



MG 468 – Andrew Everett Porter fonds **MSS 50**

Dates: 1879-1953

Extent: 12 cm of textual records ; 65 photographs

Biography: Dr. Andrew Everett Porter was born at River Herbert, Nova Scotia in 1855. His parents, Joseph Porter and Catherine Patrick, were United Empire Loyalists. Andrew first attended River Herbert Public School, then Dalhousie University and later graduated with a degree in Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1876.

He received an opportunity to practice medicine in the Northwest Territories, and settled in Prince Albert in 1878 with the distinction of being the first registered physician.

Andrew married Marie MacPherson, niece of Senator Hardisty and Lady Strathcona, in 1884. They had three daughters and one son before Marie died in 1893. Later Andrew returned to Nova Scotia where he married Alice Pugsley of River Herbert. Their marriage produced two more daughters.

Porter's activities and experiences were somewhat varied. He assisted Lieutenant Governor Laird in negotiating a treaty with Big Bear in 1878. In the area of politics, Porter ran against D. H. McDowell on the issue of autonomy for the North West. During the Riel Rebellion of 1885, he was appointed a medical officer. He received a similar appointment to the 218 O.S. Regiment during World War I. After the war, he opened the Frank Sanatorium for the tubercular soldiers in Frank, British Columbia.

Dr. Porter was also a noted traveler who undertook extensive trips throughout Canada, the United States, the West Indies and South America. He chose Edmonton, however, to continue his medical practice until his retirement in 1928. He died in 1940 at the age of 85.

Scope and Content: The items in the collection, which mainly consists of correspondence notes, clippings and photographs, have been grouped according to the appropriate heading listed below.

Arrangement:

- I. Biographical material
- II. Correspondence
 - A. Kinistino Lodge
 - B. Personal
 - C. Valens, Dr. John
 - D. Walker, Col. James
- III. Manuscripts
- IV. Memorial Service
- V. Newspaper Clippings
- VI. Notes
- VII. Photographs

- VIII. Publications by Others
- IX. Diary of A.E. Porter

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Prepared by Glen Makahonuk. Edited by Lisa Carpenter and Amy Putnam, 2018.

I. Biographical Material

1. Porter, Frederick W. "A Brief Chronicle and Biographical Sketch as to how the Sir name of Porter originated and the place of its origination" 25 Nov. 1951
2. Untitled typescript re: a biographical survey of Dr. A. Porter's birth, education and later activities.

II. Correspondence

1. Kinistino Lodge No 1, 1927

Correspondence re: the conveying of greetings to the "old timers" reunion of Kinistino Lodge, No 1 of the A.F. and A.M., Prince Albert, Porter's recollection of some former members, and a copy of Fifty years of Masonry in Saskatchewan 1879-1929.

2. Personal, 1896-1932

Correspondence re: the publication of Porter's letter giving his impression of South Africa, the possibility of establishing a medical practice in Johannesburg, Porter's illness while in the Yukon, some samples of Porter's poetry sent to his wife, a brief description fo Porter's travels in the North West Territories, Porter's part ownership in the White Horse Copper Company, Porter's attempts to raise cash by sale of mining shares, Porter's inability to send financial assistance to his family who are in desperate need, Porter's explanation about his illness preventing him from making money, and the Canadian North West Historical Society's request for Porter to write his memoirs.

3. Valens, Dr. John, n.d.

Correspondence re: Porter's autobiographical letter about his activities in Western Canada. The letter is in response to Valens's request for information about Porter. (4 copies)

4. Walker, Col. James, 1930

Correspondence re: Porter's recollections of Walker's duties and activities as a major in the North West Mounted Police. Mention is made of the treaty negotiated with Big Bear, Porter's biased hatred of the Indians, Walker's attempts to prevent a breakout of Indian hostilities prior to the Riel Rebellion of 1885, and Porter's pleasure at being associated with Walker. (2 copies)

5. Family – Personal, 1888-1953

Correspondence re: Alice H. Pugsley's Validictory given on 6 June 1888 at Acadia Seminary, River Herbert, Nova Scotia. Doris Pugsley's letter to her cousin Helen about her Mother's methods of taking care of her, Helen's letter to her Mother about her car accident, New Year's wish, Lee's (?) postcard to Helen Porter about

his assignment as a technical assistant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. in Damascus, and two poems "A Red Santa Claus" and "Christmas."

III. Manuscripts

1. Untitled MSS (8 pages carbon copy) re: Porter's history on the Riel Rebellion of 1885 in which he provides an assessment of the factors that caused the Rebellion, a narrative of the military activities in the area around Prince Albert, the Rebellions impact on the community and the problems created from both the lack of settlement and railway development.
2. "To the Editor of the Prince Albert Herald" (4 copies) re: Porter's MSS of the early history of Prince Albert on which was written as a response to a request from the editor or the Prince Albert Herald. The "history", however is more an autobiographical account of Porter's travels and experiences in Western Canada. Never the less, he does provide information about the nature of the community, the types of settlers, the blow to railway development, the activities in the North West Mounted Police, his establishment of a medical practice and examples of important citizens.
3. Untitled MSS (3 pages 2 carbon copies) re: Porter's view of Hon. John Norquay, the disastrous effect of the Canadian Pacific line being switched south of the original survey, examples of important citizens in Prince Albert and the establishment of the first drug store in Prince Albert.
4. The story told by Okimasis? (untitled MSS, 10 pages, 2 copies and 1 carbon copy, 5 pages with editorial corrections). Porter has written an introduction to a story told by Okimasis, great chief of the Stoneys. This is an account of tribal tradition and the treaty that was eventually achieved by the tribes aiming at peace and brotherhood.

IV. Memorial Service

1. Farewell Service on occasion of the passing of Dr. Andrew Everett Porter. Tuesday, December 10, 1940. (2 copies).

V. Newspaper Clippings

1. The Bulletin (Edmonton) Vol. I, Dec. 6, 1880. (3 copies)
2. The Fool (Prince Albert) Vol. I, No. 2, n.d.
3. The Hustle (Prince Albert) Vol. I, No. 2, March 4, 1889.

4. Clippings from the Edmonton Journal of Dec. 7, 1940 re: Dr. Andrew porter's obituary notice.
5. Miscellaneous clippings from The News and Sentinel April 28,1944, and the Edmonton Journal pertaining to Helen Porter, on of Edmonton's most brilliant student pianists and obituary notices of W.G. Pugsley and A.W. Pugsley.

VI. Notes

1. Canada. Department of the Interior. Natural Resources Intelligence Service. Notes on the Chief Historic Forts and Trading Posts of Alberta and Saskatchewan with accompanying map. Ottawa. 15 Dec. 1926.
2. Untitled Note (5 handwritten pages) re: Dr. Porter's autobiographical notes about his arrival in Prince Albert in 1878, his responsibilities as the first non-police physician in the Territories, his encounter with Big Bear and his activities as a volunteer physician during the Riel Rebellion of 1885.
3. Untitled Note (2 typed pages with annotations and corrections) re: the nature of British trade unions, the problems associated with technological change and unemployment, and the economic struggle of man.
4. Miscellaneous Notes and Verses. Some of the verses have titles such as "The Song of the Broom", "Pile of Bones", "The Borling of the Kegs", and "Campaign Song", but most of the material is untitled jottings.

VII. Photographs

1. Arthur Ashdown, 1880. Prince Albert, Sask.
2. Andrew Everett Porter, 191?
3. Mattie Spencer Niggin, 1897
4. Mattie Spencer Niggin, 1905
5. Mr. & Mrs. John Porter, n.d.
6. Helen Porter, n.d.
7. Group photo taken during the Riel Rebellion of 1885. 1) Archie McDonald, 2) William Know, 3) unidentified, 4) William Tate, 5) A.A. Porter, 6) H.E. Porter, 7) unidentified.

8. Group photo – Andre Agnew, Fred Baker, Bruce Sproat, Graham Nelson (Sheriff), T.J. Agnew, Charlie Woodman, Harry Ross, George Northgraves, Sam Donaldson (Senator), James McKay (Chief Justice), Tom Baker, Tom McKay, Jack Sinclair, George Mills, T.N. Campbell, John F. Fetts (M.L.A.)
9. No. 274 Officers and Members of Kinistino Lodge, No. 16, A.F. & A.M., Prince Albert, N.W.T., July 23, 1891.
10. No. 276 Royal Arch, A.F. & A.M., Prince Albert, Sask. 1891. Dr. A.E. Porter, Blaikie McLeod, I. Agnew, Capt. Smith, Rev. Canon Flett.
11. No. 277. "The Club", Prince Albert, N.W.T., Aug 3, 1891.
12. Typical group of Sioux Indians. Prince Albert, Sask.
13. Young Sioux Bucks, Prince Albert, Sask.
14. "A beautiful spot for picnics," Prince Albert, Sask
15. Windsor Hotel, Prince Albert, Sask.
16. "Australian" Victoria, B.C. Steam or paddle boat.
17. Unidentified photo.
18. Unidentified photo.
19. Unidentified photo
20. Unidentified photo.
21. Uncle Dave porter, River Herbert, Nova Scotia, 1949.
22. Fred W. Porter, two photos: one is dated Dec 21, 1897 and the other is c.194?
23. Helen Pugsley Porter 13 photos (1 negative)
24. Helen Pugsley Porter and Marg 1944.
25. Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, Hazel and Helen Pugsley Porter.
26. Ella, Mrs. Sutherland, Floria Pugsley, Newton Pugsley, Alder Pugsley, Jo Latta, Fred Baker, Edna Baker, Jamie Baker, Tupper Porter – a brother of Mrs. Sutherland.

27. Mr. & Mrs. Jobb
28. Clarence Pugsley
29. Moses Pugsley
30. Nettie Lyford
31. Mrs. Charlie Smith
32. Charlie Kelly – River Herbert
33. Annie Hickman of Amherst
34. Annie Rockwell
35. Alice Smith of Amherst
36. A. Pugsley's wife Marg. Logan
37. Bebe Mcphie
38. The Connerys
39. Ella and Mr. Blanchard
40. The McKeagan children
41. Alder Pugsley's children – Iris, Nora, Helen, Bob (3 photos), River Herbert, N.S.
42. Donnie & Bobbie Perkins – sons of Max Perkins, grandsons of Margaret Perkins, Oct. 1953, (3 photos).
43. Florence Pugsley
44. Mrs. Dewar and Mrs. Smith, (Margaret Dewar), California 1924.
45. Margaret D. Smith, Maggie Dwear, Bessie McTilias?, Josephine Patrick.
46. Alice Christine, Helen Pugsley, Doris Dewar, Margaret Soih
47. Mrs. Davis, Amherst, Nova Scotia, 1924

48. Mr. & Mrs. Max Keagan

VIII. Publications by Others

1. Oliver, Frank, "The Indian Drum: An Incident on the Rebellion of 1885" Queen's Quarterly offprint.

IX. Diary of A.E. Porter, 1 Jan – 2 Sept. 1888

The Diary contains information pertaining to scientific and philosophical terms such as ethics, euphemism, antonymy; a poem by Burns; brief annotations about historical dates; a short note on the Hudson's Bay Company and the CPR; and the day-by-day weather conditions, Porter's health and his mundane activities.