

**M** eet William Hall Moreland, the intrepid missionary bishop of Northern California, equally at home in a saddle, an Indian canoe, an automobile or an aeroplane....

Meet Father Fred Crook, too frail, he said, to live on the tempestuous coast but game to brave the arduous stage-coach ride over the mountains once a month, or to hazard his toupee on the pitching deck of the lumber steamer....

Meet Jack Weller, who with his vivacious wife Helen anchored a congregation, built a beautiful redwood church, lost two children—and harbored a tragic secret....

Meet Father Richard Larsen, the strapping Nordic priest whose devotion to God and his isolated parish was equaled only by his commitment to his widowed mother and his maiden aunt....

Meet these and other colorful characters—logging tycoons and mill-hands, artists and undertakers, merchants and ranchers, wives and career-women, bishops and priests—whose complex human stories flesh out the centennial history of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Fort Bragg, California.

“Implausibly enough,” writes author David Ollier Weber, “events in the life of this one small, remote Episcopal congregation on the Mendocino Coast illustrate all the themes—cultural, social and economic—that have shaped the Anglican Church in Northern California, in the United States and in the world.”

**David Ollier Weber** lives in Mendocino County, California. He is an award-winning journalist and the author of a history of Oakland, California, *Oakland: Hub of the West*, and of the novel *Vanity*.

*Cover: Palo Sunday, April 9, 1911. “Practically the entire church-going population of the town”—more than three hundred people—attended the formal dedication of the new St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Fort Bragg.*

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