

# CLERKS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



# MANITOBA

## CLERKS OF THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND YEARS OF SERVICE

### Frederick Edward Molyneux St. John

**March 10, 1871 – June 30, 1874**



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

Born in Newcastle, England in 1838. Served in the British military and came to Canada in 1868. He joined the Toronto Globe and accompanied the Wolseley expedition to Red River, and took up residence in Manitoba. St. John became the first Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in 1871. He had a further career in journalism and served as the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod for two years in Ottawa.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

### Rice Meredith Howard

**July 1, 1874 – December 5, 1876**



No known photo

Originally from Montreal, entered the practice of law and moved to Manitoba in 1871. He served as the first Registrar for the County of Marquette and entered into a law partnership with J.M. MacDonnell. Howard served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and served simultaneously as Clerk of the Executive Council in 1879.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

### Thomas Spence

**December 5, 1876 – February 26, 1885**

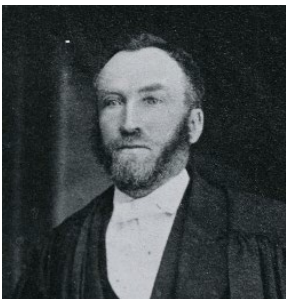


Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland 1832. Spence came to Canada in 1862 with a party of engineers to erect forts. He practiced law in Red River from 1866. He established the Republic of Manitobah, which did not receive recognition as a government. Appointment as Clerk came in 1876, and he had subsequent careers as a census commissioner and an immigration agent.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

## Charles Aldborough Sadleir



Photo courtesy of Andres Menar and the Trevor Jackson family

## February 27, 1885 – January 29, 1890

Born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1860. Sadleir was a stenographer and chief clerk for Canada Life Insurance Company and was the Private Secretary to E. P. Leacock, MPP. He came to Manitoba in 1882 and served as Secretary-Treasurer for both the County Council of Selkirk and the Eastern Judicial District Board. Sadleir was appointed as Clerk of the Executive Council in 1884, and simultaneously also held the position of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 1885. He resigned the positions to become a Minister and a Missionary in Chile.

Source: Robertson's Political Manual of Manitoba 1887, and Andres Menar and the Trevor Jackson family

## Elias George Conklin



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

## January 29, 1890 – 1900

Born in Paris, Canada West in 1845. He came to Manitoba in 1874. Served as Assistant Paymaster with the C.P.R. Construction Department, and formed the realty estate agency Conklin and Fortune with Mark Fortune. Served as an Alderman and later as Mayor in Winnipeg, elected as the MLA for Winnipeg North in 1883 but was not re-elected in 1886. Conklin became Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 1890.

Source: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba compiled by the Manitoba Library Association

## A.H. Corelli



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

## March 15, 1900 – 1915

Born in Belgium in 1856. Served in the British Military in the Artillery Company, and came to Manitoba in 1882. Farmed for a time, and came to work at the Legislative Assembly. Appointed as Clerk in 1900, and resigned the position in 1915 to serve in WWI in the position of Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General under General Sam Steele, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Retired after returning from the War.

Source: David Walser, Grandson

## John William Fleming



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

**September 1, 1915 – 1918 and January 9, 1926 – November 10, 1928**

Born in New Brunswick in 1868. Moved to Brandon in 1881. Managed the drug store owned by his family. Fleming was a founding member of the Manitoba Association of Optometrists. He served as an Alderman and Mayor in Brandon. He was the first President of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities. Fleming served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly twice.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

## Arthur Willans Morley

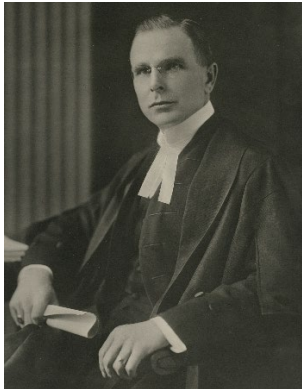


Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

**January 14, 1919 -1925**

Born in Huntsville, Ontario in 1880. He moved to Winnipeg and practised law in 1904. During the First World War Morley served as the Commanding Officer with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (Little Black Devils) 90<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and organized the 144<sup>th</sup> regiment for overseas duty. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For his service, he received the Military Cross, the Victorian Decoration and the First Contingent Medal. He was a member of many clubs including the Rotary Club, the Khartum Temple, the Canadian Club, the Empire Club, the IOOF, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and the Royal Commonwealth Society. Morley Avenue in Winnipeg received its name in his honour.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

## Harry H. Dunwoody



Photo courtesy of the Dunwoody family

**January 1930 – 1951**

Born in 1886. He practiced law in Winnipeg. Dunwoody became Acting Clerk in January 1929 and he subsequently served as Clerk from January 1930 to 1951. He also served as Justice of the Peace for the City of St. James from 1954 to 1959.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

## Alfred Jean Charland Prud'Homme



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

**June 1, 1951 – February 15, 1973**

Born in St. Boniface in 1904. He was called to the Bar and joined the Manitoba Civil Service. Prud'homme served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and as Chief Electoral Officer. Community service included participation on the Manitoba School Divisions Boundary Commission and involvement with numerous community organizations. He also served as a Trustee of the St. Boniface Cathedral Parish, President of l'Association des Anciens du College de St. Boniface and as a member of the Board of l'Association d'Education des franco-manitobains. He received the Manitoba Centennial Medal in 1970.

Source: Manitoba Historical Society

## Jack Ross Reeves



Photo courtesy of Archives of Manitoba

**February 15, 1973 – May 27, 1982**

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1919. He served 21 years in the Canadian Military. Served as the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from 1963-1973. Also served as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer from 1968 to 1971 and Chief Electoral Officer from 1971 to 1980. Reeves served as the Clerk from 1973 until his untimely passing in 1982. The Manitoba Legislative Assembly debated and adopted a motion of condolence in his memory, a tribute usually reserved for former MLAs.

Source: Manitoba Hansard June 1, 1982 pp. 2889-2893

## William Henry (Binx) Remnant



Photo courtesy of the Clerk's Office

**November 12, 1982 – December 23, 1999**

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1927 Binx Remnant worked for CIBC and CP Air in his early career. He went on to work for the federal Department of Northern Affairs in Manitoba, Quebec and Ottawa before joining the government of the Northwest Territories in the early 1960s. Binx first began work with the Northwest Territories Council in 1963, when it was composed of five appointed and four elected members and was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, who also served as Commissioner of the NWT. He became the first Clerk of the Northwest Territories Legislature in 1966, a position he held for 17 years. Binx relocated to Winnipeg in 1983 upon his appointment as Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, making him the only individual to serve as a head Clerk in two separate Canadian jurisdictions. Upon his retirement, the Assembly granted Binx the special honour of permanent access to the Loges in the Assembly Chamber during session, a

privilege previously only granted to former and current MLAs. In 2004, he was the first non-MLA to become an honorary Member of the Manitoba Association of Former MLAs. In 2012, Binx received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

## **Patricia Chaychuk**



### **January 10, 2000 to August 25, 2023**

Raised in Thompson, Manitoba Patricia Chaychuk's impressive career at the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba includes two unique and significant accomplishments; serving as the first woman appointed as Clerk of the Assembly, and being the longest-serving Clerk in the history of the Assembly with a tenure of 23 and a half years. Patricia first served the Assembly as Clerk Assistant/Clerk of Committees from 1989 to 2000. She undertook a training secondment with the Table Research Branch, House of Commons in 1992/1993. Her previous experience includes serving as a Manitoba Legislative Intern and as a former Premier and Speaker of the Manitoba Youth Parliament. She was a Past President of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, a Past President of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group and Past Chair of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Parliamentary Review. She was also a Member of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATT) and was the Canadian Representative on the SOCATT Advisory Committee. The University of Manitoba Faculty of Arts selected her as Distinguished Alumnus in 2000. She received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Manitoba Youth Parliament in 2004 and honoured as a Trailblazer of the first 100 Years of Women of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in 2018.

## Rick Yarish



## November 10, 2023 to Present

Born in Brandon, Manitoba in 1965, Rick Yarish earned a Master's Degree in History from the University of Winnipeg in 1994. After working as a Research Analyst and team leader for a private research company, he was hired as a Clerk Assistant / Clerk of Committees with the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in April 2000. Rick served in that challenging role until April 2011, when he was promoted to Deputy Clerk. Rick's 12-year tenure as Deputy Clerk included implementing many improvements at the Assembly while also overcoming many challenges, most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when he led the team of talented Assembly staff who assembled the virtual infrastructure that seamlessly became part of the operations of this Legislature. Rick believes deeply in democracy and was unwavering in his certainty that during those unprecedented times the Assembly must continue to function and the public should be able to see their elected officials working hard for them, even if they could not be in the building. This infrastructure and the ability for the Assembly to sit virtually was later adopted as a permanent provision in the Assembly rules in 2024. Rick has represented Manitoba across the Commonwealth and beyond at various parliamentary association meetings and conferences around the world. He is well-respected within the Legislative Clerk community, and served four years on the Executive of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. Rick became interim Clerk of the Assembly on August 28, 2023, before being appointed as Clerk on November 23, 2023 after the Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution affirming his appointment. As a senior leader in the Assembly, Rick remains committed to excellence, innovation, diligence and inclusion. In addition to his career in the Legislature Rick is also an active songwriter and musician.