Rev. Canon Henry Pollard (1830 - 1914)

Rev. Henry Pollard was the Rector of St. John the Evangelist Church from 1871 - 1914; 43 years. This term of service was only exceeded by the man who would be his co-worker from 1912 - 1914, and whose total service went from 1890 - 1937; 47 years, Rev. Canon James Frederic Gorman, when Grace Church (the original parish of Rev. Gorman) merged with and took the name of St. John the Evangelist Church in 1912. His portrait, (included in the pictures for this article) is on display in the Hallway of St. John's by the current Rector's and Church Offices.

Early Life

Henry Pollard was born 1 Nov 1830 in Exeter, Devon, England to William Carrs and Mary Pollard. William Carrs was a printer and purveyor of stationery. Henry's older brother, William followed in his father's footsteps, while Henry pursued education and ministry in the Anglican Church. Henry's father died in 1850 when Henry was 20 years old, and following this, Henry lived with his brother William while he completed his education and prepared for ministry.

Henry attended Exeter Grammar School, and then later graduated from St. Augustine's College, Canterbury 1855. He shared this alma mater with Rev. Gorman who would eventually succeed him. Henry Pollard graduated with first class honors in Theology, Classics and Mathematics and second class honors in Hebrew.

Ministry and Marriage

Soon after he graduated, he came to Canada in 1858 where he began his service in ministry. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1858 by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, New Brunswick. In 1859 he was ordained to the Priesthood in New Brunswick as well.

His early appointments were to St. Stephens, NB, and then the parish of Maugerville and Burton, NB, a position he held for 8 years as Rector. He married in 1859 to Annie Maria Porter of St. Stephens. Annie was the daughter of William Porter, who was a successful shipbuilder and M.P.P. in New Brunswick. Henry and Annie did not have children. Annie had a reputation of being a strong helper to her husband and supportive of his ministry. She also had a reputation of leadership in her own right, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Woman's Auxiliary movement and organization across Ontario.

In 1869, Henry came to Ottawa where he spent the rest of his life in Parish ministry. He was initially appointed curate of Christ Church Cathedral. In 1871, Pollard was appointed the curate of the Bishop's Chapel, which was the work that eventually became St John's. The Bishop's Chapel was officially consecrated as St. John the Evangelist Church on 6 Dec 1874. A picture is included of the original building of St. John's the Evangelist Church on Sussex by Rideau in July of 1875. Rev Henry Pollard became Rector of St. John officially in 1877, although his time serving at St. John's is officially reckoned as having begun in 1871. He was elevated to Canon in 1897.

Service to Ottawa

Rev, Henry Pollard had the reputation of being a quiet and calm man who possessed the keen mind of a scholar. His influence within the city of Ottawa was significant as well. When the Children's Aid Society was formed in Ottawa in 1893, Henry Pollard was a founding Vice President. He served locally as a Chaplain of the St. George Society of Ottawa, which among many other services, included for a time assistance to immigrants in getting settled and

assimilated into the community. He was actively involved in leadership roles within the Associated Charities of Ottawa which involved multiple projects to assist the poor of the city. He was very active in leadership and encouragement in the formation of the Humane Society of Ottawa as well.

Final Years and Death

When St. John's and Grace Church merged in 1912, Rev. Canon Pollard was 82, while Rev. J.F. Gorman (the incumbent at Grace Church) was a much younger man. An accomodation was made by the Bishop at that time to maintain both men in the newly combined Parish with the stipulation that the survivor between the two men would remain solely in the position. Rev. Canon Henry Pollard passed away on 27 Nov 1914 at the age of 84. The news of his passing made national news and was reported in many major Canadian cities. Following services at St. John's conducted by his partner in ministry through his latter years, Rev. Gorman, Rev. Canon Henry Pollard was laid to rest at Beechwood Cemetery. The inscription on his tombstone read:

"In Loving Memory of Rev. Henry Pollard born Nov. 1st 1830, Died Nov. 2th 1914. Ordained Deacon 1858 - Priest 1859. Canon of Christ Church Cathedral 1887 Rector of St. John the Evangelist Ottawa 1871-1914. A Faithful Minister of Christ Col.1.7, And His Wife Annie Maria Porter born Aug 11th 1829, Died July 6th 1925.

Erected By Loving Friends And Parishioners."

Rev. Canon Henry Pollard was the first Rector of St. John's and by virtue of his longevity in the position, along with his humility in promoting the merger of his parish with Grace Church had a tremendous amount of influence in shaping the future of our Parish. He was a strong and outspoken advocate for the poor and underrepresented of Ottawa and in so doing left a strong influence in St. John's serving our community that continues to be felt today.

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Sources:

Primary sources referred to in the creation of this article include:

A Photograph of the Portrait Hanging at St. John's taken by the Author of this article.

The Ruggle Directory; a pdf work of Anglican clergy of Upper Canada / Canada West / Ontario, by Richard E. Ruggle. Permission given for non-commercial use.

Several Obituaries published in local Ottawa Newspapers on or following 27 Nov 1914.

Multiple Newspaper Articles from Local Newspapers between 1869 - 1914.
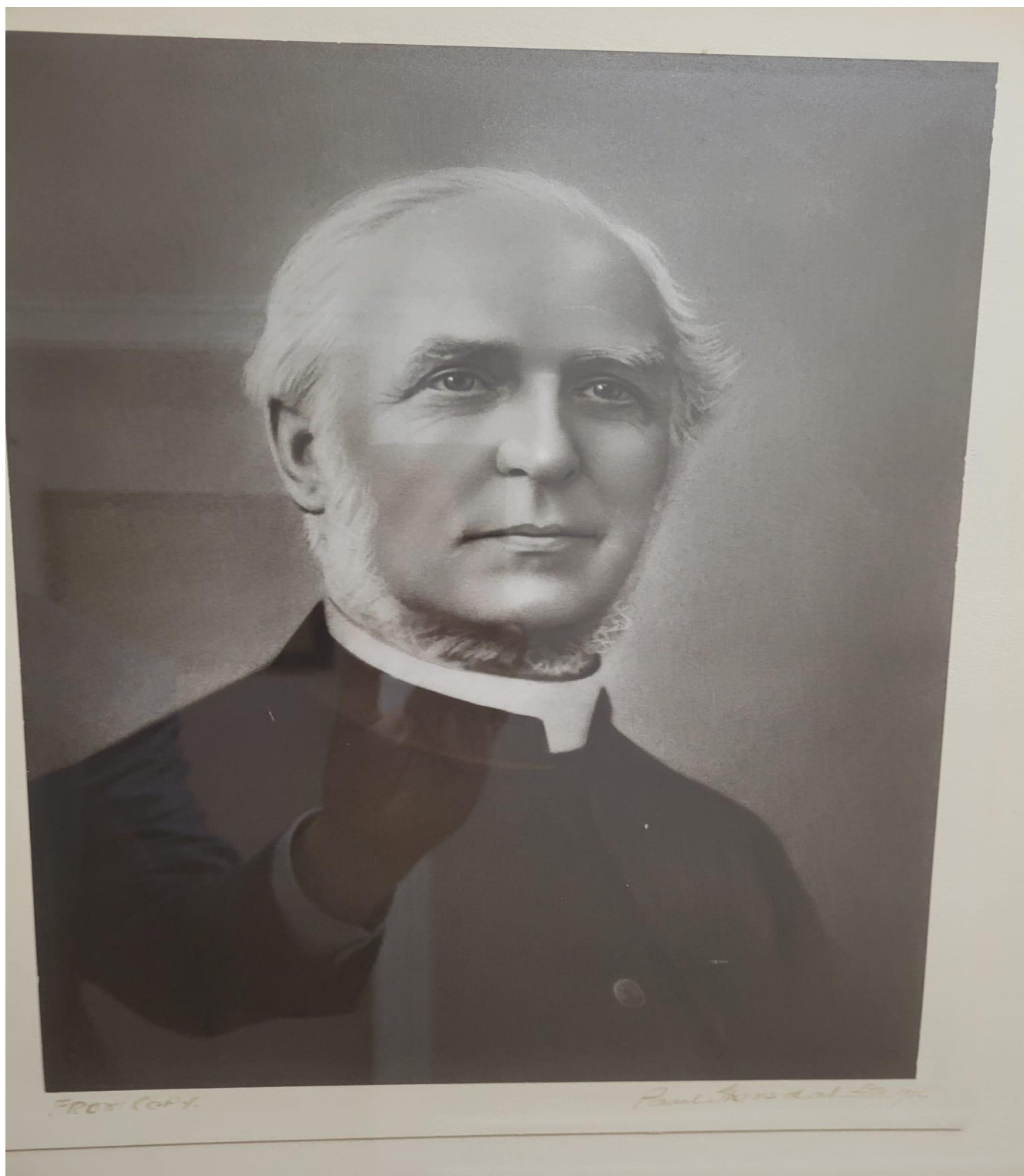
The Photograph in Ottawa - 1875 July - Looking North on Sussex from Rideau Street was taken by Wm Topley, and is taken from the Library and Archives of Canada, LAC Mikan 3325958.

The Business Emblem of the Pollard Family Business in Devon, Exeter London was taken from archived images shared without attribution in Ancestry dot ca.

The tombstone and inscription from Beechwood Cemetery were taken from Canada, Find a Grave and are believed to be in the Public Domain.

THE REV. CANON HENRY POLLARD
RECTOR 1871 - 1914

From Photo displayed at Sr John the Evangelist Church in Ottawa.

Rev Canon Henry Pollard 1830 - 1914. Rector at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church 1871 - 1914.

Pollard Family Commercial Emblem for Printing and Stationery Business, Exeter, England

Ottawa - 1875 July - Looking North on Sussex from Rideau Street was taken by Wm Topley, and is taken from the Library and Archives of Canada, LAC Mikan 3325958. St John the Evangelist Church at its original location on Sussex is to the left behind the horses and carriage.
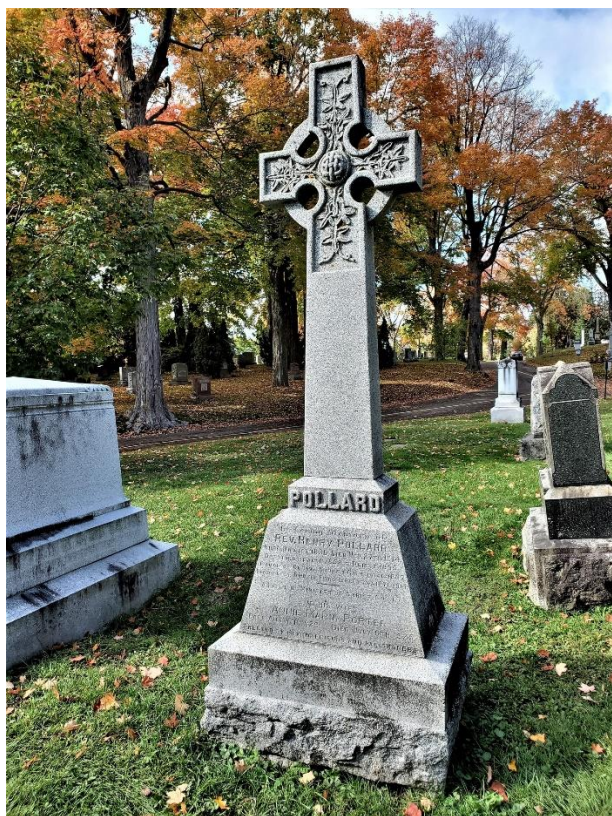
Find A Grave Canada, Monument Beechwood Cemetery, Rev. Henry Pollard 1830 - 1914.