

ST. CLEMENTS POLICE FORCE



POLICING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

submitted by slh

During the early years, the Hudson's Bay Company established laws and imposed penalties for infractions of those laws. In 1835 the District of Assiniboia was divided into four judicial districts and appointed were Justices of the Peace for each district. A peace-keeping force of 56 Military pensioners (Chelsea pensioners) were recruited by the Hudson Bay Company in 1848 to form a part-time volunteer group to be ready at all times and to act when called upon. On Oct. 10, 1870 after the arrival of Colonel Garnet Wolseley and the quashing of the rebel skirmish, a 20-man mounted police force was formed under the command of Captain Frank Villiers of the Quebec Rifles. This force patrolled the various scattered communities and their journeys to settle claims and provide welfare took them over a vast area. Then early in 1874 the newly formed City of Winnipeg created a small policing force and by 1875 there were five members providing law enforcement to the south of us.

Meanwhile, since 1870, we had the benefit of constables appointed by the Province of Manitoba. These Provincial Constables were appointed by Order-in-Council by the Attorney-General. We list here a few of these men who travelled widely and administered many claims both sides of the Red River and up into the Lake Winnipeg area: In 1871 we had, Charles Brainard, Agustin Carriere, Cornelius Fidler, John B. Matheson, Joseph McMillan, Daniel McDougall, Alex McBeth,

Charles Porter, Thomas Peebles and Phillip Thomas. Most of these men were still filling their positions and policing up to 1895. Thomas Slater and James Green were appointed in 1872. Mr. H. Jackson was signed up in 1875 followed by James Matheson and Richard Power in 1876.

The year 1877 saw Joseph Clouston, James McIlroy and Max Goulet added to the list while in 1878 Aviedie Bissouieete and Guillamme Desautels were also policing along with Jean Baptiste Joyal. Just before 1880, W.R. Robinson, Richard H. Shore and William Vincent were appointed as Constables for the Province followed by Michael Jeffery and John McLeod in 1880. After 1880, John Flynn was assigned, Richard Gardner in 1894, John Macdonald in 1895, David Bethel of Beausejour in 1901 as well as Alexander Anderson, of Balsam Bay, in 1901.

Some of the Justices of the Peace that were in place at the time that the Municipality of St. Clements was first incorporated were: John J. Winram and James Fullerton of Crooks Creek, John Gunn of Gonor, David Miller and Angus Fraser of East Selkirk. From Selkirk we had several: Amos H. Vaughan, James Drake, James Colcleugh, Sig. Jonasson and F.W. Colcleugh. By the year 1888 we had several more, namely: Alexander Butler Rowley of Peguis, John Stace Smith of Beausejour, William Henry of East Selkirk, Jonas Bergman, James G. Dagg and Lynas S. Vaughan all of Selkirk, and finally, John Buchanan of East Selkirk. Alexander Butler Rowley had switched his address to Poplar Park by 1890, Charles H. Michell worked out of East Selkirk and did