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King City District News

W.M.S. 1888 To 1948

Prepared by Miss Alice Ferguson
of King, the following account out-
lines the history and achievements of
Eversley Presbyterian Women's
Missionary Society over sixty years.

The auxiliary was organized on
June 20, 1888, in Eversley church by
Mrs. Brimer, West Toronto Junction,
then president of young Toronto's
presbyterian. Leading up to organ-
ization of this society was the for-
mation a few years earlier of Aur-
ora Auxiliary of which Mrs. Agnes
Ferguson (my mother) was a char-
ter member. After faithfully at-
tending monthly meetings at Aurora,
Mrs. Ferguson was made president
for one year and was thereby in-
strumental in forming the local aux-
iliary in Eversley and Temperance-
ville churches. At that time it was
the Foreign Missionary Society and
thus continued until the Home and
Foreign Missionaries were merged
into one, after which it became the
W.M.S. This branch was known as
Eversley and Temperanceville until
the latter church was closed when
Rev. Mr. Amos resigned as pastor
after 34 years at Temperanceville
and 37 years at Aurora. Temper-
anceville Presbyterian was automati-
cally closed and the society has
since been called Eversley W.M.S.

Records tell us there was a good
attendance of ladies at the organ-
ization meeting held in Eversley
church and officers elected were:
President, Mrs. Agnes Ferguson; vice
president, Mrs. Jonathan Follitt;
secretary, Mrs. Charlotte Wood;
treasurer, Miss Annie Wells, whose
tenure was brief as she left to be-
come the bride of Neil McMurchy,
and was one of three of the Wells
family to pass to higher service last
year, namely Mrs. A. McClure and
Mr. A. B. Wells, loyal workers in the
Church and W.M.S.

On record is a long list of char-
ter members showing the extent of
membership joined up during the
first year. Mrs. Elizabeth Gellatly
and Mrs. Flora Green still survive
giving 60 years of loyal, continuous
service to God. We honor those who
having served faithfully so long have
been called to higher service, and
those who still continue to serve.

It is of interest to note that con-
tributions were by envelope, small
white squares, and that the mission-
ary leaflet, quite small, was read at
monthly meetings. The president,
Mrs. Ferguson, conducted meetings,
leading and singing when there was
no organ, reading the Scriptures and
leading in heartfelt prayer.

The early meetings were held al-
ternately in Eversley and Temper-
anceville churches, till later they
were held in the homes.

In July 1888, it was agreed to pur-
chase a map of the North West with
the dollar Mrs. Brimer had contrib-
uted. The map was well used to
study the geography of Indian Mis-
sions. In August of the same year,
the subject of sending relief to the
Indians at Mistawasis Reserve was
considered and \$5.00 was collected to
purchase the following items:

10 yds. flannel at 15 cents yard;
8 yds. flannel at 25 cents; 2 yds.
tweed at 50 cents; another yard of
flannel; 1 lb. yarn; half pound wool;
needles, thread and cotton. This
parcel was sent out with the Aurora
bale and in the July 1889 Leaflet re-
ference was made to the clothing sent
to Mistawasis by this auxiliary. A
letter was sent from the supply sec-
retary thanking the auxiliary for
prompt action in sending at such
short notice. So members received
a thrill that has acted as an impetus
to this day in preparation and ship-
ment of bales of clothing.

Only recently Eversley W.M.S. sent
out their annual bale, also a special
to the Yorkville Home for Girls, the
two valued at \$138.95.
Money sent to the Presbyterian
secretary for the first six months was
\$20.40, of which members were indeed
very proud.

The first semi-annual meeting was
held in Newmarket and the president
and secretary attended, travelling by
train. In February, 1889, delegates
attended the annual Presbyterian at
Toronto, going by train and walking
from the Union Station to Cook's
Presbyterian church.

In May, 1889, the secretary, Mrs.
Woods, writes an account of that
meeting, nearly a year after organi-
zation. "The meeting," she said,
"was very interesting, members get-
ting to take great pleasure in month-
ly gatherings and getting more fully
to understand the work. May God
add His blessing," she concluded.

In 1889, a letter was read from
Jonathan Goforth from the Mission-
ary Echo. In June 1890 a special an-
nual meeting was held with Mrs.
Brimer being present again, giving
an address. This annual meet became
a regular event, later being held in
October, with a missionary program
and a special missionary speaker, with
Dr. Buchanan and Rev. Rohold being
among these.

In September 1890, with Mrs. Cal-
der present, it was decided to adopt
the roll call of her society at Atwood.
Quilt making for the North West be-
gan. Mrs. Gilbert Follitt and Flora
Cairns put it together and members

paid 5 cents each for the lining. At
the following meeting Mrs. Follitt
told what she had done with the re-
maining money; 1 yd. ticking at 15
cents and 4 spools of thread for 13
cents.

In September 1891 the President
suggested organizing a Mission Band.
Her sister, Mrs. Calder, vice presi-
dent of Stratford Presbyterian was
present and organized the Mizpah
Band.
Mrs. Ferguson continued her work
for 20 years when her daughter con-
tinued the work until 1915. Later
Miss Annie Ferguson, the present
president, as Mrs. Curtis, carried on.
The 50th anniversary of service for
the auxiliary was celebrated in June
1938.

We have recorded these first three
years to show how the Society was
progressing, becoming proficient in
carrying on the work. Then at the
annual meeting called in June 1892,
the fourth year, the Baptist Circle
and the Anglicans were invited and
told of their work.

In later years this annual meeting
became a family affair with Strange
St. Paul's and Besa, coming to Ever-
ley and assisting with the program.
These have been very delightful oc-
casions and officers from Toronto
joining. This Christian fellowship
has been greatly appreciated. Mis-
sionary study books became a special
part of programs. The life of John
Paton of Tana was read; the life of
Mary Slessor; The Island Beautiful
Via Christi; Christis Redemptor;
Christi Liberator; Western Women
in Eastern Lands; The Nearer and
Farther East; A Cloud of Witnessess,
down to the biographies of Dr. Jess-
ie MacBean and Agnes Dickson and
others.

In January 1895 Henry S. Fergu-
son left for China. From that time
items from his letters were a regu-
lar part of the program. When
home on furlough, Henry and Mrs.
Ferguson spoke at several meetings.

As years went by the work done
by our auxiliary increased. More
money was given, more valuable
bales sent out and during the years
of prosperity the amount sent to the
Presbyterian Treasurer reached \$200,
with thankofferings at \$75 and \$81.
Bales reached as high as \$112 in
1927. Givings reached their peak in
1929. After that the years of test-
ing came, many members moved
away, and some passed on.

In addition to bales of clothing, for
several years barrels of fruit were
packed, and in 1923 contents were:
23 quarts canned fruit, four 5 lb.
pails of honey, 11 bottles of catsup.
In 1925 the first load of fruit, vege-
tables, clothing valued at \$26, went
to Evangel Hall. Each year after-
ward a bale has been sent.

After several years of monthly
meetings held in the church, homes
have been used, and a limited after-
noon tea enjoyed. As time went by
this limit expanded to a banquet, with
later limitations again. We believe
the social half hour over tea cups has
done much to keep the spirit of har-
mony and neighborliness that pre-
vails in this big family of missionary
minded women of our society.

Highlights of 50 years include: in-
creased membership in 1923, 36 mem-
bers; in 1924, 41 members. For sev-
eral years an Indian girl was clothed,
as part of the supply work. We be-
came prayer partners with Miss Eth-
el Reid (Mrs. Burkwall). Blankets
for Wakaw hospital were sent to Rev.
Dr. R. S. Scott, Wakaw, sent to him
by relatives, Mrs. Gellatly, Messie
Gellatly, Sadie Ferguson and others.
Three girls were sent to Camp at
Geneva Park and Frances Ross and
Edith Bovair to Glenmore Camp. In
1922 \$50 was sent to Rev. Dr. R. S.
Scott from Mrs. Gellatly and Sadie
Ferguson and was used in fencing
property. Among other things a load
of wonderful food was sent to the
Goforths after their return from
China, following the Boxer riots.

Sectional vice-presidents from Evers-
ley have been: Mrs. (Rev.) Mill-
er, Mrs. Ranson, Mrs. A. McClure
and now Mrs. T. L. Williams.

We here record with thanksgiving
for services rendered by Mrs. An-
drew McClure and our regret at her
early passing. We pray God's bless-
ing on our service for Him.

Miss Kay Clark and sister, Mrs.
Walter Rolling have returned from
two weeks' vacation spent at Fox-
wood Inn, Lake of Bays, Muskoka.

Congratulations to those passing
high school entrance examinations,
many of them succeeding on their
term's work. Of the 25 students
from King and district centre, ten
gained honors, namely, Freda Dent,
William Guiler, Janet Langdon, Bar-
bara Lawlor, Teresa O'Reilly, Valer-
ie Pickell, Shirley Rawlings, John
Richards, Anne Specht and Helen
Thompson. From the entire list of
names from Aurora, King, Nobleton,
Schomberg, Maple, it would appear
a large number will enter Aurora
High School this fall.

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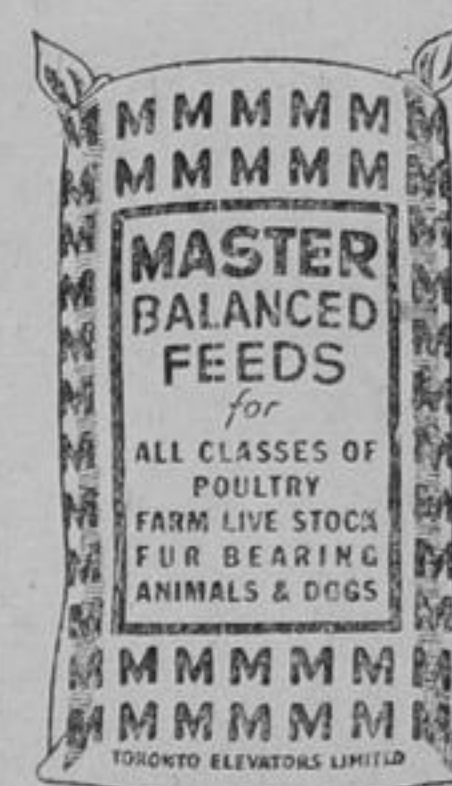
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