadian Customs House, another was the Hudson's Bay post which was surrounded by a palisade, the others mere log huts inhabited by half-breeds. Exact position of the boundary not known but American Fort Pembina about three miles south."

In preparation for the coming of the commission some buildings had been erected at a point about two miles down the river. This was called North Pembina, but was later renamed Fort Dufferin in honour of the Governor-General of Canada. The buildings first put up were inadequate to house all the supplies and animals, so more building took place during the winter of '72-3.

The two commissioners agreed that the first thing to do was to find the correct point at which the 49th parallel intersected the Red River. When this was done, it was found that the Hudson's Bay post was three hundred feet north of the line, but the Canadian Customs House stood just over five hundred feet south of the line and thus in United States territory.

Incidentally, this first Canadian Customs House in the west was eventually moved across the border and is now preserved and houses a small museum at Emerson, Manitoba.

When the work began in earnest the men were divided into three astronomical parties, three surveying parties, and the staff. Each group had its own transport and equipment. Captain Anderson and Captain Twining reached the Northwest Angle in October 1872. After much difficulty the site of the reference monument was found, under eighteen inches of water.

Captain Cameron would not agree that this was the proper reference monument, as he (and presumably his Government) hoped that some adjustment might be made in the boundary. He felt strongly that the Angle should remain in Canada. However, Captain Cameron did consent to cut a sight line from the monument due south until it struck the shore of the lake.

This cutting proved to be a fearful task, as the ground was very swampy and the men never knew when they would sink up to the armpits in horrid muck. Once the frost set in the work was easier. The struggle to cut this line across the Angle continued for sixteen miles, three hundred and ninety seven feet. It was finished on 21st November 1872.

Meanwhile, Captain Featherstonehaugh had taken his astronomical party to Lake Roseau intending to set up a station there. His plans were disrupted when he found the lake to be about six miles south of the boundary. He had great difficulty in finding a ridge of land close to the boundary and solid enough to hold a camp.

When the parties were preparing to take to the field in September a three-day equinoctial gale blew up, hindering their movements and causing the men much discomfort. But all through the terrible winter of '72-3 the work across the swamp went on, the ground surveyors chaining their measurements, the astronomers making their observations by "shooting the stars."

With supplies being hauled from headquarters to the various camps and depots, scouts carrying mail and orders, astronomical and surveying parties setting up and taking down camps, the slow ox teams of the British and the faster mule teams of the Americans working their way through deadfalls and across streams, and dog teams hustling from place to place, the 49th presented a busier appearance at that time than ever before or since.

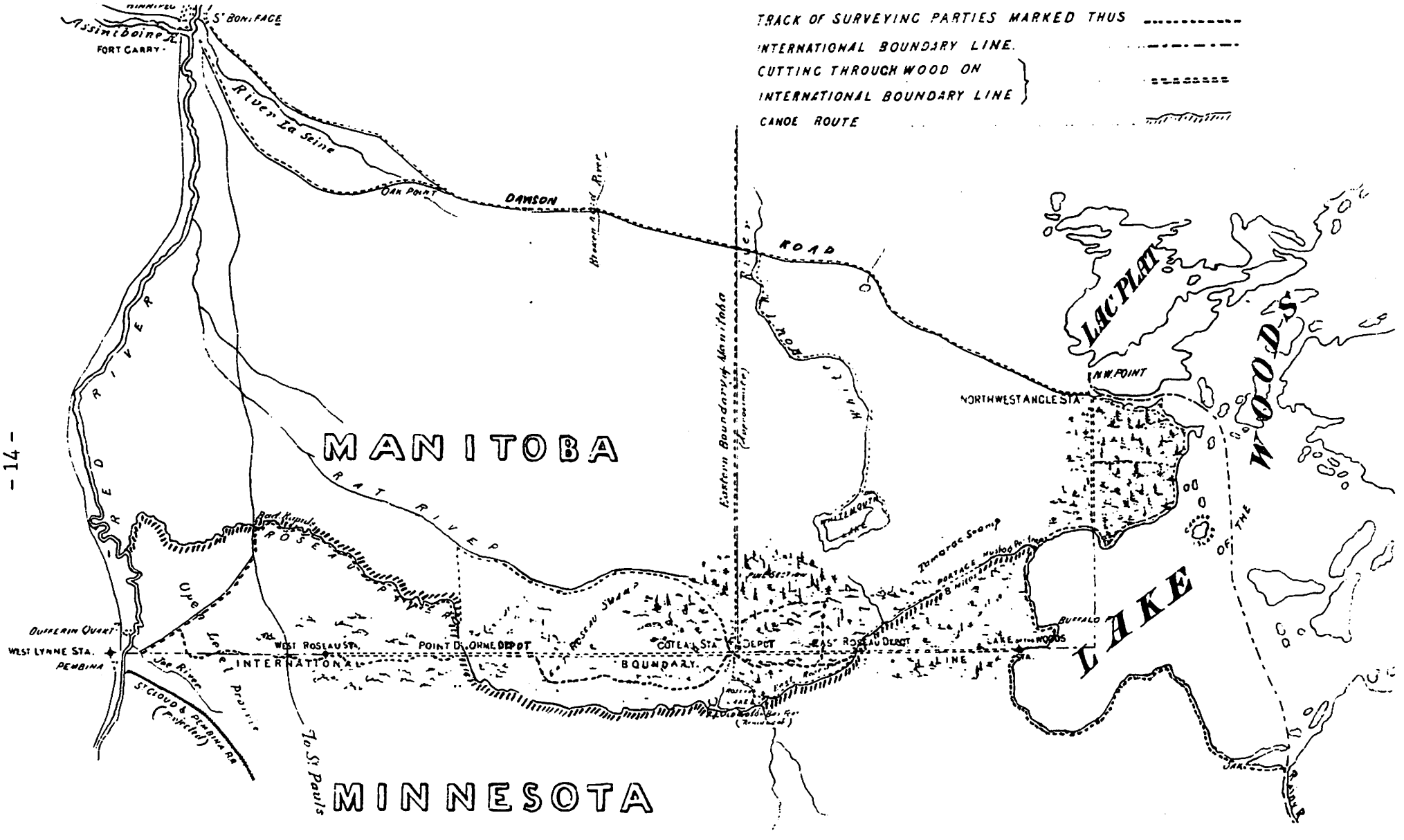
When the meridian line was cut from the Northwest Angle due south and the line had been surveyed and cut from the Lake of the Woods to the Red River, the parties returned to headquarters. Actually, work did not cease in the area of the Angle as long as the Boundary Commission remained in Canada.

In the spring of '73 work began on the part of the boundary west of the Red River. The British and American parties established alternate astronomical stations and rapidly crossed the prairies. In fair weather they could shoot the stars and complete observations in three days and nights. In cloudy weather sometimes a week was spent at one station. The surveyors marked the line and made their network of chains over a strip of land six miles wide along the 49th parallel.

The troubles encountered in the work here were entirely different from those encountered east of the Red River. Camps had to be located where wood and water were available, but prairie fires often ruined the grazing and damaged the wood. Veterinarian Boswell complained that the depots were too far apart for the transport animals and that they should be given time to rest between trips. At one point wood for fires had to be carried sixty miles, but it would seem that some of the country had once been wooded, for one of the men mentioned digging roots out of the ground.

Farther west mountains and rugged country made travel difficult, though the reconnaissance parties found and marked old trails used by hunters. At times roadmaking parties were sent out to make travel possible.

During the latter part of 1873 a site was chosen for a second main supply depot at Wood Mountain. Here the company saw their first buffalo. They came upon a settlement of Metis hunters who showed the only hostility that was ever encountered. Long wagon trains brought supplies from Dufferin and more were purchased at Fort Benton in Montana.



Sketch map showing Northwest Angle, Dawson Road, and Indian canoe route explored by G. M. Dawson

Another unpleasant feature of the western plains was the fact that much of the available water was very alkaline. This made the men sick, even if the sloughs had not been used as buffalo wallows. If the fly-tormented buffaloes had wallowed in the pools, even the domestic animals shunned the water, but this did not happen until the vicinity of Wood Mountain was reached.

On 18th August 1874, the advance party of the commission found the trail to the monument erected by the Colonel Hawkins commission of 1858 operating from the west coast. The old monument was found to be in perfect condition. It was at the summit of the Rocky Mountains, 7,100 feet above sea level.

The surveying parties finished the topography of the boundary, and joined all the other groups to return to Dufferin together.

The iron marker posts were hauled during the winter of '74-75 and placed by a small group of men.

This brought to a close the field work of the commission, but there still remained the reports to prepare and the affair of the North West Angle to settle.

Captain Cameron suggested that the boundary be established to follow the Rainy River to the Lake of the Woods, then along the south shore of the lake to its intersection with the forty-ninth parallel. An alternative suggestion was to continue the line north from the mid-channel of the Rainy until it met the forty-ninth. This was less desirable because it would mean a water boundary.

While discussions were in progress, work was going on to make a careful appraisal of the actual value of the land in question. D'arcy East, a topographer with the commission, classified it under: mineral wealth, agricultural capacity, timber growth, fisheries, facilities provided for communication within Manitoba, and between the east and west of Canada, fiscal arrangements involved in transfer, hindrance to fugitives from justice, advantage for military defence, and avoidance of international references which would result were the territory to become Canadian.

Cameron's report to his government stated that under the first four headings, that is, the natural resources of the Angle, there was nothing to make a change in the boundary desirable, but that otherwise the land was of great value to Canada.

Many dispatches circulated between London, Washington, and Canada, before the question was settled. The British government suggested that the piece of land be ceded to Canada by the United States, since it would only be a bill of expense to the Americans, but instructed Lord Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada, that if it be not ceded, then the Canadian government should be prepared to name a sum she would pay for it. Sir Edward Thornton, British Minister to Washington, had been instructed to sound out the American Secretary of State, Hamilton Fish, to see if anything could be arranged. Fish was not at all encouraging. He stated that the American people and their government would be reluctant to give up any part of their possessions. When next approached by Sir Edward, Mr. Fish said that he had discussed the idea of a change in the boundary with President Grant, but the proposal had not met with approval.

It was a time when rapid communication between the three governments was needed, but not available. There had been a telegraph line to Winnipeg since 1871, but often service was disrupted for weeks when prairie fires or storms brought down poles.

Cameron had from the first refused to sign agreement on the boundary at the Angle, but was finally ordered to do so. Too late, he received instructions to delay his assent. The Canadian government had decided that it would be willing to pay $25,000 for the land, an order-in-council to that effect being passed in November 1874. But with the slowness of communication, and the unwillingness of the American government to negotiate, no change was made and the incredible bulge on the boundary remains.

When all the field work was done there remained the preparation of reports. These reports seemed longer than the boundary itself, so may only be mentioned briefly.

Dr. Burgess, in his medical report, tells that only two fatalities occurred among the commission, one being that of Charles Randall, a cook with Colonel Forrest's party. He was presumed to have died of a ruptured appendix when beyond the reach of a doctor. The other was William Wilson, who was instantly killed by a falling tree.

Several bad accidents occurred which caused temporary shortage of manpower. George Poulter was kicked by a horse, which resulted in a permanently stiff ankle. He was discharged and given $450 to enable him to start a small business. Another case was Sapper McCammon. He was coming home from an evening at Pembina when his gun accidentally discharged, injuring his eye so badly the sight was destroyed. Lieut. Rowe, R.E., was thrown when his horse stumbled in a badger hole, and had to be returned to England with a servant.

The diseases suffered by the men varied according to the localities in which they were working. There were the usual afflictions of snow-blindness, frost-bite and rheumatism in the swamp country; delirium tremens and venereal disease at headquarters near the settlement, and trouble from alkaline water in the west. Unusual were cases of malaria in the Turtle mountains. Besides his regular work, Dr. Burgess treated many Indians who frequently suffered from lung ailments.

Dr. Millman was the assistant medical officer, and Dr. Burgess also had a servant and five teamsters. His equipment consisted of horses, two spring carts, four ambulances which were good except that their wheels were set too far apart for the trails, so were rough for the passengers, two water carts with zinc-lined boxes instead of the barrels on wheels which served the other parties. The outfit also contained two bell tents, two Hudson's Bay tents and one hospital tent or marquee. Besides this, each depot was furnished with a medicine kit in which were explicit directions for the treatment of such common accidents or illnesses as would most likely be encountered.

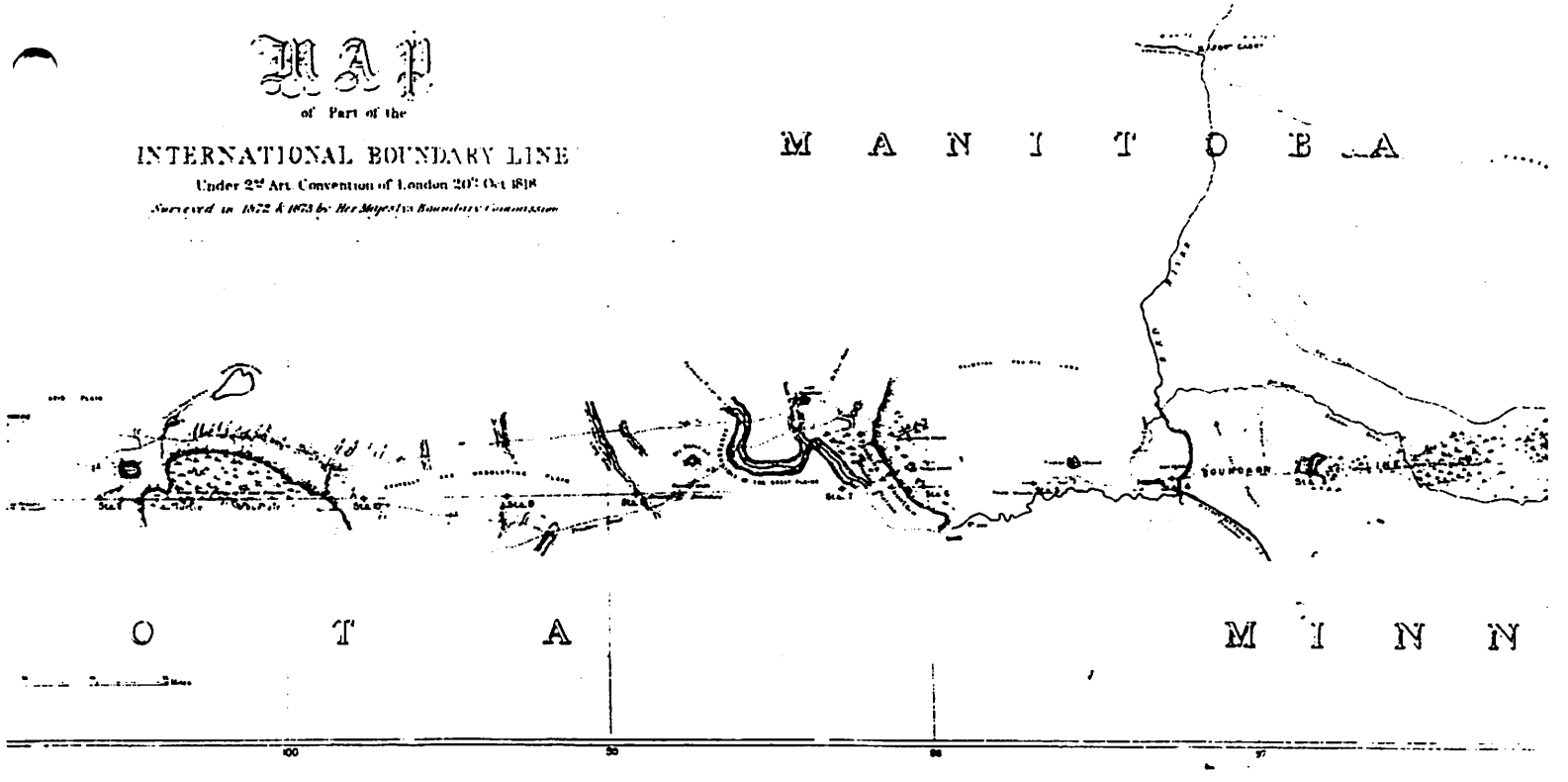
Geologist G. M. Dawson gave a minute description of the flora of the country, as well as depths and types of soil along the boundary, and collected samples of grasses and flowers. He was probably the first to report the deposit of coal in what is now southern Saskatchewan. His published report contained much information about the West.

Veterinarian Dr. Boswell overcame almost insurmountable difficulties in carrying out his duties. In the spring of 1873 he had the task of bringing a large number of horses up from Ontario. The streams were so swollen that the horses had to swim them. None were lost. Dr. Burgess insisted on ample rations for his animals, and suggested shorter hauls between depots, with days of rest after specially arduous duty.

Captain L. W. Herchmer won great praise for his efficiency in keeping the supplies for the men and livestock at the various depots in all kinds of weather and over very bad trails. During the operations of '73 his supply line was over four hundred miles in length and in '74 it was over eight hundred miles. Besides basic stores, excerpts from the ledger show that whisky was sold at seventy-five cents a bottle, pocket handkerchiefs at six for eighty-four cents, a moose hide for $6.65 and twelve tins of preserved fruit of the lime for $5.40.

Many of the supplies were left and were taken over for use by the newly formed North West Mounted Police, and the property of Fort Dufferin was acquired by the Canadian government to be used as an immigration centre.

The final step in the establishing of Her Majesty's North American Boundary was taken when the Imperial government received, on 5th May 1876, the sum of £27,478-16-1 as Canada's share of the cost of the commission. Later that month the protocol concerning the whole southern boundary was signed in London.



A section of the International Boundary Commission's Survey along the 49th Parallel 1873 from Historical Atlas of Manitoba, by John Warkentin & Richard I. Ruggles, published by Manitoba Historical Society 1970, p. 174. Reprinted by permission.

GENERATION GAPS

"Generation Gaps" is the query section of GENERATIONS where researchers can seek the help of others who may be researching the same families. Members may place up to two free queries each year. Additional queries, or those placed by non-members, may be inserted for a fee of $2.50 each time the query is printed.

ALLOTT BRADSHAW

Edward Allott and Eliza Ann Bradshaw, both born in England. 5 children born in Ontario between 1863 and 1875? Emma Amelia married Samuel B. Todd in 1885 at Uxbridge, Ontario. Henry became a Veterinary Surgeon and lived for 40 years in Portage la Prairie, died there in 1940. Agnes possibly became Mrs. George Sharpe of Winnipeg. David William Bradshaw living at 513 Raglan Road, Winnipeg in 1918. Allott Frank Bradshaw alive in 1918.

Mrs. Christine Bradshaw, Whitfield House, 126 Prestbury Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England 5K10 3BN

CONDON

Johnson Lafferty (Lafe) Condon, b. c1831 in Binbrook twp, Wentworth Co., Ont., son of Johnson L. & Amelia Condon, married his cousin's widow Sarah (Sally) Ann (Bertram) Condon in 1863, children Thomas, John & Charles (twins), Susan. Possibly went to Winnipeg c1891. Did he remarry? Any other children? When died? Where buried?

Audrey Delaney, 106 Pleasant Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2M 1M1

SUTHERLAND

Is any member researching the many Sutherlands who were employed by the Hudson Bay Company from the late 1700's until the arrival of the Red River Settlers in 1814? I will gladly share my notes.

Mrs. P.M. Lindsay, 2189 Henry Ave., Sidney, B.C. V8L 2A8

WHEELER

William Wheeler, wf Harriet, dau Elizabeth listed in 1881 Denbigh, Lennox & Addington census. Moved to Manitoba sometime after 1881. Would like to know where the family located in Manitoba. Also would like to hear from anyone doing WHEELER research. Will exchange information. All replies will be answered.

Mrs. Harry Hammar, Box 651, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A. 50010

BOWIE LANG

Oswald Bowie, b. 1826 ?Scotland, d. ?Morden, Man. Married to Ellen Lang b. 1844 North East Hope, Ont., d. 1937 Morden. Had 8 children: William m. Mary Jennie Johnston; Peter m. Eva Jane Stewart; Robert; Oswald; Grace m. Robert Bloxom; Betsy m. Edward Godfrey; Maggie; Annie. Info on any of the above would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Lana Fox, R.R. 4, Box 18, Shaver Rd., Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3H8

GENERATION GAPS (continued)

ALLEN/ALLAN — Robert Allen was at Fort Dunvegan 1846. What doing? Parents? Birth? Dtr. Mary b. 10 Aug. 1846 at Fort Dunvegan, m. 1) William Lucas Hardisty 1861, 2) Edwin Stewart Thomas June 1883 Winnipeg. Any other descendants? Specific research sources?

SCARBOROUGH — Charlotte Scarborough, "Half-Breed", wife of Robert Allen. Parents? Birth? Specific research sources?

Charles Denney, 502, 8315 - 105 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 4H4

PIANOWSKA KULCZYCKI — Marcella Pianowska, b. about 1877 in Sokal, Austria?, came to join husb. Stanislaw Kulczycki 1907 Camp Morton, Manitoba. Brought 3 sons with her, 2 born Camp Morton or Gimli. Any relatives of Marcella? Lived 1907-1910 on property 1 mile west of Camp Morton store. Did they own property? My grandfather Stanislaw Kulczycki came to Canada 1906.

Mrs. Mae Ostrowski, #306 - 36 E. 14 Ave., Vancouver B.C. V5T 4C9

MACKENZIE/ MCKENZIE — Roderick & Angelique MacKenzie retired to Red River settlement, d. 1858, buried at St. Andrew's, Lower Fort Garry. Son Samuel b. Ile a la Crosse, N.W.T., m. 1) ?, 2) Ann Spencer, died Prince Albert, Sask. 1879. Any members of said family?

FARWELL/ FAREWELL — Walter A. Farwell m. Ann Spencer McKenzie, lived Deloraine/Hartney, Manitoba area 1884-1923?

ROSS — William Roderick Ross, grandson of Samuel & Ann McKenzie, law student St. John's Wpg. 1884.

MCGIMPSEY — Robert McGimpsey m. 1) Margaret Hawthorn, 2) Florence Hayler, came to Canada 1910, d. 1910 Prince Albert, Sask. Relatives?

Mrs. Shirley McGimpsey, 18 River Ave. E., Dauphin, Man. R7N OJ4

REIMER HARDER — Jacob Reimer, b. 2 Feb. 1858 in Russia, m. Anna Harder 16 Dec. 1879, d. 10 July 1939 in Blumenthal, Sask. Was only son of Abram Reimer (b. 14 Feb. 1828) & Elisabeth Penner (b. 31 Mar 1834).

PENNER HEIDE — Anna Harder, b. 12 Mar 1860 in Russia, d. 9 Oct 1935 in Blumenthal. Anna and Jacob had 11 children including triplets who d. at birth. Anna was dtr of Johann Harder and Anna Heide.

BERGEN REMPEL — Peter Bergen, b. 15 Jun 1832, prob. in Neuendorf, Russia, m. Maria Rempel (b. 7 May 1833), d. 17 Sep 1902. Emigrated to Canada 1876. Children: Peter, Wilhelm, Dietrich, Jacob (stayed in Russia until 1925), Maria, Katharina.

Lois Bergen, 2431 25th St. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T3E 1X5
