

The Story of The Quilt

- Reverend Wallace Donogh was the minister at Rivers United Church from 1938 to 1944. Mrs. Donogh [Mabel], like many of the minister's wives, was very active in Women's groups, Red Cross and senior choir, as well as conducting the junior choir.
- The quilt was made by the congregation (ladies, I presume!) of Rivers United in 1940 (or shortly thereafter). It appears to contain the names of all the members of the congregation at that time.
- Rev. Donogh's daughter Gwendolyn met her future husband Alfred Hewlett when he was stationed at Rivers Air Base during World War II and she was working in the Post Office. Rev. Donogh officiated at their wedding in Rivers UC.
- In 1944, Rev. Wallace and Mabel Donogh moved to Brandon. We presume they were given this quilt as a parting gift. (At the time of his death in 1968, Rev. Donogh was an assistant minister at St. Paul's United Church in Brandon.)
- Gwendolyn and Alfred Hewlett eventually ended up in Red Deer, Alberta. They raised two children – Kathy and Ken.
- Sometime before Mabel's death in 1969, she gave this quilt to her granddaughter Kathy.
- Ken Donogh and his partner, Glynis Whiting, live in Alberta. Glynis and Bruce McFadden became acquaintances. When Glynis learned that Bruce was from Rivers, Manitoba, she facilitated the return of the quilt (through Bruce and Jamie McFadden) to Rivers United Church.
- In the letter that accompanied the quilt, Glynis wrote, "We are so happy that this piece of Rivers United Church history has found its way home." She also wrote that Kathy Hewlett (now Kathy Hewlett-Jobes) lives in Ottawa, and she also is "very happy that the quilt will be in Rivers."

A further note about Rev. Donogh: Rev. Donogh obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1915 from McMaster University in Brandon and his Master's degree in 1921 from the University of Manitoba. He served overseas in World War I and was wounded at Passchendaele. He had taught school previous to being ordained. He was also an active member of the Masonic Lodge, having served as Past Worshipful Master and Deputy Grand Master. After World War II began in 1939, the two older Donogh boys, Roland and Norman, enlisted. Only Norman returned.