

## Angus Halcrow (1894-1916): Métis Veteran

Angus was born at Cumberland House on November 21, 1894, the son of Gideon Halcrow (Scot) and Margaret McLeod (Cree Métisse). Angus was killed in France on December 25, 1916. Angus' father entered service with the HBC on January 14, 1869 at York Factory. After postings at Pelican Narrows, Reindeer Lake, Norway House, Fort a La Corne, Cumberland House, Grand Rapids, and finally The Pas where he served as Clerk from 1896 to 1909 before he retired.

**How Angus Halcrow Made  
the Great Sacrifice**

The following letter received by Mr. G. Halcrow, from the officer in command of the grenade section in which his son, the late Angus Halcrow, was employed at the time of meeting his fateful end, will interest many of our readers who knew Angus Halcrow. Mr. Halcrow also received letters of sympathy from Chaplain Appleyard, who performed the funeral service, and Minister of Militia A. E. Kemp.

In the Field, 2nd Jany. 1917.  
G. Halcrow, Esq., The Pas, Man.

Dear Sir:

It is with deepest regret that I write this letter, for I have to inform you that your son, A. Halcrow, was killed on the 25th of December, while passing down a trench, about 10 p.m. He was instantly killed by the explosion of a shell. He has been buried in our cemetery and a cross has been erected on his grave.

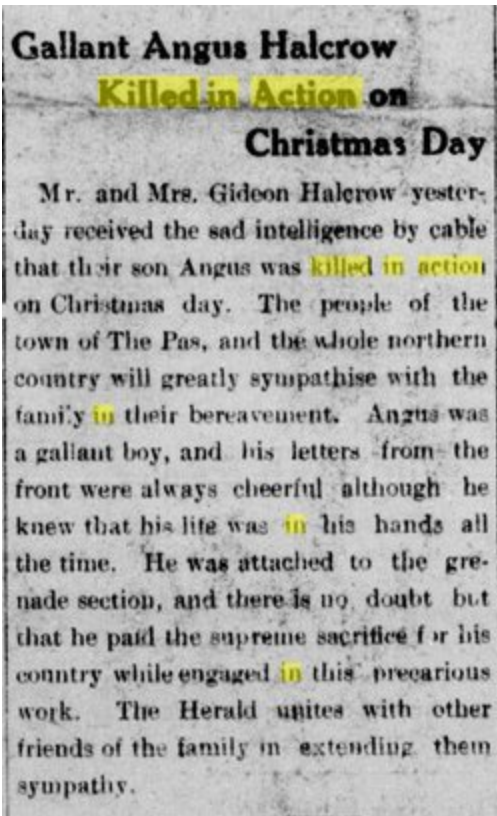
It seemed the especial irony of fate that he should go on Christmas day, but he went to his death at duty like any soldier should.

Your son was well thought of and liked by everybody who knew him. I tell you this, although I know that as a stranger I cannot do or say much to lighten your sorrow.

His personal effects will reach you in due course.

I offer you my deepest sympathy, and remain,

Yours sincerely,  
H. S. OLIVER, Lieut.  
O. C. Grenade Section, 28th Batt.



Angus' older brother Horace Halcrow (1882-1945) was a clerk with the Hudson's Bay Company at Ile-a-la-Crosse from 1899 to 1907. Upon retirement he moved to the Pas. He was a mining prospector and developer and a fur buyer. He served for eight years on The Pas municipal council and was elected Mayor of The Pas in 1922.

Métis Scrip records:

Halcrow, Horace Duncan Donald (Son of Gédéon Halcrow) - Scrip number A 1036 and A 2543. 31/12/1900. File.

RG15-D-II-8-j. Volume/box number: 1417. File number: 593726.

Textual material. [Access: Open]. Government.

Finding aid number: 15-26

Receipt Number 10497 ; Number of Acres 240 ; Certificate number E 645 00011243333.

Halcrow Margaret (Daughter of John McLeod and wife of Gedeon Halcrow) - Scrip number 3887 - Amount 240.00\$ - Certificate number NWT. 1889/07/19. File.

RG15-D-II-8-f. Volume/box number: 1395. File number: 167741.

Textual material. [Access: Open]. Government.

Finding aid number: 15-24

Applied on Lot 294 Ste. Agathe 00011091583.

Halcrow, Gideon; for his daughter, Elizabeth Mary Halcro; claim no. 1301; born: 13 Oct., 1879 at Grand Rapids; address: The Pas, Sask; father: Gideon Halcrow (Scat &

deponent); mother: Margaret McLeod (Métis); scrip cert.: form E, no. 667 for 240 acres of land.

Obituary for Gideon Halcrow;

THE PAS MAN, FRIDAY MAY 14, 1920

Mr. Gideon Halcrow Dies Following an Operation and the North Mourns the Loss of a Great Citizen

The death of Mr. Gideon Halcrow is mourned from Ile a la Crosse to Hudson Bay, and no deeper feeling of grief can be felt than that of the Indians to whom he was known intimately. Held in high esteem by his fellow citizens of The Pas, and widely known for his sterling honesty and integrity, no man held a better place in the public confidence than he. He was a striking personality with his long flowing beard and rapid movement when walking, a picture of health, strength and energy, and his friends often prophesied he would live to be a hundred. His death leaves but a mere handful of the fine old timers who settled New Manitoba, and pioneered the way for the present day people. He leaves an honored name that will go down in history yet to be written of this north. To his widow, sons and daughters great sympathy is expressed from all sides

The death of Mr Gideon Halcrow took place at Mayo's hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, at 11:00 on Thursday night, May 6th, following an operation for stomach trouble. He went there nearly 7 weeks ago, and the operation was successfully made on April 23rd. He rallied but slightly, and gradually his constitution weakened under the strain. He made a heroic fight for life, but nature could but little assist him. His son Horace and daughter Joan were at his bedside to the last. Besides Mrs. Halcrow he leaves 5 sons and 5 daughters; Horace, Gideon, Richard, George and Alex; Mrs. J H Gordon of Vancouver, Mrs Frank Barker, Mrs R Hooker, Mrs W C Pilgrim and Miss Joan Halcrow all of The Pas.

14 children blessed the union of this happy couple; 1 daughter and 1 son dying several years ago and a son Arthur died over 2 years ago. Angus was killed in action in France, while serving his country in the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces as a corporal. Four sons saw service in the war.

Born in the Shetland Islands on the north shore of Scotland 67 years ago, Mr. Halcrow, at the age of 17, engaged with the HBC, and landed at York Factory shortly after. He won rapid promotion, and was soon placed in charge of various posts inland, his last post being at The Pas, from which he retired on a pension after long years of faithful and honorable service. He was stationed at Pelican Narrows, Reindeer Lake, Norway House, Fort a La Corne, Cumberland House, Grand Rapids, and The Pas, the last named for 23 years.

He was married at Grand Rapids over 45 years ago and until his illness he had never been separated from his wife for a period longer than a week. Both were constant and deeply devoted to each other and their children. His fine sense of honesty and sincerity was a marked characteristic of him, and he was held in the highest respect by all. The

community mourns his loss deeply, and his removal from life takes away from The Pas and northland a sterling type of man of the old school. Flags were flown at half-mast on the Hudson Bay store, Community building, Power House, Opasquai hotel, Rupert Hotel, Avenue hotel, public school, Indian Agency, Mission Island, and at Anthony's Hospital out of respect to his memory.



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