

Flight Sergeant Clifford Howard Asham. (1914-1998)

WWII Veteran Howard Asham, from Fisher Bay, was born in April of 1914, the son of James William and Caroline Asham of Fisher Branch. In 1967, he assisted in organizing the Manitoba Métis Federation for the Interlake region. He served as vice president for the region for eight years until ill health forced his retirement. He also drove the first school bus to transport the children from Fisher Bay to Fisher River

Howard Asham joined the R.C.A.F.A. in 1940 in Winnipeg. He went overseas in February of 1943 and was stationed at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, servicing Wellington bomber planes. After three months, he was transferred to Africa in the Sahara Desert servicing the Wellingtons that were bombing in Italy. He then returned to England and was stationed at Skipton, Yorkshire until the end of the war. After six months, he rejoined the Air Force. He was stationed variously at Watson Lake, Yukon, Churchill, Tacoma, Washington, and was involved with the American Air force taking troops to Korea. He then returned to England, was then stationed at Lachine and ended up at Rivers in charge of quality control until he retired in 1964. He was actively involved in the Hodgson Legion and was President of Legion # 158 from 1967 to 1975 and again from 1978 to 1981, and then was immediate past president.¹

He retired to his original homeplace at Fisher River where he lived with his wife Nora. He had two brothers, Orton and Ebenezer who were also WWII Veterans.

Howard became involved in the Manitoba Métis Federation in 1967 when the organization was just being formed. At the General Conference, he was elected as field worker and as a Director. Due to financial constraints, these positions were carried out on a voluntary basis. He served as the Interlake Regional Secretary Treasurer for two years and then as Senior Director of the Regional Board. He resigned that position to run for Vice Presidency after Murray Sinclair stepped down in 1973. He was elected for three terms, serving from 1973-1979.



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¹ A. Brian Cyr CD. *Métis Veterans of Manitoba: From Buffalo to Battlefields*. Winnipeg: Manitoba Métis Federation, 2010: 75.