



HISTORY

OF THE

CANARD

WOMEN'S BAPTIST MISSIONARY

AID SOCIETY

1870

1903

“WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD”

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MRS. MAYHEW BECKWITH

Historical Sketch



The name of Miss Maria Norris is familiar to Baptists of the Maritime Provinces as the founder of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies. This lady while teaching at Acadia Seminary, felt called of God to do His work in Burmah. There was no means of support provided for her, but several Baptist gentlemen, among whom were Rev. Dr. Saunders, Rev. J. E. Goucher, Deacons S. Selden and T. H. Rand induced her to visit different churches, seeking to interest them in her work. These visits were greatly blessed, and resulted in the formation of the Aid Societies which were for the raising of funds to support lady missionaries. Over thirty societies were formed in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This was in 1870.

The work so faithfully and prayerfully begun, has grown in strength and influence as the years

have gone by. There are now according to the last report 156 societies in N. S., 66 in N. B., and 22 in P. E. I. These are united under the W. B. M. U. of the Maritime Provinces, and hold a yearly convention of which Mrs. J. W. Manning of St. John is now President. For the year ending July 31st, 1902, \$10,936.28 was raised including \$1828.18 contributed by Mission Bands which are under the fostering care of the Aid Societies. Several young ladies and their helpers in India are thus supported; and different fields of work in the home land are remembered. Miss Norris, who sailed for Burmah in the autumn of 1870, was married in 1873 to Mr. W. F. Armstrong and is now with her husband and three children doing faithful work for the Lord in the land to which He called her.

The Canard W. M. A. S. of the First Cornwallis Baptist Church was one of those organized by Miss Norris. The meeting was held in the old church at Upper Canard, July 20th 1870. Of the number present, sixteen gave in their names. Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith was chosen President, and Miss Annie M. Lyons, Sec. Treas. Thus our Society began its existence. There is no record of the meetings held during the first few years. The following report was written in 1878.

“Not quite nine years have passed since our organization, but many changes have occurred among us. Miss Flora Eaton, now Mrs. Boggs, is on her way to India for the second time. Some then present have entered into their rest. They can no more mingle with us nor aid by their contributions. They have ceased from their labors. Others have moved to other places and are doing some more, some less in the Lord’s vineyard as they have opportunity. The old edifice in which we met has disappeared and changes of various description might be noted. But our Society has lived on. Not in as thriving a condition as could be desired, it is true, but it has continued to assist the funds of the general board somewhat. The first remittance, \$16.50 was sent to Dr. Tupper, then Secretary of Foreign Mission Board. Since then our remittances have been regular, though not always quarterly. Our membership has varied in numbers somewhat, at one time reaching as high a number as 53 and the membership has never been less than 38. The report for the year 1878 is of necessity very brief. The amount of \$30 has been sent to the F. M. Board. It must be noted that there was no annual meeting held last year, an omission to be regretted, and if possible, overcome in the future. It is to be regretted too, that the monthly



MRS. S. B. KEMPTON

prayer-meeting is not sustained. For while it is well to give our means for the carrying of the gospel to the heathen, we must not forget that God only can make our efforts of any avail. We humbly hope that the great object of our efforts is not forgotten at the throne of grace, by our members, though there is no monthly prayer-meeting devoted to its interests."

For a period of 12 or 13 years following 1878 we have no account of meetings being held regularly, but from the memory of some who were at that time members, we learn that meetings were held occasionally from house to house. Prominent among the leaders were Mrs. Joshua Ells and Mrs. J. S. Witter who have since been called up higher. Mrs. S. B. Kempton, then our pastor's wife, was treasurer, filling her office in a faithful and efficient manner and was rewarded by knowing that thus the society was kept in existence and contributions sent regularly to help in the work."

In 1891 a new impetus was given to the Society, at a meeting in Lower Canard, May, 20th, at which Miss Wright, who had lately returned from India, spoke about the work there. At the close of the meeting, officers were elected as follows.—Mrs. Wm. Hardwick, Pres. Mrs. Kempton, Treas., Miss Minnie Borden, Sec'y. A deep interest was taken in the monthly prayer meetings, and the Society took on new life. Since then these meetings have

been sustained and have proved to be seasons of blessed nearness to God. In working and praying that those sitting in the shadow of death might know of the light of life, our own souls have been cheered and blessed.

In April 1893, the County Convention of the W. M. A. S. was held at Lower Canard. The meetings were inspiring and helpful. Miss Blackadar of India, then studying at Wolfville, was present and spoke of her desire to tell the glad story. At different times public meetings have been held, which have helped to increase the interest. It was a privilege to have a visit from Miss Eva D'Prazer, a native of India who was converted through the instrumentality of Rev. R. Sanford. Her shining face and stirring address witnessed to the power of the gospel. Rev. and Mrs. L. D. Morse, at present in Berwick, have from time to time given us glimpses of life in India

Our Society has been blessed in having faithful leaders, of whom we cannot forbear making special mention of Mrs. C. H. Martell, Cor. Sec. of the W. B. M. U. who was with us seven years, part of which time she was President. Her zeal in the cause of missions is too well known to need many remarks here, but our Society owes much of

its present prosperity to her efficient and wise leadership.

During the thirty-two years of this Society's existence, 116 names have been enrolled and \$1355.78 contributed. Of this amount the greater part has been expended in helping to carry on the work in the foreign field. He who sits over against the treasury has seen the gifts of love and self-denial. Of those whose names have been enrolled, quite a number have gone to hear the "Well-done" of the Master whom they dearly loved to serve. Some have moved away and are doing faithful work in connection with other societies, while to those who remain is given the privilege of carrying on the work. Not until the books are opened shall we know the results of the efforts, as all have sought to be "Laborers together with God."

Our life members number ten. They are:—Mrs. W. B. Boggs, 1874, Mrs. Henry A. Eaton, 1880, Miss Alice L. Eaton, 1895, Mrs. Albert Eaton, 1897, Mrs. E. H. Eaton, 1898, Mrs. John Baxter, Sr., 1899, Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith, 1900, Mrs. Wm Farnham, 1901, Miss Anna E. Eaton, 1902, Mrs. D E. Hatt, 1903. Of these, Mrs. Henry A. Eaton and Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith, who is now in her ninety-

sixth year, contributed to make themselves life members. Each one of these sisters has shown a heartfelt interest in the cause. Miss Alice Eaton and Mrs Baxter have reached the better land where they see the King in His beauty.

The names of those who have held office during these years are as follows: Presidents,—Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith, 1870; Mrs. Joshua Ells, Mrs. Wm. Hardwich, 1891; Mrs. Albert Eaton, 1885; Mrs. C. H. Martell, 1896; Mrs. C. H. Eaton, 1901; Mrs. D. E. Hatt, 1902. Secretaries,—Miss Minnie Borden, 1891; Miss Avora Dickie, 1893; Miss Mabel Eaton, 1894; Mrs. W. H. Eaton, 1896; Miss Carrie Eaton, 1897; Mrs. E. H. Eaton, 1900; Miss Irene Rand, 1901. Treasurers,—Miss Annie M. Lyons, 1870; Miss Annie M. Eaton, 1874; Mrs. S. B. Kempton, 1878; Miss Annie E. Eaton, 1892 and 1898; Miss Bessie Eaton, 1895 and 1900.

To-day our W. M. A. S. numbers 55, and for the year ending July 31st, ~~1892~~¹⁹⁰² contributed \$71.00 The meetings are held regularly the Wednesday afternoon following the second Sunday in the month. Usually the meetings are held alternately at Upper and Lower Canard. The hour is spent in prayer, singing, having letters from our missionaries read and gaining general information. We cannot but feel that this is a work to engage the interest and aid of all our sisters.



MRS. C. H. MARTELL

From the history of our past let us thank God and take courage. The outlook is as bright as the promises of God. The following words of our founder may fittingly close this sketch. "Tell my sisters to be faithful, we have not long to labor for the Master and those things which perish with the using, we can make imperishable as offerings to the Master we love."

At Port Williams, a branch of the First Cornwallis Baptist Church, a W. M. A. S. of 11 members was organized by the late Miss Johnston, of Dartmouth in 1888. Mrs. T. E. Smith was chosen President. At her death Mrs. Daniel Cosgwell filled the office. She was followed in 1895 by Mrs. C. H. Martell, who was a great source of strength to the society. Since she left, Miss Addie Cogswell has been President. Last year the sum of \$66.54 was contributed. The society has been growing and has now 36 members. Although entirely independent of our society at Canard, we are one in aim and purpose, and are working for the same Master "whom having not seen we love."

In addition to her work in the Aid Society, Mrs. Martell organized a Mission Band at Upper Canard in Sept. 1900. There are now over thirty members and the prospect is encouraging. A Birth

day Box to which each member is expected to contribute once a year, is one of the features of the work. A few months ago the Band adopted the name of "Sunshine" which idea they are trying carry out in practice as well as in theory. The first president was Miss Gertrude McDonald who held office for about a year and a half. At present Miss Irene Rand is President and Miss Alice Rand Sec.

In January 1903, Miss Jennie McLatchey and Miss Bessie Eaton organized a Mission Band at Lower Canard, under the name of Happy Workers. This Band has now a membership of thirty and great interest is shown in the work. The President is Frank Eaton, Jr.

The following is a list of members from the organization of the society up to the present time.

Joined in

- 1870 Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith
 " Wm. Belcher
 " John Baxter (Bessie Thomas),
 " W. B. Boggs, (Flora Eaton), India
 " A.K. Barss (Janie Rand), died Mar. 31, 1883
 " Joshua Ells, died Jan. 25, 1897
 " Otis Eaton, died March, 4th 1887
 " Henry A. Eaton
 " Benjamin Eaton
 Miss Anna E. Eaton
 " Emma Eaton

- Mrs. Enoch Griffin (Ellen Rand)
 " Henry Hutchinson (Annie S. Lyons)
 " Thomas Kinsman, died Aug. 3rd, 1901
 " Henry Lyons, died May, 17, 1885
 " J. P. Lyons, died Dec. 30 1901
 " Abram Martin, Wolfville, N. S.
 " James Masters, Indiana, N. S.
 " Pugsley (Susie Ells) Nappan, N. S.
 " Ezra Reid, died Dec. 28, 1874
 " S. S. Strong (Julia Eaton) Kentville, N. S.
- 1871 Mrs. Charles Borden, died, July 20, 1902
 Miss Lucy Borden, Port Williams
 " Teresa Carruthers, Kentville, N. S.
- Mrs. James Dickie
 " Charles Eaton, Kentville, N. S.
 " Rupert Eaton, died Feb. 10, 1896
 " Levi Eaton
 " Leonard Eaton
 " James Eaton, died Sept. 8, 1882
 " Harding Fitch, Niagara Falls, Ont.
 " S. B. Kempton, Dartmouth, N. S.
 " Thomas Kinsman (Annie Eaton)
 " Edward Lockwood, Truro, N. S.
 " Isaac Masters, Port Williams
 " Wm. North, died Oct. 11, 1900
 " W. S. Sweet, (Laleah Eaton), Billtown, N. S.
 " Wm. Thomas
- 1872 Mrs Bray (Amanda Dickie) Milford, Mass
 Miss Clara Eaton, died Dec. 26, 1888
 Mrs Wm. Hardwick
- 1874 Mrs J W Beckwith, (Annie Ells,) Wolfville, N S
 " Judson Eaton
 " Cyrus Ells, Port Williams
 " Graham (Annie M. Lyons), Halifax, N. S.
 " Hay (Sophia Harris) died

- Mrs. McLeod (Cassie Harris,) Parrsboro, N. S.
 " James Murphy, Kentville, N. S.
 " John Margeson, died Nov. 23, 1890
 " Robert Rand (Mary Kinsman)
 " A Chesley, (Laleah Power), died May, 1882
 " Thos. Rand, died, Jan. 21, 1882
 " Ebenezer Rand
 1875 Mrs John Baxter, died Dec. 4, 1900
 " Elisha Harris, died June 1888
 1877 Mrs George Franklin
 " Lawrence Wood, died March 12, 1902
 1880 Mrs Hallett, (Fannie Thomas), California
 1885 Mrs Wm Farnham
 " C Rand (Olive Kinsman), died Sept 22, 1899
 1885 Mrs Denison, died April 28, 1892
 " Lawrence Eaton
 " J. S. Witter, died Jan. 26, 1895
 1886 Mrs Edward Eaton, Middleton, N. S.
 1890 Miss Eunice Cogswell
 Mrs Albert Eaton
 " D. W. McRae, Kentville, N. S.
 1891 Mrs John Borden, (Mabel Eaton)
 " H. G. Harris, (Avara Dickie) Kentville, N S
 " Arthur Harris, Kentville, N. S.
 " Freeman Messenger (Minnie Borden),
 Petite Riviere, N. S.
 1892 Mrs Robert Chisholm
 " Everard Eaton
 " James Eaton
 Miss Bessie Eaton
 " Irene Eaton
 Mrs John Magee
 Miss Jennie McLatchey
 Mrs M. Messenger, died Sept. 1895
 " Fred Thomas

- 1893 Mrs Aubrey Borden
 " Hibbert Dickie
 " Newton Eaton
- 1894 Mrs Charles Ells
 Miss Alice M. Eaton
- 1895 Miss Alice L. Eaton, died Oct. 31, 1895
 " Fannie Johnson, Marlboro, Mass
 " Minnie Johnson, Marlboro, Mass
 Mrs C. H. Martell, Great Village, N. S.
 " Lewis Messenger, Wolfville, N. S.
 " Everitt Rand
- 1897 Mrs Walter Eaton, died Aug. 20, 1897
 Miss Carrie Eaton
- 1898 Mrs Henry Borden
 Miss Flora Chipman
 Mrs. James McGowan
 " S. B. Pennell, Lawrencetown, N. S.
- 1899 Mrs George Breckin
- 1901 Miss Marion Eaton
 " Alice Rand
 " Irene Rand
 Mrs D. E. Hatt
 " Thomas Harris
 " A. S. McDonald
- 1902 Mrs Fred Bishop
 and Miss Blanch Borden
- 1903 " Nellie Belcher
 " Hope Chisholm
 Mrs Harry Dickie
 " Freeman Eaton
 Miss Winnie Eaton
 Mrs Elisha Harris
 " Josiah McGowan
 Miss Gertrude McDonald
 " Maggie Power
 " Minnie Schultz

