

Old Records And Books Should Be Preserved

Occasions such as centennials and the unveiling of memorial plaques remind that history which does not be recorded in print is usually history lost. Only when history is being compiled comes full realization of the inaccuracy of memories. The variance in stories told by those who depend upon memory is almost unbelievable.

In this regard, when The Witness was informed that an unveiling is to take place on Sunday next at the Auld Kirk cemetery in the Scotch Settlement, memory almost instantly pictured the church records, shown us in our early years in Bradford, of the Scotch Settlement church. The books, we recall, were in excellent condition and were written in the beautiful shaded handwriting so proudly executed in those early days. Those books are worthy of a place in a museum, and who had possession of them at the time we saw them we do not recollect. We didn't know this area in those days as we do today, nor were we so kindly conscious of the value of those books at that time, as we are now.

The Faris name being one that dates to pioneer days in the Settlement and Mr. Murray Faris and his wife, being not only both very obliging and very capable, but also keenly interested in the preservation of historical records, we contacted them with the vague information that such books were seen by us some

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twenty-five years ago, but that we could not recall who possessed them at the time. Mr. and Mrs. Faris immediately went to work on the search for records and that evening located historical church records in at least three different homes and obtained a promise for the loan of same.

To enable all interested to preserve some of the information recorded, Mr. and Mrs. Faris have agreed to copy notations of interest, and of historical value, for publication in The Witness.

May it be suggested that those who possess these records make provision for their safe preservation in the years ahead. Too often the next generation is not sufficiently aware of the value of such records to give them the care they deserve.

Note that Mr. Pratt was surprised that The Witness did not give advance publicity to the Auld Kirk plaque unveiling. The local committee understood that all publicity was to be forwarded by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board to this newspaper and hesitated to give any information. The publicity from the Board only reached this office yesterday.

Many thanks to the fine Scotch Settlement people who so promptly co-operated in order that so much history of their district appear in this week's issue. It is wonderful that so much can be accomplished when all lend their assistance.