

A. Foster



Abraham Foster, son of W. H. and Matilda Foster, was born about 1875. Died 28 Jun 1908 Calgary, Alberta. Buried Union Cemetery

Attended the Nashville Bible School 1893-94, 1894-95, 1895-1896, 1896-97 and 1897-98. Listed as from Glory, Texas, now a ghost town in Lamar County.

CARMAN BIBLE SCHOOL (1897-1902; 1921-1927)

The Church of Christ in Carman, Manitoba enjoys the status of being the first congregation of Churches of Christ west of Ontario (1889), and the first Canadian location to have an established Bible School. It is noteworthy to mention that the congregation in Carman has connections to James A. Harding from Nashville, Tennessee and the Nashville Bible School. Harding was the guest speaker at the grand opening of the Carman church building in 1892. He also held protracted meetings in nearby Rosebank, Manitoba and baptized the Laycock family, whose descendants are still members of the Carman Church of

Christ. Abraham Foster, a student of the Nashville Bible School from 1894 – 1897, came to preach in Carman in 1897. He established the first Carman Bible School, which ran for five years under his directorship. The school was sponsored and financially supported by the Carman Church of Christ. For the first year, the school was held in the church building at Carman. The following year, the school was housed in a newly built, large brick building located across the street from the church building. Classrooms were on the main floor, and the Fosters had living quarters in the attic of the building. Abraham Foster, Daniel Stewart and Miss Tolton were the teachers for the first term, the duration of which was December 1, 1897–March 31, 1898. The curriculum included courses in New Testament, physical culture, voice culture, English grammar, public speaking, debate, Old Testament and singing. Students who attended the first term are Herb and Elsie Sterling, H. A. Rogers, Chris Stevenson, Fred Dafoe, Stanley York, Amy Mallory, Allen Mallory, Maggie Mallory, John and Minnie Sterling, Arthur and Maria Laurenson, George and Mary Laycock, Bertha Rogers, Ora and Ozro Tallman, Willie Saunders and his wife, and Elizabeth York. In the evenings the students entertained themselves with debates, recitations and monologues, which drew young people from the community. The school came to an untimely close when the Boyne River flooded and the school building was damaged. Foster's failing health and financial difficulties due to the flood, were factors that brought about the school's demise (1902). --Shelley Jacobs

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1897

Brother Abraham Foster arrived on the noon

train Saturday January 2nd, 1897 to hold a meeting for the church here. He spoke next Lord's day morning and evening and then the next Wednesday evening and continued the meetings until February 28 when he closed and went to Cape Rich. A good interest manifested by outsiders more than usual. It was the best meeting we have had for years.

The Meaford Journal 1848-1998, p. 46

Brother Abraham Foster commenced another meeting May 30, 1897. The following were baptized at this meeting: ... Meeting closed with good interest and full house on June 27, 1897 and Bro. Foster left on morning train July 3rd, 1897.

The Meaford Journal 1848-1898, p. 46

1898

Brother Foster arrive here Saturday night September 17, 1898 from Carman Manitoba and preached Lord's day twice and then commenced a short meeting the following Wednesday evening and closed October 2, and then visited for a week and then left to attend Martin College, Washington, U.S.A. Bro. Foster baptized during this meeting the following persons. . . .

The Meaford Journal 1848-1998, p. 47

SATURDAY 17 [Sept 1898]

Did a whole lot of things today Went over all my plants then down town. then put down 18 lbs of pears. then up to station to meet Foster he did not

come then home and watered garden then S S Lesson then E Whitelaw had a card saying he was coming tonight. James went up and met him

SUNDAY 18

Bro Foster did not go to S School all tired out. Did not speak as well as he does sometimes.

Mary Williams Trout Diary, 1898

MON. MAY 22, 1899

Did a good big washing as usual Foster home at twelve I washed dishes he called at Chantlers Sterlings Hamleys Ellis – Arlidges to supper John Abbie & Miss Layton here waiting on him till after nine I read for Mrs Smith

TUESDAY 23

John Hammond and Ella Hamley here most of forenoon I was making out accounts went to bank got ? deposit receipt cashed Helped Emma with dishes & lunch she had a few minutes before Bro. Foster went away took big picture

Mary Williams Trout Diary, 1899

1899

Brother Abraham Foster was appointed by the congregation to solemnize marriage as per Revised Statutes October 1891 Section 12 Cp 162 Sub 2 which read as follows: Any Elder, Evangelist or Missionary for the time being of any church or congregation of

religious people commonly called or known congregationally as “Congregations of God” or “of Christ” and individually as “Disciples of Christ: who from time to time is chosen by any such congregation for the solemnization of marriage.

The Meaford Journals, 1848-1998, p. 47

The Church at Carman [by] W. Eatough

A list of meetings following show that the best available help was secured from the beginning, 1892 Brother Harding, 1892 Brother J. W. Hines (20 additions), 1893 Brother Paul Hayes, 1894 Brother E. A. Elam, 1895 Brother Madison Wright, 1897 Brother J. A. Craig, 1898 Brother A. Foster, in residence till 1903, 1900 Brother Roberts, 1964 Brother W. D. Campbell, 1906 Brother M. Watterworth, 1906 Brothers S. Jones. Among other helpers may be mentioned Brethren Hugh Rogers, 1899, Brother C. W. Petch, Brother P. Crossley, Brother C. Montgomery.

...

One other thing that might be mentioned was a Bible School conducted by Bro. Foster while resident there. This school, as well as one conducted during the 1920s was held during the winter months. While both schools did not continue long they were fruitful in their time and our present editor is among those who studied at the latter school.

Gospel Herald, Mar. 1941, p. 10

More About Bro. J. Lawrence (Departed)

...

Our ever to be remembered late Bro. A. Foster held a series of meetings in the old Almasippi school house, where Bro. and Sister Lawrenson and family lived in 1898.

Our brother, being brought up under denominational teachings, had not heard the simple Truth before. When Bro. Foster preached on “The Great Commission,” Bro. Lawrenson went home greatly perturbed, and said he would show the preacher where infant baptism was taught

...

But back to showing Bro. Foster.
Gospel Herald, June 1944, p. 14

FOSTER.

One of the saddest events in the experience of the church of Christ at Calgary, Canada, took place on Monday, June 29, 1908, when the remains of our beloved brother, A. Foster, were laid to rest in the Union Cemetery. For some months our brother's condition had been fluctuating, and a few days ago he exhibited signs of the approaching end. While it is hard to see loved ones thus taken away, yet we sorrow not as those whose hopes are buried in the dust. Our hopes are centered in him who by his own glorious triumph over death has given to the sons of men a pledge of that final victory ‘when those that are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of God and come forth. Our brother was but a young man, yet for over eleven years he had labored hard in the evangelistic field. Through many hardships and seasons in distress our brother remained loyal and faithful to the cause he had espoused; and it was when laboring under difficulties some two or three years ago that he strained his vocal membrane, losing the faculty of speech and resulting in tuberculosis, which, after a prolonged illness, was the cause of his death. Brother Foster was well known among many of the churches in the Southern States, and Brethren Lipscomb, Sommer, Harding, and many others will receive the news of his death with profound sorrow. The brethren in parts of Southern Manitoba have

also in years gone by benefited much by his loyal and indefatigable work of faith and labor of love. The warrior is now at rest. He has laid down his armor by the bank of the river and has gone to receive that crown which shines transcendent with immortal glory. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12: 3.) Our brother's labors have not been in vain; and while he has been removed from these scenes of sorrow and unrest, yet the result of his life's work shall remain, a monument to the power and influence of the Name he loved so well. Our beloved brother breathed his last a few minutes after noon on Lord's Day, June 28. The light of a glorious hope illumined his face. He leaves behind a sorrowing wife and several small children. May He who In the days of his flesh healed the stricken- hearted and dried the mourner's tears now freely dispense that consolation and hope to the hearts of his sorrowing children. Brethren, pray for them. — A. Weston, in Bible Student.

Gospel Advocate, 1908, p. 766