

*Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers
of living water. John 7:38*

In March 1837, Mary Longley Riggs (1813-1869) and her new husband, Presbyterian minister Stephen Return Riggs (1812-1883), set out from Massachusetts to take up their new posts as missionaries to the Dakota Indians. After a three month journey to Fort Snelling, in present day St. Paul, Minnesota, and a summer at the mission station on the banks of Lake Harriet, they headed almost due west to their new home at the Lac qui Parle Mission.

Stephen and Mary arrived two years after the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions established this far western missionary outpost and a year after the organization of a Presbyterian church there with seven native members. Mary described their first Sabbath at Lac qui Parle in a September 1837 letter to her mother:

Yesterday was the Sabbath & such a Sabbath as I never before enjoyed. Although the day was cold & stormy, & much like November, 25 Indians & part Indians assembled at eleven A.M. in our school room for public worship. Excepting prayer, all of the exercises were in Dakota & French, & most of them in the former. Could you have seen these Indians kneel with stillness & order during prayer, & rise & engage in singing hymns in their own tongue lead by one of their own tribe, your heart would have been touched.

Stephen and Mary Riggs spent the rest of their lives in Christian service to the Indians of the western plains.

P


The Presbyterian Historical Society provides resources for Heritage Sunday, a day set aside by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to celebrate and learn more about the rich history of Presbyterianism in America. Presbyterian Heritage Sunday materials are provided copyright-free by the Presbyterian Historical Society for the churches of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Additional resources for Heritage Sunday are available on our website at:
www.history.pcusa.org

PHS 2010

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

MODEL
FIRST READER.
WAYAWA TOKAHEYA.



PREPARED
IN
ENGLISH-DAKOTA.
By S. R. RIGGS, LL. D.
CHICAGO:
Geo. SHERWOOD & Co.
PRINTED AT THE LAKESIDE PRESS, CHICAGO.