

## **The Bate Family – W. P. (William) & Maud**

### **Did you know.....?**

The name, W. P. Bate, is readily recognized in Saskatoon because an Elementary Public School and also a crescent in Grosvenor Park area, Bate Crescent, were named after him. His full name was William Pope Bate. Both he and his wife, Maud, were pioneers of the *Temperance Colonization Society*. Of note to the parishioners of St. James' is that the Bates were founding members of the first Anglican Church on the East Side of the S. Sask. River in Saskatoon. They headed up meetings in their own home to initiate a church for the Anglicans of Nutana. This family, along with others who wanted to worship according to the Book of Common Prayer, truly carried out the ministry of starting a Church of England parish.

When William Bate died at age 68 of pneumonia in April of 1934, The Rev. H. A. Alderwood, as rector of St. James', conducted the funeral service. He paid tribute to Mr. Bate with these words: "I always thought of him as a kindly gentleman of the old school and a public servant of a most conscientious order".

He gave an amazing legacy of community service and as well, he energetically undertook many personal and family endeavours. It should be noted that the early days of living in the colony were at the best immensely challenging. Here are several of his eclectic pursuits:  
William Bate-

- came on his own to the Saskatoon Temperance Colony in 1886 at the age of 21. He had been born and completed his education in England.
- was organist and 'religious worker' for the Methodist, later Grace Westminster, Church. When St. James' was a new parish church, he was organist as well as being the first Church Warden.
- was Sec.-Treas. for the school boards of Saskatoon for 30 years.
- owned a grand piano. It was taken to the Little Stone Schoolhouse for the community dance that was held for the school's grand opening in 1887.
- proposed in 1909, to the I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire), that the Little Stone School that was no longer being used be relocated. The U. of S. offered a suitable location South of

the University Hospital. The school was dismantled and rebuilt stone by stone.

- sold real estate & was Saskatoon's first assessor.
- became overseer of the village of Nutana in 1903.
- ferried people across the river in his own rowboat.
- built and managed the first rink in Nutana.
- noted as a "weather prognosticator".
- was a photographer. Besides taking many historic photos he did a self-portrait photo of himself with his wife Maud probably in 1894.
- kept a journal for many years that recorded events of historical interest. His account of an 1888 trip from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon found in Narratives of Saskatoon 1882-1912 is fascinating to read.

This last story of William Bate's successful endeavours concerns a contest that he entered. It was in the early 1930's and William needed extra cash to feed his family. The challenge was to legibly write the highest number of words on the back of a postcard for a prize of \$350. His daughter Renee said that he ordered an especially extra fine nibbed pen from England and did win the prize. The money was used to purchase groceries.

Mr. W. P. Bate was an example to us all of a truly dedicated, industrious Christian gentleman. Maud Bate was likewise an amazing woman.

Maud Garrison came to the Temperance Colony from Napanee, Ontario with her mother and older brothers in the fall of 1885, when she was 10 years old. Her father with his brothers had come in 1883. Garrison Crescent is named for them. In interviews that were done in her later life, Maud enthusiastically remembered the beauty of the South Saskatchewan River in all its fall glory and the hospitality of the Colonists who had only arrived two years previous. Her uncle, John Lake, was the leader of the Colony. Maud remembered how all the colonists of different denominations had worship services together.

The first time she met William Bate he saw her riding astride a horse. That style of riding was not considered 'proper' for a young lady! However, the propriety of it didn't bother Maud at all and William's pet name for her of Clothespins was taken in good humour.

Maud had a happy childhood. She was a great friend with Muriel Pendygrasse who, in Maud's words, had 'heaps of toys'. She loved dolls. The Indians from Whitecap's band held her in special regard. They brought her gifts and nicknamed her, 'Eena Tepee Papoose' or in

other words, 'The Girl in the Stone House'. That stone building eventually, after being rebuilt in 1918, became the structure that houses the Bulk Cheese Warehouse at Broadway and 10<sup>th</sup>!

It was in that same building that William and Maud celebrated their marriage on April 23, 1894. Practically the whole colony came for tea and bride's cake. Their first home was on the homestead that was located approximately where Circle Park Mall is now. Their first child, Aubrey, was born on Feb. 20, 1895. Because Maud had loved and played with dolls so much; people came to see her 'real' doll! Maud and William had Canon E. K. Matheson of Battleford baptize Aubrey. Over time the Bate's family grew as their other 6 children were born or adopted. They moved from the homestead and took up residence in Nutana eventually building their home at the top of the Broadway Bridge.

When St. James' was started in 1907, Maud Bate was active in the congregation. She sang in the choir and when the Women's Auxiliary was formed, she was the first president. She became a Life Member of the W.A. and in 1959 received a 50-year membership certificate. Renee Saxon, her daughter, was a founding member of the Jessie Miller Circle. It was she who invited Lil Thompson to be a member in 1949. Now in 2008 they are still friends though Renee lives in Ottawa.

For St. James' Diamond Jubilee in 1967, the parish history was written. Maud Bate was noted as being the senior member of St. James'. She remembered the many hours that Mr. Bate spent working on the construction of the little wooden building, the first St. James' Church.

Maud Bate died in July of 1973 at age 98. Her funeral service was held at St. James' led by The Rev. Canon Glenn Ash. She once said in an interview that the pioneers of the Temperance Colony had a simplicity and refinement which was wonderful – it was a deep innate refinement of soul. This is the legacy that we at St. James' inherited from W. P. and Maud Bate. They lie at rest in Woodlawn Cemetery. We at St. James', with God's grace, will continue their pioneering spirit into our next century.