

# McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter



## WINTER 2012

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## 150 YEARS IN ALBERTA

In 1861, George McDougall was appointed by the Wesleyan Missionary Society to be the superintendent of the Honourable Hudson's Bay company territory. The natives bringing fur to Norway House urged McDougall to visit the plains region and establish missions there. The following selections from John McDougall's books tells us of the arrival of the McDougall family to Alberta in 1862.

### Forest, Lake and Prairie

#### Twenty Years of Frontier Life in Western Canada – 1842-62.

#### John McDougall

#### Chapter XVII page 123

*As the missions on the Saskatchewan were under father's chairmanship, he concluded to visit them during the summer of 1862, and to take me along. He arranged for me to go as far as Fort Carlton on the Saskatchewan by boat, and he, at the invitation of the Hudson's Bay officers went with them to Red River and the rode horseback across the plains to the same point.*

From Fort Carlton, Rev. George McDougall and John McDougall travel with Mr. La Gress as their guide to Fort Pitt, meeting Peter Erasmus along the way, who was associated with Rev. Henry Steinhauer and who was freighting goods from Red river to White-fish Lake. After their visit at White-fish Lake, they travelled on to Smoking Lake to meet up with Rev. Woolsey. Rev. Woolsey had begun a new mission there within the last year. The next plan of the trip was that Rev. Woolsey should accompany them out to rendezvous with Rev. Steinhauer.

### Forest, Lake and Prairie

#### Chapter XXVII page 160

*Our road ran along the side of Smoking Lake and down the creek which runs from the lake to the Saskatchewan. We had left most of the ox for the men at the mission and were to depend upon our guns for food until we should reach the Indian camp on the plains. We shot some ducks for supper and breakfast the first night out and reach the north bank of the river Friday afternoon. The appearance of the country at this point and in its vicinity pleased father so much that he suggested to Mr. Woolsey the desirability of moving to this place and founding a mission and settlement right here on the banks of the river, all of Mr. Woolsey readily acquiesced in.*

*The two missionaries, moreover, decided that the name of the new mission should be Victoria.*



Tourism  
CALGARY  
member

-Continued on page 2-

**President’s Report – By Laura Jauch**

McDougall Stoney Mission Society has a busy 2012 planned. It has been 150 years since the McDougalls arrived in the area now called Alberta. To celebrate, we will have displays at McDougall Memorial Church throughout the summer season. One of the services and a news-letter article will also be on this theme. Check out page 1. McDougall Stoney Mission Society will again participate in the Chinook Country Historical Calgary Week . This year’s theme being Calgary Stampede, 100 years. Please do come out and visit.

**2012 McDougall Stoney Mission Society**

**Board Members:**

President, Treasurer : Laura Jauch  
 Past President : Gerald McDougall  
 Vice President: Leonard McDougall  
 Secretary: Sarah Harvey

Ann McDougall	Ralphine Locke
Audrey Epp	Thomas Melvin
Wayne Holst	Ronald Moore
Robert MacDonald	Andrew Stiles
John McDougall	Kathy Epp
Jason Villeneuve	

**McDougall Stoney Mission Society Mission and Goals:**

To preserve, maintain and interpret the historic McDougall Church and Mission sites for the benefit of Albertans and all visitors worldwide, for generations to come.

To share the exceptional history of the McDougall Stoney Mission, inspiring future generations to follow the path of peace and mutual respect.

*-Continued from page 1-*

The party met up with Steinhauer at Maskepetoon camp. This was a time of great celebration and a buffalo hunt. They made their way to Fort Edmonton. It was decided the Rev. George McDougall would return to Norway House and John would remain with Mr. Woolsey at Smoking Lake. John spent the rest of the year at the new mission preparing for his family arrival the following year. They celebrated Christmas at Fort Edmonton. The McDougalls would take passage on the Summer Brigade on about the latter part of July.

**Saddle, Sled And Snowshoe: Pioneering On The Saskatchewan in The Sixties**  
 John McDougall

**Chapter VI page 63**

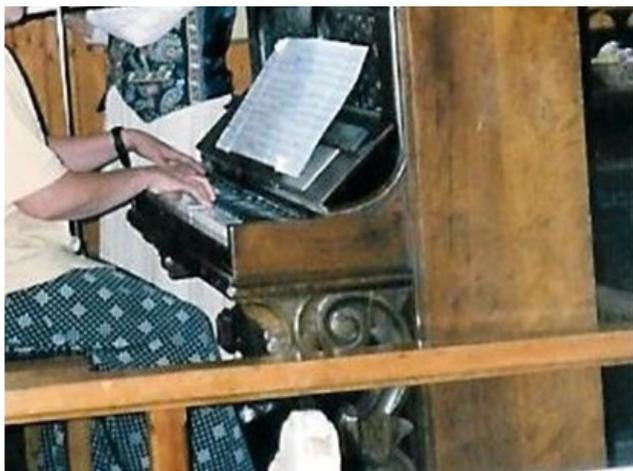
*Forty days and more from Norway House, by lake and river, in an open boat-long hot days, long dark, rainy days- with forty very short nights, and yet many of these far too long, because of the never-ceasing mosquito, which, troublesome enough by day, seemed at night to forth endless resources of torture, and turn them loose with tireless energy upon suffering humanity. But no one could write up such experiences to the point of realization. You must go through then to know. Mother has had all this, and much more, to endure in her pioneering and missionary life.*

**Chapter VI page 63**

*Mother was not loath to change the York boat for the large buffalo-skin lodge on the banks of the Saskatchewan.*

The McDougall family had arrived in what is now Alberta.

## **George McDougall Memorial Piano**



This much loved and much used instrument is probably the first piano to have been brought into the territory that is now Alberta. In 1865 this piano was purchased from the R.S. Williams Company (see below) by the pioneer Methodist Missionary Reverend George McDougall for his daughter Eliza and brought by rail and river steam-boat to Fort Gary, Fort Carleton, Fort Victoria, Fort Edmonton and thence to Athabasca Landing by Red River cart. Later it found a home in the Methodist Church at Athodist Landing, where it was used for many years.

Through a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, it has been restored for placement in the historic McDougall Church at Morley during the summer services and in the winter for display in Calgary at the headquarters of the Alberta Historical Resource Foundation.  
-Len McDougall

### **R.S. Williams Company**

WILLIAMS, RICHARD SUGDEN, manufacturer of and dealer in musical instruments; born 12 April 1834 in London, England.

Richard Sugden Williams's family immigrated to Hamilton in 1838. He may have received a common-school education before being apprenticed at age 11 to William Townsend of Toronto, a melodeon maker from New Hampshire who had settled there in the 1840s to build and sell this relatively novel reed organ. Williams became "an expert in wood and brass work, and the making of the sounding parts," a newspaper account said later about his training.

Williams established a shop on Yonge Street to build melodeons, mandolins, and other instruments. In 1859 he moved to larger premises on Yonge and expanded production to include violins, banjos, and drums; he also dealt in other instruments. Two years later he moved again, to 143 Yonge, where the business would remain until after his death.

### Clean Up

We are looking for volunteers to help cleanup the site for the upcoming season. If interested please meet at the church on:

May 19 at 10:00am

### June 10th Service

TBA  
Under construction

## ***A Country Wedding at the Historic McDougall Church***



The McDougall Memorial Church is a significant place to celebrate a memorable wedding ceremony.

The beautiful surroundings and historical significance of the site make it a unique location for a wedding.

For more information or to book your wedding

Call Ann: 403 282 3044

Email: mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com

### **How Can You Help?**

We are constantly in need of volunteers for various duties at the Church. Listed below are the volunteer opportunities available at the church and the contact information for the person responsible. Please give some thought as to how you could help maintain this piece of history. We know that people are busy, but any time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

- **Church Maintenance:** (Weed control, painting, repairs, upkeep, etc.)  
Len McDougall: 403-226-1353
- **Docents** (opening church during summer and providing historical context)  
Laura Jauch: 403-802-3898
- **Newsletters** (article ideas or to write an article): Sarah Harvey: 403-946-4650
- **Weddings:** Ann McDougall 403-282-3044

We are looking for a **Event Planner**: If you like to plan special events then we need you. We are looking for someone to plan and organize our bi-annual services and some new special events we have in mind. If this is you contact **Laura Jauch at 403-802-3898**

## **Not a member? No problem!**

If you have time to volunteer or merely want to be kept up to date with the McDougall Memorial Church news, please consider a membership!

McDougall Stoney Mission Society

C/O Laura Jauch

610 1053 10th St SW

Calgary, AB, T2R 1S6

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are always welcome!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations will be sent a tax receipt.