

Boots on the Ground • Mr. Frederick Cadman

An Accomplished Parish Historian at St. Michael's

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St. Michael's 3rd Generation Historian; St. Michael's Multicultural, Vancouver



The May 21, 2016 photograph of Frederick Cadman in front of the Cadman Narthex Gallery at SMM, with long time parish priest, the Rev. Walter Bayley's photograph prominent in the background.

In the September 2014 *Topic* article (*Seven Items to Celebrate 125th Anniversary & Mark Seven Years of Rebuilding*, page 5) marking the occasion of the 125th Anniversary celebrations at St. Michael's Multicultural (SMM) Anglican Church, a list of seven achievements for the 125th were included. These were memorialized on a plaque in the baptistery, and blessed by Bishop Melissa Skelton as part of her participation in those celebrations. One of the seven items on the plaque was *The Cadman Gallery*.

THE CADMAN GALLERY

The Gallery was a 100th Anniversary gift to the parish of St. Michael's in 1989, from a three-generation family who first began attending St. Michael's during the tenure of Canon Wilson (1903–1947). Frederick Cadman donated the Narthex Gallery in memory of his father, George William Cadman (grandfather of the current Chancellor of the diocese of New Westminster, George Cadman, QC, ODNW).

With help from the Cadmans, the gallery was brought up to date in time for the 125th Anniversary in 2014. It was on this occasion that *The Cadman Gallery* was dedicated. In the photo (*above and on the left*) note the two plaques just to Frederick Cadman's right. The leftmost plaque was installed when the gallery went up on St. Michael's 100th anniversary, in 1989, and is dedicated to Fred's father, George William Cadman. The dedication plaque on the right was installed by SMM's 125th Anniversary Committee.

The Gallery shows the full arc of history at St. Michael's in portraits. Every priest, going back to 1889 is on the north

The renditions of the plaques:

These photos are placed here to commemorate the centennial of St. Michael's Anglican Church 1889–1989 and to the Glory of God in Memory of George William Cadman

The Cadman Narthex Gallery
Dedicated to the Cadman Family on the occasion of Bishop Melissa's visit for St. Michael's 125th Anniversary further photos were placed here for 1989–2014 including the Bishop and ODNW members

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wall, at the left side of the narthex. As part of the upgrade in 2014, across from the parish priests, a portrait of Bishop Skelton was added on the south wall. At the same time, as a mirror image to the left side of the gallery, a portrait gallery with images of St. Michael's members invested into The Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) was begun on the north wall, at the right side of the narthex.

THE CADMAN WRITTEN HISTORIES

In addition to the portraits of the priests, Fred Cadman has left a second legacy. On June 14, 2008, while he and his wife Chris were living in Sooke (located on Vancouver Island), three members of SMM went over to visit. It was on this occasion that Fred entrusted them with a large box of historical material about SMM.

It proved to be a treasure trove of records. It was a written, synthesized history. It was written by Fred, work he began in the 1980s continuing right up to 2008, after he and his wife Chris had moved. George Cadman confirms:



Frederick Cadman, and his two children, George and Susan, in front of the Cadman Narthex Gallery at SMM on the occasion of the May 21, 2016 Memorial service for Chris Cadman. PHOTOS Gregory Tatchell, ODNW

“The history of each of the Rectors of the Parish was my father's doing as a historian and long-time member of the Parish, something he worked on even after my parents relocated to Holy Trinity, Sooke.”

Melanie Delva, the Diocesan Archivist, who ultimately received and archived the contents of the box, provides context regarding how significant this work is:

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THREE GLEANINGS

In reviewing Mr. Cadman's collected works in the archives, three things stood out to the author of this article.

- The first was a study titled *The Rectors of St. Michael's 1889–1989—A Comprehensive Study by Frederick W. Cadman, MA*. Along with two other studies, one of 59 pages, and another of 60 pages, it is easy to see the work behind the motivation to set-up the Gallery in 1989.
- Going back a bit, the second was from the 1971 Vestry. It was mentioned earlier that the Cadmans were a three-generation family at St. Michael's. Emphasizing the point for two of those generations, at the 1971 Vestry Fred Cadman was elected as the Rector's Warden, his wife Chris was on the Executive Council, and Fred's son, George E. H. Cadman (now Chancellor), was an alternate to Synod.
- Going back a bit further, the third couldn't help but touch the heart. In 1964, to memorialize the Diamond Anniversary (75th) of St. Michael's, it was decided to create a Memorial Garden for cremated ashes, in an area that over time has come to be referred to as the Rose Garden. 52 years later, in 2016, the Cadman family held a memorial service for Chris Cadman, at which her cremated ashes were placed in the Memorial Garden. The picture of Fred included as part of this article was taken after this service. For many years in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s, Chris Cadman served as a Sunday School teacher as well as being a member of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) executive and the Altar Guild. Fred has expressed his wish to join Chris in the Rose Garden when he is called.

PARISH HISTORIANS • GENERATION TO GENERATION

A fourth item from the archives was a three page anonymous history of the parish, which appears to have been written in 1929, possibly for St. Michael's 40th Anniversary. Whoever it was, the rigor of their work earns them the title of the first generation historian at St. Michael's. Frederick Cadman is certainly the second-generation historian at St. Michael's, and by far the most rigorous and prolific. SMM owes him a huge debt of gratitude. And invokes the prayer that his testimonial may be, not only the Cadman Narthex Gallery and his corpus in the archives, but also as an inspiration to a third generation of parish historians at St. Michael's and throughout the diocese, with, in Melanie's words:

“Passion and a love for the story that traces the trajectory of grace in a parish... these historians have been and continue to be essential to the continued understanding and recollecting of our unique history.”

An Archivist's Perspective on Parish Historians

MELANIE DELVA
Diocesan Archivist

While the Anglican Archives of the Provincial Synod of BC & Yukon began earlier in the Anglican Theological College, the Archives of the Diocese of New Westminster were not founded until 1980 by the late Garth Walker, AAM, ODNW. For the preceding 120 years, records were dispersed throughout offices, parish churches, rectories, and the homes of laypeople. To this day, the parishes, which are best represented in the archives, are those who had parish historians. When the archives were founded and Mr. Walker began to seek out records for the archives, it was parish historians who were the first to come forward—sharing the history of their parish through carefully gathered and kept records and through storytelling. While the Archivist can assist parishes in the understanding of what to keep and for how long, managing the diocesan archives means that they cannot be the “boots on the ground” in every parish. This is where the parish historians come in. With passion and a love for the story that traces the trajectory of grace in a parish, these historians have been and continue to be essential to the continued understanding and recollecting of our unique history. Mr. Frederick Cadman was one of these quiet heroes of historical documentation and produced some of the most comprehensive and well-written studies to come out of the parish level. ✦



Melanie Delva holding the study document titled *The Rectors of St. Michael's 1889–1989—A Comprehensive Study by Frederick W. Cadman, MA*.