

I joined the Y.M.C.A. here in 1910 and was president for three years early in the 1920's, and later became, and am still Chairman of the local Y.M.C.A. World Services Committee that this year sent \$8,500.00 for overseas work to the International Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s at New York. I am an Honorary Vice-President of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s whose headquarters are in Toronto, and an Honorary Life Member of that association.

We have had in Calgary since 1910, a Junior College named Mount Royal College - that teaches Grade 12 students (entrance to university), as well as 2 years in Petroleum Engineering - Short Hand and Commercial Bookkeeping, a Conservatory of music of around 750 pupils of different grades. I have been on the Board of Directors of this College for several years, and was Chairman of the Board for 6 years. I resigned because of over-pressure of work, but have remained a member of the board.

Once upon a time, - and it lasted quite a long while, - I became an enthusiast in the raising of Barred Plymouth Rock chickens. It was an all powering, or rather over-powering urge. For years I raised them in my back yard, - and so became a member and president of the Calgary Poultry Association, and later was instrumental in organizing and became the president of the Poultry Federation of Alberta. I made many friends in Calgary and Edmonton, and even throughout Alberta, as the result of this activity, no doubt some of this enthusiasm came with me from the farm in Ontario. At any rate, I remember that I fed the chickens, gathered the eggs, looked for the hidden nests, and also hid some of the eggs in the hay-mow for Easter. I remember distinctly how I used to admire Mrs. Berry's chickens and the beautiful brown eggs they laid.

My other activities include gardening. That I am still able to attend to personally. I am interested very much in gladiolas, but have never had the audacity to enter any of them, as I did my Barred Rocks, in the public show in Calgary, where some beauties are to be seen. Calgary is a great city for flowers of all kinds.

Perhaps to fully disclose myself I should mention that I have a great fondness or weakness for hunting and fishing, but the zest is growing less as I grow older. It was from the woodchucks on the sand knolls of my father's farm and the red and black squirrels in the woods that I graduated to the ducks on the many sloughs of Alberta, and the pin tailed, or sharp tailed grouse and the Hungarian partridge of the prairies, and later the imported Chinese pheasants at Brooks and elsewhere. But these legitimate quests of the hunter - (I never went in for big game) - are now growing harder to find due to the motor vehicle and their many natural enemies, and so, as I have become older I realize that the twenty years and more of my

happy hunting days on the prairies have passed, and I must now be content with what is called an outing now and then with a friend or two in the beautiful country outside Calgary - with very little care whether game is bagged or not.

And so it is with fishing, - this last year my many trips went unrewarded except for the sheer pleasure of being outside along the banks of a clear mountain stream and we have many of them near Calgary.

I am reminded by my present wife, Phyllis, that I have quite overlooked stating any of the honorary degrees that have been awarded me.

This also reminds me to state that my first wife, Kitty A. Evans - my school and class-mate in the old public school, which I have mentioned, died on the 29th of September 1955. We had just returned in early September from a trip to the first centenary of the Y.M.C.A.'s of the world held in Paris that August.

I give the names of the children of my first marriage:

Helen Margaret, a lawyer, now Mrs. Chas. A. Perkins of Vancouver, B.C.

William Richard Ford, who died May 20th, 1935, at 19 years of age.

Robert Evans Ford - an Air-gunner in the Second World War, and a prisoner of war in Germany for 7 months. Now married and a Court Reporter in Edmonton.

Thomas Fullerton Ford - an aviator in the Second World War, who won the distinction of D.F.C. - a graduate of Alberta University in Civil Engineering, and just recently returned from Iraq where he was engaged in seismograph survey work.

I was married to my present wife on February 21st, 1959. She was the former Mrs. Phyllis Chapman Clarke, B.A., L.R.S.M., A.R.T.C., and for 35 years organist in Central United Church, and during this time was also choir leader for seven years. As will be guessed, we have no children.

And so, now I come to what she says I must state. This is, that I was made a K.C. King's Counsel in 1920; also that the University of Alberta conferred upon me the Honorary Degree of LL.D. in May 1952; and, again, in May 1957 my own University, Victoria at Toronto, in recognition of my having been made the Chief Justice of Alberta, very graciously gave me the highly honored degree of "Doctor of Sacred Literature". This coming from my Alma Mater is most humbly and thankfully appreciated and acknowledged.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta, this 19th day of December, 1961.

(signed) Clinton J. Ford  
Retired Chief Justice of Alberta

## JAMES AMOSS

James Amoss was born in Markem village in 1843 and was the son of Thomas Amoss, a pioneer merchant and manufacturer of York County. Two disastrous fires compelled the family to begin life anew on a Middlesex county farm near Mossley. Here, young James, giving up his studies and medical aspirations, cheerfully took part in the struggles to retrieve the family fortune.

For five years he taught school in Middlesex County, under Inspector Dearness who was later principal of the London Normal School. Later he went to S.S. 10 Dereham, where he met Miss Annie Hockey, to whom he was married in 1877. The same year he moved to Corinth and for the following thirty-four years was principal of the Corinth Public School, S.S. 16 Bayham.

Books were scarce and libraries unknown. Mr. Amoss instituted his annual school concerts, the proceeds from which were devoted to the purchase of books for the pupils. Some 5600 volumes were thus distributed. A nucleus library was thus established in every home, and in many a youthful mind, pride in the possession of books, and a love for good literature were thus inculcated.

In 1877 Mr. Amoss entered a bare school building, centred in a barren unsightly lot. In 1910, he left it, bedded with flowers, groved with evergreens and surrounded by rows of maples, the model rural school yard of Elgin County. Residents of S.S. 16 Bayham take a personal pride in their school property, owing to the fact that each can point to some tree that he or she helped plant.

Many men and women, high in the professional or business world, can attest to the excellence of his teaching. Perhaps the kindness of his schoolmaster's heart is still more warmly remembered. The Rev. J. Hibbert, president of the London Methodist Conference, delights to tell how, as a young man, he toiled day after day in a tile-yard, while night after night, under the tuition of Mr. Amoss, he studied to prepare himself for the ministry.

In the social and religious life of the community, he was no less a force. Being Bible Class teacher, Corinth representative of the Bible Society, as well as an enthusiastic member of other church organizations, he had much to do with the effectiveness and progress of the Corinth Methodist Church.

Mention has been made of his suppressed medical aspirations. Though the struggle of his early life and the needs of a

growing family in later years prevented his entrance into a profession, that to him was indeed a calling, the thrust of a dominant purpose could not be easily set aside. All his life he was a keen student of medical science. The little black box with its rows of bottles, that went with him to his last resting place, he had carried on many a stormy night to homes of the sick and suffering. Nothing more truly could have typified how a worthy life may purge youth's driving ambition of all selfish motives, and transform it into an instrument of service. His, indeed was a life of service.

In 1910 he resigned from the position he had held so long and worthily. His service did not cease. Two sons, Capt. F. X. Amoss, M.C., C.R.T. and Gunner H. E. Amoss, 39 Battery, represented him in France during World War 1.

Worn and exhausted by the many activities of a long and useful life, he was confined to his bed during the Christmas week of 1921, and on the Wednesday afternoon, January 4, while school bells throughout the county tolled the closing hour of four, the old schoolmaster, as he had so often done, quietly closed the book of life and took his way home.

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HAROLD EDWIN AMOSS B.A., D. PAED.

Dr. Amoss was born in Corinth on April 22, 1880, the son of James Amoss and Annie Hockey Amoss. He followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a public school teacher, but, unlike his father, he did not long remain in that occupation. He became a high school teacher, obtaining his B.A. degree from Queen's University in 1905. In 1907 he took the degree of Bachelor of Paedogogy at Toronto University.

On July 16, 1911, he was married to Janet Mary Ellen Anderson. In 1916 he received the degree of Doctor of Paedogogy from Toronto University, and in the same year he joined the army, to serve the Canadian forces until the end of the First World War in 1918. After the war he became a Normal School Master in 1919-1920. In 1929 he was appointed Inspector of Auxiliary Classes for the Ontario Department of Education. He held this position for ten years, as well as being for one year (1934-35) acting Superintendent of the Ontario School for the deaf. From 1939 until 1948, he was Superintendent of Professional Training, for the Ontario Department of Education.

He was one of the Founders, and Hon. Vice-President of the National Society of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Besides being a distinguished educationist Dr. Amoss is the author of a number of books, well-known to teachers. Among these are his "Play Story Geography," published in 1928, Canadian Neighbours, in 1930, Canadian Neighbourhood, and Training Handicapped Children in 1932. In the 1940's his "Rhythmic Arithmetic" books were published, introducing a new method of teaching arithmetic in the

Primary and Middle Grades, which was used successfully by many teachers. He was the author of several standardized tests used in testing mathematical ability and intelligence. In his later years he has taken a great interest in the teaching of retarded children, and in the 1950's he published two readers for retarded children "The Children" and "The Family" along with a Manual of Suggestions and a Teaching Guide. This versatile man has also written two volumes of poetry "Prayer of a Good Trouper", published in 1933 and "Sunday, Monday" published in 1947. Besides his books he has written short stories and educational articles for various magazines.

Dr. Amoss is a Freemason and a member of the United Church of Canada. His favourite forms of recreation are golf and fishing.

At present he resides at 46 Mountain Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario.

Information supplied by Miss Annie Hockey of Tillsonburg, 1962.

Dr. Amoss died in February, 1965

ERIE VINING AMOSS

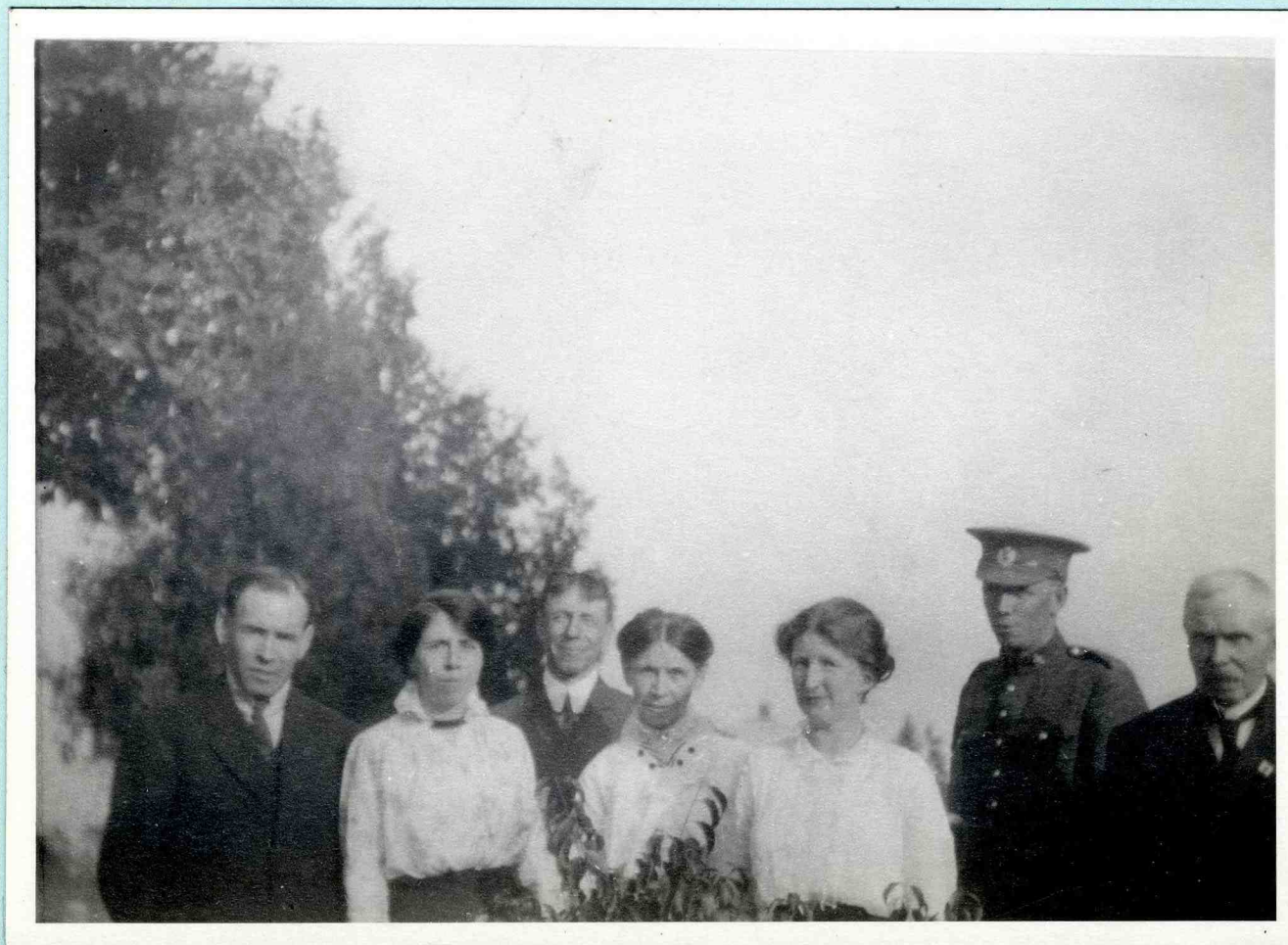
Erie Vining Amoss was born in Corinth on November 10, 1889, and was the daughter of James Amoss, principal of the Corinth Public School for over a third of a century. She attended high school at Tillsonburg and Aylmer, and then took her training as a teacher at the London Normal School. She taught for some years in the Walkerville and Tillsonburg Public Schools. Subsequently she served as secretary to W. H. Shaw of the Shaw Schools, Toronto. In 1917, during the absence of two brothers overseas, she sacrificed cherished ambitions and returned home to help care for an aged father.

Appointed to the position occupied for such a lengthy period by that parent, she carried on for fifteen years the Amoss teaching tradition, not only along lines of academic success, but in matters of personal and community service. "Miss Amoss," said one of her former students, "had the faculty of always discovering the best in her pupils and bringing it to flower and fruit." When the old white schoolhouse was replaced in 1927 by a modern building, the cornerstone was marked in honour of her father's memory and in gratitude for her own services, with the name "Amoss".

During this period her activities were by no means confined to her home and school, but extended over a wide range of professional and social usefulness. She was President and for several years Secretary of the East Elgin Teachers' Association; secretary of the Corinth Sabbath School and teacher of a special class therein; secretary of the East Elgin Religious Educational Council, and Worthy Matron of Areme Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, Vienna.

With the idea of proceeding to a wider field of usefulness, she resigned her position in the Corinth school in February, 1932 and, attending Westdale Collegiate in Hamilton, completed her senior matriculation with first class honours.

But what seemed to herald a new era of service in her career, proved to be the radiance of sunset, and not the glow of another morn. She passed away on Thanksgiving Day, 1932 and she was buried from the Corinth United Church on October 12.



Dr. Harry Amoss

Frank Amoss

Gene Amoss

Erie Amoss

Mrs. J. Amoss

Mrs. H. Amoss

Mr. James Amoss