

G.W. Kerby had Loyalist roots

Linda McClelland U.E.
and Suzanne Davidson
U.E.

Reverend George William Kerby was the son of parents who probably had Loyalist ancestors and who farmed in Lambton County, Ontario. Rev. Kerby graduated from the University of Toronto and was ordained a Methodist minister in 1888. When he and his wife, Emily Spencer, accepted a request to move to Calgary in 1902, a colleague wrote, "Kerby's gone to that God-forsaken place and will never be heard from again."

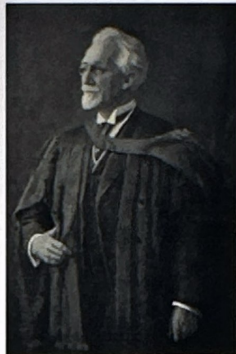
Kerby was minister at Central Methodist Church until 1910. He saw the building of the sandstone church, which opened in 1905. Hon. R. B. Bennett helped choose the plot of land. The church cornerstone was laid by Mrs. James Lougheed (Isabella Hardisty) on behalf of her uncle, Lord Strathcona. Today, this is the Central United Church located at 131-7th Avenue S.W.

Rev. Dr. Kerby was the founding Principal of Mount Royal College (now known as Mount Royal University), which opened in 1911 at the corner of 7th Avenue and 11 Street S.W. and where he continued as Principal for 31 years. Initially, the College provided higher education for rural students to finish high

school, until 1931, when it was expanded. The Kerby Memorial Building and Dr. G. D. Stanley Gym opened in 1949 and was expanded again in 1961. MRC moved to the Lincoln Park campus in 1972. A Seniors' organization now called Unison at Kerby Centre started using the empty building in 1973.

In 1928, Rev. Dr. George Kerby and Mrs. Kerby were listed as present at the first meeting of the Calgary Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC). He became the First Vice-President in the original slate of officers. One of their commitments was to preserve Loyalist history. The Calgary Branch of the UELAC continues today with Suzanne Davidson as its President, Frank Clifford as Secretary, and William Simpson as Treasurer. Anyone who thinks they have a Loyalist ancestor and would like help researching proof for a Loyalist Certificate might consider joining the Branch. Anyone interested in Canadian history is welcomed at meetings and can get more information from uelac.org/calgary.

The Calgary Branch's next meeting is on Sunday, April 19, at The Alberta Family History Society's meeting room at 8500 Macleod Trail SE (Heritage Square) suite 2515. Doors



will open at noon, with the meeting completed by 3:00 pm. Food is brought in at the cost of about \$15.00. If you are interested in attending, please contact William Simpson at william.simpson@live.ca. Rev. Dr. Bruce Miller, a university lecturer and MLA (2004-08) will be speaking on The Journey of a Loyalist from Captivity to Settlement.



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Leave a Legacy

Unison at Kerby Centre's work is possible thanks to the kindness of people like you who remember us with a gift in their will - a gift that will help create a better future for seniors.

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Contact Rob Locke
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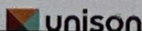
Deciding whether to sell your home, downsize, or move into a seniors' residence can be overwhelming. Join us for a supportive conversation to explore housing options and get your questions answered.

What You'll Learn:

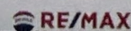
An overview of selling your home, downsizing considerations, affordable senior housing, available supports, and Q&A. Ideal for seniors and families seeking clarity and direction.

Thursday, April 23rd
10:00 am - 12 pm
Unison at Kerby Centre
Games Room - Kerby Cafe
Drinks & Treats Provided

Space is limited. RSVP to secure your spot.
Andresg@UnisonAlberta.com or 587-441-3696



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