

APRIL 30 1966

The Mystery Of Samuel Henderson

Tragedy and heartache struck the Red River settlement many years ago.

Samuel Henderson had gone for an evening walk. Hours later he had not returned. His anxious wife and family called from the vicinity of their little home but got no response. They asked the help of neighbors.

A diligent search along the river bank, through the surrounding bush, on the prairie and even across the river to the original settlement, brought no response to their calls. The young Scottish husband and father had completely vanished as though swallowed up by an earthquake. He was never seen or heard of again.

Anne Henderson, a descendant of Samuel Henderson, a dedicated researcher of the history of Selkirk settlers and secretary of the Lord Selkirk Association, has kindly elaborated on the event as follows:

"Years ago, about 1910, a very old Indian in St. Boniface Hospital asked that one of the Hendersons come to see him. Three of the family went, and the old Indian told them that when their father was lost there had been Sioux Indians from across the border reported near the settlement.

Some of our Indians (Chief Pequis band) had been out scouting for them. They heard someone coming through the bush in the dusk and thinking it was a Sioux, shot him, only to find that it was their good friend Samuel Henderson. Afraid of what the white men would do, they weighted the body and put it in the river.

"Whether true or not, this is a very likely story and certainly there was never any trace of him found. My grandfather, Neil, told mother when he was an old, old man that he never saw a bone while walking through the bush trails that he didn't examine it to see if it were human."

SCOTTISH-BORN Samuel Henderson was 19 when he entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Co. June 16, 1807. After serving three five-year terms he retired to Red River and took up land on the west side of the river.

Shortly thereafter he married Flora Livingstone, who came as a young girl in 1812 with the first party of Selkirk settlers. Some years later they moved to Lot 39 on the east side of the river. This land was Flora's Selkirk grant as an original settler.

Here they farmed success-

fully and raised their family. Flora died November 2, 1863, and John, her youngest son, took over the farm and lived there until he built a big house at 606 Henderson Highway. The elder son, Angus, had purchased lot 51, consisting of 12 chains (792 feet) of river frontage. Here he cultivated land and established a dairy cattle and sheep raising farm.

A HUNDRED years ago Angus Henderson was a familiar figure in what is now the city of East Kildonan, riding a horse over miles of pasture land, caring for his livestock. He was also constable, enduring hardships, showing great courage and at times conspicuous bravery.

Angus was one of the earliest members of Rev. John Black's Presbyterian Church. He married Catherine McBeath, daughter of Robert McBeath Sr., a well known Selkirk settler. They had 12 children. Angus died on October 28, 1903, aged 78.

At one time there were five Henderson farms along the highway.

HENDERSON HIGHWAY was so named to honor the Henderson family and in particular Samuel Robert, known to his friends as "Sam Bob," son of Angus, born in the old home on lot 51, August 29, 1863. He was educated at Kildonan schools and St. John's College.

Conducting his agricultural interests in a scientific manner resulted in outstanding success. In an admirable manner he carried out the duties of secretary-treasurer of the Agricultural Association of Kildonan and St. Paul's. After serving for 12 years as councilman for East Kildonan he was elected reeve, and held that office for many years.

Sam Bob was one of the pioneers in the movement for good roads in Manitoba and was the first president of the Manitoba Good Roads Association. He was a devout member of Kildonan Presbyterian Church, and a church elder for 14 years. He was secretary and treasurer of the trust fund for missionary purposes, as well as the trust

Another Street Story by HARRY SHAVE

fund of the congregation, and was superintendent of the Sunday School. He also conducted a Sunday school on the east side, and this school was the start of John Black Memorial Church.

He died January 28, 1928.

HENDERSON Highway was for many years known as East Kildonan Road and covered a distance of 20 odd miles from the Winnipeg city limits to the town of East Selkirk. On January 9, 1964, the authorities of Metro Winnipeg changed the name of Kelvin St., the continuing link of the road in Winnipeg, to Henderson Highway.

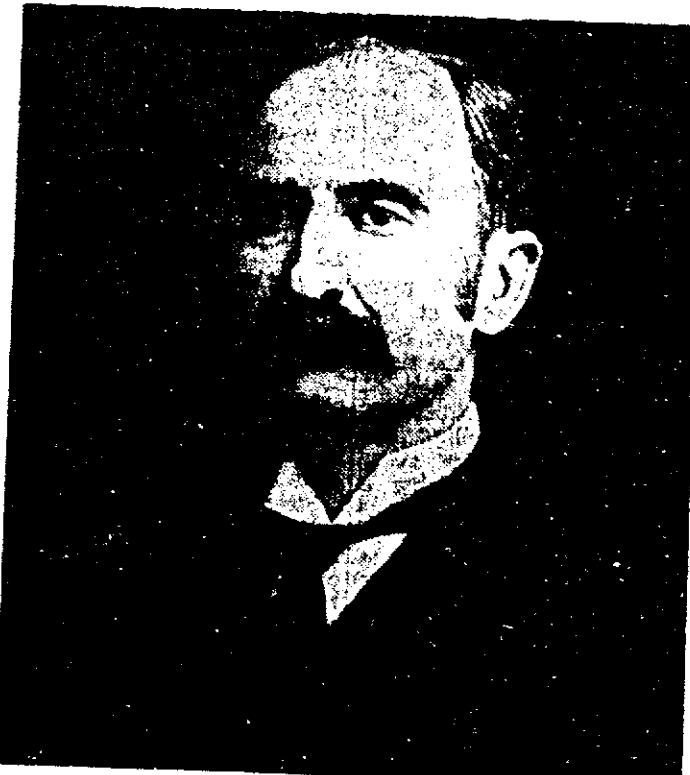
There is a historic cairn in the playground in front of Lord Kitchener school in North Kildonan facing Henderson Highway, erected by the Good Roads Association to honor Samuel Robert Henderson.

FEIFFER

YOU REMEMBER, JEAN, THAT
WHEN I RAISED YOUR FEE
FROM \$25 TO \$35 A
SESSION-



AND HERE, TODAY, IN MY NEW
SUITE OF OFFICES, WHEN I
RAISE YOUR FEE FROM \$65
TO \$75 A SESSION YOU EVEN
ACCUSE ME OF MAKING A
LIVING OFF YOU!



"Sam Bob" Henderson