

BIOGRAPHY OF ALBERT COLLICUTT

Albert Collicutt was born on April 9th, 1890, in Manchester, England, second of a family of six children. He belonged to the Church Lads' Brigade, and had a continuing interest in Church Work, attending St. George's and later St. Bride's Churches.

As a carpenter, his father probably interested him in the trades. He served as a Plumber's apprentice for seven years.

Interest in moving to Canada was initiated by a friend of the family, Albert Parker. In March 1911 brother Bill emigrated to the new land, and his father came in June of the same year, followed by Albert in April 1912, and finally by the rest of the family in August 1912. The early arrivals boarded at a house on Henry Ave, and when the family were united they moved to St. John's Ave. and from there to a house on Semple Ave. West Kildonan, and eventually built their own home on Newton Ave. The parents lived there until they moved to Vancouver about 1937.

The two sons, Bill and Albert, and their father helped build the original Minaki Lodge around the year 1914, and their father also worked on the construction of the C.N. R. Station in Winnipeg, and eventually became employed by the C.N.R.

Albert served with the 6th Field Engineers C.E.F. during the first World War. He was married in April 1919 in Manchester, and returned to West Kildonan with his bride in September 1919. He joined St. Anne's Anglican Church in 1913 and became a tireless worker for the Church until his death. As Superintendent of the Sunday School, he guided many hundreds of children through their early religious training and on to adulthood. Albert was a Licensed Lay Reader for the Diocese of Rupertsland, and took services in many outlying communities, such as Oakville, Charleswood, and other suburbs. He was a delegate to the Diocesan Synod and a member of the Diocesan Board of Religious Education. He held such positions as Rector's Warden, People's Warden 2nd Vestryman, under incumbents the Revs. Richardson, Mc Cartney, Calvert, Boyd, Landon, Blewett and Hoad.

For a number of years he was in partnership under the name of Goodman & Collicutt Plumbing & Heating, with a shop located in St. Boniface. Like many businesses the partnership fell victim to the depression years, and Albert continued on with his own Plumbing business, working out of a building at the rear of his home at 116 Perth Ave. The building was at one time a barn or stable, and the rings could still be found in place in the studding. The small Model T Truck with Collicutt Plumbing & Heating on the side became a familiar sight around West Kildonan. He was a member of the Master Plumbers' Association and served as Treasurer for several years.

In March 1930, Albert was initiated into the Seven Oaks Lodge, No. 148 A.F. & A.M. and he became Worshipful Master in 1942.

Showing a continuing interest in community affairs, Albert ran successfully for the West Kildonan Council in 1930, and continued as a Councillor until 1945. He was acting Reeve for many years, and served as head of various committees of Council. Of interest, and also as a picture of the Municipality at that time, the following is a quote from his first election speech: "Personally, I would like to see sewer and water in every street, also lights and gravel roads. I admire those people who have cars, but I sympathize with them when they have to park their cars on Main St, when the roads are impassible, but all these things cost money, and until such time as we can afford them they cannot be had."

The West Kildonan Curling Club was built about the year 1938, and Albert was one of the approximately 160 initial shareholders.

Albert Collicutt passed away on May 25th 1952 at the age of 62. There were many expressions of sympathy from friends and numerous organizations with which he had been active. At the funeral, Archbishop Sherman (Archbishop of Rupertsland) took part in the service. A Memorial Plaque located in St. Anne's Anglican Church attests to his dedicated Church work and the Collicutt Elementary School in Garden City serves as a reminder of his contribution to community affairs.