

**NORTHCOTE****UNIT NUMBER:****DISTRICT:** CUMBERLAND (1875-1877)  
RED RIVER (1877-1878)**AREA OF SERVICE:** SASKATCHEWAN RIVER (1874-1886)

Named for Sir Stafford Northcote, Governor, Hudson's Bay Company

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Stern paddlewheel steamer; 2 decks, carvel built.

Construction: Wood galleries and framework.  
 Designer and builder: Captain J. Reeves supervised building, shipwrights from St. Paul (McCarthy, "*Steamboats...*").  
 Dimensions: Length - 150'; width - 28.5'; depth - 4.5'.  
 Number of passengers: 50 (after renovation); Number of crew:  
 Specifications: 1875 (D.20/2, fo. 61-61d.)  
 Plans: 1877 (D.20/8, fo. 224, siphon pump); 1881 (D.20/19, fo. 247, cabin).  
 Power: Two horizontal high-pressure engines, C. Dumont, Cincinnati, 1872 (39 h.p.)  
 Registered: British Registry Certificate #74028 (SF: *Ships-Northcote*).  
 Tonnage: 164.94 tons below decks; gross-461.34 tons; registered-290.65 tons.

**HISTORY:**

1873-1874 New steamer for Saskatchewan River under construction using the engines of the *Saskatchewan* which was wrecked in August 1873 (D.13/1, fo. 13-14).  
 1874, 1 August New steamer launched at Grand Rapids (D.13/1, fo. 52-53, 60-61; SF: "*Ships - Northcote*").  
 1874-1882 In service (A.1/184, fos. 153d, 196d; A.1/185, fo. 75d).  
 1882, 18 July Sold to Winnipeg & Western Transportation Co. for \$25,000 (F.41/2)  
 1883 Struck a rock and required repairs at Fort Pitt (McCarthy)  
 1884 Sank at Medicine Hat, refloated and berthed for winter (McCarthy)  
 1885 Used as troop ship at Batoche during Riel Rebellion (McCarthy)  
 1886 Stopped on a bar (A.1/186, fo. 42d).  
 1888 Out of service at Cumberland House (A.1/187, fo. 48d).  
 1899 Declared hazard to children and burnt by local residents (McCarthy)

**MASTERS:**

1874-1877 Frank Aymond B.235/k/1, fo.13d, 22d; B.239/g/116-118; D.13/2, fo.194  
 1877-ca. 1880 John Griggs B.235/k/1, fo.49, 62, 75; D.14/16  
 1881 Jerry Webber B.235/k/1, fo.87

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Martha McCarthy, "*Steamboats in Manitoba 1859-96*", Unpublished manuscript, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Historic Resources Branch, Winnipeg, 1986  
 H.M.S. Cotter, "*The Steamer Northcote*", *The Beaver*, September 1931, p. 287-288  
 A.J. Dalrymple, "*Old Saskatchewan Steamboats*", *The Beaver*, June 1943, pp. 41-43  
 Bruce Peel, "*First Steamboats on the Saskatchewan*", *The Beaver*, Autumn 1964, pp. 16-21  
 Bruce Peel, "*Steamboats on the Saskatchewan*", Saskatoon: Prairie Books, 1972. 238 pp.: ill., maps.

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:**

1987/363-N-21 and others

**REFERENCES:**

F.40/1, 2b Cargo Book, 1886  
 Inventory, 1890  
 F.41/2 Miscellaneous, 1875-1883, includes Certificate of British Registry, 1878.  
 Search File: "*Ships - Northcote*"

**MICROFILM REELS:**

Filename: Northcote February 1988/JHB:wg (Revised April 1988/JHB; January 1990/AM: July 1991/JHB); April/99/mhd