

# Saskatchewan HISTORY

The Provincial  
Archives turns 70!

Houston *on* Houston

Mapping history

Young historian  
*on* Nutana





# The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan



Here's a scene you won't see at the Provincial Archives today! These three staff members are having a cup of tea in the Reading Room of the Saskatoon office, circa 1950. At that time, the Saskatoon office of the Archives was located in the Field Husbandry Building (now called the Archaeology Building) on the University of Saskatchewan campus. While the two men in this photograph remain unidentified, we recognize long-time Archives' employee Evelyn Eager (seated on the right). As current users of the Archives will know, no one is allowed to have food or drink in the Reading Room now, even if it is tea time! PAS Photo S-B6590

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By Christine Charmbury



## Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: A new *Act* and a new name

With the coming into force of *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*, we are pleased to announce that the legislation governing the Provincial Archives has been modernized to effectively manage the ongoing technological changes that continue to impact the Archives at every level, including record creation, acquisition, preservation, and access. The new *Act*, which was passed on August 24, 2015, also provides a new name for the institution: the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

### Reader mailbag

We love to hear from engaged readers and were excited that our Spring/Summer 2015 issue generated letters and comments of interest. Two letters really stood out; we have published excerpts here for your enjoyment, lightly edited: one from long-time Saskatchewan cabinet minister, Eric Cline, who in asking author Brock Silversides a question also outlined to us his appreciation of the Provincial Archives, and one from a descendent of Lulu Turner, whose unusual diary-keeping was noted by author George Colpitts. Special thanks to Eric Cline and Elizabeth Rutherford for permission to publish parts of their correspondence.

### From Eric Cline

*Mr. Cline on Saskatchewan History:* "I enjoyed the excellent recent edition of *Saskatchewan History* and passed it along to [former Saskatchewan premier] Roy Romanow because his photo with Mr. Blakeney and Mr. Diefenbaker was included; I also thought his wife, Eleanore, would be interested in the article about Mr. Davey since she is an artist. I found that article to be very interesting, and it brought back a strong sense of nostalgia since I remember seeing government publications with graphics in them which were either done by him or someone who worked for him in the days before colour photography and laser printers were available."

*On his ministerial papers:* "The Archives is the repository of every single piece of paper generated during my twelve years as a cabinet minister, as well as my constituency office papers and some personal papers. I hardly have any papers at home: I always wonder why anyone would want to keep boxes of papers in their houses or in storage when they are never going to look at them. The work the Archives did to index my papers was tremendous and would cost thousands of dollars to have done, if you could find anyone capable of doing it. I am thrilled to have that index, even though I doubt I will ever access the papers."

*On why preserving ministerial papers is important:* "Efforts are sometimes made to rewrite history; moreover, quite often one's recollection of how or why things happened is not right, or is incomplete, so results could be unfair if public records are not maintained. I'm a big supporter of the Archives and this magazine, and encourage people to donate their papers to the Archives."



Former cabinet minister Eric Cline is a fan of the Archives.

### More information on Lulu Turner

Elizabeth (McCusker) Rutherford of Victoria, 92-years-old, wrote to author George Colpitts to clarify information she read in the article about her aunt, Lulu Turner. Ms. Rutherford's maternal grandparents were John Lang Turner and his wife, Ellen Elizabeth (called Jack and Nellie). Her mother was Mary Ada Turner, Lulu's older sister, who married William Clark McCusker on May 4, 1922, just months before Lulu wrote her gossip entries in her father's Agency journal. William McCusker was a returned officer from the Great War, farming a soldier resettlement land grant 10 miles "from the Agency on the bank of the beautiful North Saskatchewan River." Ms. Rutherford

remembers her grandfather as a busy man and "benevolent as an agent." She writes, "He had been in the British Army in India and was also in the Boer War and didn't have any illusions about man's inhumanity to man. During the height of the [1918] flu epidemic, he and my mother ... spent much of their time travelling around the reserves giving what care they could to the people."

Elizabeth clarifies that, in the diary, "Mary & John McCusker" refers to her mother Mary, and that "John" was the nickname of Eunice, Mary's sister-in-law. She also writes that "Mrs. Seymour" was likely the wife of the Hudson's Bay Company factor, "Mrs. Ellice" was the wife of the Anglican

priest in charge of the Mission, and Miss Beanland, incorrectly transcribed as "Miss Beauland," was a teacher from England who taught at the mission. Elizabeth also remembers a Miss Walker, another teacher from England, and Guy Hunter, who lived with his mother in one of the Agency houses and served as the telegraph operator. Elizabeth corrected her mother's name, cited in Endnote 5 of the article, to Ellen Elizabeth, noting that she was generally called Nellie. Many thanks to Elizabeth Rutherford for her delightful letter; together with author George Colpitts, we appreciate her corrections and additional information on Lulu Turner's diary entries.

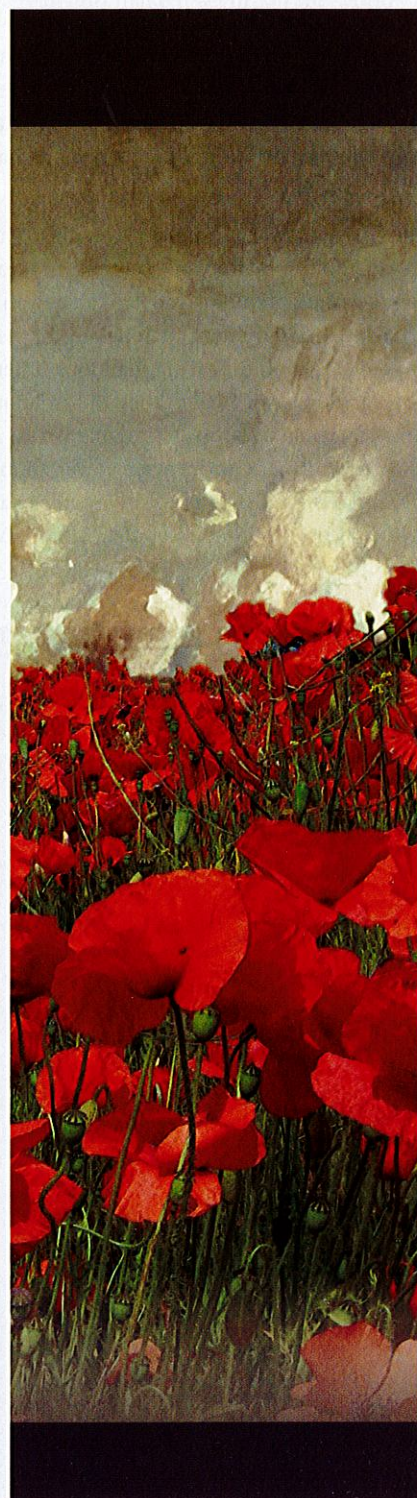
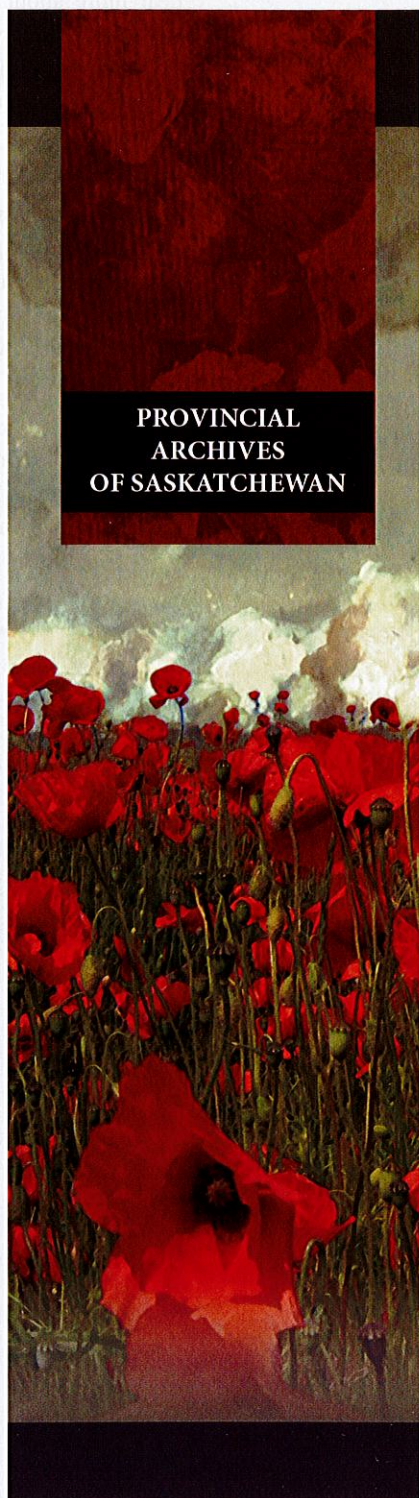
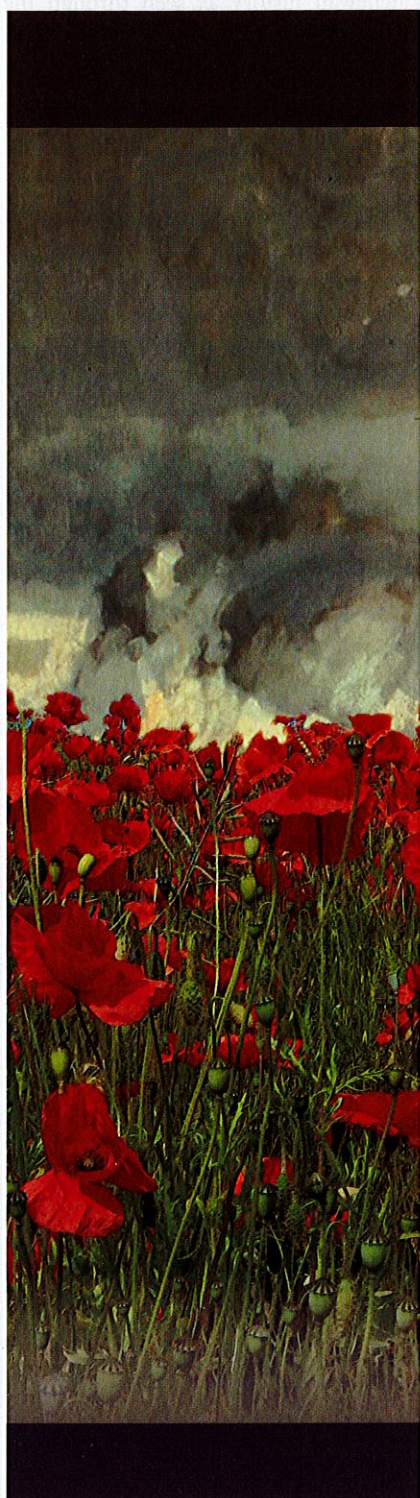


## Archives launches new Great War video exhibit

The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan launched the second in a series of video exhibits commemorating Saskatchewan's involvement in the First World War. *From the Prairies to the Trenches – From Salisbury Plain to Flanders Fields, November 1914 – December 1915* explores the events of 1915 on the Front and at home in Saskatchewan.

Two installations of the video are available for viewing in Regina: one in the main foyer at the Legislative Building and the other on the second floor of Government House. The video can also be seen on the Archives' YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaylaT5EZAM>.

The Archives plans to continue development of the video series, covering the full period of the First World War, with the assistance of a grant from the Canadian Heritage World War Commemorations Community Fund. The third video in the series is scheduled for release in 2016.





## Celebrating 70 years of the Archives

**W**ith the newly renamed Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan celebrating its 70th anniversary, we thought we would lend a little historical context to the time of its establishment 70 years ago. So, besides the creation of our beloved public institution, what else was happening?

In Canada in 1945, William Lyon Mackenzie King was prime minister, winning his third consecutive majority in June; Maurice "Rocket" Richard became the first NHL player to score 50 goals in a season. Canada became a founding member of the United Nations. Anne Murray, Neil Young and Roberta Bondar were born; Emily Carr, Franklin Carmichael and Walter Charles Murray, first president of the University of Saskatchewan, passed away. While Canada's first conscripted soldiers were just arriving overseas, the long war itself was reaching its end: in August, V-J Day marked the end of the war, wherein over a million Canadians had fought with 44,090 losing their lives.

In Saskatchewan, Tommy Douglas was leading the first democratic socialist government in North America in his first term as premier. And Saskatchewan was bombed! Japan, in a last-minute effort to retaliate for its war losses, released over 9,000 bomb-bearing balloons intended to drift across the Pacific Ocean (which they did in about 60 hours), explode and start massive forest fires in North America. Many were shot down; many more were never found, but eight of these bombs reportedly landed in Saskatchewan between January 1 and May 15, in Stoney Rapids, Minton, Moose Jaw, Porcupine

Plain, Camsell Portage, Consul, Ituna, and Kelvington. While reports of sightings were immediately suppressed by strict military censorship, there were no reports of serious damage from the bombs in Saskatchewan. \*

In this special 70th anniversary edition, you will learn a great deal more about Saskatchewan history as seen through the lens of the Archives' holdings, thanks to the superb work of staff archivist Bonnie Dahl. She has selected and written about several significant items held in the Permanent Collection, including images taken in the Archives' environment itself over the years.

While Bonnie Dahl provides an historical overview through Archives' holdings, her colleague, Christine Charmbury, provides a fascinating history lesson gleaned from focusing on one item – just one document – held in the Archives. You will be astonished at what you will learn from her parsing of one township map.

From the public to the personal: it's always interesting to receive articles from people who share their parents' experiences in Saskatchewan. In this edition, Sandra Bassendowski, who has previously published in this magazine,





introduces her mother's first person narrative on life during the Depression. Both the mother's and daughter's reflections are thoughtful and provocative.

More family connections: we saved the publication of Stuart Houston and Richard Rempel's article on Houston's father, Dr. C.J. Houston, for this special anniversary issue because the Houston family has for many years been actively involved with this magazine. Stuart Houston has published numerous books and articles on a variety of subjects: a recognized authority on the Franklin expeditions, on the factor-naturalists of the Hudson's Bay Company, and on the medical history of our province, his publications include several articles in *Saskatchewan History*. Moreover, he has been written about in *Saskatchewan History* and, in fact, he is one of the most dedicated subscribers in our history: Stuart Houston has subscribed since Issue #2, released in 1948. In this edition, he has

partnered with the very distinguished retired professor, Dr. Richard A. Rempel, to chronicle the life and legacy of his father.

From two senior historical authors to one of our youngest: we are excited to publish the award-winning presentation of Nathan Bartsch, which shares his historic look at Nutana. I should note that some of the images Nathan used in his original presentation have been replaced here by similar images held at the Archives, and in some instances by excellent images provided for our use at no charge: special thanks to contributor Brock Silversides, and to the Local History Room of the Saskatoon Public Library. Nathan's work is coloured by both curiosity and an ability to analyze events with a modern sensibility, two essential ingredients for an historian. While we do not publish our authors' bibliographies, anyone who wishes to see Nathan's impressive list of documented sources should contact the Archives at 306-933-5832 for a copy.

Truly, history is coloured by those who live it and also by those who write about it. Moreover, this issue also brings you colour -- literally. The coordinator of this magazine, Nadine Charabin, shares a photo essay showcasing her selection of Axel Petersen's gorgeous Kodachrome images. Nadine references Paul Simon's song, "Kodachrome," in her title -- entirely suitable since Peterson's photos really do make it seem "all the world's a sunny day." As effectively as any 1,000 words, these pictures tell the stories of the community of Landis in the Fifties, its people and events, seen through Petersen's lens.

We think you will learn a great deal about the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, as well as our province's history, as you enjoy this special 70th anniversary edition.

*Myrna Williams*  
Editor, Saskatchewan History

\*[http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/japanese\\_balloon\\_bombing.html](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/japanese_balloon_bombing.html)

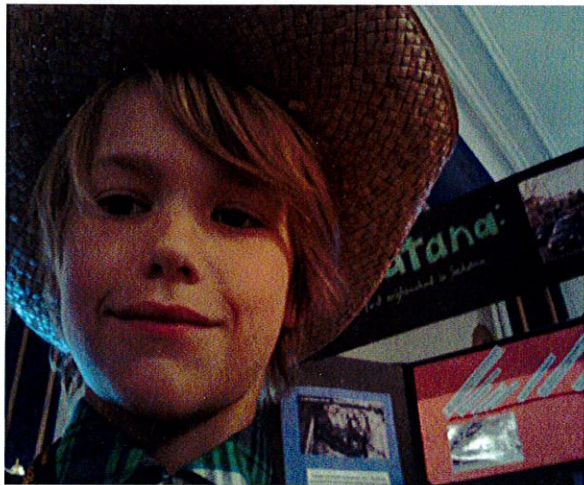
Axel Petersen photo of Landis as seen from a rural driveway, at sunrise, with hoar frost, ca. 1952. PAS photo R-C5034





# Nutana: The first neighborhood in Saskatoon

Nathan Bartsch

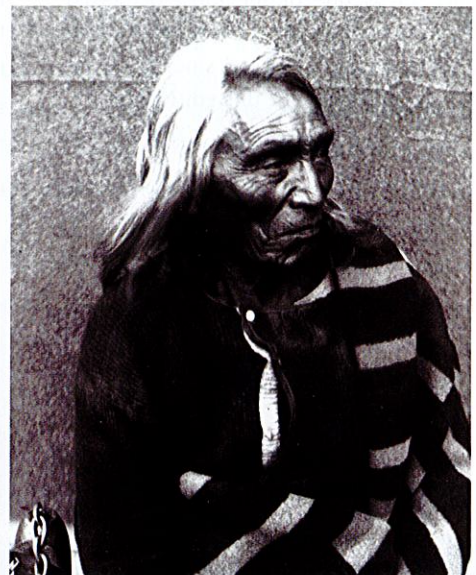
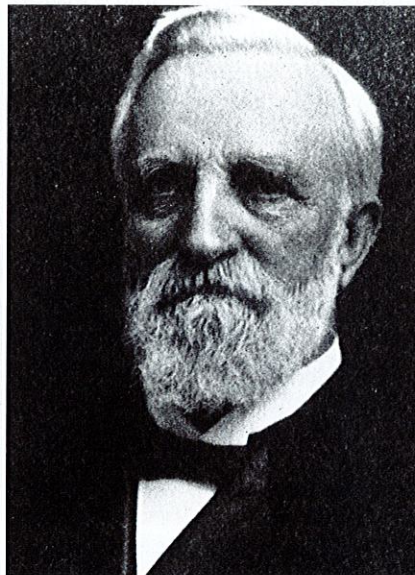


*Congratulations to Nathan Bartsch, winner of the 2015 Archives Award at the Provincial Heritage Fair.*

*Heritage Saskatchewan's Heritage Fair program provides learning opportunities for students to explore the history of Saskatchewan and Canada. Students are selected to represent their schools at Regional Heritage Fairs, and may be selected to participate at the Provincial Fair.*

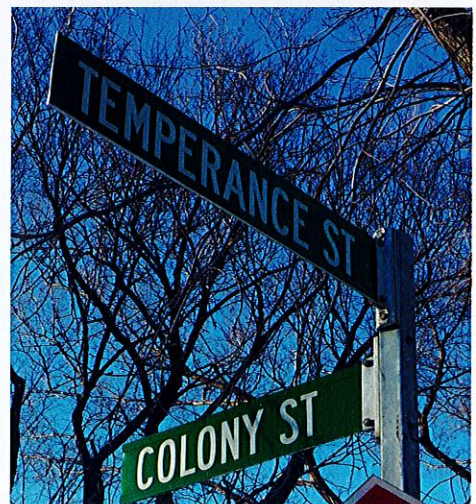
*The Archives proudly supports the Heritage Fair program and the students who participate. In addition to providing research assistance and free scanned photographs to Heritage Fair participants, the Archives provides financial support for the Archives Award at the Provincial Heritage Fair. For more information, visit <http://www.saskarchives.com/collection/young-historians/heritage-fairs>.*

**T**his spring I made a display on the history of Nutana for my school's heritage fair. I took the display to the Regional Heritage Fair and then to the Provincial Heritage Fair where it won the Archives Award. I learned so much about the history of my community that I had not known! Nutana has had a good history. We should preserve, protect and share this history.



John Lake was the founder of Saskatoon, but he didn't do it alone. Chief Whitecap was also an important part of the settlement. He helped pick the site and also helped make shelter and get food. John Lake had the idea for the colony and knew he wanted to put it near here, but he would not have found the perfect site if Chief Whitecap had not shown it to him. Colour photo (left) courtesy Nathan Bartsch; photo of John Lake (centre): Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS) Photo S-B7557; photo of Chief Whitecap (right): Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room, LH4852.

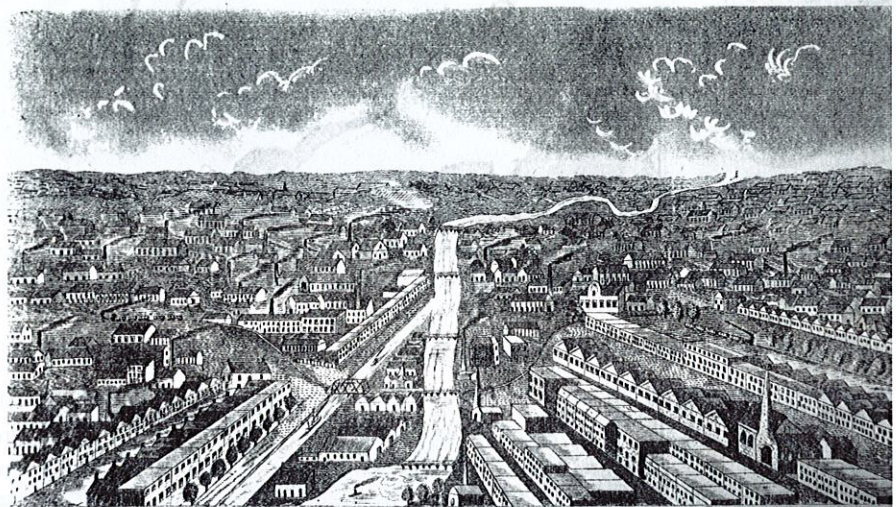
The colony John Lake was trying to form was a temperance colony: a settlement where no drinking alcohol, dancing, or gambling is allowed. This first colony was named Saskatoon. However, when the railway station was built on the other side of the river, it too was named Saskatoon, so John Lake made up the name "Nutana," which sounds like a backwards Saskatoon (anatuN). Photo courtesy Nathan Bartsch.





In the founding days of Nutana (Saskatoon), Lake advertised Saskatoon as a “Wonder City” and showed a sprawling city with businesses and multiple bridges. But really, it was just a tiny village with a few scattered houses here and there, and maybe a general store. New residents of Saskatoon had to stay or face a long journey back; they had likely already sold their

houses back home. The street plan that John Lake created is the same street plan that is still being used today in the Nutana area; it is interesting that a 1900s street plan is still admired and followed. “View of a North West City” courtesy of Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room, LH5115A; image of Nutana street plan: Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room, B-1724.



VIEW OF A NORTH WEST CITY.



The two oldest standing houses in Saskatoon are the Trounce house and the Marr house. The Trounce house went through several families and was used as a small general store until a bigger house was built on the lot, the Gustin house, which was the home of a famous musician who turned the Trounce house into a shed. The Trounce house is a little older but the Marr house is quite a bit bigger. The Marr house was used as a hospital during the North-West Resistance. Photo of the Trounce House courtesy Nathan Bartsch.

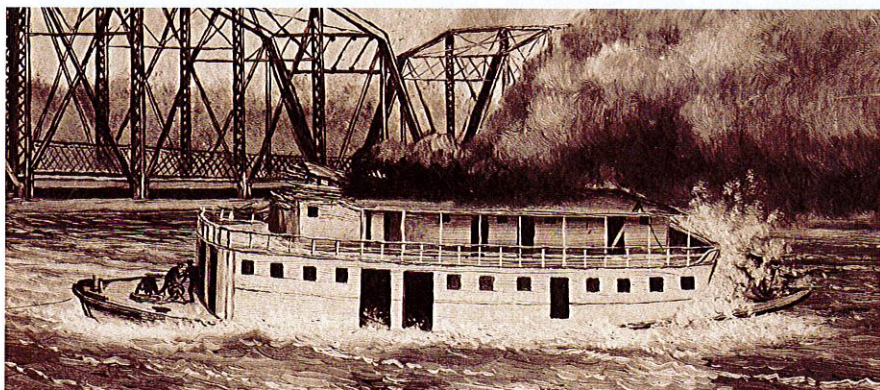
The Little Stone Schoolhouse was also known as the Victoria School. It was the first school in Nutana/Saskatoon in 1887; it was a one-room schoolhouse with its washroom (an outhouse) about 50 yards away. Just imagine walking 50 yards in a blizzard to get to the bathroom! PAS Photo S-B7552







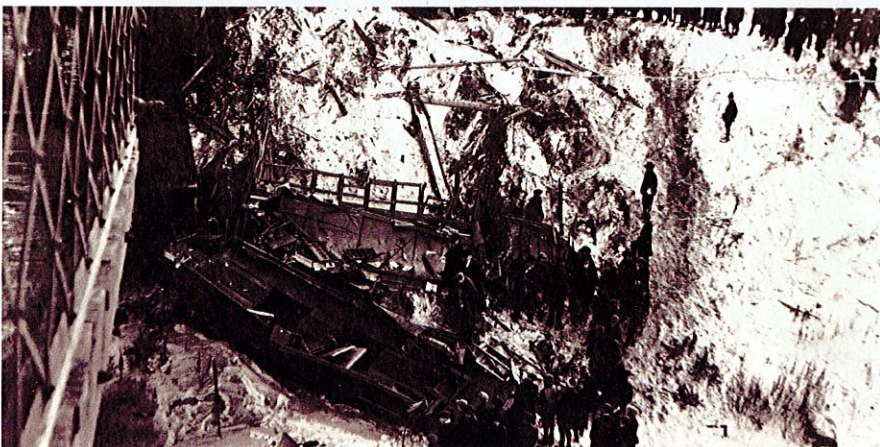
The ferries were a very important part of Saskatoon when it was founded. There was a river crossing, where the ferry would usually go across, in a low area where people could board. When winter came along the ferries would stop because they could not cross the ice. Then, when the Traffic Bridge was built, the ferries stopped running. Currently the Traffic Bridge is being taken down: the City of Saskatoon has already taken down one span on the Nutana side of the river. Image of the last ferry crossing in Saskatoon: PAS Photo S-C9



The *City of Medicine Hat* was a steamboat that crashed into the Traffic Bridge due to high water levels in the spring of 1908. The boat's rudder was broken when it hit a telegraph wire that was covered by the flood water. The boat flipped onto its side. Nobody died because everyone was able to crawl out the side windows and climb onto the bridge. Some of the townsfolk looted the boat; today, the boiler, a door, and the music box are held in museums. In the 1960s, the wreck area was buried during the construction of Rotary Park. Recent archeology projects have shown that the *City of Medicine Hat* is still buried at the base of the Traffic Bridge. "Wreck of the *City of Medicine Hat*, Saskatoon, June 7, 1908, from a drawing by P. McKenzie." Photo courtesy of Brock Silversides.

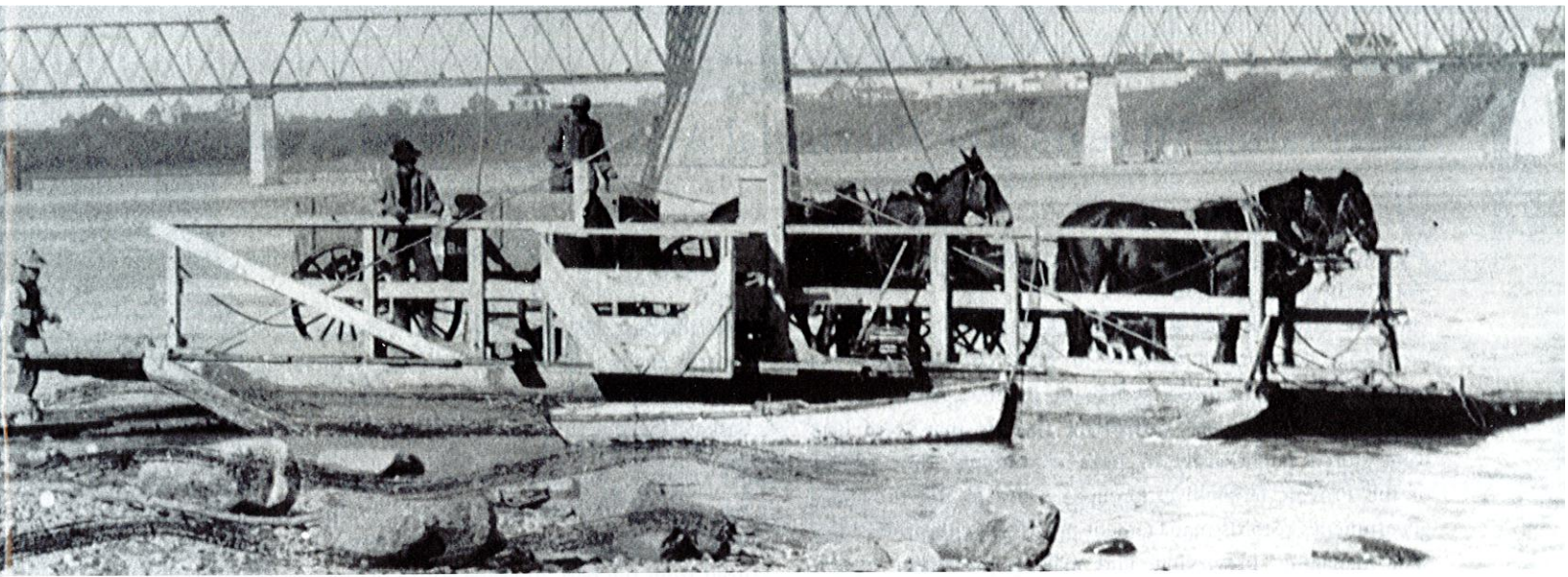


The CNR Bridge would break almost every year. Multiple trains fell off the tracks but no one died. The ice would crack in spring and start to move. This would knock the bridges down because they were made of wood at that time. One of the worst crashes was in 1912, after a concrete base had been built. Photo courtesy Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room, LH9372



In 1922, slippery conditions caused a streetcar to fall off the tracks on what was called the "Long Hill" beside the Traffic Bridge. The driver knew that the streetcar was going too fast to make the corner. Even though the pictures look violent, again, nobody was killed. PAS Photo S-B6875





The Farnam Block was a building that hosted restaurants, barber shops, and more. Sadly, it recently had to be taken down because the owners said it was too worn to fix. It was built in 1912 and was demolished in 2015. I personally think it's terrible that people are tearing down precious heritage sites due to non-maintenance. Photo courtesy Nathan Bartsch

*Nathan Bartsch is a Grade 6 student at Brunskill School in Saskatoon. Kudos to his teacher, Ruth Sestak, whose support of Nathan's project was instrumental in its success.*



# Celebrating 70 years: The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

Bonnie Dahl

2015 marks 70 years since the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan was established -- a great time to reflect on the history and growth of the institution!

Until the Archives was created by *The Archives Act* in 1945, provincial government records in Saskatchewan were not managed in an organized, systematic manner. Many records were destroyed or lost; too often, records that were kept were stored haphazardly in poor conditions. The creation of the Provincial Archives brought order to the provincial government's records management practices, with professional staff managing, preserving, and making provincial records accessible. Indeed, the work of the Archives is essential to ensure the provincial government maintains transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

In addition to provincial government records, the Archives has collected, preserved and provided access to historical records from private individuals, organizations, and businesses.

over the past 70 years. The diverse Permanent Collection of records enables researchers, including writers, film producers, family genealogists and others, to share the myriad stories of Saskatchewan with the rest of the world.

To celebrate our 70th anniversary, we have reproduced a selection of interesting items held in the Collection, along with photos of people and activities at the Provincial Archives itself from the past 70 years. All of the images are held in the Provincial Archives. In addition to this photo essay, be sure to visit the new virtual exhibit on our website that details the history of the Provincial Archives from its predecessor organizations all the way through to today. You will find dozens of historical photographs of the Archives, including its staff and facilities at: [www.saskarchives.com/Timeline](http://www.saskarchives.com/Timeline).



Since its inception, *The Archives Act* has allowed the Provincial Archives to collect private records about Saskatchewan history from a wide range of people and organizations to complement the official public record.

For example, Louis Riel, a widely known and controversial historical figure, has personal records in the Collection of the Archives. The diary is a compelling piece of Saskatchewan history in which Louis Riel documented his personal thoughts in the weeks prior to and during the Battle of Batoche in May 1885.

Riel photo: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS)  
Photo R-A2294, circa 1884; Riel diary page: PAS, R-E1985,  
Riel Diary.

L'Esprit de Dieu m'a fait entendre la voix  
de Michel Oumas qui disait à Riel: « vos  
idées sont justes. »

L'Esprit de Dieu m'a fait voir que je pourrais  
me rendre sur le champ de bataille, seul, en  
avant. J'étais à l'écart. Je faisais transporter  
certains effets sur le champ; je les faisais trans-  
porter en un troupeau. L'Esprit de Dieu  
m'a averti que l'ennemi voulait donner un ef-  
fort pour me prendre prisonnier.  
O mon Dieu! aidez-moi, guidez-moi que  
je ne fasse aucune démarche imprudente,  
que je ne me confie en personne, à moins  
que ce soit raisonnablement et à propos.  
Assistez-moi, dirigez-moi, que je ne sois  
rien en danger. Soutenez-moi, que je des-  
cende libre, que j'aie et que je vienne  
comme il est ~~meilleure~~ utile et désirable, que  
je réussisse, que je vainque, que je triomphe  
au nom du Père, et du Fils et du Saint  
Esprit.

L'Esprit de Dieu m'a fait voir un quart  
plein de marchandises. Sur le bord  
du quart était écrites les paroles  
suivantes: « Les entrailles du Nord. »  
O mon Dieu! aidez-moi, pour l'amour  
de Jésus, de Marie, et de Joseph et de  
Saint Jean Baptiste, la grâce de con-  
querir le Nord et de maîtriser tout ce  
qu'il a: donnez-moi les entrailles du  
Nord.



Name Walter Scott.  
 Nationality Canadian.  
 Place of Birth London, Canada. Age 52  
 Occupation Sr. Prairie Minister Saskatchewan, Canada.  
 Residence (Egypt) Cairo.  
 Proceeding to Jerusalem.  
 Date of Journey 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1920.  
 If Returning to Egypt, when 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1920.

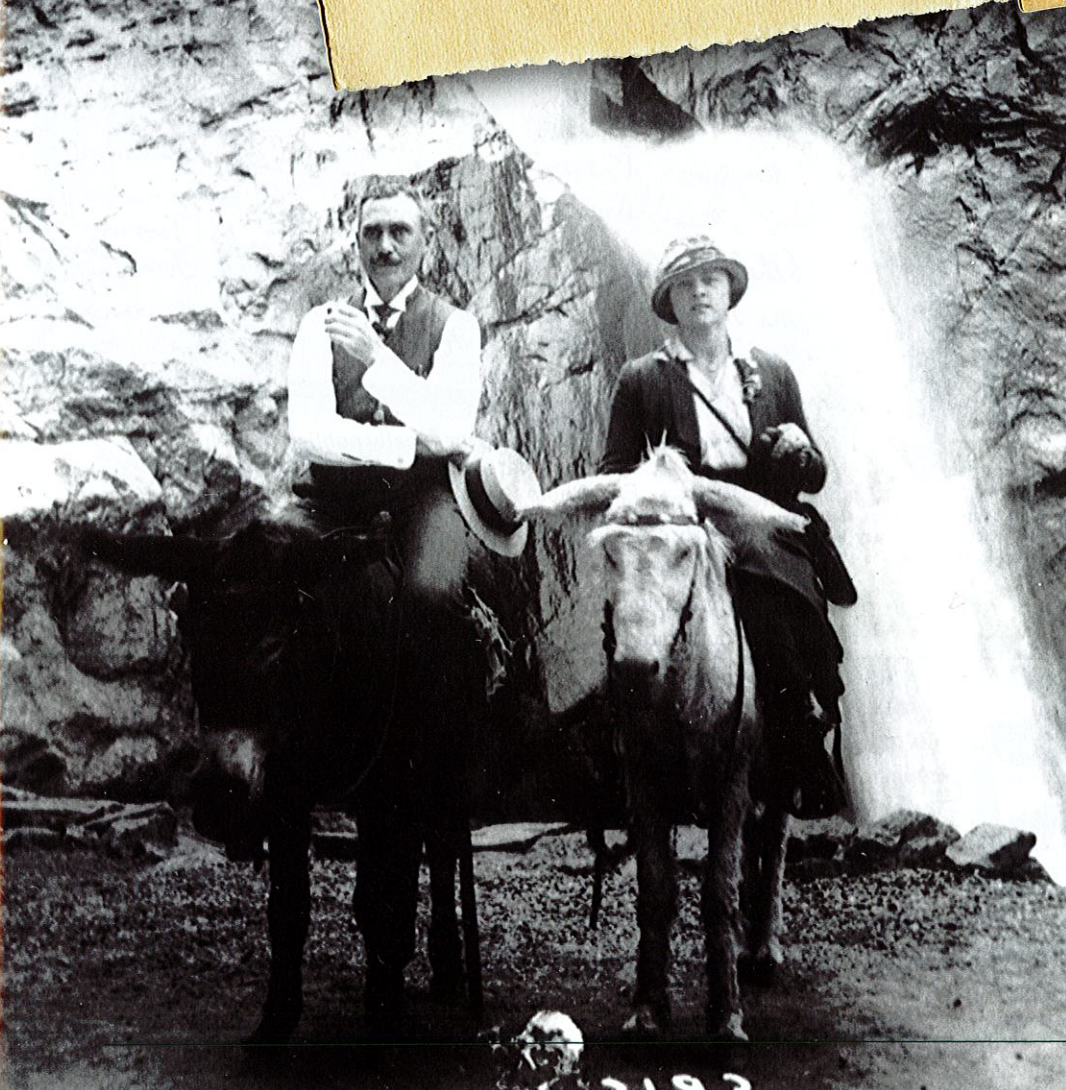
Mahlin  
 Permit Officer

Date 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1920.

PHOTO. on British  
 F.O. Pass. pat No 1800  
 Dated 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1920

Names of members of family accompanying bearer :-

Signature of bearer Walter Scott.



Walter Scott holds the distinction of being the first premier of Saskatchewan and the first premier to have records donated to the Provincial Archives. In 1951, the Provincial Archives received its first donation of Walter Scott's records from his daughter, Dorothy Scott. At the time, the Scott records were considered to be the most valuable collection of personal papers acquired by the Provincial Archives. In addition to serving as premier, Scott was a noted athlete and an avid traveller who visited many parts of the world; his papers include both political and personal items.

Photo of Scott and daughter Dorothy Scott on donkeys at Seven Falls, Colorado in the 1920s: PAS Photo R-A6010; Scott's passport image: PAS, S-M1, Walter Scott fonds, XIV.3, Programs and Other Souvenirs.



In the early 20th century, Saskatchewan women began campaigning for the right to vote. In 1912, women's suffrage was raised in the Saskatchewan legislature, with most members supportive of the concept. However, Premier Walter Scott argued that women had to prove they really wanted the vote before the government would consider extending the franchise. This challenge prompted women to send hundreds of letters and petitions to the Premier, including the petition reproduced here. Even with the deluge of petitions and letters, Saskatchewan women would not receive the right to vote until 1916. The Provincial Archives holds the correspondence that the women of Saskatchewan sent to Premier Scott between 1912 and 1916.



At the last session of the Saskatchewan Legislature Premier Scott expressed himself as in favor of extending the franchise to women, but did not care to enact the necessary legislation until the women of Saskatchewan asked for it. It is now up to the women to "SPEAK" in clear and unmistakable terms.

**To The Honorable Walter Scott,  
Premier of the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan:**

The petition of the undersigned resident women of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly prayeth, that your honorable house will enact, at the next session of the Legislature, an Act providing for the general extension of the Franchise to the Women of Saskatchewan on equal terms with men.

And your petitioners in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated at Naseby this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1913.

| Name                 | Post Office   | Province | Occupation        |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|
| Mrs. E. Kelly        | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Will Affleck    | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Jessie Ireland  | Naseby        | Sask     | Teacher           |
| Miss B. Smith        | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's daughter |
| Mrs. W. J. Smith     | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. J. MacLachlan   | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. J. J. Gray      | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. W. J. Gray      | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's daughter |
| Miss Mattie Meikle   | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. John Meikle     | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Jas. R. Affleck | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Arthur Hall     | Landis        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Wm. D. Dwyer    | Naseby        | Sask     | Teacher           |
| Mrs. G. F. Hayes     | Naseby        | Sask     | Teacher           |
| Mrs. E. F. Crockett  | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. A. H. D. Dwyer  | Dwyer         | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. George Pulver   | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Dr. Bendelburg       | Osau          | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Ethel McRorie        | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. James Affleck   | Alton Station | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |
| Mrs. Harry Levers    | Naseby        | Sask     | Farmer's wife     |

Cartoon image (originally published in the Grain Growers' Guide on February 26, 1913); PAS Photo S-B6493; Petition page: PAS, R-191 Saskatchewan. Premier's Office, file 3.4 Women's franchise petition M-Z, 1913.



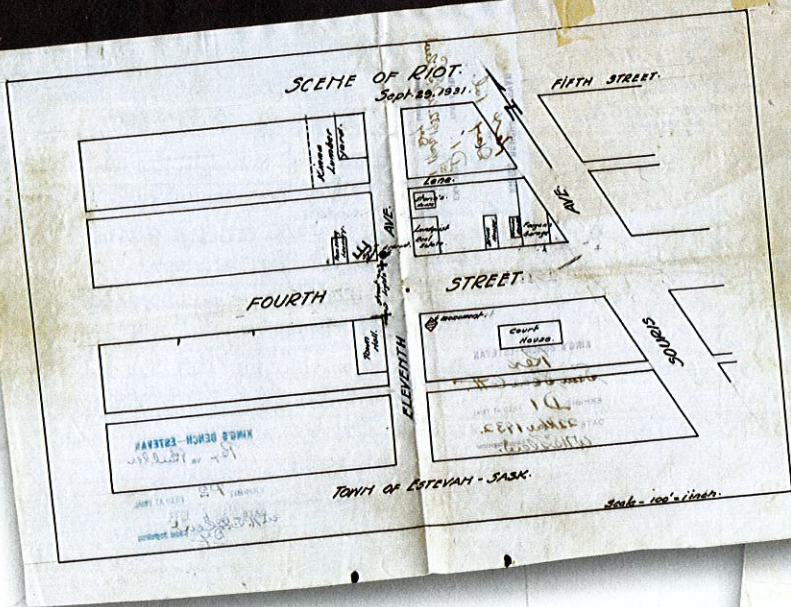
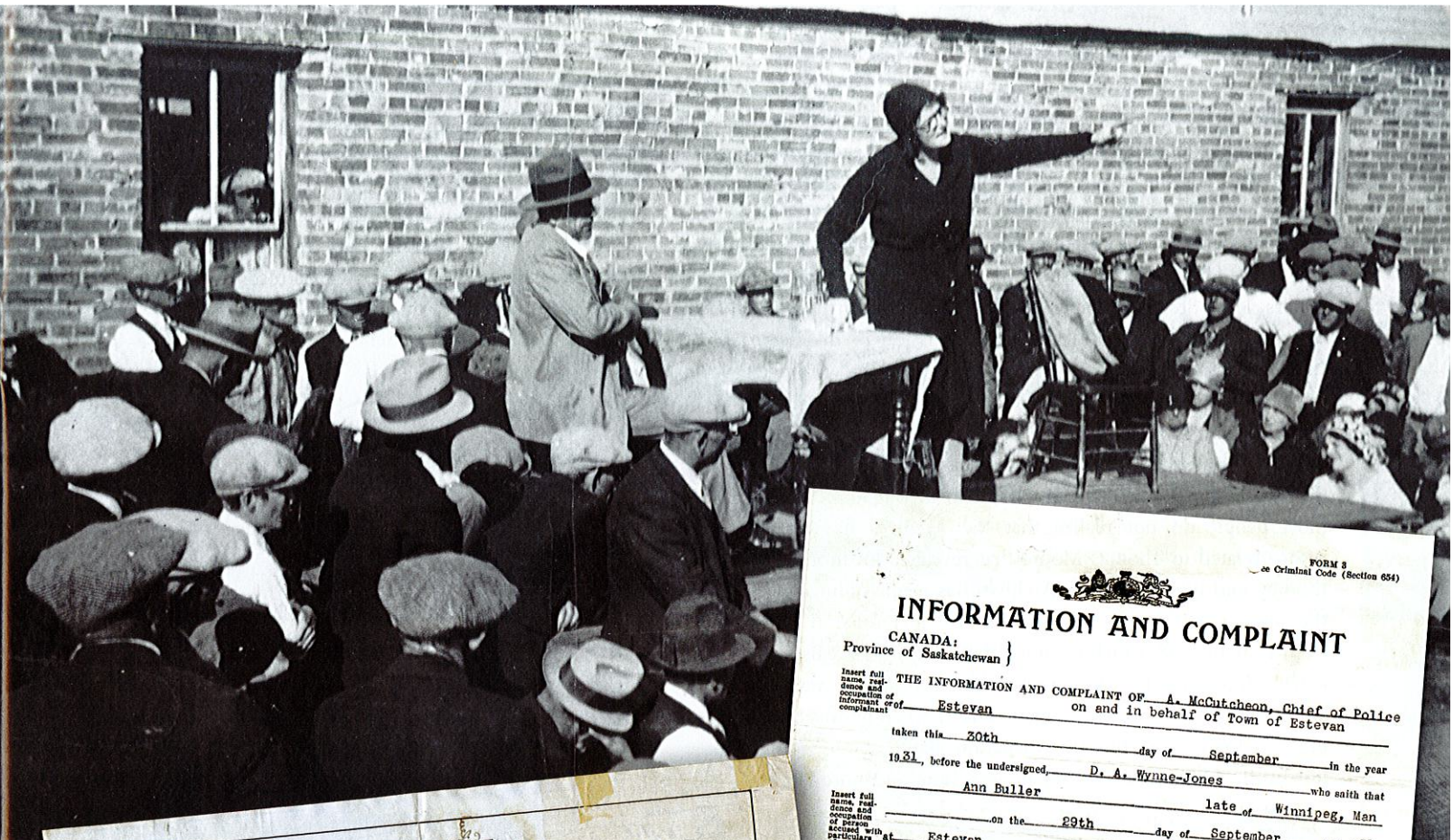
# Saskatchewan HISTORY

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FORM 8  
Criminal Code (Section 654)

## INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT

CANADA:  
Province of Saskatchewan }

THE INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT OF A. McCutcheon, Chief of Police  
on and in behalf of Town of Estevan

Insert full name, residence and occupation of informant of complainant Estevan

taken this 30th day of September in the year 1931, before the undersigned, D. A. Wynne-Jones who saith that Ann Buller late of Winnipeg, Man on the 29th day of September A.D. 1931 at Estevan in the said Province did with divers other persons through jurors aforesaid unknown unlawfully, riotously and in a manner causing reasonable fear of tumultuous disturbance of the peace did assemble together, and being so assembled together did then and there make a great noise and thereby began and continued for some time to disturb the peace tumultuously contrary to the provisions of The Criminal Code of Canada.

(Signature of Informant) A. McCutcheon

SWORN before me the day and year first above mentioned.

D. A. Wynne-Jones  
A Justice of the Peace and for the Province of Saskatchewan.

An important amendment was made to *The Archives Act* in 1947 to allow for the transfer of court records to the Provincial Archives. Court records provide a unique record of Saskatchewan history. They can be quite detailed and may include transcripts, sworn statements, maps, photographs, and even physical exhibits. The records reproduced here are from the trial of Annie Buller, a labour organizer in Canada in the early 1930s. During the strike at the Estevan coal mines in 1931, she visited the area and gave a speech to the miners and their families. Two days later, a parade and public meeting of the workers in Estevan degenerated into a confrontation with local police and the RCMP, resulting in three deaths and many injuries. After the event, Annie Buller was arrested for inciting a riot and stood trial in Estevan in 1932. Buller was convicted, fined and sentenced to serve one year of hard labour. The records of her trial provide a remarkable perspective on the events of the Estevan strike.

Photo of Buller in Bienfait, 1931: PAS Photo R-A32584; map: PAS, Court of King's Bench, Judicial District of Estevan [R1995-053], KB292-1933; Information and Complaint form: PAS, Court of King's Bench, Judicial District of Estevan [R1995-053], KB292-1933.



Assam Pheasant Ishaknakootah to D

|    |                |          |      |      |       |                    |   |   |                         |                                |          |                                 |
|----|----------------|----------|------|------|-------|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 10 |                | Dec 5 15 | Half | caux |       | No 10              | L | L | Christ= 4/24/24 361 308 | Crowland B. School Op. 1889    | Stand IV | Page 10                         |
| 26 | James Friday   | Dec 5 12 | Half | caux | Colie | John Friday No 9   | L | L | Christ= 4/24 90 308 28  | Crowland B. School Jan 27 1889 | Stand IV | See Discharge Register Page 10. |
| 27 | Albert Eddler  | Dec 5 14 | Half | caux | Colie | Old Eddler No 34   | L | L | Christ= 3/31/17 32 29   | Crowland B. School Jan 27 1889 | Stand IV | See Discharge Register Page 7   |
| 28 | Thomas Farrell | Dec 5 13 | Half | caux | Colie | Mrs Farrell No 30  | L | L | Christ= 5/2 109 32 29   | Crowland B. School Mar 20 1889 | Stand IV | See Discharge Register Page 10  |
| 29 | Charles Cote   | Dec 5 12 | Half | caux | Colie | Joseph Cote No 11  | L | L | Christ= 4/24 85 30 27   | Crowland B. School May 15 1889 | Stand IV | See Discharge Register Page 10. |
| 30 | John Cawright  | Dec 5 13 | Half | caux | Colie | John Cawright No 5 | L | L | Christ= 4/24 89 31 27   | Crowland B. School Jan 28 1889 | Stand IV | See Discharge Register Page 10  |





In October 1987, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited a number of locations in Saskatchewan during a Royal Visit to the province. One of the stops was the Legislative Building in Regina, where the Archives had prepared an exhibit about the building's history for the Queen's visit. Here, we see Queen Elizabeth II examining the exhibit with (from left to right) Provincial Archivist Trevor Powell, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Premier Grant Devine.

In the April 1982 provincial election, Allan Blakeney's NDP government was swept from office by Grant Devine's Progressive Conservatives. In the weeks following the election, reports began to surface that the outgoing NDP members were shredding government documents as they left their offices. Provincial Archivist Ian Wilson addressed these reports and stated that not only was the outgoing government not improperly destroying records but, rather, the opposite was taking place. The Provincial Archives had been flooded with boxes of documents from former NDP Cabinet Ministers.

Wilson told the press that, in just the first week after the election, the Archives had received records from nine former Cabinet Ministers, including those of Premier Allan Blakeney. In an article that appeared in the *Leader Post* on May 4, Wilson stated, "We've never quite experienced an avalanche of this nature." In this photograph from May 1982, Ed Morgan, an archivist with the Provincial Archives, sorts through boxes of ministerial records received by the Archives. The boxes are stacked so high that one can barely make out the top of another staff person's head on the left side of the photograph!







Eugenia Desnoyers (seated at left), an unidentified researcher, and Evelyn Eager (standing at right) working in the 'stacks' of the Saskatoon office in 1956. This image is part of a series of photographs taken in the Archives' space in the Field Husbandry Building (now called the Archaeology Building) at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, just before the Provincial Archives moved to its current location in the Murray Memorial Library. Evelyn Eager was the Assistant Provincial Archivist from 1950 to 1961. She also served as the business manager of *Saskatchewan History* magazine from 1950 to 1958, and was its editor from 1958 to 1960. When she died in 1991, Evelyn Eager provided the Provincial Archives with a generous bequest to assist with the publication of *Saskatchewan History* magazine. Her gift continues to fund the work of the magazine to this day.

PAS Photo S-F105.

When the Provincial Archives was created in 1945, it took over the space and collection of the Historical Public Records Office, located in the former School for the Deaf building in Saskatoon. As the Provincial Archives began to acquire more records and support more researchers, they also started to employ new technology to assist with their work, like microfilm cameras and readers. Microfilm wasn't the only technology the Archives wanted to incorporate at this time. The Hon. J.H. Sturdy, Minister of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, was a member of the Provincial Archives' Board of Directors in 1947 and felt that a telephone would be a useful tool for the Archives Office (as it was called then) in Saskatoon. Minister Sturdy took it upon himself to inquire with the Hon. C.C. Williams, Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs, about obtaining a telephone for the Provincial Archives in 1947.

# GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN DEPARTMENT MEMO

DATE September 24, 1947

FROM C. C. Williams

TO Hon. J.H. Sturdy

RE: Archives Office, Saskatoon - Telephone service.

Your File .....  
Memo dated .....  
Our File .....

As a result of the receipt of your memo of September 19, requesting telephone service in the Archives Office at Saskatoon, I telephoned the Departmental Superintendent there. He will get in touch with Professor Simpson as you suggested, with a view toward providing whatever telephone service is available as soon as possible. This may be in the form of an extension from some other number in the School for the Deaf building.

Due to the fact that there are in excess of two thousand persons in Saskatoon waiting for telephone service (some of them for four or five years) it does not appear as though the Archives Office should be given any particular preference if and when a telephone is given up in that area. It may be, however, that direct service can be provided if there are no prior applicants.



*C. C. Williams*  
Minister of Telephones.



PAS, S-M14, J.H. Sturdy fonds, file I.14, Archives.





PAS Photographic Services Agency Photo 86-3939-32.

When most people think of archives, they think of documents and photographs. The Provincial Archives also has a large and varied moving image collection that includes film, video, and digital items such as DVDs. The collection includes items created by the provincial government, as well as materials donated by private organizations like film companies and television stations. In addition to these items, the Archives has made off-air recordings of the evening news broadcasts of local TV stations since 1983. In this 1987 photo, staff archivist Bill Wagner reviews a video recording of an off-air TV news broadcast.



PAS Photo R-A10716-3

Microfilm has been an important preservation tool for the Provincial Archives from its earliest days; its first microfilm camera was purchased in 1948. In the early days, microfilm was seen as a way to reduce space required by paper records, to protect original records from damage, and to facilitate research on Saskatchewan history by enabling records to be available in both offices. In 1956, a group of Saskatchewan librarians attended a provincial library workshop and were taken to see the microfilm camera equipment used by the Provincial Archives. John Todd, who worked with the Archives' microfilm camera for many years, explains the equipment to the visiting librarians.



## Appendix II

### GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES,

#### UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

*Adopted by the Saskatchewan Archives Board, March 6, 1946.*

1. This Archives Office is established to care for public documents and important private papers relating to the history of this province and to provide for their use under proper conditions. The documents in this repository are for the use of officers of the public service of Saskatchewan, scholars, and others, for research purposes only.

2. The documents in this repository may be used only with the permission of the Provincial Archivist. In granting this permission the Archivist will be guided by his knowledge of the character of the applicant, or in the case of persons unknown to him, by a recommendation from a responsible person.

3. Every reader must sign a Register, giving his full name, address, occupation and the subject of his research.

4. No document or volume may be removed from the Archives Office with the exception of those requested for use in the Legislative Library. Requests for such material must be made through the Legislative Librarian.

5. A copy of a document, or a part thereof may be published only with the permission of the Provincial Archivist.

6. Marking books or documents in any way is strictly forbidden. Readers are advised to use pencils in making notes. If ink is used, the greatest care must be taken to avoid soiling the documents.

7. When a reader is finished with a document or volume, it must be placed on the table, so that it may be returned to its proper place by the Archives Office staff.

8. Smoking is forbidden in the Archives Office.

*Saskatchewan Archives, First Report of the Saskatchewan Archives 1945-1946.*

Regular visitors to the Provincial Archives will know that there are a number of rules to follow when visiting our Reading Rooms to access original archival records. It's interesting to note how those rules have changed through the years. These are the original rules dating from when the Archives first opened. To see our current Reading Room rules, visit our website at [www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/visiting-archives/reading-room-services-and-procedures/rules-and-regulations](http://www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/visiting-archives/reading-room-services-and-procedures/rules-and-regulations).





PAS StarPhoenix Collection Photo S-SP-B5699-1.

The Provincial Archives has always had an excellent relationship with its many private donors. Through the years, the Archives has accepted materials from all kinds of organizations, businesses, clubs, and individuals. In 1963, the Provincial Archives received the records of the Saskatoon Council of Home and School Associations. In this image, Mrs. P. H. De L'Orme, President of the Association, and Doug Bocking, Assistant Provincial Archivist, look over some of the newly donated records from that organization in the Reading Room of the Saskatoon office.



## An Oversupply of Hope: One woman's reflections on the Great Depression

Sandra Bassendowski

*"Many folks must have been supplied with an oversupply of hope as they didn't give up thinking that next year would be better, maybe it would rain, maybe there would be a crop, and just maybe the grain prices would go up, and everything would be alright again"*

*Elizabeth Harder.<sup>1</sup>*



*John Harder's threshing outfit (Elizabeth's father), Kelstern, 1930s. Courtesy Sandra Bassendowski.*

It is widely known that the farming communities of Saskatchewan suffered extreme hardship during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Drought added to the economic misery, causing massive crop failures: Saskatchewan became known as the 'dust bowl' of Canada. Heat, drought, and dust storms wasted soil and agricultural resources during the 1930s, threatening the survival of farming families and communities.

My mother, Elizabeth Harder, daughter of farmers John and Katrina Harder, was born on August 27, 1918, on a farm near Kelstern, Saskatchewan. One of ten children, Elizabeth became a teenager during the Depression. Later in her life, she reflected and wrote about her experiences and feelings during the Depression years in Saskatchewan, expressing pride in how her parents kept the farm and the family together during those trying times. I hope you will enjoy these selected excerpts from my mother's personal narrative, introduced by my own thoughts about how growing up in the 'Dirty Thirties' affected her throughout her life.

I believe that my mother's experiences in rural Saskatchewan during the Great Depression coloured her perspective on life. She was 31 years old when I was born, so my memories of her begin in the mid-1950s; by then, farm life was more stable

and prosperous. Nevertheless, my mom continued to ply the lessons she learned during the Depression: she saved, reduced, reused, and recycled throughout her life. I always thought of her as a 'fabric artist' since she cut up used clothing, fabric, and material to make beautiful quilts, pillow cases, and bed throws. She was the first person I knew who practiced a 'green' home environment: she wasted nothing. Water left over from the washing machine was lovingly carried to her flowerbeds surrounding the farmhouse: she often told me, "I grow vegetables to feed my family, but flowers to feed my soul."

When I was 18 years old, my mom insisted that, as a young woman, I needed to have a career. She often told me of how she had wanted to be a nurse but, in the 1930s, the enrollment fee was \$200 and her family could not afford it, so she never had an opportunity for a career beyond that of a farming



woman. Having left home as a young woman to work long, tiresome hours at a dairy farm outside of Moose Jaw, she had no opportunities to realize her dream of being a registered nurse.

It seems clear that my mother had that "oversupply of hope" she wrote about in the opening paragraph of her reflections. She always believed that next year would be better and she continually found learning opportunities: she was the first person I knew who believed in 'lifelong learning.' When I was in elementary school, she enrolled us both in the free mail-out service from the Provincial Library: new books would arrive for her and for me at the post office once a month; she returned them with the enclosed return address sticker. She attended classes on art, sewing and gardening in our town and was an avid reader, sewer, quilter, cook, and gardener. Finally, when she was in her 70s, she achieved her lifelong goal and enrolled as a part-time student at Athabasca University, graduating in 2000 at the age of 82 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following that, she promptly enrolled in a General Studies degree program; unfortunately, a decline in her health prevented her from completing that degree.

Over the years, she kept meticulous notes about her reflections, first as a farm daughter and later as a farm wife, recording her thoughts about important events in her life. My mother passed away on July 22, 2012, at the age of 94. I am grateful that she continually wrote about her experiences as a Saskatchewan farming woman, and hope you will enjoy this glimpse of her life on a small, mixed farm in southern Saskatchewan during the Great Depression.



Left to right: Elizabeth Harder with friend Emma Stuart and sister Agatha Harder, 1935. Courtesy Sandra Bassendowski.

### *In her own words: Elizabeth Harder on farm life in the Depression*

The temperature in the 1930s was usually more than 100 degrees and summers were long and hot. Southern Saskatchewan became the hardest hit by the drought in those years -- not only by drought, but grasshoppers as well: grasshoppers that darkened the sky when they flew, and ate everything in front of them, leaving nothing behind. Some days, the clouds of grasshoppers settled down just as we were driving home from school in the buggy: the air would be thick with them -- they would get in our hair, in our ears, all around us -- then the wind would whip them away and they would settle in the fields.





Elizabeth Harder on the farm where she grew up at Kelstern, 1934.

Elizabeth Harder on the farm where she grew up at Kelstern, 1934.  
Courtesy Sandra Bassendowski.



Another pest was the armyworm. They were everywhere -- ate everything -- always marching along in one direction. They climbed the walls of a house if they came to it and if a window was open they would climb in, hordes of them. The outside walls of the house became a green colour. I couldn't step on them, so I would sweep them aside and proceed down the path, then, looking back, I would again be surrounded by them. They crawled into the wells on one side and crawled out on the other side. They ate everything in the garden, starting with the onion and beet tops but, eventually, stripping everything but the stalks. The garden would be ruined. As the dry years continued, the worms and grasshoppers disappeared: maybe they died of starvation as nothing grew for them to feed on.

It was sad to watch your farm and grassland die a slow death over a period of several years, each year getting drier and more hopeless than the year before. The soil became wind-eroded with relentless winds that blew every day. The sky was black with dust and it filtered into the house; sometimes the lamp had to be lit in the afternoon. You could taste the dust. The linoleum on the floor gradually was covered with fine dust and when dishes were placed on the table for a meal, the plates were placed upside down and a cloth spread over the entire table to keep the dust out. When the dust clouds rolled in, clothes on the line had to be brought in quickly, windows and doors closed, and everything fastened down. It was a frightening thing.

In the spring when the farmers had seeded the land and a dust storm came along, you could hear the grain hitting the windows and see it in the ditches -- the crop would be blown out [of the ground] and would have to be reseeded. The winds blew and the dust kept piling up. It covered fence posts, filled ditches and ruts, piled up in the machinery, and came into the house. Wet cloths

were placed everywhere on the window sills to catch some of it, but the smell of dust was everywhere.

People lost their farms to wind and to creditors. Some were forced to apply for relief, which consisted of a couple of dollars per month for staples and a few dollars for lignite coal. Even though things did not cost that much, relief bought precious little food. Cow chips were used in the summer as fuel: dry chips picked in the pasture threw a good heat in the kitchen stove for baking and heating water for washing clothes. Picking cowchips was a dusty and dirty job: I hated to mess around with them but at least we had fuel.

Very little grass grew but, when it did, it was covered with blown dirt or mixed with it. Stacks of Russian thistles were cut green and put up for feed for the cattle: they had a high oil content so they made good feed, but putting them up in stacks was an awful job -- so scratchy you had to wear long sleeves and gloves and, even then, your arms would be all scratched up and painful.

Some food came from the East but all I can remember is the dried cod that we couldn't eat. My mom tried soaking them for several days but it didn't help -- they were not edible. Schools were mostly all alike: supplies were scarce for there was no money to purchase anything. Pretty dresses that were so important to a young girl were hard to come by: flour bags were bleached white and dyed for material.

When the homesteaders first came out, the barrenness of the province and its unknown weather conspired to test every newcomer. As men and women survived each new conflict, they developed strength and confidence in their abilities. They learned to trust and rely on their neighbours. If trouble occurred, everyone united to help. Strong bonds of trust and respect were formed. This is what kept the pioneers going. However, in the Thirties, people were discouraged and depressed: with poor leadership in the government,

low prices for grain (if they managed to grow any), and with the dust storms and no help, the future looked bleak. The days were long and the nights short and ideal for growing conditions, if nature only had cooperated. The grain grew under the watchful eyes of the farmer who scanned the sky anxiously, hoping for rain and still dreading each cloud that appeared in the sky for fear that it might carry hailstones. It was a trying time: the farmers could do little for the crops they had worked so hard to get seeded; they were at the mercy of the unpredictable weather. Late frosts would kill the seedlings, early frost in the fall would blacken nearly ripe crops, hail would wipe out a field, and windstorms blew the seed right out of the ground.

In the Thirties, cars were made into 'Bennett buggies,' with horses hitched to them: that was the only means of transportation some people had, and at least they didn't need gas. Business men and storekeepers were sympathetic to our needs but, one by one, they also went broke. In about 1934, there was a mass migration of families leaving the southern part of Saskatchewan and going north. North meant Peace River, Meadow Lake, Carrot River -- those were some of the names we often heard. Some people just loaded up their wagons and travelled north -- anything was better (it just couldn't be worse) -- others got someone who still had a truck to drive them up there. Conditions weren't all that good up north either for the new families, for when you have lost so much it is a slow climb back up again. But, at least, they could grow a garden and, in time, clear some land and grow a crop, -- it seemed almost like heaven after what they had been through, to make a fresh start and build up a farm. Eventually, the fields started to turn green again at the end of the 1930s -- and war broke out in 1939. Suddenly, it seemed that the Great Depression was over.

*Endnotes page 48.*



# “Kodachrome, they give us those nice bright colours”: Axel Petersen’s photos of life in Landis

Nadine Charabin

On January 10, 1951, the following advertisement appeared on the front page of *The Landis Record*:

**KODACHROME NIGHT**  
January 17 at 8:00pm

A programme of kodachrome slides will be presented in the United Church by A. Petersen and S. Weber. Refreshments afterwards. Come and see yourself and friends on the screen.

Two weeks later, the ‘Local Items’ column of the newspaper reported that “pictures of unusual interest were shown at the United Church on Wednesday evening,” and that the viewing constituted “a real treat.” (*The Landis Record*, January 24, 1951, 1)

The ‘A. Petersen’ mentioned in these news items was Axel C. Petersen, who at that time was a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool agent in Landis, Saskatchewan. Axel Petersen was born in Denmark in 1903 and immigrated to Canada in 1926. He worked for the Wheat Pool in Landis from 1948 until 1953, when he moved to Regina and worked as a public relations officer for the Hotels Association of Saskatchewan until his retirement in 1971. Petersen’s lifelong hobby was photography, and he often presented slide shows of his work to various

groups -- just like the presentation that was promoted in *The Landis Record* in January 1951. Donated by his estate after his death in 1991, the Axel C. Petersen fonds (BF 12) is now part of the Permanent Collection of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. It consists of 5276 “Kodachrome” slides\* taken by Petersen between 1940 and 1986, primarily in Saskatchewan. A significant number of the slides were taken in Landis while Petersen lived there.

Landis is a farming-based village located on Highway 14 and on the current Canadian National Railway main line, about 140 km to the west of Saskatoon and 95 km to the south of North Battleford. Settlers started moving into the area in earnest around 1906, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTPR) laid steel through the district in 1908; the village was purportedly named after a GTPR railway official. The first village council was organized in Landis on June 15, 1909. The first grain elevator was opened in Landis in 1909, and the Saskatchewan Elevator Company grain elevator (that in 1924 became the Wheat Pool elevator that Petersen eventually operated) was opened in 1912. The first curling rink was built in 1917. The first

community hall was built in 1921. Early businesses included: the Landis Hotel; banks; an undertaker; some general stores; a watchmaker shop; a barber shop and pool room; various restaurants and cafes; a wagon wheel repair shop; a harness repair shop; a blacksmith; livery barns; a butcher shop; a drug store; a tailor shop; lumber yards; machinery sales; dance halls; *The Landis Record* newspaper; and eventually, the Landis Credit Union and the Landis Co-operative Association which included a gas station and garage as well as coal sales, grocery, hardware and other lines of business. The United Church mentioned in the “Kodachrome Night” articles was built in 1949, although the congregation had gathered in other buildings for many years previous.<sup>1</sup>

Now, sit back and picture yourself sitting in the Landis United Church on a frosty January evening in 1951, gathered with friends and neighbours to enjoy these vivid Kodachrome slides of people and places in Landis and the surrounding district...

*Endnotes page 48.*

*Nadine Charabin is the Publication Coordinator of Saskatchewan History and Manager of Reference Services at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.*



Freight train going through Landis in winter, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4734.

Kodachrome is a brand name for a non-substantive, color reversal film introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1935. It was one of the first successful color materials and was used for both cinematography and still photography.<sup>2</sup> The term “Kodachrome” was immortalized in 1973 by Paul Simon in his song “Kodachrome,” a line of which is quoted in the title of this feature.





Young boy in hat, leaning against a wagon, in Landis, ca.1952. PAS photo R-C5059.





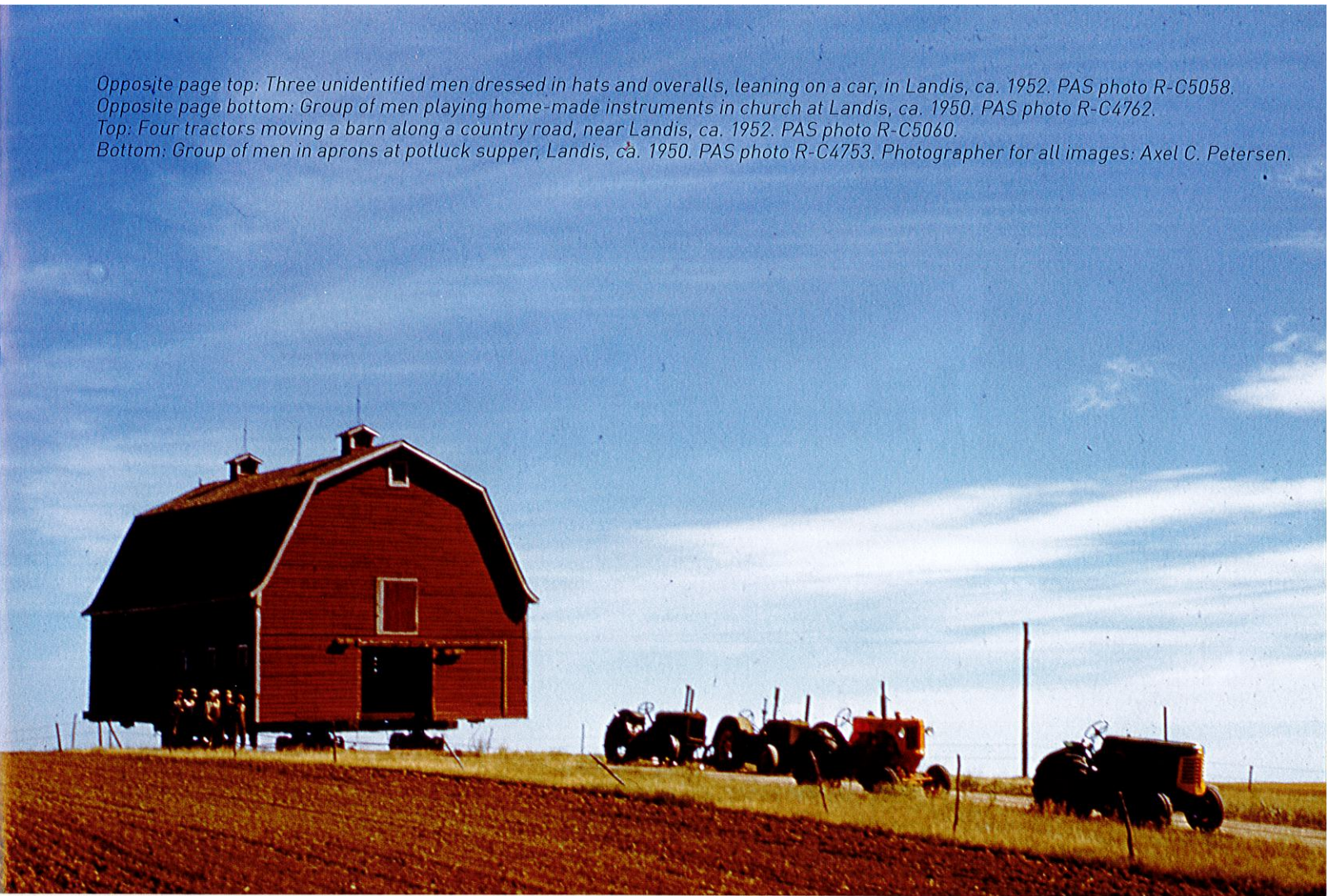


Opposite page top: Three unidentified men dressed in hats and overalls, leaning on a car, in Landis, ca. 1952. PAS photo R-C5058.

Opposite page bottom: Group of men playing home-made instruments in church at Landis, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4762.

Top: Four tractors moving a barn along a country road, near Landis, ca. 1952. PAS photo R-C5060.

Bottom: Group of men in aprons at potluck supper, Landis, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4753. Photographer for all images: Axel C. Petersen.











Opposite page top: Truck unloading grain at elevator in Landis, ca. 1951. PAS photo R-C4477. Opposite page bottom: Women's curling team posing in Landis Rink, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4745. Top: Group of people eating at a picnic, Landis area, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4769. Middle: Boat and house on lake at Landis, ca. 1952. PAS photo R-C5043. Bottom: Aerial view of Landis, ca. 1952. PAS photo R-C5042. Photographer for all images: Axel C. Petersen



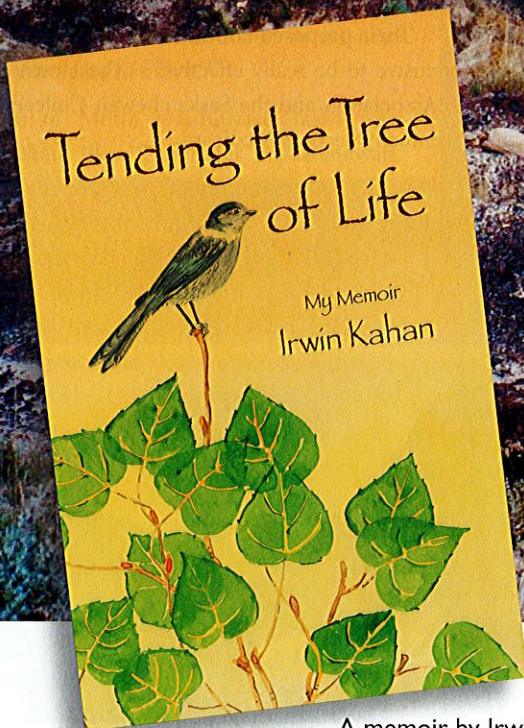


Top: Woman, possibly Isabel Cross or Edna Skog, operating a printing press at the local newspaper, The Landis Record, ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4674. Bottom: Donna Tufts and attendants on throne in Landis rink (unidentified pageant), ca. 1950. PAS photo R-C4749. Photographer for all images: Axel C. Petersen



# Tending the Tree of Life

A century of history in the  
story-telling words of one man



A memoir by Irwin Kahan  
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"This is a lovely book, both readable and interesting; an account that is difficult to put down once one begins. The author's recollections of Jewish life in rural Saskatchewan and in the air force during WWII will be useful for historical researchers in these areas.

"As I finished reading *Tending the Tree of Life* I felt that I had had the privilege of sharing in a conversation with a very articulate and pleasant man. I was reluctant to bid farewell to him on the last page."

Janice Rosen, Archives Director  
Canadian Jewish Congress CC National Archives

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Jewish farm boy  
from Saskatchewan  
end up participating in  
LSD experiments and  
other cutting-edge  
psychiatric research?

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charms the reader,  
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World War II veteran,  
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recounts his often  
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creative  
SASKATCHEWAN



# The life and legacy of C.J. Houston, Medicare pioneer

*C. Stuart Houston and Richard A. Rempel*

## His Legacy

Clarence J. Houston, MD, FACS, was one of the medical doctors who pioneered Saskatchewan's primacy in Canada's greatest achievement, Medicare. Known to his friends as C.J., as early as 1943, Houston and Dr. R.A. Dick of Canora prepared a proposed "health insurance scheme" administered "by a provincial health insurance commission."<sup>1</sup> Their proposed commission would be free "from political influence" and would function with "an executive power sufficiently extensive to be really effective."<sup>2</sup> The Houston-Dick proposal was presented to the joint annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1943.<sup>3</sup> This was C.J.'s first contribution toward what would eventually become Medicare.

On June 15, 1944, T.C. (Tommy) Douglas and his Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) won an historic 43 of 52 seats in the Saskatchewan election. One of his Douglas's first acts as premier was to contact Dr. Henry Sigerist at Johns Hopkins University to create a province-wide survey to plan for future health needs in Saskatchewan. Dr. J. Lloyd Brown of Regina represented the medical profession during the Sigerist study.

When Dr. R.A. Dick was forced by ill health to retire in early 1944, a by-election in Medical Electoral Division 4<sup>4</sup> elected C.J. Houston to replace him on the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons.<sup>5</sup> C.J.'s voice became increasingly important.

All members of the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons held concurrent offices in the Saskatchewan Medical Association, with a single combined office and staff, as a cost-saving measure initiated during the Depression. C.J. became a key member of the medical team that negotiated with the CCF government led by Douglas. Early on in the Douglas administration, on August 23, 1944, this medical team agreed on a way to inaugurate and manage the Social Assistance Medical Care Plan, to care for widows, blind people and seniors without means, for a mere \$9.50 per capita per year.<sup>6</sup> This "cordial agreement, reached with extraordinary speed, was welcome to everyone and went into effect on January 1, 1945."<sup>7</sup> It also marked C.J.'s second contribution to Medicare.

The Sigerist report was quickly followed by a special session of the Saskatchewan Legislature, which passed *The Health Services Act* and thus created the Health Services Planning Commission (HSPC). In turn, on March 2, 1945, the first meeting of the new 31-member HSPC advisory committee was held, with Houston and Dr. Jack Anderson representing the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The HSPC acted with amazing



*C.J. Houston at the telephone, Yorkton, ca 1937.  
Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.*

speed and, within months, provided additional support for municipal doctors, money for hospital construction, and free treatment for cancer and mental patients.<sup>8</sup> This work with the HSPC marks C.J.'s third contribution to Medicare. When, in September 1945, Tommy Douglas promised that "a health insurance scheme shall be administered by a Commission which shall be free from political interference and influence,"<sup>9</sup> C.J. was greatly encouraged by the promise.

In 1946, Douglas flew to Washington to entice Dr. Fred Mott to Saskatchewan as the first permanent chair of the Health Services Planning Commission; Sigerist had advised the Premier that Mott was "the ablest man on the continent for the job."<sup>10</sup>

Mott, who was considered "a man of action and great personal integrity," was assigned several major tasks,<sup>11</sup> including the overwhelmingly urgent one of fast-tracking hospitalization (the term commonly used to mean free hospital care) to begin on the improbably early date of January 1, 1947.

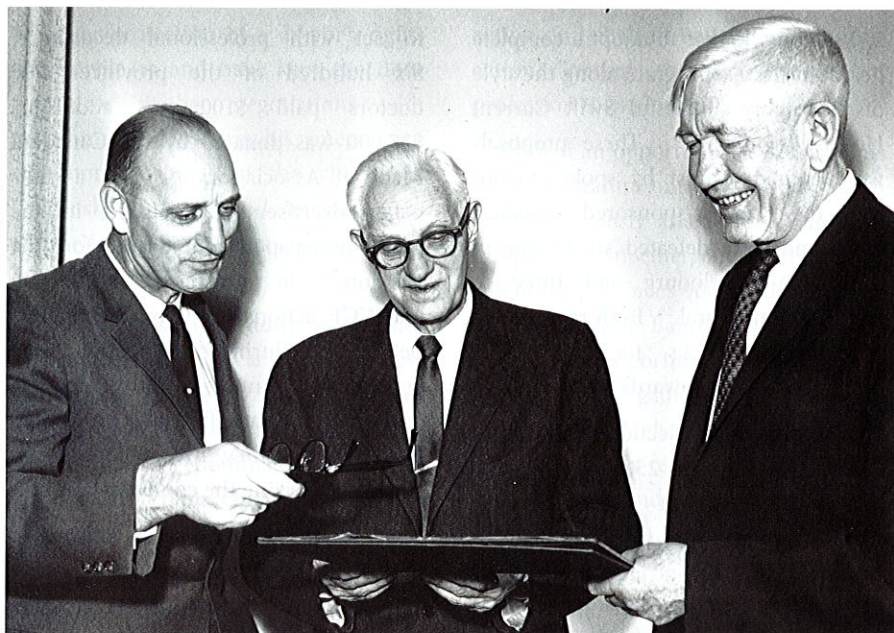
Under Mott, the difficulties inherent in the first-ever design of a province-wide hospitalization program were overcome, and its carefully planned introduction on January 1, 1947 went smoothly. Mott earned the admiration of almost every Saskatchewan doctor, who no longer had to worry whether their patients could afford hospital care. This was in striking contrast to the introduction of free hospital care in British Columbia,



the second province to do so, which was initially a disaster: costly and badly administered.<sup>12</sup> By 1957, the ratio of hospital beds in Saskatchewan increased from 4.8 per 1,000 in 1946 to 6.5 per 1,000. Thus, hospitalization became "the most widely endorsed program the Government introduced in its first twenty years of office."<sup>13</sup>

One of Mott's less-hurried tasks was to chair the 12-member Saskatchewan Health Survey Committee (HSC).<sup>14</sup> From 1949 to 1951, C.J. was one of two doctors active on the HSC, the other being Dr. Gordon G. Ferguson, the full-time registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.<sup>15</sup> Through this work, C.J. developed the utmost admiration for Mott and for Malcolm G. Taylor, the HSC's secretary and research director.

Mott's executive abilities as chair, coupled with Taylor's research skills, "persuaded the committee to embrace procedures that emphasized cooperation."<sup>16</sup> The diverse group met amicably; as each question arose, it was hammered out to the point of agreement. No minority report was submitted, nor were interim reports supplied to the organizations that each member represented. C.J. commented that he and Ferguson realized "that some of the statements and conclusions may not be what a strictly medical committee would set forth. ... The report is the fusion of twelve varied and considered opinions."<sup>17</sup> Years later, C.J. noted that, "After more than two years' work and twenty-five meetings, the two-volume report contained a catalogue of Saskatchewan's health resources and an estimate of needs in future."<sup>18</sup> Of the 115 recommendations in the report, the number one recommendation was that "A comprehensive health insurance program should be undertaken at the earliest possible date."<sup>19</sup> In the coming years, the Saskatchewan report would be described as having "surpassed that for any other province...it was the classic of such projects."<sup>20</sup> The reasons for its success were that the



*In addition to his pioneering role in health care, C.J. also served on the Board of Yorkton Collegiate for 30 years, ten as chair. Here, C.J. (right) poses with Reg Ball (left) and Dr. Willard S. Elsbree (centre). Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.*

committee had "established a precedent for working out health matters. It had proved that a widely representative type of Commission can work."<sup>21</sup> Years later, C.J.'s son would write that the report "was exemplary for both the co-operative spirit of the endeavor and the completeness and unanimity of the report."<sup>22</sup>

Malcolm Taylor had become a friend of C.J. for life, and was now equipped to write the definitive history of health care financing in Saskatchewan, acknowledging the assistance of C.J. Houston and many others.<sup>23</sup> In 1951, Taylor "left Saskatchewan, mission accomplished."<sup>24</sup> Indeed, the Health Survey Report was C.J.'s fourth -- and arguably most important -- contribution to the planning of Medicare.

The march to Medicare was fraught with disappointments as well as successes. C.J.'s first major disappointment came when Douglas, carrying too heavy a load as both Premier and health minister, stepped down from the health portfolio on 4 November 1959. Douglas appointed T.J. Bentley as his successor. Bentley, who had won the Gull Lake seat in a by-election only four days earlier, was clearly less flexible than

Douglas and seemed lukewarm to Douglas's promise of a non-political and independent Commission.

On January 6, 1951, the College's Health Services Committee met with Bentley and Douglas. The key question, asked by C.J., was: "We wish to know if the Government still supports the principle of administration ... by a so-called independent non-political type of Commission ... previously endorsed by the Premier." He went on to explain his concern that "it had been intimated that the Government, or some of its Members, wish to alter that status." Houston concluded the meeting by stating his disappointment at what he considered a change of heart.<sup>25</sup> As far as C.J. and many other doctors were concerned, Bentley was breaking an important Douglas promise.

Meanwhile, doctor-sponsored medical insurance plans were growing rapidly in strength, quickly becoming a potential alternative to government-financed medical care. That year, Medical Services Incorporated in Saskatoon had 217,000 members; Group Medical Services, based in Regina, had 91,000.<sup>26</sup> The Assiniboia-Gravelbourg and Regina Rural health regions voted November



2, 1955 on whether to adopt a complete health insurance program along the style of the highly successful Swift Current Health Region #1.<sup>27</sup> These proposals were argued against by spokespersons for the doctor-sponsored medical plans and were defeated six to one in Assiniboia-Gravelbourg and three to one in Regina Rural.<sup>28</sup> Both represented temporary setbacks for the CCF's incremental steps towards Medicare.

Speaking to a by-election audience at Birch Hills on April 25, 1959, Douglas announced, without informing the medical profession as he had previously promised (his second broken promise to doctors), that the CCF government planned to introduce a universal, comprehensive, medical care insurance plan.<sup>29</sup> On November 23, 1959, recently retired University of Saskatchewan President, Dr. W. P. Thompson, a renowned scientist in biology, world famous for his studies of wheat rust, and recently retired as the morale-boosting President of the University of Saskatchewan, was appointed by Douglas as Chair of the Advisory Committee on the proposed medical care plan.<sup>30</sup> On December 16, Douglas began his election campaign using "Prepaid Medical Care" as his topic for a Provincial Affairs Broadcast.<sup>31</sup> The election was called for June 8, 1960.

Years later, in 1987, Malcolm Taylor would ask a pertinent question, repeated by many since: "If the Government had introduced medical care insurance in 1949 or 1950 ... a universal plan would have had the profession's approval and full cooperation. What happened?"<sup>32</sup>

The medical profession had started to consider government-directed Medicare as a serious threat and responded ferociously to the Douglas campaign with its promise of government-managed health care. To oppose the implementation of state-run Medicare, the College hired a public relations man from outside the province, who had "little understanding of the issues" and who "failed to respect physicians' duty

to act with professional decorum."<sup>33</sup> Six hundred of the province's 900 doctors paid \$100; an additional \$35,000 was donated by the Canadian Medical Association -- and a full-page advertisement appeared in the major newspapers four days before the election.<sup>34</sup> In retrospect, the political, anti-CCF actions taken by the doctors before and during the election were strategically unwise, anti-democratic and inappropriate for any profession. Nevertheless, they were undertaken, further polarizing the confrontation.

Now we move on to C.J.'s fifth, final, and least-satisfying service in the planning of Medicare: his participation on the Advisory Committee on Medical Care, 1960-1962. Committee chair Thompson had long-admired C.J.'s constructive work on provincial medical issues, describing him as a "fine man" for whom he had "the greatest respect" because he was "judicious," wished "to get the best possible scheme," and "moved several... important... individual recommendations."<sup>35</sup> Throughout the Thompson Committee meetings, C.J. reported that Drs. Irwin Hilliard and Vince Matthews saw eye-to-eye in constructive suggestions on medical matters; however, they both voted with the majority on the Interim Report.

Members of the Thompson Committee took time to study systems of Medicare in other societies, notably Great Britain, Scandinavia, and Australia. While most took advantage of the all-expense-paid trips offered, C. J. travelled to Norway at his own expense to study one of the best-managed health care systems in the world that allowed considerable regional autonomy and variation.<sup>36</sup>

Douglas and his government believed that no program of Medicare should be legislated without some recommendation from the Advisory Committee. Chair Thompson asked for a vote of support for a proposed Interim Report. To his regret, unanimity was not granted. Thompson had

reluctantly accepted fee-for-service in the vain hope of gaining at least a minimum amount of co-operation from doctors throughout Saskatchewan.<sup>37</sup> He had been profoundly frustrated by the persistent delays, largely brought about by Drs. Anderson and Barootes, who were "violently opposed" to "tax-financed health care."<sup>38</sup> They represented the majority of members of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, who were now implacably opposed to "a Government-controlled regulated and integrated plan of total medical care ... a state monopoly of medical services."<sup>39</sup> C.J., who from the first had insisted on commission governance like that of the provincial government, himself "insisted on a commission for Medicare that would be independent of the provincial Government -- which led him to join three others on the Thompson committee in a dissenting report."<sup>40</sup> Thus, four voted against the majority report: Anderson, Barootes, Houston, and Donald McPherson, who represented the Chamber of Commerce. When Medicare became law on July 1, 1962, C.J. had already opposed the legislation by his earlier negative vote against the Interim Report.

The majority report was submitted to the Douglas government on September 25, 1961, and the government then constructed a draft Medicare Bill, based on many of the ideas in the Interim Report, the decisive document. Indeed, the entire province had become polarized, as exemplified by the division among the members of the Thompson Committee.

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association was held October 16 - 17, 1961.<sup>41</sup> It gave the 445 doctors who had registered an opportunity to vote: they "approved the minority report" by a vote of 262 to 3. Moreover, the SMA's second resolution, condensed, contained the following main statements:



*Whereas the College endorses the principle of universal availability of prepaid medical insurance and has so stated on numerous occasions; and whereas the best interests of our patients have been reflected in our personal services; and whereas the maintenance and improvement of the present high standards of medical care will be adversely affected, the College refuses to accept a government controlled Medical Scheme as outlined in the Legislative draft.*

During the discussion, Drs. A.A. Bailey, Michael Alms and C.J. Houston expressed that this blanket condemnation was both unwise and too vague, because this was just a "Draft Bill," and "more discussion and understanding were desirable supported by a legal opinion." To C.J., a withdrawal of services by doctors was unthinkable; he felt an amendment might have led

to better protection of a doctor's rights and privileges and have kept the door open for further negotiations with government. However, his amendment was not accepted by the chair, Dr. Dalgleish. This second motion was affirmed by 246 and opposed by 4, with 15 abstentions.<sup>42</sup>

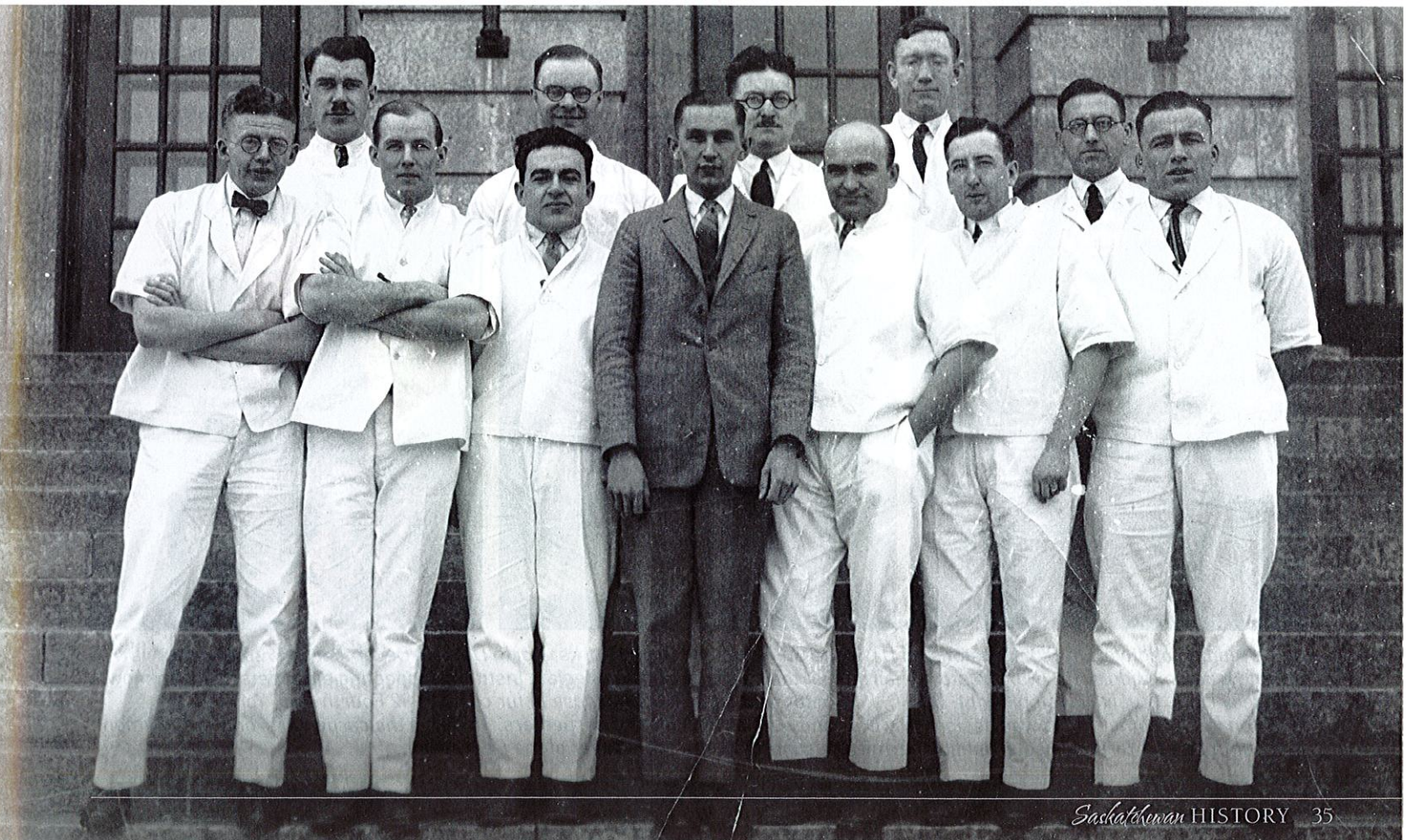
Douglas next stepped down as Premier to become national leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), created from the CCF party in alliance with Eastern labour interests dominated by David Lewis. The replacement premier on November 7, 1961 was the seasoned politician, Woodrow Lloyd, who was left to complete the implementation of Medicare.

The Lloyd government on April 11, 1962, even in the words of its foremost medical supporter, Dr. Sam Wolfe, "acted unwisely, angrily, and against many of its own advisers" when it amended the *Medical Care Act* to give the Commission power to take legal

action on behalf of beneficiaries.<sup>43</sup> This action "caused the already militant profession to explode in anger."<sup>44</sup>

Lloyd had an opportunity to rescind this explosive feature on May 3, 1962, when he "courageously asked" for permission to speak to an emergency gathering of 608 of the province's 900 medical doctors at the Trianon Ballroom in Regina,<sup>45</sup> the largest proportion of Saskatchewan doctors ever gathered in a single meeting. Lloyd chose not to offer the slightest hint of a recant or peace offering (both Barootes and C.J. privately believed that Tommy Douglas might have done so had he remained as premier). Among doctors that morning, Lloyd's stature was further diminished by the bombshell overnight news that Walter Erb, his Minister of Health, had resigned: joyous news for the doctors. Those Thompson Committee members who favoured the Medicare legislation were delighted to see the departure of a man whom they considered dimly weak.

*The 11 junior interns completing 12 months of practical hospital training at the Grey Nuns Hospital in St. Boniface, Manitoba; they worked for the necessary experience and were paid with only room and board. C.J. is the tall man in the back row, second from right. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.*





It was later reported that, "The highlights of this day [May 3] were the clear, lucid, and forceful talks delivered by Drs. Barootes and Anderson and the College Solicitor."<sup>46</sup> The chair, Dr. Harold Dalglish, President of the College, asked for a vote of confidence of a medical work stoppage if no legislative changes were made by July 1. "The response was so enthusiastic and united in its opposition that the 'Myth of the Hierarchy' was definitely laid to rest [by a response that was] demonstrative, enthusiastic and spontaneous. ... When the question was asked how many would work under the *Act*, no one stood."<sup>47</sup> The result was that the two sides, doctors and government, did not speak to each other in the following month!<sup>48</sup>

Meanwhile, the results of the federal election on June 18 added to the "doctors' feeling of strength and rightness of cause."<sup>49</sup> Federally, Saskatchewan was still Diefenbaker country, as it had been in 1958. Douglas himself lost his bid for the Regina federal seat, receiving only 12,736 votes to Progressive Conservative Ken More's 22,164 votes. Each of the 17 NDP candidates in Saskatchewan was spurned, nine of them relegated to third place and 12 of them lost their deposits with less than half the votes of the winner.<sup>50</sup>

Weeks later, the infamous and sensational "doctor's strike" began on July 1, 1962 and drew the attention of newspapers throughout North America for the next 23 days. In reality it was "a withdrawal of services, not a strike in the usual sense of the word."<sup>51</sup> Free emergency services were provided by 237 doctors, including C.J. Houston, in 35 strategically selected hospitals.<sup>52</sup> On July 11, a Keep Our Doctors (KOD) rally at the Legislature, hoping for 40,000 supporters, drew only about 4,000, a major blow to the doctors' cause and a devastation to members of the KOD.<sup>53</sup>

Partway through the strike, the newly established NDP held its provincial convention in Saskatoon. On July 18, the NDP granted College president Harold Dalglish an equal opportunity to that given Lloyd on May 3. Expressing a willingness to resume negotiations, he spoke to a hostile audience of more than a thousand delegates and visitors jammed into the ballroom of the Bessborough Hotel.<sup>54</sup>

A solution began to seem possible when Lord Stephen Taylor, a British Labour Party peer and politician who had been involved in the British National Health Service, was invited to Saskatoon by Lloyd's government to meet with the two sides independently.

To the surprise of many, Lord Taylor quickly gained the confidence of both government members and the doctors. On the 23rd day of work stoppage, he arranged for the Saskatoon Agreement which "removed those sections which the Commission considered threats to personal freedom" and allowed physicians to submit bills through the pre-existing doctor-sponsored health insurance plans if they desired.<sup>55</sup> The doctors were to return to practice immediately.<sup>56</sup> On August 2, 1962, a special one-day session of the legislature met and the new *Medical Care Insurance Act* went into effect.<sup>57</sup>

Thirty-one years later, a well-attended retrospective, "Symposium on Medicare, past, present and future," was organized and chaired by Dr. Stuart Houston as part of an event called "Universiday" at a University of Saskatchewan alumni reunion, September 18, 1993. The featured speakers were Dr. John Bury, reading from the script of Dr. Sam Wolfe, who had suffered a stroke in Toronto en route to this meeting; Dr. Efsthios Barootes, and Dr. Jane Fulton, professor of health administration at the University of Ottawa.

The audience expected a repetition of the strongly opposing views that had been so heated in 1962. Instead, Dr.



Left: Wedding photo of Dr. C.J. Houston and Dr. Sigga Christianson, Grand Forks, North Dakota, December 3, 1926. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston. Middle: Dr. C.J. Houston, chairman of the board, Yorkton Collegiate Institute, inspecting air cadets. Date unknown. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston. Right: Drs. C.J. Houston and Sigga Houston pose in fur coats at 82 Fourth Ave., Yorkton, the Houston family home, which was designed by C.J., and built by four master carpenters. This was the carpenters' only employment that summer, and Yorkton's sole building permit issued in 1933, the worst year of the Depression.



Houston introduced the symposium by stressing "the unique characteristics of Saskatchewan that made it a pioneer in health service reform. The cooperative movement and the spirit of cooperation reached a higher peak in Saskatchewan than anywhere in North America. There was a sense of empowerment of rural people."<sup>58</sup>

Barootes, all these years later, admitted that the "political intervention by doctors in the 1962 election was amateurish, clumsy, aggressive, and ineffective," and that "hasty or bad draftsmanship [of the Medicare bill] allowed the doctors to give the Act the most perverse interpretation possible." Barootes also confessed his change of heart. He testified that "Universal health care administered by a public body is overwhelmingly popular and here to stay .... Our fear that doctors would lose their professional freedom and become conscripts to civil service has not been borne out.... Strikes by physicians and health service professionals are no longer acceptable."<sup>59</sup>

John Bury, in turn, admitted that his reading from Dr. Sam Wolfe's script "parallels what Dr. Barootes has been saying almost exactly... the Minister of Public Health acted unwisely in not making the draft legislation available to the profession earlier ... the terrible, terrible fact was that between November 1961 ... and July 1, 1962, the profession sat face to face in negotiations on fewer than seven days." Wolfe noted that "while it took 11 years for the federal government to follow Saskatchewan's lead on covering hospital costs, it took only four and a half years for them to initiate federal Medicare."<sup>60</sup>

Dr. Jane Fulton spoke at the symposium in favour of "efficacy in health care, executed appropriately. Hospitals will be smaller and leaner. Confrontation is not on."<sup>61</sup>

In 1963, the proportion of doctors billing the commission directly was only 21.5% but by 1970, this had increased to

51.5%.<sup>62</sup> Most doctors, enjoying their increased incomes, gradually succumbed to billing the government directly, more convenient for doctor and patient. However, C.J.'s medical practice of Houston, Crossley and Daunt remained resolutely independent, the last office in Saskatchewan to bill only through MSI or GMS, placing idealistic principle ahead of realistic practicality.

The reality is that universal Medicare in Canada, with all its flaws, removes the monetary barrier encountered by many in the United States. There, a two-month premature infant may bankrupt a family by the small percent of expenses not covered by "full" medical insurance. Quite possibly, C.J.'s ideal (a commission governance) might not have protected the practice of medicine from the current degree of bureaucracy, inefficiency and control that exists today, and might have occurred under any paymaster. Today, waiting lists to gain entry into the Medicare system and to obtain referrals, virtually non-existent in private practice in Yorkton in the 1930s and 1940s, are much too long.

A memorial tribute to C.J. by Senator and long-time friend, Dr. E.W. Barootes, was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

*Our profession lost a most respected senior statesman. I remember C.J. for his quiet speech, his reasoned, rational and human response to the medical and social problems of the postwar period. His simplicity and sincerity of advice were respected by and constantly sought by governments, citizens and professionals alike. He was the soul of integrity and clung to his ideals with considerable tenacity. Disagreeing with the original format of Medicare, his belief in his lofty principles made him refuse the offer to become chairman of the Medical Care Insurance Commission.*<sup>63</sup>

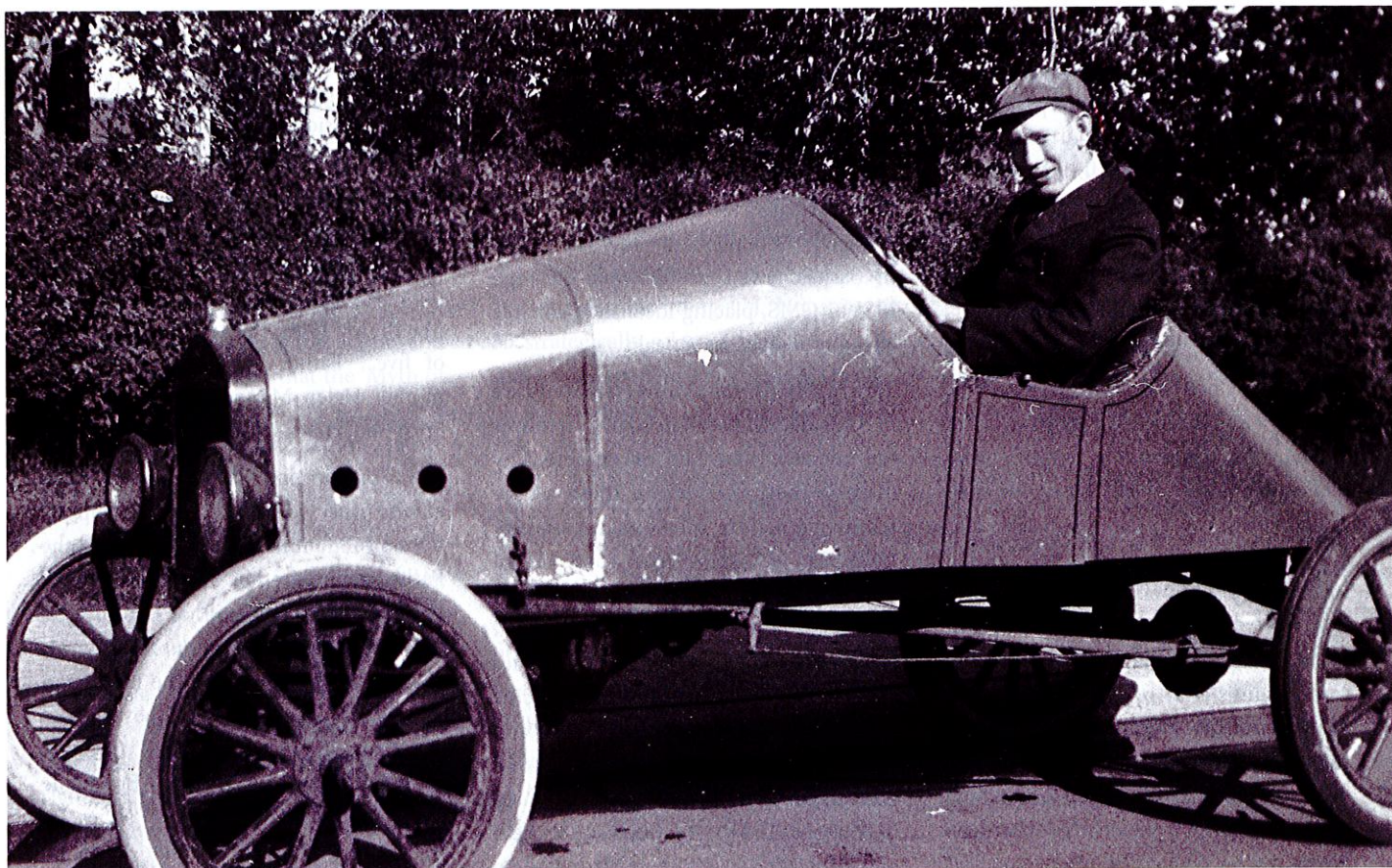
## His Life

C.J.'s sincere efforts on behalf of his profession and humanity merit understanding in the context of the other aspects of his selfless life of night-and-day service to others. Clarence Joseph Houston was probably born in the 12-room Ottawa family home on March 18, 1900, the fourth in a family of five. Father Stewart Houston and mother Helen McArton had both been born on farms settled in 1821.

The Houston and Leckie families were among the 112 Scottish immigrants from 18 families sponsored by the Parkhead Emigration Society. All sailed from Greenock, the port of Glasgow, on the *Earl of Buckinghamshire*, April 21, 1821. During the voyage, the infant son of William Houston died. They arrived in Montreal June 16. They travelled upstream from Lachine to Brockville and then overland with a series of horses and wagons through Perth to Lanark and Dalhousie counties, some of the Scottish emigrants dying from "bloody flux" during this overland trip. Each family built a log house amidst their assigned 100 acres of forest. The foremost couple sponsored by the Parkhead Society, John Leckie and Elizabeth McCracken, suffered severe hardships with all the rest, yet had "an almost unprecedented period of 71 years of perfect companionship" before both died in 1875. Their daughter, Alice Leckie, married William Houston; their fourth child was John H. Houston, whose sixth child was Stewart Houston, born in 1863.

Stewart Houston, C.J.'s father, became the first-ever railway mail clerk on the Canadian Pacific Railway from Ottawa through North Bay to Port Arthur (today part of Thunder Bay). At North Bay, the Toronto to Port Arthur mail joined the Ottawa mail for the rest of the trip; these were the two longest mail lines in all Canada, about 830 miles each. Canadian railway mail clerks were not compelled to carry pistols to protect the mail, as were those in the USA.<sup>64</sup>





A young C.J. Houston in his friend's one-seat topless "runabout" with a small engine. Evidently a one-seater, and possibly home-made by the friend (unknown), C.J. did not own it. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.

Stewart sorted mail as the train traveled between each station. He also served as secretary and later as president of the railway mail clerks' union in his spare time, and was given a silver tea service by his union when, after 20 years' service, he received \$600 retirement pay in 1903, sold his Ottawa home, and homesteaded in Saskatchewan.<sup>65</sup> Stewart Houston believed that unearned increment, interest on investments, was the next thing to sinful.<sup>66</sup>

On April 30, 1903, Stewart and his oldest son and namesake, Stewart, aged 16, got off the CPR train at Indian Head, bought three horses and a wagon for \$585, and headed south, identifying their land (section 9, township 13, range 13) by locating the surveyor's iron rods. The two men built their first shack, enabling the elder's wife and four younger children to join them in early May 1904,<sup>67</sup> the year the nearby village of Tyvan was staked out. New settlers occupied every section of land along the new railway built from Stoughton

to Regina that year, part of the free land that Clifford Sifton, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier's Minister of the Interior, offered to aspiring settlers.

C.J. and his younger siblings went three miles to school, by a horse-drawn buggy in summer and sleigh in winter. After working on the farm for two years, C.J. obtained his junior matriculation, Grade 11, at Regina College, where a favourite classmate was the future Rhodes Scholar and later radio commentator and author, James M. Minifie. C.J. then attended one year of Arts and Science at the University of Manitoba before his acceptance into Medical College in Winnipeg.

In his medical college student days, C.J. won the medal given to the top Anatomy student; his professor, J.C.B. Grant, had produced the world-renowned *Grant's Atlas of Anatomy*. The prize was a copy of Sir William Osler's *Aequanimitas*, one of C.J.'s prized possessions, which he cherished and

tried to follow. His own equanimity of a high order, together with his strong constitution, helped to explain his ability to carry a tremendous workload, often with minimal sleep. C.J. was manager of the Medical College track team, and played on the med's basketball team, whose main rival was the engineering team from the main Fort Garry campus.

Following a one-year internship at the St. Boniface Hospital, C.J. graduated M.D. in 1926, and began a medical practice in Watford City, North Dakota. He wrote daily to Sigga Christianson, from the class of 1925, born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on June 28, 1893, and employed in the tuberculosis sanatorium in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He pleaded with Sigga to marry him. Seven years his senior, she was convinced that it was socially unacceptable for a man to marry a woman that much older. But her resistance crumbled when C.J. developed Ludwig's angina, a chronic, purulent inflammation around the submaxillary gland. This was a disease



that, before antibiotics, had a 50% fatality rate. Sigga decided he needed her, took the train to Williston, nursed him round the clock, and applied hot fomentations every three hours. The swelling and fever gradually subsided. She probably saved his life.

Sigga returned to Fort Wayne, gave notice of her departure, and agreed to meet and marry C.J. in Grand Forks on December 3, 1926. The couple was refused a marriage license in both Grand Forks and in Crookston in adjacent Minnesota unless they would agree to a three-week waiting period. Then, C.J. had a brilliant inspiration: returning to the license office in Grand Forks, he informed them that he and Sigga were both Canadian citizens. Did this make a difference to the stipulated three-week waiting period? Yes, it did: the Americans felt no need to protect two Canadians from folly! They were married that day.

C.J. and Sigga opened their lifelong practice in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, population 5,000, in January 1928. Yorkton had just reached city status. Fortunately, the Houstons had moved into an area of Saskatchewan parkland that did not experience a crop failure in the first 60 years of farming. Moreover, they had moved out of "the badlands" of North Dakota just in time: soon after their departure, McKenzie County became one of the most severely drought-stricken areas of the United States.

C.J. and Sigga offered a high standard of medical practice to a wide area – unequivocally one of the largest, busiest practices in Saskatchewan. C.J. did surgery all morning, then went home for a bowl of soup and a refreshing 20-minute nap. His office hours started at 2 p.m., with a patient booked every 15 minutes. He always stayed in the office until everyone was seen, usually 6:30 or 7 p.m., but on busy days, he stayed until 7:30 or 8 p.m. He sometimes made one or two urgent house calls before going

home for a late supper, and then made his evening rounds at the hospital.

C.J. was oblivious to time. He never knew what hour any patient was booked for, or how far behind schedule he was running. He would spend an hour -- or whatever it took -- to hear out a patient with many complaints or to fully assess and diagnose a patient with complicated neurological problems. The total fee for such an assessment, together with a hemoglobin and urinalysis on every visit, was two dollars, a price that remained unchanged from 1928 through 1962. He made many house calls, once as far as 50 miles to Togo to give a blood transfusion.

C.J. was one of two major players in an air rescue. Mrs. Aurelia ("Goldie") Molnar, aged 19, had given birth on New Year's Eve, 1937 at her father's farm house, half a mile west of McKim. A severe, continuing post-partum hemorrhage caused the new mother to lose a major amount of blood. She could not be moved to the Yorkton hospital by sleigh due to snow-drifted roads. C.J. telephoned Ed Fletcher of Yorkton Flying Services, who flew him to McKim, landing his small airplane on skis in the level farm garden near the farmhouse. C.J. lay on the floor of the plane and the stretcher carrying Mrs. Molnar was placed on top of him. When the plane landed near its hangar south of King Street East, the ambulance was waiting for them.<sup>68</sup> The blood transfusions were deemed to have saved Mrs. Molnar's life. "It was the first time a patient had been transported to a hospital by plane in the Yorkton area, and this flight was noted in papers across the west."<sup>69</sup>

In the early Thirties, most obstetrical deliveries were in farm homes, since few patients felt they could afford the two dollars per day for the ten-day stay then in vogue for maternity patients. Much of C.J.'s pay was in chickens, cords of wood, or sides of beef. One patient brought a quart of cream a week until her cholecystectomy was paid for.

C.J. was the part-time Medical Officer of Health for the City of Yorkton, 1942 to 1957, the remuneration for which began at a paltry 50 dollars per month. On many Wednesday afternoons, a half-holiday throughout the province, he did school immunizations from 1:30 to 4 p.m., assisted by Yorkton public health nurse, Nancy Mackenzie. Wednesday afternoons were also a time for making house visits to shut-ins.

C.J. and Sigga sent out bills only once each year, after harvest. C.J. regularly refused payment when it was offered during a house call, or before a patient left the hospital after surgery. His son, Stuart remembers seeing his father refuse a dozen \$10 bills peeled off by a farmer after the farmer's wife had a cholecystectomy, and then go without any payment. Accounts, except in two or three exceptional circumstances, were not turned over to a collection agency. A Métis trapper once offered C.J. a live bear cub in payment for his wife's maternity care.<sup>70</sup> C.J. never sued a patient, nor was he ever sued.

A humorous anecdote from this time tells that the Houstons rented office space for their practice in Yorkton's Smith Block on Broadway. So too did Harry S. Swallow, chiropractor; E.G. Small, optometrist; and Clarence G. Guy, real estate. The sign on the door at street level listed only the surnames of the occupants upstairs: Houston and Houston Swallow Small Guy. This splendidly humorous, if inadvertent, listing made it into *Ripley's Believe it or not!*

After World War II, C.J.'s junior partners were Dr. Ronald Jackson (who became a surgeon in North Bay, Ontario), then Dr. Don Duncan (who moved to private practice in Norquay, Saskatchewan), and finally Dr. Don Mitchell (who trained as an internist and rheumatologist in Boston and practiced at University Hospital, Saskatoon). C.J. and Sigga's son, Stuart Houston, replaced Don Mitchell from July 1, 1951; in 1955, when Stuart wished to take a year of



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internal medicine at the new University Hospital in Saskatoon, his classmate Harry Crossley moved down from Kelvington to join the firm for life. Stuart left Yorkton permanently in late June 1960 to begin an academic career in radiology.

Every winter, C.J. closed his office and went away for two to four weeks of postgraduate training at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, or to Portland, Oregon, mainly in surgical subspecialties. At Cook County, he learned cystoscopy one winter, the next winter calculus retrieval, and the third winter, trans-urethral prostatectomy. In Oregon, he learned, under supervision, to pin fractured femoral necks.

C.J. was a member of the medical staff of the Yorkton General Hospital (later Yorkton Union Hospital), Chief of Staff, and secretary and president of the North-Eastern Saskatchewan District Medical Society, which brought in a visiting specialist about four times each year to address their regional meeting. All Yorkton doctors lectured to the nurses enrolled in the three-year training program during Wednesday afternoons and on evenings throughout each winter. Graduates from this superb bedside nursing training school did well in provincial examinations and were in great demand.

When he ceased his surgical practice in 1975, C.J. decided to write the biography of Dr. T.A. Patrick, the first medical doctor in the North-West Territorial Legislature and whose unique and surprising proposal for the present boundaries of the three prairie provinces was accepted by Parliament in 1902. C.J. knew that Patrick's reminiscences had never been published and set out to rectify this omission; with his son's assistance, C.J. located four slightly different versions in different archives. This material was published in 32 instalments in the *Western Producer*, the largest circulation farm newspaper, between March 1 and December 7, 1978. Most of this material then appeared in book form as *Pioneer of Vision: The Reminiscences of T.A. Patrick, M.D.* The book launch in Yorkton on November 15, 1980 was said by *Western Producer* Prairie Books to be their second largest book launch, exceeded only by the launch and sales of multiple different books in his home city of Brandon by Grant McEwen. C.J. said that the book launch was one of the proudest moments of his life.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons recognized C.J.'s wide reputation for surgical expertise and excellent results. Soon after certification began in 1944, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 'grandfathered' him with Specialty Certification in General Surgery. No additional training or examination was required. Later, he sent 50 consecutive surgical case histories to the American College of Surgeons, and on this basis was granted Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons (FACS) in 1949. This was a remarkable achievement for a general practitioner. He was awarded Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League in 1944 for his outstanding services rendered in the cause of eradicating tuberculosis.

From 1948 through 1962, C.J. was one of two Saskatchewan representatives on the Medical Council of Canada, and its president in 1962-63, his most important national position.<sup>72</sup> The November 1962 issue of *Canadian Doctor* featured his portrait on its cover, together with a one-page biography. Canada awarded him a Centennial Medal



in recognition of valuable service to the nation, July 1, 1967.

A member of the committee which met in Toronto in 1954 to form the Canadian College of General Practice, C.J. was given Honorary Membership in the College of General Practice (Canada) at its annual meeting in Vancouver in 1960. In 1967 he was elected a Senior Member of the Canadian Medical Association, a special honour given to only two Saskatchewan doctors and 23 in all Canada that year. His citation stated "Whether the occasion was harmonious or acrimonious, nobody around the table ever doubted the sincerity or the integrity of this man."<sup>73</sup> C.J. was given the City of Yorkton's first-ever Award for Meritorious Service in 1963,<sup>74</sup> the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce named him the first-ever "Man of the Year" about 1965<sup>75</sup> and the Rotary Club named him "Yorkton's Man of the Year" in January 1977.

On May 30, 1970, the Saskatchewan State Council of the Knights of Columbus, meeting in Swift Current, presented C.J. with their Ecumenical Award for 1970. C.J. had arranged for a separate but tax-supported Catholic high school in Yorkton that became a template for other cities in Saskatchewan.

C.J. was a member of the Yorkton Rotary Club for fifty-three years; he served the Yorkton Collegiate Board for about thirty years, ten years as Chair; he was the main force in organizing the York Lake Regional Park



*Dr. Sigga Houston's 100th birthday at Sunnyside Nursing Home, Saskatoon, taken with her only child, Dr. Stuart Houston. Sigga died January 21, 1996, two and a half years after this 1993 photo was taken by the StarPhoenix. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.*

Association; and the founder, first chair and then board member, 1958-1979, of the Anderson Lodge for senior citizens in Yorkton. The province named and dedicated in his honour a lake, alongside Highway 102, north of Otter Rapids. He enjoyed golf, curling, and swimming and was an ardent duck hunter each fall -- and a somewhat less ardent fisherman. The C.J. Houston Junior High School and an associated scholarship were named in his honour.

C.J. was widely respected because of his wisdom, kindness, understanding, unlimited patience, and excellent judgment. He took night calls and performed surgery until age 75. He

then restricted his practice to morning office hours while Drs. Harry Crossley and Ivan Daunt were in the operating room or making hospital rounds. C.J. and Sigga were honoured with a plaque for their many years of service by the Yorkton Union Hospital at a special supper at the Yorkton Gladstone Inn on October 7, 1981.

C.J. died in Sunnyside Nursing Home, Saskatoon, on May 21, 1986, where he and Sigga had received tender, loving care for over two years. A superb infrared sound system was installed at Sunnyside Nursing Home, Saskatoon, in his memory.

*Endnotes page 48*

*Dr. Richard A. Rempel, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, B.A. Saskatchewan 1959, B.A. 1961 and DPhil Oxford 1967, taught at the University of Saskatchewan, 1959 and 1961-1962, University of South Carolina 1964-1975 as a Full Professor, and McMaster University 1975-2000 as a Full Professor, and taught in Oxford for the University of Toronto in the summers of 2000 and 2005. He published seven individually and co-edited books, mainly on Bertrand Russell. He directed the Bertrand Russell editorial project 1979-1985 and 1996-2000. Teaching awards in Rempel's name are at South Carolina and McMaster. In retirement he publishes articles on Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan, including the biography of W.P. Thompson.*

*Dr. C. Stuart Houston, OC, SOM, DLitt, DCnL, MD, FRCPC, graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1951, did eight years family practice with his parents in Yorkton, then trained in radiology at the University of Saskatchewan and at the Boston Childrens' Hospital, Harvard University. Two of his twelve books, Tommy's Team (with Bill Waiser) and 36 Steps on the Road to Medicare (with Merle Massie) describe how universal hospitalization and Medicare were pioneered in Saskatchewan and detail how Saskatchewan led all North America in the fight against tuberculosis and led the world in cobalt-60 therapy of cancer.*



# Mapping history: Lessons in history from Township Map of the Qu'Appelle Valley, Township 21, Range 13, West of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meridian

Christine Charmbury

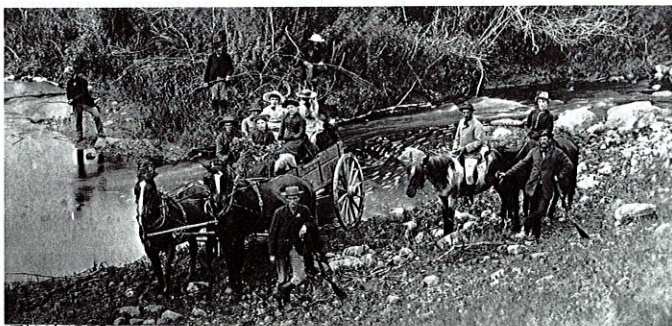
The International Council on Archives (ICA) is an international, non-governmental organization that promotes international cooperation for archives and archivists. Established in 1948 with Charles Samaran, then director of the Archives nationales de France, as its chair, its membership is open to national and international organizations, professional groups and individuals. Today, the ICA includes about 1400 institutional members in 199 countries and territories with the mission to promote the conservation, development and use of the world's archives.



This year, to celebrate International Archives Day on June 9, 2015, the ICA asked archivists to submit an image linked to the locality in which they work, to be shared in an online exhibit. The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan selected its 1882 township map of the Qu'Appelle Valley for the online project because of its many connections to significant aspects of Saskatchewan's history.

This township map was created as part of the Dominion Land Survey, conducted in advance of extensive settlement in the Canadian West and in accordance to the guidelines of the *Dominion Lands Act* of 1872 that laid the groundwork for the homesteading system. The survey of the West was made possible by the *Rupert's Land Act* 1868, which transferred the former territories of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) to the Canadian government. This massive land transfer also prompted the Canadian government to enter into treaties with the First Nations people residing in the newly acquired lands.

Overall, the map demonstrates various land uses by the diverse population of this busy Qu'Appelle Valley township at the time, as observed and documented by land surveyors Clementi and Hewson in August and September 1881. It is worth noting that the Provincial Archives also holds in its Department of the Interior series a collection of the diaries of many of the men who surveyed these lands and created these maps.



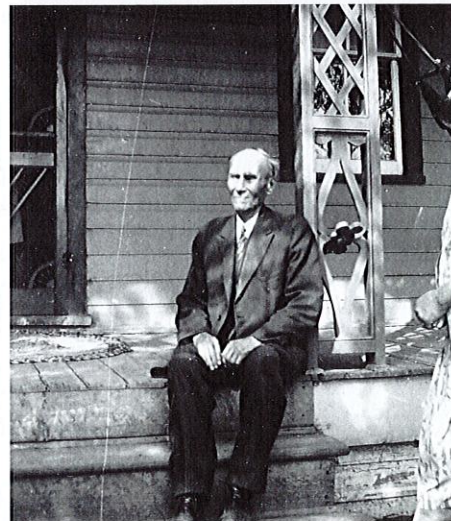
PIONEERS OF THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY TAKEN NEAR CRAVEN ABOUT 1881

Top: A family of settlers in the Qu'Appelle district. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carroll and son, George William (on horse), settlers in the Qu'Appelle area. The family is posed in front of their home, a wooden shack, on their homestead quarter nine miles north of Qu'Appelle, 1883. PAS Photo R-A18891. Bottom: This group of pioneers from the Qu'Appelle Valley on a picnic near Craven would have travelled one of the many trails from the Qu'Appelle Valley west to the Craven area before taking this photograph of their party, circa 1885. PAS Photo R-A2145. Opposite page: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS), Township Map, A 12, Township 21, Range 13, West of the Second Meridian, 13 June 1882.









Above top: This is the Fort Qu'Appelle Hudson's Bay Company Store, ca. 1894. This store was opened after the HBC trading post was abandoned. PAS Photo R-B3443

Above middle: The Old Sacred Heart Church, which was built in 1870 at Lebreton, is also known as the "old mission Church"; the church cemetery is visible in the foreground. Taken circa 1900. PAS Photo R-A24670

Above bottom: This image from the Mary Weekes fonds shows Norbert Welsh at his home in Lebreton on August 13, 1931. This was around the time when Mary Weekes first met Welsh and became interested in documenting his life. PAS Photo R-A24806

Above right: A Métis family from Lebreton, the Desjarlais family. From left to right, standing: Rosine Desjarlais, Patrick Fayant (friend of the family), Marie Justine Desjarlais; sitting: Thomas and Magdeleine Desjarlais, née Klyne, ca. late 1890s. PAS Photo R-A8825

The Qu'Appelle Valley region was an important hub into the northwest, as evidenced by the number of trails to various locales documented on this map. The trails were an important part of the fur trade transportation systems: many of them eventually became the highways and roads used today. When the map was created, these trails led travellers to locations throughout the northwest, including Fort Ellice, Touchwood Hills, Prince Albert, Fort Carlton, Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle and Lebreton, which they reached by horses, wagons, and carts, including the distinctive Red River carts used by the Métis freighters.

The "Hudson Bay Co. Reserve" shown in the bottom left corner of this map

encompasses the area where the Fort Qu'Appelle trading post was located. This provisioning post was established by the HBC in 1864 because of its central location in relation to the network of trails, and that central location was also the reason General Middleton used this trading post as a temporary camp for the militia en route to Batoche during the 1885 North-West Resistance. The Fort Qu'Appelle post was eventually abandoned by the HBC in 1897, when it established a retail location in the adjacent town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

Another important, if less obvious, feature of this map is the "Half Breed Claim" that is located on the lower right of the map. The Métis have a long



history in the Fort Qu'Appelle area; they were primarily drawn here by the buffalo hunt, economic opportunities in the fur trade and the Roman Catholic mission at Lebret. Many Métis people also relocated to this area after the Red River Resistance of 1869-70, when many of them lost both lands and livelihoods with the influx of settlers from the east. Bishop Alexandre-Antonin Taché first visited the Qu'Appelle Valley area in 1864, when he performed mass for the Métis Catholics of the region, and promised the Métis people that the Church would return to establish a mission in their community.

One well-known resident of Lebret was Norbert Welsh, a Métis buffalo hunter and trader, who told his life story to author Mary Weekes in 1931 after a chance meeting in Qu'Appelle. Weekes eventually published Norbert Welsh's story as a book, *The Last Buffalo Hunter*, in 1939, recounting stories about Welsh's home at Lebret, his travels throughout the region and encounters with fur traders, missionaries, police, First Nation and Métis people, and other settlers in the region, providing an interesting look at life in the Qu'Appelle Valley around the same time this township map was created. Mary Weekes's efforts to publish Welsh's oral account are described in the Mary

Weekes fonds, also held in the Provincial Archives.

The "Treaty Ground Reserve" referred to on the bottom left of this map is land set aside at the request of the First Nations' signatories to Treaty 4 in 1874. This land is where Treaty 4 was negotiated between representatives of the Cree and Saulteaux people and representatives of the Crown, including lead negotiator Alexander Morris, Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories, and William Christie of the Hudson's Bay Company. The negotiations got off to a rocky start because the First Nations' representatives took issue with the negotiations being held on HBC lands -- in fact, they were displeased that the HBC had transferred Rupert's Land to the Canadian government in the first place. One of the Saulteaux representatives at the treaty negotiations was 'the Gambler', who spoke about the First Nations' understanding of the Hudson's Bay Company land deal with the government at the negotiations in 1874:

*I am telling you and reporting what I had to tell. The [Hudson's Bay] Company have no right to this earth, but when they are spoken to they do not desist, but do it in spite of you. He is the head and foremost. These*

*Indians you see sitting around report that they only allowed the store to be put up. That is the reason I was very glad when I heard you were coming. The Indians were not told of the reserves at all I hear now, it was the Queen gave the land. The Indians thought it was they who gave it to the Company, who are now all over the country. The Indians did not know when the land was given.*

The Cree and Saulteaux representatives also appealed to the Crown, specifically to the Queen Mother, to take care of their Métis brothers and sisters at several points during the negotiations. The government representatives eventually persuaded the Cree and Saulteaux leaders to enter into the treaty; the terms were quite similar to those in Treaty 3, including land set aside for a reserve, annuity payments, assistance with farming, and education for their children.

One unique outcome of the negotiations was that the government agreed to set aside a treaty ground reserve to be used by the Treaty 4 First Nations to come together and conduct treaty business, such as receiving their annuities from the Crown. This land came into disuse after the North-West Resistance in 1885

*First Nations men celebrate Treaty Day in the Qu'Appelle Valley, July 19, 1924. Treaty days were often when the First Nations people would receive their annuity money from the government, as agreed to in the treaties. PAS Photo R-A17658-1*





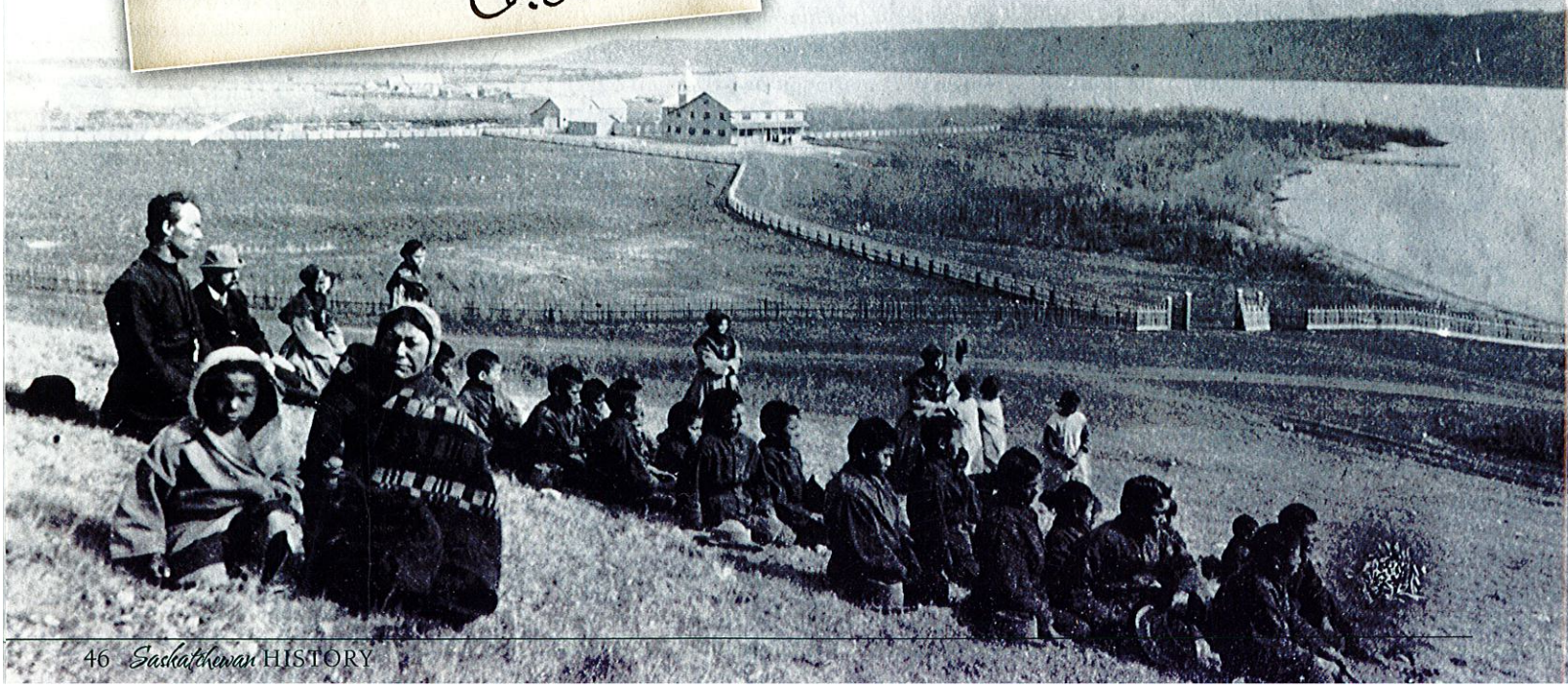
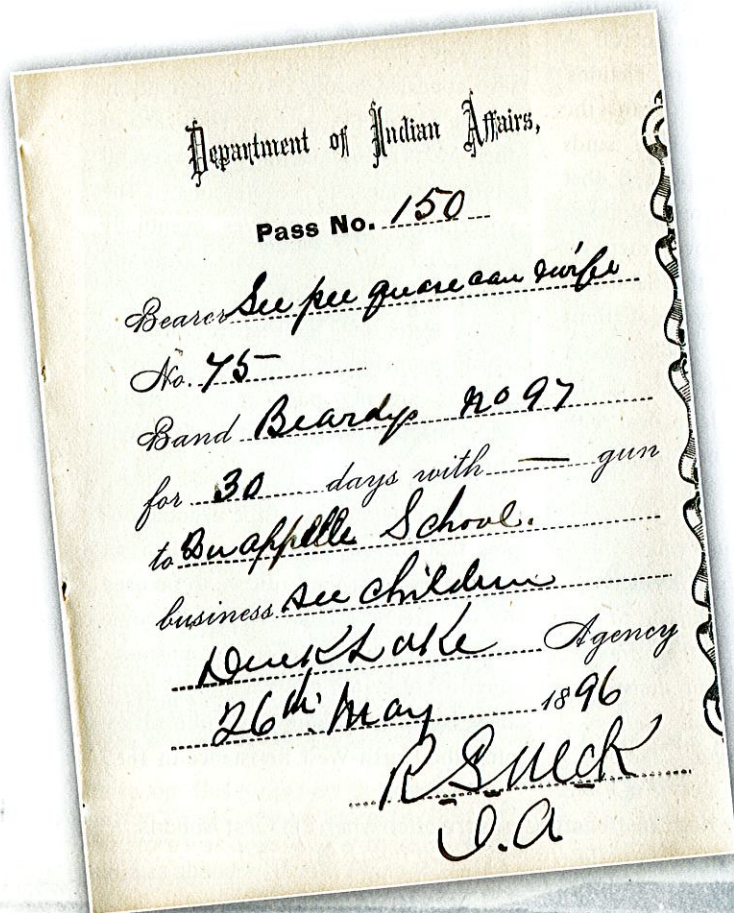
because the implementation of a 'pass system' prevented First Nations people from leaving their reserves without permission from the Indian Agent or another government official. Passes were authorized by the Indian Agent, or sometimes by the reserve farm instructor, and they permitted First Nations individuals to leave their home reserve only for the timeframe and purpose indicated on the pass. After 1885, treaty payments were made to the First Nations on their reserves, a deliberate move by the government to actively discourage large gatherings of First Nations people off-reserve.

In 1894, the Department of Indian Affairs determined that treaty ground was no longer required for the purpose for

which it had been set aside, and handed the land over to the Department of the Interior. More than 100 years later, the Treaty 4 First Nations took the federal government to court in 1995, and received a settlement that enabled them to purchase much of the original treaty ground. This land is now home to the Treaty 4 Governance Centre, which includes a keeping house and archives dedicated to the preservation of Treaty 4 history and culture.

The "Mounted Police Reserve" shown on the top left of the map was first established in the Qu'Appelle Valley by the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) in 1879. At that time, the post consisted of a small log cabin that housed five men. However, in 1880 the decision was made to enlarge the post and transfer "B" division of the NWMP to Qu'Appelle under Superintendent James M. Walsh and Inspector Sam Steele. A couple of years later, this barracks was downsized to five men, with the majority of its personnel relocated to new headquarters in Regina in July 1882. Today, there is a golf course where the barracks was located, and a number of graves of NWMP members are present and marked on the golf course.

Another important locale featured on this map is the tract of land set aside for a "Grant to Industrial School," where the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School was built in 1884 at Lebret. The first principal of the residential school was Rev. Joseph Hugonard, a Roman Catholic missionary from the mission at Lebret. The intended purpose of the residential school system was to assimilate First Nations children into Euro-Canadian culture: to 'civilize' them and to force them to leave behind their pagan cultures and practices. The schools, run by various church denominations in cooperation with the Canadian government, trained First Nations children in the English language and taught them industries and skills, such as sewing and carpentry. Children who attended were not







allowed to speak their own languages; many were abused at the hands of the people who ran the schools. The deliberate physical removal of children from their homes, their language, their culture, and the influence of their parents created a division between First Nations children and their families that continues to have a devastating impact on First Nations communities today.

The harsh realities and the legacies of the experiences of the students sent to these schools, and their families, are documented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission ([www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)), which is also collecting records of those experiences to be held and, in most cases, made accessible to researchers at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan joins other institutions in sharing reproductions of pertinent holdings related to residential school history with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

By itself, this township map provides a simple glimpse of a specific moment in Saskatchewan's history. However, a little more digging into related archival records reveals a more detailed study of how the people of this province travelled trails and roadways from the past into the present.

*Endnotes page 49.*

*Opposite page top: This pass was issued to Seepeequesacan and his wife from the Duck Lake Agency on May 26, 1896, so that they could travel to the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School to visit their children. PAS, S-E19, Canada, Dept. of the Interior fonds, File 35: Reserve Pass 150, Seepeequesacan.*

*Opposite page bottom: The first Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School is shown in the distance with Father Hugonard and some First Nations children (likely students) in the foreground, 1885. PAS Photo R-A448*

*Top: A large group of female students posed in front of the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School, Lebreton, 1907. PAS Photo R-B118*

*Upper middle: The carpenters' shop, where male students were trained in woodworking skills, at the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School, Lebreton, 1894. PAS Photo R-B10*

*Lower middle: Female students in the sewing room at the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School, Lebreton, 1894. PAS Photo R-B9*

*Bottom: Students and teachers pose on the school grounds outside the Qu'Appelle Indian Industrial School, c. 1900-1920. PAS Photo R-A14482*



**An Oversupply of Hope:  
One woman's reflections on the Great Depression**

- 1 E. Bassendowski, "The Depression." The reflections of Elizabeth Bassendowski contained in this article are lightly edited excerpts from her unpublished personal narrative document and introduced by her daughter, Sandra Bassendowski. Elizabeth lived in Saskatchewan from 1918 until her passing in 2012.

**"Kodachrome, they give us those nice bright colours": Axel Petersen's photos of life in Landis**

- 1 Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, S-YF 286.1, *The Landis Record* (Saskatoon: Landis Historical Society – Landis History Book Committee, 1980), 354.
- 2 "Kodachrome," *Wikipedia*, accessed 30 July 2015, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kodachrome>.

**The Life and Legacy of C.J. Houston, Medicare pioneer**

- 1 Robert Andrew Dick, the senior medical doctor in Canora, 30 miles north of Yorkton, had received his MD from Queen's University in 1911. He began his practice in Canora on July 29, 1911.
- 2 C.J. Houston, "Health Insurance Committee report," *Saskatchewan Medical Quarterly* (SMQ), 7, no. 3, (1943): 27-32.
- 3 Ibid. Cited in E.A. Tollefson, *Bitter Medicine: The Saskatchewan Medicare Feud* (Saskatoon: Modern Press, 1964).
- 4 Provincial legislation identifies electoral divisions from which members of the Council of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons are elected. When a vacancy occurs in a division, the Registrar of the College mails out to each member qualified to vote in a district, a list of all those qualified to stand for election. Accompanying the list is a nomination paper. Each candidate is nominated by three (3) members and candidates must submit their acceptance in writing. Voting is done by mail by secret ballot.
- 5 "News Item," *SMQ* 8, no.2, page 20 (1944): 20. Division 4 included Melville and Yorkton north to Canora and Kamsack.
- 6 Stuart Houston and Merle Massie, *36 Steps on the Road to Medicare: How Saskatchewan Led the Way* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), 76.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Duane Mombourquette, "Health Services Planning Commission," *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2005): 432-433; and A.W. Johnson, *Dream No Little Dreams, A Biography of the Douglas Government in Saskatchewan, 1944-1961* (IPAC and University of Toronto Press, 2004), 78-81. In 1960, most of the operational programs of HSPC were moved into the Department of Health.
- 9 Letter from T.C. Douglas to Dr. J. Lloyd Brown, *SMQ* 9, no. 3 (1945), 31-34.
- 10 A.W. Johnson, *Dream No Little Dreams*, 145.
- 11 Stuart Houston and Bill Waiser, "Fred Mott," *Tommy's Team, the People behind the Douglas Years*, (Markham, ON: Fifth House, (2010), 145-150. Mott, before he left Regina, also served a short term as Deputy Minister of Health.
- 12 In British Columbia, the lack of advanced planning, inadequate training time, and two complicated and costly collection systems resulted in an administrative nightmare which led to the resignation of the minister and the defeat of the government. Malcolm G. Taylor, *Health Insurance and Canadian Public Policy: The seven decisions that created the Canadian Health Insurance System and their outcomes* (Montreal: IPAC/McGill-Queen's University Press, 1987), 167-169.
- 13 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 104.
- 14 Consistent with its progressive reputation, Yorkton (population 5000) was overrepresented on the Health Survey Committee with three of twelve members. City Clerk Howard Jackson represented the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and newspaper publisher S.N. Wynn represented the Saskatchewan Hospital Association. Houston and Massie, *36 Steps*, 168, fn 25, and C. Stuart Houston, "Saskatchewan Health Survey, 1949-51," *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2005), 808-809.
- 15 *SMQ* 15, no. 3 (1951): 625-627.
- 16 "Malcolm Taylor," Houston and Waiser, *Tommy's Team*, 204-208.
- 17 C.J. Houston, "Health Survey Report," *SMQ* 15, no. 3 (1951): 625-626.
- 18 Houston and Massie, *36 Steps*, 102.
- 19 C. Stuart Houston, "Saskatchewan Health Survey, 1949-51."
- 20 Ken MacTaggart, *The first decade. The story of the birth of Canadian medicare and its development during the following 10 years* (Ottawa: Canadian Medical Association, 1973), 43.

- 21 C. J. Houston, "Health Survey Report." Taylor added "Unfortunately, from the profession's point of view, the positive effects of the Survey Committee were simultaneously being threatened" by the transfer of the Health Ministry from Premier Douglas to T.J. Bentley, winner of the Gull Lake by-election. Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 244, 256 and 524, fn 44.
- 22 C. Stuart Houston, "Saskatchewan Health Survey, 1949-51."
- 23 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, "The Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan," 69-104, and "The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Plan," 239-330. Both had been scrutinized by C.J. Houston prior to their publication.
- 24 Houston and Waiser, "Malcolm Taylor," *Tommy's Team*, 207.
- 25 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 257.
- 26 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 261.
- 27 Local municipal initiative had launched the first regional health care in North America in the drought-stricken southwest. Houston and Massie, *36 Steps*, 79-92.
- 28 Assiniboia-Gravelbourg rejected the health plan by 7,511 to 1,353 and Regina Rural by 14,040 to 4,510. MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 49.
- 29 Robin F. Badgley and Samuel Wolfe, *Doctor's Strike: Medical Care and Conflict in Saskatchewan* (New York: Atherton Press, 1967), 22.
- 30 Richard A. Rempel, *Research and Reform: W.P. Thompson at the University of Saskatchewan* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), 195.
- 31 Badgley and Wolfe, *Doctor's Strike*, 22.
- 32 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 255. As partial answers to Taylor's speculative question, the medical profession was now augmented by many British doctors escaping their National Health Plan, fearful they had moved for naught. Doctors had become more fearful. The doctor-sponsored health insurance plans across Canada had become remarkably successful and now were a realistic alternative. The Douglas Government, respected for always keeping within budget, could not afford Medicare until federal assistance for hospitalization became nationwide, augmented the Saskatchewan budget, and allowed funds to begin Medicare.
- 33 Noel Doig, *Setting the Record Straight: A Doctor's Memoir of the 1962 Medicare Crisis* (Saskatoon: Indie Ink Publishing, 2012), 30. Doig's research failed to uncover the culprit's name.
- 34 Badgley and Wolfe, *Doctor's Strike*, 30, 31.
- 35 Rempel, *Research and Reform*, 201.
- 36 C.J. Houston, "Brief impressions of the Norwegian health care plan," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 86 (1961): 947-950.
- 37 Rempel, *Research and Reform*, 203. Regarding fee-for-service payments, see also Gordon S. Lawson, "The road not taken: the 1945 Health Services Planning Commission proposals and physician remuneration in Saskatchewan," in G.P. Marchildon, ed., *Making Medicare: new perspectives on the history of Medicare in Canada* (Toronto: IPAC/University of Toronto Press, 2012), 151-182.
- 38 Rempel, *Research and Reform*, 200-201.
- 39 *SMQ* 25, no. 4 (December 1961): 263-283. Minutes of the 54th annual general meeting of the College in Saskatoon on October 17 and 18, 1961, with 445 doctors registered. Distinguished guests, their presence in part due to the impending threat of Medicare, were the president-elect, president and deputy general secretary of the Canadian Medical Association and the chair of the medical benefits fund of Australia.
- 40 G. Marchildon, "Clarence J. Houston (1900-1986)," *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2005), 466.
- 41 *SMQ* 25(4): Dec. 1961, 199-234.
- 42 *SMQ* 25, no. 4 (December 1961): 279-280. The number of abstentions, so different from zero in the first vote, even in that highly charged atmosphere, indicated that the wording of the second motion and its exclusion of negotiation concerned at least some doctors.
- 43 Badgley and Wolfe, *Doctor's Strike*, 47.
- 44 Ibid.
- 45 MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 111. 608 doctors formally registered. *SMQ* 26, no. 2 (September 1962): 68.
- 46 *SMQ* 26, no. 2 (September 1962): 69.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 111-112.
- 49 MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 116.
- 50 *Directory of Members of Parliament and Federal Elections for the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, 1887-1966* (Regina: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1967), 16, 44.
- 51 Doig, *Setting the Record Straight*, 151.
- 52 MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 120.
- 53 Badgley and Wolfe, *Doctor's Strike*, 66-67.
- 54 Ibid., 70-71.
- 55 Sixty-eight practising doctors had already left Saskatchewan, Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 326, 329. Some of these had snuck away quietly without giving notice to their patients. In contrast, those who had threatened to leave, stayed.



- 56 MacTaggart, *The First Decade*, 123.
- 57 Ibid., 124.
- 58 Louis Horlick, "Appendix C. Symposium on Medicare, Past, Present and Future." *Medical College to Community Resource: Saskatchewan's Medical School 1978-1998. Volume 2: History of the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan* (Saskatoon: University of Saskatchewan, 1999), 140-154. For the social conscience and community co-operation best exemplified by Saskatchewan, see Tommy Douglas cited in Houston and Massie, *36 Steps*, 63.
- 59 Ibid.
- 60 Ibid.
- 61 Ibid.
- 62 Taylor, *Health Insurance*, 330.
- 63 E.W. Barootes, "Clarence J. Houston," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 135, No. 4 (1986): 395.
- 64 Bryant A. Long, and W.J. Dennis, *Mail by Rail: the Story of the Postal Transportation Service*. (New York: Simmons Boardman Publishing, 1951). See especially "From Canada to the Orient," 297-305, and "Railway P.O.s of the Dominion of Canada," 400-403.
- 65 Barbara Clendinning and Bernice Leckie McLean, *The Leckie Clan, 1778-1994: The descendants of John Leckie and his wife Elizabeth McCracken* (Samia, ON: Lambton Printing Centre, 1994).
- 66 Government War Bonds were considered acceptable as a patriotic duty. On C.J.'s death, his bank safety deposit box contained Canada Savings bonds and an inexplicable single share of common stock valued at \$14.
- 67 The Houston family celebrated the farm's 100th anniversary in July 2003.
- 68 "Ambulance Plane said to have saved life," *Yorkton Enterprise*, January 6, 1938. Interview by author with Wayne Molnar (nephew of Joseph), November 16, 2014.
- 69 Ruth Shaw, "The contributions of C.J. Houston," *The Yorkton Review*, January 6, 2001.
- 70 Stuart Houston, "Life in Yorkton before medicare came along," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 140 (1969), 1199-1200.
- 71 R.B. Kerr, *History of the Medical Council of Canada* (Ottawa: Medical Council of Canada, 1979) 124.
- 72 The Medical Council of Canada owed its origin to Dr. Thomas Roddick, who was the Conservative (opposition) member for the constituency of St. Antoine in Montreal. The Quebec legislature introduced the "Roddick bill" in May 1902; thereafter, only after provisions of the Canada Medical Act had been accepted by all provincial legislatures in 1912, did national once-yearly examinations allow successful medical graduates candidates to place LMCC after their names and practice medicine in any province. The Medical Council had members from each medical college and two members from each provincial medical association. Kerr, *History of the Medical Council*.
- 73 Dr. Clarence Joseph Houston, Senior Member, Program for the 100th annual general meeting, Canadian Medical Association (1967), 6-7. From the author's collection.
- 74 Ibid.
- 75 Dick DeRyk, telephone interview with the author, September 15, 2014.

**Mapping history: Lessons in history from Township Map of the Qu'Appelle Valley, Township 21, Range 13, West of the 2nd Meridian**

- 1 Mary Weekes, *The Last Buffalo Hunter* (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishing, 1994).
- 2 Alexander Morris, *The Treaties of Canada With the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories Including the Negotiations on Which they Were Based* (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishing, 1991), 104.

*This image shows the parade and celebrations in Regina commemorating the Signing of Treaty 4, ca. 1918. PAS Photo R-B11993-4*



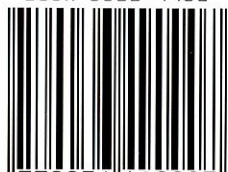
*Indian Parade in Regina 1918*



The three youngest children of Stewart Houston on the farmstead north of Tyvan, possibly 1905 or 1906. From left to right: Donald William Houston, born April 4, 1898; Marion Houston, born August 10, 1902; and Clarence Joseph Houston, born March 18, 1900. Courtesy Dr. C. Stuart Houston.



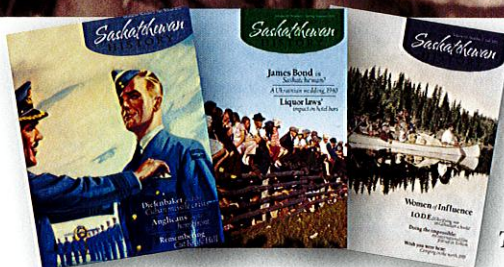
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