

Anglican Archives in Rupert's Land

by **WILMA MACDONALD**

Until 1870 the vast area which is now northern Quebec and Ontario, the prairies, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and portions of British Columbia was known as Rupert's Land. Prince Rupert, with sixteen associates, who were incorporated by Letters Patent as the Honourable the Hudson's Bay Company, was granted this vast territory in 1670 by King Charles II. The new trading company acquired a region extending over 2,700,000 square miles. To protect its lucrative and increasing fur trade, the company successfully resisted attempts to colonize the territory. No effort was made to minister to the few Christian people in the widely scattered forts of the Hudson's Bay Company or to evangelize the native peoples until the early nineteenth century. In 1820, some six years after the tenacious Orkney Islanders established an agricultural settlement on the banks of the Red River, guided there by the Earl of Selkirk, the company sent out an Anglican chaplain, the Reverend John West (1778-1846).

Although West was appointed to minister to the company's officers and servants, he also looked after the needs of the small Scottish colony and took great interest in the Indians. He established a school in the Red River settlement on a lot of land set apart for church purposes by the company (on which the Cathedral Church of St. John now stands in Winnipeg). West's efforts laid the foundations for missionary work and also marked the beginning of formal education in Manitoba. The small school he began in 1820 was followed by the Red River Academy, founded by John Macallum and revived by Bishop David Anderson. Anderson renamed the school St. John's College in 1866. In 1877 the college joined with three other Winnipeg educational institutions to form the University of Manitoba.

West was the first of a great many missionary priests who, with their wives, established the Church of England in Rupert's Land. By 1849 Letters Patent were issued by the Crown to authorize the first bishopric in Rupert's Land. The Leith Charity, a legacy of former Hudson's Bay Company factor James Leith, provided the means to support the first bishopric west of the Diocese of Quebec. Bishop George Jehosaphat Mountain of the Diocese of Quebec, who had visited the Red River settlement in 1844, was instrumental in recommending to church officials in England that a diocesan structure be established. The Reverend David Anderson (1814-1885) was consecrated the first Bishop of the Diocese of Rupert's Land in 1849. Anderson served until 1865. He was succeeded by Bishop Robert Machray (1831-1904) who served until his death.

Bishop Robert Machray felt strongly the need of further diocesan organization. On 30 May 1866, he assembled the first conference of clergy and lay delegates held in the diocese. Ten clergymen and eighteen lay delegates travelled great distances to reach the Red River settlement. These delegates represented nine missions. Their meeting laid the groundwork for the formation of the first Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land, which was held on 29 May 1867. Machray also oversaw the founding of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land in 1875. This administrative body linked the several scattered dioceses which by then had been created from portions of the immense original diocese. Machray went on to become the first Primate of All Canada when the four Ecclesiastical

Provinces of the Anglican Church of Canada joined to form General Synod in 1893. It was not until the Reverend Samuel Pritchard Matheson was consecrated the third Bishop of the Diocese of Rupert's Land in 1904 that a Canadian-born priest held this office.

Although the name Rupert's Land is no longer used as the civil designation of the former Hudson's Bay Company's territory, it is still retained in the name of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land. This church province embraces the whole of the original territory other than the present dioceses of Yukon and Moosonee. The province is divided into ten dioceses, one of which is still the Diocese of Rupert's Land. The Diocese of Rupert's Land comprises a small part of southern Manitoba.

This brief introduction to the early history of the Anglican Church of Canada in Rupert's Land provides a context within which to place the "Rupert's Land Archival Project '84." The project's main aim was to identify the surviving records of the church's activity in the region and then to bring them under proper archival control. A survey on this scale had not been undertaken by the Anglican Archives before. With the cooperation of the General Synod archivist, Terry Thompson, the Chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, D.A. Thompson, applied in 1983 for financial support for the project to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. A Research Tools grant of \$25,650 was awarded on 1 September 1983. The Ecclesiastical Province, the Diocese of Rupert's Land, and the General Synod each provided grants in cash or provision of services or both. Work commenced on 3 January 1984.

Preliminary inventories were made of the Diocese of Rupert's Land (DRL) material housed in the Anglican Centre in Winnipeg and of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land (PRL) records on deposit in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. The PRL collection contains official records of the nine dioceses from their dates of formation to the 1950s. These records are Synod Journals of Proceedings and Constitutions and Canons. The administrative records of PRL include House of Bishops' minutes; Certificates of Election of Bishops; Orders of Service for the Enthronement of Archbishops; a Registry book containing the official Consecration certificates (1884-1970); other records of the Registrar, Secretary, and Treasurer of Provincial Synod; Boundaries records; Clergy Superannuation Fund and Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund records (1909-1937); and records related to the Centenary of the Church in Rupert's Land (1820-1920).

Many valuable manuscript collections, such as David Anderson's Papers, complement the official PRL records. The Anderson Papers include Church Missionary Society instructions to the first bishop dated 5 June 1849; correspondence with the Governor and Council, Rupert's Land and the Church Missionary Society concerning the Presbyterian settlement (1850-1853); and correspondence with Robert Machray (1865-1878). The Robert Machray Papers (unfortunately greatly reduced by fire while in the possession of a family member in Great Britain) include correspondence with Hudson's Bay Company officials between 1860 and 1870. The PRL's manuscript holdings also include several translations of Chipewyan and Slavi manuscripts into the Tukudh language by William Carpenter Bompas (1834-1906). Bompas served as a missionary in the Mackenzie River region between 1865 and 1874. He was elected the first Bishop of Athabasca in 1874. In 1884 he became the first Bishop of Mackenzie River Diocese and in 1891 the first Bishop of Selkirk (Yukon), where he remained until his death. He was the author of *Diocese of Mackenzie River* (1888); *Northern Lights on the Bible* (1892); and *Symmetry of Scripture* (1896).

Translations of portions of the Gospel into several native languages form a major part of the PRL collections. These works include John Thomas Griffin's Cree translations. Griffin (1871-1960) served in the Diocese of Moosonee (1911-1921); he was Principal of the Indian School at Moose Fort (1921-1927) and missionary at Fort George (1927-1933). The holdings also include the Slavi-English translations of James R. Lucas (1867-1938), who was missionary in charge of Fort Simpson (1909-1913); the Tukudh translations of Robert McDonald (1829-1913), who served as missionary at Fort Youcon, Alaska (1862-1871) as well as at Fort Macpherson, Diocese of Mackenzie River (1871-1905); and the Blackfoot translations of John William Tims (1857-1945), who was a Church Missionary Society missionary on the Blackfoot Reserve, Gleichen, Diocese of Calgary (1883-1895) and the Sarcee Reserve (1895-1930).

The papers of Robert McDonald warrant special mention as one of the most complete collections. The papers contain his private journals for 1852, 1861-1883, and 1887-1912 (sixteen volumes); correspondence (1863-1913); Mss sermons; ordination certificates (1852-1853); Tukum Mission translations, notes (1858-1896); Mackenzie River District Census [1858]; accounts (1878-1909); and biographical notes (1910-1911). All of the Robert McDonald journals have been transcribed. Typed copies form part of the collection. The correspondence includes letters (1893-1913) from Bishop William Day Reeve (1844-1925). (The journals were indexed by the Yukon Native Language Centre, Whitehorse, in April 1985.)

Originals and copies of historical documents as well as printed material and publications related to the Church of England and its missionaries form the very large personal collection of Dr. T.C.B. Boon (1887-1979). Upon learning that there were large amounts of Boon's material in the basement of the Cathedral Church of St. John and in St. John's College archives, the decision was made to leave them unarranged during the survey. Dr. Boon's diligent collecting was done during his association with St. John's College, while holding clerical charges in Manitoba and Alberta, and subsequently when he was the archivist for the PRL. During his tenure as archivist, the PRL entered into an agreement with the Province of Manitoba which resulted in deposit of the manuscript and book sections in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. (The province was not, however, given ownership of these materials.) Between 1955 and 1959 Dr. Boon, assisted by Christopher T. Best, devised a four-digit numerical system for arranging the PRL records and prepared a lengthy inventory for both of the sections. (The book section alone has over one thousand texts.) In 1959 this inventory was deposited with the PRL records when they were placed in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

Over the next twenty-five years, supplementary materials were accessioned by the Provincial Archives for the PRL archives. Many of these additions were a mixture of archival and non-archival materials which required allocation into one of the two sections. In view of the "on deposit" agreement, the staff of the Provincial Archives had no mandate to give the collection the attention it needed. A host repository is justifiably shy of allocating both the professional staff time and money required to do such work.

The PRL manuscripts occupy 6.5 metres of shelf space. They contain paper and parchment documents, maps, photographs, glass negatives, slides, and newspaper clippings. Conservation work was outside the mandate of this particular project. However the Accessions Memoranda identify collections which require conservation work. In the meantime, the PRL archival records have adequate space, security, and a proper physical environment in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

The DRL archives consists of eighteen metres of administrative records and manuscript material and 16.5 metres of parish registers and records. The Canons of the DRL Synod give the Registrar responsibility for parochial registers which are no longer in use. All textual records are expected to be retained in the parishes themselves. However, parish officials often request storage of these records with the DRL archives. A complete list of parish registers, with dates of births, confirmations, marriages, and burials, was prepared during the survey before accessioning. The oldest parish records include the historical Red River churches of St. Andrew's (Lower Fort Garry, 1835-1984); St. Paul's, Middlechurch (1850-1961); and Winnipeg's Cathedral Church of St. John (Upper Fort Garry, 1813-1979). One hundred and five parishes have deposited their registers in the DRL archives.

The administrative records of the DRL include Acts of Incorporation, Letters Patent, Constitution and Canons (1849-1980); Synod Journals of Proceedings (1866-1983); Endowments and Trusts (1849-1975) (including the original Leith Charity); the minutes of the first Executive Committee, later known as the Diocesan Council (1867-1983); and minutes of the Finance Committee of the Church Missionary Society (1850-1947). They also include the Red River District Missionary Accounts of the Church Missionary Society (1847-1877); Diocesan Mission Board records (1882-1916); Woman's Auxiliary and Anglican Church Women records (1894-1979); Mackenzie River Episcopal Endowment Fund records (1904-1945); as well as records of the Diocesan Synod Office, ([1920]-1976). The latter includes some correspondence from bishops, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Director of Administration of Diocesan Synod. In addition, the DRL archives contains minutes, statistical records, and correspondence for the Rural Deaneries of Dufferin, (1909-1924); Lisgar (1892-1945); Portage La Prairie (1913-1960), and Winnipeg (1922-1971).

Few of the bishops of the DRL left their correspondence, diaries, or personal papers in the archives. Whether they are still in private hands is a question yet to be answered. Some correspondence, certificates, photographs, and printed material has been left by Samuel Pritchard Matheson, the third bishop, for the period 1875-1940; an account book kept by Robert Machray on a fund-raising trip to England (1871-1872); and correspondence of William Cyprian Pinkham between 1887-1888. Pinkham was consecrated Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary in 1887. Two decades earlier he was Superintendent of Education for Protestant Public Schools of Manitoba (1871-1883). The probable loss of his correspondence during this period is lamentable. He was also Chairman of the Board of Education for the North-West Territories in 1887.

The DRL collection includes manuscript sermons, notebooks, financial records, and clippings of the Reverend John William Tims from about 1882 to 1935. Also included within Dr. Boon's papers are the papers of Miss S. Leslie Bell, a nurse with Anglican missions in Saskatchewan and Alberta during the mid-thirties. She wrote several articles using the by-line "Graham Cathcart" and illustrated them with her own photographs. They are an excellent source for the social history of prairie missions during the depression. Dr. Boon used many such acquisitions related to the lives of clergymen and missionaries in the PRL as the basis for his book, *The Anglican Church From the Bay to the Rockies* (Toronto, 1962). Boon's research index cards and the galleys for his book form part of his personal papers in the DRL archives. A large diocesan photograph collection and a small collection of films also form part of the DRL archives.

The project was able to show where there are gaps in the records. (During the course of the project several important additions were acquired.) Furthermore, when PRL records were found in the DRL holdings, and *vice versa*, permission was obtained to make the necessary transfers from one set of records to the other. This action, documented with conversion lists, filled gaps in several collections, thus increasing both the administrative, legal, and historical values of both archives. Concurrent with the survey, certain complementary projects were undertaken. These included a parish records survey, a St. John's College summer student archival project, a survey of the PRL's book section for manuscript materials, and the standardized listing of archival collections in the remaining eight dioceses, excluding the Diocese of the Arctic. (Its records are kept at the General Synod Archives in Toronto).

In order to carry out the first complementary project, a questionnaire was sent to each parish of the DRL requesting information on the types of records currently created as well as a description of any archival records. The response rate was high and the data obtained will greatly assist the diocese in its proposed new records management-archival programme. Theoretical as well as practical assistance was provided to the three students hired in 1984 by St. John's College under a Canada Summer Works grant to establish the first formal archives of this historic institution. Dr. Murdith McLean, the great, great grandson of the first Warden of St. John's College, the Reverend John McLean, is its current warden. (John McLean later went on to establish Emmanuel College in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan while serving as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatchewan.) Dr. Murdith McLean, and college students Christopher Hackett, Christine Melnick, and Robert Hole made a good start on arranging and describing the college's archives, advertising to alumni members the existence of the archives, and planning a proper space for the permanent storage of the records. Visions of a Winnipeg-based "Anglican Archival Research Centre for Studies into Missions and Education in Rupert's Land" were conjured up and enthusiastically discussed when the students dropped by the Anglican Centre during the summer of 1984.

At the Provincial Archives of Manitoba a survey of the PRL book section was made with the help of Dr. Boon's original inventory. This identified additional manuscript materials amid the leaves of several books. These were added to the manuscript section. In addition, bound minutes were transferred to the manuscript section from the book section and conversion lists provided. Items not previously listed were added to the book section inventory, and all identifying bookplates were noted for future reference. It was noted that several rare books require conservation work.

The project's final task involved placing 1,078 standardized descriptions of collections into a computer database. Archivists of the dioceses of Athabasca, Brandon, Calgary, Edmonton, Keewatin, Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon, as well as of the former diocese of Mackenzie River, participated in this final stage of the project. The project archivist researched over seventy biographies, and produced printouts for editing and indexing purposes. These form the basis of a published guide.¹

In many ways, the project is only a first step in the direction of preserving the Anglican Church's records in Rupert's Land. For example, it is important to ensure that future

1 The *Guide to the Holdings of the Archives of the Ecclesiastical Province and Dioceses of Rupert's Land* will be published by St. John's College Press, Winnipeg. Inquiries about this publication, or the archives, may be addressed to Mr. D.A. Thompson, 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 1W6.

additions to the "on deposit" PRL collection receive proper attention, that the collections receive conservation attention, and that official records are regularly deposited.

Officials of the Anglican Church have always known that the Rupert's Land archives are valuable. However, this view has to be translated into ongoing archival support. Since the time of Dr. Boon's tenure as PRL archivist, no one has been given exclusive responsibility for the PRL archives. The only exception is the period of time in which John Bovey was the archivist (1970-1979). Similarly, since Dr. Boon's time the DRL collection has not had a full-time archivist. Acquisitions have simply been accepted by DRL Registrar, D.A. Thompson, and Assistant Registrar, Myrna Brownlee. A great many genealogical inquiries and requests for verification of birth, marriage, and death dates are answered by staff members of the Diocesan Synod Office, and yet relatively few researchers are aware of the historical value of the diocesan archives. The staff of the Provincial Archives of Manitoba will accession records, but is not obliged to arrange and describe them or to see that they are properly stored or conserved. The Chancellor of the PRL, D.A. Thompson, relies upon volunteer help to carry out clerical tasks from time to time. A records management-archival programme commenced in 1985 in the DRL also utilizes volunteer help.

More professional archival assistance is required. Priority should be given to processing properly the Boon Papers, which are now located in at least four buildings in Winnipeg. Their contents will probably reveal valuable clues to the still unknown provenance of many PRL/DRL collections accumulated by Dr. Boon. This knowledge will obviously only enhance the value of the rich archival legacy of the Anglican Church in Rupert's Land.

Collections and Collectors: Photo History VI

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Photo History VI, the triennial symposium and trade fair of the Photographic Historical Society of America, took place in Rochester, New York, from 12-14 October 1985. Though geared primarily to the concerns of private collectors of photographica, it also attracts archivists, curators, and historians. This symposium presents a perspective that is neither academic nor professional, but rather that of avid and astute collectors, many active in personal photo-historical research. A number of those present were either active or retired employees of the photo industry.

Although the organizers attempted to satisfy as wide a range of interests as possible, the focus was on American photographica collections and collectors. There were a number of talks by museum and gallery curators, supplemented by talks about research methods and the history of the medium. David Allison, Director of Photographic Sales at Christie's of London, gave a somewhat anecdotal discussion of his career but revealed little about the auction scene in Britain, save to note that there were many bargains for Americans.