McKenzie, Hector (1818-ca.1851)

Hector McKenzie entered the service of the HBC as an apprentice postmaster as early as the summer of 1839, and was sent to the Mackenzie River district. He spent the winter of 1839-40 at Fort Good Hope and had charge of that post during the summer of 1840. He appeared to have spent the summer of 1842 at the post on Peel River, and spent the winter of 1842-43 in charge of the Big Island fishery at the western end of Great Slave Lake. He retired in 1843 to the Red River Settlement. He reentered the service in 1844 as a postmaster and was again sent to the Mackenzie River district. He was listed as postmaster in charge of Fort Norman in the summer of 1849. In 1850 he was engaged by John Rae to accompany him on his forthcoming Arctic Expedition as assistant. He spent the winter of 1850-51 at Fort Confidence, and retired from the HBC’s service at the close of the expedition. He settled in the Red River Settlement. 49

- Allan Cameron (1820-ca.1842)
- William McKay (1775-ca.1795)
- James Curtis Bird (ca.1773-1856)

McKenzie, Henry (ca.1781-1832)

Henry McKenzie came to Canada about 1800, and in 1803 was at Kaministiquia (Fort William). On the death of Simon McTavish, he was appointed to manage his seigniory and mills at Terrebonne, and when Sir Alexander Mackenzie left Canada in 1808 he was appointed to manage his affairs in Canada. In 1814 he became a member of the firm of McTavish, McGillivrays and Co. of Montreal, and during the Selkirk controversy of 1814-18 he was particularly in charge with the publicity campaign of the North West Company. After the coalition of 1821, however, his relations with his partners became strained, and he was denied access to the books of the Company. In 1815 he was elected a member of the Beaver Club of Montreal, and in 1819 he became an elder, and afterwards clerk of session in the St. Gabriel’s Street Presbyterian Church in Montreal. 50

- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)
- Alexander McKenzie (fl.1761-1783)

49 E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845 (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 364-65.


McKenzie, James (ca.1777-1849)

James McKenzie entered the service of the North West Company as a clerk in 1794. He was in the Athabaska department in 1795, and remained here until 1806. In 1802 he became a partner of the North West Company, and in 1806 he was appointed to the King's Posts in the Lower St. Lawrence. He seems to have retired from the management of the King's Posts prior to the union of 1821, for at that time they were managed by James C. McTavish.51

- Alexander McKenzie (fl.1761-1783)

McKenzie, Roderick (ca.1761-1844)

Roderick McKenzie entered the service of the Gregory, McLeod and Co., and in 1785 he was sent to the West as a clerk. In 1788 he built Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabaska, and in 1789 and 1792 he was in charge at this post during Sir Alexander McKenzie's expeditions to the Arctic and Pacific Oceans. He was made a partner of McTavish, Frobisher and Co. In 1800, and one of the agents of the Company at Grand Portage in that year. He retired from active participation in the fur trade in 1801. He continued, however, to be a dormant partner in the firm of McTavish, Frobisher and Co. (later McTavish, McGillivrays and Co.) until its failure in 1825. In 1804 he purchased from the estate of Simon McTavish the seigniory of Terrebonne, and here he lived till his death.52

- Alexander McKenzie (fl.1761-1783)
- Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez (1736-1808)

McKenzie, Roderick (1772-1859)

Roderick McKenzie joined the North West Company as a clerk at the end of the eighteenth century, and was in the Nipigon district 1804-08. In 1817 he was at Fort William. At the coalition of 1821 he was made a Chief Trader, and was given the charge of the Nipigon district. From here he was moved to the post at Pic, Lake Superior, 1824-25, and was appointed to Fort William in 1825. Here he remained until 1830, when he was made Chief Factor and given the charge of the

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- Roderick McKenzie (1772-1859)

**McKinlay, Archibald (b. 1816)**

Archibald McKinlay was engaged by the HBC in 1832, and his early years were spent in the York Factory district and in Red River, and in 1835 he was sent to New Caledonia, where he remained for a few years. He was clerk in charge at Walla Walla from 1841 until 1846, when he was obliged to leave on account of his eyesight. In 1846 he was appointed to look after the HBC’s business at Oregon City, and in that same year he was promoted to the rank of Chief Trader. He remained at Oregon City until 1849, when on account of illhealth and the need for expert medical attention, he left for England. His leave of absence continued until his retirement in 1851. In the summer of 1851 he entered into partnership in Oregon City as a commission merchant with G.T. Allan and Thomas Lowe under the style of Allan, McKinlay & Co., and the firm operated in Oregon until it was dissolved in 1863. About 1862 he left Oregon to become a farmer at Lac la Hache in British Columbia.\footnote{E.E. Rich, ed., The Letters of John McLoughlin from Fort Vancouver to the Governor and Committee Second Series, 1839-44 (Toronto: The Champlain Society for The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1943), 394-95.}

- McKinlay (fl. 1816)
- Peter Skene Ogden (1794-1854)

**McLean, John (fl. 1821-1845)**

John McLean joined the HBC in 1821, served in the Lake of Two Mountains district until 1830, and after some time in New Caledonia moved to Fort Chimo in the Ungava district in 1837. In that same year he was promoted to Chief Trader. McLean stayed at Chimo until 1841, then after
furlough and two years in the Mackenzie River district he retired in 1845. ⁵⁵

- James Evans (1801-1846)

**McLeod, Alexander (d.1809)**

Alexander McLeod entered the service of the North West Company before 1787, and in 1791 he was at Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabaska. He became a wintering partner of the Company in 1795, but he left the Peace River district, where he had been stationed, in 1799, and in 1802 he was at Grand Portage. He retired from the fur trade about this time, and in 1805 he relinquished his shares of the Company. He settled in Montreal. ⁵⁶

- Alexander McLeod (d.1809)

**McLeod, Alexander Roderick (1782-1840)**

Alexander Roderick McLeod entered the service of the NWC in 1802. He was a clerk on the Peace River in 1806. He remained in the Athabaska and Peace River departments, and at the coalition in 1821 he was made a Chief Trader in the Athabaska district. In 1822-23 he had the charge of the posts in Mackenzie River and made his headquarters at Fort Simpson. He had the management of Forts Good Hope and Perseverance in 1823-24, and in the following season he was stationed at Fort Simpson. He was appointed to the Columbia district in the summer of 1825. From May to August 1826 he was the leader of a trapping expedition to the Umpqua River. In 1827 he assisted in the establishment of Fort Langley, and once more led a trapping party to the Umpqua country. In September, 1828 McLeod set out from Fort Vancouver with the object of exploring the Buenaventura River, which was thought to flow from the west, and to find an outlet in the Bay of San Francisco. He returned to Fort Vancouver in February, 1830, and in the summer of 1831 he was transferred to the Mackenzie River district. From 1833-35 he was attached to the Arctic Land Expedition under Captain George Black, and from 1835-37 he was in charge at Great Slave Lake. He was appointed a Chief Factor in 1836. In 1837 he took over the management of the Athabaska district, making his headquarters at Dunvegan, where he remained until he went on


See also Garron Wells, “McLean, John”, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume XI 1881 To 1890* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), 569-70.

furlough in 1839.\textsuperscript{57}

- Alexander Roderick McLeod (1782-1840)

**McLeod, John (1788-1849)**

John McLeod entered the service of the HBC as a writer in 1811, and in 1813-14 he was a writer in the Winnipeg district. In 1814 he was in charge of Pembina in the same district. In 1815-16 he was at Turtle River post and also at Fort Douglas (which he was called upon to defend against the Nor’Westers). In 1816-17 he was in charge at Isle a la Crosse, where he was twice made a prisoner by the Nor’Westers. He afterwards proceeded to Montreal to give evidence against the Company, returning to Isle a la Crosse in 1819. Here he remained until 1821 when he became a Chief Trader. He subsequently remained at Isle a la Crosse until he was transferred in 1822 Columbia department, where he was in charge at Kamloops (Thompson River district) until 1825, when he was granted furlough for one year. From 1825-30 he was at Norway House; he was on leave of absence to Europe in 1830-31, and was then appointed to the Montreal department, where he was in charge of the St. Maurice district from 1833 to 1849.\textsuperscript{58}

- John Peter Pruden (1778-1868)

**McLeod, John (1835-ca.1879)**

John McLeod entered the service of the HBC in 1852 as a labourer. He was stationed in the Norway House district the entire duration of his contract. In 1857 he renewed his contract as a fisherman and labourer and he remained in the district until 1862. In that year he retired to St. Peter’s parish in the Red River Settlement.\textsuperscript{59}


Robert Cumming (1795-1863)
John Harper (1767-1810)

**McLeod, Kenneth (1828-1904)**

Kenneth McLeod arrived at York Factory in 1847 in the service of the HBC, and remained with them for twenty-three years, chiefly at Rocky Mountain House and Fort Edmonton. In 1870 he took up farming at Poplar Point. He was a member of the Portage la Prairie group who came down to rescue Dr. John Christian Schultz after he was captured by Riel during the Red River disturbance of 1869-70. This undertaking resulted in their own capture. He served in the Riel Rebellion of 1885.\(^{60}\)

- Thomas Johnston (1785-ca.1805)
- Griffith Daniel (1795-1861)

**McLeod, Neil (1819-ca.1850)**

Neil McLeod entered into a contract with the HBC in 1840 as a labourer, and spent his service in the Island Lake district. He renewed his contract as a middleman and was apparently employed at York Factory for the outfit 1845-46. He was transferred to the English River district in 1846. During outfits 1847-48 and 1848-49 he was attached to the Admiralty Arctic Expedition led by Sir John Richardson, and in the summer of 1849 he was a member of John Rae’s boat crew down the Coppermine River. McLeod spent the winter of 1849-50 at Big Island, Great Slave Lake, and in the summer of 1850 he was engaged by Commander Pullen to accompany the party under orders from the Admiralty to Banks Land in search of Sir John Franklin. He left the Mackenzie River district in 1851 and retired to the Red River Settlement.\(^{61}\)

- John Dease (1744-1801)

**McLoughlin, David (1821-1903)**

David McLoughlin was sent to Paris in 1834 to be educated for the Engineer Department. He was in London in 1836, and in 1839 he returned to North America with his father, and entered the

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\(^{61}\)E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., *John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845* (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 366.
service of the HBC as an apprentice clerk. He was employed in the office at Fort Vancouver, and in 1845 he gave formal notice of his intention to retire in the following year. In 1902 he was living at Port Hill, Idaho.⁶²

- Donald McKay (1770-1772)
- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)

**McLoughlin, John (1784-1857)**

John McLoughlin studied medicine at Edinburgh University and became a qualified physician. He then returned to Canada and entered the service of the NWC in 1803-04 as apprentice at Kamisitiquia. During the following years he wintered at various posts from Lac la Pluie to Nipigon. In 1814 he was made a partner of the NWC in charge of the Lac la Pluie department. In 1820 he was in charge at Fort William. At the coalition of 1821 he became a Chief Factor, but on account of illness was not appointed to any district until the following year when he was given his former post at Lac La Pluie. He remained there until 1824 when he was transferred to the Columbia district. After passing the winter of 1824-25 at Fort George he assumed control of the Columbia district, a position which he continued to hold until 1846. He went to England on furlough in 1838-39. In 1846 he was granted three years’ leave of absence preparatory to his retirement in 1849. He took up residence at Oregon City.⁶³

- Donald McKay (1770-1772)
- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)

**McLoughlin, John (1812-1842)**

John McLoughlin was sent to Paris in 1829 to study medicine, and he remained there until early in 1834 when he was sent back to Canada. However, his general conduct and unsettled way of life gave his father much cause for anxiety, and Sir George Simpson would not admit him into the HBC service. However, in 1837 he was appointed Surgeon at Fort Vancouver and wintered there for 1837-38 and 1838-39. In 1840 he was at Stikine, and in the early spring of 1841 he was placed in charge of the post.⁶⁴

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McLoughlin, Joseph (1810-1848)

Joseph McLoughlin received little or no education, and during outfit 1827-28 he was listed as an apprentice of the HBC attached to the coasting trade of the Columbia district. From 1828-30 he was a trapper with the Bonaventura (Sacramento) Valley expedition, and afterwards he appears to have been a servant and storekeeper at Fort Vancouver. During part of the winter of 1838-39 he was occupied erecting buildings and making preparations to begin farming for the HBC at Cowlitz, and in the summer of 1839 he was attached to the Bonaventura trapping expedition, but he was obliged to return on account of illness. He retired from the HBC about 1840 to near Champoeg, Oregon.65

McMillan, James (1783-1858)

James McMillan entered the service of the NWC prior to 1804 when he was serving as a clerk in the Fort des Prairies department. He was associated with David Thompson in his work in the Columbia between 1808-12. At the coalition of 1821 McMillan was appointed a Chief Trader in the Columbia district. He was granted leave of absence during 1823-24. On his return in 1824 he accompanied Governor George Simpson on his journey from York Factory to Fort George (Columbia), and in November of that year he led a party to explore the lower part of the Fraser River. He was next appointed in charge of Fort Assiniboine and he received instructions to survey the track from Jasper House to the head of the Fraser River in the autumn of 1825. Early in 1827 he was appointed a Chief Factor, and in the ensuing summer he established Fort Langley on the Fraser River. He was in charge of the post in 1828, and he accompanied Governor Simpson eastward in the spring of 1829 and returned to Scotland on furlough in the season 1829-30. On his return in 1830 he was appointed to establish an experimental farm at Red River. He remained in charge of the Farm until 1834 when he was transferred to the Lake of Two Mountains district in the Montreal department. He retained this charge until 1837, when he went on furlough. He

Record Society, 1943), 396-97.

retired from the fur trade in 1839.  

- Jean Baptiste Letendre (1762-1827)
- McKinlay (fl.1816)

**McMurray, Thomas (fl.1778-1795)**

Thomas McMurray was a trader who settled in Montreal about 1772. He appears to have been at Michilimackinac between 1769 and 1772. His name occurs in the fur trade licences for 1778.

- Thomas McMurray (fl.1778-1795)

**McMurray, Thomas (1779-1849)**

Thomas McMurray entered the service of the XY Company, and in 1803-04 was in charge of the XY post at Fort Dauphin. On the union of the XY and the North West Companies, he was sent as a clerk to Rainy Lake in 1804 and at Isle a la Crosse in 1817. He was made a partner of the North West Company in 1817. In 1820 he was arrested on charges arising out of his misdeeds in Athabaska and taken to Montreal. All proceedings and other similar cases were quashed at the coalition of 1821 when he was made a Chief Trader and was given charge of Winnipeg River. In 1823 he was appointed to Fort Dauphin, and in 1824 to Lac la Pluie district, where he was in charge at Whitefish Lake during 1824-25, and subsequently at Lake of the Woods until 1831. He was then removed to Pic, Lake Superior district, where he remained almost continuously until 1841. He was granted leave of absence during two years prior to his retirement which was in 1843.

- Thomas McMurray (fl.1778-1795)

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McMurray, William (1824-1877)

William McMurray was reputed to be one of the best orators in Saulteaux and Chipewyan; an excellent shot; and one of the best winter travellers. He received his education at the Red River Academy. The HBC apprenticed him as Postmaster around 1837, and in 1866 he was appointed Chief Factor, subsequently becoming Chief Factor for the northern district. 69

- Thomas McMurray (fl.1778-1795)

McNab, John (d.ca.1820)

John McNab entered the HBC’s service in 1779. In the early 1780s he was surgeon and master at Henley House. He was Chief at Albany Factory in 1797, and Chief at York Factory in 1803. He returned to Scotland in 1809.House.70

- John McNab (d.ca.1820)

McPherson, Murdock (1796-1863)

Murdock McPherson entered the service of the North West Company in 1816. He was en route for the Athabaska district in 1817, and was taken over as a clerk by the HBC at the coalition of 1821. In 1823 he was transferred to the Mackenzie River department. He remained here until 1848, with the exception of the years 1840-43 which he spent on furlough and at Tadoussac. He was promoted to be a Chief Trader in 1834, and a Chief Factor in 1847. He was granted two years furlough in 1849, and he retired in 1851.71

- Murdock McPherson (1796-1863)


McRae, Duncan (1813-1898)

Duncan McRae entered into a contract with the HBC to build Upper and Lower Fort Garry. It took him ten years to build the two forts, the stones for which were quarried and hauled from St. Andrew’s. He lived in St. Andrew’s for fifty years. He built St. Andrew’s on the Red, St. Clement’s, St. Peter’s, the second St. John’s Cathedral, and Miss Matilda Davis’ ladies school at Red River.72

- John James Smith (1798-1850)

McTavish, Dugald (1817-1871)

Dugald McTavish was appointed apprentice clerk in the service of the HBC on 1832 in the Southern Department. He was stationed at Moose Factory until 1835, and from 1835-37 he was appointed a clerk at Michipicoten. He was stationed at Lachine during outfits 1837-38 and 1838-39, and in the summer of that year he crossed the Rocky Mountains to Fort Vancouver, where he was employed in the counting-house until 1847. He was appointed a Chief Trader in 1846, and in 1847 he proceeded to the Sandwich Islands to assume the principal management of the business there. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Factor in 1851, and he remained in charge of the HBC business in the Islands until 1852. After a few months leave of absence, he returned to Fort Vancouver in 1853 and acted as joint manager of the Oregon Department. From 1854 to 1857 he was the sole manager, and in 1858 he went to Fort Victoria where he remained until 1859 when he went to England. He returned to Fort Victoria in 1860, took charge of the HBC business there until the 1863 when he again went to England. He spent his remaining years of service in Montreal.73

- Lachlan McTavish (fl.1778)

McTavish, John George (1778-1847)

John George McTavish was introduced into the fur trade in Canada through the friendship of Simon McTavish with his father. In 1798 he was a clerk in the North West Company. He was at


Grand Portage in 1802, was stationed in the Athabaska district in 1808, and he went to the relief of David Thompson in 1811. In 1813 he was on the Columbia, and received the surrender of Fort Astoria. He was made a partner of the North West Company in 1813. During the next few years he appears to have been employed mainly in the Columbia district. In 1819 he was arrested by William Williams of the HBC in connection with the Selkirk troubles. He was sent to England for trial, but was released in 1821, and was appointed a Chief Factor of the HBC. He was in charge at York Factory from 1821 to 1828, and during Governor George Simpson’s absence in 1824-25, he acted as Deputy Governor of the Northern Department. He was granted furlough in 1829, and returned in 1830 when he was appointed to Moose Factory from 1831 to 1834. He was again granted leave of absence during 1835-36, and from 1836 to 1837 he was in charge at the Lake of Two Mountains in the Montreal district. He retired from the HBC early in 1847. He became a Councillor of the Governors of the HBC territories in 1822 and a Councillor of Rupert’s Land in 1839.74

- Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez (1736-1808)
- Lachlan McTavish (fl.1778)
- Alexander McKenzie (fl.1761-1783)

**McTavish, John H. (1837-1888)**

John H. McTavish was educated at the Jesuits’ College and High School in Montreal. He came to Fort Garry in 1856 in the service of the HBC and was in charge there during 1870. He was elected as a conservative representing Ste. Anne to the first legislature of Manitoba. In 1874 he was chosen a member of the North-West Territorial executive council but left politics to become land commissioner of the CPR. He was a close friend and associate of Lord Strathcona, Donald Smith.75

- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- Edward Umfreville (b.1755)
- John Peter Pruden (1778-1868)
- John McNab (d.ca.1820)


**McTavish, Simon (1750-1804)**

Simon McTavish emigrated to America before 1772, and engaged in the fur trade from Albany. He was in Detroit as early as 1772, and in 1775 he transferred his headquarters to Montreal. He was trading at Grand Portage in 1776 in partnership with James Bannerman, and in 1779 he was one of the partners in the original sixteen-share North West Company. He seems to have been one of the prime movers in bringing about the renewed agreement of 1783, and in 1787 he formed a partnership with Joseph Frobisher known as McTavish, Frobisher and Co., which became the supply house and virtual directorate of the North West Company. As the head of this house, he became in fact, if not in name, the general manager of the Company, and for many years he visited Grand Portage in the summer to superintend the trade. There is no evidence that he ever wintered in the Northwest. He became perhaps the richest man in Montreal. In 1800 he purchased the estate of Dunardarie in Argylesgire which was the house of the chief of the Clan McTavish, and in 1803 he commenced the building of a mansion on the side of the mountain in Montreal.\(^{76}\)

- Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez (1736-1808)
- John McTavish (fl.1750)

**McTavish, William (1815-1870)**

William McTavish entered the service of the HBC as a clerk in 1833, became a Chief Trader in 1847 and Chief Factor in 1851. He served at Norway House, 1833-34; at York Factory, 1834-36; at Fort Garry, 1836-37; at York Factory, 1837-48; at Sault Ste. Marie, 1848-50, at York Factory, 1850-56; and at Fort Garry, 1857-70. He was governor of Assiniboia, 1858-65, and governor of Rupert’s Land, 1864-70.\(^{77}\)

- Lachlan McTavish (fl.1779)
- John McNab (d.ca.1820)

**McVicar, Robert (1799-1864)**

Robert McVicar entered the HBC service in 1812, and was a writer at York Factory until 1814.


\(^{77}\) Margaret Arnett MacLeod, ed., *The Letters of Letitia Hargrave* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1947), 5 n.1.

In 1814-15 he was at Cumberland House. He was at Isle a la Crosse in 1815-16 and there fought a duel with a North West Company clerk McNeal. He was next transferred to the Athabaska district, where he remained until 1819. During his term of office there he was imprisoned by the Nor'Westers at Fort Chipewyan, in 1816 and again in 1817. He was in charge at Fort Resolution in the Great Slave Lake district from 1819 to 1823, when he obtained a year's leave of absence. He resumed the charge of Great Slave lake from 1824 to 1827, being transferred to Weymontachingue in the St. Maurice district of the Montreal department until 1830 when he retired. He was appointed Chief Trader in 1821.78

- Alexander McBeath (1740?-1848)


Nadeau, Denis (1747-ca.1814)

Denis Nadeau was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Fort des Prairies district in 1804. One Nadeau was referred to as “an old Canadian hunter” was found on Beaver River in June 1814.¹

- Denis Nadeau (1747-ca.1814)

Nolin, Charles (1837-1907)

Charles Nolin worked as a merchant and trader until the outbreak of the resistance in 1869. He was sent by Louis Riel in 1869 to William McDougall with a list of rights demanded by Riel’s provisional government. He was later a delegate to the Convention which drew up the list of rights which was presented to the Federal Government. During the Fenian scare of 1871, he commanded a loyal group of métis from Pointe-des-Chenes. In 1873 he assisted Bishop Provencher in helping the Saulteaux obtain their land. He contested the riding of Ste. Anne in the provincial election of 1874. He was Minister of Agriculture in 1875, when he resigned, and served as minister-without-portfolio until the ministry resigned in 1878. He then travelled to Saskatchewan and took part in the agitation which preceded the Rebellion of 1885. He disagreed with Riel and Gabriel Dumont over the use of arms, and took refuge at Prince Albert during the fighting that followed.²

- Thomas Harrison (1768-1822)
- Jean Baptiste Lepine (1792-ca.1840)
- Alexander Cameron (fl.1764-1777)
- John Baptiste Lagemonier (1778-1855)
- John Crebassa (fl.1803-1807)
- Pierre Parenteau (1797-1867)
- Joseph Couvret (n.d.)


Nolin, Jean Baptiste (ca.1742-1826)

Jean Baptiste Nolin was a fur trader who settled at Sault Ste. Marie, and acted there in some capacity for the North West Company for many years. As early as 1777 he was in partnership with Venant St. Germain and purchased from Alexander Henry the fort at Michipicoten on Lake Superior. In his later years he appears to have been a merchant at Sault Ste. Marie, and in 1819 he sold out his interests there to C.O. Ermatinger, and went to live at Pembina on the Red River.3

- Joseph Couvret (n.d.)

Norquay, John (1841-1899)

John Norquay received his primary education at St. John’s Parochial School, and later transferred to St. John’s Academy. After graduation he taught at Parkdale. He later quit teaching and entered the fur trade in the service of a Mr. House at White Horse Plains. Later he farmed at High Bluff and was elected by acclamation for High Bluff in the first provincial election in 1870. In 1871 he was appointed a member of the Executive Council and Minister of Public Works and Agriculture. He held these positions until 1874 when the ministry resigned. He joined the cabinet of the Hon. R.A. Davis as Provincial Secretary in 1875, resigning this position the next year to become Minister of Public Works. When Premier Davis resigned in 1878, Norquay formed the new government and held the offices of Premier, President of Executive Council and Provincial Treasurer. He resigned the Treasury portfolio in 1886, and was appointed Railway Commissioner. He resigned his three portfolios in 1887, and was succeeded by Dr. D.H. Harrison. On the defeat of the Harrison Government and the accession of the Hon. Thomas Greenway as Premier in 1888, he became leader of the Opposition. Norquay was an unsuccessful candidate for Marquette in the federal election of 1872. He sat for High Bluff in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, 1870-74. In the general election of 1874 he was returned for St. Andrew’s, and was reelected in the elections of 1878, 1879, 1883 and 1886.4

- Mathew Truthwaite (1768-ca.1800)
- Alexander Kennedy (1781-1832)

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• James Sutherland (ca.1751-1797)

Norquay, Oman (1773-ca.1810)

Oman Norquay joined the HBC as a canoeman in 1791. In 1796 he was stationed in the Saskatchewan district. ⁵

• Oman Norquay (1773-ca.1810)

⁵Alice M. Johnson, ed., Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence 1795-1802 (London: Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1967), 39 n.5.
Oakes, Forest (d. 1783)

Forest Oakes was an English merchant who came to Canada in the earliest days of British rule. He was a partner in the firm of Mackenzie and Oakes in Quebec in 1761. He engaged in the fur trade, and his name appears in the fur trade licences between 1769 and 1772. In 1779 he became one of the parties to the formation of the original North West Company, but his firm was not included in the agreement of 1783-84.¹

* Oakes (n.d.)

Ogden, Peter Skene (1790-1854)

Peter Skene Ogden entered the service of the NWC as a clerk, and from 1811 until 1818 was stationed at Isle a la Crosse department. In 1818 he went on an expedition across the Rocky Mountains. He was made a partner of the NWC in 1820, and joined the service of the HBC as a chief clerk in 1823. He was made a Chief Trader in 1824 and conducted expeditions to the Snake River Country from 1824-30. From 1830-34 he was in charge of the expedition up the North Pacific coast to establish a post at Nass (Fort Simpson). In 1834 he was made a Chief Factor and in 1835 he was appointed to the New Caledonia district where he remained until 1844. After a furlough in 1844 he returned to the Columbia district and became a member of the board of management of that district from 1846. He was granted furlough and leave of absence for 1851-1853 and then returned as a member of the board of management of the Oregon department.²

* Peter Skene Ogden (1794-1854)


²See also George E. Thorman, "Oakes, Forrest", Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume IV 1771 To 1800 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979), 585-86.


See also Glyndwr Williams, “Peter Skene Ogden”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII 1851 To 1860 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 660-63.
Pambrun, Pierre Chrysologue (1792-1841)

Pierre Chrysologue Pambrun served as a lieutenant in the Canadian Voltigeurs under Salaberry in the War of 1812, and took part in the Battle of Chateauguay. After the war, in 1815 he entered the service of the HBC, and in 1816 he was taken prisoner by the metis of the North West Company on the Qu’Appelle River. He was in England in 1819 and returned to Rupert’s Land in 1820. In 1820-21 he was stationed at Cumberland House, and during the following season he had charge of the fishing operations at Rock Depot. In 1822 he was a member of the Bow River Expedition, and his duties consisted of superintending the men. He was stationed on Smoky River during 1823-24, and in 1825 he was transferred to the New Caledonia district. Here he served at and was in charge of various posts, including that on Babine Lake (Fort Kilmaurs) until his appointment to the Columbia district in 1831. He was a clerk in charge at Fort Walla Walla as early as 1832, and he was still there in 1840 when he was promoted to the rank of Chief Trader.1

- Edward Umfreville (b.1755)

Parenteau, Joseph (1774-ca.1822)

Joseph Parenteau was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Fort des Prairies district in 1804.2

- Joseph Parenteau (1774-ca.1822)

Parisien, Bonaventure (d.1817)

Bonaventure Parisien was an “able foreman” and was with the North West Company’s Athabaska brigade in 1787. A man of this name, probably the same, was at Fort des Prairies in 1805 and in 1817-1818.3


- Bonaventure Parisien (d.1817)

**Parisien, Hyacinthe (1781-ca.1848)**

Hyacinthe Parisien was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur contre-maitre in the Rainy Lake district in 1804.⁴

- Hyacinthe Parisien (1781-ca.1848)

**Parisien, Jean Baptiste (1785-ca.1827)**

Jean Baptiste Parisien was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Fort des Prairies district in 1804.⁵

- Jean Baptiste Parisien (1785-ca.1827)

**Park, John (1769-1848)**

John Park came from Murray Island, Orkney Islands, and joined the HBC in 1792. In 1798 he was employed as a steersman.⁶

- John Park (1769-1848)

**Patenaude, Michel (1784-1863)**

Michel Patenaude was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur contre maitre in the

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⁶Alice M. Johnson, ed., *Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence 1795-1802* (London: Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1967), 139 n.2.
Upper Red River district in 1804.⁷

- Michel Patenaude (1784-1863)

**Peers, Augustus Richard (1823-1853)**

Augustus Richard Peers entered the service of the HBC in 1842, served at York Factory, 1842-43; at Fort Simpson, 1843-44; was in charge of Fort Norman, 1844-47; and was in charge of Peel River Post (Fort McPherson), 1847-53.⁸

- Roderick McKenzie (1772-1859)
- John Dease (1744-1801)

**Peguis (1774-1864)**

As a young man, Peguis led a band of Saulteaux people to the Red River, where they established themselves at Netley Creek. When the Selkirk colonists arrived at Red River in 1812 they found a friend in Peguis. After the Seven Oaks Massacre of 1816, Peguis and Louis Nolin helped bury the dead. In 1817 Lord Selkirk made a treaty with the Cree and Saulteaux though Peguis. He was presented with a treaty medal and document attesting to the value placed on his friendship by the Red River Settlement.⁹

- Peguis (1774-1864)

**Pelletier, Jean Baptiste (1830-ca.1863)**

Jean Baptiste was engaged as a middleman for John Rae’s Arctic Expedition of 1850-51. He wintered at Fort Confidence and on returning spent a season in the Mackenzie River district.

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⁸Margaret Arnett MacLeod, ed., *The Letters of Letitia Hargrave* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1947), 120 n.4.


wintering during 1851-52 at Fort Resolution. He entered into five year contract with the HBC, and retired in 1857. He was again employed as a steersman during outfits 1861-62 and 1862-63. He retired to the Red River Settlement in 1863.\(^\text{10}\)

- François Deschamps (fl.1804-1830)
- Joseph Pelletier (1787-ca.1830)

**Pelly, Augustus Edward (1821-1852)**

Augusta Edward Pelly entered the service of the HBC as a clerk in 1838, and became a Chief Trader in 1850. He served at Fort Garry previous to being posted to the Columbia Department in 1852. He was at Lachine for a short time before his retirement in 1854.\(^\text{11}\)

- Augusta Edward Pelly (1821-1852)

**Penrose, James (1845-1918)**

James Penrose arrived in Manitoba in 1871. After a land prospecting trip to the Boyne, Portage la Prairie and Westbourne districts, he returned to Fort Garry and purchased a farm in the Springfield district. He soon abandoned agricultural pursuits and turned to photography. With the increase in settlement in the middle 1870's he turned to livestock importing, forming a partnership with a Mr. Rocan. In 1886 he represented Ward 3 on the Winnipeg City Council. He was reelected for a second term, but did not take his seat. In 1893 he was appointed chief inspector of the liquor license department by the Provincial Government, and held this position until he resigned due to illness. He was later appointed chief clerk, a position he held until 1916 when he retired.\(^\text{12}\)

- William Bannerman (ca.1757-1837)
- George Munroe (1797-1864)

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\(^\text{10}\)E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., *John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845* (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 374.


Piche, Joseph (fl.1806-1815)

Joseph Piche was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Upper Red River district in 1804.\(^\text{13}\)

- Joseph Piche (fl.1806-1815)

Polson, Alexander (1777-1857)

Alexander Polson came to Red River in 1815 as one of the Selkirk Settlers, and made his home on the west side of the Red River about one mile north of St. John’s Parish. By trade he was a carpenter and a farmer, and showed great versatility in his labours, building his own spinning wheel and making his own clothes. His family were active members of the Kildonan Presbyterian Church.\(^\text{14}\)

- Alexander Polson (1777-1857)

Polson, Angus (1822-1891)

Angus Polson was raised on his father’s farm at Kildonan, and attended schools in the colony. He lived on the old family homestead for a number of years, and then purchased land on the other side of Red River, lot 94, East Kildonan. He followed in his father’s footsteps by combining carpentering and agricultural pursuits, and became well-known for the furniture and spinning wheels he built. He also built the first windmill in East Kildonan for making flour. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, serving as one of its elders.\(^\text{15}\)

- Samuel Henderson (1791-ca.1844)
- Alexander Polson (1777-1857)

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Polson, John (1810-1890)

John Polson came to Red River in 1815 with a party of Lord Selkirk’s emigrants and was the last survivor of Polsons who came to Red River. During his seventy-five years’ residence in the Settlement, it was said that he was never further away from Kildonan than Portage la Prairie. The HBC granted him Lot 211 in 1860.\textsuperscript{16}

- John Flett (1784-1865)
- Alexander Polson (1777-1857)

Pritchard, Hugh (1831-1912)

Hugh Pritchard moved to Middlechurch where he opened a store. He operated one of the first grinding mills in the West at Middlechurch and had charge of many of the freight caravans that travelled to St. Paul and back. For almost fifteen years he was postmaster at Middlechurch and also held the offices of Reeve, Councillor, and school trustee. He served for forty years as church warden of the Middlechurch Anglican Church.\textsuperscript{17}

- John Pritchard (1777-1856)

Pritchard, John (1777-1856)

John Pritchard was engaged in 1801 as a clerk by the XY Company and was stationed at Red River in the neighbourhood of Lake Winnipeg. At the coalition of the North West Companies, he was sent to the Nipigon country from 1805 to 1809. He returned to Red River in 1809 and was stationed in the Souris River district at Pine Fort. From 1812-14 he was at Riviere Qu’Appelle. In 1814 he desired to retire from the fur trade and become a settler at Red River, but he was prevented by the NWC and proceeded to Montreal, where he communicated important information concerning the plans for the destruction of Selkirk’s colony to Colin Robertson. He was appointed a councillor of Assiniboia and was at the massacre of Seven Oaks in 1816, when he was made a prisoner. He remained in Red River.\textsuperscript{18}


• John Pritchard (1777-1856)

Pritchard, Samuel (1827-1913)

Samuel Pritchard taught in the school founded by his father, John Pritchard, and moved it from Middlechurch in 1866 to make it an integral part of St. John’s College when that institution was revived. He served as an English master. He was ordained in 1866.19

• William Bannerman (ca. 1757-1837)
• John Pritchard (1777-1856)

Pruden, John Peter (1778-1870)

John Peter Pruden entered the service of the HBC in 1791 as an apprentice at York Factory, and he remained there until 1795. He was at Carlton House, Saskatchewan in 1795-96, and from 1796 to 1799 was at Edmonton House. In 1798 he became a writer. During 1799-1800 he was at Bolsover House. He was in charge of Acton House during the winter 1805-06. In 1808 he was an inland master and trader, and in the summer of 1808 he proceeded to England. He returned the next year and during the winter 1809-10 he was in charge of Carlton House, where it seems that he remained for four years as an inland master in the Saskatchewan district. He remained in charge at Carlton from 1814 to 1824. On the coalition of 1821 he was appointed Chief Trader. During the year 1824-25 he was granted leave of absence on account of ill-health. He was in charge of Norway House in 1825-26, but later returned to command at Carlton House where he remained until 1837. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Factor in 1836. After his retirement he lived at the Red River Settlement, and in 1839 he was appointed a Councillor of Assiniboia. In 1844 he became a member of the Board of Works.20

• John Peter Pruden (1778-1868)

See also Carol M. Judd, “Pritchard, John”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII 1851 To 1860 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 713-15.


**Quesnel, Jules Maurice (1768-1842)**

Jules Maurice Quesnel entered the service of the North West Company, and in 1804 he was stationed at Edmonton. In 1808 he accompanied Simon Fraser in his exploration of the Fraser River. He left the service in 1811, and returned to Canada. In 1838 he was appointed a member of the Special Council of Lower Canada, and in 1841 a member of the Legislative Council under the union.¹

- Blondeau (n.d.)


Rae, William Glen (1809-1845)

William Glen Rae was engaged by the HBC as an apprentice clerk in 1827, and was employed at Lachine. He spent the winter of 1829-30 as a clerk in the Red River district, and one of his duties during the spring of 1830 was to take a census of the settlement. In 1831 he was appointed to Lac la Pluie where he was stationed during the ensuing winter. In 1830 the HBC resolved that an experimental farm should be established at Red River, and Rae left the Settlement in 1832 for the United States to purchase sheep. He carried the 1833-34 winter express from Red River to Edmonton House where he remained until the autumn, when he left to take up a new appointment in the Columbia district. He appears to have spent the season 1835-36 partly at Fort Colvile and partly at Fort Nez Perces. After superintending the building of a new fort in the Umpqua Country in the summer of 1836, Rae was appointed to the management of the Kootenay Post for the 1836-37 season. In 1837 he was appointed a clerk at Fort Vancouver, and he was there during 1837-1840. When Stikine was acquired from the Russian American Company in June 1840 Rae was placed in charge. He returned to Fort Vancouver in 1841 and then left for San Francisco where he was placed in charge of the Company’s business.1

- Donald McKay (fl.1770-1772)
- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)

Raymond, Jean Moise (1787-1843)

Jean Moise Raymond was a merchant, manufacturer, militia officer, politician and office holder. In 1824 he was elected to the Lower Canadian House of Assembly for Huntington County. From 1827 to 1830 he held Laprairie County. He was a faithful supporter of Louis Joseph Papineau and voted with the Patriote party on major issues. However, he was not a radical, and he scandalized more extreme Patriotes in 1832 when he subscribed to a new conservative newspaper.2

- Germain Laurent (d.1792)

Richard, John (b.1760s)

John Richard entered the service of the HBC about 1785 as a labourer at Albany Factory. When his father returned to England in 1795, John accompanied him. He spent the winter in Wales and rejoined the HBC in 1796. Within a year he deserted to the North West Company. There is no


evidence that he saw his son William thereafter.\(^3\)

- William Richard (fl.1757-1795)

**Richard, Thomas (1760s-1812)**

Thomas Richard entered the service of the HBC about 1785 as a labourer at Albany Factory. In 1802 he was employed as a boat steersman and requested a transfer to Moose Factory where he spent the rest of his HBC career.\(^4\)

- William Richard (fl.1757-1795)

**Richard, William (fl.1757-1795)**

William Richard was a native of Neath Wales. He had served with the HBC at Albany Factory and at Henley House between 1757 and 1769, when he returned home as a result of disputes with the Chief Factor. Suspected of smuggling furs he was then refused re-employment until 1794. He returned to Albany Factory for the 1794-95 season and returned to England.\(^5\)

- William Richard (fl.1757-1795)

**Richard, William (ca.1785-1811)**

William Richard was apprenticed to the HBC at Albany Factory in 1800, and in 1802 he was serving aboard the Albany shallop. He was then transferred to Moose Factory and district where he spent the rest of his HBC career as a canoeman and cooper. He had been interested in art and did illustrations of ice-fishing, wood-cutting and other local activities at Moose Factory.\(^6\)

- William Richard (fl.1757-1795)

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Riel, Louis (1817-1864)

Louis Riel moved with his family to Berthier, Canada East in 1822. He attended the local school and learned the trade of carding wool. In 1838 he entered the service of the HBC and was stationed at Rainy Lake for several years. In 1842 he returned East to study for the priesthood as a novitiate with the Oblate Order, but left after a few months to settle at Red River. He became known as the miller of the Seine after he established a mill on the Seine River, near St. Boniface, to grind grain and card wool for the Grey Nuns of St. Boniface. With James Sinclair and Rev. Georges Belcourt he led the struggle at Red River to break the fur trade monopoly of the HBC. In 1849 when Guillaume Sayer was found guilty of trafficking in furs, Riel headed the three hundred armed men who surrounded the court hearing and demanded their right to free trade. Sayer was released without penalty. Later that same year Riel was one of the petitioners demanding the removal of Adam Thom, the Recorder of Rupert’s Land. Thom was replaced with a bilingual judge, as requested in the petition.  

- Jean Baptiste Lagemonier (1778-1855)
- Jean Baptiste Riel (fl.1815-1833)

Riel, Louis (1844-1885)

Louis Riel was sent at the age of seven to the school conducted by the Grey Nuns in St. Boniface, and in 1854 to the school operated by the Christian Brothers. In 1858 he was selected by Bishop Tache to be educated in Eastern Canada. He attended the College of Montreal until 1865. He left Montreal the following year and worked in several American cities before returning to the Red River Settlement in 1868. In 1869 he assumed the leadership of an already-existing discontented group among the metis, who feared the loss of their cultural and property rights. Riel became first the secretary and later the president of the National Committee of the metis. Under his leadership a provisional government was formed. A convention was held which drew a list of rights as the basis on which the Settlement would enter Confederation. Most of these rights were incorporated in the Manitoba Bill. For his efforts towards this achievement Riel has sometimes been called “the founder of the Province of Manitoba”. He fled the Settlement in 1870 with the arrival of the Wolseley expedition. Although elected to represent Provencher constituency in the House of Commons in 1873 and again in 1874, he was not permitted to take his seat. In 1875 the Governor General granted a general amnesty to Riel on condition that he remain in exile for five years. He

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returned to the American West, settled in the Territory of Montana, and applied for American citizenship in 1883. In the summer of 1884 he was invited to return to Canada to organize the métis of the Northwest in another protest movement against the Federal Government. The outcome of his return and agitation was the North West Rebellion of 1885. Following the defeat at Batoche, Riel surrendered. He was taken to Regina to stand trial, was found guilty on a charge of treason, and hanged in 1885.

- Jean Baptiste Lagemonier (1778-1855)
- Jean Baptiste Riel (fl.1815-1833)

**Robertson, Colin (1783-1842)**

Colin Robertson entered the service of the North West Company as a clerk prior to 1804. He was employed mainly in the English River department, but in 1809 he was dismissed from the service. In 1814 he entered the employ of Lord Selkirk and the HBC, subsequently proceeding to Canada. Towards the end of the year he was entrusted with the organization of the expedition to Athabaska to take place in the summer of 1815, with the object of establishing a trade there. After spending the winter 1814-15 in Montreal, he proceeded west with the brigade for Athabaska in May 1815. Finding the Selkirk settlers at Jack River, north of Lake Winnipeg, where they had been driven on the destruction of the Colony, Robertson left the expedition, and, after conducting the settlers back, successfully reestablished the Colony, afterwards acting as its Governor. In March, 1816 he attacked and captured Fort Gilbralter, the Canadian post in the Colony. Robertson remained in the Colony until June 1816 when he proceeded to York Factory. He passed the winter of 1816-17 mainly at Moose Factory, later going to Montreal. He later led an expedition to Athabaska for the purpose of reestablishing Fort Wedderburn. In 1818 he was the chief officer of the HBC in the Athabaska district. In 1819 he was arrested by the Nor'Westers, but escaped. In 1820 he went to England and was in London when the coalition of 1821 occurred. In 1821 he was made a Chief Factor of the HBC, and was placed in charge at Norway House. In 1822-23 he was in charge of the North Branch of the Saskatchewan district, returning to Norway House during the following year. In 1824 he was transferred to Fort Churchill; in 1826 to Island Lake, and in 1830 to Swan River. He had leave of absence from 1832 to 1837; but from 1837 to 1839 he had charge of the New Brunswick district. He retired in 1840. In 1841 he was elected to represent the Lake of Two Mountains in the first Legislative Assembly of United Canada.

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Colin Robertson (1783-1842)

Robertson, George (1771-1855)

George Robertson was from Orphir, Mainland, Orkney Islands, and joined the HBC in 1791. He was employed as a bowsman for the 1798-99 season.10

- George Robertson (1771-1855)

Robertson, John (fl.1805-1828)

John Robertson was engaged by the HBC as a labourer in 1805. By 1811 he was an assistant trader at York Factory. He remained in the York Factory district until 1821, when he was a clerk in the Nelson River district. In 1823 he was at Norway House and in 1824 at Fort Alexander. For the outfit 1825-26 he was placed in charge of Berens River in the Winnipeg district.11

- Robert Cumming (1795-1863)
- John Harper (1767-1810)

Robillard, Jean Baptiste (1781-ca.1848)

Jean Baptiste Robillard was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Fort des Prairies district in 1804.12

- Jean Baptiste Robillard (1781-ca.1848)


Rollette, Joseph (1820-1871)

Joseph Rollette was manager of the American Fur Company post at Pembina, under Norman W. Kittson, and started the regular “cartline” in 1843 to bring goods from St. Paul to Pembina. Becoming involved in townsite speculation he lost everything in the panic of 1857. Later he became the United States customs officer at Pembina and was an active annexationist in 1869-70.\(^\text{13}\)

- Joseph Rollette (fl.1820)

Ross, Alexander (1783-1856)

Alexander Ross emigrated to Canada in 1805 and, for several years he taught school in Glengarry, Upper Canada. In 1810 he entered the service of the Pacific Fur Company, and he took part in the founding of Fort Astoria. In 1813, when Astoria was handed over to the North West Company, he became a clerk with the Nor’Westers. He remained on the Pacific slope until after the coalition of 1821. He retired from the fur trade in 1825, and settled in the Red River Settlement. He became Sheriff of Assiniboia, and from 1835 to 1850 he was a member of the Council of Assiniboia.\(^\text{14}\)

- Alexander Ross (1783-1856)

Ross, Clarke (fl.1818-1823)

Clarke Ross apparently entered the service of the NWC in 1818, and he was engaged on a temporary basis and stationed at Fort George in the Columbia as a bookkeeper during 1820-21. After the coalition he was retained in the Columbia district until 1823 when he retired to Canada.\(^\text{15}\)

\(^{13}\)Irene M. Spry, ed., The Papers of the Palliser Expedition 1857-60 (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1968), 608.

See also Hartwell Bowsfield, “Rolette (Rollette), Joseph”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume X 1871 To 1880 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972), 628.


See also Frits Pannekoek, “Ross, Alexander”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII 1851 To 1860 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 765-68.

\(^{15}\)R. Harvey Fleming, ed., Minutes of Council Northern Department of Rupert’s Land, 1821-31 (Toronto: The Champlain Society for the Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1940), 452-53.
- Clarke Ross (fl.1818-1823)

Ross, Donald (1797-1852)

Donald Ross entered the service of the HBC as a writer in 1816 and was stationed at York Factory during the season 1816-17. He was then transferred to Cumberland House, where he was employed as clerk and accountant from 1817-24. From 1824-26 he was stationed at York Factory, and in 1826-27 he was in Montreal acting as Governor Simpson's confidential secretary. He was apparently at York Factory during the following season, and in 1828 he accompanied Simpson to the Columbia district, passing the winter at Fort Vancouver. He returned east with Simpson in the spring of 1829. In the same year he was promoted to Chief Trader and granted a year's furlough. Upon his return in 1830 he was appointed to the charge of Norway House depot and district. He retained this charge for twenty-one years. In 1839 he was appointed a Sheriff of Rupert's Land and a Chief Factor. In 1851 he was granted a year's furlough and this was later extended on account of ill-health.  

- Alexander McBeath (1740?-1848)

Ross, James (1836-1871)

James Ross was educated at St. John's College and subsequently received his B.A. at the University of Toronto. He taught briefly at Upper Canada College and then returned to Red River where he was appointed Sheriff, Postmaster and Governor of the Gaol. Between 1860 and 1864 he was joint editor and proprietor of the Nor'Wester. Because he criticized the HBC he was dismissed as Sheriff. In 1865 he returned briefly to Canada to further his legal experience and to work briefly on the Hamilton Spectator, and later on the Toronto Globe. He returned to Red River, and took an active part in the troubles of 1869-70. Abandoning politics he studied law and was admitted to practice by the Law Society of Manitoba.

- Alexander Ross (1783-1856)

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\(^{16}\)R. Harvey Fleming, ed., Minutes of Council Northern Department of Rupert’s Land, 1821-31 (Toronto: The Champlain Society for the Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1940), 453.


See also W.D. Smith, “Ross, James”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume X 1871 To 1880 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972), 629-31.
Ross, Malcolm (1755-1799)

Malcolm Ross entered the service of the HBC as a labourer in 1774, and was first employed at York Factory. In 1776 he set out on an expedition up the Saskatchewan River with two other men. He was left in charge of Cumberland House in the summer of 1783, and in 1784-85 he was a canoe man serving inland from York Factory. In 1786 he set out from Churchill on an inland expedition to Cumberland House where he passed the 1786-87 and 1787-88 winters. He was in charge of the post for the 1788-89 season, and in 1790 he accompanied Philip Turnor on the journey to Lake Athabaska. After wintering in 1790-91 at Isle a la Crosse, the party pursued their way in the spring to Lake Athabaska and then to Great Slave Lake. They passed the winter of 1791-92 near Fort Chipewyan and returned to York Factory in 1792. Ross was in charge of Cumberland House in 1793-94 and Reed Lake House in 1794-95. In 1795 he established Fairford House at the entrance to Reindeer Lake and passed the 1795-96 season there. The next season of 1796-97 he was at Bedford House and in 1798 he returned to Europe for one year. In 1799 he was appointed Inland Master and was to superintend the HBC’s business in Lake Athabaska.  

- Malcolm Ross (1755-1799)

Ross, Roderick (1834-1909)

Roderick Ross was educated at St. John’s College at Red River and later at Cambridge University. In due course he entered the service of the HBC and after postings at Fort Chipewyan and on the Peace River he was transferred to Norway House where he remained in charge for sixteen years. Later postings were at Isle a la Crosse and in the Athabaska district. He retired with the rank of Chief Factor.

- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- Edward Umfrville (b.1755)
- John Peter Pruden (1778-1868)
- Alexander McBeath (1740?-1848)
- John McNab (d.ca.1820)

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Roussin, Charles (1797-ca.1850)

Charles Roussin appeared to have joined the North West Company in 1816. He transferred to the HBC at the coalition of 1821. He was an assistant in New Caledonia about 1832 and retired in 1850.20

- Charles Roussin (1797-ca.1850)

Rowand, John (1787-1854)

John Rowand entered the service of the NWC about 1800 and served as a clerk at Fort des Prairies in 1804 and 1805; in the Lower Red River district in 1806; at Fort Augustus in 1808; and during the winter of 1810-11 he was at Upper Terre Blanche, situated on the Saskatchewan River west of Edmonton. In May 1812 he was stationed on the Pembina River, a branch of the Athabaska; in the winter of 1814-15 at Fort Augustus; in 1816 at Bas de la Riviere, and during 1820-21 at Rocky Mountain House. He was made a partner of the NWC shortly before the coalition of 1821. In 1821 he was appointed a Chief Trader, in 1826 a Chief Factor; in 1839 he was made a councillor of Rupert’s Land. During the season 1821-22 Rowand had charge of Rocky Mountain House, and during the following season he was attached to the Bow River Expedition as a second. Rowand took up headquarters at Edmonton House during the season 1823-24 as head of the Saskatchewan district, and he retained that position until the end of outfit 1840-41. In 1841 while Governor George Simpson was making his journey round the world, Rowand accompanied him from Red River as far as Honolulu. He sailed from Honolulu to Columbia River en route for Edmonton House in 1842. He was again stationed at Edmonton House as head of the district during the season 1842-43, and remained in charge until the end of the outfit 1846-47, when he availed himself on his rotation of furlough. He resumed his charge during the season 1848-49 and remained until 1854.21

- Edward Umfreville (b.1755)

Roy, Francois (1789-ca.1812)

François Roy was employed by the North West Company as a voyageur in the Fort Dauphin


district in 1804.\textsuperscript{22}

- Francois Roy (1789-ca. 1812)

**Roy, Joseph (1807-ca. 1866)**

Joseph Roy entered the service of the HBC as a middleman in 1835 and was stationed in the Athabaska district until 1844, when he was transferred to the Mackenzie River district. During outfit 1846-47 he was stationed at Fort Resolution where he served as a bowsman. In 1847 he entered into a new contract and remained at Fort Resolution until he joined John Rae’s Arctic Expedition of 1850-51. During 1850-51 he wintered at Fort Confidence and his name appears in the accounts as being concerned with expedition business until 1852. He renewed his contract as a fisherman and bowsman, and during season 1852-53 he was stationed at Fort Rae. Roy retired to Red River Settlement in the summer of 1855.\textsuperscript{23}

- Louison Cayen (1810-ca. 1835)


\textsuperscript{23}E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., *John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845* (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 374.
Sayer, John (ca.1750-1818)

John Sayer first appears in the fur trade in 1780, when he was granted a licence to send one canoe to Michilimackinac. He engaged in the fur trade in the Fond du Lac district, and as early as 1793 he was described as an agent of the North West Company in this region. In 1799 he was proprietor in charge of the Fond du Lac department. He retired from the fur trade about 1806, and he went to live at Ste. Anne, on the island of Montreal. In 1810 he was elected a member of the Beaver Club.¹

- John Sayer (ca.1750-1818)

Sayer, Pierre Guillaume (1796-ca.1849)

Guillaume Sayer lived at St. Francois Xavier and in the spring of 1849 he was arrested for buying furs from the natives in spite of the monopoly of the HBC. The cause was taken up by the Metis from the neighbouring French settlements led by Louis Riel Sr. After a stormy session the presiding Judge of the court, realizing that a judgment against the prisoner would have meant civil war, dismissed the case on a minor pretext. Thus was spelt the end of the HBC’s monopoly.²

- John Sayer (ca.1750-1818)

Shaw, Angus (1788-1832)

Angus Shaw entered the service of the North West Company as a clerk prior to 1787. In 1789 he was at Fort L’Original on Moose Hill Lake, and in 1790 he was again at Moose Hill Lake up the Beaver Lake from Isle a la Crosse. In 1791 he was back at Fort L’Original, and in 1792 he was at Fort George. He became a partner in the North West Company between 1795 and 1799; in 1797 he was elected a member of the Beaver Club of Montreal; and in 1799 he was proprietor in charge of the Upper English River district. In 1802 he was appointed agent in charge of the King’s Posts, with headquarters at Quebec, and in 1808 he became a member of McTavish, McGillivraes and Co. He was one of the agents of the North West Company at Fort William in 1810 and 1811; but thereafter he took little part in the fur trade, until the struggle with Lord Selkirk reached its height, when he was one of the partners of the North West Company arrested by the HBC in


1819. He continued to be a partner in McTavish, McGillivrays and Co. After the coalition of 1821, when they were made Montreal agents of the HBC.³

- John McTavish (fl.1750)
- Shaw (fl.1788)

**Simpson, Aemilius (1792-1831)**

Aemilius Simpson entered the Royal Navy as a volunteer midshipman in 1806, and served in the Channel Fleet, the West Indies, Ireland, the Mediterranean, and East Indies. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant and retired in 1816. He was recommended to the HBC by George Simpson, and in 1826 he was appointed hydrographer and surveyor. He was at the Red River Settlement to ascertain the boundary line at Pembina. He then went to York Factory, and his first appointment was to the Columbia district to fit out and command a vessel to be used in the coasting trade. In 1827 he was given command of the schooner *Cadboro*. He was superintendent of shipping on the west coast, and appears to have retained command of the *Cadboro* until the end of 1830 when he was appointed to the brig *Dryad*. He was continuously employed on trading excursions along the Pacific North West coast, visiting the Russian settlements in the north, the Spanish settlements in the south, and trading in the Sandwich Islands. In 1830 he was appointed a Chief Trader, and in the summer of 1831 he established a post at the mouth of the Nass River.⁴

- Simpson (n.d.)

**Simpson, Alexander (1811-1845)**

Alexander Simpson was appointed an apprentice in the service of the HBC in 1827. He was appointed to the Lachine establishment, and in 1830 was appointed to take charge of the accounts at Lachine. He continued in this situation until 1834, when he was removed to the Southern Department. During the early part of the outfit 1834–35 he was stationed at Moose Factory. He was stationed there until 1839, when he was transferred to the Northern Department and appointed to assist in the business in the Hawaiian Islands. In 1841 he was appointed to the rank of Chief Trader, and continued to handle the HBC affairs in the Hawaiian Islands. He was allowed

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- Simpson (n.d.)

**Simpson, George (1787-1860)**

Sir George Simpson was sent by the HBC from London to take charge should the HBC Governor William Williams be arrested by the North West Company. He spent his first winter on Lake Athabaska in uneasy competition with the Nor’Westers. At the coalition of 1821, Simpson was made governor of the Northern Department, and five years later governor of the HBC trading territories in British North America. He held this position until his death. From 1833 Simpson made his headquarters at Lachine, outside Montreal. He was a director of the North Shore Railway Co., Montreal, and of the Champlain Railroad, and he was on the Montreal Board of the Bank of British North America.\footnote{Shirlee Anne Smith, “Simpson, Sir George”, The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2nd ed. (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1988), 2006. See also John S. Galbraith, “Simpson, Sir George”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII 1851 To 1860 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 812-19.}

- Simpson (n.d.)
- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- George Taylor (fl.1800-1807)

**Simpson, Thomas (1808-1840)**

Thomas Simpson entered King’s College, Aberdeen in the summer of 1824, and four years later secured the degree of Masters of Arts. He entered the service of the HBC in 1828 as an apprentice clerk, and joined Governor George Simpson on a journey through the Southern Department, acting as his confidential clerk. They arrived back at Lachine in August, and during the remainder of the season 1829-30 Simpson was stationed at that place. He spent the greater part of the season 1830-31 at York Factory, and in 1831 he left for the Red River Settlement, where he acted as secretary, clerk, storekeeper and accountant for five years. In the summer of 1836 he was appointed to the HBC’s Northern Discovery Expedition, and after studying astronomy and surveying, he left Red River for Fort Chipewyan where he arrived in February, 1837. The expedition reached Fort Simpson in October 1839, and Simpson arrived back at Fort
Garry in February 1840.\textsuperscript{7}

- Simpson (n.d.)

**Sinclair, James (1807-1856)**

James Sinclair was a graduate of Edinburgh University, returned to Rupert’s Land in the service of the HBC, but soon set up in business as a free trader in association with Andrew McDermott, the leading private free trader of the Red River Settlement. Sinclair was active in developing the route between Minnesota and Red River, was afreighter on the river route to York Factory and was interested in a variety of projects such as the export of tallow. An outstanding leader of the English and French metis of Rupert’s Land in their struggle against the HBC monopoly, he came to terms with Governor George Simpson in 1853. He made several crossings to the Pacific.\textsuperscript{8}

- Farquhar McGillivray (fl.1777)
- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- James Curtis Bird (ca.1773-1856)
- Alexander Campbell (fl.1773-1787)

**Sinclair, John (1794-ca.1852)**

John Sinclair was a Cree native. He lived among the Homeguard Cree bands that inhabited the area near York Factory. In 1829 he was a labourer at the post and was employed by the HBC on a casual / temporary basis. In 1840 he was engaged by the HBC as a middleman / labourer and was stationed at Fort Ellice in the Swan River district until 1852. In that same year he retired to the Indian Settlement (St. Peter’s) in the Red River Settlement.\textsuperscript{9}

- John Sinclair (1794-ca.1852)

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\textsuperscript{7}R. Harvey Fleming, ed., *Minutes of Council Northern Department of Rupert Land, 1821-31* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1940), 455-56.


Sinclair, Samuel (1825-1855)

Samuel Sinclair enlisted at the Red River Settlement for John Rae’s Arctic Expedition of 1850-51 and wintered at Fort Confidence.  
- John Sinclair (1794-ca.1852)

Sinclair, William (1766-1818)

William Sinclair entered the service of the HBC in 1782. Nine days after his arrival at York Factory he was made a prisoner by the French (under La Perouse), but he returned there in 1783. He joined the HBC as a labourer and then became a steward at York Factory. He went back to the Orkneys in 1790 on account of ill-health and returned to Hudson Bay in 1792. From about 1794 he was employed as an inland trader at York Factory. He wintered in 1794-95 at Nestooyan which became known as York House, In 1795-96 he established and wintered at Wegg’s House. In 1796 he undertook an expedition to Nelson River and built Hulse House. In 1798 he built Oxford House where he remained until 1812. He was at Winnipeg, 1811-12; Jack River (Norway House), 1812-14; and Knee Lake, 1815-16. In 1810 Sinclair had been appointed Chief Factor to Winnipeg Factory and its dependencies, and in 1815 he was appointed a Councillor to the Governor of Rupert’s Land. He was demoted to trader inland in 1815-18 from York Factory.  
- William Sinclair (1766-1818)

Sinclair, William (1794-1868)

William Sinclair entered the service of the HBC as an apprentice in 1810, and apparently spent his first years in the Winnipeg River district. His winter residence during 1814-15 was at Oxford House, where he served as assistant trader. He was at Jack River during the winter 1815-16, and in the autumn of 1816 he sailed for England. The ship, however, was obliged to winter in Hudson Bay and Sinclair spent two months at Albany Factory before receiving instructions to go to Severn en route for York Factory. He was attached to Lesser Slave Lake district as a clerk during the trading season 1817-18. He sailed for England in 1818 and returned the following year. He spent the 1819-20 season at Oxford House, 1820-21 at Sandy Lake in the Island Lake district,  

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10E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845 (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 376.  

and 1821-22 at Island Lake post. Sinclair was attached to the Bow River Expedition of 1822-23, and in 1823-24 he again served in the Island Lake district. In 1824-25 he was transferred to the Rainy Lake district, and in 1825-28 he wintered at the post on Rainy Lake. For the four succeeding seasons he was appointed to the charge of the Dalles post in the same district, and in 1832 he was given the charge of the post of Fort Frances on Rainy Lake. He retained this position until 1835 and remained at the post for the 1835-36 season. In 1836-37 Sinclair was stationed at York Factory. In 1837-38 he had the charge of Fort Frances, and served there under Chief Factors until 1841. He once again had charge of the post from 1841-45, and for three following seasons he managed the business at Churchill. He was appointed a Chief Trader in 1844. In 1848 he took over the superintendence of the Rainy Lake district with headquarters at Fort Frances, but in 1853 he changed his residence to Fort Alexander, where he remained until 1854. He was appointed a Chief Factor in 1850. From 1854-57 he was in charge of the Saskatchewan district, residing at Edmonton House, and he resumed the charge of the Rainy Lake district with headquarters at Fort Alexander during 1857-58. From 1858-62 he managed the Norway House district from Norway House, and from 1862-63 he was on furlough prior to his retirement. He settled in Brockville, Canada West.¹²

- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- Donald McKay (fl. 1770-1772)
- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)

**Sinclair, William (1827-1899)**

William Sinclair was employed by the HBC in the Columbia district in 1843, and in 1845 he was Apprentice Postmaster at Fort Vancouver. He appears to have been employed mostly in the Fort Vancouver depot, and in 1849 he was promoted to the rank of clerk. He was employed at Fort Vancouver and Colvile until the end of outfits 1853-53. During the succeeding outfit he was clerk in charge at Fort Hall, and for outfit 1855-1856 he was disposable in the Oregon district. He was at Pend d’Oreille in 1856-57, and in the following season he took charge of the Cowlitz Farm, where he remained until 1859. He was next appointed to the charge of Fort Colville, but for no apparent reason he decided to leave the service. After Sinclair retired he remained in the Flathead country, apparently at Fort Owen. He sailed for London in 1862, and returned to Hudson Bay the following year. By February, 1864 he was west of the Rocky Mountains. He had reentered the HBC’s service, and was assistant at Fort Colville. His engagement expired in 1865, and in 1868 he was living in Elizabethtown, Canada West. He was in Victoria, Vancouver Island in 1878, and in that year he once again entered the HBC’s service. He was classed as a postmaster to the charge of Bella Coola in British Columbia. He remained here until 1882 when arrangements were made for the post to be closed. During the remaining years of his service Sinclair had charge in turn of

Hazelton, Yale, Langley and Fraser Lake.  

- Pierre Brelend (fl.1803-1811)  
- William Sinclair (1766-1818)  
- Donald McKay (fl.1770-1772)  
- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)  
- Alexander McKenzie (fl.1761-1783)  
- Duncan McDonald (fl.1772-1792)  

**Silveright, John (1779-1856)**

John Silveright entered the service of the XY in 1799 and that of the North West Company in 1805. He was at Portage la Prairie in the spring of 1815, and later in the same year he was appointed clerk in charge of the depot at Sault Ste. Marie, where he remained until two years after the coalition of 1821. In 1823 he took over the charge of the Fort Couteau district, and he retained the management until 1834. He was appointed a Chief Trader in 1828. In the summer of 1834 he was allowed a short leave of absence in Aberdeen. He returned to Lachine via New York, and once more assumed control of the Fort Couteau district in November, 1834. From the autumn of 1835 until the spring of 1837, Silveright had the management of the affairs in Lachine. He returned to the charge of Fort Couteau district in 1837, and in 1843 he moved his headquarters to Lake Timiskaming, assuming the control of that district in addition to his former charge. The districts were separated in 1845, some confusion having arisen through their joint management, and Silveright retained the charge of the Timiskaming district only. He was appointed a Chief Factor in 1846. In 1847 he was granted a year’s furlough, and this was extended for a further year prior to his retirement in 1849. He settled in Edinburgh, but paid a brief visit to Canada in the summer of 1850.  

- John Silveright (1779-1856)  

**Small, Patrick (d.1810)**

Patrick Small became a clerk in the service of the North West Company. He first appears in the West in 1779 when he wintered on the Churchill River. For a number of years he was in charge of

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Isle a la Crosse. He became a partner in the North West Company in 1783, but he retired from the fur trade in 1791 and returned to Great Britain.  

- Patrick Small (d.1810)

**Small, Patrick (1785-1846)**

Patrick Small entered the service of the North West Company as a clerk in 1804, and was taken over as a clerk by the HBC in 1821. From 1822 to 1830 he was on the Saskatchewan.  

- Patrick Small (d.1810)
- James Hughes (1772-1853)

**Smith, Donald Alexander (1820-1914)**

Donald Alexander Smith received his education in Scotland and joined the HBC in 1838. He spent thirty years with the HBC in Labrador, and in 1869 he was appointed to the Montreal office where he rose to become resident Governor and Chief Commissioner for Canada. In 1869 the Canadian government appointed him as a special commissioner to investigate the troubles of the 1869-70 rebellion. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1870 to 1874, and also a member of the House of Commons, representing Selkirk, from 1870 to 1880, at which time he was defeated in a bye-election. In 1887 he was elected a member for Montreal West, a seat which he retained until 1896. He played a leading role in railway development in Canada, being a member of the syndicate which purchased the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railway in 1879. Later in 1880 he was one of the organizers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was chosen to drive the last spike at Craigellachie, B.C. In 1897 he was elevated to the peerage as Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal. In 1889 he was elected Chancellor of McGill University and in 1903 Chancellor of Aberdeen University.  

- Richard Hardisty (fl.1822-1841)

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Smith, William Robert (1792-1869)

William Robert Smith received his early education at Christ’s Hospital in London. He came to Rupert’s Land as an apprentice clerk with the HBC in 1813. After serving at Oxford House 1813; Isle a la Crosse 1814, Lac la Biche and Lesser Slave Lake 1815-1823, and at Norway House 1824, he retired and took up residence at Little Britain where he farmed. Under the patronage and auspices of the Church Missionary Society he taught school at St. John’s from 1828-1832 and at St. Paul’s from 1832 to 1848. In 1848 he was invested with the offices of clerk of Court and Council. In 1849 he compiled the Red River census. Ill health forced his retirement as clerk of the Council of Assiniboia in 1867. In 1867 he was appointed president of one of the petty courts. For a number of years he also served as a collector of customs at Lower Fort Garry.18

- James Swain (fl.1791-1820)

Spence, George (1770-1859)

George Spence joined the HBC in 1791, and was employed as a canoeman in the Saskatchewan district in 1775-96.19

- George Spence (1770-1859)

Spence, James (1754-1795)

James Spence entered the service of the HBC as a labourer in 1773, and was employed at York Factory and inland until 1795. He was at Buckingham House in the autumn of 1795.20

- Isaac Batt (ca.1751-1791)

Spence, John (1805-ca.1848)

John Spence began his career with the HBC in 1818 and spent the first season as a labourer at

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19 Alice M. Johnson, ed., Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence 1795-1802 (London: Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1967), 24 n.3.

20 J.B. Tyrrell, ed., Journals of Samuel Hearne and Philip Turnor (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1934), 235 n.2
York Factory. In 1819-1820 he was transferred to Berens River in the Winnipeg District and he remained there until 1848. He was a labourer/middleman until 1834-35 when his title was labourer and fisherman. In the fall of 1848 he returned to the Orkney Islands with his three children.\(^{21}\)

- Robert Cumming (1795-1863)
- John Harper (1767-1810)

**Spence, Joseph (1767-1856)**

Joseph Spence entered the service of the HBC in 1794. He was first employed at Churchill, and in 1800 was an Assistant Trader at that post. He left Nelson House in 1802 and proceeded to Reindeer Lake. In 1805 he again proceeded to Reindeer Lake, where he built a house. While in charge in 1806 he was made a prisoner by the North West Company and taken to Frog Portage, where he was forced to sign an agreement regarding trade with the natives. He was in charge at Indian Lake, 1808-11. He returned to Europe in 1811-12, and again during 1813-14. He was at Churchill, 1812-13, and in 1815-16 was an Assistant Trader at Oxford House. He was at Isle a la Crosse, 1816-21, and in the Nelson River district, 1821-23, when he retired to the Red River Settlement.\(^{22}\)

- Joseph Spence (1767-1856)

**Spence, Magnus (1765-1845)**

Magnus Spence joined the HBC in 1783. In 1796 he was employed as a steersman and linguist. He was regarded as not only a good steersman, but also a good buffalo hunter and very useful for going out to meet natives.\(^{23}\)

- Magnus Spence (1765-1845)

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Spencer, John (1790-ca.1863)

John Spencer was educated at Christ’s Hospital, and he went to Churchill in the service of the HBC as a writer in 1806. In 1812 he was an assistant accountant at Severn, and in 1813 he was a writer at York Factory. In 1814 he was made a Councillor and Sheriff of Assiniboia. He was under arrest at Montreal with Governor Mile McDonell, but was acquitted in 1818 and was again at York as an accountant, 1819-23. In 1823 he was appointed to pelican Lake, English River district, and in 1824 to Lac la Ronge. In 1826 he was made a Chief Trader and sent to the Columbia district, and in 1827 he was on furlough. He retired in 1828, rejoined in 1834, and was retired to Red River in 1857. He later retired to Goderich, Canada East in 1861.²⁴

- William Sinclair (1766-1818)

Stevenson, Edmund (1810-ca.1853)

Edmund Stevenson joined the advance party of Sir John Richardson’s Admiralty Arctic Expedition as a steersman in 1847. At the end of the expedition his services were apparently retained by the HBC at Norway House until 1853 when he became a Freeman.²⁵

- Edmund Stevenson (1810-ca.1853)

Stewart, Alexander (fl.1810-1840)

Alexander Stewart entered the service of the North West Company as an apprentice clerk in 1796. In 1806 he was at Fort des Prairies. Later, he was placed in charge of a post on Lesser Slave Lake; and in 1812, though still a clerk, he was placed in charge of the Athabaska River department. He was made a partner of the North West Company in 1813, and he was transferred to the Columbia, where he was present at the capture of Fort Astoria. In 1815 he returned to Lesser Slave Lake, and there he remained for several years. At the time of the coalition of 1821 he was made a Chief Factor of the HBC. From 1821 to 1823 he was in charge at Fort William; from 1823 to 1826 at Island Lake; from 1826 to 1830 at Fort Chipewyan; and from 1831 to 1832 at Moose Factory. He was granted furlough in 1832, and he retired from the HBC’s service in


²⁵E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845 (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 376.
1833.26

- Alexander Stewart (fl.1810-1840)

**Stewart, James (1826-1911)**

James Stewart came to Rupert’s land in 1851 and was employed by the HBC. For a year he was stationed at York Factory and in 1852 was put in charge of the expedition sent with provisions for Dr. Rae’s party which was searching for traces of the Franklin expedition. In 1855 he came to the HBC’s store at Fort Garry and served until 1863, when he became a teacher. At the time of the Riel uprising of 1869 he was in the employ of Dr. John Christian Schultz and was taken and held prisoner for some three months. He later purchased Schultz’s drug store and operated it until 1888. He was also government meteorologist, recording weather and rainfall. He later went into partnership with his son, Robert, to establish the newspaper *The Selkirk Record*. In 1900 he moved to Prince Albert, North West Territories, and for some years he served as police magistrate there.27

- Robert McKay (1773-1853)

**Stuart, John (1779-1847)**

John Stuart joined the North West Company in 1799, and was sent to the Peace River district. He was associated with Simon Fraser in his discoveries and trading activities west of the Rocky Mountains. He accompanied him westward to New Caledonia in 1806, when, after visiting McLeod’s Lake, they proceeded to the Necharo River, which Fraser named Stuart River in honour of his companion. Stuart Lake, where they formed an establishment later known as Fort St. James, was also named in Stuart’s honour. Later in the same year, Stuart went overland to Fraser Lake. He later accompanied Fraser in the summer of 1808 from Fort George (New Caledonia) down the Fraser River almost to the Pacific. In 1809 Stuart accompanied Fraser as Superintendent of New Caledonia, a position which he continued to hold during the next fifteen years. In 1813 he was made a partner of the North West Company, and in May 1813 he left Stuart Lake to proceed to Astoria. It appears that he did not return to New Caledonia until the following year. After the coalition of 1821 he was made a Chief Factor, and remained in charge of New Caledonia for the next three years. Then he was appointed to the Saskatchewan district at Carlton House, where he assumed control from 1824-26. In 1826-27 he retained the charge of the


Saskatchewan district, moving his headquarters to Lesser Slave Lake which was now included in that district. During the next five years Stuart was in charge of the Winnipeg district at Fort Alexander, and from 1832-35 of the Mackenzie River district, at Fort Simpson. In the latter year he was granted furlough, which was subsequently extended until 1839 when he left the HBC service. He retired to Forres, Scotland.²⁸

- George Taylor (fl.1800-1807)

**Sutherland, Alexander McBeath (1849-1884)**

Alexander McBeath Sutherland was educated at Kildonan Public School, St. John’s College, Manitoba College and received his B.A. from the University of Toronto in 1876. He was a barrister-at-law. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1878 for Kildonan. He was appointed Attorney-General in 1882 and Provincial Secretary in 1883.²⁹

- Alexander Sutherland (1782-ca.1821)
- John McBeath (1791-ca.1833)

**Sutherland, James (ca.1751-1797)**

James Sutherland was engaged by the HBC in 1770 and began his service at Fort Prince of Wales. Although ordered back to England in 1775, he was re-engaged in 1777 and was stationed at Albany Factory. In 1784 he explored an inland route to Lake St. Joseph. He was appointed Second at Osnaburgh House in 1789 and continued the HBC’s westward expansion by establishing a post on Red Lake in the following year. In 1792 he built Eschabitchewan House, and the next year he established Portage de L’Isle on the Winnipeg River near its junction with the English River. In 1796 he was appointed master of Brandon House.³⁰

- James Sutherland (ca.1751-1797)

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Sutherland, James (1776-1844)

James Sutherland entered the service of the HBC in 1797. He was first employed as a writer at York Factory, and during the period 1798-1803 acted in a similar capacity inland from that place. He was in charge of Cumberland House, 1803-05, and of the post at Green Lake, 1805-06, when he is referred to as a trader. From 1808 to 1813 he was master at Cumberland House. In the autumn of 1813 he sailed for Europe, returning via Canada in the following spring. He was given the charge of the East and West Winnipeg districts, which included all the Red River trading posts, residing at Jack River House during the winter 1814-15. During the winter 1815-16 he was at Riviere Qu’Appelle in the West Winnipeg district. In 1816 he was made a prisoner of the Nor’Westers during the Selkirk troubles. During 1816-17 he was in the Swan River district, and in 1817-18 at Fort Hibernia. In 1818-19 he was in charge of the Forks of the Red River, and from 1819 to 1821 he was in charge of the Swan River district. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Factor in 1821, and was in charge of the Saskatchewan department at Edmonton. Here he remained until the following year, when he returned to Europe on leave of absence. He was subsequently in charge at Severn from 1823-25, and afterwards was granted a year’s furlough for the purpose of proceeding to the Red River Settlement with the object of obtaining the benefit of medical advice. This furlough was later extended until 1827 when he retired from the HBC service. He proceeded to Europe in the autumn of 1826 and later retired to the Red River Settlement, where he obtained a grant of land. He became a Councillor of the Governor in Chief of Rupert’s Land in 1815, a Councillor of the Governors of the HBC Territories in 1822, and a Councillor of Assiniboia in 1839.31

- James Sutherland (1776-1844)

Sutherland, John (1821-1899)

John Sutherland was educated at St. John’s College. Following the flood of 1852 he moved to Lot 86, East Kildonan, where he farmed and operated a general store. He entered public life in 1866 as a member of the Council of Assiniboia and attended twelve meetings before the Council was dissolved. During the Red River disturbance of 1869-70 he became one of the leading representatives of the Loyalist party and served as a delegate from Kildonan at the Council of Fourty meeting in 1870. He was chosen Collector of Customs by the Provincial Government in 1870, and when the Province entered Confederation he was appointed the first High Sheriff of Manitoba. He held this office until 1871, when he was appointed to the Canadian Senate, a position he held until his death. He was one of the leading spirits in the educational life of

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Kildonan and one of the founders of Manitoba College.  

- Alexander Sutherland (1782-ca.1821)

**Sutherland, Robert (1830-1907)**

Robert Sutherland was one of the earliest Red River freighters to make regular trips between the Red River Settlement and St. Paul. He later moved to Headingley and from there to Burnside. In 1882 he homesteaded south of Griswold. He served as a Reeve of the municipality of Sifton, and for many years was an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

- Samuel Henderson (1791-ca.1844)

**Sutherland, William Robert Douglas (1849-1909)**

William Robert Douglas Sutherland received his education at Manitoba College, and then went to Toronto where he graduated from Victoria Medical School. He returned to Winnipeg in 1880. He was the only native born of the founders of the Manitoba Medical College, and he lectured there on medical jurisprudence, 1884-88. He was later appointed surgeon at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary, a position he held for fifteen years, resigning to resume private practice in the Fort Rouge area of Winnipeg.

- John McBeath (1791-ca.1833)
- Alexander Sutherland (1782-ca.1821)

**Swain, James (1775-ca.1820)**

James Swain joined the HBC as a writer in 1791. At the end of the 1795-96 season he was sent to

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Severn Factory. In 1815 he was master at Severn.\textsuperscript{35}

- James Swain (fl.1791-1820)

**Swain, James (1799-ca. 1855)**

James Swain entered the service of the HBC about 1808 and served as assistant trader and steward at Severn House during the season 1814-15. He served in the Severn district during the next two seasons, and in 1817-18 in the York Factory district. In 1818-19 he served as interpreter in the Manitoba district, and thereafter until he left the service in 1822 he was employed in the Isle a la Crosse district. He retired to the Red River Settlement.\textsuperscript{36}

- James Swain (fl.1791-1820)

**Swanston, John (1802-ca. 1858)**

John Swanston entered the HBC service in 1820. He served at various posts in the Lake Superior District from about 1826 to 1854., first as a clerk in charge, and after 1842 as a Chief Trader. He was made a Chief Factor in 1854, and transferred to the Northern Department. He retired in 1858. For a short time before his retirement he was in charge of Fort Garry.\textsuperscript{37}

- James Keith (fl.1789-1792)

\textsuperscript{35}Alice M. Johnson, ed., *Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence 1795-1802* (London: Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1967), 6 n.1.


\textsuperscript{37}Margaret Arnett MacLeod, ed., *The Letters of Letitia Hargrave* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1947), 133 n. 1.
**Tait, Robert (1830-1912)**

Robert Tait received very little schooling and at the age of eleven was hired as a chore boy at the HBC model farm at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. In 1843 he was apprenticed to the blacksmith at Lower Fort Garry but after a year and a half he left the colony and eventually settled at St. Paul, Minnesota. He returned to the Red River Settlement about 1850, bringing with him the first threshing machine to the colony. In 1867 he purchased property in St. James near Deer Lodge. He opened a store for fur trading and operated a large farm. In 1869 he built the first steam grist mill in St. James. In 1878 he owned and operated a steam ferry between Winnipeg and St. Boniface. With his son he also maintained a cattle ranch about six miles south of Oakville station for a number of years.¹

- William Sinclair (1766-1818)
- William Auld (ca.1770-1830)

**Tait, William (1793-1873)**

William Tait came to Rupert’s Land in 1812, and settled in Red River in 1823.²

- William Auld (ca.1770-1830)

**Tait, William (1820-1863)**

William Tait entered the service of the HBC in 1850 as a labourer. He was stationed at Berens River in the Norway House district. In 1852 he had the charge of the Berens River outpost at Little Saskatchewan River, and was reengaged as a labourer and bowsman. He continued to have the charge of the Little Saskatchewan River outpost until his retirement from the HBC in 1856. He retired with his family to the Red River Settlement.³

- William Tait (1792-ca.1840)
- Robert Cumming (1795-1863)


• David Harcus (1798-1845)
• John Harper (1767-1810)
• James Peebles (1782-1839)

_Tait, William Auld (1826-1900)_

William Auld Tait attended St. John’s school. He moved from St. John’s to Headingley about 1860 and was engaged in farming until his death. In 1863 he was appointed one of the petty magistrates for the White Horse Plain district. In 1869 he was chosen as a representative from Headingley to attend the Convention of the “Twenty-Four” called by Louis Riel. He was appointed a Councillor of the North West Territories in 1874, and attended six council meetings. In 1874 he unsuccessfully contested Headingley in the Provincial election.\(^4\)

• William Auld (ca.1770-1830)
• John Gunn (1789-ca.1843)

_Taylor, George (1800-1844)_

George Taylor was probably educated in Scotland, and entered the service of the HBC in 1819. In 1821 he was a clerk in charge of the schooner at York Factory. He was employed in the York Factory district as clerk, schooner-master and sloop-master until the autumn of 1827 when he left for the Red River Settlement where he was employed in taking a chain of observations along the 49th Parallel. He was appointed surveyor to the Red River Settlement from 1836-44.\(^5\)

• George Taylor (fl.1800-1807)

_Taylor, Thomas (1797-ca.1855)_

Thomas Taylor entered the service of the HBC in 1815 as a labouring apprentice. From 1821-30 he acted as servant and interpreter to Governor Simpson. He accompanied him on his journey to the Columbia in 1825. From 1830 to 1855 Taylor served as post master in charge of various posts in the Winnipeg, Lac la Pluie, and Lake Superior Districts, and in the Montreal Department. He


\(^5\)R. Harvey Fleming, ed., _Minutes of Council Northern Department of Rupert’s Land, 1821-31_ (Toronto: The Champlain Society for the Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1940) 459.
retired in 1855.  

- George Taylor (fl.1800-1807)
- James Keith (fl.1779-1782)

**The Fathom (f.1811-1812)**

The Fathom was a Cree native who lived in the Nelson River area of present-day Manitoba. He lived among the “North River Indians” who were part of the Rocky Cree, one of the three subdivisions of the Western Woods Cree. It was probable that in the 1790's and early 1800's he was a leading hunter or head of a band of Cree that inhabited the present-day area of Three Point Lake, Manitoba. He was at Nelson House during the 1811-1812 season.

- John Harper (1767-1810)

**Thom, Adam (1802-1890)**

Adam Thom was educated at King’s College, Aberdeen, receiving his M.A. in 1824. He came to Montreal in 1832 and simultaneously engaged in newspaper writing and the study of law. He was called to the Bar of Lower Canada in 1837 but did not practice. His writings early betrayed strong feelings against French Canada. In 1838 he joined Lord Durham’s staff and assisted in the preparation of his Report. In 1839 he was appointed Recorder of Rupert’s Land. He also acted as legal advisor to the Governor of Assiniboia. During his stay at Red River, he drew up a code of laws for the District. In 1849 metis protests over his handling of certain disputes resulted in his removal from the Bench. He did, however, continue to act as clerk of the Council of Assiniboia.

- Adam Thom (1802-1890)

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See also Kathryn M. Bindon, “Thom, Adam”, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume XI 1881 To 1890* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), 874-77.
**Thomas, John (ca.1751-1822)**

John Thomas joined the HBC as a writer in 1769 and was stationed at Moose Factory. He was appointed “Second” at Moose in 1774, and made a number of inland journeys from the post from 1774 to 1777. From 1778 to 1782 he was master at Wapiscogamy House. In 1782 Thomas was appointed Chief at Moose Factory. He was granted a year’s leave of absence to England on account of ill-health. He returned to Moose Factory in 1790 to resume his position as Chief. Except for seasons 1800-01 and 1807-08, which he spent in England, Thomas remained at Moose Factory until 1813. He resigned in 1813, remained one year at Moose Factory, and in 1814 he retired to Canada with his family.9

- John Thomas (ca.1751-1822)

**Thomas, Thomas (1766-1828)**

Thomas Thomas entered the service of the HBC as a surgeon in 1789. From 1789 until the end of the outfit 1792-93 he was employed at York Factory. During the season 1794-95 he was stationed inland from York Factory, and in the autumn of 1795 he returned to London, but was reengaged in the following year. Thomas was master at Severn House from 1796 until the end of outfit 1809-10. In 1810 he was appointed Superintendent of the Southern Factories. He spent the greater part of the season 1810-11 at Eastmain. Thereafter, he directed operations from both Moose Factory and Albany Factory until he was appointed to succeed William Auld as Governor of the Northern Department in 1814. Thomas accepted the appointment for one season and took up his headquarters at York Factory during 1814-15, but he retired in 1815. In the same year Thomas was appointed a Councillor of the Governor of Assiniboia. He spent the winter 1815-16 at Jack River, prior to settling in the Red River Settlement.10

- Thomas Thomas (1766-1828)

**Thompson, David (1770-1857)**

David Thompson was apprenticed to the HBC in 1784, and he spent the years 1784-97 in the

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See also Bruce Peel, “Thomas, Thomas”, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VI 1821 To 1835* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987), 767-68.
service of the HBC, partly at the posts on Hudson Bay and partly in the interior. He took service as a clerk with the North West Company in 1797, and in 1804 he became a partner. He was employed by the North West Company as a geographer and explorer, and in 1811 he was the first white man to explore the Columbia River from its source to its mouth. He traversed a large part of the fur trade country, making traverses of his course and observing for longitude and latitude wherever he went. When he retired from the fur trade in 1812 he prepared a map of the Canadian North West which has been the basis of all subsequent maps. He settled at Terrebonne, Lower Canada, and later at Williamstown, Upper Canada. From 1816 to 1826 he was employed in surveying the boundary line between Canada and the United States, and later he was employed in other surveys.11

- Patrick Small (d.1810)

Thorne, George (1797-ca.1838)

George Thorne had been John George McTavish’s personal servant in the North West Company, and had accompanied him to England when he was sent there in 1819-20 for trial because of his part in the Selkirk troubles. He went with McTavish into the HBC, and served as butler at York Factory from 1821-34, when his health being affected, he was posted to Fort Garry in the same capacity. He retired about 1838 to the White Horse Plain, Red River Settlement.12

- Francois Lemire (fl.1803-1805)

Todd, William (1784-1851)

William Todd entered the service of the HBC service as a surgeon in 1816. He was first employed at Cumberland House until 1818, when he was appointed surgeon at the Red River Settlement. In 1819-20 he was employed at Fort Wedderburn, Athabaska, returning to Europe in 1820. On his return in 1821 he was appointed clerk and surgeon at Lower Red River until 1822 when his services were transferred to York Factory, where he remained until 1827. He was subsequently employed as a surgeon in the Columbia district for two years until 1829, when he was placed in charge of the Upper Red River district with headquarters at Brandon House. During 1831-32 he remained in charge of the same district, residing at Fort Ellice. In 1833 he was appointed in temporary charge at Red River, and was then given the charge of the Swan River district with

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See also John Nicks, “Thompson, David”, Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII 1851 To 1860 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 878-84.

12Margaret Arnett MacLeod, ed., The Letters of Letitia Hargrave (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1947), 78 n. 2.
headquarters at Fort Pelly, where he remained from 1834 until 1843. During 1843-44 Todd was
granted furlough and went to Europe. In 1844 he was appointed in charge of Severn in the York
district, and in 1845 he resumed his former charge at Fort Pelly, where he remained until 1851,
with the exception that he was granted furlough during 1849-50. In 1851 he was again granted
furlough. He was promoted Chief Trader in 1831.\textsuperscript{13}

- John Ballendine (1780-ca.1836)

\textbf{Tolmie, William Fraser (1812-1886)}

William Fraser Tolmie studied medicine at the medical school of the University of Glasgow, 1829-
31. In that year he entered the service of the HBC in the dual capacity of clerk and surgeon. He
served at Fort Nisqually and at Fort McLoughlin on the west coast of what is now British
Columbia. In 1834 he joined the expedition led by Peter Skene Ogden that intended to establish a
post up the Stikine River beyond the limits of Russian territory. He returned to Fort Vancouver in
1836 and served as surgeon and manager of Indian trade there until 1840. Tolmie went on
furlough to England during 1841-42, and returned to Fort Vancouver in 1843. He was promoted
to Chief Trader in 1847 and to Chief Factor in 1855. He retired from the HBC in 1871 and settled
in Victoria.\textsuperscript{14}

- Pierre Legace (fl.1809)

\textbf{Tourangeau, Antoine (fl.1786-1803)}

Antoine Tourangeau was employed by the North West Company in 1786. He was sent ahead of
the Athabaska brigade to trade any furs and provisions which he could find along the upper
Churchill. He was at English River in 1787, and was in charge of the outpost at Lac Poule d’Eau
(now Waterhen Lake, Alberta) in 1792-93. He was left in charge of Isle a la Crosse post in the
summer of 1793. In 1797-98 he was an interpreter in English River with one year to serve on his
contract. He was in the 1799 roster of clerks.\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{13}E.E. Rich, ed., \textit{Journal of Occurrences in the Athabaska Department by George
Simpson, 1820 and 1821, and Report} (Toronto: The Champlain Society for the Hudson’s Bay
Record Society, 1938), 471-72.

See also Arthur Ray, \textit{“Todd, William”}, \textit{Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume VIII
1851 To 1860} (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), 888-90.

\textsuperscript{14}W. Kaye Lamb, \textit{“William Fraser Tolmie”}, \textit{Dictionary of Canadian Biography XI 1881 To
1890} (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), 885-88.

\textsuperscript{15}Harry W. Duckworth, ed., \textit{The English River Book: A North West Company Journal
and Account Book of 1786} (Montreal and Kingston: McGill–Queen’s University Press, 1990),
Tourangeau, Jean Baptiste (1803-ca.1864)

Jean Baptiste Tourangeau joined the North West Company in 1818 and appears to have been employed in or about Fort Dauphin in the Swan River area. His services were retained by the HBC after the coalition of 1821, and he was listed as being in the Swan River district until the end of outfit 1822-23. He was transferred to the Athabaska district during outfit 1823-24, and in 1824 he was among Samuel Black's expedition up the Finlay River. During the winter of 1824-25 Tourangeau was employed at Fort Chipewayan. He renewed his contract from time to time and remained in the Athabaska district as a middleman, then as a steersman, and later as a guide until 1846 when he retired to the Red River Settlement. However, in 1847 he rejoined the HBC as a guide and steersman. He remained in the Athabaska district until 1864 when he was listed as a freeman.16

Turner, Richard (fl.1834-1869)

Richard Turner was employed by the HBC as a cowherd at Moose Factory in 1834-35. He was frequently employed as a cattlekeeper until 1840. During outfit 1839-40 he was transferred to the New Brunswick post, where he was employed as a labourer until 1845. He volunteered to accompany John Rae on the 1846-47 expedition and consequently his services were transferred from the Southern to the Northern Department of Rupert's Land. He wintered at York Factory during 1845-46. On his return from the expedition Turner remained at York Factory, where he served for three years as boatbuilder. In 1850 Rae requested Turnor's services as a carpenter in the Mackenzie River district, but he had fallen ill and remained at York Factory. In 1850 he renewed his contract with the HBC as a carpenter. When his contract expired in 1853 he retired to the Red River Settlement.17

Richard Turner (fl.1834-1869)


17E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., John Rae's Correspondence with the Hudson's Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845 (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 377.
Twatt, Magnus (1751-1801)

Magnus Twatt entered the service of the HBC in 1771 as a labourer, and was subsequently a carpenter and canoe builder inland from York Factory until 1791. From 1791 to 1795 he was almost continuously in charge of Cumberland House. In 1795 he went to Europe and returned the following year. In 1798 he was in charge at Carlton House, Saskatchewan River, and later established a house at Setting River. From 1799 to 1801 he was at Cumberland House.¹⁸

- Magnus Twatt (1751-1801)

Umfreville, Edward (b.1755)

Edward Umfreville was a writer in the service of the HBC from 1771 to 1782. He was captured by the French under La Perouse in 1782, and on his release in 1783 went to Canada where he entered the service of the North West Company as a clerk. In 1784 he was employed to discover a new route from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg. He spent the years 1784-88 on the north branch of the Saskatchewan, but left the North West Company's service in 1788, and returned to England by way of New York. It appears from the records of the HBC that he applied to be taken back into the service in 1789 but failed to obtain satisfactory terms.¹

- Edward Umfreville (b.1755)


Vandal, Antoine (1771-1870)

There were two persons named Antoine Vandal who were employed with the North West Company. One was employed as a voyageur in the Lake Winnipeg district. Another was employed as a voyageur in the Lake Athabaska department.¹

- Antoine Vandal (1771-1870)

Vandal, Antoine (1784-ca.1839)

There were two persons named Antoine Vandal who were employed with the North West Company. One was employed as a voyageur in the Lake Winnipeg district. Another was employed as a voyageur in the Lake Athabaska department.²

- Antoine Vandal (1784-ca.1839)

Vincent, Thomas (1776-1832)

Thomas Vincent entered the service of the HBC as a writer in 1790. He was employed at Albany Factory from 1790 until June, 1797, first as a writer and later as an accountant. For a short time during the summer of 1797 he had the charge of the post at Martin Fall, and in the season 1797-98 he became master at Point au Foutre House at the mouth of the Winnipeg River. Vincent remained at the post until the summer of 1801. In the summer of 1802 he reestablished Red Lake House and remained in charge of the post until the summer of 1804 when he returned to Albany. He was stationed there until 1806. In May, 1806 he was sent to Martin Fall to assist in carrying out the summer business at that place, and passed the 1806-07 season at Brandon House. During the two following seasons Vincent was employed as second at Albany factory, and in the autumn of 1809 he sailed for England. He returned in the summer of 1810, having been appointed Chief Factor of Albany. On the appointment of Thomas Thomas as Governor of the Northern Department in 1814, Vincent was made Governor Locum Tenens of the Southern Department, and during the greater part of the season 1814-1815 he made his headquarters at Moose Factory. He spent the spring of 1815 at Albany and later left for Henley House, from whence he explored the route to New Brunswick House on Micabanish Lake. In that same year he received his commission as Governor of the Southern Department. He made his headquarters at Moose Factory.


Factory, and during 1816-17 and the two succeeding seasons he made New Brunswick House his chief place of residence. In 1819-20 he again made his headquarters at Moose Factory. He was made a Chief Factor in 1821 and a Councillor of Rupert’s Land. From 1822 until the end of the season 1823-24 Vincent had charge of the Moose River district, with headquarters at Moose Factory. In the outfit 1824-25 he took over control of the Albany Factory district. He retired from the fur trade in 1826 and in the following autumn returned to England.\(^3\)

- James Sutherland (ca.1751-1797)

**Vincent, Thomas (fl.1813-1840)**

Thomas Vincent entered the HBC’s service in 1813. He became a clerk in 1821, but was demoted to postmaster in 1827. In 1832 he was in charge of Osnaburgh in the Albany district and retired to Red River in 1840.\(^4\)

- James Sutherland (ca.1751-1797)

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\(^4\)Glyndwr Williams, ed., *Hudson’s Bay Miscellany 1670-1870* (Winnipeg: Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1975), 233 n. 3.
**Waddens, Jean Etienne (1738-1782)**

Jean Etienne Waddens was a Swiss Protestant. He appeared to have come to Canada with the British army, and to have settled in Canada as a merchant and trader. In 1772 his name first appears in the fur trade licences as trading to Grand Portage. About 1779 he formed a partnership with Venant St. Germain, and he was one of the partners in the original sixteen-share North West Company in that year. He was at Lac la Ronge in 1781-1782.¹

- Jean Etienne Waddens (1738-1782)

**Ward, John (1777-ca.1800)**

John Ward was from London England and entered the HBC as a writer in 1795 for five years.²

- John Ward (1777-ca.1800)

**Wells, John (1788-1815)**

John Wells became a partner of the XY Company shortly after 1798, and was one of the six wintering partners of the XY Company who became partners of the North West Company in 1804. Soon after 1804 he built Fort Gilbralter at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers; and he remained in charge of the Red River district until 1806, when he was transferred to Rat River. He returned to the Red River, however, in 1809, and he remained in charge of this department until he was relieved because of ill-health in the summer of 1814. He was elected a member of the Beaver Club of Montreal in 1807.

- Donald Grant (n.d.)

**Whitford, James Peter (1771-ca.1800)**

James Peter Whitford was from the parish of St Paul's, London, joined the HBC in 1788 and

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See also J.I. Cooper, “Waddens, Jean-Etienne”, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume IV 1771 To 1800* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979), 757.

during the 1796-97 season was master at Gordon House.³

- James Peter Whitford (1771-ca.1800)

Whitford, Samuel (1822-1911)

Samuel Whitford was for many years employed in the service of the HBC. Around 1851 with a party led by the Rev. William Cochrane he moved to Portage la Prairie, where a self-governing colony, to be independent of the rule of the Council of Assiniboia, was formed. This new colony, called the Republic of Manitoba, was governed by a council selected by the people, consisting of a police magistrate and four minor magistrates, of which Whitford was one. Early in the 1860's he and his family moved to the Upper Saskatchewan valley, where he founded the settlement of Victoria in the province of Alberta.⁴

- James Peter Whitford (1771-ca.1800)
- Peter Henderson (1795-1863)
- Magnus Spence (1765-1845)

Williams, William (1786-1837)

William Williams was appointed Resident Governor of the HBC Territories in 1818. In the following year, as a consequence of the aggressions of the North West Company, he took an expedition to the Grand Rapids at the mouth of the Saskatchewan and captured a number of the partners and servants of the Company, and sent some of them to England for trial. At the coalition of 1821 he was appointed Joint-Governor with George Simpson, and in the following year was given the charge of the Southern Department of the territories. In 1826 he returned to England.⁵

- Peter Fidler (1769-1822)
- Henry Hallet (1772-1844)


Wilson, Daniel (1824-ca.1860)

Daniel Wilson joined service of the HBC in 1842 as a labourer. Until 1847 he volunteered for service as a middleman in the Arctic Searching Expedition to be commanded by Sir John Richardson. He was employed in the Saskatchewan district. He was one of the men who left Fort Confidence in 1848 to winter at the fishery at Big Island, Great Slave Lake. In 1849 Wilson reengaged with the HBC as a labourer and was stationed in the Cumberland House district. In the summer of 1852 he again renewed his contract with the HBC as a bowsman. He apparently spent outfits 1852-53 and 1853-54 in the Cumberland House district and was then transferred to the Norway House district, where he remained until he retired to the Red River Settlement in 1857.6

- Daniel Wilson (1824-ca.1860)

Wilson, Robert (1800-1864)

Robert Wilson entered the HBC’s service as a boatbuilder in 1820. He was at Norway House and in the Saskatchewan and Swan River districts until 1834, when he was appointed to the charge of Severn House. In 1839 he was made a post-master at York Factory, in charge of the workmen. He was promoted to the rank of clerk in 1849, and in 1854 he took charge of Oxford House. In 1863 he became assistant to Chief Trader C.J. Griffin.7

- John Harper (1767-1810)
- Robert Cumming (1795-1810)

Work, John (1792-1861)

John Work joined the HBC as a writer in 1814. He served at York Factory during the season 1814-15 as a steward, and in the following outfit he was transferred to Severn House and was listed as second trader. He was promoted to district master in 1818-19. After the coalition of 1821 Work ranked as a clerk and continued in charge of the Severn district during 1821-22. In 1822-23 he had charge of the Island Lake district with headquarters at Island Lake House. He left for the Columbia district in 1823 and wintered at Spokane House. He was at Spokane House during part of the summer of 1825, and in the following November he went to the Flathead post, where he managed the trade until Feb., 1826. In that same year he went on a horse trading expedition to the Nez Perces, and on an excursion to the Flathead and Kootenay posts. During the

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6E.E. Rich and Alice M. Johnson, eds., John Rae’s Correspondence with the Hudson’s Bay Company on Arctic Exploration 1844-1845 (London: The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1953), 377-78.

7Margaret Arnett MacLeod, ed., The Letters of Letitia Hargrave (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1947), 86 n.4.
winter of 1826-27 he was in charge of Fort Colvile, and again in 1828-29. During the season 1829-30 he took charge of the Colvile district, making his headquarters at the Flathead post, and in the following year he was placed in charge of the Snake Country expedition. In 1830 he was appointed Chief Trader, and in 1831 he left on a trading expedition to the Flathead and Blackfoot Indians. In the summer of 1834 Work made a short trading excursion to Umpqua River, and was placed in charge of the management of the coasting trade. He retained this position until 1849, and during the greater part of the time he made his headquarters at Fort Simpson. In 1846 he was made a Chief Factor. He was appointed one of the managers of the Columbia district in 1849, and in 1853 he was appointed to the Board of Management of the Western department. He became a member of the first Government and Legislative Council of Vancouver Island in 1857.\textsuperscript{5}

- Legace, Pierre (fl.1809)

\textsuperscript{5}E.E. Rich, ed., \textit{The Letters of John McLoughlin from Fort Vancouver to the Governor and Committee First Series, 1825-38} (Toronto: The Champlain Society for The Hudson’s Bay Record Society, 1941), 353-55.