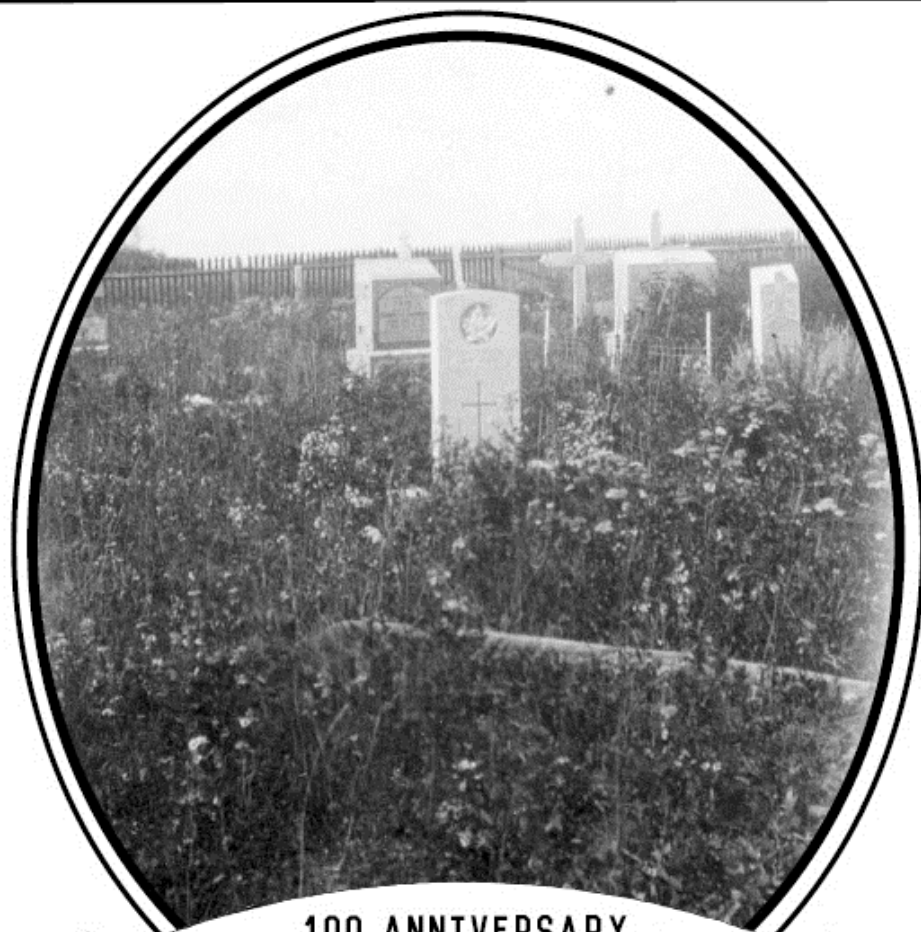


THE MANDATE OF SPRA IS TO GATHER, PRESERVE, AND SHARE THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF MUNICIPALITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE REGION. BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THESE RECORDS REFLECT THE PERSONAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE SOUTH PEACE RIVER COUNTRY OF ALBERTA AND ARE IN ALL FORMATS AND MEDIA, INCLUDING TEXTUAL RECORDS, MAPS, PLANS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES, FILM, VIDEO, SOUND RECORDINGS, ETC.

SELF-GUIDED

HISTORICAL

# CEMETERY WALKING TOUR



PRODUCED BY  
SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

ESTABLISHED IN 2000, THE FIRST

Introduction

For several years, South Peace Regional Archives has run historical walking tours of cemeteries around the South Peace. This booklet features the text of the special 100th Anniversary tour conducted in the Grande Prairie Cemetery (84 Avenue and 112 Street).

The full tour takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. It may be done in sections over several visits, out of order, or skipping some stops. A map in the centrefold shows the location of each stop.

The Grande Prairie Cemetery has two sections, East (new) and West (old). This tour covers selected graves in both sections (see map in centrefold), highlighting a few of the people who have contributed to the development of Grande Prairie and telling the history of the City through the lives of its citizens. As you walk and read, look for connections between the people on the tour. It is interesting to note how often they were involved in each others’ lives.

We hope you enjoy learning more about the people and events that have made this community what it is today. If you have any questions, please contact or visit us.

South Peace Regional Archives  
Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB  
T8V 3A8  
Telephone: 780-830-5105  
E-mail: [spra@telus.net](mailto:spra@telus.net)  
[www.southpeacearchives.org](http://www.southpeacearchives.org)

The purpose of SPRA is to gather, preserve, and share with the public records in any format which reflect the history of the area.

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Preserving and Sharing the Past

Stop 1 - Mission Cemetery (Mission Monument)

St. Vincent’s Roman Catholic Mission was located on the west bank of Bear Creek, west of what became the townsite of Grande Prairie. The Mission was one of the only buildings that greeted new settlers in 1911. The mission house, which served as both residence and chapel, was originally built in 1896 on the shores of Lake Saskatoon, but in 1908 it was moved to the banks of Bear Creek. A church, the first church in the Grande Prairie District, was built in 1909. The Mission Cemetery operated from about 1909 to 1922. Around 1919 or 1920, the mission burned down and it was decided to build a church and rectory within the town of Grande Prairie.

This monument was erected in 1996 and lists the names of those previously buried in the Mission Cemetery. In the early 1960s, the cemetery had to be moved due to erosion along the banks of Bear Creek, including the area occupied by the Mission Cemetery. The City approved the transfer of the graves in the Mission Cemetery in 1964 and the actual transfer was completed by the end of September 1966.



Left, a woman on horseback at Grande Prairie’s Catholic church and cemetery, ca. 1909. SPRA 0024.01.09.01. Below left, St. Vincent’s Catholic Mission on the west side of Bear Creek, approximately ½ mile south of the road to Lake Saskatoon, ca. 1907. SPRA 1998.08.04. Below, several headstones are visible at St. Vincent’s Mission Cemetery, ca. 1920. SPRA 252.01.03.





Stop 2 - Eugene Michael Cashman (Mission Monument)

One of the names on the Mission monument is Eugene Michael Cashman. Originally from Massachusetts, born in 1873, Mr. Cashman was a freight contractor for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway construction company near Prince Rupert before arriving in Grande Prairie in November 1914. He filed on a homestead in the area.

Mr. Cashman was hired in March 1917 as the village “Scavenger and Sanitary Inspector” and nuisance grounds provider. The newspaper account of the time notes that he had previously served in the health department of British Columbia. In 1918, when Mr. Cashman stated that he was unwilling to continue under the old agreement, which appears to have been pay directly from the village residents, Council made him an official of the village with a salary of \$100/month January to April and \$150/month thereafter. His position was renamed “Health Inspector and Scavenger.”

Mr. Cashman died July 26, 1921 from general peritonitis, after a brief and unexpected illness, and was buried in the Mission cemetery, as he was a Catholic.

Excerpt  
from the  
March  
13, 1917  
Grande  
Prairie  
Herald.

The members of the council realize that no longer is the town of Grande Prairie a stopping and feeding place only, but the coming metropolis of the Grande Prairie district. Already the growth of the residential districts has surpassed all expectations. They believe that where more than one or two are gathered together, there is almost certain to be the usual amount of refuse. The health of the community is an important factor in the up-building of any village, town or city, and the council have decided that now is the time to prepare for warm weather and take the usual precautions. At the last meeting Eugene Cashman was appointed health officer and scavenger. Mr. Cashman has had a wide experience in this line, having served in the health department of the British Columbia government, where the laws regarding sanitation effect the whole province.

Stop 3 - Flying Shot Lake Cemetery (FSL Cemetery Monument)

This is the oldest and original part of the cemetery. It is also known as the Flying Shot Lake Cemetery, as it is considered to be in the Flying Shot Lake district. Before this cemetery existed, all burials, Catholic and Protestant, were done in the Catholic mission cemetery. Although a Presbyterian church was erected almost right away, plans for a cemetery were delayed. Rev. Forbes, the Presbyterian minister, claimed that before June 1913, there was “no immediate need”. However, when a stranger died on the trail and there was no good place to bury him, the need became apparent. The Presbyterians applied to the government for a grant of land to use as a cemetery and the Department of the Interior granted their request in the spring of 1914.

The first burial here was Arthur Weldon Hamilton, owner of a large feed barn and the first village poundkeeper. Mr. Hamilton died in the fire that destroyed his barn in November 1914. Unfortunately, Mr. Hamilton’s grave is no longer marked.

In recent years, a memorial stone has since been erected to mark the old section of the cemetery. It is on an angle to line up with the orientation of the graves.



An aerial view of the Grande Prairie Cemetery in 1974, looking east. Some of the oldest monuments are visible in this photograph. SPRA 190.02.01.0285.01.

Stop 4 - Flu Epidemic (Flying Shot Lake Cemetery, open area)

There is a large open area in the middle of the Flying Shot Lake cemetery. This is the resting place of several victims of the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. The original wooden markers have unfortunately disintegrated and rotted away.

The Spanish flu originated not in Spain but in an American army camp in Kansas. It traveled with the troops to Europe and home again, turning into a pandemic that killed an estimated 3% of the total world population. In November 1918 alone, about three-dozen local people died of the flu. The Immigration Hall was taken over by the Board of Health and used as an isolation hospital and people were required to wear a face mask; non-compliants were fined \$50. Another flu hospital was set up at Lake Saskatoon.

By mid-December the epidemic seemed to be over, but the relief was short-lived as a new wave arrived in January 1919.

The local undertaker, J. B. Oliver (stop 6 on this tour) went away to war in August 1918. Unfortunately, the man he left in charge succumbed to the flu almost immediately. Local hotel owner Frank Donald (stop 17) stepped into the gap. Because the ground was too hard here, a new flu cemetery was opened near Bear Creek where the ground is sandy and easier to dig. This site is located on the east side of Resources Road,



Above, Grande Prairie Immigration Hall, erected about 1917, at approximately east 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 98<sup>th</sup> Street. SPRA 2001.01.063.



Above and right, Bear Creek Cemetery, 1982, located in the sandy dunes north of the creek. SPRA 050.08.04.103-.104.



just outside of the City (approximately opposite the Wedgewood neighbourhood), although there are very few graves left at that location as many of the bodies were later relocated to the Flying Shot Lake Cemetery. Other flu victims were buried in the Mission cemetery and their names appear on the Mission Cemetery Monument (stop 1).

# Stop 5 - Agnes Sorrel Forbes (Old-10)

Agnes Sorrel was born September 17, 1850 in Montrose, Scotland. She was one of eight children. Agnes became interested in mission work after two of her siblings died of diphtheria and by 1891 she was the matron at the Home for Girls in Aberdeen. She became engaged to Alexander Forbes who was the Presbyterian Minister there.

Agnes and Alexander came to Canada, were married in Edmonton, and did missionary work in Fort Saskatchewan for fifteen years. They came to the Peace country in 1909 to survey the feasibility of sending a missionary and in 1910, in the absence of any other volunteers, decided to serve the area themselves. She was 60 years old that year and her husband turning 50.

The Forbes first lived in shack provided by the Cliffords on their homestead. Agnes was instrumental in conducting Sunday School and establishing the Women’s Missionary Society, as well as working with Maud Clifford and Nurse Baird in establishing a small pioneer hospital. In the fall of 1910, Alexander filed on a homestead bordered by 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 100<sup>th</sup> Street, 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 96<sup>th</sup> Street today. The first building on the homestead was the pioneer hospital, built in 1911. The Forbes later built an adjoining home, which has been restored by the Grande Prairie Museum and can be visited today.



*Left, I. V. Macklin, Rev. Forbes, Maud Clifford, and Agnes Forbes with a converted caboose in the background, ca. 1911. SPRA 108.06. Below, Alexander and Agnes Forbes in front of the Presbyterian Manse in Grande Prairie. Nurse Baird is visible in the window. SPRA 2001.01.213.*



Agnes was known to be a very sociable and accommodated many visitors and many requests for help. In 1914 she helped lay the cornerstone of the Kathryn Prittie Hospital, which was built on the Forbes homestead near the railroad tracks, approximately the same location where every hospital since that time has been built. Agnes died in her sleep in 1917.

Alexander remarried in 1921 and returned to the east in 1925 after the vote for church union. He died in 1945 in Ontario and was buried there.

# Stop 6 - James Bowes Oliver (24-41)

James Bowes Oliver was born in Ontario in 1888. He did various kinds of work in Alberta and British Columbia before journeying to the Peace River country by car in March 1914 with three friends. However, they only went as far as Peace River and the Shaftsbury Settlement, not to Grande Prairie. In spring 1915, Oliver journeyed north again, working for awhile in Watino at the Crummy store there. When the Crummy brothers’ (stop 18) first store opened in Grande Prairie, Oliver moved here.

In 1915, he started a furniture store and funeral home. The story goes that his real focus was to be the furniture business, but because he had the only flat-bed vehicle in the community, he also became involved in the funeral business and the transportation of patients to the hospital.

Oliver joined the army in 1918, during the First World War, and served overseas until after the Armistice was signed in November, which caused difficulties when the flu epidemic passed through the area in 1918-1919. In fact, the village council even petitioned the military to release Oliver from the service as he was needed to help bury the dead at home. However, Oliver did not return to



*J. B. Oliver’s Store on Richmond Avenue, west of the intersection with 100<sup>th</sup> Street, ca. 1929. SPRA 2001.01.117.*

Grande Prairie until June 1919, having spent some time in Ontario learning stone cutting. He married Ann Partlow in March 1920 and bought a farm not far from Grande Prairie.

In the early 1950s, the funeral business opened its own location on 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue separate from the furniture store. Oliver’s son-in-law Laurie Little joined the business in 1952, becoming a partner 10 years later. The funeral home and ambulance service shared transportation for many years until 1961 when a van was bought for ambulance use only.

Outside of his business interests, Oliver was involved in community life in other ways, serving on the Grande Prairie School Board, United Church Board of Managers, as a member and one-time president of the Grande Prairie and District Old-Timers’ Association, and as the first Master of the first Masonic Lodge in Grande Prairie. Look for the Masonic symbol on his headstone. J. B. Oliver died in 1967 and is buried beside his wife and infant son. He was survived by four daughters. There is still a local funeral home called Oliver’s, although it is no longer owned by the Oliver family.



*Left to right, J. Percy Page, J. B. Oliver, and I. V. Macklin at an Old-Timers’ Picnic, 1960. SPRA 0032.08.08.0568.*



## Stop 7 - John Orlando Patterson (25-28)

John Orlando Patterson is buried between his two wives, Ella and Louisa, in the Masonic plot. He was born in Kemptville, Ontario in 1888. The family later moved to Smith Falls, where John met and married Ella in 1909. John and his parents, Alphaeus and Eliza, and their family moved west and settled in Strathcona where J.O. was employed for a time in the C.P.R. freight department.



Above, Grande Prairie's first post office being run out of the Patterson caboose, far left, in 1911. J. O. Patterson is seen standing in the centre. SPRA 2001.01.209. Below, Patterson & Son Store and livery barn, 1911. Constructed to face east on the northwest corner of today's 100<sup>th</sup> Street and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue. SPRA 2001. 01.204.



Alphaeus was the first president of the Argonaut Co., the development company that founded the Grande Prairie townsite, and was interested in setting up a store and post office in Grande Prairie with his son. J. O. and Ella were the first of many family members to make the trip north, travelling by the Long Trail to Grande Prairie in the winter of 1911. This trip took 30 days of travel, not counting rests, and, as the name implies, was a long, circuitous route via Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Grouard, Peace River, and Spirit River.

The Pattersons homesteaded on the west side of Bear Creek and opened a post office in the caboose they had used to travel to Grande Prairie. A joint store/post office building, the Patterson & Son Store, was erected soon afterward. The building also housed a branch of the Union Bank of Canada and had living quarters on the second floor. In 1914 J. O. Patterson was made Assistant Post Office Inspector with responsibility for the whole Peace River country east to High Prairie. He held this position and that of postmaster of Grande Prairie until 1919 when he decided to become a farmer.

John continued to be involved in various commercial interests in the Grande Prairie area as well as the Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Grande Prairie School Board, Town Council, the Northern Development Commission, and the MacGregor Commission.

Ella was also involved in the community as a member of the Forbes Presbyterian Church Ladies' Missionary Society, Grande Prairie Women's Institute, and the Aurora Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

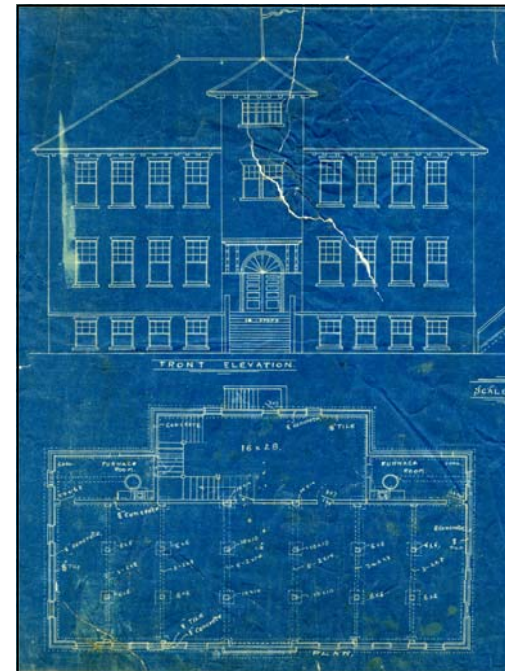
Ella and John had two sons and one daughter. Another daughter, had died in infancy before the trip north. Ella died in 1954 after a long illness and John later married Louisa Flood. Louisa died in 1970 followed by John in 1971. Today the Patterson name is scattered around town in various places. The Patterson neighbourhood is named after this Patterson as it was the location of his farm.

## Stop 8 - Charles Spencer (25-58)

Charles E. Spencer was born in England in 1867. By 1901, he was living in Southampton and working as a builder and joiner. At the age of 37, he immigrated to Canada and filed on a homestead in Moose Jaw. By 1909 he was living in Edmonton and became a partner in the Argonaut Company.

The Argonaut Co. Ltd., composed of a group of Edmonton businessmen, was established in 1909 at the encouragement of W.A. Rae. In 1908, Rae had made a trip to the grande prairie with his wife and son, and was impressed with the agricultural and commercial potential of the area. He sold the idea of developing a townsite on Bear Creek to a group of investors, including the Pattersons (stop 7) and Charles Spencer. The group opened their headquarters on Jasper Avenue in Edmonton and in 1909 they purchased 80 acres of land along the CNR Railway Survey. They named the townsite "Grande Prairie City".

As a partner in the Argonauts, Mr. Spencer was one of Grande Prairie's first real estate agents. He bought and sold land and rented out a series of "cottages" and an office block. He also formed a partnership with Neil Campbell, another Argonaut, and



Portion of a blueprint for Montrose School, 1917. SPRA 356.02.02.

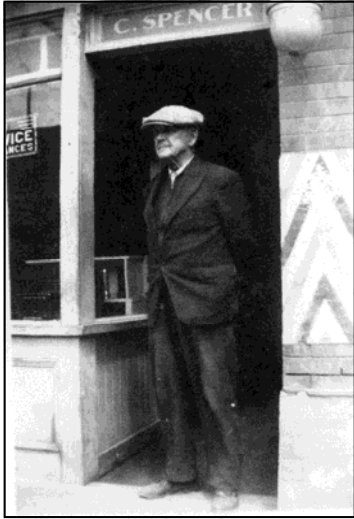


Above, the Argonaut Company building in Grande Prairie, 1917. SPRA 356.03.10. Below, a building permit issued to Charles Spencer. SPRA fonds 356.



once again was in the building trade. Charles Spencer designed and/or built many of Grande Prairie's early public buildings: the first school in 1915; the large brick Montrose School in 1917; the Grande Prairie Hotel in 1917; the Spencer Block in 1919; the first Town Hall, which also included the Fire Hall, in 1920; the new Grande Prairie High School in 1929; and the Donald Hotel in 1937. When the building trade slowed during the 1930s, he traveled around the south Peace building stockyards and loading platforms for the Grande Prairie Cooperative Livestock Association.

It was out of the Spencer Block that Mr. Spencer operated "Prairie City Agency," which sold all lines of fire insurance. An earlier business was the Grande



*Charles Spencer standing in the doorway of the Spencer Block, 1945. SPRA 2009.72.01.*

Prairie Electric Light Co., which he encouraged the ratepayers of the town to establish in 1917. They formed a company and sold shares, providing electrical service to the town until Canadian Utilities took over the franchise in 1929.

Besides being a partner in the Argonaut Company and a builder, Charles pursued a number of other interests. As early as 1917, he opened a lending library in the Donald Hotel, cooperating with the Extension Department at the University of Alberta to provide the best possible reading material. Although this library was not in operation long, Spencer continued to promote the need for a public library and was instrumental in forming the first Library Board, of which he was the first chair. He also continued to build his own collection, which was reputedly one of the most complete in the north. In 1952 he donated his own private collection of 2500 books to the public library.

Mr. Spencer was also a founding member of the Board of Trade, member of the Hospital Board, Chairman and/or Secretary-Treasurer of the Grande Prairie School District 2357, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of the Juvenile Court, and town councilor.

Mr. Spencer died on February 18, 1952, at the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital after a lengthy illness. As a mark of respect, all stores in the town closed for his funeral. The Spencer Block was purchased by the Army and Navy Department Store out of Edmonton, and the building razed. In 1955, Macleods was built on the site.

## Stop 9 - Thomas Wilson Lawlor (25-67)

Thomas Wilson Lawlor was born in 1890 in Killarney, Manitoba. He attended the University of Manitoba, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1914, then studied law at the University of Alberta. Between 1916 and 1919 his studies were interrupted when he joined the 196th University Battalion to serve with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps in France and later the Royal Air Force in Egypt during WWI.

Returning to Edmonton after the War, he completed his law degree in 1920, was admitted to the bar, and set up the first law practice in Spirit River. The following year, T. W. Lawlor married Sarah McCrimmon, R.N. She had been born in Calgary in 1902 and moved to Edmonton with her parents, where she graduated from the Royal Alexandra Hospital as a nurse in 1919.

The family moved to Grande Prairie in 1924 and Lawlor set up a law practice with J. H. Sissons, later taking over the practice of D. L. McPhee. By 1930, he had been appointed agent for the Attorney General of Alberta and was made a King's Counsellor in 1944. He held the post of crown counsel for the judicial district of Grande Prairie until ill health forced his resignation in 1958.

Mr. Lawlor was very community minded, being active in the United Church, the Masons, the Board of Trade, the Hospital Board, the Canadian Club, the Canadian Legion, and the School Board.

He became Mayor of Grande Prairie in 1939 and hosted an official visit from the Governor General, Lord Tweedsmuir, in August of that year, just before the declaration of war in September. He remained in office until 1943, caught up with



*T. W. Lawlor and Governor General Lord Tweedsmuir walking along the railway station boardwalk, 1939. SPRA 2000.30.06.*

changes brought about by the war effort, which included a Basic Training Army Base set up in the south end of the town and improvements to the town's airport, including an American Army Base, established as part of the Northwest Staging Route which ferried planes to Russia to contribute to the war effort. It was also during Lawlor's term of office that the town's library became a public library.

Mrs. Lawlor taught Sunday School, helped organize the first Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) camp in the Peace Country in 1923 and preschool and baby clinics.

The Lawlors had three daughters: Flora, Enid, and Agnes. T. W. Lawlor died in 1959 at the age of 68. Mrs. Lawlor moved to Vernon, B. C. in 1965 and died in 1978. She is not buried here.



*Grande Prairie Town Council, 1942-1943. Back, L to R: T. Blair, C. H. Graban, Robert Keys (Secretary-Treasurer), L. Kowensky. Front, L to R: G. H. Bishop, L. C. Porteus, T. W. Lawlor (Mayor), J. O. Watson. SPRA 460.96.*

## Stop 10 - William Crawford and Florence Pratt (25-75, 76)

William Crawford Pratt was born in Kemptville, Ontario in 1881. In 1901, he moved west, working for the Newcombe Piano Company, and in 1908 married Florence Patterson in Edmonton. Florence was also from Kemptville, born in 1884, and she and Will had known each other as children. The couple later moved to mining town of Stewart, B.C. When the town failed, taking most of their money with it, Florence's parents, the Alphaeus Pattersons, and brother J. O. Patterson (stop 7), invited them to come to Grande Prairie for a fresh start. William came over the Edson Trail in 1912.

Will, who had learned the printing trade at the age of 16 at the Kemptville Advance and had also worked for the Ottawa Citizen, decided to start a newspaper, The Grande Prairie Herald, the first newspaper in the Peace River



*W. C. Pratt, 1913. SPRA 1969.39.966.*



country. He brought a printing press up over the Edson Trail in February 1913, at the same time as bringing Florence and their son Garnet to Grande Prairie. When they arrived, a floor had already been built adjoining the Patterson and Son store, the press was installed, and the walls built around it! The first issue came out on Tuesday, March 25, 1913 and was published weekly. Mrs. Pratt did the bookkeeping and banking, corrected copy, and folded the papers, while Will acted as Editor and wrote. Occasionally supplies of paper were held up by bad weather and the Herald would be printed on whatever paper was available, which led to some interesting looking editions when coloured poster paper was used!

Although not farmers, the Pratts filed on a homestead south of town and built a home there. In 1915, the Pratts sold the newspaper business to the Oblinger brothers and Will entered into business as the Imperial Oil Agent and then as a warehouse distributor in wholesale flour. He was active on the Board of Trade and on the Christ Church Anglican vestry. When Grande Prairie became a town in 1919, Pratt also served a two-year term on the first elected council, newly expanded to seven members from three.



W. C. Pratt Wholesale from the 1920 Board of Trade booklet. SPRA 1969.55.01 page 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Pratt had three children: Garnet, George and Marion. Mr. Pratt passed away in December 1943. His funeral was held at Christ Church Anglican and all town businesses were closed during the service out of respect. Mrs. Pratt died in 1982.



Announcements in the first edition of the Grande Prairie Herald, March 25, 1913.



### Stop 11 - Dr. Andrew Murray and Jean Carlisle (01-42)

Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle was born in Peterborough, Ontario in 1896. He began medical training, but it was interrupted by WWI and in 1915 he became a stretcher bearer in the Second Division Canadian Army and spent three years in France. In 1918 he returned to Canada and completed his medical training.

In 1921 Dr. Carlisle received a telegram from his brother-in-law, Jack Archer in Lake Saskatoon, urgently requesting him to come north since their doctor had left the district after the death of his wife. Dr. Carlisle arrived by train with only \$10.00 in his pocket to pay for medical supplies and

Jean Carlisle with her children Mary Jean, David, and Jim on the steps of their Grande Prairie home, 1936. SPRA 399.01.04.

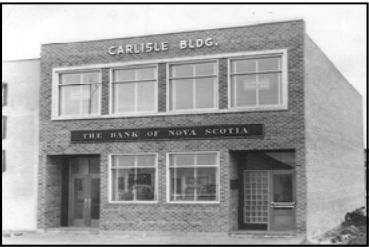


with calls already waiting. His brother, David, who had a homestead on the eastern shore of Saskatoon Lake, mortgaged his farm and lent him the money to buy a new 1921 Model T Ford.

In the summer of 1921, Murray met Jean Christina McFarlane, daughter of James McFarlane of Cutbank Lake Farm. James had originally come to the Peace country in 1910 to work with his brother, Walter McFarlane, and his survey crew. Both men decided to settle in the area. After the death of her mother, Jean was raised by aunts in Claremont, Ontario, although she spent her summers during university on her father's farm. Jean and Murray were married in 1923. The Doctor's office was part of their house and Jean had to double as nursing assistant and meal provider as patients often came from a distance. They briefly left the Peace Country when Dr. Carlisle accepted an internship at the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, but returned to Wembley in 1926, where they lived and worked for 10 years, during which time their three children Jim, Mary Jean, and David, were born.



Mrs. Pratt and Dr. Carlisle playing chess at a Wapiti River picnic, 1942. SPRA 399.01.53.



The Carlisle Building on the north side of Richmond Avenue, ca. 1945. The doctor's office was on the top floor. SPRA 2002.29.01.

As Dr. Carlisle had to travel to Grande Prairie nearly every day, the family eventually moved and built a new 2-story home across from Montrose School, which the children attended. Dr. Carlisle continued practicing in Grande Prairie for the next 21 years. Jean also participated in the community in many ways, including serving on the Grande Prairie School Board for 17 years.

In 1957, the Carlises retired to Victoria. Their children also moved away from Grande Prairie. Dr. Carlisle died in 1981 and Jean in 1986.

### Stop 12 - Dr. Louis and Edith Fredette (02-29, 30)

Louis Gilbert Fredette was born in 1878. Louis trained as a veterinary surgeon and practiced in Edmonton from 1907 to 1912, when he came to the Peace Country. Louis squatted on a quarter at Hudson's Hope and has the distinction of being one of the first people to settle there. He later moved to Peace River Crossing and finally Grande Prairie in 1918, setting up an office in the former government telegraph building. He only remained in Grande Prairie a few months before returning to Edmonton. However, by 1922, he was back.



Dr. L. Fredette, T. W. Lawlor (stop 9) and Mrs. Lawlor picnicking on the banks of a river, June 11, 1931. SPRA 2000.30.03.

Edith L. Hibbs was born in 1890. She trained as a registered nurse and served in the tent hospitals of Salonika, France, Egypt, and England during WWI. It was there that she met Dr. Lewis J. O'Brien, who came to Grande Prairie after the war. Learning from him that Grande Prairie's Katherine Prittie Hospital was in need of a matron, she decided to leave her job as matron of the Summerland, B. C. hospital and move to Grande Prairie in 1923. Conditions were primitive at that time at the small, log, pioneer hospital that had no running water and power and telephone that were shut off at midnight. In 1929 a new hospital was built with a larger capacity, improved facilities, and modern equipment. Edith continued in her old position becoming the first matron of the new hospital.

Also in 1929, Edith married veterinarian Dr. Louis Fredette and gave up her position as matron. They had a daughter, Hope. Louis died in 1950 and Edith died in 1964.

### Stop 13 - Evelyn McBryan (01-19)

Evy McBryan was born Evelyn Beatrice Hook in Somerset, England in 1911, the daughter of C. S. and Jessica Hook. Evelyn married Henry (Harry) Newton and the couple had one son, Stanley "Val" Newton. After Harry's death, Evy married William McBryan and the couple had one daughter.

Evy studied art under well-known local artist Euphemia McNaught, as well as at the Vancouver School of Art and in Europe. Mrs. McBryan played an important role in promoting and fostering visual arts, not only in the Peace Country but across the province. She organized the Grande Prairie Art Club out of her own home and was in charge of the arts division for the City of Grande



Evy McBryan conducts an art class, ca. 1966. SPRA 190.02.01.0099.01 (assumed commissioner, Evy McBryan).

Prairie Recreation Department. She also worked tirelessly to establish the Prairie Art Gallery.

Evy held her last exhibition at the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre in 1983. She passed away in Grande Prairie in 1985, at the age of 74.



The new Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital, shortly after completion in 1929. SPRA 1997.13.04.



Right, the Grande Prairie College Chemistry lab, later the first Prairie Art Gallery building. SPRA 192.05.04.01-1972a.

### Stop 14 - Billy Salmond (02-02)

William, better known as "Billy," McCausland Salmond was born in 1889, in Ontario. He received his education there, attending the Kingston Business College in 1910. After college, he worked his way west, arriving in the town of Grande Prairie in 1911.



Billy Salmond, ca. 1940. SPRA 043.01.03.

The first business in what later became Grande Prairie was George Breeden's blacksmith store and hotel, built around 1906. Originally only a one-room cabin, which served as kitchen, dining room, and sleeping quarters, Breeden later added a bunkhouse. Although primitive, stopping places such as these were welcome sights for the first settlers. At Breeden's meals were made using whatever was available and bedtime and rising time were set by the proprietor. During the summer, this meant that guests were up at 4 am!

Because of his genial manner and his cooking skills, Billy Salmond was hired as manager of the Breeden hotel – a position that also

included cooking, washing dishes, and housekeeping. A year later, Billy decided that better accommodations were needed in Grande Prairie and he built his own 2-story hotel at the southeast corner of 100th Avenue and 101st Street using lumber from the Argonaut Company mill.



Mainstreet Grande Prairie showing Salmond's Hotel, ca. 1914. SPRA 2005.06.04.

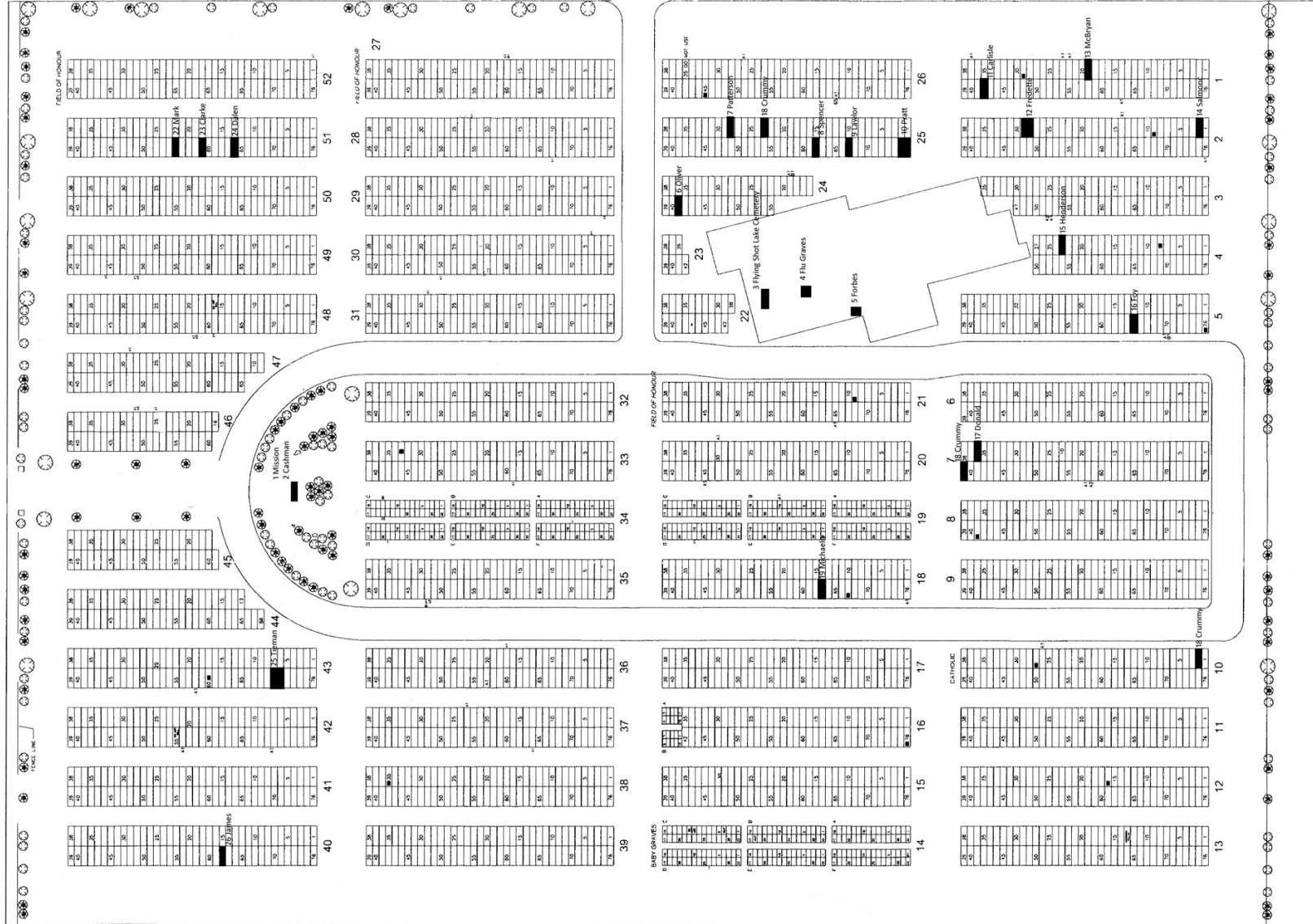


Salmond's Farm on the northwest corner of 100 Street and 116 Avenue, ca. 1940. SPRA 043.01.04.

There were 14 rooms on the top floor, with the office, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor. All meals were served at tables and the beds had real springs! Later, a livery stable was added at the back of the lot. This hotel burned down in 1919.

Mr. Salmond also farmed and kept herds of cattle in the Grande Prairie area. He had the reputation of being a good stockman and an enthusiastic athlete interested in many different sports. Billy remained a life-long bachelor. Other family members who came to the Peace Country included his sister, Mrs. George Head, and his parents. Mr. Salmond passed away in 1963.





THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE  
CEMETERY SUBDIVISION  
LOT 7-FLYING SHOT LAKE, T1P7J, R.S.W. OF 6 MER.



Scale: 1" = 100'  
Date: 10/10/10  
Drawn by: J. J. E. Clarke

- 1 Mission Cemetery
- 2 Eugene Cashman
- 3 Flying Shot Lake Cemetery
- 4 Flu Graves
- 5 Agnes Sorrell Forbes
- 6 James B Oliver
- 7 John Orlando Patterson
- 8 Charles Spencer
- 9 Thomas Wilson Lawlor
- 10 William & Florence Pratt
- 11 Dr. A M & Jean Carlisle
- 12 Dr. Louis & Edith Fredette
- 13 Evelyn McBryan
- 14 Billy Salmond
- 15 Henry Henderson
- 16 Elsworth Foy
- 17 Francis Michael Donald
- 18 Crummy Family
- 19 Rudolph Michaelis
- 20 J M (Jack) Mackie
- 21 John MacDonald
- 22 Joseph Mark
- 23 J J E Clarke
- 24 Knut Johansen Dalen
- 25 Bert & Miriam Tieman
- 26 Griffith Albert James

## Stop 15 - Henry Henderson (04-23)

Captain Henry Edward Henderson was born about 1859 in Nova Scotia. He was a sailor for a number of years as a boy and young man. In 1876, he left home and worked in Boston and New York for a couple of years before moving to Colorado, where his brother Robert was. The two worked as carpenters. Bob returned to Nova Scotia and married, while Henry built and ran ferries. In 1890, Henry travelled north to Alaska and by 1893 was on his way to the Yukon, following the route from Dyea that many of the Klondike Gold Rushers later took. Once in the Yukon, he took various jobs, mostly transporting goods and raw material on the rivers. Late that winter he made the long, hard trip back out and to Nova Scotia, where he married Jennie Grant in 1894. He stayed in Nova Scotia farming and fishing for the next four years and he and Jennie had two children: Isabel and Norman Robert. While there, he received a letter from his brother Bob describing a find of gold near the Klondike River. It was this 1896 strike that contributed to the famous Klondike Gold Rush of 1898.

Henry decided to return to the Yukon in the fall of 1897 and was part of that rush. Again, he worked various jobs and left the Yukon in the fall of 1898, returning to Nova Scotia and his family. In 1900 he went back to the Yukon and piloted scows from Lake Bennet to Dawson City and other places in the Yukon. Even through these dangerous waters, he had the enviable record of never losing a scow or wrecking a boat. In 1911 he got his captain's papers and ran various boats, finally leaving the Yukon for good in the fall of 1912. In 1914 Henry wrote a short book about his life in the Yukon.

Captain Henry came to the Peace Country in 1912 with John McAuley and W. L. Caldwell, fur and general businessmen; he had known McAuley in the Yukon. Henry homesteaded west of Grande Prairie, then later moved into town.

One of the first meetings of the Village Council authorized the Reeve to swear in a policeman to "keep order and perform such other duties as the Council shall advise." Mr. Henderson was appointed constable/first chief of police that same year. But at the first meeting of 1915, he was let go, not because he was doing a poor job, but because the Village was in such dire financial straits that they were unable to pay him. They were forced to later rehire him at the rate of \$1/day since it turned out that his services were necessary to enforce bylaws and ensure sanitary conditions within the city, but by June he was let go again, due to insufficient funds.

In 1915, after an unsuccessful attempt to join the 66<sup>th</sup> Battalion and go to war, he went into business, operating a small confectionary store on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, known as the "London War Office." The store carried cigars, cigarettes, fruit, magazines, newspapers, and home-made candies.

Captain Henry lived on the top story of the Empire Hotel and his foresight in ensuring the water buckets were always full



*North side of Richmond Avenue between 100 and 101 Street, showing the London War Office (striped awning) near the Selkirk Trading Co., 1915. The man under the awning has been tentatively identified as Henry Henderson. SPRA 460.028.*

and that each room was equipped with a long rope is credited with saving it from fire several times. He was also well known as a poker player and many games were held on the top floor of the Empire Hotel.

Henry died in December 1924 at the Grande Prairie Hospital. He was survived by his wife, son Norman, daughter Isabel, son-in-law Guy Wright, and two grandsons. Mrs. Henderson died in Edmonton in 1957 at the age of 91. Although his daughter was married in Grande Prairie in 1920 and remained here with her husband until 1923, it is unclear whether Henry's wife or son ever came to Grande Prairie.



*Richmond Avenue, Grande Prairie, ca. 1920, showing the Empire Hotel, second from left. SPRA 1994.28.02.*

## Stop 16 - Elsworth Foy (05-65)

Elsworth Foy was born in 1875 and raised on a farm in Ontario. His wife Florence was born in 1874, also in the East. The Foy's had three children: Helen, Mona, and Kenner.

Mr. Foy was teaching in Nanaimo, B. C., when he and two friends Fred Dixon and Dr. Lewis J. O'Brien, decided to go homesteading in the Peace River country. Dixon and Foy, leaving summer of 1911, were among the first to travel over the Edson Trail. The trip took 6 weeks from the time they left Edmonton. They filed on homesteads near the Beaverlodge River in the Appleton area and were joined by their families in the fall of 1911.

By 1914, Mr. Foy was again teaching, at the Halcourt School. In 1916, he was hired to be the first Principal of the Montrose School. Before the school itself was built in 1917, classes were held in rooms in separate buildings, with Mr. Foy teaching the senior grades. Montrose School was the first brick-faced school in the north and was designed by Charles Spencer (stop 8). It was



*Montrose School Grade 10 class with Mr. Foy (top), ca. 1922. SPRA 2014.041.035.*

located on Rev. Alexander Forbes' homestead where the Montrose Cultural Centre sits today. The name was taken from the name of Mrs. Forbes' (stop 5) hometown in Scotland.

Although he was the principal, Mr. Foy continued to teach grades 8 to 11 into the 1920s. Fred Dixon, with whom he had come into the Peace Country, was later



*Principal E. Foy and Conductor Mrs. F. Barber-Smith pose with the Grande Prairie High School Chorus, 1925. SPRA 0152.02.02.03.*



hired teach grades 11 and 12.

Mrs. Foy was involved in the life of the community teaching Sunday School and playing the organ at Christ Church Anglican, singing in Major Watts’ community choir, and as a member of the IODE. The Foys were also involved in the Old-Timers’ Association.

In 1927, the Foys moved to Sexsmith, where he became principal of the school and taught. In 1930, he moved to the Flying Shot district, still continuing to teach.

Elsworth Foy died very unexpectedly in December 1932 of heart failure. Florence died several years later in Edmonton, but is buried here.



Mrs. Foy with the Anglican women’s group, 1923. SPRA 1969.53.09.

Stop 17 - Frank Donald (07-36)

Francis Michael Donald was born in 1879 in Tottenham, Ontario. He moved to Winnipeg, where he married Della Marie, born in 1881. The couple moved to Edmonton, then Grande Prairie in 1918.

Frank Donald was a well-known community figure and successful businessman, especially as a hotel owner. In 1918, he bought the Grande Prairie Hotel, which had been built in 1917 by Charles Spencer (stop 8) for Jack Sutherland. It was to be the first in a chain of hotels stretching across the province. As an interesting side note and connection to another person on this tour, R. L. Michaelis (stop 19) played the piano at Grande Prairie Hotel.

Donald later acquired the Murray Hotel and the Empire Hotel, renamed the Royal George, then the Corona, which burned down in 1936. Finally, in 1937, he built the impressive Donald Hotel with Charles Spencer as the architect. The hotel was constructed with local Dalen brick, was fronted by the second concrete sidewalk in Grande Prairie, had an elegant, slightly exotic lobby, and also housed the Donald Café and a ballroom. Unfortunately, the Donald Hotel burned down around 1960. Frank Donald also owned hotels in Beaverlodge, Hythe, Athabasca, Warspite, St. Paul, and Leduc.



Exterior and interior views of the Donald Hotel, 1936. SPRA 0032.08.07.07, 08.

Frank Donald was an investor in other types of property as well. He had rental homes and invested in farms, raising cattle. He bought both of Grande Prairie’s movie theatres and consolidated them. The Capital Theatre showed three pictures each week, each two nights in a row, and talking pictures arrived 1932. The Theatre was later knocked down to make room for the Park Hotel, which was not one of Donald’s hotels. He also purchased the Wapiti Rink in 1929, which was the home of hockey, curling, and skating when the ice was on and dancing and basketball when the ice was not. In 1944, he began constructing the Donald Recreation Centre, which was slated to include a pool room and shower baths, bowling lanes, tea room, and offices. Frank Donald also had a “tie camp” which provided railway ties to the railway companies for building track.

Frank Donald was an avid sportsman organizing boxing matches and managing baseball and hockey teams. In fact, his son Francis was recruited to play hockey with teams in the United States. He owned a string of race horses and during the 1940s, he took out a lease on the fairgrounds planning for a stampede and horse racing events. Frank Donald was also involved in staging the Winter Carnival.

Frank Donald was an early car owner and a great promoter of roads. In 1922, he raced his car, driven by Charley Patterson, brother of J. O. Patterson (stop 7) and son of Alphaeus, to Pouce Coupe, taking 7 hours and 54 minutes, and to Peace River Crossing, taking 10 hours and 50 minutes.

Frank Donald was also Grande Prairie’s temporary undertaker while J. B. Oliver (stop 6) was away serving in WWI and the Spanish influenza epidemic was raging through the area.



Frank Donald in his automobile advertising the Grande Prairie Hotel, ca. 1922. SPRA 02.05.01.012.

Frank Donald died in 1945 after a long illness. His funeral service was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church and town businesses closed between 10 am to 1 pm on the day of his funeral, out of respect. His wife Della died 1975 and is buried here, as is one of their sons, Francis Gordon Donald, the hockey player. Their second son Cecil is buried elsewhere.

Stop 18—George (10-02), Joseph M. (07-39) and Frank (25-23) Crummy

George, born 1871, Frank, born 1870, and Joseph, born 1877, were all sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Crummy of Pennsylvania.

George moved to North Dakota, then to the Yukon in 1898, joining the Gold Rush, and becoming a miner and having an interest in the Lavelle Boat. He stayed in the Yukon until 1905, when he went to Edmonton. In succeeding years he operated stores along the construction lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railways.

George and Joseph arrived in Grande Prairie in 1915, with other members of the family, including Frank, arriving later. They took over the Empire Hotel on a lease. It was later sold to Frank Donald

(stop 17). They also set up the Crummy Brothers General Merchants Store on Richmond Avenue the same year, managed by J. B. Oliver (stop 6) until he went overseas in 1917. Oliver had worked for the Brothers previously, scowing merchandise down the Fraser River and running a store in Watino. The Crummys’ Grande Prairie store burned on New Year’s Day, 1928 and was not rebuilt.

Shortly before the loss of the store, the Brothers had become involved in automobile sales, with a Chrysler franchise. They



The J. M. Crummy Garage Co. Ltd., ca. 1940. SPRA 1969.59.353.

founded the Crummy Brothers Garage, later known as the J. M. Crummy Garage Co. Ltd. on the northeast corner of Richmond Avenue and 102nd Street, where it still stands today. A car lot was located across the street where 214 Place is now.

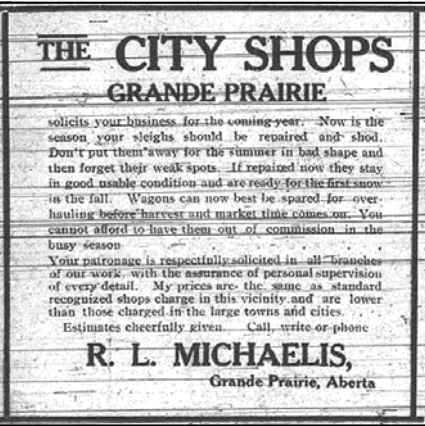
George served as town councillor in 1916-1917, with responsibility for roads and sidewalks. He was on council at the same time as Rudolph Michaelis (stop 19). George also served as vice-president of Grande Prairie Board of Trade in 1919.

George died in 1940, Frank died in 1952, and Joseph died 1962.



Above, view of Richmond (100<sup>th</sup>) Avenue showing Crummy Bros. store, ca. 1925. SPRA 2001.01.074.

### Stop 19 - Rudolph Michaelis (18-63)



Advertisement for Michaelis’ business in the March 19, 1918 Grande Prairie Herald.

Rudolph Michaelis’ grave is unfortunately unmarked. It is located mid-way between Moore on the left and Hiebel on the right. Rudolph immigrated to Canada from South Dakota, spending several years in Portage la Prairie before moving to Edson where he had a blacksmith shop.

Rudolph arrived in Grande Prairie in 1915, having travelled over the Edson Trail, and opened another blacksmith shop. He moved to Bear Lake and ran a shooting lodge there for a few years before moving

RESULT OF VILLAGE ELECTION	
H. F. Hall, R. L. Michaelis and J. B. Taft are members of the 1917 council for the Village of Grande Prairie. Shortly after the closing of the poll last night, the official count showed that the foregoing candidates had been elected. The vote cast for the five men who were seeking positions on the new council is as follows.	
H. F. Hall	77
R. L. Michaelis	67
G. L. Crummy	55
J. B. Taft	57
Wm. C. Pratt	44

Results of the Village Election from the December 12, 1916 Grande Prairie Herald.

back to Grande Prairie.

Mr. Michaelis was the last reeve of the village of Grande Prairie and the first mayor of the town, before elections were held. During his time as reeve and mayor, he was instrumental in the purchase of the town water tower and the drilling of the first well.

He died a bachelor in 1942, at the age of 75, after a long illness. Michaelis Drive in Mission Heights is named for him.



The water tower is prominent in this bird's eye view of Grande Prairie, ca. 1925. SPRA 2002.54.32.

### Stop 20 - John Mackie (68-20)

John Clive (Jack) Mackie, born in 1910 in Stettler, Alberta. He married Virginia Ethel Cundal in 1932. She had been born in Saskatchewan in 1910 and was living in Big Valley. The couple farmed for awhile on his father’s farm and their own homestead, then sold their farm and moved to Edmonton. They had two children: Marjorie and William. Jack eventually went to work for Concrete Products and Supplies. The Mackies came to Grande Prairie in 1942 when the company got a contract at the Grande Prairie Airport. When the company pulled out of the community, Jack decided to stay and started his own business, Mackie’s Concrete Works.

Jack Mackie served on town council for about 10 years, starting in 1949, during which time he promoted public works, including the hiring of a town engineer and improved drainage. He also helped decide where the highway should run and wheedled a second bridge over Bear Creek out of the highways department. This was also the period that Richmond



A paving truck moves along the north side of Richmond Avenue, 1948. SPRA 2007.42.11.

Avenue became a paved street.

Mackie served as Mayor of Grande Prairie in 1957 and 1958 after the previous mayor, Bob Miller, left. During this time Mackie contributed to the effort to have Grande Prairie made a City, with increased autonomy and prestige and access to better government grants. The campaign was successful and in 1958 Grande Prairie became Alberta’s first city north of Edmonton.



Jack Mackie (left) and Robert Millar, ca. 1958. SPRA 2004.63.04.



The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a re-enactment of the journey of early settlers into the country with Henry and Pete McCullough carrying a replica of the city’s Charter from the hands of Premier Manning in Edmonton to Mayor Jack Mackie in Grande Prairie. The ride took from February 5 to 14. In 1958, Mackie was up for election, but he had a heart attack around the same time and didn’t go out campaigning. He was defeated by George Repka, who became the first elected mayor of the City. Mackie was also a member of the Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge.

In 1952, the Mackies had bought 1143 acres of land along the Simonette River. When Jack had his first heart attack and was forced to sell the concrete business and retire, he moved there and raised cattle. After having another heart attack, they sold the majority of their land and stopped ranching, but built a house by the river. Virginia died in 1985 and Jack continued to live on their property by himself until the Simonette flood of 1987, which destroyed his home and most of his possessions. He sold the remaining 84 acres of land and moved to Pioneer Lodge in Grande Prairie, spending his final years at the Grande Prairie Care Centre. Jack died in August 2006 at the age of 95.



*Mayor Jack Mackie (right) reading the City Charter delivered to him by Henry McCullough, 1958. SPRA 2001.01.55.*

**Stop 21 - John MacDonald (74-03)**

John McDonald was born in 1899 in Sandon, B. C. In 1912, his family moved to the Lower Beaverlodge area from Merritt, B. C. The following year they moved to Grande Prairie and Johnny was one of the first students at the new school.

In 1926 he married Sylvia May Fogle, who was born in North Dakota in 1905. The couple lived on John’s homestead for six months before work at the Immigration Hall encouraged them to move into Grande Prairie. John and Sylvia had two children, Lila-May and Ivan. From the 1950s to 1970s they farmed east of Grande Prairie. John also spent some time as manager of the Frontier Lumber Co. Ltd. Sylvia was a member of the Women’s Institute, Golden Age Centre, and Royal Purple. John was an honorary member of the Grande Prairie Rotary Club, but is best remembered for his involvement with hockey. He even bore the nickname “Mr. Hockey.”



*Johnny MacDonald, hockey coach, with some of his young players, ca. 1945. SPRA 2010.14.29c.*

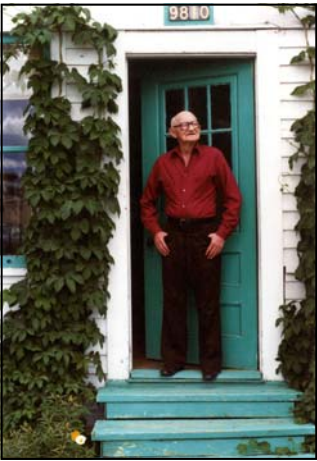
John coached and managed numerous teams over the years, including the Red Devils, renamed the Athletics in 1955. Before that though, Johnny was also a player, participating in the first hockey game in the Peace Country between Grande Prairie and Lake Saskatoon on Saskatoon Lake as a fourteen year-old defenseman. Johnny was manager of the Wapiti Rink, Grande Prairie’s first covered rink, built in 1919 and owned for a number of years by Frank Donald (stop 17). Johnny was also responsible for organizing



*Interior of the Johnny MacDonald Arena, at the Rec Centre Opening, 1979. SPRA 050.08.03.132e.*

ice carnivals, the figure skating club, and figure skating competitions, in which he was also a participant. In 1946 the Memorial Arena, so named in honour of veterans of WWI and WWII, was built to replace the Wapiti Rink and Johnny was part of the planning.

John MacDonald died in 1984. His wife Sylvia died in 2005. He had an arena named in his honour, but it has since been converted into the indoor soccer pitch located at the old Leisure Centre.



*Johnny MacDonald in the doorway of his house, 1985. SPRA 002.05.03.222.*

**Stop 22 - Joseph Mark (51-55)**

Joseph Mark was born in Canton, China in 1901 and moved to Canada in 1909, with his parents, becoming a pioneer of the Lacombe area. Joe’s father served as a cook in the First World War. When the war was over, he returned to Lacombe and opened a laundry and restaurant. When Joe was old enough, his mother took him back to China to get married. He returned to Canada to work, leaving his wife and growing family in China. The 1923 federal Chinese Immigration Act (or Exclusion Act) effectively closed Chinese immigration to Canada, except in special cases, and many families were like the Mark family, with the husband living and working in Canada and periodically visiting his wife and family in China.

The Exclusion Act was repealed in 1947, but Chinese immigration was still limited to only the spouse and dependents of a Chinese man with Canadian citizenship. Joe’s first wife died before the family was allowed to immigrate and Joe remarried. Joe’s second wife, Jean, and two of his children emigrated from China and joined him in Grande Prairie in 1950, while the rest of his children remained in China.



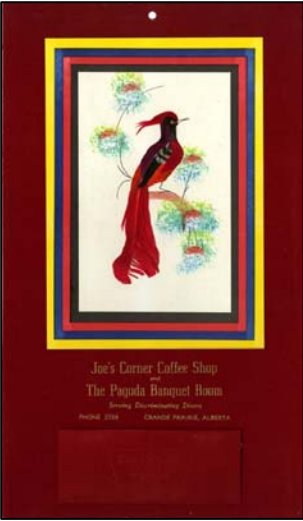
*Joe Mark and a woman standing by the entrance of Joe’s Corner Coffee Shop, ca. 1945. SPRA 2003.24.12b.*

In 1936, Joe moved from Lacombe to Grande Prairie. He worked at the Donald Café for a number of years before buying the Corner Coffee Shop on the corner of 100<sup>th</sup> Street and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 1948. It was renamed Joe’s Corner Coffee Shop and was a familiar landmark and popular gathering place. The restaurant underwent an extensive renovation in 1955-56 to add the Pagoda Banquet Room, and when it reopened, it boasted a staff of 27 and could seat 230 people!

Joe was also active in community life as a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

Joe Mark retired to Edmonton and died there in September 1966. He had a total of seven children living in either China or Canada and was survived by his second wife, Jean. Joe was well-known in Grande Prairie and his death made the front page of the Herald-Tribune. Joe’s Corner Coffee Shop continued to operate for only a short time after his death.

*Calendar advertising Joe’s Corner Coffee Shop and The Pagoda Banquet Room, 1957. SPRA 116.07.02.*



**Stop 23 - J. J. E. Clarke (51-59)**

John Joseph Ernest (Ernie) Clarke was born in 1886 in Ireland. He immigrated to Canada in 1907, working for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Winnipeg and Edmonton. In 1910 he married Ileen Mabel Leechman, also from Ireland, who had been born in 1883.

Ernie worked in a land office in Calgary and in 1911 was transferred to the new Grande Prairie office as senior assistant to the Land Agent. The Clarkes travelled up in July via the Long Trail. At that time, there were very few other buildings in the townsite, only Campbell Benson’s stopping place and George Breedin’s blacksmith shop and cabin. Even Patterson’s store had yet to be built.

When land agent McLean enlisted in World War I, Ernie became acting land agent until 1917 when he left for other work. Ernie became an accountant for the Union Bank, managed the Buffalo Lakes Lumber Company, and later worked for the Liquor Control Board. Finally, he returned to the land office as Land Agent in 1930, following the transfer of responsibility for natural resources and land from the federal government to the provincial government. When the Grande Prairie Land Office was reduced to a sub-agency in 1933, he was transferred to the Peace River office.



*Opening of the Dominion Land Office, Grande Prairie, 1911. SPRA 2001.01.103.*



*Women’s Missionary Society and Board of Managers of McQueen Presbyterian Church, ca. 1911. Mrs. Clarke (holding baby) is number 13. SPRA 127.02.06.*

While in Grande Prairie, Ernie served as the first secretary of the Old Timers’ Association, a position he held for three years from 1928-1930. He also served on the School Board. Mrs. Clarke was a member of Mrs. Forbes’ Women’s Missionary Society, organized in 1911. The couple had two sons while living in Grande Prairie, Harold and Gerald.

The Clarkes returned to Grande Prairie in 1942 to take charge of the land sub-agency again. In 1951, Mr. Clarke retired from his job and became secretary-manager of the Eventide Home for the Aged. He continued in that position until 1959 when he resigned due to ill health.

Ileen Clarke died 1966 and Ernie in 1969.



*Ernie Clarke with son Harold and daughter-in-law Opal, ca. 1935. SPRA 2012.64.03.*

**Stop 24 - Knut Johansen Dalen (51-64)**

Knut Johansen Dalen was born in Norway in 1880 as Knut Johansen and immigrated to Canada in 1903. In the 1930s he changed his name to Dalen, which means “valley”. He met and married Borghild

Kristiansen while living in Edmonton and working at the J. B. Little brickyard. She had also emigrated from Norway, where she had been born in 1885. The couple had 5 children: Jens, Eric, Norman, Kenneth, and Alice.



*Eric Dalen at the Crooked Creek homestead, 1932. SPRA 116.09.01.01.003.*

In 1920 Knut moved to Grande Prairie, bought a brick machine from the Alberta Penitentiary brickyard in St. Albert, and began operations in 1921-1922. The Dalen brick yard was located on 15 acres of land bought from J. O. Patterson (stop 7) near where the Southview IGA/Safeway are located now (south of 84 Avenue and west of 100 Street) and where the clay was suitable for brickmaking. Dalen bricks were used to build many local buildings including Montrose School, the Donald Hotel, the north wing of the former Grande Prairie Hospital, and the old Imperial Bank building still standing downtown on the northwest corner of 100th Avenue and 100th Street. The Dalen bricks bear the stamp “AP”, for Alberta Penitentiary, the machine’s original owner.





*The brick Imperial Bank on the corner of 100 Avenue and 100 Street, ca. 1920. SPRA 460.55.*

The original “pug mill” used to prepare the clay was powered by horses. Bricks were fired for nine days and nights, consuming 100 cords of wood for a batch of up to 300,000 bricks. As of 1931, still with horse-powered machinery, production stood at 10,000 bricks per day. The price was \$18 per thousand bricks. A new power-driven machine was

purchased after the war. The Dalen Brickyard operated until 1955, making it Alberta’s last independently owned brickyard. Until 1960, Knut imported and sold brick made elsewhere.

Knut’s sons also worked at the brickyard. They were also musically inclined with Jens, Eric, and Norman having a weekly radio program on CFGP and playing in numerous different groups and settings. Jens also owned the Dalen Music Store and Eric gave music lessons and repaired stringed instruments for the school board.

Knut died in 1965 and Borghild in 1966. Other Dalens are buried elsewhere in the cemetery.

## Stop 25 - Bert and Miriam Tieman (43-70, 71)

Bernard (Bert) John Tieman was born in Delfts, Holland in 1898. In 1921 he immigrated to High River, Alberta. While on board the ship to Canada, Bert met Miriam Hutchinson, who had been born in London, England in 1898 and was also immigrating to Canada, to work as a cook in Winnipeg. They corresponded for the next few years and Miriam finally moved to Calgary in 1926, where the couple was married on January 19, 1927. They moved to a farm Bert had been renting near Rocky Mountain House.

In 1927, the Tiemans moved to the Peace Country. Their stock and equipment came the following year. They filed on a homestead north of Buffalo Lake and farmed there until 1946, when they moved to Grande Prairie. While homesteading, Bert served as one of the first trustees of the new Many Springs school district formed in 1935. Bert became Canadian citizen in 1932 and Miriam in 1936.

In Grande Prairie, Bert became a carpenter, retiring in 1965. In 1953, Bert was elected to Grande Prairie’s Town Council, a position he held for 11 years. He was sitting on council when Grande Prairie



*Tex Moron and Jens Dalen performing on CFGP, ca. 1950. SPRA 005.08.06.01.*



*Bert with a load of firewood on the farm at Buffalo Lakes, ca. 1930. SPRA 1985.02.223-U.*



*Grande Prairie Town Council in 1953, including Bert Tieman, George Didow, Art Whitlock, R. Norton, George Repka, Jack Mackie, and Robert Millar. SPRA 1985.02.221A.*

when it opened in 1955. Bert also taught woodworking and served on the board. The Tiemans also boarded out of town students of the school at their home before the Barrydale House dormitory was built in 1960. Bert was the chairman of the building committee and Barrydale House was the first residence for mentally handicapped children in Alberta. Miriam’s Women’s Institute group sewed all the curtains and quilts.

The Tiemans attended Christ Church Anglican, where Bert handcrafted the pews, tables, and Bishop’s Chair in the old church. Miriam was a member of Anglican Church Women. Bert and Miriam were also involved with the Drama Festival: Bert as actor and stage manager and Miriam in the cast or designing and sewing costumes.



*Bert Tieman (back row, left) as a member of the cast in 'The Student Prince', ca. 1960. SPRA 1985.02.102.047.*

became a city in 1958. He was also chairman of the health and welfare committee and first chairman of the Health Unit Board. In this position, he helped found the Pioneer Lodge and the Auxiliary Hospital, the first in Alberta.

The Tiemans were very active in the community in other ways, as well. Miriam was a long-time member of the Alberta Women’s Institute and became involved with the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire soon after their arrival in Buffalo Lake. Later, she also became

involved with the Girl Guides. In Grande Prairie, Miriam assisted the first teacher at the Peace School of Hope, for mentally handicapped children,



*Miriam in their Grande Prairie home, ca. 1960. SPRA 1994.17.02.*

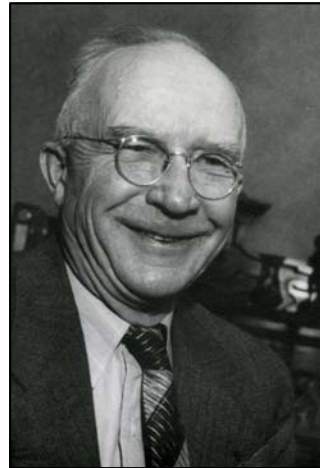
Bert was also an amateur paleontologist, with a self-taught knowledge of fossils. His greatest discovery was a fossilized pike fish, which after examination by University of Alberta professor Dr. Mark Wilson, was given the name “Esox Tiemani.” Bert served on the Grande Prairie and District Pioneer Museum Board for 15 years, including several as president. It was during his time as president that the first buildings of the heritage village were moved into place and it was due to his persistence that Tieman Road off 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue was opened as an access road to the Museum. He also built some of the first display cases.

Bert and Miriam’s only child died as an infant. Miriam passed away in November 1979 and Bert in September 1984. Because they had no family in Canada, the Tieman Estate was willed to the Grande Prairie Museum.

## Stop 26 - Griffith Albert and Margaret James (40-62, 63)

Griffith Albert James was born in 1887 and his wife Margaret in 1882, both in Ontario. G. A. graduated from the University of Toronto with a pharmacy degree and travelled west to settle in Fort George (now Prince George), where he owned a drugstore. The family moved to Grande Prairie and in February 1918, G. A. again became a drugstore owner, buying out S. J. Shuttleworth of the Grande Prairie Drug Store. He sold the pharmacy in 1928 and took up farming southwest of the town. During the 1940s, he also worked as the County of Grande Prairie tax assessor. In 1940, one of his sons, also named Griffith, set up a new store after graduating from the University of Alberta in pharmacy.

The James' were involved in community life in Grande Prairie in a number of ways. G. A. James sat on the village council and was Grande Prairie's first elected mayor after it became a town in 1919, holding that position until 1921. He also served a few terms on the local school board and was president of the Grande Prairie Agricultural Society and the Grande Prairie Curling Club during the 1930s.



*Griff James, 1968. SPRA 460.54.*

Griffith and Margaret had four sons: Griffith, Jack, John, and Robert. Margaret died in 1973 and G. A. James in 1975.



*The original James Drug Store, ca. 1920. SPRA 2000.73.137.*

Mrs. James was a member of the local Women's Institute and a member of the delegation that approached town council for permission to use the Council room for a town library in 1939. She was also a businesswoman in her own right. As an interesting connection to this tour, Margaret James once owned the land where part of the cemetery is located. She also ran boarding houses in Grande Prairie and is a former owner of James Manor.



*James Manor, on the former location of the James home, 1983. SPRA 002.05.03.345.*

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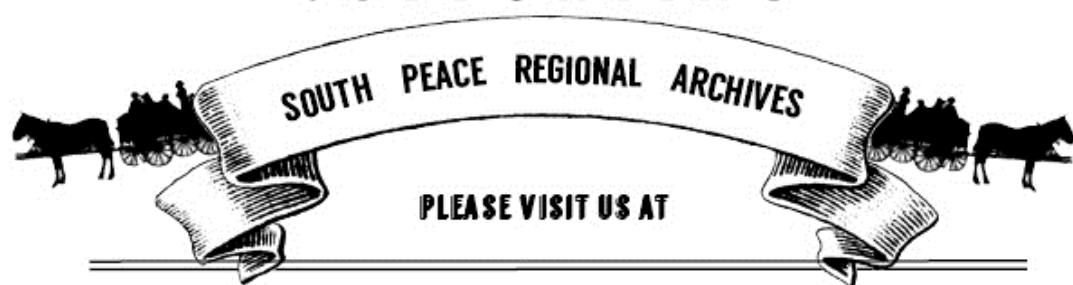
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