

Richard Faries fonds

1893-1950

20 cm. of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Ven. Richard Faries, D.D., Archdeacon, Church of England. Born at Rupert's House, James Bay, Quebec, 30 Aug. 1870. His father was Angus Faries, a Hudson's Bay Co. employee and his mother was Mary Faries nee Corston. Richard was educated at Moose Factory school, James Bay and trained under the Rt. Rev. John Horden, first Bishop of Moosenee. He graduated from the Montreal Diocesan Theological College in 1894 and received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from St. John's College, Winnipeg, in 1938. He married Catherine Isabella Craig of Abbotsford, Quebec, 11 Aug. 1908 (she died in 1951).

Faries was incumbent of St. John's parish, York Factory from 1899 to 1951 and was archdeacon of the district of York, diocese of Keewatin, headquartered in York Factory, from 1917-1950. He was ordained deacon in 1894 and priest in 1898 according to one source (another source says 1917). He was school teacher at Moose Factory from 1890-1892 and assistant missionary there from 1894-1895. He was missionary to the Ojibway at Fort Hope, Osnaburgh and Marten's Falls in the District of Patricia from 1895-99 before becoming missionary to the Swampy Cree in York Factory, Fort Severen, Trout Lake, Sammattawa, northern Manitoba and northern Ontario and to the Chipewyans and Inuit of Fort Churchill from 1899 to 1951.

Faries was also dispenser of medicine for the Department of Indian Affairs at York Factory and registrar of vital statistics in Manitoba for the region he served. He was a director and trustee of the Indian Day School from 1900-1950 and Director and Secretary-Treasurer of York Factory School from 1920-1950.

He contributed articles on the lives of Bishop Horden and Archdeacon Vincent in "Leaders of the Canadian Church" (1920) and was the author of "Diocese of Keewatin" and "Mission of Churchill", 1930. Faries collaborated with Archdeacon Mackay in "Revision of the Cree Bible" (1914) and edited the "Cree Dictionary" (1938). He contributed a number of articles to several magazines primarily relating to missionary and church activities. Faries retired to Toronto in 1951 and then moved to Thunder Bay where he died in 1964.

Scope and Content

Richard Faries' papers include four series: daily journals (which cover Faries' activities as a missionary in Fort Hope, Fort Churchill and York Factory); notebooks; correspondence relating to his activities at York Factory and the publication of his Cree/English dictionary; and various publications dealing primarily with teaching the Christian religion to the Cree Indians.

Series A 29/1/1-6 - Daily Journals (diaries) - 9cm. - 1896-1999, 1927, 1945-1946

1) Church Mission Society journal kept by Faries at Fort Hope from 1 Jan. to 3 June 1896, 70p. Handwritten.

2) Church Mission Society journal kept by Faries at Fort Hope 27 July to 15 Nov. 1897, 80p. Handwritten. Also contains notes on vital statistics and accounts for 1897

3) Daily journal of activities at Fort Churchill for the year of 1899, 367p. This journal was probably kept by the Hudson's Bay Co. factor at Fort Churchill, not by Faries.

4) Daily personal diary of R. Faries, 23 Dec. 1926 - 28 Sept. 1927

5) Ibid., 1945

6) Ibid., 1946

Series A 29/2/1-3 - Notebooks - 2cm. - [ca.1893-1894]

1) Richard Faries notebooks kept while at Montreal diocesan Theological College pertaining to theology, in particular the differences between Catholic and Anglican churches, but also to religion and science, and Darwin and the origins of life, 112p.

2) Book of poems written by R. Faries, 1893-94, 44p. handwritten

3) Notebook of four humorous stories told by Faries, probably to his congregations, no date

Series A 29/3/1-10 - Correspondence - 5cm. - 1930-1945

The outgoing correspondence and some incoming correspondence of Archdeacon Richard Faries in his capacity as missionary, priest, school master and writer at York Factory and environs, arranged chronologically: 1) 1934-37, 2) 1938, 3) 1939, 4) 1940-41, 5) 1942, 6) 1943, 7) 1944-45

8) Letters regarding the publication of a Cree dictionary and the preface to same, 1930-38

9) Incoming letters of Catherine Isabella Faries, primarily from her sister Margaret in California, 1909-1940. Includes 16 letters and 2 notes and 6 misc. items such as sheet music composed by members of her family, cards and booklets.

10) Eight poems written by Richard Faries and sent to Catherine Isabella Craig whom he married in 1908, 1893-1908. The last is in another hand, possibly Catherine Craig's. All were addressed to Miss C.J. Craig, Gibbland Farm, Abbotsford, Quebec

Series A 29/4/1 - Publications - 4cm. - 1893-1950

Books written or kept by Faries, particularly relating to the Cree language. Includes:

- "Hymns in the language of the Cree Indians" by R. Faries, published by the General Board of Religious Education of the Church of England, Toronto, ca.1950

- "The First Catechism of Christian Instruction in the Cree language", author unknown, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), London, 1911

- "Cree Primer", author unknown, SPCK, London, 1893

- "Cree Hymn Book", revised by R.B. and E. Steinhauer, United Church of Canada, Toronto, 1929

- "Spiritual Light", ed. by F.G. Stevens of Koostatak, Manitoba, published by Norway House Mission, United Church, 1935, in the Cree language

- "M.S.C.C. Bulletin" No. 1, 1934, a four page newspaper recounting missionary activities in Canada's north.

- "Christ Church, The Pas, Manitoba", by David L. Greene, published by Christ Church, 1931

Additional Information

Related Material - See "Autobiography", *Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society*, XV, No. 1 (March, 1973), 14-23. See also Faries' letters and journals published in *Moosenee and Keewatin Mailbag*, the *Canadian Churchman*, and *New Era*. See also TBHMS biographical file.

Associated Material - See photographic collection 987.5.1-57