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Tribute To William Pearce, Dunwich Boy, As Empire Builder

"A great man with a great mind—a real empire builder"—is the summing up of the Calgary Herald's tribute to William Pearce, recently deceased, a boy of the Talbot Settlement, Dunwich, who helped greatly to develop the resources and shape the destinies of the West, especially Alberta. The following sketch of Mr. Pearce's activities is taken from that paper:

DIAMOND WEDDING

On Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barr, of Windsor, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding day. The couple were married in Scotland and a few years later came to Canada. They settled in the village of Wallacetown, where Mr. Barr followed his trade as a carpenter. Many of the public buildings, especially churches and school houses, in the townships of Dunwich, Aldborough and Orford, still testify to his workmanship. Part of their life they spent on a farm west of Muirkirk, but for more than twenty years they have been residing in Windsor. Of eleven children born to them eight are still living, including Robert Barr, Jr., the well-known novelist, and James, who is also winning for himself a name among writers, who both live in London, Eng.; William, in Detroit, and Thomas, of Knoxville, Tennessee, are lithographers; John, on the Detroit Free Press staff, Alexander, living in Windsor, is in an insurance office. The two daughters are Mrs. Alex. McMillan, of North Dunwich, and Jean, at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barr have been close readers, keeping thoroughly abreast with the times. Mr. Barr is well known as a writer and poet among his Scottish friends and has contributed many valuable articles and verses to the Canadian press.

FROM ADVANCE
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 BARR FAMILY
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William Pearce was a civil engineer of broad experience and superior ability, and has been one of the important factors in securing the development and utilization of the natural resources of the Canadian Northwest.

Mr. Pearce was born in Dunwich township, Elgin county, Ontario, on February 1, 1848. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Moorehouse) Pearce. He attended the county grammar school at St. Thomas, Ontario, and afterward became a student at Toronto University, in which he completed a course in civil engineering. He was engaged on private and railway surveys until 1873, and from 1874 until 1881 had charge of the work surveying standard meridians and parallels in Manitoba and the Northwest.

In 1882 he was appointed inspector of agencies and served on the Dominion lands board until 1884, when he was made superintendent of mines. In this connection it was his duty to investigate, report and make recommendations on all claims to land of which the greater part were made by half-breeds, in the district extending from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, and from the forty-ninth to the fifty-seventh parallels of latitude; and also all conflicting claims to land by settlers or arising out of the conflict of several large interests. Ninety per cent. of these claims were settled in accordance with Mr. Pearce's recommendations and from 1898 until 1901 he was largely occupied in adjusting railway land grants. For the next three years he was chief inspector of surveys and in 1904 he voluntarily left the service of the government.

Since that time he has been connected with the administration of irrigated and other lands, and the lands in British Columbia for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was also largely engaged in reporting on the probable resources of many districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, particularly the drainage of the Athabasca and Peace Rivers, and was the first man to direct attention to irrigation in Canada east of the Rocky mountains. Since October, 1916, he was statistician to the department of colonization and development of Canadian Pacific Railway and his services were highly valued by that corporation.

His contribution to the world's work has been one of great value and importance and entitles him to classification among the builders of the Canadian Northwest, and indeed of the British Empire. Mr. Pearce's hobby was a centralized board of research. His wide study, his broad experience, his comprehensive understanding of the conditions in Western Canada made him a firm believer in its future, its possibilities and its resources. To the end that all resources might be used wisely and well, he believed in the organization of a centralized board of research that should carve out plans and institute methods for the wise use of the great natural resources of his country, which he had studied from the period of its early settlement and development to the present day era of progress and prosperity. He always felt, however, that Western Canada was still in its infancy in comparison with what the future has in store for it if vision, judgment and intelligently directed labor are allowed to play a part in the work of future growth.

At the time of his death Mr. Pearce had in his possession a large number of manuscripts dealing with his life's work, and in the course of his work he had gathered together a host of valuable facts and information dealing with the more romantic side of Western Canada history. It was always his intention to have these published in book form, but the work was never completed for publication. Mr. Pearce was always regarded with the highest esteem and respect by his fellow-citizens of Calgary and the province, and whenever he gave an address before the Board of Trade here, the gathering was always marked by a crowded room and the rapt attention of the audience.

DUNCAN P. McCOLL, FORMERLY OF WALLACETOWN, HIGHLY HONORED

May 26 Year?
 Elgin County Boy Recipient of Doctor of Laws Degree From University of Saskatchewan

Older residents of Wallacetown will remember Duncan P. McColl, son of the late Duncan McColl, who was a distinguished athlete in that district prior to 1893, when he left the province of his birth, for Saskatchewan.

In the West Dr. McColl as he is now, is superintendent of Education for Saskatchewan. He has just received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

Duncan P. McColl (the P. is an interpolation to distinguish him from other Duncan McColls of his school and university days) was born near Wallacetown, receiving his early education at the Willey and Wallacetown public schools and his secondary education at St. Thomas and Ridgeway Collegiate Institutes. He taught for some years in the Shedden and Wallacetown schools, and in 1892 graduated from the University of Toronto, where he excelled in undergraduate life. In 1893, he graduated from the Ontario Normal College and in that year was appointed principal of the Union School at Calgary.

His marked athletic ability, coupled with the success of his horse in the running meet of Western Ontario, gave him a hold on the youthful imagination that contributed to his success as a teacher, and fitted his body for the arduous labors demanded of him in the building of Saskatchewan's school system.

Went West in 1893

For more than 35 years, since 1893, Dr. McColl has been identified with educational proper of the province of his adoption. After serving as principal in Calgary until 1897, he was appointed inspector of schools by Hon. F. W. G. Haultain, then premier of the North West Territories. In 1903 he went to Regina as principal of the Normal School, and, upon formation of the province in 1905, accepted the appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Education. He was appointed Superintendent of Education, the position he now occupies, in 1912.

During his residence in and service in Saskatchewan, the Regina Leader says, Dr. McColl served in virtually every capacity within the field of education. As deputy Minister and later as Superintendent, he found abundant scope for his administrative faculties. Following the creation of the province, there was a great influx of people, a consequent demand for schools and a corresponding demand for teachers. The Department, under his guidance, set about the dual task. During the seven years he was Deputy Minister, 1,670 school districts unestablished, an average of 239 a year, and his work included the oversight of the establishment of these school districts, the location of school sites, the authorization of school debentures, and the certification of teachers.

University Owes Him Much

His also was the task of drafting a course of study for normal and elementary schools, and the selection of suitable text books, reference books and books for the school libraries. In 1907, when the Secondary Education Act was passed, Dr. McColl was assigned the task of drafting a high school course of study and regulations. In 1907, also, when the University Act was passed, he became first registrar and compiled the first register. He has been the secretary of the Board of Governors of the University since its establishment, secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Committee since its formation, and secretary of the Paris scholarships.

Friends of Dr. McColl will be gratified to know that the honor conferred on him has created intense satisfaction all through Saskatchewan. The Regina Leader prints an editorial in appreciation of his work. The editorial ends as follows: "Kipling's well-known tribute to the work and influence of his old schoolmates might well be the tribute of thousands upon thousands of Saskatchewan men and women, boys and girls, products of our public and secondary schools and also of the Provincial University to this veteran educationist:

Bless and praise we famous men—
 Men of little showing;
 For their work continueth,
 Broad and deep continueth,
 Great beyond their knowing!



DR. DUNCAN McCOLL.

George Herbert Ling, M. A. Ph. D.

Few young men can boast of a more successful career than the subject of this sketch. Although only twenty-two years of age, he is a Doctor of Philosophy, and has secured the degree of Master of Arts. Dr. Ling is a son of Dr. George Ling, of Wallacetown, where he was born in the year 1874. At an early age he developed a remarkable aptitude for learning, and from the time he entered school until to-day he has been a wonder to his teachers, reading, penetrating problems of the most difficult nature, and securing honors that have taken other men a lifetime to acquire. He has before him the prospect of a promising career. He commenced his schooling in the Wallacetown public school, at which institution he remained until twelve years of age. At the age of nine he passed his entrance examinations, and three years later received his third class certificate, when he came to St. Thomas to continue his studies at the Collegiate Institute. He remained here two years, making himself popular with both his fellow-students and the teaching staff as an apt scholar. At the age of sixteen, he commenced his University course at the Toronto University, carrying away first honors in higher mathematics at all of his examinations. At his third year examination, he won the \$125 scholarship. At nineteen he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, at the same time receiving an appointment to a \$500 fellowship at Columbia University, New York city. At the age of twenty he secured his degree of Master of Arts, having his fellowship renewed as well.



DR. LING, JR.

Two years later he took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, writing a very able and exhaustive thesis on "The solution of a certain differential equation which presents itself in Laplace's Kinetic Theory of Tides," as a partial fulfillment of the requirements of such a degree in the faculty of pure science of Columbia University. He also received an appointment as one of the teachers on the staff of the Columbia University, commencing his duties on October 1st, next.

My Most Unforgettable Character

(By Clifford M. Keillor, M.D., 93 MacLaren Street, Ottawa)

She had been organist and choir leader in the village church for over fifty years. Resolute and faithful as ever, she was at her post on a recent Sunday, when during the long prayer, the usual tranquility of the service was disturbed by a discordant note from the organ. Unobserved, her frail body had reclined on the keyboard and Emma Lyons Graham was dead.

Here was unexpected drama at its best, and while never one to seek the limelight, the manner of her passing, I am sure, fulfilled her fondest hopes.

Apart from her leadership in the musical activities of the church, she had taught the members of the kindergarten Sunday School class, and later, she conducted a class for boys. It was, and ever will be, a joy for me to recall that I had been a member, and in later years, one of the choir.

Emma Lyons was married late in life to Duncan Graham. Unhappily, a cruel arthritis terminated an all too brief but joyous union. Side by side they now sleep in old St. Peter's Cemetery on the north shore of Lake Erie.

While Emma had not been blessed with offspring of her own, and more is the pity, she possessed an almost divine devotion for the young folk of the parish. Days and weeks would she dedicate to the training of the young 'uns and oldsters too for the Yuletide church concert; an annual event greatly anticipated by all the villagers.

She possessed a tolerance and patience truly amazing. She was an inspiration to all; an example to youth in those impressionable years, and how fitting it is that a baptismal font, dedicated to her memory, now reposes by the altar in the little church where she labored so many years.

Of Irish descent, Emma had a keen sense of humor. Slight in stature, with fine features, you were reminded of a dainty figure of Dresden china. In her presence, life could not be dull. She radiated charm and friendliness. She was well read; well versed in current topics, and a good conversationalist. She never saw the cloudy side, nor did I ever know of her to utter an unkind word.

In her earlier years she taught school. Later, as a constant companion to her elderly parents on the old homestead, she gave music lessons. (I can still hear that alto voice—"one and, two and—").

The Lyons home was ever open house to the youth of all sects. How she loved a sing-song during the long winter evenings; never a winter without one party at least. She was always in demand for other parties, too, both older and young.

In school vacation time, the old homestead was a mecca for the nieces and nephews from Detroit and Edmonton, and in later years their children too enjoyed the country life and the hospitality of their great-aunt on the small orchard farm, located hard by the tiny village of Wallacetown in Southwestern Ontario.

The rambling old house was built on a knoll, surrounded by hedges, evergreens and other shrubs, with a row of black walnut trees down the lane. The large lawn was terraced in spots and dotted with flower beds. Pansies, Bleeding Heart, Sweet William, Lillies of the Valley, Forget-Me-Nots, Poppies, Rambler roses and other older varieties predominated. This as a rule was the locale for the annual church social in strawberry time.

Many years have passed since I left the old hamlet, but on periodical visits it was ever a pleasure and inspiration to call on Emma and have a chat. On one such visit I was renewing an old friendship with a boyhood chum. Bill McGuire was a Catholic. Amongst other things, Bill, ex-

pounding on Emma's virtues and particularly her influence with children, expressed his belief "that if anyone has earned a front seat in Heaven, it was Emma Lyons." Was there ever a finer eulogy?

Not being a professional writer, I have told this story in my own simple way. Only the highlights

have been included. In retrospect, I know that in addition to the direction that only a wonderful mother can give, Emma's character and influence was responsible in no small degree for any worthwhile traits I may pos-

sess, and I wish to pay tribute.

This sorry old battle scarred world with its greed, its hates and petty jealousies, has need for an Emma Lyons in every community. Her genius for moulding character and bringing out the

best, if made available to the majority of children in all nations, would in time do more to eliminate wars and their causes than all the legislation on the statute books of the world.

Mrs. D. W. Graham Stricken While Playing Church Organ

While playing the organ in Wallacetown United Church—a work she dearly loved—death came on Sunday morning, May 16th, to Mrs. D. W. Graham (Emma Jane Lyons), widow of Duncan W. Graham. A resident of Wallacetown practically all of her 79 years, Mrs. Graham was known and beloved by a wide circle of friends to whom word of her passing came as a distinct shock.

Mrs. Graham's sudden death came as a dramatic climax to a life devoted to others, in her family, in her church and her community. She was the first president of the Wallacetown Women's Institute and presided at the Institute's 35th anniversary on Sept. 4th, 1947. She was a life member of the W.M.S. and had taught a Sunday School class for sixty years. In token of her sixty years as church organist, a dedicatory bronze plaque in her honor was unveiled on the new organ at the United Church in July, 1944. The organ dedication was considerably planned by the community to be observed on her 75th birthday, at which time her family and friends gathered, to the number of nearly 400, at a reception in her home to pay their birthday tribute.

Her home, presided over by its gracious, kindly hostess, was a gathering place for friends of all ages, who will treasure the memories of pleasant evenings spent around her piano, the hospitality of her ever-proffered cup of tea, and the companionship of her gentle, understanding spirit.

She is survived by her sister, Mrs. F. A. Keillor of Edmonton, Alta.; five nieces, Mrs. Arthur Wilson and Mrs. R. A. McEwen of Edmonton, Mrs. G. F. Coote of Calgary, Mrs. A. G. Nancarrow of Detroit, Mrs. Lawrence Van Camp of Romeo, Mich.; and a nephew, Harold Chalk of Birmingham, Mich.; fourteen grand nieces and nephews, three great grand nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at 2 p.m., from the United Church, Wallacetown, with burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Tyrconnell. The body will be at the home from Thursday until Saturday, when it will lie in state at the United Church from 11 a.m. until the service.