

A SOUVENIER

— IN MEMORY OF —

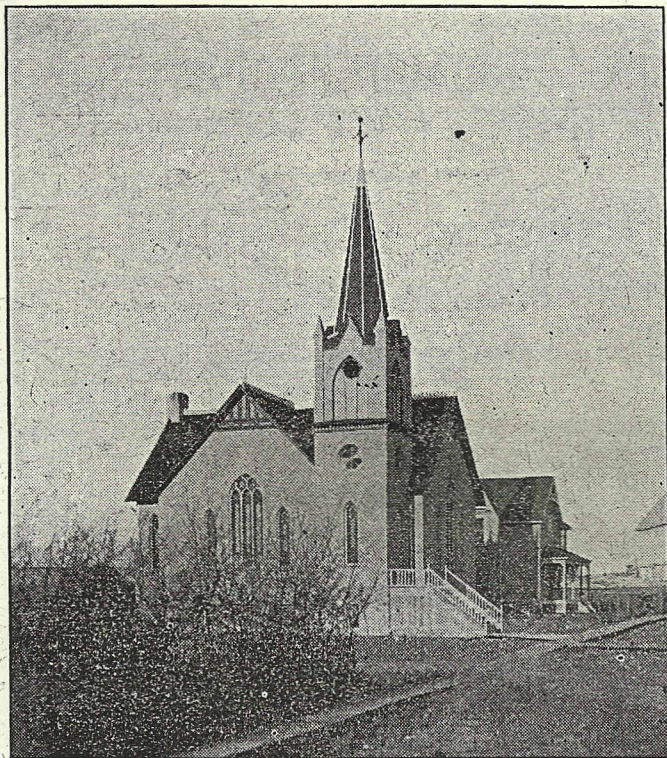
KNOX CHURCH

HAMIOTA, MANITOBA

AND OF ITS FOUNDERS
AND SUPPORTERS

1880—1930





KNOX CHURCH, HAMIOTA

FOREWORD.

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IN writing the story of Knox Church, the committee made use of the records they had. Some of the records could not be found, and there were, doubtless, families identified with Knox whose names have as a result been omitted.

A part of the story is taken from a Souvenir booklet, printed when the present Church was dedicated in 1905.

Most of the personal incidents found in connection with the affairs of the Church have been intentionally left out, as we were trying to deal with the Church as an institution.

KNOX CHURCH, HAMIOTA

1880—1930



“I will stand upon my watch ; I will set me upon the tower.”—Habakkuk 2:1.

As in the early days of Israel a watchman was placed in the tower over the gates of walled cities to warn, comfort and protect, we of this community have reason to be thankful that, divinely guided, the first settlers organized a Church, that it might be a watchman to bring warning, protection and comfort to the people.

About September, 1880, the Rev. Jas. Robertson, D.D., to whom the west owes a debt of gratitude, sent the Rev. John McArthur from the Indian Reserve near Beulah to the new settlement, in what is now the Hamiota district, to find out the possibilities of founding a Church.

The first traces we find of Mr. McArthur in our district, were two pastoral calls—one at the home of Mr. Wm. Pedlow, where he held family worship with Miss Pedlow, then crossed the prairie to section “37”, where Mr. Christopher Curry and his sons, William and Abraham, were getting out logs for a house. There, in

a bluff, Mr. McArthur held worship, a union service—three Methodists and a Presbyterian. Mr. Abraham Curry remembers, to this day, their feeling of relief, when their visitor proved to be a minister and not a timber inspector.

The first service of public worship in this district was held beside the unfinished house of the late Mr. Walter Whyte, with the following persons present: Rev. John McArthur, Mrs. Robertson, sr., deceased, her son Peter Robertson, who for many years was Precentor, Mr. James O. Fraser, deceased, Mr. Alexander Fraser, deceased; Mr. James Howie, sr., deceased, father of the late James Howie; Mr. Rudd, sr., deceased, and his black dog Carlo, that so many of the pioneers loved; Mr. and Mrs. John Riddell, sr., deceased; Miss Margaret Riddell, of Hamiota; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Rankin, sr., deceased, and Mrs. William Anderson, of Hamiota. Mr. William Anderson, of Hamiota, arrived late at the service, on his way home from section "37" with a load of wood, and was greatly surprised to hear the Psalms of David being sung in this new land.

As a result of the report made by Mr. McArthur, Dr. Robertson drove from the Big Bend near Elphinstone in the spring of 1881 and organized a Presbyterian Mission Field covering this district, with services at Tarbolton, Orrwold, Viola Dale, Bradalbane and Hamiota.

Regular services were held for some time at the home of Mr. Phillip Kerr, until a Hall was built on section 32-14-23 and used in the summer, the services in winter being still held at the home of Mr. Kerr. As the congregation grew, it was found necessary to repair the Hall so that it might be used regularly, and here all services were held until the year 1891, when the Kerr Schoolhouse was used for a time. In the fall of 1891 the Great N. W. Central R. R. put on a train service up to Hamiota, and at that time the congregation decided to move to the new townsite and worshipped for some months in the hall over The Echo office.

In 1892 the first Church was built on the site of the present building at a cost of \$2,000.00. The opening services were held in August, conducted by Rev. Dr. King, father-in-law of the Rev. C. W. Gordon, and grandfather of the Rev. King Gordon. The choice of the site was made by the Rev. James McEwan and Mr. J. O. Frazer, sr. Services were held regularly in the Church until May, 1905, when the building was moved to Arrow River, where it is still used for worship.

The history of the early days of the Church would be incomplete if special mention were not made of the self sacrificing labors of such men as Mr. Jas. O. Frazer, sr. and Mr. Philip Kerr. Mr. Frazer was the first Elder and did a great deal to promote the welfare of the congregation. Mr. Kerr was one of its most loyal workers

and much of the progress made was due to his enthusiastic interest. Mrs. F. C. Middleton is one of the few pioneers left to-day, and there are still many words of praise heard of the help she and Mr. Middleton gave during mission days in Hamiota and Viola Dale.

After the Rev. Jno. McArthur came the Rev. Mr. Smith, who had charge of the work from the Spring of 1881 until the Fall of the same year. His successor was Rev. Mr. Malcolm, who remained for three months, and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Cameron, whose ministry extended from August 1882 until the Spring of 1884. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Duncan who remained until the Spring of 1887 and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Gow, who remained until the Spring of 1890. Then the Rev. Mr. McEwan took charge and stayed until the Fall of 1891, when the Rev. Mr. Moore came and ministered until the Spring of 1900. The Rev. Charles Stewart followed him, remaining until the Spring of 1901. The Rev. J. J. Pryde was Pastor from 1901 till March, 1905; the Rev. H. G. Crozier from 1905 to 1910; the Rev. E. Turkington from 1910 until 1917; the Rev. George Lockhart from 1917 to 1925; the Rev. S. A. Martin from 1925 to 1927, and the Rev. J. M. Wallace from 1927 to June 30th, 1930.

In the year 1905 the present Church was built and dedicated, the ceremony being conducted by the Rev. Chas. H. Stewart and the Rev. W. A. McLean, and at

the annual meeting in January 1906 the congregation formally decided to call the Church "Knox".

During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Moore, Hamiota became a self supporting congregation and was joined with Scotia and Eden (now Oakner) to form a Pastoral Charge. Later Oakner joined with Oak River and Hamiota with Scotia. In 1917 Hamiota and Oakner became a Pastoral Charge, Scotia uniting with Palmerston and Kinsmore. In 1925 arrangements were made to give service to Scotia, and the field again became Hamiota, Oakner and Scotia, and continued so until July 1930 (when Knox and Zion Churches in Hamiota united to form one congregation known as the Hamiota United Church). Knox was organized as a branch of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and in 1925 became part of the United Church of Canada.

The first baptismal service was held at the home of Mr. Philip Kerr in 1882, the Rev. Mr. Tibb, of Rapid City, was the Minister. Those baptized were: May Frazer, May Leslie, Mary Anderson, Margaret Leith, Mabel Kerr and Margaret Rankin.

The Rev. Mr. Duncan was outstanding for the energy he used in covering the large mission field. He wore out one horse and gave it to the late Robertson Ross of Scotia, the first horse Mr. Ross owned. Later Mr. Duncan got a buckskin horse from Mr. J. O. Fraser Jr., but it dropped dead trying to pull a buggy with

two men in it from Bradalbane School to Hamiota and then to Brandon in one day.

The first Sunday School in Hamiota was a joint one, but at a congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church in January 1901 it was decided to organize a Presbyterian Sabbath School. A few weeks later this was done and the following officers were elected: Superintendent, Mr. G. H. McKague; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. E. M. Tennyson; Librarians, Mr. Stan Walker and Mr. J. T. Anderson; Organist, Mrs. G. H. McKague; Blackboard Artist, Mr. J. H. McConnell; Teachers—Mr. G. S. Fraser, Miss F. J. Fraser, Miss E. Kerr, Mr. F. Middleton, Mrs. L. B. Latimer, Miss K. Stewart and twenty-nine years and four months later Mr. G. S. Fraser taught the last Bible Class in Knox Church.

Unfortunately the early records of the Women's Missionary Society of Knox Church were lost, so many details are necessarily omitted. It was organized as a Foreign Missionary Society with Mrs. Fred Venables as the first President. Later a Home Missionary Society was organized in connection with the Ladies' Aid Society of Knox, and in 1914 the two united to form the W.M.S., which was active until union with Zion took place in July 1930. Great credit is due the Society for their work, for they headed the list of the Minnedosa Presbytery in the amount of their givings for ten or more years. Under their auspices a Mission Band, two

groups of the C.G.I.T. and a Home Helpers' Society were organized and prospered.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1902 and helped greatly through the years in the work of the Church. Miss F. J. Frazer was the first President and Mrs. W. C. Fraser the first Secretary.

Miss Flora Fraser (now of Miniota) was the Organist of the first Choir, and other members were Mrs. John Gutteridge, Miss V. Elliott, Miss Jennie Fraser, Mrs. John Riddell, Mr. J. Cummings, Mr. Baskerville, Mr. H. A. Fraser, Mr. Dave Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. John McKay.

As mentioned before, Mr. J. O. Frazer was the first Elder of the Church, other Elders elected in the years following were Mr. James Innis, Mr. D. D. Frazer, Dr. J. H. Fraser, Mr. Philip Kerr, Mr. Joseph Lorimer, Mr. W. C. Fraser, Mr. A. L. Sutherland, Mr. A. Kerr, Mr. G. S. Fraser, Mr. F. C. Middleton, Mr. John E. Hood, Mr. C. Cresswell, Mr. W. Mathison, Mr. John Lemon, Mr. John Morrice, Mr. Wm. Dick.

The history would not be complete, if mention was not made of the names of those families who, through the grace of God, have worshipped in Knox. The following family names are found on the Communion Roll: Anderson, Allan, Angus, Armour, Adams, Atkinson, Albright, Basler, Beattie, Bennest, Bennett, Brown, Beggs, Barrett, Baskerville, Bickle, Broughtin, Baird,

Burns, Chambers, Coombs, Collie, Cochrane, Clarridge,
 Catto, Caldwell, Cheal, Cresswell, Cavanagh, Crozier,
 Currie, Cummings, Colbeck, Chevrier, Clark, Daniels,
 Dick, Deuchart, Dean, Douglas, Dale, Drummond,
 English, Fraser, Fox, Frazer, Ferguson, Flewelling,
 Findlay, Fawns, Felstead, Forsythe, Featherstone,
 Gray, Geddes, Grant, Gutteridge, Goodall, Gibson,
 Gates, Hudson, Houck, Hiley, Hood, Hogeland, Hurd,
 Hyndman, Henry, Hepburn, Henderson, Hutchinson,
 Haney, Hotham, Heddesheimer, Hobson, Jamieson,
 Jordan, Johnston, -Jackson, Kerr, Kissock, Killoh,
 Kirk, Lief, Little, Lemon, Lockhart, Lanham, Lipsett,
 Latimer, Lorimer, Lawton, Lyness, Morrice, Marshall,
 Maitland, McMurachy, McKay, Middleton, Mair, Mills,
 Murray, Martin, Mathison, Munroe, Meldrum, Miller,
 Mountain, McGhee, McLaughlan, McNaught, McLaren,
 McRae, McIntosh, McKellar, McKague, McKie, Moore,
 McBain, McGuire, McConnell, McGregor, McLennigan,
 McClure, McMillan, Nairn, Newton, O'Neill, Orpin,
 Parks, Penny, Pryde, Parsons, Pittendreigh, Roberts,
 Reid, Riddell, Ruttan, Rutherford, Riddick, Rothney,
 Rennie, Robertson, Raymer, Russell, Ruberry, Ross,
 Sutherland, Strachan, Steele, Smith, Stacey, Scorgie,
 Stewart, Stone, Sproat, Sangster, Simpson, Sim, Scott,
 Stevenson, Stuart, Tremaine, Thompson, Tennyson,
 Thomas, Todd, Venables, Wright, Worden, Whiteley,
 Whyte, Wood, Wallace, Warren, Williams,

It is not easy to move that which is settled. So to those who have worshipped these many years in Knox Church, who helped build up the congregation, we would express here a word of appreciation for the generosity with which they gave way to the majority and went to worship in the other Church.

On June 30th, 1930, the Church was closed. Knox Church, as an organization, has done its work, good or poor. The Watchman came down from the wall and "finis" was written in the books of the Church. But let us remember that the Watchman came down to take his place higher up on the hill, where we hope the Church may have a wider view and the better bring comfort and help to our people.

