

## **Frederick Valentine Bird.** (1885-1977)

This Scottish Metis physician and politician is a member of the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame. He was born at St. Andrews, Manitoba the son of John James Bird and Margaret Peebles. His grandfather was Henry James Bird the Metis son of James Curtis Bird and his Cree wife, Elizabeth.

F.V. Bird attended the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine. He supported this education by working as a teacher. He was a general practitioner at Boissevain from 1913 to 1935. He often accepted farm goods as payment from his patients, and in fact in 1935 he cancelled all debts owed to him by farmers. For forty years he was the area's medical health officer, a town councilor (1924-29), mayor (1929-40) and again a councilor (until 1944). As noted, he was the Mayor of Boissevain for ten years (1929-1939).

Near the end of his life Bird decided that he wanted his medical books, instruments and examining table given to an Aboriginal community. He did not, however, want Indian Affairs involved, since he felt that government bureaucracy would practically guarantee that his things would never reach the people who needed them. As a result, his equipment was turned over to the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, to be used wherever needed.



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