

Bruce, Patrick, (1848-1933)

Patrick Bruce was born on May 17, 1848 in Kildonan, the son of Mary McNab and James Bruce (1801-1878), both Half-Breeds. His grandfather, Benjamin Bruce (1770-1823) was an HBC employee from the Orkneys of Scotland who came to York Factory on Hudson Bay in 1789 and married an Indian woman. On April 6, 1870, at St. Mary's, Portage La Prairie, Patrick married Elizabeth Ann Garrioch (1853-1912), daughter of Elizabeth Campbell and John Garrioch (1813-1891), both Half-Breeds.

Children:

- John Edward, born January 11, 1871 at Fairford. He married Margaret Kennedy.
- Mary Josephine, born September 27, 1872 at Fairford. She married Edward Scott.
- James Arthur, born 1874 at Fairford. He married Isabelle Taylor.
- David Alfred, born 1876 at Kinosota.
- Victor Alexander, born May 25, 1878 at Fort Alexander.
- Walter Andrew, born circa 1881. He married Mary Monkman.
- Percival, born August 1, 1883 at Fort Alexander.
- Elise Gertrude, born April 17, 1885 at Fort Alexander. She married George Monkman.

In 1868 Patrick's older brother Reverend George Bruce (1837-1938) was ordained and in 1869 he was put in charge of the Fairford Mission where he would serve for 45 years. He replaced Reverend David Hale who died that year. Patrick would have been about 20 years old then and it seems that he may have joined his brother there for a time. Although many sources refer to him as Reverend, it seems that he was not an ordained minister like his brother, but rather a Catechist, as he stated in his Scrip affidavit of 1875.

In 1876, after one or more missions, Patrick came to Lansdowne Mission with his family. This mission was established in 1864 and was associated with Fort Alexander. He may have been replacing Reverend Gilbert Cook (1840-1828) who was there until 1875.

In the Census of 1881 Patrick was enumerated in the Fort Alexander area as age 33; wife Elizabeth, age 31; and children as John Edward (age 10), Mary Josephine (8), James Arthur (6), David A. (4), Victor Alex (age 2) and Walter Andrew as a baby.

After a few years, Patrick and his family moved to Point Grand Marais. There, his career was extended to teaching school as well as still serving the Church. On May 18, 1891, he was enumerated in St Clements Parish after having moved to Poplar Park. Around 1892, he bought land (NW Quarter of 30-15-6), near Poplar Park. He moved his family there, and started to farm. He would remain in this area for the rest of his life.

Scrip Applications:

Scrip affidavit for Bruce, Patrick; born: May 17, 1848; father: James Bruce (Métis); mother: Mary Bruce (Métis); claim no.: 1696; date of issue: September 20, 1876.

Scrip affidavit for Bruce, Elizabeth; wife of Patrick Bruce; born: December 24, 1853; father: John Garrick (Métis); mother: Eliza Campbell (Métis); claim no: 1697; date of issue: September 20, 1876.

Reference: Red River Ancestry <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/BRUCE-PATRICK-1848.php>



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