

On Epiphany Day, January 6, 1884, the Reverend Harry Havelock Smith, curate of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Regina, began conducting worship services at the NWMP barracks. For these services, duly appointed volunteers had the task of removing furniture out of the way in the offices of the old "A" Block, and then putting everything back when services concluded.

I suspect that one Sunday afternoon not long after the fire damaged the old Mess, a conversation something like this took place in the home of Commissioner Herchmer, the most senior member of the North-West Mounted Police. "Harrumpf," mumbled the Commissioner, through a cloud of smoke. These worship services sure disrupt my offices." "Well, dear," responded Mrs. Herchmer, "Then why don't you fix up that old Mess hall and make it into a chapel?"

I suggest that, in a twist of the historical facts, that the next day, Commissioner Herchmer arrived at his office and announced, "Gentlemen, I have come up with an idea — let's create a chapel. However, history does record that Mrs. Herchmer's idea of a chapel would benefit everyone at "Depot". Her idea was well received, and soon saws, hammers and enthusiasm transformed the damaged building into a place of worship, the NWMP Chapel.

The work was done on time. That day the chapel would be dedicated to the glory of God. This was the expectation which had hung crisply in the air, so early in the morning. To complete the celebration, Commissioner Herchmer had volunteered certain corporals to ensure guests from Regina and surrounding area were transported to the barracks for the dedication service.

An after-the-event report in the first issue of *The Church Messenger*, the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle newspaper, dated

January 1896 reported, "The Chapel at the Barracks was dedicated and opened with Divine Service on Sunday morning, the second Sunday in Advent, at 11:00 a.m. A very crowded congregation filled the nave, and although chairs had been liberally provided in addition to the ordinary seats, several had to stand. A large number of residents from town availed themselves of the sleigh which, by the kind thoughtfulness of Commissioner Herchmer, had been sent down to the town to take up persons who wished to attend the service. The hymns and lessons were appropriate to the occasion, and the service was impressive, and all who worshipped in the large room, which for some years past had been made a temporary church each week, must have felt influenced by the general aspect of the interior of the new chapel, which the moment one enters the door, strikes one as being most churchlike. Such a building is in its measure, an aid to devotion, and this conviction was expressed by many."

"Presents have been given to the church by Mrs. Herchmer, Mrs. McIlree, Captain and Mrs. Gilpin Brown, Mrs. Hooper and others, which consist of a large brass cross and vases, Bible and Prayer Book, Alms basin. Mr. Gerald Spring-Rice of Pense presented an altar desk, which he had designed and carved, and he is also making a lectern and carving it with much pains, for its sacred purpose, but also an ornament. It is very pleasing to record such tokens of regard for God's House, and everyone privileged to take part at the opening services must have felt the influence of a properly appointed House of Prayer and Worship. Both the Commissioner and Mrs. Herchmer, and indeed many others, exhibited great interest. It is a matter of thankfulness that a duly furnished House of God stands amongst the other dwellings of the Barracks Square, and a matter of Prayer that within its walls, the praise of God offered and his blessings bestowed. Should any friends from any other part of the Diocese at any time visit