

## **The Anglican Cathedral of St. John**

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Bishop of the Diocese of Rupert's Land  
**The Rt. Rev. Donald J. Phillips**

Rector of St. John's and Dean of Rupert's Land  
**The Very Rev. Paul N. Johnson**

### Sunday Worship Services

8:15 AM

The Great Litany  
(B.A.S. p. 138)

8:30 AM

Holy Eucharist  
(B.A.S. p. 230)

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist  
(B.A.S. p. 185)

To make arrangements for Baptism, Weddings, or  
Funerals/Internments please call the Church Office,  
Monday to Friday between 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon or 1:30 PM to  
4:30 PM.

The graveyard is open to the public from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM every  
day.

## A History in Stone

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A self-guided tour of the historic graveyard  
of St. John's Cathedral  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



*The  
Cathedral  
Church of  
Saint John*

*The Birthplace of the Anglican  
Church of Western Canada*

*Diocese of Rupert's Land*

St. John's is the oldest Anglican parish west of the Great Lakes. It was founded in 1820, when the **Rev. John West** arrived from England to serve as chaplain to the **Hudson's Bay Company**, and as missionary to this part of the world. The first church was built in 1822, and stood partly in the south-east corner of the churchyard and partly beyond what is now the fence line. In 1849, the **Rt. Rev. David Anderson** came to Rupert's Land as its first Bishop, and the church became the Cathedral in 1853. The present building, the fourth on this site, dates from 1926. Several descendants of the first members of the Parish are members of the present day congregation.

The graveyard surrounding the Cathedral predates the parish. It was established by the **Selkirk settlers** in 1812. The site for the church was chosen by **Lord Selkirk** in 1817, prompted no doubt by the fact that the graveyard was already there. Unfortunately, there are no records of the earliest burials.

There is some disagreement as to which is the oldest marked grave in the Cathedral cemetery. According to her gravestone, 11 year old **Lucy Franks** died in May 1817. Historians dispute the date, on the basis that the stone is of the wrong period. However, there are graves from the 1830s, like that of **Mary Jones** and the **infant son of Sir George Simpson**.

Monuments run from the grand to simple, and there are grave markers of unique design, like that of the men of the **Royal Winnipeg Rifles** (aka the Little Black Devils), who died at or from wounds received at **Batoche** and **Fish Creek** during the **Northwest Rebellion** of 1885. The military connection is further emphasized in the elegant grave of **Sir Sam Steele**, of the North West Mounted Police (now the RCMP).

In one section of the cemetery, in the area near the Tower Entrance of the Cathedral, you'll find the graves of leaders of the Anglican Church. Several of Manitoba's notable public servants are buried in St. John's Cemetery; a premier, several lieutenant governors, former mayors, and leading citizens and founding fathers (and mothers) of Winnipeg and the Province.

32. The **Hon. Colin Inkster** (*d. 1934, age 91*). **Colin Inkster** had a lifelong connection with St. John's Cathedral. He was the **son of Orkney John Inkster** (see#25), a leading merchant in the Red River Settlement, and grew up at **Seven Oaks House** which is now a museum in West Kildonan. Inkster was a member of the Legislative Council of Manitoba and served as Speaker of the Assembly. He resigned in 1876 to become High Sheriff of Manitoba, an office he held until his retirement. Inkster's personal history closely paralleled the history of the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba. Like his father before him, Inkster served as a Warden of St. John's Cathedral and office he held for 64 years! When the "new" Cathedral was built in 1926, Inkster, along with **Archbishop Matheson**, was a major force in fund raising and planning. His contribution to life in the Red River Settlement, the Province of Manitoba and the Anglican Church in Rupert's Land is recognized in his inclusion among the leading figures of the Diocese in the Great West Window, which was installed in 1970 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish.

*Several plaques in the Cathedral nave are dedicated to Red River Settlers and officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, along with others in memory of men and women who contributed to the development and life of the Parish, the City and the Province.*

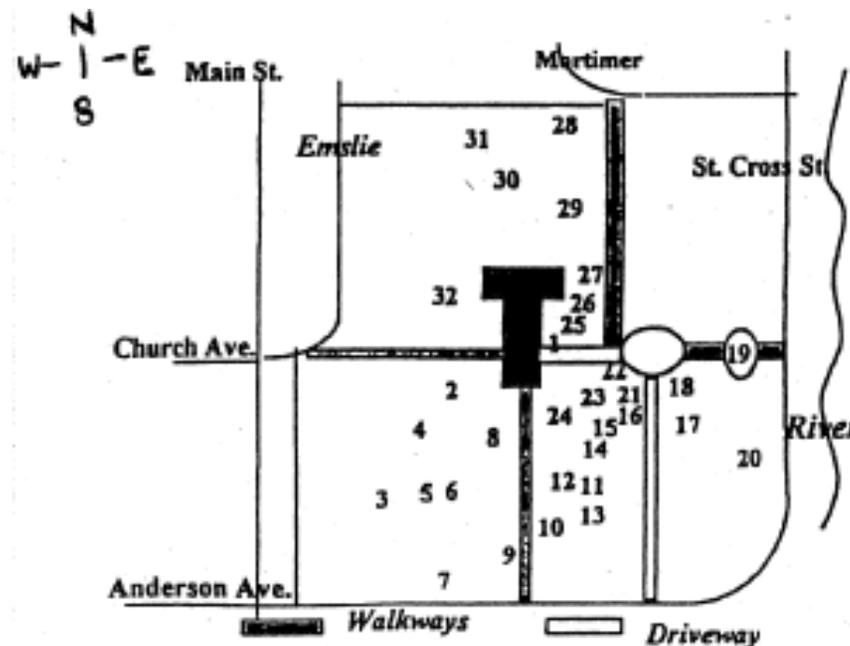
30. **Sir John Christian Schultz** (*d.1896, aged 56*). Schultz was the fifth Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. He came to Winnipeg in 1860 and in a short time established himself as an independent fur trader, in opposition to the **Hudson's Bay Company**. He and his brother also owned the Royal Hotel, which stood at the corner of Portage and Main. He later opened a drug store and practiced medicine, although it is doubtful that he had ever obtained an MD! He also co-owned a newspaper that was noted for an editorial policy that was virulently anti-HBC. Schultz was a key figure in the 1870 Riel Rebellion. As leader of the Canada First party, Schultz urged the union of all the provinces, but was opposed to Riel's vision. Under the Riel-led Provisional Government in Manitoba, Schultz was incarcerated at Upper Fort Garry. He escaped and made his way to Ottawa, where he rallied opposition to Riel. He served as MP for Lisgar from 1871 to 1882, when he was appointed to the Senate.

31. **The Batoche/Fish Creek Memorial**: This tomb was erected in 1886 by the **80<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles** to honour comrades who were killed at or died from wounds received at the battles of **Fish Creek** (*April 24*) and **Batoche** (*May 12*) during the Northwest Rebellion in 1885. The bodies of **Privates James Frazier, Richard Hardisty, A.M. Fergusson, George Wheelles and W. Ennis, Corporal John Code, and Lieutenant Charles Swineford** are interred here. The memorial also commemorates **Privates Alex Watson and J. Hutchinson**, who are buried in St. Catherine's, Ontario and St. Thomas, Ontario respectively. The Cathedral has a long-standing relationship with **The Royal Winnipeg Rifles**, and the regiment's drum, bugle and colours are housed in the Soldiers' Chapel. The window in the Chapel celebrates the Regiment's involvement in Canadian military engagements from the Northwest Rebellion to Korea.

Every spring, a group of enthusiastic gardeners drawn from the Cathedral congregation gathers to plant flowers on selected graves. For an annual fee of \$30.00 (plus GST), families can arrange to have the graves of their loved ones beautified in this way. The fee not only buys the flowers but also augments the fund that supports the care and upkeep of the graveyard.

The cemetery is not only a place for the dead. Neighbourhood residents often take their morning walks through the cemetery, enjoying the park-like atmosphere and the general serenity of the place. In 2003, a Prayer Path was marked out in the southeast section of the graveyard, to provide an opportunity for people to have a quiet place for meditative prayer outside. Eventually we hope to install a labyrinth and an outdoor Columbarium garden in the northeast corner.

The poet **Andrew Marvel** wrote, "The grave's a fine and private place, but none do there, I think, embrace". Perhaps not, but consider the inscription on a stone that marks the grave of a husband and wife: "He went before. She, for a little, tried to live without him, liked it not, and died". That's a short love story in stone, and just one of the hundreds of stories that make St. John's Cemetery more than just a graveyard. We hope this guide makes your walk through Winnipeg's history both informative and enjoyable.



1. **Historic marker**, erected 1954.

2. **Lucy Franks** (d.18??, aged 11), daughter of HBC officer James Franks. There is some dispute as to authenticity of the date on this stone. It is dated 1817, but historians maintain the style of the headstone is of a period much later than that. Cathedral records show a Lucy Franks who died May 1847. One theory has it that an enthusiastic member of the Cathedral, while cleaning and refurbishing stones, mistook the 4 in 1847 for a 1 and incised the date incorrectly.

3. **John Peter Pruden** (d.1868, aged 80). Pruden was a native of Edmonton, near London, England, and served the Hudson's Bay Company from 1791 to

1837. He started as an apprentice trader and retired as a Chief Factor. It is likely that the city of Edmonton in Alberta owes its name to Pruden, who served HBC there. When he retired he made his home in the Red River Settlement, and was appointed as a Councillor of Assiniboia. His gravestone is interesting in that it records the name of his Cree wife, Nancy, but makes no mention of his second wife, Red River Academy teacher Anne Armstrong. Judging from letters and journals of the day, Pruden's second foray into marriage was a lot less successful than his first.

4. **James Richardson Sr.** (d.1939, aged 54). The founder of James Richardson and Sons and The Pioneer Grain Company, Richardson was also a pioneer in Canadian aviation. He founded Western Canadian Airways in 1926. The airline later became Trans Canada Airlines, which is now Air Canada. The Richardson family has been a strong presence on both the political and cultural scene in Winnipeg.

5. **Mary Jones** (d.1836, aged 31) and her son John Lloyd (d.1830, in infancy). Mary was the wife of the Rev. David Jones and worked with him to provide education for the children of the Settlers, the Hudson's Bay Co. officers and native children. After Mary's premature death, David Jones returned to his native Wales with his remaining five children. A plaque to her memory, given by her students who loved her as much as she loved them, is in the Cathedral.

6. **Baby Simpson** (d.1832). This tiny grave is that of the eight-month-old son of Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Co. The child is not named on the stone, but in Cathedral records he is listed as George.

26. **Lt.Gov. Errick F. Willis** (d.1967, aged 70). Errick Willis was the first born-in-Manitoba Lieutenant Governor of the Province. A lawyer by training and a farmer by inclination, Willis served as an MLA and was Minister of Agriculture from 1958-1960 and Deputy Premier of Manitoba from 1959-1960. An ardent curler, Willis was a member of the Canadian Olympic Curling Team which took the championship at Lake Placid in 1932.

27. **Alexander Logan** (d.1894, aged 52). Three-time mayor of Winnipeg, Logan was a land speculator in the early days of the City of Winnipeg. He is credited with persuading the Federal Government to build the CPR line through Winnipeg, rather than Selkirk or Brandon. He also introduced the vote-by-ballot in municipal elections. Logan served on the Vestry of St. John's Cathedral.

28. **Sir Samuel Steele** (d.1919, aged 70). The story of Sir Sam Steele is the story of the development of Western Canada. Born in Ontario, Steele came west with Garnet Wolseley's Red River Expedition in 1870. He joined the North West Mounted Police when the force was formed in 1873 and rose rapidly through the ranks. He was a member of the team that negotiated terms between Sitting Bull and the US during the time of Sitting Bull's exile in Canada. In the early 1880s, as the CPR was being built across Western Canada, Steele was responsible for policing the project and maintaining law and order. After serving in the Northwest Rebellion in 1885, Steele was posted to the Yukon and supervised law enforcement during the turbulent Klondike Gold Rush. In 1899, Steele took a leave of absence from the NWMP to serve with the Lord Strathcona Horse in the Boer War. He later commanded the LSH in World War I.

29. **William Fisher Luxton** (d.1907, aged 63). A native of England, Luxton was the first public school teacher in Winnipeg. In 1872 he co-founded, with James Kenny, the Manitoba Free Press, which later became the Winnipeg Free Press. Luxton was instrumental in having Winnipeg incorporated as a city in 1873.

22. **The Rt. Rev. Isaac Stringer** (d.1934, aged 68). Bishop Stringer will always be remembered as "the Bishop who ate his boots." (Having run out of food on his way home to Whitehorse after a trip to the Eastern Arctic, Stringer recorded in his journal, "Breakfast of sealskin boot, soles and tops boiled and toasted. Soles better than tops.") He served as a priest to the Inuit of Herschel Island in the Arctic, and translated the gospels into the indigenous language. An English reporter, who encountered Stringer, referred to him as "the Bishop of the Snows," and described him as having "the forehead of a Doctor of Divinity, the physique and jaw of a prize-fighter and mild blue eyes of a child."

23. **The Rt. Rev. Samuel Pritchard Matheson** (d.1942, aged 90) was a native son of Red River. He was born in West Kildonan in 1852. His father was the son of Selkirk Settlers, and his mother was the daughter of John Pritchard (see #12). Matheson was educated at St. John's College School, where he eventually taught, and he was ordained in 1875 by Archbishop Machray. He became Archbishop of Rupert's Land in 1905, succeeding Machray, and Primate of Canada in 1909. Matheson is remembered as a kindly, gentle man who worked tirelessly for the church and was instrumental in the building of the present Cathedral.

24. **Margaret Scott** (d.1931, aged 76). Mrs. Scott was known as The Angel of Poverty Row for her work among Winnipeg's most destitute families. She arrived in Winnipeg in 1886 from Colborne, Ontario. She had been recently widowed. She worked for a while at the Dominion Land Office, but gave up paid employment to work among the poor and the sick. Her efforts were supported by private donations. In 1904, Mrs. Scott established the Margaret Scott Nursing Mission, a district nursing centre for providing care for Winnipeg's poorest families. Her gravestone records the esteem in which she was held in her adopted city.

25. **John Inkster** (d.1874, aged 74). Known to one and all as Orkney John, Inkster arrived in Red River in 1821 to work as a stone mason for the, Hudson's Bay Company. He later set up as a farmer and a trader and prospered. In 1852 he was appointed as a Councillor of Assiniboia. He and his wife Mary Sinclair (sister of Captain Colin Sinclair, see #15) built Seven Oaks House in what is now West Kildonan, where they raised their nine children. The house is now a museum and is maintained in the style of the Red River Settlement days. Inkster was a Warden of St. John's Cathedral from 1850-1869.

7. **John Norquay** (d. 1889, aged 48). The sixth premier of Manitoba, John Norquay was the first premier of Manitoba of native heritage. He served as Premier from 1878 to 1887. Norquay was born in the Red River settlement and spoke six languages, an invaluable asset in the multilingual society of Red River. While Louis Riel was spokesman for the Metis of French descent, Norquay was the leader of those of those of British/Native blood, and although he supported Riel's aims, Norquay opposed the tactics he employed. He, as well as Riel, was instrumental in achieving provincial status for Manitoba. In addition to his role as statesman and politician, Norquay was a teacher and a farmer. He was a delegate to the first Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land in 1875.

8. **Robert Logan** (d.1866, aged 91). As a Chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, Logan traded all over Rupert's Land, the territory that stretched from the Hudson's Bay to the Rockies. On his retirement, Logan took up residence in the Red River Settlement, and became a community leader. He was one of the four men appointed by Bishop David Anderson to serve as the first Wardens of St. John's.

9. **James Thomson** (d.1933, aged 73). Chief Factor/Land and Fur Trade Commissioner for the Hudson's Bay Co. Thomson was native of the Orkneys like many of the Hudson's Bay Company employees.

10. **The Ven. Robert McDonald** (1829-1913). McDonald was born in Point Douglas and was educated at the Red River Academy (St. John's School). He was ordained in 1852 by Bishop Anderson and served the Ojibway people from the mission at White Dog before moving to the Mackenzie River district as a missionary to the Loucheux people. On retirement he returned to Point Douglas and devoted the later years of his life to compiling a Tudukh language dictionary. He is pictured in the Great West Window in the Cathedral.

11. **Donald Ross** (d. 1852, aged 54). Donald Ross came from Scotland to work for the Hudson's Bay Company as a clerk. By the early 1830s he had achieved Chief Factor status and served at Norway House. In 1820 he married Mary, the daughter of Selkirk Settler Alexander McBeath.

12. **John Pritchard** (d. 1855, aged 79). The grandfather of Archbishop Matheson, Pritchard worked in the fur trade after arriving from England as a young man. He worked in this area for the XYZ Company of Montreal and later for the Hudson's Bay Co. He was a witness to the Seven Oaks Massacre in June 1816 when Governor Robert Semple and 20 of his men were killed in a battle with men of the Nor'West Company. Pritchard's life was spared at Seven Oaks and he went on to become a leading citizen in the Settlement.

13. **John Sutherland** (d. 1863, aged 102). Like many of the Selkirk Settlers, Sutherland was a Presbyterian. He attended St. John's with many of his co-religionists for over thirty years, until the arrival of the Rev. John Black in 1851 and the building of Kildonan Presbyterian Church, where he served as an Elder. Sutherland was the first Manitoban to be appointed to the Senate. Even after Black's arrival, the Presbyterian settlers continued their practice of interment in the St. John's Cemetery.

14. **Thomas and Phoebe Bunn.** Thomas (d. 1853, aged 88) and Phoebe (nee Sinclair, d 1848, but her age is unrecorded) were married by the Rev. John West as he made his way to the Red River Settlement in 1820. Until the arrival of clergy, common law marriage was the norm (it was called *marriage a la facon du pays*, and the women, who were often native or the daughters of fur traders and native women, were referred to as *country wives*).

15. **Captain Colin Sinclair** (d. 1901, aged 94). Colin Sinclair was the youngest son of Chief Factor William Sinclair and his country wife Nahovway of York Factory. It was the tradition to send sons to England to be educated, a tradition which grieved the native mothers who hated to be separated from their children. Colin was spirited away and sent to England, which broke his mother's heart. She never saw her son again. Years later, after a successful career as a seaman and explorer, now Captain Colin Sinclair, returned to the land of his birth and settled in the Red River Settlement, which had become Winnipeg, taking up residence with his Inkster cousins. His tomb bears an inscription honouring his mother.

16. **Sir Hugh John Macdonald** (d. 1929, aged 79). Sir Hugh John was the son of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. He first came west with the Wolseley Expedition which was sent to repress the Riel rebellion in 1870. He returned to Winnipeg in 1881, after the death of his first wife. He served with the Winnipeg Rifles in the 1885 Northwest rebellion, was an MP for Winnipeg, Premier of Manitoba, and was Chief Magistrate of Winnipeg from 1911 until his death. He was known to Winnipeggers as "Our Hugh John".

17. **William Tupper** (d. 1947, aged 85). William was the second son of Sir Charles Tupper, one of the Fathers of Confederation. He lived most of his life in Manitoba, coming west in 1885 to fight in the Northwest Rebellion. He served as Lieutenant Governor from 1934 to 1940.

18. **Sir Augustus Nanton** (d. 1925, aged 64). A young stockbroker from Eastern Canada, Nanton was sent to Winnipeg in 1883 by his firm, Osler and Hammond, to open a branch office. He very soon became one of Winnipeg's 19 millionaires, and the firm became Osler, Hammond and Nanton. Nanton served his adopted city well, and was involved in various community projects.

19. **James Ashdown** (d. 1924, aged 80) and seven other members of the Ashdown family. James Ashdown was one of the founding fathers of the City of Winnipeg, and was known as "the Merchant Prince". He arrived in the Red River Settlement in 1868, on foot from St. Cloud, Minnesota. He started a tinsmithing business, which grew into a hardware store, and eventually became one of the largest hardware enterprises in Canada. Ashdown also served as Mayor of Winnipeg. The Ashdown home at the corner of Wellington Crescent and Academy Road was one of the showplaces of Winnipeg.

20. **The Kane Family Plot.** Four descendants of early Canadian artist Paul Kane are buried here: his son Paul, two grandsons - Paul and William, and a great-grandson Paul.

21. **The Rt. Rev. Robert Machray** (d. 1904, aged 72) Machray was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1831. He was ordained to the Anglican priesthood in 1856 and succeeded David Anderson as the second Bishop of Rupert's Land in 1865. He served as Bishop through the tumultuous days of the Riel Rebellion, the entry of Manitoba into Confederation as a province, the incorporation of the City of Winnipeg in 1873 and the arrival of the railway in 1885. Bishop Machray was elected as the first Primate of All Canada in 1890, when the Canadian church became the Church of England in Canada and was no longer under the governance of the Church of England. Machray was a tireless worker - both for the Church and for the community. He took the welfare of all people to heart and was especially interested in education. He founded St. John's College, now part of the University of Manitoba.