

Pruden, John Peter. (1856-1933)

Peter was born on March 20, 1856 at St. Andrew's, the son of William Pruden (b. 1833 Fort McKenzie) and Sarah Truthwaite (b. 1861), daughter of Jacob Truthwaite and Elizabeth Vincent. John Peter married Elizabeth McDonald, the daughter of John McDonald and Sarah Setter before 1881. The couple had seven children.

From the *Winnipeg Tribune*, Monday, Jan. 3, 1933. (Son of John Pruden)

Peter Pruden Laid To Rest Beside Red River On Whose Banks He Dwelt For 81 Years

John Peter Pruden, 81 descendent of pioneers of the Canadian North-West, died at Petersfield on Dec. 31 following a stroke. He was buried this afternoon in St. Clement's churchyard on the banks of the Red River. He was born Aug. 4, 1856, on the same banks, at "Sugar Point" where the Selkirk General hospital now stands.

Two months ago Mr. Pruden was pictured in the Tribune playing his violin and recalling the days when his aunt, Caroline Pruden, was known as the belle of the Red River. Mr. Pruden told with laughter and illustrations on his violin the story of Caroline sent home in disgrace from the famous ball at Fort Garry in 1843. Her father had forbidden her to go because the wicked polka, just introduced from New York, was to be danced! Caroline defied her father, was caught, and sent home.

Host to Explorer

Mr. Pruden's grandfather, John Peter Pruden Sr., came out to the North-West in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company in the early 1800's. While at Fort Carlton he entertained the Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin. In return for this hospitality Sir John was good to Mr. Pruden's sons when they were sent to England to school.

When John Peter Pruden III, was a lad, in the early 1850's, no-body lived inland; "everybody had a river house". In 1879 the lad and his father entered their wheat in the Selkirk fair, it took first prize. The Pruden's were urged to send their prize samples to Ottawa. The result of that trip, hangs framed in the little house in Petersfield: A diploma setting forth the particulars of the spring wheat's growth and fruition.

Mr. Pruden was interested in farming until the end. Their home-stead was famous in the neighborhood as "a very neat place."

Legs Failed Him

Though he could not get outside much because his "legs were bad" Mr. Pruden listened to all his sons as they told him of their doings on the farm. The disability in his legs he used to attribute to "too much packing when I worked on the line during the building of the C.P.R. One hundred pounds was the common load on a man's back, through the muskeg".

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Pruden; by two sons, John and Charles at Petersfield, and one daughter, Mrs. Bertram Dickinson, Old England.



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