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## The Rendell Family Farm

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### Lloydminster's Early History

#### The Largest Journey of It's Kind in Canadian History



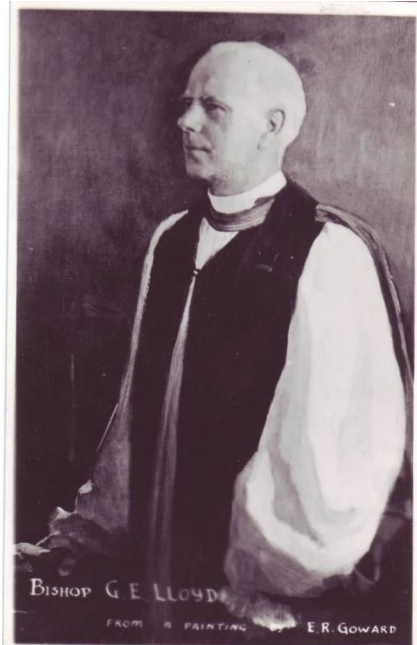
*Revered Isaac Montgomery Barr*

Reverend Isaac M. Barr was an Anglican clergyman and promoter of British colonial settlement. In January of 1902, Rev. Barr began an intensive campaign of letter writing and public speaking urging citizens to immigrate into Western Canada. He promoted the opportunity to exchange the poverty of Britain for an estate in Canada. He secured a tract of land between the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian (Alberta/Saskatchewan border) and Maidstone, Saskatchewan.

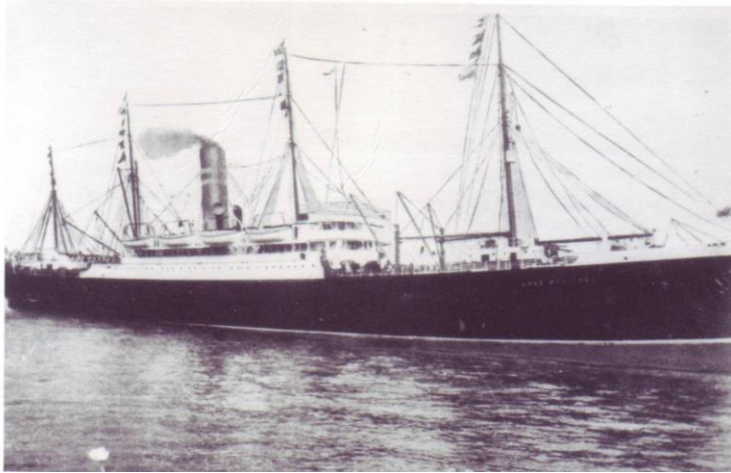
At the same time Bishop George Exton Lloyd, a clergyman in the Church of England, was also campaigning for colonization. Both

Reverend Lloyd and Reverend Barr received large responses to their campaigns, so they developed a plan to colonize the area together. This project soon became one of the largest settlements in Canadian History.

Rev. Barr and Rev. Lloyd had both spent time in Canada during their youth. Reverend Barr was ordained as an Anglican Minister and served a brief posting in Prince Albert. Rev. Lloyd on the other hand, had a much more interesting history on the Prairies. In 1885 he was a member of the University of Toronto's company of the Queen's Own Rifles and was sent to put an end to the second Riel rebellion (Bowen, Lynne. 7). Speaking about his campaigns for immigration, Rev. Lloyd was asked many questions about Canada, and because of this he wrote a letter to the editor of the London Times, urging the immigration of British Stock to the Canadian Prairies.



*Revered George Exton Lloyd*



S.S. Lake Manitoba

Getting more response than they ever imagined, in March 1903, nearly 2000 colonists from England boarded the SS. Lake Manitoba bound for St. John, New Brunswick. The trip was cramped, and they sailed under uncomfortable conditions because the ship was filled far beyond what maximum capacity should have been.

By the time the ship was docked in New Brunswick, complaints were arising about

Rev. Barr's inability to meet promises and expectations. Rev. Lloyd used this as a time to become a strong stabilizing force. Although opposition was forming, the colonists boarded trains and travelled the distance of over 5000 kilometers to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Arriving in Saskatoon in April 1903, the colonists spent two weeks preparing for the 270km wagon journey to the new colony. During the journey to the colony, around Fort Battleford, the colonists voted to replace Rev. Barr as their leader and elected Rev. Lloyd into power. Rev. Barr still made the trek to Lloydminster, but after raising his flag, he quickly retreated. Mr. Barr then went to Toronto to sort out his financial problems, but soon moved to the United States and eventually Australia, where he spent the rest of his life.

With Reverend Lloyd now leading, the colony was quickly developing. He proceeded to name the community Lloydminster. He developed a model community consisting of British stock and the highest standards. Rev. Lloyd only stayed in Lloydminster for two years, but he made great impact in his short time. He surveyed the city and by 1904, had all the surveyed lots full. He also successfully contested the placement of the railway in 1905, with the Canadian Northern Railway station being placed in the less populated Alberta side.

Forming in 1903, Lloydminster was part of the North West Territories. It was not until two years later, in 1905, that the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, with the boundary running through the middle of Lloydminster. With the creation of the provincial boundaries came difficulty, because it meant that two different towns were formed.

In 1905, Lloydminster was two separate entities, the *town* of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan and the *village* of Lloydminster, Alberta. In 1929, the downtown of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan suffered a devastating fire, causing over 1 million dollars in damage. It was this incident that spurred the amalgamation efforts and in 1930, Lloydminster became Canada's first border town.

For further reading about the settling of the Northwest Territories, you might want to check out the document 'Populating the Prairies'.

## The Rendell Family

According to the Department of Canadian Immigration, the Rendell Family were the ideal pioneers; they spoke English, they were from Europe and were lifetime farmers. William Rendell's family had been tenant farmers in Devonshire, England for over 250 years. The high cost of land in England meant that the Rendell's only rented the land they farmed. Advertising distributed by Reverend Barr promoted the 'last best west' around what was to become Lloydminster. Alice and William Rendell were convinced that the low cost of land in the Canadian Prairies was their best chance at becoming landowners.



*William and Alice Rendell, LRA0911*

They chose to leave Eric, their youngest son, in Britain with family until the homestead was ready. They travelled with their other son, Leslie, and daughter, Doris. Alice was also pregnant with a fourth child by the time they left Liverpool for Canada. Though they missed the *S.S. Lake Manitoba* by a few days, they found passage on the *S.S. Lake Simcoe* and joined with the main party of Barr Colonists in Saskatoon. Upon arriving at the Barr Colony site, Alice and William wasted no time building their homestead. With their agricultural knowledge, they began tilling the land before their house was even built. They spent their summer in a canvas tent while they planted their crops and built their home. By autumn, their crops were ready for harvest and their home was ready for them to live in. Miriam, their fourth and youngest child, was born in the bedroom of the home and was the first registered birth in the Colony.

## **'Doris Court'**

While some of their neighbours lived in sod houses, the Rendell family chose to live in a tent while their home was being built. William Rendell had gotten lucky; another colonist who wanted to return to England had offered to sell the plans and materials for the house in exchange for a ticket home. As the first lumber house in the area, it quickly became the heart of the community and was affectionately known as 'Doris Court', named for their eldest daughter.



*Rendell House and Family, 1903/1904*

## **Life in the Colony**

Throughout the years, the Rendell Family fulfilled many functions to compensate for the lack of infrastructure in the settlement. Alice took in boarders, many of whom were members of the Northwest Mounted Police and nursed sick neighbours. They promoted cultural and economic growth within the community by teaching piano, starting baseball and soccer leagues, and hosting community events in their home. In addition to farming, nursing and boarding, the family would go on to own a store, the Royal George Hotel and the Royal Britannia Hotel, and operated a butcher shop. William Rendell was also elected as school trustee in 1918. They were a very busy family that played a crucial role in the settlement and development of Lloydminster.

For further reading on the Rendell Family, check out the *Rendell Family Narrative*.



## Artifact Profile – Tea Cup and Saucer



### What:

**is it made of?** Porcelain

**does it feel like?** Hard, smooth

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Barr Colonists' brought a lot of unnecessary items on the trip, with a lot of this being fine china. As many were from Britain, tea was a large part of their daily lives. They decided to bring their china on the trip, with many of the pieces breaking along the way.

**is its purpose?** It is used for tea and dainties, which would have been a large part of the Barr Colonists' lives.

### Who:

**would have used these?** Since teatime is a large part of culture in Britain, Barr Colonists would have partaken in this custom, most likely daily.

### Why:

**might a museum find this valuable?** These objects allow museums to learn about the daily lives of the settlers, along with the kinds of possessions the Colonists came to Canada with. These items are significant because they were considered valuable enough for the settlers to bring to Canada.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** They brought their china on the boat and train (thousands of miles!) and continued their tea traditions once settling.

## Artifact Profile – Spats



### What:

**is it made of?** Wool, leather, metal

**does it feel like?** Soft fabric, stiff leather, hard metal buttons

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Fashion was important to the person who would have worn this. This also would give the wearer the status of belonging to the middle or upper class.

**is its purpose?** To

dress up regular footwear and look more stylish. These would have been worn over boots or shoes.

### Who:

**would have worn these?** Men and women wore spats to dress up regular footwear. This pair belonged to a man since women's spats were worn halfway to the calf of their leg.

### Why:

**was it used?** Spats would have formalized regular footwear for special functions/events like weddings. This prevented the need for having numerous pairs of footwear. The bottom leather strap went under the heel of the shoe or boot and the buttons were worn on the outside ankle.

**might a museum find this valuable?** This fashion accessory is an important piece of Edwardian (1890 – 1920) fashion for Western cultures. The English were especially known for their use of spats as it designated the wearer as belonging to the middle or upper class. These quickly fell out of fashion in the late 1920s.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** The Barr Colonists, in their attempt to emulate life in England, wore these during the early days of Lloydminster's development. It was a familiar sight to fellow countrymen dressed like they had in the 'old country'. It also acted as a symbol for the Canadian Government's desire to settle the Canadian prairies with English colonists. To the regular Barr Colonist, this also would have separated him from a farmer.

## Artifact Profile – Milk Bottle



### What:

**is it made of?** Glass

**does it feel like?** Hard, cold, smooth

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Milk was bottled in small amounts for retail sale. Milk was available to the community through dairy farmers.

**is its purpose?** To provide a reusable container for milk. Instead of throwing out the container once the milk was consumed, it was washed and refilled. Glass was the only material durable and sterile enough for repeat cleaning.

### Who:

**would have used these?** In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, everyone would have consumed milk daily. Farmers may have bottled their own milk, but most likely they would have sold their milk to market in large milk pails. The grocer would bottle the milk and consumers would bring in their empty bottles and exchange them for full ones. Later, in the 1930-1940s, farmers would sell their milk to a distributor who operated a bottling plant.

### Why:

**was it used?** Milk was bottled in small amounts due to the limited access to ice boxes (there were no refrigerators). The bottle of milk was usually consumed within a day or two which eliminated the possibility of it spoiling. The bottle's shape (square sides) allowed the bottle to be packed alongside others and made for easier transportation. By the 1940s, when refrigeration was accessible, milk delivery declined because larger amounts could be sold and stored for longer periods of time.

**might a museum find this valuable?** The milk bottle allows museums and the public to learn about food storage and consumption in the early years of agricultural communities like Lloydminster. It tells us that families went to market frequently and that these homesteaders did not have access to ice boxes in the community's early years. It also represents Lloydminster as a farming community and a preference towards dairy farming.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** Dairy farming was a preference amongst the Barr Colonists as it was familiar livestock in England. The Rendell Family kept a large amount of dairy cattle and sold what they could not consume to their neighbours for a profit. While dairy farms were laborious to maintain, they were profitable, as the Rendell's were able to buy numerous businesses after establishing their farm.

## Artifact Profile – Butter Mold and Paddle



### What:

**is it made of?** Wood.

**does it feel like?** Hard, rigid

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Synthetic materials like plastic were not available. This item was handmade; manufactured items were not available to the person who used this item.

**is its purpose?** It was used to form butter into a square mold. They would put the butter paper in first. The paddle was used to spoon the butter into the inside of the mold from the bottom. Once

the butter hardened, the top peg pushed the square of butter out. The brick of butter would then be sold to neighbours or market.

### Who:

**would have used these?** Farmers who operated a dairy farm, like the Rendell Family. Large amounts of butter that the family could not consume was processed into bricks and sold to their neighbours or at the local market.

### Why:

**was it used?** It allowed farmers to package butter into small amounts for easy transport, preservation and consumption. The textured surface on the lever inside of the mold acted as a signature for the farmer's butter.

**might a museum find this valuable?** These objects allow museums to learn about agricultural food processing and preservation at the turn of the century. It acts as a teaching tool for people about early 20<sup>th</sup> century farming and agricultural settlement.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** Many of the Barr Colonists operated dairy farms when they settled Lloydminster and region. The butter mold is an example of how families like the Rendell's would have profited from their land.



## Artifact Profile – Sad Iron



### What:

**is it made of?** Metal and wood

**does it feel like?** Hard, cold, smooth

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Modern irons were not yet invented, therefore objects such as this were used to accomplish daily chores.

**was it used for?** The heavy cast iron block was heated on top of a woodstove. The handle was removable, allowing the user to exchange the cold iron for a warm one. The weight and

heat of the sad iron would smooth out wrinkles in fresh, clean laundry.

### Who:

**would have used these?** Women and girls of the home would have been exclusively responsible for laundry.

### Why:

**was it used?** Electric irons today emit warm steam to eliminate wrinkles from laundry. However, these did not exist until 1920 and even then, they were unreliable. The sad iron was reliable, durable and could be used for decades without damage. The sad iron was used for one of the many steps involved in doing weekly laundry. Without the use of washing machines, dryers and other electrical devices, laundry could take days. Therefore, laundry day was typically referred to as 'Blue Monday'.

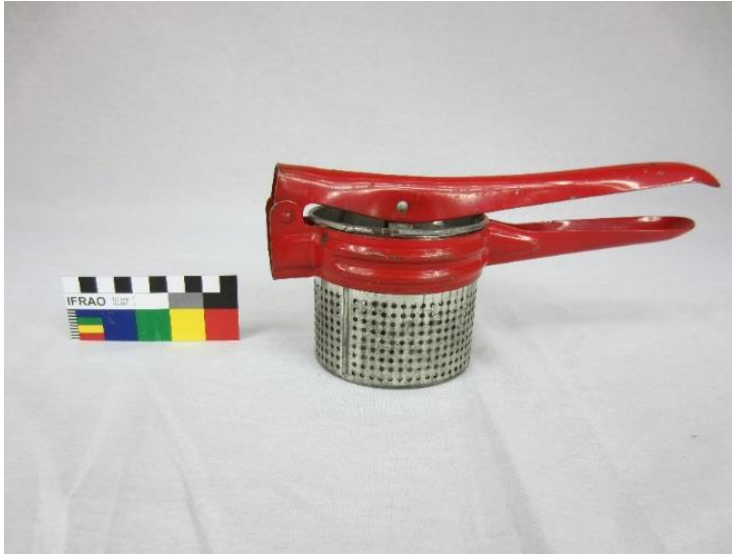
**might a museum find this valuable?** Sad irons are plentiful in most museum collections due to their durability. The cast iron base is one of the few materials that is preserved by handling with your bare hands since the oil in your hands prevents rust buildup. Sad irons communicate to museums and visitors how much effort was involved in doing a simple chore; one that we take for granted today.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** A sad iron would have been an essential piece of a homesteader's gear. Despite the conditions of an early settlement, the Barr Colonists were still expected to have pressed and wrinkle free clothing for Sunday mass at Church and during special events. Many of the Barr Colonists expectations of homesteader life were considered unrealistic by experienced farmers; some brought fine clothing and footwear unsuitable for pioneer life.

### **Read more about laundry in the Home Chores and Household Objects Toolkit.**

Alice Rendell and her two daughters, Doris and Miriam would have completed many of those types of tasks.

## Artifact Profile – Potato Ricer



### What:

**is it made of?** Metal

**does it feel like?** Hard, cold, smooth and rough

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?**

Mechanical devices were not available to the culture during this time.

**is its purpose?** To mush potatoes and 'rice' them; to form strings of potato for cooking.

### Who:

**would have used these?** Women who would have been responsible for cooking meals. Alice Rendell would have used a woodstove in her home and used it to boil the potatoes. Her husband and sons would have had to cut wood for fuel.

### Why:

**was it used?** This item would have cut down on the time required for food preparation. Like the egg beater, the potato ricer mashed the potatoes and forced them into strings suitable for making items like hash browns.

**might a museum find this valuable?** This device went unchanged for nearly 50 years. It was available through a mail-order catalogue in the late 1890s and was still available through Sears & Roebuck's catalogue as late as 1955. This mass-produced device is a representation of food processing at the turn of the century. It allowed women who did not have electrified kitchens to work easily and efficiently.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** Like the egg beater, this item was only available through stores and mail-order catalogues. It was considered a luxury item that cut down on the amount of work required for cooking. When the railroad was built in 1905, the price of food, products, and other goods dropped significantly. Homesteaders could finally purchase items that were mass produced in factories.

## Artifact Profile - Steam Trunk



### What:

**is it made of?** Wood, leather, metal

**does it feel like?** Hard

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?** Because the Barr Colonists were travelling on a steamer ship their possessions were stored in one or two of these trunks. Space was limited so many family possessions were left behind in England.

### Who:

**would have used these?** Any Barr Colonist that travelled from Europe to Canada would have used a trunk like this to transport their goods. Bachelors most likely would have had a small trunk of clothes and their prized possessions, whereas families might have had one or two trunks with their possessions.

### Why:

**was it used?** These trunks were sturdy and reliable. Their hard shells protected possessions from being damaged in transport. Many trunks that were used then are now worn out, but structurally they are still intact.

**might a museum find this valuable?** This shows transportation from a different era. Today, we use suitcases for a weekend trip. These trunks show the difference in moving homes in a different century. These trunks, while built to be sturdy, were extremely heavy when full, and were difficult to maneuver and stack on the ships to come to Canada.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** Stories from the journey on the S.S. Lake Manitoba show that many families brought along useless possessions. Luggage took up a large portion of the ship's storage. Pieces were thrown about, and some families did not find their possessions again until they arrived in Saskatoon. This meant going two weeks on the ship, and another week on the train, without a change of clothing.

## Artifact Profile - Recruitment Poster

### What:

**is it made of?** Paper

**does it feel like?** Flimsy, smooth

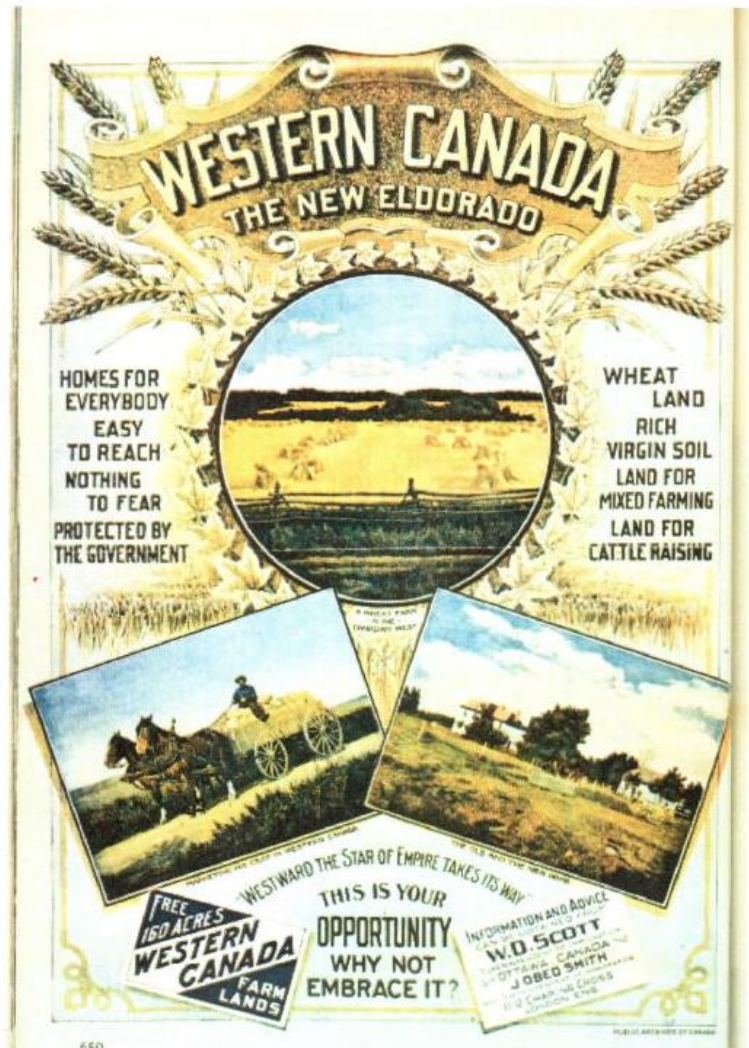
**is its purpose?** To recruit residents of England to move to Western Canada.

### Why:

**was it used?** To provide information to the targeted families about the West. Posters like this were made to be flashy to catch the eye of the passerby. The recruiter's goal was to attract as many settlers as possible, therefore had to stand out to a crowd.

**might a museum find this valuable?** This poster is a quick ad made to appeal to residents wanting a change in their lives and to emigrate to Canada. Posters like this show the recruitment tactics of the government, and of individuals such as Reverend Barr and Reverend Lloyd. The poster allows for an analytical approach to the customs of recruitment, and the language used in such demographics allows for an even deeper investigation.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** Posters like this would have appealed to families like the Barr Colonists. Although Barr's pamphlet provides more information, quick visual aids like this caught the attention of men who would look deeper into the matter about moving their family to a new country. These posters would have been appealing to the male head of the household.





## Artifact Profile - Reverend Barr Pamphlet

### What:

**is it made of?** Paper

**does it feel like?** Flimsy, smooth

**is its purpose?** To further inform residents on the tract of land secured for the settlement of Reverend Barr's colony.

### Who:

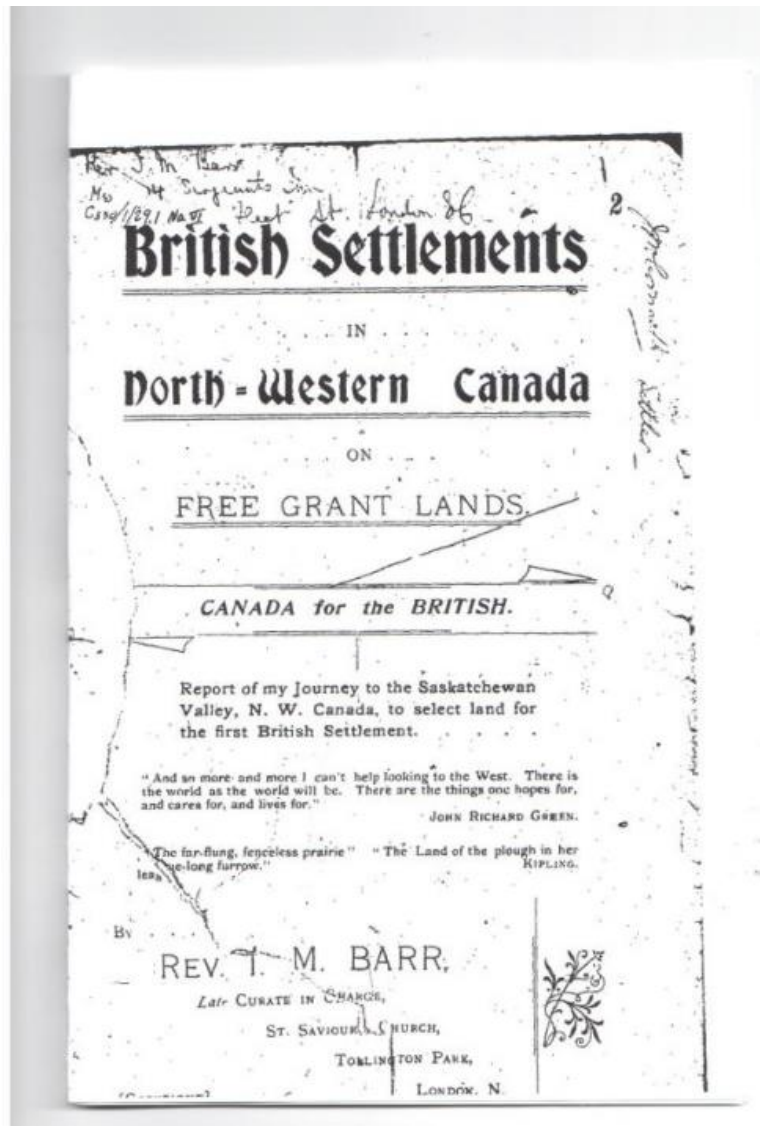
**wrote this?** Reverend Isaac Barr.

### Why:

**was it used?** To provide information to the targeted parties about the West. Used to recruit families to colonize the area purchased by Reverend Barr. This pamphlet further explained the settlement of the West and idealized the Canadian prairies. While looking through this pamphlet, the idea of the temperate west was promoted, creating a picture of mild winters, and minimal snow.

**might a museum find this valuable?** This pamphlet provides a look into the recruitment process designed by Reverend Barr. It provides historians with information as to why there was such an influx of immigrants to the West, and the tactics used to ensure immigration.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** This pamphlet was the first step to the colonization of Lloydminster. Without this pamphlet, the information needed to understand the development of this region would be sparse and based on oral accounts from the Barr Colonists themselves. With this pamphlet, the Barr Colonists' reasoning for immigrating is made clear.



## Artifact Profile - Attestation Paper

ORIGINAL  
ATTESTATION PAPER  
CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
F2 1464  
7th 210

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- What is your name? *George William English*
- What is your residence in Canada and in what County was you born? *Wentworth Street, England*
- What is the name of your occupation? *Bank Clerk*
- What is the name of your next of kin? *Mr. J. C. English*
- What is the date of your birth? *1896*
- What is your Trade or Calling? *Bank Clerk*
- Are you married? *No*
- Are you willing to be mobilized in the event of a war? *Yes*
- Do you see nothing in the Order which is against you? *No*
- Have you ever been in any Military Service? *No*
- Do you understand the duties and terms of this Attestation? *Yes*
- Are you willing to be mobilized in the event of a war? *Yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

*George William English* solemnly declares that the above answers were given by him in truth and without any fraud or deceit, and that he is willing to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and to be mobilized in the event of a war, and that he is willing to accept the conditions of the Order, and to be mobilized in the event of a war, and that he is willing to accept the conditions of the Order, and to be mobilized in the event of a war.

*George William English* (Signed as of himself)  
Date: *1914*

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

*George William English* solemnly swears that he will serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and that he will be mobilized in the event of a war, and that he will accept the conditions of the Order, and to be mobilized in the event of a war, and that he will accept the conditions of the Order, and to be mobilized in the event of a war.

*George William English* (Signed as of himself)  
Date: *1914*

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The above information was furnished to me by the man named in the above questions, and I certify that it is true and correct as far as the facts go.

*W. J. [Signature]* (Signed as of himself)  
Date: *1914*

**What:**

**is it made of?** Paper

**does it feel like?** Lightweight, fragile

**does the object tell you about the user's culture or time?**

Detailed paperwork was required to document the enlistment and movement of men in the First World War (1914 – 1918).

**is its purpose?** Attestation papers documented enlistment, medical history, personal information, payment processing, physical movement and discharge information for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF).

**Who:**

**would have used these?** Canadian men and women who enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF).

**Why:**

**was it used?** Upon the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Canada immediately mobilized a contingent for overseas service, the CEF. During the four years of the war, there were more than 600,000 enlistments in the CEF. All of the men and women who joined completed an

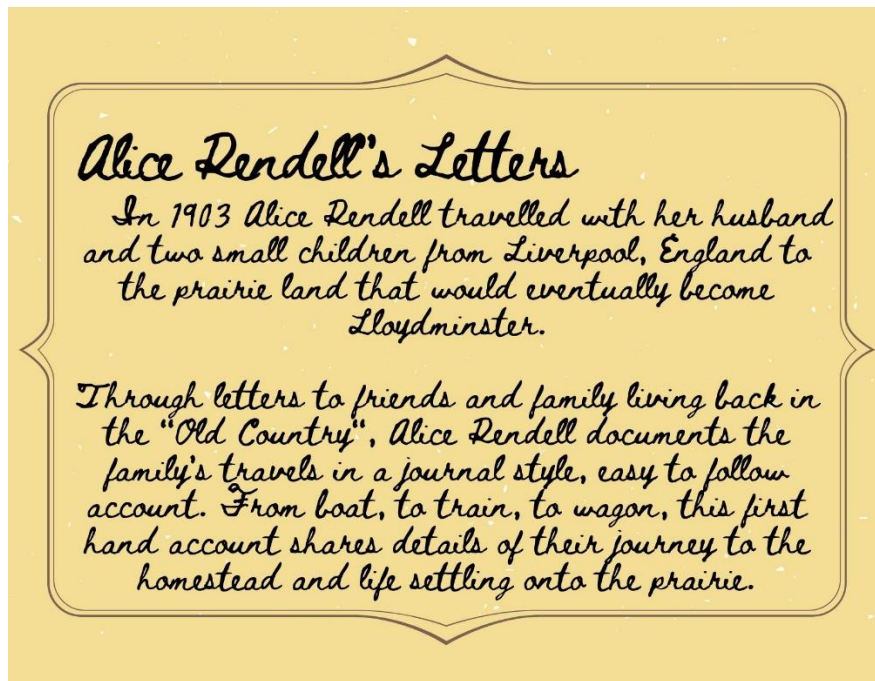
attestation paper. The CEF used these to track soldiers throughout Europe during WWI. Attestation papers provided the information for the enlisted soldier, including; next of kin, medical history, residency, rate of pay, movement, and discharge.

**might a museum find this valuable?** Attestation papers help tell the story of a soldier during his service. It tells historians where he served and his role in WWI. Sometimes this was the only record during this time in a soldier's life while he served overseas. It is a crucial primary document that allows museums to learn and teach the public about Canada's involvement in WWI.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** The Barr Colonists were from England, Ireland and Scotland. Many were obligated to volunteer with the CEF when Britain went to war in 1914. Many men who emigrated in 1903 were too old to enlist, but their children were eager to serve. George William English, who was eight years old when his family arrived in Lloydminster enlisted at the age of 19. His story is shared by many of the Barr Colonists.

## Artifact Profile -Alice Rendell's Letters back to England

You can read Alice Rendell's full letters in the virtual exhibit *The Rendell Letters*.



### What:

**is its purpose?** A series of many letters that Alice wrote back to her family in England after they came to Canada to describe daily life and the challenges the colonists faced.

### Who:

**wrote this?** Alice Rendell

### Why:

**was it used?** To provide information to the families that were still in England. Postal Services were the main form of communication for families. Alice Rendell wrote many letters to her family, which provides valuable information of the Barr Colonists' story.

**might a museum find this valuable?** These letters provide a first-hand account of the Barr Colonists' life on the Canadian prairies. It provides information that is invaluable to the preserving of history. Without many of the written, first-hand accounts, much of what we know would be from investigating artifacts. These primary sources allow us to continue telling the stories of the Barr Colonists from a historically accurate perspective.

**is it important to the Barr Colonists?** The letters written by Alice give us information that otherwise would not have been known. Alice's first-hand accounts of life on the prairies provide valuable information about the Barr Colonists' life and journey.