

Alfred Campbell Garrioch. (1848-1934)

The Reverend Alfred C. Garrioch was born in Kildonan of Metis heritage. His father John was an Orcadian and his English-Metis mother was from York Factory. Alfred's mother, Eliza Campbell was the daughter of Colin Campbell, a Chief Factor for HBC. Alfred studied at St. John's College and obtained a degree in Theology in the early 1870s. His brother John Garrioch was one of the "Portage la Prairie Gang" that attempted to free Riel's prisoners in February of 1870 and ended up being captured themselves.

Alfred taught at St. John's School from 1868-1871, then entered business. Alfred was ordained as a priest of the Anglican Church in 1875. A year later he was sent to the northwest as a missionary in the Peace River country. In 1874 he became a Church of England missionary at Fort Simpson, N.W.T., where he was ordained a deacon in 1876. His first assignment there was to establish a mission at Fort Vermilion, where he spent most of the next decade. In 1886, following his success at Vermilion, Garrioch was sent south to help revive the St. Saviour's mission in the community of Dunvegan, the birthplace of his mother. He translated various religious texts into the Cree and Beaver languages, and he also developed a reference guide for English, Cree and Beaver vocabulary.

He was at Rapid City, Manitoba from 1892 to 1895 and then served at Portage La Prairie until 1908. He was an authority on the Cree and Beaver languages and is known for writing Beaver-Cree-English dictionaries. He wrote *First Furrows: River Country, Including That of Portage la Prairie* in 1923 and *The Correction Line* in 1933 after his retirement from church activities.



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