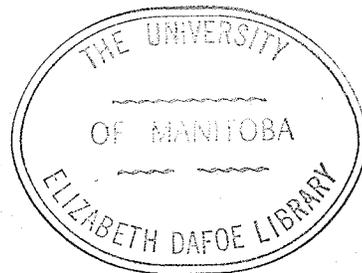


A HISTORICAL STUDY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
IN WEST KILDONAN
TO 1959

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of Education
The University of Manitoba

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Education

by
Raymond Ronald Bailey
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ABSTRACT

The study records the development to 1959 of education in the City of West Kildonan, a northern suburb of Metropolitan Winnipeg. West Kildonan occupies part of the area originally settled by Lord Selkirk's colonists in 1812.

To understand the education that emerged in the area, the story of the colony is traced from its earliest beginnings to its emergence as the Parish of Kildonan, an integral part of the whole Red River Settlement. With the formation of the Province of Manitoba, the history continues, and is confined to the west side of the Red River where the original river lots were laid out, and over whose boundaries West Kildonan now stretches.

The story of the emergence of the Municipality of West Kildonan is sketched until its present City status in 1962. The municipal history is particularly detailed in the year 1907, in the 1914 period when the Municipality was divided into East and West Kildonan, and in the period 1920-27. These periods had particular significance to the history of the educational system.

Some background is given of the relationship of the area to the province as a whole, and to the City of Winnipeg in particular.

The ethnic and religious origins of the district's population are indicated.

Against this background the educational development is recorded. Beginning with the first mention of schooling in the colony, under Francis Swords in 1813, the study continues to 1959. This 146 year period

is divided into five stages of growth. Educational foundations are laid from 1812 to 1870. The Rural School Era continues until 1900. From this time until 1923 an Era of Growth and Division ensues wherein West Kildonan emerges as a Suburb of Winnipeg. From 1924 to 1944 are Years of Economic Depression. The 1945 to 1959 period is characterized as The Booming Years.

In each of these periods the study traces the growth of the public educational institutions of the area, recording the personnel involved, and noting any unique features that evolved. The honours won by schools and individual scholars are recorded in some measure, as well as anecdotes of the time. Details of school operation are given in such areas as attendance, enrollment, inspection and finances. Consideration of teacher-trustee relationships are given, as well as the community's use of schools.

School District boundaries are outlined, and the factors involved with any major changes explored at some length. Maps of the area are included. There are many statistical tables involving finance, enrollment, pupil-teacher ratios, classroom distribution, cost-per-pupil, and other details. Photos are included of schools which were built and since altered, or demolished.

The educational history of Manitoba and of the Manitoba Teachers' Society are included to give clarity to West Kildonan development.

The material for the study came from various sources. Besides the standard histories of the Red River Settlement, the newspapers of the time provided periodic glances of the West Kildonan Schools. The records of the Department of Education were invaluable for teachers' names and enrollment statistics. The Auditors' Reports of the Municipality, and of

the School District supplied financial data. The most useful records for the period 1905 to 1959 were the Minutes of West Kildonan School District Number 8. These contained background information, discussion details, committee reports, letters written, correspondence received, summaries of teachers' salaries and other expenditures. Other School District records which were used included Classroom Registers, Ledgers, and Files. Personal interviews and reminiscences of early teachers and pupils are included.

The study records the development of education in the West Kildonan area until 1959.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people have given unstintingly of their time and assistance with this study. To all of them I would like to acknowledge my sincere appreciation. Especially I would like to give credit for the photographs:

West Kildonan School--Mr. C. Edwards
John Black School--Mrs. M. Margaron
Seven Oaks School--Mrs. G. Stewart
John Gunn School and pupils--Mr. A. Blatta
Governor Semple School and pupils--Mrs. A.E. Derham
Centennial School--Mrs. J.W. Baldock
Victory School--Mrs. N.G. Thomson

A special thank you is extended to Professor K. Wilson for his guidance and constructive criticism, to Mr. Julian Himick for his unselfish gift of time with the cartography, and to Mr. Glen Hansen for his cheerful cooperation in making the School District records accessible.

I would like to pay a special tribute to my wife, Joan, whose patient help and typing assistance have made this work possible.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The settlers brought by Lord Selkirk to Red River in 1811 were the forerunners of a flood of humanity which colonized the Canadian west. With settlement came education, first at Red River, and later throughout the prairie region. Evolving from that first colony, which gave educational beginnings to Western Canada, is the city of West Kildonan.

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

It would seem appropriate that an attempt be made, after more than one hundred and fifty years have elapsed, to record, in part at least, the development of education in this area. Such is the purpose of this thesis: to make a historical study of education in the City of West Kildonan.

Such a study should show the democratic process at work, meeting the educational needs of the community. It should also trace the growth of the educational institutions of the area, recording the personnel involved in this growth and noting any unique features which developed. The honors won by schools and by individual scholars should also be recorded, as well as the anecdotes handed down over the years. Also to be considered is the impact of new educational developments on the West Kildonan schools, including those auxiliary educational organizations which grew alongside the public school system.

II. LOCALE

The locale of the study is that area of the original Red River Settlement known today as the City of West Kildonan, in the Province of Manitoba. Geographically, it may be described as a land area, more or less rectangular in size, and three square miles in area. It is bounded on the north by the Bergen cut-off, on the east by the Red River, on the south by the City of Winnipeg, and on the west by McPhillips Street.¹

The present population of West Kildonan is 20,902.² This is a small segment of the 485,120 people living within the boundary of the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg.³ The Metro area comprises seven cities, one town, and five suburban municipalities, clustered about the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.⁴ This is the present-day development which has evolved since the thirty-nine members of Lord Selkirk's first party of indentured servants and colonists arrived on August 30, 1812.⁵ They came to attempt an agricultural life beside the mixed population of whites, Indians, and half-breeds which the fur trade had brought together at "The Forks."

¹Infra, map 1, p. 3.

²Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, Census, May 31, 1964.

³Ibid.

⁴Appendix A, p. 502, lists the divisions, sizes and populations.

⁵Chester Martin, Lord Selkirk's Work in Canada (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1916) p. 43.

⁶"The Forks" was the popular name given to the area at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Infra, map 2, p. 4.