

Quiet Reformers: The Legacy of Early Victoria's Bishop Edward and Mary Cridge

By Ian Macdonald, Betty O'Keefe

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This lively biography of Bishop Edward Cridge and his wife Mary paints a vivid picture of early Victoria as it developed from an isolated Hudson's Bay Company post into the bustling capital of British Columbia. Recruited from England by Governor James Douglas in 1854 to be the Church of England chaplain of Fort Victoria, Edward Cridge became an important figure in the spiritual life of the city as the rector of Christ Church. The Cridges also became two of Victoria's foremost social reformers, leaving an indelible mark on British Columbia's social institutions. Living through the terrible smallpox and black measles epidemics, the latter taking four of their own children, the inseparable pair worked to create the first hospital, beginning with a few beds in a rented cottage and living to see it transformed into the Royal Jubilee. As the first superintendent of education, Cridge played an essential role in B.C.'s early school system. When abandoned children were left at the parsonage door, Mary created Victoria's first orphanage. The biography also tells of Cridge's very public argument with Bishop Hills, a dispute that caused him to break with the Church of England to found and build the Church of Our Lord, a Reformed Episcopal church, which is today an historic Victoria landmark. Included also are cameos by many of the notable people of the day, such as Emily Carr, who as a young girl lived opposite the Cridge family.He was labelled a renegade by some and walked away from his beloved Church of England after a disagreement with his bishop over the style of worship. He then established the Church of Our Lord in Victoria. It remains a fascinating heritage building in the centre of the capital. In the history of those who were tried and tested in Victoria's pioneering era, none gave more of themselves than Edward and Mary Cridge.

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- Sales Rank: #3051577 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-09-01
- Released on: 2010-09-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Ian Macdonald was born and educated in Glasgow. After immigrating to Canada, he worked as a reporter and was Ottawa correspondent for the *Sun* for five years before becoming press officer for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. He made an award -winning documentary film, and then turned seriously to the writing of history.

Betty O'Keefe was born in Vancouver and wrote for the *Province* newspaper for several years. She then moved into public relations. In 1988 she opened her own communications company, but decided that her real interest was in writing history. Together, Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald have co- authored eleven books.

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