

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
ARCHIVES**

**RECORDS OF THE  
WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
1907-1914**

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## **Introduction**

This collection of the records of the Woman's Home Missionary Society consists of approximately 15 cm. of annual reports, periodicals and other publications. The records cover the period 1907-1914.

The main collection of the records of the W.H.M.S. is held at the United Church Archives. Related material can be found within the records of the Home Missions Committee also held at the United Church Archives. Material for the period after 1914 is in the records of the Women's Missionary Society, (Western Division) in collections held by the Presbyterian Church Archives and the United Church Archives.

There are no restrictions on this material.

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## **Historical Sketch**

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was organized in May 1903. It was preceded by the Atlin Nurse Committee, which was formed in 1898. In 1914 the W.H.M.S. amalgamated with the Montreal Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division) to form the Women's Missionary Society (Western Division).

Prior to the formation of the Atlin Nurse Committee, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was responsible for the support of a number of women missionaries working with Indians in the north west of Canada and Chinese immigrants in British Columbia. Both groups of people were regarded as foreign mission fields by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, despite their geographic location. The difference between home and foreign missions were implicitly defined by whether the people were considered Canadian or foreign. The impetus for the development of support for home mission work among the women of the church came from the Klondike gold rush and the opening up of the west. As settlers and prospectors moved west, the Church moved with them in the form of missionaries and ministers. It soon became apparent that there was a growing need for social support and, in particular, medical aid for the settlers and prospectors. Thus the Atlin Nurse Committee was formed in Toronto, on the initiative of the Home Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in response to a request for nurses from a missionary in Atlin, B.C.

In 1901 it was suggested that the W.F.M.S. (W.D.) be given some responsibility for home missions under the direction of the Home Missions Committee, but the General Assembly rejected this idea. The need for additional financial support for medical and missionary work was growing, however, and so in 1903 the Atlin Nurse Committee was asked to expand into a national organization. In May the Woman's Home Missionary Society was formed and in June the Atlin Nurse Committee wound up its affairs.

The W.H.M.S. was organized into three committees: Organization, Publicity and Hospital. The Organization Committee dealt with the forming of Auxiliaries in congregations and representative Presbyterials structured along the same lines as the W.F.M.S. (W.D.). The Organization Committee also formed a Home Helpers Branch in 1907 which was similar to the W.F.M.S. (W.D.) Scattered Helpers branch in providing a means by which women who were unable to attend regular Auxiliary meetings could still be involved in the work of the society. The Publicity Committee was responsible for the publication of the monthly magazine, The Home Mission Pioneer and for leaflets and other literature. The Hospital Committee was responsible for the medical and social work of the society.

The medical work of the Atlin Nurse Committee remained one of the main aspects of the work of the W.H.M.S. The society opened a hospital in Teulon, Manitoba, and gave financial support to Home Mission Hospitals throughout Canada. As well as medical work, the W.H.M.S. expanded

its interests to education, providing school homes for children who lived too far away from public schools to be able to attend regularly. Help was also given to children in the form of clothing and other supplies to enable them to attend school. The W.H.M.S. also gradually became involved in work with immigrants and in hospital visitation.

Between 1903 and 1914 the Presbyterian Church in Canada began to re-define the difference between home and foreign missions. In response to increased immigration, the Church started to distinguish missions by geographical location, and thus in 1912, Jewish work was transferred from the Foreign to the Home Missions Committee with the consequent involvement of the W.H.M.S. in this area. By 1914, although this re-defining process was neither complete nor fully articulated, the women's missionary societies were aware of the similarity of their work and the resulting dissipation of their resources. In 1907 agreements had been reached between the W.H.M.S. and the W.F.M.S. (W.D.) to permit Auxiliaries and Presbyterials to combine, and in 1914 the three women's missionary societies in the western division of the Church amalgamated to form the Women's Missionary Society (Western Division).

#### **Archival Arrangement**

This collection comprises approximately 15 cm. of published material. The annual reports, agendas for annual meetings and periodicals are listed in chronological order. None of these series is complete, and it should be noted in particular that the first four years of publication of The Home Mission Pioneer are missing. The periodicals are located in the periodical section and should be requested by title and year of issue. Missing issues are shown in brackets and indicated by the prefix "ex." The publications are listed in alphabetical order by title. The smaller pamphlets have been grouped by subject matter and placed at the end of the publications.

The finding aid is listed as FA-WHMS.

File No.	Date	Description
2003-7004	1905-1908	Annual Reports
1988-7003-1-1	1909/10	Annual Report
2003-7004	1910-1912	Annual Reports
2003-7005	1913/14	Annual Report
1988-7003-1-2	1913, 1914	Annual Meetings – Agendas
1986-7010-1-22	1914	Correspondence - Life Membership
<i>2006-7008</i>	<i>1907-1914</i>	<i>Organization Committee minutes</i>
<u>Periodicals</u>		
	1903 Dec. – 1906 Dec.	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1907 Jan.	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1909 Mar, Apr., Dec.	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1910 Feb-Dec. (ex .May)	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1911 Jan-Apr., Sept.-Dec.	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1912 Jan-Dec	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1913 Jan. Dec.	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
	1914 Jan.-June	<u>The Home Mission Pioneer</u>
<u>Publications</u>		
1988-7003-1-3	1911	<u>Home Mission Pioneer Calendar</u>
1988-7003-1-4	1913	<u>Jean Wilkie's Influence: A Deaconess</u> <u>Dialogue for Young Women's Mission</u> ✓ <u>Bands</u> 1913, 8pp.
1988-7003-1-5	1913	<u>Our Medical Missions</u> ✓ Mrs. H.M. Kipp, 24pp.
1988-7003-1-6	n.d.	<u>Prayers of Devotional Aids for use in</u> <u>Auxiliaries and Mission Bands</u> 36pp.
1988-7003-1-7	n.d.	<u>The Woman's Portion</u> Mrs. H.M. Kipp, 14pp.
1988-7003-1-8	c.1909-1913	Pamphlets – Organization and History of the WHMS - <u>A Call to Service</u> , 1910, 20pp. - <u>General Information Regarding</u> <u>Work of the Women's Home</u> <u>Missionary Society of the</u> <u>Presbyterian Church in Canada</u> , 1909, 14pp. - <u>General Information</u> , 1912, 15pp. - <u>General Information</u> , 1913, 15pp. - <u>Home Mission Helpers</u> , n.d., 6pp. - <u>Home Mission Study Course</u> , 1913, 4pp. - <u>How the Atlin Nurse Committee</u> <u>became the WHMS</u> , 1909, 6pp. - <u>A Retrospect</u> , n.d., 8pp.

1988-7003-1-9

c.1910-1913

Pamphlets – Home Missions

- The Doukhobors, n.d., 19pp.
- Educational Work, Mrs. Edward Cochrane, 1914, 16pp.
- Home Missions Methods and Principles, n.d., 16pp.
- Northern Ontario, Miss Elsie Charlton, n.d., 23pp.
- Silver Water, Mary H. Betty, n.d., 10pp.
- Teulon Hospital, n.d., 8pp.
- History of Teulon Hospital, 1910, 8pp.
- The Story of the Anna Turnbull Hospital at Wakaw, n.d., 32pp.
- A Voice from Wakaw, 1911, 24pp.
- A Voice from Wakaw, 1913, 20pp.