CLERKS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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CLERKS OF THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND YEARS OF SERVICE

Frederick Edward Molyneux St. John

March 10, 1871 – June 30, 1874

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

Born in Newcastle, England in 1838. Served in the British military and came to Canada in 1868. He joined the Toronto Globe and accompanied the Wolseley expedition to Red River, and took up residence in Manitoba. St. John became the first Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in 1871. He had a further career in journalism and served as the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod for two years in Ottawa.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

Rice Meredith Howard

July 1, 1874 – December 5, 1876

No known photo

Originally from Montreal, entered the practice of law and moved to Manitoba in 1871. He served as the first Registrar for the County of Marquette and entered into a law partnership with J.M. MacDonnell. Howard served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and served simultaneously as Clerk of the Executive Council in 1879.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

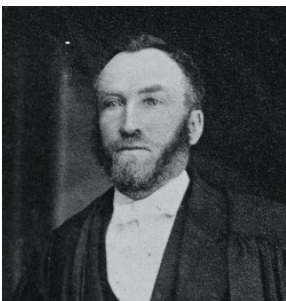## Thomas Spence

December 5, 1876 – February 26, 1885

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland 1832. Spence came to Canada in 1862 with a party of engineers to erect forts. He practiced law in Red River from 1866. He established the Republic of Manitobah, which did not receive recognition as a government. Appointment as Clerk came in 1876, and he had subsequent careers as a census commissioner and an immigration agent.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

Charles Aldborough Sadleir

Photo courtesy of Andres Menar and the Trevor Jackson family

February 27, 1885 – January 29, 1890

Born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1860. Sadleir was a stenographer and chief clerk for Canada Life Insurance Company and was the Private Secretary to E. P. Leacock, MPP. He came to Manitoba in 1882 and served as Secretary-Treasurer for both the County Council of Selkirk and the Eastern Judicial District Board. Sadleir was appointed as Clerk of the Executive Council in in 1884, and simultaneously also held the position of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 1885. He resigned the positions to become a Minister and a Missionary in Chile.

Source: Robertson's Political Manual of Manitoba 1887, and Andres Menar and the Trevor Jackson family

Elias George Conklin

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

January 29, 1890 – 1900

Born in Paris, Canada West in 1845. He came to Manitoba in 1874. Served as Assistant Paymaster with the C.P.R. Construction Department, and formed the realty estate agency Conklin and Fortune with Mark Fortune. Served as an Alderman and later as Mayor in Winnipeg, elected as the MLA for Winnipeg North in 1883 but was not re-elected in 1886. Conklin became Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 1890.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

A.H. Corelli

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

March 15, 1900 – 1915

Born in Belgium in 1856. Served in the British Military in the Artillery Company, and came to Manitoba in 1882. Farmed for a time, and came to work at the Legislative Assembly. Appointed as Clerk in 1900, and resigned the position in 1915 to serve in WWI in the position of Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General under General Sam Steele, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Retired after returning from the War.

Source: David Walser, Grandson

John William Fleming

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

September 1, 1915 – 1918 and January 9, 1926 – November 10, 1928

Born in New Brunswick in 1868. Moved to Brandon in 1881. Managed the drug store owned by his family. Fleming was a founding member of the Manitoba Association of Optometrists. He served as an Alderman and Mayor in Brandon. He was the first President of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities. Fleming served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly twice.

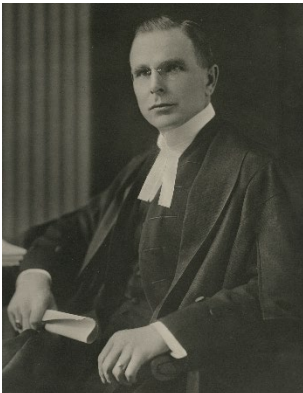Source: Manitoba Historical Society

Arthur Willans Morley

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

January 14, 1919 -1925

Born in Huntsville, Ontario in 1880. He moved to Winnipeg and practised law in 1904. During the First World War Morley served as the Commanding Officer with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (Little Black Devils) 90th Battalion, and organized the 144th regiment for overseas duty. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For his service, he received the Military Cross, the Victorian Decoration and the First Contingent Medal. He was a member of many clubs including the Rotary Club, the Khartum Temple, the Canadian Club, the Empire Club, the IOOF, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and the Royal Commonwealth Society. Morley Avenue in Winnipeg received its name in his honour.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

Harry H. Dunwoody

Photo courtesy of the Dunwoody family

January 1930 – 1951

Born in 1886. He practiced law in Winnipeg. Dunwoody became Acting Clerk in January 1929 and he subsequently served as Clerk from January 1930 to 1951. He also served as Justice of the Peace for the City of St. James from 1954 to 1959.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

Alfred Jean Charland Prud'Homme

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

June 1, 1951 – February 15, 1973

Born in St. Boniface in 1904. He was called to the Bar and joined the Manitoba Civil Service. Prud'homme served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and as Chief Electoral Officer. Community service included participation on the Manitoba School Divisions Boundary Commission and involvement with numerous community organizations. He also served as a Trustee of the St. Boniface Cathedral Parish, President of l'Association des Anciens du College de St. Boniface and as a member of the Board of l'Association d'Education des franco-manitobains. He received the Manitoba Centennial Medal in 1970.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

Jack Ross Reeves

Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

February 15, 1973 – May 27, 1982

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1919. He served 21 years in the Canadian Military. Served as the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from 1963-1973. Also served as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer from 1968 to 1971 and Chief Electoral Officer from 1971 to 1980. Reeves served as the Clerk from 1973 until his untimely passing in 1982. The Manitoba Legislative Assembly debated and adopted a motion of condolence in his memory, a tribute usually reserved for former MLAs.

Source: Manitoba Hansard June 1, 1982 pp. 2889-2893

William Henry (Binx) Remnant

Photo courtesy of the Clerk's Office

November 12, 1982 – December 23, 1999

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1927. Worked with CIBC and CP Air. He became a Northern Services Officer and joined the group that developed the fledgling Government of the Northwest Territories. Binx became the first Clerk of the Northwest Territories, a position he held for 17 years. He then relocated to Winnipeg to undertake the appointment of Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, the only individual to serve as Clerk in two separate Canadian jurisdictions. Upon his retirement, the Assembly granted Binx the special honour of permanent access to the Assembly's Loges, a usage only permitted to former and current MLAs. In 2004, he was the first non-MLA to become an honorary Member of the Manitoba Association of Former MLAs. In 2012, Binx received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

Source: the Remnant Family

Patricia Chaychuk

January 10, 2000 to August 25, 2023

First woman appointed as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Previously served as Clerk Assistant/Clerk of Committees from 1989 to 2000. She undertook a training secondment with the Table Research Branch, House of Commons in 1992/1993. Her previous experience includes serving as a Manitoba Legislative Intern and as a former Premier and Speaker of the Manitoba Youth Parliament. She is a Past President of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, a Past President of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group and Past Chair of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Parliamentary Review. She is a Member of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATT) and is the Canadian Representative on the SOCATT Advisory Committee. The University of Manitoba Faculty of Arts selected her as Distinguished Alumnus in 2000. She received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Manitoba Youth Parliament in 2004 and honoured as a Trailblazer of the first 100 Years of Women of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in 2018.