

Reverend Henry Budd. (1810-1875)

By Raymond Beaumont, Frontier School Division.

A Metis from Norway House, Budd (actually, Sakachuwescum, "Going Up the Hill") was the first ordained Native minister in the Church of England in North America. His ordination took place on December 22, 1850 at St. Andrew's Church on the Red River. He subsequently served as a missionary among the Woodlands Cree people living on the Saskatchewan River system during the mid-1800s.

Henry Budd was born c. 1812 at York Factory. Henry's Métisse mother was Wash-esoo-esquew (Agathus or Mary Budd) his father was a Metis by the name of Budd who died circa 1811. His mother was the Metis daughter of Matthew Cocking a HBC factor and Ke-che-cho-wick, a northern Cree woman (Cocking's second wife). When he was ten years old Henry's mother placed him with the Rev. John West who was looking for Native children to educate in the Christian faith. West recruited another boy, James Hope (Pemuteuithinew) and they traveled to Red River where he took responsibility for the education of Henry and James. After completion of his schooling Henry moved near St. Andrews Church (the Lower Church) on the Red River in 1829. He lived there with his mother, his brother's widow and her three children. They farmed, raising wheat and barley along with the hogs they raised for meat. Budd was also employed with the HBC first as a day labourer then full-time at Lac la Pluie from 1832 to 1835.

In 1836, Henry Budd married Elizabeth (Betsy) Work (1820-1874), the Irish-Cree daughter of John Work, an officer of the HBC. They were to have thirteen children. With the dowry provided by his father-in-law Henry was able to purchase land in addition to the land grant he received from the HBC in 1831. He began teaching at the Church Missionary Society and in 1837 he took charge of the Day School at the Upper Church in the Red River Valley. He was sent to Cumberland House in 1840 to establish the headquarters for a new mission. This changed however when Henry saw fit to transfer headquarters to The Pas, Manitoba.

His work as a missionary proved fruitful. Within a matter of months, thirty-eight adults and forty-four children were baptized by Rev. John Smithhurst (Henry had not yet been ordained). He was an eloquent speaker in both Cree and English and this enhanced his missionary work. Through his work at The Pas, he influenced the Native people of the La Ronge-Stanley mission area who had come to learn from him and then returned home to share their new faith with their communities. His superiors recognized his missionary abilities and Henry was recommended by the Christian Society to be ordained. Thus, on December 22, 1850, Henry Budd became a minister of the Church of England. He was thirty-eight years old. Before him there were still twenty-three years of ministry. After his ordination the Reverend Budd was given a new mission at Nipowewin, now known as Nipawin, Saskatchewan. He worked there for fifteen years also ministering to the needs of the residents of the Prince Albert area. He died on April 2, 1875, at the age of 61 and was buried at The Pas, Manitoba.

Reference

Beaumont, Raymond M. "Origins and Influences: The Family ties of the Reverend Henry Budd." *Prairie Forum*. Fall 1992: 167-200.



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