



McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter Fall Edition, September 2013



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society will take place on Thursday
October 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brentwood Co-op Meeting Room

(Willing to stand as board member but unable to attend? Please advise our secretary in writing. See page 2 re Board Membership).

The McDougall Stoney Mission Society emerged from the initial rescue of the Historical church in 1952 by several AOTS (AS One That Serves) Clubs of Calgary United Churches. The initial name was *The McDougall Memorial Church Maintenance and Restoration Society* which was formally established in 1971 by the Calgary Presbytery of the United Church of Canada with a mandate to be the steward of the Site on behalf of the presbytery. In 1975 the name was changed to **The McDougall Stoney Mission Society (MSMS)**, with the responsibilities of oversight of the restoration, preservation, interpretation and operations of the 43.9 acres of the land east of Morley, Alberta. This site was the centre of the Morleyville Settlement and includes the first Methodist Church in Southern Alberta. The site is designated as a Provincial Historic Resource.

In July of 2004 the Society developed a strategic plan which included the mission statement:

“To preserve, maintain and interpret the historic McDougall Church and Mission sites for the benefit of Albertans and visitors worldwide.”

On June 25th 2009 the Society adopted the following Stakeholder goals:

- ***Preserve and disseminate the story of the peaceful settlement and brotherhood of white and native relations at the historic |Morleyville Settlement between 1873 and 1900.***
- ***Develop visitor appreciation for the ongoing importance of Morleyville Settlement’s historic, cultural and natural resources***

Join us in our efforts to preserve Alberta’s history -**The McDougall Church— the oldest remaining structure in the Valley of the Bow!** *(see Page 4).*

The McDougall Memorial Church Site is open May through September

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Check our Website:
www.mcdougallstoneymissionsociety.com

Or Contact us by E-mail:
mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com

Our Mailing Address:
 3707 Utah Drive NW
 Calgary, Alberta T2N 4A6

On Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-McDougall-Church/518674998193161?>

You are invited and reminded to attend the Annual General meeting October 10, 2013 7:00 p.m. Brentwood Co-op Meeting room



Your Country Wedding can be at the Historic McDougall Church!

For information, or to book your wedding date at this unique location, call Ann at 403 282 3044

Shopping? Off to the supermarket?

It was very different in 1874!

Incidents of Mission Life, 1874

(From the writings of Elizabeth Boyd (*Mrs John McDougall*))

“It was the spring of 1874. My husband and his brother, David McDougall, had left us at Morleyville for a long and dangerous journey into Montana to obtain supplies for the coming year, their objective point being Fort Benton on the Missouri River. The date of the start was April 6th. Well do I remember the time — it was a beautiful day, the season was early and the wild crocuses and the still wilder gophers told us that spring was now here. But our hearts were sad, for here we were two lone white women in a great big wilderness. Mrs David McDougall and I were the only English-speaking people now left in the Bow River valley and for miles on every side.

Our husbands and their party disappeared over the high foot hill and we were intensely alone. We knew the dangers of the trip were many and the constant-hostile tribes, mountain rivers and wild animals were all along their course, and our anxiety for their lives and safe return was great.

Then we knew that there was also constant danger at home. All of us were running great risks, but our trust was in God and the Stony Indians. My husband always had great faith in the bravery and pluck of the Stonies. He would say: “If we can win their confidence and they stand by us, we can hold our own against all the other tribes.”

As for myself, I had strong faith in “John”, Everybody called my husband “John”. If he and his brother could leave us to the human care of these wild Mountain Stonies, we as dutiful wives believed it was all right. At any rate we must have supplies. My husband was building a mission and had to have material. His brother was trading and building and he had to have supplies.

Fort Benton was the nearest possible supply point. This was a 900-mile round trip with oxen, horses and mules, and heavy freight wagons and carts. They would, at the quickest, be two months away. The days would pass slowly and the nights drag out lonely and long, and we would have no tidings from them.

Oh, I can tell you those were anxious times. But as our husbands had hoped, the Stonies under God watched over us, and some of them forever hovered near our mountain home as our guardsmen, and knowing this the other tribes left us alone. To them the Stony was a determined foe, as also a strong ally”

At our September 8th Fall Service Ralphine Locke, a descendent of the McDougall family, member of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society Board and a keen Alberta historian, presented a paper on Elizabeth Boyd McDougall. See pages three and four of this newsletter. Concluding her talk Ralphine expressed the hope :- “that in the coming years we will hear more about Annie McDougall’s remarkable life from those who knew her better than I”

What are you doing on Saturday September 21st ?

It’s fall clean up day at the historic
Church Site!

Come out and help!

Board |Membership

Any member may be nominated for board membership at the A.G.M, but may also be elected if unable to attend the meeting:

Bylaw #6 A person appointed or elected a director becomes a director if they were present at the meeting when being appointed or elected, and did not refuse the appointment. They may also become a director IF THEY WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING BUT CONSENTED IN WRITING TO ACT AS A DIRECTOR BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION, or if they acted as a director pursuant to the election or appointment.

Some feel the board’s size should be reduced and this may be debated at the meeting.



Board Members 2013

McDougall Stoney Mission Society

(President - Position Vacant)

Past President— Gerald McDougall

Vice-President—Leonard McDougall

Treasurer—Laura Jauch

Secretary—Sarah Harvey

Directors:

Ann McDougall, Kathy Epp, Audrey Epp,
Wayne Holst, Ralphine Locke, Robert
MacDonald, Thomas Melvin, John McDougall,
Ronald Moore, Andrew Stiles, Harold Jepson

Elizabeth Boyd McDougall

Most Albertans are familiar with the pioneering stories of the courageous men whose vision and energy did so much to make Alberta what it is today. Not so much is known of the equally remarkable lives of their wives. Today I'll be speaking about one such person. Those of you who are familiar with this historic church we are meeting in today, will recognize the photo of Elizabeth Boyd McDougall, wife of the Rev. John McDougall, who was the first non-native woman to make her home in southern Alberta.

The photo shows a sweet, kindly and loving woman. Her story tells of the strong character of a woman who lived a life of hardship and even danger in her pioneer years, and overcame every challenge with grace, strength and a deep trust in God. She was well loved by all who knew her.

I was among the many who were fortunate to have known her. She was my Mother's aunt, and we were very close to her. We often visited her in her home in Calgary, where she and John went to live when the Mission church was closed in the late 1890's,

.One of my deepest impressions was of times when our visit coincided with the visit of some of her Stoney Indian friends. There was such a lovely atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation between them – so different from the experience of so many of our native people.

What were the circumstances that brought this 18 year-old to the West and the many challenges she would face in her role as Missionary wife? The McDougall family arrived in what is now Alberta in 1862, after serving as Methodist missionaries at several posts between their home in Owen Sound, Ontario and one to be built at Ft. Victoria on the North Saskatchewan River. They were the first non-native family to settle in what is now Alberta. The eldest son, John, married Abigail Steinhauer, the daughter of a native Methodist missionary. After bearing three children, Abigail died in a smallpox epidemic. Soon John made the trip back to Owen Sound to find a new wife to raise his young family. He and Elizabeth, his 18 year old cousin, were married, and began their honeymoon trip west, which proved to be both dangerous and very arduous. A detailed account of this trip was included in a book by former Lt. Governor Grant McEwan, titled "And Mighty Women, too". Incidentally, this fine book is available at the Central Library special collections in Calgary. I'm sure you would enjoy reading of the many strong women pioneers featured in the book.

Lizzie, as she was generally called, could not have foreseen the challenges the trip west would bring. After a relatively smooth crossing of the Great Lakes by steamer, they travelled over land to Winnipeg to begin the long journey to

what is now Alberta. Under warm autumn skies and the promise of good weather, the two travelers started out on the trail west, with Lizzie driving her own horse pulling a buckboard with their supplies. John led the way on his horse. A series of challenges met the travelers:

Prairie grass fires threatened; threatening by warlike Indians in battle dress; broken axles repaired with willow boughs and rope; and finally a severe blizzard resulted in Lizzie travelling onward wrapped in buffalo robes on a cariole, a toboggan-like conveyance which John, on snowshoes urged the weary horse to pull forward on the trail. Nights were cold; the tent threatened to collapse under blizzard winds; it was often impossible to make a warm meal. The young bride learned a lot about the challenges of the west, and also gained a deep appreciation of the experience and resourcefulness of her new husband. I haven't been able to find out exactly how long they were on the trail, but generally the trip took up to 3 months, depending on travel circumstances. Remember, there was not one bridge from the Manitoba border to the mountains at that time. Every stream and river crossing was a major challenge.

Finally, they reached the new settlement of Ft. Victoria, on the North Saskatchewan River, and found a warm welcome from the senior McDougalls and their families.

John had been recently been ordained as a Methodist minister, and thus took up new duties working with his father. A new mission was to be built near the Bow River, in answer to a request from the Stoney Indians who dominated that area. The Stoney had been introduced to Christianity by the Rev. Robert Rundle about 20 years earlier, and this brief but lasting influence surprised the McDougalls when they found that the tribe was still observing the Sabbath and singing Christian hymns. Rev. George and Rev. John surveyed the area in the summer of 1873, and determined to build a mission site that fall. In October, a group of about 30 people started out together from Ft. Edmonton, following the Stoney Trail to the Bow Valley. Among the group were the senior missionary, Rev. George, John McDougall and his new bride, Lizzie, and Flora, who was the eldest of her new step children, There were also several seasoned trailmen with supply wagons herding a small group of cattle, the first domestic herd to reach what is now southern Alberta.

At this time, before Treaty No. 7 was signed, the Blackfoot were a formidable foe. A wooded site was therefore chosen about 2 miles northwest of the present church. Tents were the travellers' first abode, soon followed by log buildings with dirt floors and scraped deer skin for windows.

Soon David, John's brother and his wife Annie, with their small child, joined the group, much to Lizzie's delight. Now she had someone to face the lonely and challenging times when the men would go off for weeks at a time tending to their missionary work or obtaining supplies for the Mission.

On one such occasion, a group of Blackfoot Indians came to the door, demanding food. Bravely, one of the women faced the intruders and kept them talking while the other found a gun and pointed it. The Blackfoot left, doing no harm. The Stoney people proved to be good friends and trustworthy neighbors. John and David frequently joined them hunting for buffalo and other wild game to feed the community. The Mission suffered a huge loss when, in 1876, the Rev. George McDougall, the senior missionary died of a heart attack when separated from the group of hunters.. His body was not found for about 2 weeks.

Life at the mission was always precarious in the early years. Often shipments of food and supplies did not arrive on schedule, and hunting was their only source of food. The nearest doctor was 100 miles away, and Rev. John was frequently called for when a tooth had to be removed. The McDougall women learned about local remedies from the native women. In spite of this, the two families, John's and David's each raised several children, with Elizabeth also raising John's first three children.

With the signing of Treaty #7, it was felt safe to build nearer the trail from Ft. Edmonton. Rev. George, the senior missionary, made a recruiting trip to Owen Sound, and recruited Andrew Sibbald, the first school teacher at the Mission and an expert lumberman. He with the help of Rev. George and John, and native workers began chopping and hand planning lumber from the surrounding area, and the church was finished in 1875. The old site was abandoned and the families moved to the present church site . The quality of the work of the builders is shown when we consider the more than 135 years the church has stood alone on the open prairie through every kind of weather.

Both Lizzie and Annie made a large contribution to community life. Lizzie with her warm loving nature cared for the little ones when they needed special attention, treating native and mission children with the same loving care. Annie worked tirelessly to keep David's trading post functioning

when he was away on long trips to Fort Benton or Winnipeg for supplies. Both women were an invaluable part of the life of the Mission, as well as each raising large families.

The missionaries of all denominations played a large part in the peaceful settlement of the west. They were approached by the Federal Government and asked to prepare the native tribes for the arrival of the Northwest Mounted Police with its mandate of bringing law and order to the area. This action was credited with avoiding some of the tragic events which occurred south of the border. Soon a small village developed and Morleyville, as it was called, became a supply centre for explorers, surveyors and adventurers. In 1880, The mission family was enriched by the arrival of Lizzie's mother, father, son Albert and daughter Mary Jane. Mary Jane, who married James Brewster, was my grandmother. Sadly I never knew her, as she passed away at an early age.

The arrival of the railway in 1883 was a momentous event for the small community. Their isolation was finally ended, mail service occurred on a regular basis. Supplies of all sorts became readily available. The church continued to fulfill its purpose as a centre of the community until the late 1890.s when the Methodist Mission leaders decided to build a new church in the centre of the Morley Reserve, for easier access for the Stoney. Rev. John and Lizzie moved to Calgary, and

John's duties were extended to include overseeing mission activity in a large part of western Canada, With her usual dedication and compassion, Lizzie became involved in many the growing city's charitable activities, as well as giving valuable support to the Calgary church. She and Annie remained close friends, and worked together on many projects that benefited the city. Until her death at age 87 in 1941, she was a well loved and much honoured member of the Calgary community. Truly, an extraordinary life, and one lived with a deep sense of duty to the Christian principles of love and brotherhood. Hers was a life well lived."

By Ralphine Locke

Volunteers are needed to help to maintain our wonderful Alberta historical site: Please call:

- **Church Maintenance:** (Weed control, painting, repairs,) | Len McDougall: **403-226-1353**
- **Docents** (opening church in summer ,providing historical context) Laura Jauch: **403-875-5978**
- **Weddings:** Ann McDougall **403-282-3044** **Newsletter:** Harold Jepson **403 289 3412**
- **Event Planning:** Help with bi-annual services or special events! Laura Jauch **403-875-5978**



Become a member of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society

C/O Laura Jauch, PO Box 15 13 Walsh Ave , Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

Name(s): _____ Phone : _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Individual Membership \$20 _____ Family Membership \$25 _____ Date: _____

Donations of \$25 or more will be sent a tax receipt — \$ _____