



# Jones County

## Historical Review

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## Scottish Highlanders are first European group to look for new life in Jones county

Jones county was settled by various nationalities who emigrated here from Europe. The first group to claim land and establish a settlement in the county were the Scottish Highlanders.

The story of their long and bitter struggle has become a legend in this county. In researching material on these Highlanders, I found a very informative and accurate account prepared by Josephine Sutherland in 1937 for the Scotch Grove Centennial book.

Much of the following article is taken directly from the Scotch Grove Centennial book with additional material added from records of the Upper Scotch Grove settlers at Hopkinton. Material on the Upper Scotch Grove was given to the Jones County Historical Society by Dr. Huberta Livingstone Adams.

William E. Corbin

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Turmoil existed in the northern shires of Scotland in the early 1800s. For many years the people there had rented small tracts of land from the large land owners. They worked the land and a big percentage of the crops they grew went to the lords and earls as rent.

But now many of the tenants were being evicted as the landowners developed large areas for grazing sheep or the development of private hunting areas. This would bring in more money for the lords but struck a terrible blow to the men and women of Kildonan parish, driving them from their humble homes and forcing many to seek refuge on the moors.

While these small farmers or crofters lived humbly, it was the only life they knew, and they were content with a shieling of stone with a thatched roof a few

black cattle, some sheep, a few acres of land for oats and a garden.

This land had been their home for countless generations and they loved the heather-clad hills, the white mist on Ben Laoghal, the brown streams dashing over mossy rocks and the wind blowing from the sea.

Their ancestors, the wild and unconquered Picts and Scots had dwelt here. These hills and mountain passes had resounded to their war cry and here many a plaided warrior of the Highlands had laid down his life for kirk or clan.

### DEVOTED TO KIRK

Deeply religious, their church was doubly dear to them. The men of Kildonan for countless generations had worshiped on the same spot. Kildonan, meaning the cell of Saint Donnan, had been established there by Saint Donnan in 617 A. D. The church itself had been built and rebuilt by the hands of Highland men.

Situated on the banks of the Helmsdale river (a corrupt form of the Gaelic for Ullidh's dale), the kirk was the heart of the parish. Many of the shielings were clustered about it and these humble folk loved that churchyard where their dead lay.

Even today the worn and battered communion cup they drank from is now kept in a place of honor in the parish as an eloquent testimony to their faith and devotion.

The bitter words of the eviction struck terror to the hearts of these people. But they tried with all the means at their command to resist the order of the cruel Duchess of Sutherland, a new heir to the estate, who did not understand the Highland people.

Her reply to the deputation who visited her to try and convince her to the shame of such an order is reported to have been: "You are an insolent lot for all your meekness of mouth. I will have no more dalliyings with you. Tell your people to clear themselves, their children, and their



STAMP ISSUED in 1962 by the Canadian Government honoring Lord Selkirk, the Scottish settlers, and the Red river settlement.

# Duchess of Sutherland drives out tenantry--

chattels from my holdings and at once."

Nor was the duchess the only landowner to drive out the tenantry, for in Argyllshire, the Earl of Breadalbane had driven out the entire clan of the McIntires from the land they had possessed from time out of memory.

What was to become of these dispossessed people was a problem not only to themselves but to the government. In order to meet it in part, herring fisheries had been established on the coast at Helmsdale, 12 miles from their village of Kildoran and a part of the parish. This work had no attraction for men who loved the soil rather than the sea and for them came a new opportunity. Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, wanted people to sign up as settlers for a colony to be established in the new world called Assiniboia.

## LORD SELKIRK'S PLANS

Lord Selkirk is often called a remarkable man who lived before his time. He was an idealist, almost a radical, with a passionate concern for the wrongs of the poor.

Like most idealists he was not always practical nor did he show judgment in choosing men to execute his plans. Therefore in carrying out his projects, especially in colonization schemes, there was an immense cost in blasted lives and broken hearts, and he himself died a broken and disappointed man.

He traveled widely for his day and had visited Canada where he had become interested in the civilization of the Indians and advocated the suppression of the liquor traffic with them. As early as 1803 he had established an emigration party of several hundred poor people on Prince Edwards Island.

Although Selkirk was a Lowlander with a vast estate at the mouth of the Dee, he had spent much time in the Highlands and learned the Gaelic language.

He attended the University of Edinburg, where he knew Sir Walter Scott and later became a friend of Robert Burns with whom he thrilled over the wrongs of the poor and loyalty to Scotland.

The sufferings of the evicted Highlanders touched his heart and he began plans for a colony of these people in the wilderness of Assiniboia.

## HUDSON BAY AREA

This land was then known even to the Highlanders through the activities of the Hudson's Bay Company, which had controlled the rich fur trade of the Dominion of Canada from Quebec to the Northwest Territory through a charter secured in 1670 from King Charles II.

Before 1680, there were at least three forts and trading posts built in this territory. One of these was called York Factory and was located on the west coast of the Hudson Bay.

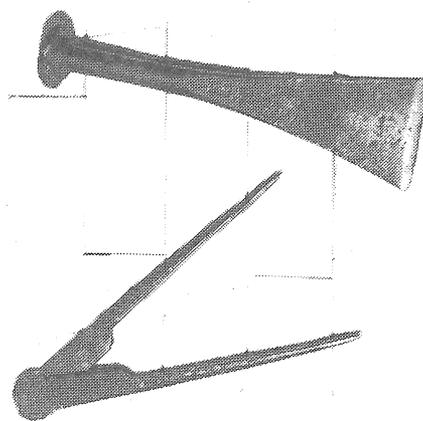
In 1808, Lork Selkirk having secured the control of the Hudson's Bay Company had acquired from that organization approximately 110,000 square miles of land from the grand forks of the Red river in Assiniboia to the headwaters of Lake of Lake Winnipeg.

This land was largely unbroken prairie and included some of the best wheat land on the continent.

While the earl undoubtedly launched his plan in the interests of the impoverished and evicted Scottish farmers, he also had an eye to the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. The settlers would provide cheap labor at the trading posts and a ready supply of cheaper provisions in the country.

## RECRUITS SETTLERS

When Lord Selkirk was ready to promote



TOOLS USED by Hugh Livingston in his work as a cabinet maker in Lord Selkirk's settlement.

his colonization plans, he sent agents into the Highlands to recruit new settlers. They told the people about Assiniboia.

A land with black soil seven feet deep and no stones to be removed before plowing. The new land had an abundance of timber and there was plenty of fish and game for the catching.

Anyone wishing to go to this new land could have a new home there free. Applications were handed out to the evicted Scottish farmers and soon 700 had signed up to go to the Red River region.

A great rival of the Hudson's Bay Company was the North West Company, which had defied the Royal Charter and under the leadership of Alexander Mackenzie had become a powerful foe.

The North West Company became alarmed at the inroads a large agricultural colony might make in the fur trading region. They countered with letters to the "Inverness Journal", which described the atrocities of the Indians and the severity of the climate in Assiniboia. While these efforts dampened the enthusiasm of the Highlanders, many still

had faith in Lord Selkirk's venture.

## THREE EXPEDITIONS

In 1811, Lord Selkirk had sent out a shipload of servants or employees, about 100 rough and rebellious men from Glasgow and the Orkneys to prepare the way for the settlers who were to follow.

Their boat left Stornaway in the Hebrides, July 26, 1811, and was signaled at York Factory, Sept. 24 -- 61 days after. This party did not attempt to reach the Forks, the place of permanent settlement, until the next summer.

They then made the journey of 728 miles in 55 days, arriving at what is now St. Boniface, across the river from the present site of Winnipeg, in August, 1812. There they began to clear the land and prepare for the arrival of the settlers.

The second party, known as Owen Keveney's party included 71 men, women and children. They sailed on the "Edward and Ann" from Stromness in the Orkneys. According to Dr. George Bryce, an authority on the history of the period, the ships lists found in the archives at Ottawa and Montreal are far from complete or correct.

Of this group of 71, only 17 names are given, which included John McIntyre. However, the Honor Roll in Martin's Hudson's Bay Company Tenures indicates those who arrived each year.

This includes among the arrivals of 1812 the names of Donald Livingston, Alexander McLean, John McLean, Alexander McBeath and John Sutherland, all names significant in Scotch Grove history.

## HARD WINTER

This party reached the Forks on Oct. 27, 1812, only two months after the first party. They found but little preparation made for them and as a result spent a terrible winter, suffering from cold and scarcity of food.

In spite of discouragements at home and abroad, in 1813 a larger group of Kildonan families sold their few possessions and prepared to make the long journey.

Lord Selkirk himself had gone to Sutherlandshire in the spring of that year to make the arrangements. His Gaelic speech and charming personality gave the people new faith in his plans.

Accordingly, the third party, known as the Churchill Party, sailed on the "Prince of Wales," convoyed by H. M. S. "Brazen," with the company's servants on the "Eddystone." The ships left from Stromness in the Orkneys on June 28, 1813.

Miles Macdonell was leader of the party and Captain Turner had charge of the "Prince of Wales." Of the 97 names in the ships list, the following information is given concerning those from Kildonan who became associated with Scotch Grove

# Churchill party starts for new land in 1813--

istory:

## STURDY PIONEERS

"John Sutherland, 50, died Sept. 2, at Churchill, a very respectable man. Catherine Grant, 46, his wife; George 18, Donald 16, Alexander 9, his sons; Janet 14, his daughter.

"Alexander Sutherland 24; William Sutherland 19, his brother; Kate Sutherland 20, his sister.

"Alexander McKay 24; Jean 24, his wife. Robert Gunn, 20, Piper; Mary Gunn, his sister.

"John McIntyre to Fort William, entered service of Hudson's Bay Company, July 1814.

## THE VOYAGE

In his "History of Manitoba", Donald Gunn, born in Caithness in 1797, who came with this party and who later became a school master in the colony, tells of the embarking vividly, as it would appeal to a 16-year-old boy.

"The people gathered at Thurso (on the north coast) then by a boat, 'The Water Witch,' to Stromness in the Orkneys. The embarkation commenced in the forenoon and by one o'clock all were on board the craft. The forepart of the hold was formed into a huge bin filled with oatmeal, the after part of the hold was occupied by a bull and a cow of the largest and finest breed to be obtained in Rosshire."

J. M. McCulloch in "The Men of Kildonan" describes the scene with real emotion:

## LEAVE TAKING

"The folks that were not of the expedition came down to the sea with us carrying our dorlachs (baggage) and talking cheery. At last and long we said our farewells for the last time and took our places on the crowded boats.

"The shore fell away as the salt water lapped briskly against our boats, and above our heads the white gulls whirled in confusion and cried querulously, Duncan McDonald filled his bagpipes, and 'Cha till! Cha till! Cha till! mi tuille' came from the chanter with the wail of the Skye in it, and the booming of the angry seas.

"The wind wafted the plaintive notes shoreward, and the old women on the pier spread their plaids to the sky and cried 'Ochanerie' (exclamation of grief) across the widening water. 'Cha till! Cha till! Cha till! mi tuille' answered the pipes. So we slipped away."

## TO A NEW WORLD

At Stromness the people were lodged in the homes of the inhabitants until ready to embark. They had expected Lord Selkirk to meet them here and to accompany them to Assiniboia, but were disappointed to learn that the affairs of the colony were such that the Earl would have to wait until

a later boat.

The "Prince of Wales" was a vessel of about 500 tons and sat low in the water. Her bows were iron-plated and the water lines covered with oak to enable her to battle through the ice.

Shortly after the voyage began, an American privateer was sighted. The convoy ship "Brazen" chased and captured it and took it into an English port -- an incident of the War of 1812.

## CROWDED QUARTERS

The quarters of the emigrants near the bow of the ship were dark, cold, and cramped. To provide privacy plaids were hung, and kilts were used for pillows.

When rough weather was encountered many fell ill from seasickness. Then the dreaded ship fever, or typhus, broke out, and in such close quarters it spread rapidly. McCulloch writes:

"In less than a week the dreaded fever had swept the little ship. Hugh MacDonald died painfully in the night. The wasted bodies of Catherine, daughter of Donald Gunn of Borabal, and William Sutherland, a young man of great promise, were consigned to the grey waters two days later.

"In the midst of this horror the surgeon Laserre suddenly expired. The sick could not be isolated, accommodations being limited, so the sick lay moaning among the healthy in every part of the ship."

## FEVER ABATED

After three weeks the fever abated

somewhat and those able to go on deck were diverted and also alarmed by the huge icebergs encountered near Greenland.

On Aug. 1, vague outlines of the coast of North America were sighted and eskimos came to the vessel across the ice, laden with furs and articles for barter.

Heavy storms were met in Hudson Bay and for three days the ship drifted drunkenly among the dangerous shoals, but on Aug. 29, the weary eyes of the people were gladdened by glimpses of the land that meant hope to them.

## GRUFF CAPTAIN

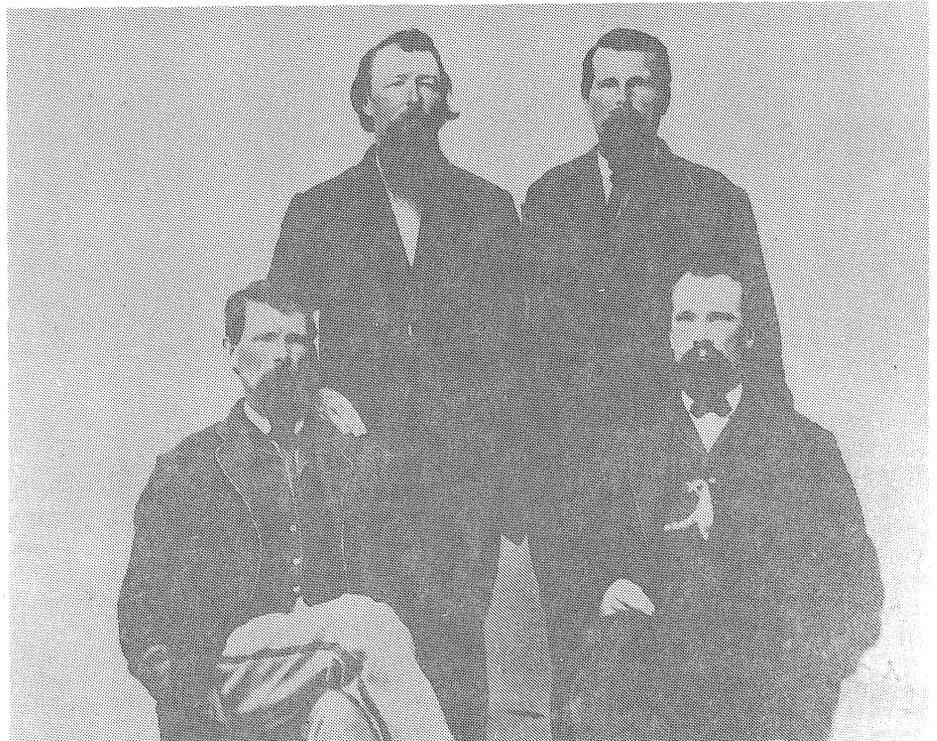
What was the consternation of Miles MacDonell to find that Captain Turner was landing them at Fort Churchill, a bleak outpost, instead of taking them 150 miles south to York Factory, where the colonists were expected and where accommodations were ready for them.

But the stubborn Captain Turner would not be reasoned with, so the passengers were literally dumped on the rocks of Sloop's Cove with their feeble and ill amid the jungle of their gear.

And in that cold, inhospitable spot, at least eight of the little party died during the month of September; and the grave of John Sutherland, plainly marked, remains there to this day.

## BITTER WINTER

Since the colonists could not winter on the barren rocks of Sloop's Cove nor elsewhere in that exposed area, it was



ARCHIBALD, Daniel, Alexander, and John Livingston, four sons of James and Sarah Livingston, born in Lord Selkirk's colony and came to Jones and Delaware counties in 1837.

# Heartless captain dumps immigrants at Scoop's Cove--

decided to make a camp 15 miles from the fort on the wooded banks of the Churchill river.

In deep snow, with unfinished huts and scanty clothing, the settlers suffered terribly. Food was scarce and the nearest supplies were 15 miles away.

The manual labor under such adverse circumstances was very hard for them, but their leader said of them, "The settlers proved willing though possessed of an indomitable Presbyterian aversion to work on Sunday."

Scurvy attacked the camp, and too weak already the settlers refused to submit to the bleeding, a general cure-all, ordered by a surgeon of the company.

Finally it was allayed by a medicine made from spruce; and when myriads of partridge and herds of deer appeared, the settlers recovered their strength and spirits on this diet of fresh meat, and were eager to start for York Factory where they should have wintered, a journey of 150 miles across the snow.

Forty-one left in April, 1814 to attempt the march. Among these was the widowed Catherine Grant Sutherland, her sons and her daughter Janet.

## OVERLAND TRAIL

When the little party, equipped with snowshoes was ready to start, the four heaviest and most active men took the ropes of the sleds at the head of the procession to make a trail for the women and the children, and two active men brought up the rear to check on the stragglers.

The bagpiper in the middle, at a signal from Miles Macdonell, threw the pipes across his shoulder and put "The Road to the Isles" on the chanter.

They were soon afflicted with snowblindness. They encountered blinding blizzards. The sharp crust of the snowdrifts cut their knees so their trail was marked with blood.

But always there was their leader to cheer them on, and at night a cheery campfire with buffalo robes on the snow, plenty of oatmeal and roasted partridge and gallons of hot tea.

## CONTINUE ON

When they reached York Factory, plans were made to continue the journey to the Forks, a distance of more than 800 miles. So this group with others, numbering 120 in all, left York, May 14, 1814, and traveled by boat and by grueling portage, with 300 miles on Lake Winnipeg into the Red river, and reached the Forks in 55 days.

There on the site of the present city of Winnipeg, Miles Macdonell in the name of Lord Selkirk allotted to the head of each family, 10 chains of land, or 600 feet, on the banks of the Red river, the land running back to a distance of from two to four miles.

This method of allotment had the advantage of bringing the houses of the settlers close together for protection and communication, and also of giving each family a right to the river, which furnished the only means of transportation and also provided them with food and water.

At the present time, some of these water

lots are held in Winnipeg, one in the possession of the Robert McBeth family, which came down directly from Lord Selkirk.

## THE FOURTH PARTY

A fourth party landed at York Factory, Aug. 26, 1815, and proceeded to the Forks, or Kildonan as it was affectionately called for the parish that had been home to generations of these immigrants.

This group was especially important because it brought James Sutherland, an elder called a Catechist and authorized to marry and baptize. Until his removal to Eastern Canada, he took the place of the Presbyterian minister that Lord Selkirk had promised these people -- a promise he did not fulfill.

Others listed in this party are: William Sutherland, 54; Isabel Sutherland 50, his wife; Jeremiah 15, Ebenezer 11, Donald 7, Helen 12, his children. The last three are mentioned as being at school. The three eldest children of this family Alexander, William, and Catherine had come with the third party, William dying at sea.

In this fourth group was the family of Alexander McBeth, listed as an old soldier, a member of the 73rd Highlanders, and said to be one of the survivors of the Black Hole of Calcutta. His children were Margaret 18, Molly 18, George 16, Roderick 12, Robert 10, Adam 6, Morrison 4.

Those of the Sutherland family connected with Scotch Grove history were the mother, Isabel, who died shortly after her arrival in Jones county; Alexander, Ebenezer, Donald and Kate who came as the wife of John McIntire.

Of the McBeth family, Margaret came as the wife of John Sutherland. One of McBeth's sons, Roderic married Mary Livingston, a daughter of Donald Livingston, and later their daughter Margaret became the wife of John E. Lovejoy; while Annie, another daughter, married John O. Callahan, both families closely connected with this community.

## TROUBLE WITH NORTH WEST

The colony was growing gradually and with their clansman reunited, the prospects appeared rosy for the settlers. But the agents of the North West Company were actively working against Lord Selkirk and the Hudson's Bay Company, this making life very hard for the colonist.

The first move to reduce the growing Kildonan colony was made when the North West Company offered 200 acres of land in Eastern Ontario to every settler who would leave the West.

Many agreed and left, but Catherine Sutherland, said, "As for me and mine we will keep the faith. We have eaten Selkirk's bread, we dwell on his lands. We stay here as long as he wishes and if we perish we perish."

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# Northwest Co. makes life miserable for settlers--

In June, 1815, the settlers remaining received a notice from Cuthbert Grant, the North West warden, which said, "All settlers to retire immediately from the Red river and no trace of a settlement to remain."

An attack by the North West men and half breeds, the Bois Brules in their employ, was made on the colony and Governor MacDonell was taken prisoner, so the settlers left their homes and went in canoes to the Jack river while the Bois Brules set fire to their homes and barns. All the crops were trampled and completely destroyed.

## LETTERS INTERCEPTED

This destruction happened before the arrival of the fourth party, which came in the fall of 1815. The new settlers encouraged the other settlers to return to Kildonan.

Lord Selkirk, who was at Montreal, knew nothing of this attack as the North West Company intercepted the letters until finally Baptiste, a French Canadian, took a message to him.

But in the summer of 1816, Grant again led an attack of Bois Brules against the colony. Tradition has it that Janet Sutherland warned the settlers and thus saved many lives before the massacre of Seven Oaks, which resulted in the death of Governor Semple and a score of men.

Again the settlers were driven out, and they wandered around Lake Winnipeg without shelter or food except berries and the fish they caught. Sometimes the Indians gave them meat, and Grant himself brought them food in a boat.

## ANSWERS GRANT

It is recorded that when Grant came to the widow Catherine Sutherland, where she sat with Janet and Sandy, her youngest, the Highland woman stood up and laughed scornfully at him:

"I cannot curse you, Cuthbert Grant, for I am a Christian woman, and if you came to me hungry I would feed you, for so Christ bade us do to our enemies. But he never commanded that we should take food from our enemies -- so I throw your charity in your face."

Finally, Lord Selkirk himself came to the rescue of his unhappy people. With a force of hired soldiers, he punished the North West Company for their acts and brought peace to the colony.

According to Dr. George Bryce's, "The Scotsman in Canada", when the Earl visited the settlement in 1817, he shook the hand of everyone, listened to their complaints, and before his departure gathered them on the spot where the church and burial grounds of St. John's Cathedral stands today.

"The parish," he said, "shall be Kildonan. Here you will build your church, and that lot," pointing to the prairie across

the little stream, "is for a school."

The Earl returned to England in 1818, and in 1820 he died in the South of France, a disappointed, heartbroken man.

A year later a union was brought about between the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, which resulted in the continuation of the name Hudson's Bay Company

## GROWTH OF THE COLONY

Alexander Ross, a one time sheriff of Red river and a member of the first council, in his book "The Red River Settlement", published in London in 1856, relates the successes and trials of the growing colony.

He writes: "In 1817 the industry of the settlers was amply rewarded by the results at harvest time; tory-fold was a common return and in one case for a bushel of barley some fifty-six were reaped; and for a bushel of seed potatoes one hundred and forty-five bushels. These facts were related to the writer by John McIntire, an intelligent settler."

The Rev. James West, an Anglican missionary was the first minister sent from England by the British and the Foreign Bible Society in 1861. In his writings he says, "Indian corn, every kind of garden vegetables, watermelons and pumpkins grow and mature. Tobacco plants fail as do flax, hemp, and winter wheat. Wild raspberries and strawberries are abundant."

But just when everything appeared so favorable, hordes of grasshoppers came in 1819. The sky turned black and a great humming was heard as the insects approached.

The Scottish people had never seen grasshoppers before and they watched helplessly as the insects swarmed over their fields and ate every green plant available.

With the loss of all their crops, the settlers had to spend the winter on the Pembina river, where the buffalo ranged. Many were barely able to keep their families alive during the hard winter months.

## PURCHASE WHEAT

Since there was no seed wheat that year, several men were sent south to Prairie du Chien, described as a town on the Mississippi river several hundred miles distant.

These men reached their destination on snowshoes at the end of three months and purchased 250 bushels of wheat at 10 shillings (\$2.50) per bushel.

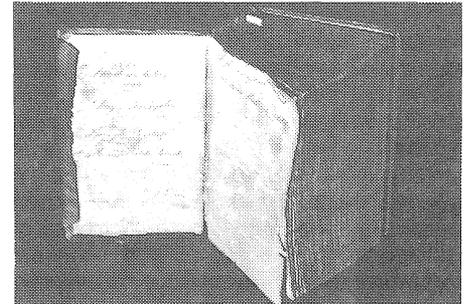
They made their way back in flat-bottom boats, arriving June 20, too late for sowing the wheat, but still enough matured to furnish seed for the following year. This expedition cost Lord Selkirk 1,040 pounds; and it revealed to the settlers the

possibilities of the land to the south of them.

The Journal of Robert Campbell, one of the settlers, tells the story of an unsuccessful attempt to bring sheep from Kentucky in 1833, and speaks of reaching Prairie du Chien and Galena, Ill.

He also writes of the speed and endurance of "Fireaway," the splendid bay stallion imported from England. Three hundred head of cattle were brought from America, and the cows sold for 30 pounds (\$1.50) and oxen for 18 pounds (\$90). Later importations were bought by the colonists for much less money.

Along with the "ups" were many "downs" for the colonists. One of these was the terrible flood in the spring of 1826 when the water stood 10 feet deep on the land that had once been farms. Houses were carried into Lake Winnipeg, and the



A LEATHER covered Gaelic Bible given to Hugh Livingston in 1822 by Rev. James West, the first minister sent to the Red river settlement from England.

settlers fled for their lives, only to return and to start rebuilding when the water receded.

## COMMERCIAL IDEAS

Various commercial schemes were tried, some bringing in good wages for the settlers. One of these was the Buffalo Wool Company, an attempt to make cloth out of the wool of the buffalo. This sent wages up to 15 shillings a day (\$3.75) while it lasted.

The Assinibolia Wool Company was another project that soon closed down, as did the Tallow Company. The farmers wives began to spin for small wages, but still it brought in some income for them.

The general prosperity of the colony may be judged by the fact that in 1830 two hundred new homes had been built. A reproduction of the living room of one of these homes is now a part of the museum in Winnipeg, all of the furniture being original articles.

This shows the fireplace filling a space in the main wall with its chimney jack, tongs, iron pot, iron kettle, and handled frying pan. The flintlock rifle and powder horn occupy prominent places over it.

At one side of the room are the querns, or stones used for grinding flour, while the mortar and pestle for crushing oatmeal is

# Try commercial schemes to survive in harsh climate--

at the other.

The earthen floor is covered with woven reed mats, the chairs are hand made, the wood fastened together with elk hide; the spinning wheel is seemingly the finest piece of furniture; the dishes are of pewter or buffalo horn. A besom (broom), a chopping bowl, candlemolds, molasses jug, and a tinder box about complete the furnishings. The leather covered Bible occupies a prominent place, however.

## WEDDINGS PLAY A PART

Life on the Red river was not all struggle and hardship, mixed with Gaelic prayer, as the descendants of these pioneers were sometimes led to believe. A letter written by Thomas Simpson at Fort Garry to Donald Ross at Norway House in 1834 states:

"I will now give you a spice of Red river gossip. All the 'nobility' attended the wedding of Nancy Livingston and Donald Sutherland. We bachelors danced our legs off almost, smacking the lasses ad infinitum.

"Tell Mrs. Ross that her niece, John's daughter, is now the prettiest girl in Red river. John Livingston may marry Sophy McDonnell, Allan's daughter. Dr. Bunn is beginning to vaccinate since hearing of your success at Norway House."

John Livingston married Sophy McDonnell in Dec. 1834, but Sophy 24, died the following Aug. 1835. Other Red river marriages important in Scotch Grove history were those of Ebenezer Sutherland and Sarah Gunn, John Sutherland and Margaret McBeth, Catherine Sutherland and John McIntire. The wife of Alexander Sutherland was always referred to as "Aunt Jean," her maiden name not being stated.

Fort Garry was the nearest and most important post, while Norway House on

Lake Winnipeg and York Factory on the Hudson Bay were also large trading centers.

A William Sinclair was chief factor at York Factory, and James Sinclair at Fort Garry, where his daughters Margaret and Harriet were called the bells of the Fort. Mary Sinclair danced with Sir John Franklin at Norway House on his return from an Arctic expedition.

## SCHOOLS PLAY ROLE

Schools have always had a prominent place in the lives of Scottish people and the Red river settlement was no exception. What they studied, the books they read, if any besides the Bible and Westminster Catechism, were not discussed by the pioneers, but the punishments at school were often enlarged upon. But however harsh and limited the schools, the young people had some opportunity for an education.

John Matheson, who came from Kildonan in 1815, was listed as a schoolmaster; also Donald Gunn was a teacher. The Rev. David Jones came to the colony in 1823 to preach in the Anglican church and to teach.

Mrs. Jones, wife of the missionary, joined her husband in 1829 and opened a school for young people, which continued until her death in 1836. Mrs. Jones was often quoted as an authority by the pioneer women in Scotch Grove. John McCollum, a student from Edinburg, came in 1833 to assist Mr. Jones in St. John's school.

Teachers and governesses who came from England married so quickly it was hardly worth while to bring them out. Even so, most of the schools were for the children of the Hudson's Bay Company employees, and Alexander Ross records that the schools were not satisfactory to the Scotch settlers.

## NO SCOTTISH CLERGY

Their worship was one of the sorest spots in the settlement for the Presbyterian adherents. Lord Selkirk had promised them their own minister, who would be to them what the Rev. Alexander Sage had been in Kildonan.

At the time of the eviction, Rev. Sage had felt he was too old to accompany them, but he did all in his power to ease their burdens and to encourage their going to the new land. He is buried in the Kildonan churchyard.

The pulpit from which he preached to these Highland men and women still stands in the church.

The immediate spiritual needs of these Presbyterians was supplied by James Sutherland, the catechist, until his removal to Eastern Canada.

All the requests for a minister of their own were ignored by Lord Selkirk and

later by his agents, and not until 1852 did the Red river settlement have a Presbyterian minister.

## OTHER PROBLEMS

Besides the troublesome religious situation, neither economic nor political conditions were satisfactory to many of the Selkirk settlers. In 1835 the Hudson's Bay Company attempted a legislative council, for the colony now numbered 5,000 inhabitants.

The personnel of this group was not especially popular, nor was the general plan since it linked church and state. The high duty on imports from the United States was irksome and the prices charged by the company often were 75 percent above the London prices.

With the uncertainty of crops, the failure of commercial enterprises, and general dissatisfaction with the government it is not surprising that many looked for new locations.

The Swiss colony of 243 had emigrated to the United States from the Red river about 1830. Glowing reports had been reaching the settlers frequently about the land to the south.

Alexander Ross wrote in 1836, "A group of 143 persons, chiefly of the Presbyterian party, left the settlement for the United States, carrying along with them much valuable property." It would be interesting to know where this group of people settled.

## LOOK SOUTHWARD

In 1835 a small group of Highlanders prepared to brave the wilderness and go south to view the land which they had heard about. Hugh Livingston, 34 (originally spelled Livingstone) and Alexander McLain (later spelled McClain) were among the party.

Hugh Livingston had originally come from Argyll, Scotland, and now he, his wife, the former Isabella Rose, and their three children prepared for the long journey.

Livingston was a cabinetmaker and had built the two-wheeled carts to carry supplies and his family's belongings. Traveling was slow as the group made their way southward through the wilderness. It was especially tiring for the women and children.

When they reached Fort Snelling on the Mississippi river, Hugh Livingston built rafts which transported the women and children downstream while the men brought the ox cards along the bank. Their journey covered nearly a thousand miles by the time they arrived at Dubuque, a lead mining town on the Iowa side of the river.

(To be continued)

## President's Message:

A few failed to resubscribe to the "Review". This may have been an oversight. We are having an extra 50 copies of this issue printed for those who might resubscribe, however when these are gone, no more will be available.

Don't miss the big bicentennial celebration at Central park on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July. It will be a recreation of the FIRST tax supported 4th of July celebration west of the Mississippi, which took place in 1861. All of Jones county is turning out. Be part of this event.

Keep your eyes peeled for the OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT on the Museum. Tentative plans call for it to be a Sunday in early May.

# Tells highlights of an early day

Bowen's Prairie was first settled by Hugh Bowen, a bachelor, in 1836 and another settler of note was Barrett Whittemore, who was born in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire in 1806. He was educated in the common schools of New Hampshire, and spent some time in their high school, whose teachers came from Amherst college.

He came west at 24 years of age and first settled at Galena, where he was interested in mining lead, and then on to Dubuque, where he went on with the mining of lead in 1831. He taught the second school in that city.

In 1838 he obtained 120 acres of land on Bowen's Prairie, and lived there the rest of his life. In 1841 he opened the first school in Jones county.

He returned east in 1842 for 18 months and brought back to the Prairie his brother Otis and family, J. H. Eaton. He continued farming until 1846 when he went east and returned with a bride, Miss Louise Blodgett. In 1858 he was elected the first county superintendent of schools in Jones county.

In the recorder's office in 1858 was filed this mortgage. C. R. Stowell to Otis Whittemore - one red and white cow, 7 years old, one red and white heifer, 3 years old, and one roan bull, 3 years old. Total value \$50.31.

Also the following mortgage: Elias Scott to Otis Whittemore, at 10 percent interest, one brown horse, six cows, three calves and 500 bushels of corn - value \$85.93.

Barrell Whittemore also aided in breaking ground for the first Capitol of our State at Iowa City.

## FIRST ELECTION

The first election in Jones county was in his log cabin, and the entire number of votes cast for Territorial Officers was eleven. Even at the age of 69 he was still a successful teacher. Whittemore as a writer and teacher was a real force in Iowa in his early days.

James M. Peet came to Fairview, Jones county in 1841. In 1844 Peet and his brothers took two loads of oats to Dubuque, a distance of 58 miles. They were obliged to camp out on the way as there were no houses on their route for a distance of 16 or 20 miles.

They sold their oats to Emerson and Shields for 6¼ cents a bushel -- heaping measure, and could get nothing but dry goods in exchange . . . they refused groceries. These were times that tried men's souls.

During the time of the immigration of 1854, two men from Ohio said that from their county alone 1,000 persons were coming to Iowa in the fall. At every ferry on the river crowds were waiting to cross. At this time there were 40,000 acres of

unentered land, and a year hence there was not as much as a section left to farm by immigrants.

At one point in Iowa during a single month 743 wagons had passed, allowing 5 persons to a wagon -- that makes 8,715 people. From early morning till late at night the covered wagons were on the trail west. -- Red Chapter on Bread - p. 39 by Ellis Parker Butler from Prairie Gold by Iowa Authors.

## EARLY MONTICELLO

In 1875 Monticello had 6 dry goods stores, 4 foot and shoe stores, 7 blacksmith shops, 4 wagon shops, 5 shoemaker shops, 2 gun and pistol shops, 2 flouring mills, one well auger factory, 4 sewing machine offices, 2 hotels, 7 saloons, 3 churches and 4 church organizations, one graded and high school building, 6 doctors, 1 dentist, 2 photograph galleries, a fine improved water power on Kitty Creek.

It was in 1863 my grandparents and their three sons came from Sharon Center, Ohio to Bowen's Prairie -- my father being six years old.

Times were hard at this period of the Civil War, with calico \$1.00 a yard, and sugar very high.

It was a memorable day when the news came that Lincoln was shot, and my grandfather went to Monticello on horseback to gather with the towns people at Proctor's store.

The Indians still roved the Prairie, and my grandmother would keep the curtains pulled down when she saw them coming, as she did not want to refuse them food. I have heard my grandfather tell of seeing a sick Indian girl tied to a travois of trees, and being dragged behind an Indian on horseback on their way to Dubuque.

One evening on his way home from Monticello, grandfather saw 30 Indians and as many ponies.

A full meal did not wait for Dad, when as a boy he would come to Monticello with 10 cents in his pocket for dinner. A piece of cheese and some broken crackers (which were free) made a good lunch at Proctor's store -- or a dozen large sugar cookies for a dime at Mrs. Maudley's Bakery.

## AMES GRADUATE

The years passed and after graduating in the 5th class at Ames (Mrs. Henry Carpenter and Mrs. Dr. Merick were in the same class) he came back to Monticello to read law in Mr. Herrick's office.

Items in his diaries told of going to circuit court at Anamosa, taking the stage to Cascade, took passage on the morning freight, stopped at Delaware long enough to get dinner, changed for Manchester, arriving there about 2 o'clock.

While going to Ames, stayed out to teach country school one winter, walking three

miles to school, and at the end of five months received \$199.

Attended graduating exercises of Monticello public schools in 1876. There were 5 graduates.

Received a telegram to secure a claim at the town of Viola. The train had bone hence I had to proceed by team. The weather was intensely cold, but the sleighing was good, and by wearing a heavy buffalo overcoat, I rode through 18 miles without having to get out of the sleigh. I made the collection and reached home about 4:30 p.m.

Went squirrel hunting with Henry Carpenter.

Attended wedding reception of Eb Hicks and Ella Jewett.

At 25 years of age I returned to Sharon Center, Ohio where I was born and saw some of our old neighbors. Visited the grave of my grandfather, Jacob Doxsee -- died July 16, 1837 - age 29 years.

Father returns to Salem Ohio in 1887 and is married to Jessie Fawcett, a cousin of the Monticello Fawcetts.

## BORN IN 1890

In the fall of 1890 I was brought up the hill in a cradle (when I was 3 months old) to the home which had just been built and where I still living in my 70th year.

I recall as a child spending a penny now and then for candy at Mr. Curley's little low store where McNill's hardware now stands.

The big day came when we had our first telephone and when you would call a friend Central would tell you she had heard she was downtown a little while ago.

A dish of ice cream at Peter Meyers, and when it was a ten cent dish you got a nice plate of fancy mixed cookies on the table.

Decoration Day with everyone going to our Opera House to hear the speaker of the day.

A ride on Sunday afternoon with a team and buggy from the livery stable. Six miles an hour just did not take you far from home.

Coasting down Main Hill with your long bobsled often reaching Proctor's store.

Sleigh rides and the jingle of bells on the frosty air.

Delivering an oration when you graduated from high school. Two evenings of such an event in the Opera House for my class. I can recall father told me to be perfectly at ease when I delivered my oration. I did not move until the final lines when I stiffly placed one foot forward and my hair ribbon fluttered a little.

Two senior class plays so everyone could have a try at acting.

## 10 CENTS FOR STEAK

Sent down to Jacob Suter's meat market for ten cents worth of steak for dinner for

(Continued on page 8)

# Partial listing of charter contributors

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## Highlights--

(Continued from page 7)

four, and always some calves liver thrown in for the cat. Often a nickel's worth of very large pickles from the pickle barrel.

The neighbors ranged around our living room while father played our graphophone with "Uncle Josh at the Circus" as a lively number.

A taffy pull and a songfest in our parlor was a gala evening.

Our first car with leather seats, and slide curtains put on in case of rain. A long duster and auto hood to save one from the clouds of dust on a trip to Cedar Rapids, and a hasty trip home when we saw rain clouds. Oh! those mud roads . . .

Fair week with the hack for the fairgrounds going right down -- one more and away we go. Watching the attractions while sitting on the grassy hillside, and moving from one group to another. The special trains coming in loaded with folks to see the wonderful Jones County Fair. The band concerts on Main street at night and a show every night in the Opera House with a diamond ring being given away with the lucky number on Saturday night.

Circus Day with an honest to goodness parade in the morning. How one has to really dream of days gone by to visualize the simple life in the early 1890's.

The memories are ones I shall always treasure with a background that was truly the beginning of our fair State.

-- Mary Doxsee Bonwell

## Donate items

From Mrs. Lou Carpenter  
 Major Farwell's Civil War trunk  
 Captain Henry Carpenter's sword  
 (grandfather of Halstead Carpenter)  
 Old books of the Carpenter Family

From Mrs. Fronie Schweinler  
 Wedding clothes of Anna McKean French

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