

# RENDELL FAMILY NARRATIVE HISTORY

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2018

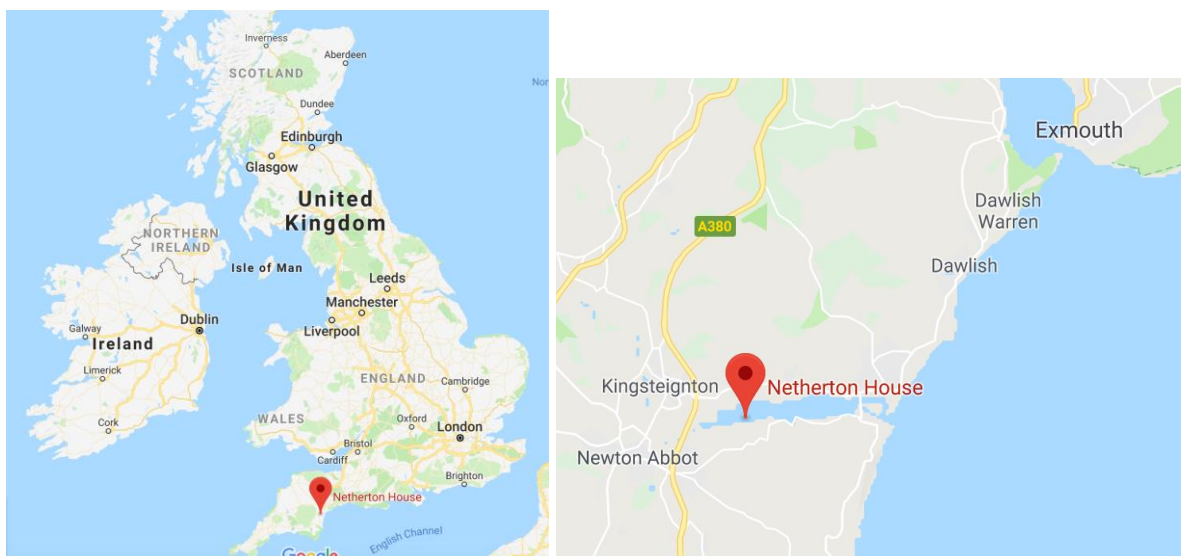


## Life in England

The family of William Rendell had worked the land at Netherton House estate near Newton Abbot in Devonshire, England for over 200 years. By the late 19th century, William had the Waywarden on the estate for many years and had succeeded to the role of Overseer from his father in 1886, who had done it for 40 years before.<sup>1</sup> William sat on the school board as well as several area committees and councils. One would assume from these titles and positions that the William, his wife Alice, and their young family lived comfortably. However, working another man's land was an expensive business in England in 1902. William's rent was about \$10 per acre in addition to rates, tithes, taxes, and wages for the men who worked for him. It was extremely hard to break even, never mind make any kind of profit, even for an experienced farm manager like William. Finally, when he could not convince his landlord to either repair the rapidly failing house and outbuildings he was living in, or to lower his rent, William saw the writing on the wall. Having heard of Reverend Isaac Barr's plans to organize and found a colony in the Canadian prairies, "...I determined to throw up the life of slavery for others and strike for independence in Canada for good or ill."<sup>2</sup>



*Reverend Isaac Barr<sup>3</sup>*



*Maps of the United Kingdom and Devonshire, highlighting where Netherton House is located*

Many of the Rendells family and friends saw this new plan as folly and predicted great loss and dismal failure for the family. In the eyes of the Canadian government however, William and Alice Rendell were the ideal immigrants: they were British (a highly

<sup>1</sup> "Muddling Through", Lynne Bowen, p. 43.

<sup>2</sup> Personal correspondence, William Rendell, July 22, 1903.

<sup>3</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, LRA 4178.jpg

preferred class of immigrants), they had years of farming experience and management, they had some capital of their own already, and they were young and strong enough to undertake the hard labour required of settlers. Therefore, when William applied for a homestead under the Canadian *Dominion Lands Act* he was easily granted 160 acres of his own.

## Immigrating to Canada

### *The SS Lake Simcoe*

The Rendell family of William (aged 46), Alice (aged 46), Leslie (aged 4), and Doris (aged 2) began their journey to Canada on April 8, 1903, leaving youngest son Eric (age 1) in the care

of a family friend. William had not been able to settle his affairs in time to make the March 31, 1903

departure of Reverend Barr's party. This earliest part of their journey was by far the easiest and most enjoyable for the family. On April 7 they were seen

off at the Newton Abbot railway station in Devon by a host of friends and family and were able to travel in a reserved train carriage up to Liverpool.

Upon arrival in Liverpool, they were greeted by representatives from the Beaver Line steamship company and escorted to boarding house affiliated with the company for the night. The morning of April 8 they were taken to the docks and greeted by one more set of relatives, their cousins Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rendell who, like the earlier relations, were

there to see them safely off.



*William and Alice on their wedding day,  
Sept. 4, 1897*

The boarding of their ship, the S.S. Lake Simcoe, was a disorganized and lengthy process, which later on could be viewed as an unfortunate moment of foreshadowing for the journey to the colony. After some time, the Rendells finally managed to secure their berth and were pleased to receive a four-berth cabin in second class.



*The S.S. Lake Simcoe<sup>4</sup>*

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<http://www.norwayheritage.com/gallery/gallery.asp?action=viewimage&categoryid=67&text=&imageid=1498&box=&shownew=>

Due to a terrible ground swell, many passengers aboard the Lake Simcoe were quick to come down with cases of seasickness. By April 10, their second full day aboard, Mrs. Rendell wrote that “the decks greatly resembled a battlefield strewn with the dead and dying”, with many vacant seats at the late dinner that evening. Thankfully the seas calmed down by the next morning and many of the ill were able to regain their strength. Games were played upon the decks and the children ran about in the sunshine. Unfortunately the clear sky and seas were not to last. The waves grew large on April 13, and a cold fog set in as well. Snow appeared on the decks on April 14, making them very slippery and treacherous.

The Lake Simcoe arrived in the port of Saint John, New Brunswick late in the day on April 15. The passengers were disgracefully rushed off the ship into the cold, without being given anything for a dinner meal. Just as the boarding of the ship had been, the unboarding was also disorganized chaos. The port’s customs officials were still busy clearing the baggage from Rev. Barr’s ship, the SS Lake Manitoba, which had arrived only three days prior, and were not prepared to deal with the Lake Simcoe’s passengers and cargo. The Lake Simcoe’s passengers were hurriedly shuffled into an emigration shed and instructed to wait for their items to be released. The children were hungry and “we were one and all faint, cold and weary.”<sup>5</sup> Food finally arrived after a number of passengers made a loud fuss, but unfortunately that did not bring an end to the evening’s troubles. A fire broke out at the port, leaving the passengers scrambling to save their belongings and themselves. Luckily for the Rendells their trusted servant Barnes was able to rescue both their things and the family dog.

### *Train to Saskatoon*



*The Barr Colonist train leaves St. John's, New Brunswick, 1903<sup>6</sup>*

With all of the challenges at the port, the Rendells were not able to board their westbound train until well after midnight on April 16. As Canadian Pacific Railway shareholders, the family had been looking forward to the journey as the line was supposed to be incomparable in terms of comfort and luxury. In reality, Alice found the train to be miserable, filthy, and uncomfortable - beneath even third class on an English railway.

<sup>5</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, April 22, 1903.

<sup>6</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 0050.jpg

William felt that since the Lake Manitoba's passengers had arrived first, they had requisitioned all of the decent sleeping and colonist cars on the train. The carriages that the Lake Simcoe's passengers had been left were overcrowded, lacking in sleeping accommodations, and the lavatories were "a disgrace to civilization."<sup>7</sup> Barr had told the colonists they would need to stock their own provisions for the train ride, but that he would have arranged for them to have bread. The bread never arrived. Needless to say, the Rendells were not impressed.

A week later on April 22, the train finally arrived in Saskatoon and the second group of Barr Colonists were able to meet up with the first. The plan was to have a day to collect and purchase supplies and then move westward quickly. As usual, things did not go according to plan. In England, Rev. Barr had promised decent lodgings would be set up for this point in the trip, but all the settlers were shown was a huge campsite. The Rendells declined and procured their own accommodations elsewhere - but even these were miserable, as Alice claimed that the room they were staying in was no more than a mere "shelter".

The next day William went with Francis Young, a fellow colonist the family had met on the ship, and was able to procure two fine horses, a covered wagon, and a harness for \$508. Alice was glad that the wagon was covered, foreseeing that they would be able to use it as their house once they arrived at the colony. However, that arrival was still several weeks away. The group was forced to wait for their baggage to arrive on the disorganized and overburdened CPR and were not able to leave Saskatoon until April 29, putting them even further behind schedule.



*Barr Colonist Camp in Saskatoon, 1903<sup>8</sup>*

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<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 2204.jpg

### *Trekking to Battleford*

Without a trainline, the colonists now had to walk or ride their horses and wagons roughly 275 kilometres on a rough road from Saskatoon to the colony. The ground was unworn and perilous, with many ravines, gullies, bogs, and poorly constructed dykes in the way. Spring in the northern prairies was far different than what the English settlers were used to; it was much colder, especially at night when the temperature dropped to  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Had it not been for the tents provided by the government, it is likely that many of the settlers would have died from exposure or hunger along the way. Several of the colonists lost horses during the trek; whether this was from exposure or being burdened by overly heavy wagons is unknown. Many colonists had indeed packed far too much for the situation they were arriving into; there are tales of abandoned pianos and large pieces of furniture dotting the trek route as the settlers realized that it was either their things or their lives.



*A Barr Colonist pulling a wagon out of a slough on the trek<sup>9</sup>*

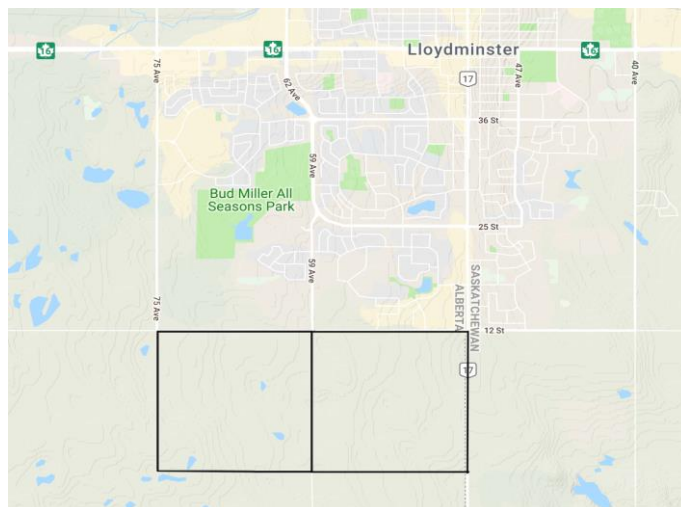
It took the group four and a half days to reach Battleford and another three to get to the colony site. Along the way the Rendells ate mostly porridge, made on a camp stove purchased in Saskatoon. They were quite pleased on the day that William managed to shoot a duck and three prairie chickens, as they had not had a savory meal in many days.

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<sup>9</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 1734.jpg

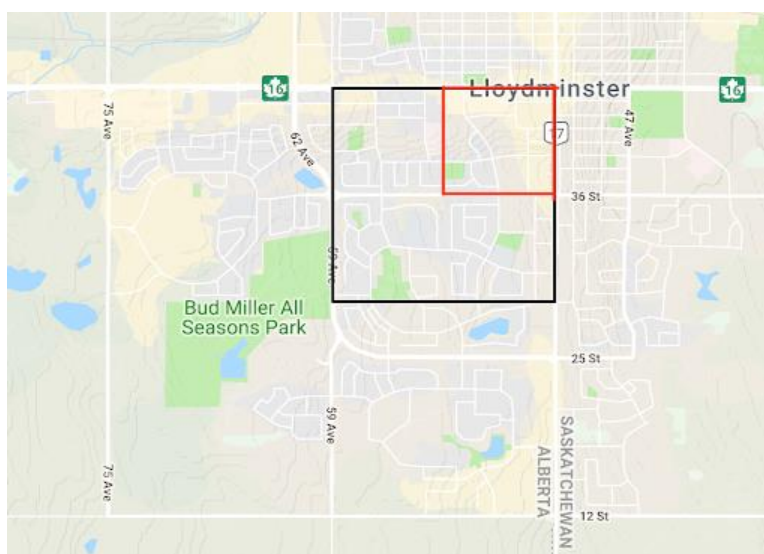
## Arrival at the Colony

Upon arriving at the colony, one of the first things William Rendell did was to scope out the land he had been allotted - Township 49, Section 23, 24, Range 1.<sup>10,11</sup>



*Township 49, Section 23, 24, Range 1*

While this land is used for farming today, when Mr. Rendell first saw it he declared it unsuitable for agriculture and went directly to Rev. Barr to request a new plot. While many of the other colonists had their issues with Barr, William felt he was treated fairly and respectfully by him. The Rendells were escorted to Township 49, Section 36, Range 1, which William was much happier with. The new land had plenty of wood and water and was close enough to the stores in Rev. Barr's camp, as well as to where the school was planned to be.



*Township 49, Section 36, Range 1, NE Quarter Section*

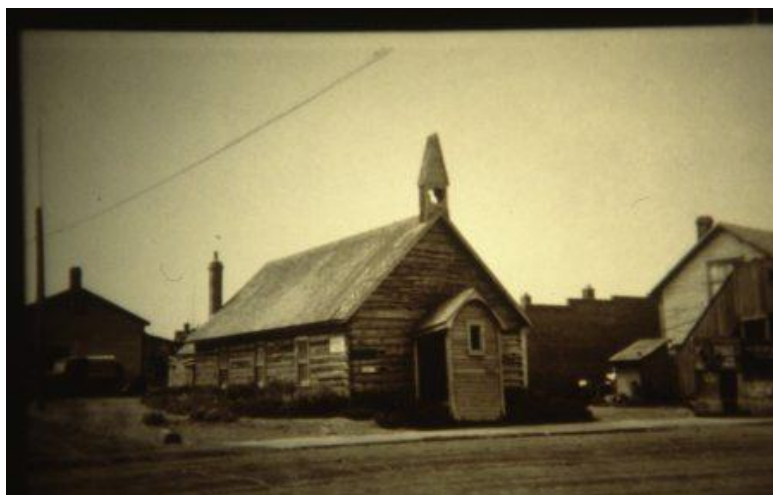
<sup>10</sup> Personal letter, William Rendell.

<sup>11</sup> Note: William would not have been granted two full sections of land, or 1280 acres. The *Dominion Lands Act* restricted a family to a quarter section of land, or 160 acres. William does not state which quarter was to have been his.

Soon after arrival in the settlement, Barnes was sent on a week-long trip back to Battleford to retrieve the rest of the family's luggage, as well as the plough and harrows. Having these materials meant that William could quickly push on with working his new land. As farmers, the Rendells knew that it was already late in the season to start tilling and planting the soil. Therefore, working the land became William's number one priority, even without a proper house for his family. He began to plow on May 16, by June 4 William and Barnes had five acres ploughed and planted - three and a half acres of oats (to be able to feed the horses), one acre of barley, and half an acre of potatoes. In her letters, Alice wrote that she was looking forward to soon getting seeds for her kitchen garden from Battleford. She was somewhat surprised to learn that potatoes were not common to the area. While they waited for their crops to come in, the family subsisted on the small white beans that were common to the area, as well as the ducks and prairie chickens that were plentiful on the estate. The family soon purchased a cow in order to have milk and cream for their tea.

Unfortunately, the rough trek, poor weather including snow, and meager living conditions were taking their toll on the family. Doris developed a high fever and Barnes, the Rendells' working man was falling ill, but thankfully the camp doctor managed to ward off illness for both of them. Alice was less lucky, developing a bad chill and a nasty case of bronchitis which took some time to recover from. Francis Young, the colonist they had befriended on the voyage over, caught a chill on May 20 and became the first person to die in the colony on May 24, leaving behind his wife and 4 teenage children back in the UK.

### *Doris Court*



*St. John's Old Minster Church, built in 1904<sup>13</sup>*

With the land settled and the farming begun, the next task to be taken care of was obtaining a proper house. Though the Rendell section had plenty of trees for wood, the colony lacked a lumber mill to plane it. Many fellow colonists built their first homes and buildings out of logs as can be seen by the town's first church, St. John's Old Minster<sup>12</sup>.

The Rendells, however, had gotten word that a fellow colonist in another camp was intending on returning home even though he had already purchased a plan and all the materials for a small bungalow. They approached the man and he agreed to take a massive loss and sell it to William for the cost of a ticket back home to England. The only catch was

<sup>12</sup> Now located on the grounds of the Lloydminster Cultural and Science Centre.

<sup>13</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, LRA 4151.jpg



that the Rendells would have to fetch the materials themselves, as they were not yet in the colony but instead located 40 kilometers away at Fort Pitt, SK.

The Rendells chose a spot on their land for the home and sent Barnes to collect the housing materials on June 8. Alice predicted that construction of the home would begin within two weeks from then. The building process must have went rather smoothly, as the family was able to move into the house on August 6. It was christened Doris Court in the English fashion after the Rendells' daughter.



*Doris Court, 1903*<sup>14</sup>

An early description of the house is as follows: a 30' by 30' bungalow with five rooms, two large cellars for storing winter provisions, and a large attic which runs the whole extent of the house making quite fit to use for a bedroom as the family have had it all nicely boarded round and floored. It was warmed from a pipes emanating from the kitchen stove and a heating stove in the octagonal hall. Unlike the coal-burning English stoves, the ones in Doris Court burned only wood. During winter months, the stoves would have be kept burning day and night, and double windows (storm windows) would have to be hung on the outside frames. A veranda running around three sides of the home was to be added on later, as the family had already gone to more expense than they had intended. However, the need for boarding over the winter was so great that William and Alice felt that having the extra room would repay their investment. Alice wrote that 'all who saw the house proclaimed it to be the best in the colony'<sup>15</sup>.

### *Challenges in the Colony*

Although things were so far working out for the Rendell family, many of their fellow colonists were not having the same experience. Barr had over-promised and under-delivered what he would be able to do for the group, especially in regards to provisions and assistance on the trek. His relationship with his group continued to sour once they arrived. According to Alice by June 4 he was "pretty well out of it" having fled to Battleford under threat of arrest and legal action.<sup>16</sup>

It was at this point that Reverend George Lloyd took over leadership of the colony. Lloyd was well respected in the community and was willing to do what he needed to in order to get the colony up and running smoothly. Unfortunately, a great deal of work, labour, and challenges still awaited the group.

<sup>14</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, LRA 4141.jpg

<sup>15</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, August 6, 1903.

<sup>16</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, June 4, 1903.

Prairie fires affected the colonists more than once. While many were smaller and could either be extinguished or driven away, there were a few in the first year that caused a great deal of concern especially for a town living primarily in canvas tents. In the spring, a series of terrible fires had surrounded the colony on all sides. To combat it, every man, horse, and plough in the colony were called in to dig a fire break around the entire camp. They were narrowly successful and the camp was saved from destruction.

In terms of day-to-day matters, the colony was technically served by a few small stores even in the earliest days. However, since the colony was not yet on the train route, the stores had serious issues with obtaining and maintaining stock. Having the land for a farm is one thing, but having the physical means and objects to be able to work that land and collect food and a livelihood from it is another. The colonists were forced to journey to Battleford or Saskatoon to get necessities such as tools, implements, and provisions and were continually told that things would be easier when the railway arrived. Sadly, that arrival would not occur for another two years.

For some colonists, the adventure to Canada was too much to deal with and they returned home to England, spreading reports and rumours about their time on the prairies. Alice and William differed in their views on the reports. Alice felt that there was more truth than rumour in the failed settlers' tales - the experience was challenging and Barr had not delivered on his promises<sup>17</sup>. On the other hand, William felt that those who had given up had blown things out of proportion. He believed that the quitters had simply had too much trust in the printed advertisements put out by Barr and had over-relied on Barr's promises for provisions and assistance. William questioned if many had let their common sense slip by the wayside "...else they would have realized that as pioneers in a new colony they must have many serious difficulties and drawbacks to encounter..."<sup>18</sup> Both Rendells, however, were adamant that their new life required high levels of courage and determination in order to achieve the success they were after. Alice told her friends at home, "Still with all the hardships it is certainly a glorious feeling to be able to look around on our own property and feel that each day's work is for future benefit, no landlord and no rent to pay and no taxes. This indeed compensates for a very great deal."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Personal correspondence, William Rendell, July 22, 1903.

<sup>19</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, May 18, 1903.

## Early Life in Lloydminster



*Group photo of the Barr Colonists, 1903/1904<sup>20</sup>*

With Doris Court built and the fields ploughed, the Rendells were able to finally settle in to their new life. Which is not to say that anything was able to become 'routine'. Alice was five months pregnant when the family left England and on August 27, 1903 had the historic distinction of giving birth to the colony's first baby. Alice Miriam Rendell, often called 'the Canadian' in early life by her mother and 'Babs' later on, was born in the bedroom at Doris Court on a bed of ticking filled with fresh hay on the floor in a house that, at the time, had no window panes, doors or partitions. The birth was attended by the colony's only doctor, Dr. Amos and family friend, Mrs. Bunyan. She was to have Rev. Lloyd himself as her godfather.

Baby Miriam wasn't the only new addition to Doris Court either. Alice and William had been correct in their guess that the extra space in their house would be put to good use by boarders. In the fall of 1903, in addition to the five Rendells there were an extra ten people living in the house: the postmaster Mr. Falmank, his wife, and their three children; Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan and least one child of theirs; as well as two unknown people. The postmaster and family were to stay throughout the winter; it is unknown how long the others remained with the Rendells.

As the colony grew with new colonists, stores, restaurants, and various other services, the North West Mounted Police decided to station some officers in town. Sometime that autumn, the wood-framed Rendell home was selected to use as the NWMP's barracks and jail. Alice was glad to have the officers around as they were "...very lively boys, no fear of being dull where they are. They make a great pet of Doris. She always pours tea for them."<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 1251.jpg

<sup>21</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, December 1903.

The Rendells continued to have their share of wins and losses in their new home. One major issue was that they were having no luck striking a proper reliable well. During the winter it was easy enough for Alice to boil snow, but there is a sense of worry in her letters as to what they will have to do come the spring melt. On the other hand, William was confident enough in the venture that he purchased an additional 320 acres of railway land which adjoined the property. This allowed them to expand their farming operation and generate revenue from it, unlike many of their neighbours who had to go off to other towns to find paying jobs to be able to have the capital to fund their farms. Additionally, once the railway finally arrived, William felt that this land would become tremendously valuable. The entire colony looked eagerly forward to the train's arrival as prices for goods in town were extremely expensive. (In 1903 flour in the colony cost \$4.50 for 100 pounds. In 1905 after the railway arrived, the price dropped to \$2.80 for the same quantity.) In a money-making attempt, the Rendells also decided to start a small side business on their property. They built a small 'store' near the house where they could sell some of the dairy products they were making from the cow's output. The Devonshire-style butter made by the Rendells was so popular in the colony that the family was interested in buying another two or three more cows to keep the operation going.

By Christmas the colony seemed to be in fantastic shapes and spirits. A proper Christmas church service was planned, complete with Christmas tree, high tea, a music concert, all planned by a series of subcommittees. Mr. Hall had just completed the construction of his large new general store and was pleased to allow a Boxing Day dance to be held inside, as it was still empty of goods. Alice, along with 109 other colonists, had joined Rev. Lloyd's weekly choir practice, singing both church and secular music. Thursday evenings were reserved for music concerts or debates on popular or instructive topics.

Despite having been largely a group of strangers when they first set sail in April, by the end of 1903 the colonists were really banding together and coming to enjoy one another's company. More colonists were expected to arrive in the New Year, enough that they government was building a large Emigration Hall to be able to properly welcome them. Challenges remained, and the railway would not arrive in town until 1905, but with the hard work of its residents the colony was proving to be a resounding success.

*"There is plenty of room to breathe in this country and if the work is hard, the freedom, which is the indispensable attribute of the life here, makes one far less susceptible to physical fatigue than in England where one seems to have such a feeling of weighty oppression to handicap one's energies. Here one feels that each week's work is a step onward whilst also in the Old Country oftentimes a year's hard toll brought nothing but disappointment and additional anxiety." - Alice Rendell* <sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Personal correspondence, Alice Rendell, January 19, 1904.

## Family Member Biographies



*William and Alice Rendell, 1904<sup>23</sup>*

### *William Rendell*

Born April 12, 1857, William Rendell came from a long line of workers on the Netherton House Estate in Devonshire, England. He succeeded his father as overseer and waywarden on the property and was supposed to farm the estate for the rest of his life. However, mandatory high rent, taxes, and tithes while living in decrepit buildings took their toll on his outlook. When he heard of Rev. Barr's plan to build an English colony on the Canadian prairies, William jumped at the chance to leave what he saw as a life of servitude and slavery.

After settling his family on their new farm, William's turned to business. In 1905 he advertised his services as a live and dead stock seller and auctioneer in the local paper. In May of 1907 he purchased the Wholesale Liquor and Cigar Stores on Broadway in Lloydminster. Sometime around 1910 he became the proprietor of the Royal George Hotel in town, which was licenced to distribute liquor. The Royal George was originally a frame building located where old Post Office was, at the corner of 50th and 50th. William moved the building 300 feet east and added brick to the facade. The move was done by placing skids underneath the building and putting wooden rollers underneath the skids. Cables were attached to skids and wound around a capstan (upright wooden drum). As horses pulled, the skids passed over the rollers and were then carried to the front and put back underneath.

Prohibition came into Saskatchewan in 1915 and Alberta in 1916, closing all the bars in each province. These likely affected the hotel, but not so much that William wanted to get out of the business. Instead, in December 1918 William purchased the Britannia Hotel as well. In April of 1919 a large fire hit the Britannia but miraculously it was saved.

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<sup>23</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, LRA 0911.jpg

While he was personally successful enough to own his own Ford Model T automobile, William also actively took part in many of the town's business clubs and committees. He was an early member of the town's Rifle Corps, and was appointed their Lieutenant and Auditor. He served as a school trustee for several years beginning sometime in the mid-1910s. He was also elected to the Board of Directors for the Saskatchewan arm of the Lloydminster Joint Agricultural Societies.

William died on May 15, 1934 at his residence in Lloydminster at the age of 77.

### *Alice Rendell*

Alice Rendell was born on March 9, 1857. She married William Rendell on September 4, 1897. In the early days of the Barr Colony, Alice assisted with the organization of the hospital located inside a log cabin. She was not a trained nurse, but used the skills she did have to assist people when they were in need.

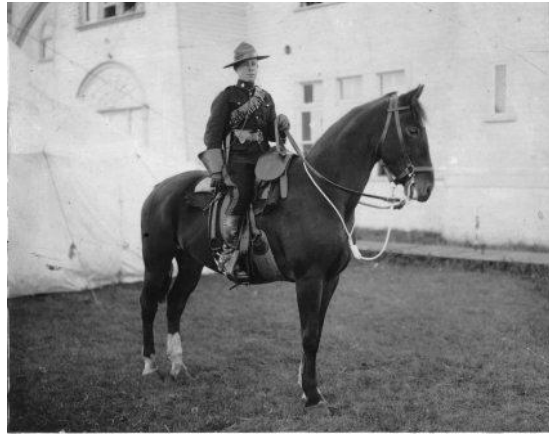
She loved the arts and was artistically gifted in music, drama, and painting. Alice helped to set up the Lloydminster dramatic society, which produced many local talent plays. She took part in community choirs and was the first piano teacher in Lloydminster (although she never taught her own children to play). Alice also assisted with the Sunday school and organized their choir, which was likely the seed for the church's later Junior Choir. She allowed the Rendell farm to be the site of many Sunday School picnics. When dignitaries such as Sir Wilfred Laurier, Sir Robert Borden, Earl Grey, and Lord Minto, among many others, would visit the town, Alice was known to prepare detailed and gorgeous illuminated addresses to be presented to them. She also prepared World War One Honour Rolls, and her work still hangs in churches in Lloydminster and Edmonton. She taught calligraphy to her grandson Don, Doris' son.

Alice also enjoyed gardening. Upon arrival in the colony, one of the first things she asked for was for her friends back home to send her flower seeds to brighten up her new home. The Rendell yard also featured a large vegetable garden.

In her later years, Alice would spend the spring and summer at her home in Lloydminster, but during the winter would retire to her daughter Doris' home in Edmonton. She passed away on November 28, 1944 in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

### *William Leslie Rendell ('Les')*

The eldest child, Les was born October 29, 1898 in Newton Abbot, England. During his youth in Lloydminster, Les was very athletic. He played soccer, hockey, baseball, cricket, and curled as well, even captaining one of his hockey teams. In June of 1916 he took a job with the Canadian National Railway freight depot in Edmonton, but did not stay at the job long. In 1918 he joined the North West Mounted Police in North Battleford, SK, likely having been influenced by the NWMP boarders his family had taken in during their early years in the Barr Colony. Les was sent to Regina for training, and then posted in Grand Forks, BC near the US border for roughly 5 years. He left the service after that to return home and assist his father on the farm.



*Constable Les Rendell in Uniform on Horseback, Regina<sup>24</sup>*

Les was also mechanically inclined. During the winter of 1932-1933 he built a snowplane alongside mechanic E. Lehne. The machine was powered by a Model A Ford motor and was apparently quite loud. Les flew the plane around Lloydminster for the next two winters, assisting clients like a local doctor, an implement dealer, and a cattle buyer to visit various nearby farms and villages.

In 1936 Les and his brother Eric opened Rendell Bros. Service Station at the corner of Jasper Highway and Meridian Road (now highway 16 and 50th Ave.). The station remained in business until at least 1939.

In 1939 Les shifted gears once again, returning to his policing routes. With the outbreak of World War II, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police realized that they would be losing a number of their young officers to the armed forces. The RCMP put out a call to former officers to rejoin the ranks, and Les answered. He first served in the Lloydminster detachment but in 1940 was transferred to the North Battleford road patrol.

At some point during this time, Les met Mamie Geneva Holmedal of Fernwood, SK. Since the RCMP was giving him a choice of either re-enlisting or getting married, the Les and Mamie elected to get married on October 6, 1940 in Knox Church in Lloydminster, with the reception at the Rendell family farm.

With Les' policing and flying background, it was inevitable that the armed forces would come calling for him at some point. In 1941, the Royal Canadian Air Force called him up to join and sent him to Saskatoon. Les would serve five and half years with the air force but was never posted outside of Canada. Instead he saw Moose Jaw, SK; Winnipeg, MB, and Gander, NFLD. Mamie appears to have been allowed to move with him, as their son Bud was born August 23, 1941 in Moose Jaw, and their daughter Marilyn was born October 9, 1944 in Winnipeg.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Les returned to his athletic roots. In November of 1945 he was made the manager of the town skating rink, a position he greatly enjoyed. He would go on to serve on the Arena Board in 1960, serving as the president for many years. He also maintained several baseball diamonds and worked in some of the town's curling rinks. Like his parents before, Les enjoyed assisting the community, serving as the Legion President in 1958.

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<sup>24</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 0811.jpg

Les' contributions to the sports community was recognized in 1974 when he was inducted into the Lloydminster Sports Hall of Fame. At the time, he also had the designation of being the town's longest residing citizen.

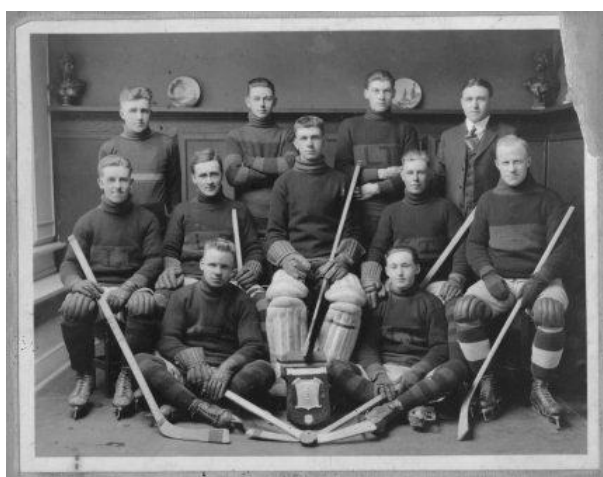
He ran a gas station and did carpentry work until he finally retired in his 70s. Les passed January 7, 1997 at age 98 in Lloydminster. He was one of the last remaining North West Mounted Police officers.

### *Doris Kathleen Rendell*

Of all the Rendell children, the least is known about Doris. She was born January 27, 1901 in England. She married Percy Hiron sometime between November 1922 and January 1923. On September 23, 1923 the couple's first child, Doreen, was born. Unfortunately, Doreen passed away on September 27, 1926 after a brief illness. At some point she had a son named Don. By 1959 Doris and Percy were living in Edmonton. Alice Rendell would stay with them during the winter. Doris died in 1976.

### *Eric Arthur Rendell*

The younger Rendell son, Eric was born in 1902 in England. Due to his young age, he was left behind with a family friend when his parents and elder siblings made the trek with the Barr Colonists. He was reunited with his family in 1904 when the friend also moved to the prairies. Eric was a very active and athletic boy - he participated in the Boy Scouts and played hockey and soccer into his late 20s. He assisted on the family farm until 1928 when he left to work at the firm of H.M. Hall and Son. While still working at the firm, in 1936 Eric and his brother Les opened Rendell Bros. Service Station at the corner of Jasper Road and Meridian Ave. (now Highway 16 and 50th Ave.) The station would be in business until at least 1939.



*Lloydminster Tigers Hockey Team 1922-1923:*

*W. Spence; R. Leonard; L.G. Lindsay; J.B. Boyd; E.A. Rendell; W.D. Price; W.D. Price; G.K. Ross;  
W. L. Rendell; J.A. Miller; J.A. Fretwell*<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Lloydminster Regional Archives, BCHCC 0173.jpg



In 1937 Eric married Doris Lillian Krake at a wedding held at the Rendell family home. On November 17, 1940 the couple welcomed their first child, Doreen. In May of 1941 Eric took a job at Harry Hick's food store. He did not stay long, as by July he was living in Edmonton with his family and working at Tom Campbell's Hat Shop. Eric and Doris' son Eric Gordon was born December 31, 1942.

Eric retired in 1969 and passed away on March 28, 1997.

### *Alice Miriam Rendell ('Babs')*

The youngest Rendell child, Miriam has the distinction of being the first baby born in Lloydminster, on August 27, 1903. In recognition of her historical status, the town gave her a small plot of land (Lot 16, Block 12).

On January 29, 1929 she married Joseph Robert Gruepner at St. John's Church, Lloydminster. The ceremony was presided over by Rev. A. Cross and the reception was held at the Rendell family home. A year after their marriage, the couple moved to farm 12 miles southwest of town in the Golden Valley District. On June 30, 1934 their first son Robert was born. They would go on to have three more children, Dorothy, Thelma, and Alice. Joseph died on September 23, 1960. Miriam moved into a Lloydminster apartment building in 1967 and Robert took over the family farm. She moved to Summerland B.C to be closer to her daughter in 1982. Miriam passed away on September 22, 2003 in Summerland, B.C.