

THE REVEREND HARRY RALPH TRUMPOUR

1879 - 1947

Harry Ralph Trumpour was born in Napanee, Ontario, on September 16, 1879, to Samuel Dorland Trumpour and Mary (Losee). He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1900 with first class honours in classics. Four years later he obtained his Master of Arts degree and was appointed tutor in Toronto's Wycliffe College, where he earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree. During this time he was also curate of the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto and ordained as a Priest in 1906. His knowledge of New Testament Greek was profound and there were few who were his equal as a student of the writings of the early Christian church. From 1906 to 1908 he was headmaster of Rothesay Boys' College in New Brunswick, following which he served as Rector of All Saints' Church in Peterborough, Ontario, until 1911.

After marrying Helen Frink of Saint John, New Brunswick, they relocated to Vancouver where he became Professor of New Testament in the newly formed Latimer Hall. Later he held the same post in the Anglican Theological College and in 1936 became its Principal. He received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from both the Union College of British Columbia and Wycliffe College in Toronto.

Not content as merely an academic, in 1912 he established St. Helen's Church in West Point Grey and was appointed its rector. An active parish visitor, Dr. Trumpour usually succeeded in visiting each family in his growing parish at least once a year, dividing his time equally between parish and college.

The *Canadian Churchman* noted that he was gifted with a sense of humour, and did not take himself too seriously. He also served two years as President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association. The Trumpours raised one daughter and two sons.

He retired from the College in 1946, but continued as the Rector of St. Helen's until his death in November 20, 1947. He had planned to act as a judge in a debate at the College on the evening of his death.

Walter N. Sage writes, "By nature a mystic, Dr. Trumpour had penetrated deeply into the things of the spirit. He was a great spiritual leader and a true pastor of his flock. Only those who were privileged to enjoy his friendship can realize what he really was, but all can recognize that he was one of the great pioneers for Christ in British Columbia."

The progenitors of the North American Trumpour family were Niclaus Trombauer and Magdalena Stier, who fled the Palatinate area along Europe's Rhine River after a harsh winter and years of power struggles and ravages of war had ruined their vineyard livelihood. With three young children, they left their homeland in the spring of 1709, spent the winter as refugees in London, and endured the arduous voyage to the New World the following spring. They arrived in New York City and were relocated in the bush at West Camp on the Hudson River where, along with their fellow immigrants, they were expected to produce tar and masts for the British sailing fleets. The political and economic climate changed, promises were not kept, and the tar production venture failed. Having no recourse, the Palatines toiled to create settlements, and the Trombauers became farmers.

One of Niclaus and Magdalena's nine children was Johannes who married Christina Fiere, a member of another Palatine family. This couple also had nine children, and by the 1770s the families had settled into a farming prosperity that was shattered by revolt against British

authority. Whether out of conviction or circumstance, two sons sided with the British, one remained neutral and three fought with the Americans. Twenty years old when the Declaration of Independence was signed, Paulus joined the British cavalry. At war's end, brothers Johannes and Paulus found themselves ousted from their properties. In a migration similar to his grandparents' 74 years earlier, Paul and his wife Deborah (Emery) with an infant, set sail for the St. Lawrence River on September 8, 1783. This time New York City was the departure, not the arrival port. They reached Quebec a month later, spent the winter in Sorel and arrived at Adolphustown on June 16, 1784.

In Upper Canada, the spelling of the name evolved into Trumpour. Paul and Deborah's son Joseph married Lydia Dorland, a member of the Quaker Dorland family. Even though Lydia's father John had refused to fight, his brothers did join the British and all were persecuted for it. The three Dorland brothers settled in Canada. Joseph and Lydia were parents of Samuel Trumpour, and grandparents of Harry Ralph Trumpour, the aforementioned "great pioneer of Christ in the province of British Columbia."

Sources: Contributed by Ivy Trumpour U.E. Edmonton Branch

Crockford's Clerical Directory, London, 1947.

Cap and Gown, Wycliffe College, Toronto, 1947.

Vancouver Daily Province, 21 Nov 1947.

The Anglican Provincial Synod of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

Hoffman, W.J. "Notes on Old Dutch-American Families: the First Four Generations of the Palatine Trumpour Family of Ulster County, New York," New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, New York, v. 63, No. 3, 1932.

Trumpour, Mark. "History, Genealogy and the Trumpour Family," Historic Kingston, Kingston Historical Society, Kingston, No. 18, March 1970.

Research by Ivy Trumpour UE, Edmonton Branch UELAC