

SHADD DRIVE

The story of the charismatic pioneer,
Dr. A. S. Shadd,
who was a driving force in the
early development of Melfort.
by **Garry Forsyth**

1904 - 1915



Main Street, Melfort 1911

PREFACE

The *Dr. Shadd Research Project* was undertaken by the Melfort and District Museum, September 15, 2005 to March 31, 2006, partially funded under the Community Initiatives Fund, Centennial Heritage Commemoration Grant. The primary researcher was Garry Forsyth from Melfort. His assistants included Frances Westlund, Jack Pryor, Gail Forsyth and Sharon Heavin.

The purpose was to document the existence of Dr. A.S. Shadd, particularly in the decade he spent in Melfort. He lived from 1869 until 1915 and in Melfort from 1904 until 1915.

In their press release the Museum Board indicated: "There are many people who may be attributed with the founding and development of our community of Melfort and among them, Dr. Alfred Shadd stands out as a shining example of a dedicated, service-oriented citizen and volunteer. The Museum feels it is very important to keep his memory alive and to showcase his legacy. In order to do this, we have undertaken a project that will entail extensive research into his life and background." [September 26, 2005]

There were over one hundred contacts made during the research project. The most important one was Frances Westlund, former curator of the Melfort and District Museum. Her interest, initiated from conversations with her grandfather about the doctor and her accumulation of data, was a big boost at the start of and throughout the research.

Frances Westlund's efforts to study and promote Dr. Shadd earned her recognition from the Saskatchewan African-Canadian Heritage Museum, Inc. at their Centennial Symposium and Banquet at the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts in Regina on September 24, 2005.

The next step in this progression is to transfer the research information into a biography. The document will focus on the eleven years that he lived in Melfort, but it will also bring into play much of his background and family history - items that have a bearing on the huge life he led as outlined in the next column.



**Alfred Schmitz Shadd M.D., C.M.
1869-1915**

In his lifetime he was a:

**Teacher
Doctor
Farmer
Entrepreneur
Politician
Coroner
School Trustee
Medical Health Officer**

He was also a member of the:

**Melfort Town Council
Board of Trade
Hospital Board
Farmers' Elevator Company
Agricultural Society
Independent Order of Foresters
Masonic Lodge
Orange Lodge
and Anglican Church Board**



SHADD

ALFRED SCHMITZ

M.D. , C.M.

Drive



INTRODUCTION

The impact of the young black doctor on the community of Melfort was very significant. Dr. A.S. Shadd spent only a little over 10 years in Melfort and yet the legacy he left and the impact he had while living in this developing pioneer town was remarkable. He left a very strong family situation behind when he moved from the black settlement of Buxton just outside of Chatham, Ontario in 1896; but he was the only black person in the new region he chose to occupy. Under the circumstances, there would have been no surprise if he had shrunk from the public eye and kept a low profile. The very opposite happened.

The vision and drive of this young man took him to the forefront of many parts of the town's character. He is best known as Doc Shadd and in his medical practice probably could have claimed to be busy enough; but he excelled in far more areas, not

just as a member, but as a very integral cog in the function of whatever he was a part of. He was a businessman, an agriculturalist, a politician and a leader. From his memberships and the activities where he involved himself, we see a very community minded, thoughtful person ever concerned for all those around him. He was a visionary, ever pushing his peers to get into the modern world. His work on the town council and the board of trade gave him an avenue to pursue this. The exuberance with which he undertook this enterprise is reflected in the title *Shadd DRIVE*. In 2008 it was very fitting to see Melfort City Council rename a thoroughfare of the city and call it Shadd Drive to recognise the efforts of this energetic man.

Now to the detail. What follows is a concentrated look at what made this driven man a principal leader in the development of the town of Melfort.

-G. Forsyth February, 2018

Shadd Drive

By G. G. Forsyth
2018

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FYI



Indicates added detail



Indicates writer's comment



Type set block from the *Carrot River Journal* masthead
Photo credit, Garry Forsyth

BACKGROUND



In the spring of 1896, Alfred Shadd, at age 27, applied for a teaching position at the Carrot River Settlement (later, Kinistino, SK) in the Territories that he saw posted in a Toronto newspaper. Qualified and experienced, he got the job.

What prompted this move is unknown but a reference in the Buxton homecoming book may provide some insight. “While a letter written from Melfort, Saskatchewan in 1914 to Mr. A.H. Alexander, a young teacher in the area, states, ‘it is now twenty years since I taught the school in North Buxton.’ ”

-excerpt from “Alfred Shadd Autobiography” in Labour Day Homecoming Book . [In her email, Shannon Prince, curator of the Buxton Museum states:

“For the past 82 years, we have been hosting a Labour Day Homecoming celebration. And as part of the activities, we produce a souvenir booklet. Each year we have a different theme and that particular year was schools/education and we featured the former teachers. So that info on Alfred was compiled by someone (probably one of the descendents) and put into the booklet.”]

One wonders if there had been some contact with a person with experience in the prairies that had sparked some interest.

When Alfred moved west we can assume that he took with him much of the influence of his family and his North Buxton environment. North Buxton, next to Chatham, Ontario was a destination on the Underground Railroad - an institution that his family had been very much a part of. It is likely that lessons learned and family initiative went a long way in directing him in his new locale.

One of the strongest influences put on Alfred and all the Shadd children was the pressure to get educated. When the new black communities were formed in Canada with the influx of Blacks fleeing the racial discrimination and segregation in the U.S., many of them had no education. The solution to the problem, according to the Shadds, was to find ways to educate them to provide a measure of independence and self-respect.

In his father’s family, education was considered an all important part of preparation for life: his grandfather, Abraham Doris Shadd had moved his family from Wilmington, Delaware to Westchester, Pennsylvania in 1833 to be able to educate his children, before moving to Canada in the early fifties because of the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law. In his family of thirteen were two lawyers, two or three teachers, a newspaper editor and an woman preacher who rode horseback to do home mission work.”

-excerpt from “Alfred Shadd Autobiography” in Labour Day Homecoming Book (Melfort and District Museum)

This need to improve their lives could well have been driven by pride but many fugitives had no idea how to bring about the desired outcome. This is where the Shadd family had a significant impact. Not only did they promote emigration but they were willing to help the individuals and families that moved to Canada.

Alfred’s grandfather, was a leader in this endeavour as was his aunt Mary Shadd Cary (Abraham’s daughter).

“The Shadd family also settled outside the area known as the Elgin Settlement but they made many valuable contributions both within the settlement and in the various areas where they lived before coming to Canada. Abraham Doris Shadd, one of fifteen children was born to free parents and this family had never been subjected to the rigors of slavery. But nevertheless, the cause of the slaves was a dominating factor in their lives.”¹



To mark Black History Month in 2009, Canada Post featured Abraham Doris Shadd and Rosemary Brown for their contributions to black people. “Shadd was an instrumental figure in the Underground Railroad and the first black person to serve in Canadian public office.” Saskatoon StarPhoenix, February 3, 2009

The start of the Shadd family in North America came about in an unique way. Abraham's grandfather was actually Hans Schadt, a German. When the British were involved in the American War of Independence they actually hired mercenary soldiers from Germany called Hessians. Hans was wounded in the war and the British hired a free black woman and her daughter to nurse him back to health. He married the daughter, stayed in the U.S. (by their invitation) and that is how Hans and Elizabeth Jackson got the family started. Two generations later the name had been changed to Shadd. (*from a letter written by Mrs. Arlie C. Robbins in 1975 to Mrs. Terry Shadd - explaining her husband's background. (Doc's grandson)*) Melfort and District Museum

This may be the reason for Doc Shadd's middle name being "Schmitz".

Abraham, while still in the U.S., was a successful shoemaker. When he arrived in Canada he had some very serious credentials to back up his actions. Never a slave, he took a great interest in the lives of slaves and in his efforts to help them became involved with a lot of like-minded people both Black and white. In 1833, he took positions of authority such as president of the National Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Color in the United States and he was a founding member of the Anti-Slavery Society.

Although Abraham rubbed shoulders with the higher end of the decision-makers, he also was very much involved at the ground level particularly in his participation in the Underground Railroad. Railroad in name only, this system was a series of routes and safe houses that allowed slaves and free Blacks to get from the United States to Canada. Supported by whites and Blacks it was kept very secret and was very successful in light of the significant number of Blacks who made it into Canada.

Slavery in Canada had been abolished when Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton moved the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833 in the British parliament making slavery illegal throughout the British territories. Abraham had been a long-time supporter of the Railroad and would certainly have put his own life and family in danger by doing so.

Both Abraham and his daughter Mary shared the same philosophical views that education and hard work were the means to racial equality but their

path in seeking this end was by no means an easy one. There were many who did not share their views about ending slavery and their lives were often fraught with danger.

Getting refugee Blacks into Canada had not been easy; their welfare after they arrived also needed attention. The Shadds were located in Raleigh Township, near Chatham, and had the good fortune to be near the Elgin Settlement. It was set up in 1849 by a Presbyterian minister by the name of William King. His blueprint for a system of living proved to be quite successful. It was not difficult to see Abraham, who arrived in 1852, take a role in supporting this settlement.

There were others who played significant roles including Josiah Hanson and Rev. Thomas Stringer. Abraham and Rev. Stringer were members of the Raleigh Township Council when they arranged for a school to be built in the Elgin Settlement. Earlier Abraham had already given land and arranged for a teacher on his own property.

What stands out with the Elgin Settlement is its success, something that came from the planning and co-ordination of Reverend King and his management association.

King was born in Ireland in 1812 and moved to Ohio with his parents in 1834. The following year he became a Rector of an academy in Louisiana. He met and married the daughter of a southern planter who had slaves. When his wife moved in, she brought with her four slaves that she used in the upkeep of the home even though her new husband had made his anti-slavery philosophy known.

King returned to Edinburgh in 1844 to study theology. Tragedy struck when he lost first his son and then his wife and daughter shortly after. He did, however, complete his studies and ended up as a missionary in Canada West. The death of his father-in-law, who left him fourteen slaves, was a cause of concern for King; but he dealt with this issue by offering the slaves their freedom if they joined him in Canada West as part of his settlement plan. This plan worked on the premise that families had to learn to support themselves and the three ingredients to allow for this were land, church and school. Through the Presbyterian Church, King was able to set up a strong committee that was able to acquire the aid of the Governor of Canada, James Bruce, Earl of Elgin. With his help the committee chose

some good land with stands of trees for lumber situated in Raleigh Township, in Kent County.

“...and here he found what he considered to be an ideal location. Coming from a family which understood both farming and lumbering, he recognised the potential of the land in Raleigh township....”²

King and his fifteen former slaves, in 1849, began the new pursuit and became the leaders for the ones who would follow. This core group was to set an example for all the newcomers as they worked in accordance with the settlement’s principles. One rule that added more chance for success was the prohibition of alcohol.

The Elgin Association’s order was controlled by two groups: an association that ran the settlement like a company; and a church organization - the Buxton Mission - which was charged with the responsibilities of church and school. The Mission was supported financially by the Presbyterian Church. The company was primarily charged with taking care of finances, particularly those that applied to land and real estate and the regulations pertaining to them. This board of directors, incorporated on June 8, 1850 was made up of both black and white men.

Although King and his group of freemen provided guidance they did not give handouts like money or the basics for living. The land could be purchased and a system of payment was directed by the board. Once they had the land and a new home, the new members developed their own sense of worth and independence through their efforts by finding work (a nearby railroad being built needed workers) and earning a living.

Then the transition took place that saw the landowners using their own space for farming and business to develop livestock and lumbering. The schools were well run by trained teachers and attended by both black and white students (by 1854 the numbers were equal). Many of the graduates went on to teach in Canada and the United States. Some became very successful professionals such as Anderson Ruffin Abbott - the first Canadian-born black doctor. His family had moved to Elgin to take advantage of the highly rated school.³

Dr. Abbott-Doc Shadd connection. Both Graduated from the University of Toronto with medical degrees (Abbott in 1857 and Shadd in 1896). Dr. Abbott practiced medicine in Chatham from 1873 to 1880. Shadd, who left Buxton in 1894, most certainly was aware of the accomplishments of Abbott.

“Whatever else may be said, it is a fact that by educating hundreds of Blacks and by developing among them a group of leaders, Elgin lit a strong beacon of hope during a critical time in the history of a people struggling from slavery to freedom.”⁴

The settlement grew and prospered. The prominence it gained was enough to attract the attention of Abraham Lincoln. His Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the United States but a plan was needed to help them as they were now on their own. He actually sent a delegation to the Elgin Settlement to see if the process there could be used elsewhere. The structure, organization and leadership offered by Rev. King and the board certainly provided an opportunity for the inhabitants to gain self-sufficiency in the farming and business sectors which in turn allowed them to enjoy their new life in Canada. The visitors who were tasked with examining the settlement sent back a high grade. They were impressed with what they saw.

Following the Civil War, many of the Elgin settlers made their way back to the U.S.A. With the benefit of their settlement experience they could be a big help in the reconstruction period. “The people who did not leave for the States gravitated to North Buxton. The railway through the area provided jobs and many of the people left the farms to gather in the villages where schools and churches were available.

But most importantly we are free, the children and grandchildren of those first settlers, for North Buxton, like the legendary Phoenix, sprang from the ashes of the Elgin Settlement.”⁵

Arlie Robbins, the author of the above quote, also suggests that there have been some long lasting ramifications of this historic settlement.

“To all those who still ask ‘What is North Buxton’ I leave this answer: North Buxton is a small but living monument to the people who survived, not by sheer numbers but by sheer guts--

the people whose quantity of life far outweighed the quality of life. They acted together, worked together, played together, prayed together and stayed together. This is the secret of our continued existence as an ethnic community- - the legacy that has been passed to us from one generation to the next through the years- - the ability to survive- - THE LEGACY TO BUXTON!”⁶

The Shadd family members were not only supporters but leaders as well, and the most significant person was Abraham’s first-born daughter, Mary. Mary Ann Camberton Shadd was born in 1823 and lived a life full of accomplishments, many of which were copied by her nephew, Albert.

The Shadd gene pool provided a very high bar to aim for and this could have had a significant bearing on Mary’s younger nephew. Albert was 24 when his aunt died and would have been very much aware of her talents and successes. He didn’t move west until three years after her death.

Mary’s education began in the U.S. After completing her training with the Quakers in West Chester, Pennsylvania in the 1830’s, Mary began her career teaching black students in the States and later black and white students together in Canada.

When Mary moved to Canada in 1851 she had had the opportunity to witness slavery and to see how her father was dedicated to freeing slaves. Her education must also have influenced her as she had attended a Quaker school for six years.

Mary, with her family attachment to the Underground Railroad, had to be privy to the conditions and circumstances of the black emigrants in Canada West. When she arrived with the influx of Blacks rushing to get away from the impact of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, she would have realized quickly that many of these people needed a great deal of help.

The Fugitive Slave Act was set up to provide for the return of escaped slaves. The act not only made things worse for those still in slavery but also for those who were free. The cards were stacked against slaves and free Blacks in that they could be arrested and could not defend themselves. Anyone who did not arrest an alleged escapee was subject

to a huge fine as was anyone who abetted a runaway.

Based in Canada West, where slavery had been abolished since 1834, Mary Ann set out to improve the lives of those arriving through education and integration. Sharing the same philosophy, father and daughter also acted on their beliefs. An early effort involved establishing a school on Shadd land. Problems followed when not everyone believed in the same principles. Mary’s biggest opponent was Henry Bibb, who, through his group, sought to get funds for a segregated system. A feud began because the Shadds believed integration was the answer. Mary made it clear early that she would not continue as teacher if it were to be a Blacks only school.

Bibb always seemed to get the upper hand in the public debate mainly due to his being able to post his side in his paper, the *Voice of the Fugitive*. Although Mary had been publishing some of her ideas in pamphlets, she wanted a more regular voice. That came in 1853 when she published the *Provincial Freeman*. Not only did she get her ideas across, she also became the first female editor in Canada.

When Doc Shadd pursued a political career in Saskatchewan’s northeast, he failed in two elections. Starting a newspaper (The Melfort Journal) aided in spreading his philosophy.

Because it was not common for women to hold an editor’s job, Mary used a friend’s name, Samuel Ringgold Ward, on the letterhead when she started publishing her paper even though she was the person in charge.

Mary was not only giving advice to the population where she lived but she also gave freely to her family. Her brother Isaac, who had worked with her at the newspaper, was told to work hard and to buy land as fast as you make money.

Again, something Alfred did when he moved west.

Isaac too was caught up in the freeing of slaves controversy. This excerpt from Arlie Robbin’s book, *Legacy To Buxton*, reflects that.

“Another incident involving the Shadds was the rescuing of a child from slave-catchers in the 1850’s. Two men had been seen in London persuading a young boy, about twelve years old, that his mother was in Detroit and wanted to see him. They convinced him to get on a Detroit-bound train with them. The person who saw them, knowing that the train stopped in Chatham, wired ahead and when the train pulled in, Isaac Shadd and several others leaped on the train, over-powered the kidnappers and spirited the young boy away to friends in Shrewsbury. The slave-catchers complained loudly to the unsympathetic Chatham police who had watched without interference as the rescue took place. Receiving no help from the police, they then laid a charge against both rescuers and police. Isaac Shadd was fined and the head of police was fired. But no doubt they both considered their penalties a small price to pay for a young child’s freedom.”⁷

Apparently all charges were dropped when the authorities found out that the youth was not a slave and that his pursuers were trying to kidnap him in order to sell him into slavery. He got safely back to his mother.

As involved as Mary Shadd was with her paper and the implications of providing a sound education, she also had time to examine other issues and pursuits. One such area was the women’s rights movement and another was the pending civil war in the U. S.

First, from her paper, then, in person, she campaigned for rights and freedoms for all. She focused on the ills of racial discrimination and segregation, but was soon expanding to support the women’s suffrage movement. Not just a supporter of Blacks and women, she was considered a voice for the betterment of all people, with a credo that encouraged everyone to be as self sufficient as possible and to work for positive change.

Mary Shadd would have been privy to the meetings going on in Chatham conducted by John Brown. What would be the Canadian connection to the conflict at Harper’s Ferry was orchestrated at the convention held in Chatham. Brown knew the Shadds. During the Chatham Convention where

Brown structured the blueprint for a United States without slavery, he stayed with Isaac Shadd. This is where he met Osborne Anderson who was living there. Osborne was talked into going to Harper’s Ferry and was the only Black to survive the fight with Robert E. Lee. His account of the incident entitled *A Voice From Harper’s Ferry* was published by Mary Shadd’s paper *The Provincial Freeman*. It provided the black viewpoint of the event. Osborne had been working at the paper before he went to the battle.

John Brown’s efforts resulted in a trial that ended with his being hung, December 2, 1859. Although Brown was defeated, there were others who took up the cause of freeing slaves. Two years after Brown’s death the American Civil War, 1861-1865, took place.

Mary had married Thomas Cary in 1856 and they had two children: Linton and Sarah. But tragedy struck in 1860 when Thomas died. The loss of her husband and the fact that her paper was no longer being published must have put Mary in a very uncomfortable position. Now she had family to consider as well. In 1863, when a friend (Martin Delaney) offered Mary a good paying job as a recruiter she agreed.

She began working for Indiana’s Governor O.P. Morton. Following the Civil War, Mary had to decide whether to stay in the U.S. or go back to Canada. While back in the States she followed up on another goal. In 1883 she got her law degree from Howard University and in so doing became the first black woman to do so. Obtaining her degree did not come easy as it was not considered right for women, especially black women to receive such status. But she persisted and then went on to use her law degree to continue her work helping people until she died in 1893.

When she was honoured by the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1998, her life was summed up with this presentation.

“After receiving an education from Pennsylvania Quakers, Cary devoted the first part of her life to abolition, working with fugitive slaves, and becoming the first African-American woman in North America to edit a weekly newspaper --the Provincial Freeman, devoted to displaced

*Americans living in Canada. She then became a teacher, establishing or teaching in schools for Negroes in Wilmington; West Chester, Pennsylvania; New York; Morristown, New Jersey; and Canada. She was also the first woman to speak at a national Negro convention. During the Civil War, Cary helped recruit African-American soldiers for the Union Army. She then taught in Washington, D.C., public schools until, in 1869, she embarked on her second career, becoming the first woman to enter Howard University's law school. She was the first Negro woman to obtain a law degree and among the first women in the United States to do so. She then fought alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cay Stanton for women's suffrage, testifying before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives and becoming the first Negro woman to cast a vote in a national election. As an educator, an abolitionist, an editor, an attorney and a feminist, she dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for everyone -- black and white, male and female.”*⁸

Mary Ann had also been inducted into the Hall of Fame for Delaware Women on March 19, 1997 in Dover, Delaware.

Quite a list of tributes, particularly when you notice how many times the word **first** is used. The Shadds of Buxton were a very notable family. They were large in numbers and accomplishments. Their social conscience and drive made for many successes.⁹

“In the family now are several doctors, many teachers, nurses and secretaries. Many of them have an almost fanatical dedication to their particular field. Many are actively involved in the fields of human rights and social studies in both Canada and the U.S.A. There have been mechanical genius' in the family -several inventions in fact. It is said around here that a Shadd will not work with his hands if he can invent a machine to do it for him.

As in all families of any size, there are some who are a bit different. But this is a family who with few exceptions, always liked to be their own bosses, were never slaves. Were always literate and did not tolerate ignorance or laziness.”

Portion of a letter written by Mrs. Arlie Robbins to Mrs. Terry Shadd. Melfort and District Museum.

Some of the accomplished family of Abraham Doras Shadd other than Mary include: Isaac, newspaper publisher and served in the Mississippi legislature 1871-1874; Abraham, graduated Howard University Law, practiced in Arkansas and Mississippi; Emaline, one of the first women on the faculty of Howard University in Washington; Eunice, acquired a teaching degree from Howard University and taught school.

In addition to the international acclaim of the family, we should also be aware that Alfred's own dad, Garrison, had carried the fervor for the Shadd philosophy in Buxton as well. Artis Lane, a granddaughter, recalls his activities this way, “I remember being very young in North Buxton. My grandfather Garrison Shadd used our house for these informal meetings of black village elders - all men. They'd sit around discussing race, politics, matters of import.”¹⁰

[Artis is now based in Los Angeles where she is a very accomplished artist.]

One of the key issues that Garrison addressed was their segregated school system. From 1891 to 1893 the Kent County Civil Rights League focused on correcting many of the deficiencies suffered by the Blacks. At a huge meeting called in August, 1891 to celebrate Emancipation Day, Garrison, an area farmer, was a speaker who addressed the fact that Blacks were still not being treated equally. He went on to rally those attending to make their feelings known and to do something.

Doc Shadd was also not content with inactivity. For instance at a Board of Trade meeting in Melfort, he rose and admonished the men gathered there saying that they had to be more than a group of good-old-boys sitting around smoking cigars; it was time for them to take a leading role in moving the town forward.

Consider the extra baggage Alfred brought with him to the Carrot River Settlement. He would have first hand knowledge about the Elgin Settlement- a system so proficient that it caught the eye of a president. There would certainly be concepts in place for running a town or organization. Add to this family members who have national prominence in two countries. These people understood that you had

to be seen and heard to influence others. These were also people who put others before themselves for the good of all. The fact that they were the first Blacks to achieve such high positions made them stand out.

The tributes have continued long after the individuals have passed on. In 1994, a tribute to Abraham Doras Shadd involved a main artery in North Buxton being renamed A.D. Shadd Road in his honour.

On May 22, 2009, Melfort City Council members changed the signage on a main thoroughfare through Melfort to “Shadd Drive” in recognition of the late Doctor A. S. Shadd



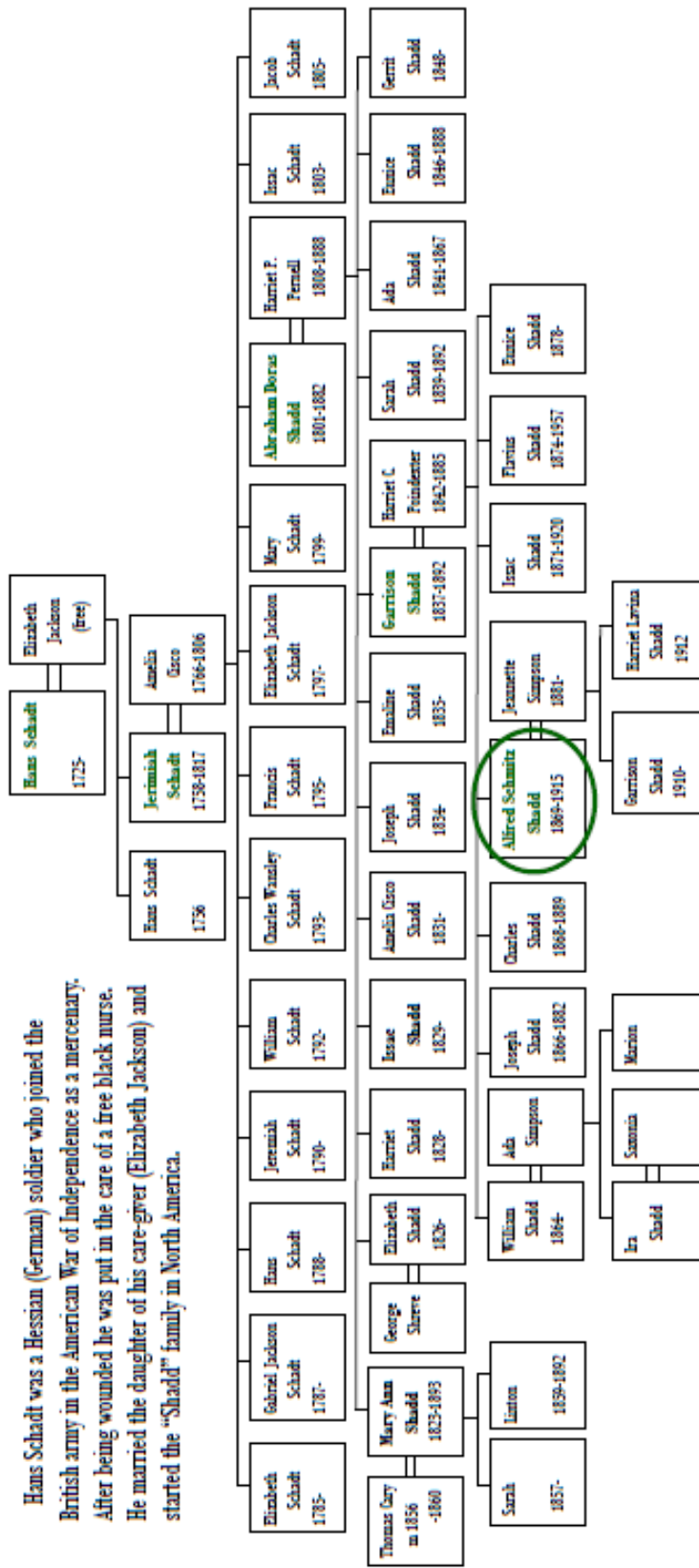
There seems to be no end of influences on the young teacher who would head out to Canada West. He had lived in a community and a home that fostered commitment, organization, hard work and social responsibility. Alfred Shadd may have had a lot to live up to when he moved to western Canada but he came well equipped. In his new environment Dr. Shadd was reliving the new immigrant experience all over again when you consider the parallel between the Elgin Settlement/Buxton and Carrot River Settlement/Melfort circumstances. By his involvements he became a leader in many of the endeavours that helped this new developing region progress.

The next headings examine his areas of involvement and the tributes he received for his efforts.

Hans Schadt Family Tree

With focus on Alfred S. Shadd

Hans Schadt was a Hessian (German) soldier who joined the British army in the American War of Independence as a mercenary. After being wounded he was put in the care of a free black nurse. He married the daughter of his care-giver (Elizabeth Jackson) and started the "Shadd" family in North America.



Sources:

Ancestry.com
 Shannon Primes, Curator-Buxton Museum
 Canadian Census 1901 and 1906
Shadd: The Life and Times of Mary Shadd Cary: Beardon and Butler
 A.C. Robbins, *Legacy To Buxton*

TEACHER



There is little information available about Albert's early education but with the references to the family's emphasis on learning, there is little doubt that he was definitely involved. Given that his grandfather donated land and money to the school, his father was treasurer and his aunt was a teacher, he would have to be a participant.¹

"Young Alfred attended there, as well as his brothers and sister, and was remembered by one of the teachers as showing great promise as a scholar."²

One has to assume that the process went well as Alfred is later shown to have completed his teaching certification, to have taught at the North Buxton School, the Shreve School and later to have been the principal of the King Street School in Chatham.

While at the Shreve School Alfred illustrated his sense of humour in this anecdote by Arlie Robbins. "There he boarded at his uncle Horace Black's who lived just across the road. Not being too much older than his pupils, he delighted in teasing his young Black cousins. Hastily eating his noon meal, he would race them to school, promptly ring the bell and then loudly scold them for being late. There being at least a half a dozen of his disgruntled kin on hand at any given time, they would, of course, gleefully 'pay him back' when school hours were over."³

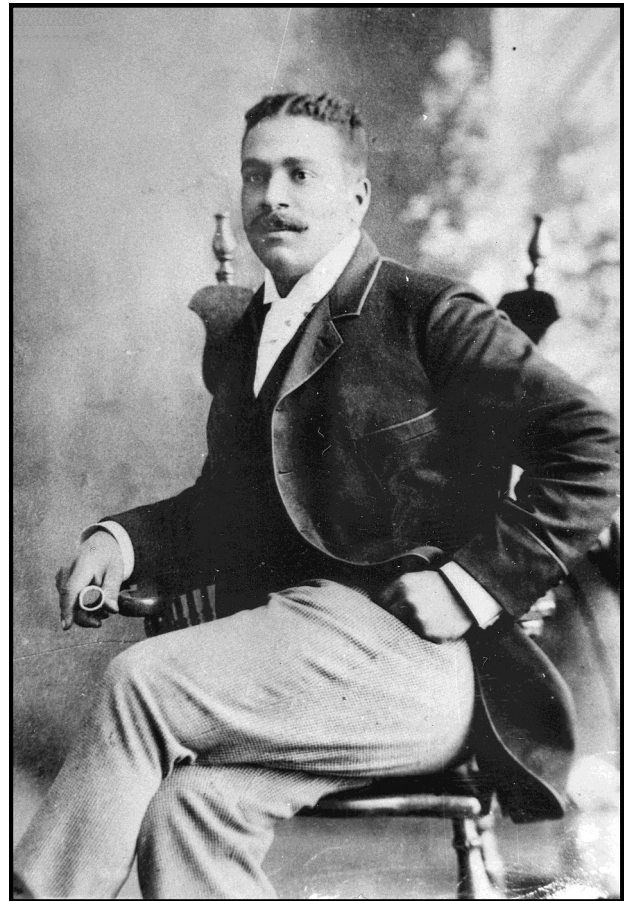
Anderson R. Abbott (a gentleman who moved his family to Buxton so that his children could get a good education) commented on the integration and the co-operation of the area and particularly on the quality of the school. Alfred Shadd was a teacher there for a number of years. The old school's treasurer's book shows that he was on the payroll as the teacher in 1891.

When Alfred was the principal of the King Street School, the Kent County Civil Rights League was formed to voice the concerns of the black population of Chatham. One such issue was the segregated school system that existed in some schools. The efforts to promote learning, which was a goal back

with the Elgin Settlement, had been very successful; but, there were still real concerns about the way Blacks were being treated. Adrienne Shadd, writing in 2007 makes these observations: "Chatham had been a place that attracted the cream of the crop of the Black educated elite and skilled artisan class in the years prior to the American Civil War..."

"It was no accident that the great White abolitionist martyr, John Brown, chose Chatham as the location of his secret convention to plan the Harpers Ferry raid to liberate the slaves in America. Chatham and vicinity had the largest population from which to draw and arguably the largest number of skilled and educated persons of any African-Canadian community in the province."⁴

The efforts of the civil rights league were



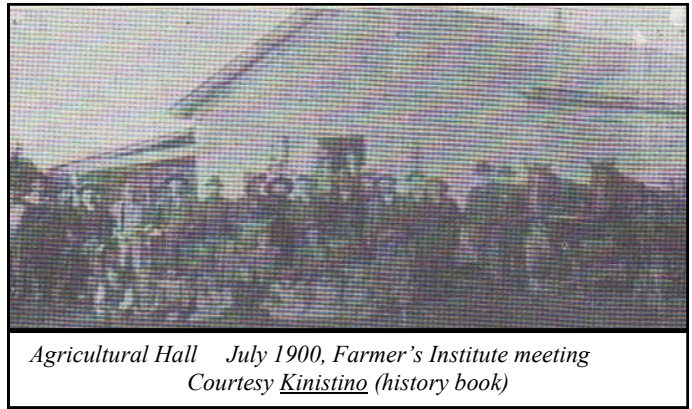
*Alfred Shadd, Principal, King Street School, 1893
Melfort and District Museum*

successful and Alfred was the last King Street School principal before desegregation took place.

It is interesting to note that in western Canada with its mixture of races settling there, the governments of Manitoba (in 1916) and Saskatchewan (in 1918) passed legislation making public schools unilingual and attendance compulsory. Although the government's motivation was probably more political than cultural, it did support the same philosophy as proposed by Shadd's aunt, Mary Ann Shadd, when she supported inclusive schools in the early Buxton scene.

In 1896 the big move took place. As indicated earlier, there does not seem to be any reason given for the move to the West, but there is some indication of the motivation for the need of a job as his pursuit of medical training at Trinity College in Toronto was hampered by a lack of funds. The appeal of some adventure in a developing area combined with a salary may have been sufficient. In any case, with the help of the want ads in the Toronto *Daily Mail and Empire*, Alfred acquired a teaching position at the Carrot River Settlement.

The Carrot River Settlement later became Kinistino when the settlement was moved to the nearby railroad. Kinistino is 15 kilometres west of Melfort. In 1895, this was still the Northwest Territories.



*Agricultural Hall July 1900, Farmer's Institute meeting
Courtesy Kinistino (history book)*

The Carrot River Settlement came about mainly through the actions of Thomas Sanderson. In 1905 Shadd ran against Sanderson in the provincial election, but prior to that they had developed a close relationship in the settlement.

One can't help but believe that Sanderson was a role model for Shadd as many of the things "Doc" did in Melfort, he had experienced in the Carrot River Settlement.

Sanderson was very much involved in the agricultural society, the raising of purebred cattle and the growing of trees - all things Shadd promoted in Melfort.⁵

When Alfred Shadd arrived there was no school. He was able to start at the Agricultural Hall about three kilometres north of the settlement which was a multi-use facility (church services, political meetings, social gatherings and whatever else was needed.) His first living accommodation was provided by the Lowrie's, who became very close friends. Another friend, J.M. Campbell, was the first person he met when he arrived.



*Carrot River Settlement as it looked when Doc Shadd arrived (includes Sam Lyle's barn and house, Bob Shore's stable, Earnest Marcott's blacksmith shop, Sanderson store, and Purdy Bros. hardware store).
The Charles Lowrie farm and post office were across the river. Courtesy Kinistino Museum*

“... [J.M. Campbell a.k.a. Silvertip] carried the mail from Prince Albert to Kinistino and Melfort before the railroad was built. Alfred Shadd first arrived in Kinistino with him on one of these trips....”⁶

Some of the key people Dr. Shadd met in Kinistino



(l to r)
*J. M. Campbell, Tom Sanderson, C. S. Lowrie, and
 Frederick Meyers (holding Evelyn).
 Courtesy Kinistino (history book)*

Frederick Meyers was Shadd’s opponent in his first venture into a political election. Meyers was a popular representative and served four terms in the Northwest Territorial Assembly.

These were people who had many skills and above all had a strong belief in the land and area where they were living.

Being the first and only black man in the area, Shadd had his doubters. Jerrold Armstrong, in the history book *Kinistino*, explains. “A ripple of surprise sent through the community: the new teacher was a black man! A few parents questioned the desirability of having their children taught by a coloured man; others wondered if, indeed, he were capable of teaching them. The children, of course, had no prejudices. They had never seen a black man before. One little girl climbed onto Mr. Shadd’s knee, and, moistening her finger, gently rubbed it on his cheek. ‘No, my dear,’ he said, ‘it won’t come off.’ ”⁷

“...it was not long before any doubts people may have had about him were forgotten. Shadd was a fine-looking man, with a proud and open countenance. He was amiable, the children liked him, and he was a good teacher.”⁸

“Apparently when his (Shadd’s) application was accepted to teach here, they did not know that he was a black man and when he got here the people who planned to house the teacher refused to keep him. Mr. Lowrie was meeting him and he said he could come to his house.

People that knew him said that he had a great sense of humour. They had nothing but respect for him. When you know a person you don’t see the color do you? You see them as a person.”⁹

In conversation with Veronica Boyle, chairperson of the Kinistino Historical Committee. November, 2005

But it soon became apparent that the teacher had other interests and skills. On one occasion Shadd was summoned to deal with a man who had a serious head wound. His treatment was successful. “The man recovered, and Shadd was credited with having saved his life. From that time on the school children had frequent holidays while their teacher was away treating people for illness or injury. His advice was sought, too, in the treatment of colic in horses and milk fever in cows.”¹⁰

When his teaching term ended Shadd would return to Toronto to obtain a medical degree.

The teacher’s sense of humor was evident in the following episode. The story comes from Jim Kearns, who was a friend of Dr. Shadd’s. Apparently Mrs. Lowrie did some housekeeping for the teacher and one day she was after him about something. He had his office in the southeast corner of the building and there was a cubbyhole under the stairs in that room.

When Mrs. Lowrie came into the room, he wasn’t there. He must have heard her coming and he was hiding in the cubbyhole.¹¹

[In conversation with Craig Woods, the present owner of the Shadd farm near the Carrot River Settlement site. October, 2005]



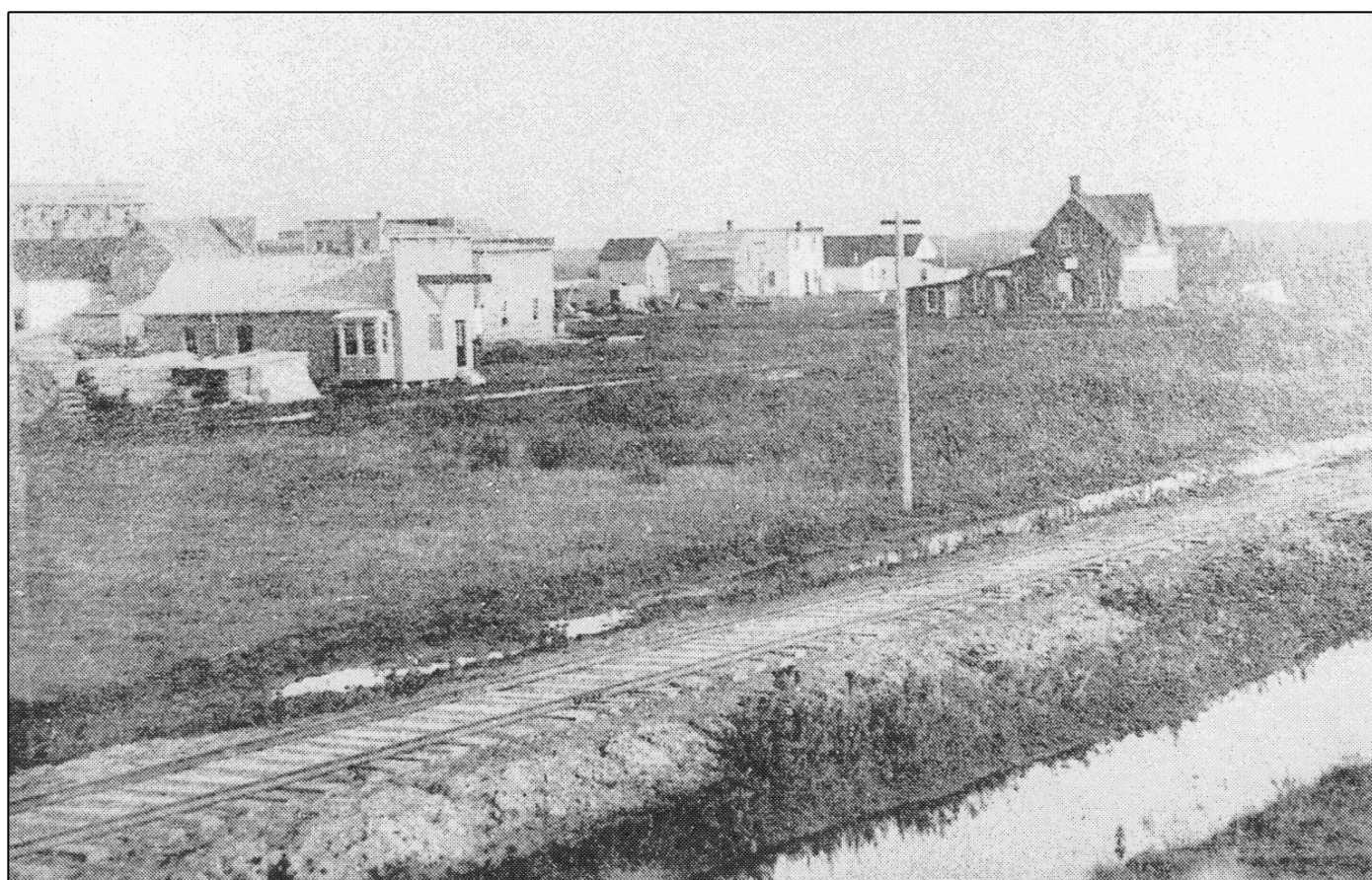
The James Tennant farm (SW 16-45-21 W2) that Albert Shadd purchased in 1900. The waterway in the foreground is the Carrot River. The Carrot River Settlement is located on the same side of the river as the photographer. The farm was sold to William James Mahoney in 1904 before Shadd moved to Melfort.

Photo: Melfort and District Museum

Although Alfred Shadd had left the teaching field behind he did not forget his roots and the influence of his highly motivated family. He would respond again to education in his role as politician and as a Melfort Town Council member. In his speech at the opening of a new school in Melfort in 1913 he emphasized that it was not the size of the school that mattered but the teaching. He reminded parents that they still had a role as well.

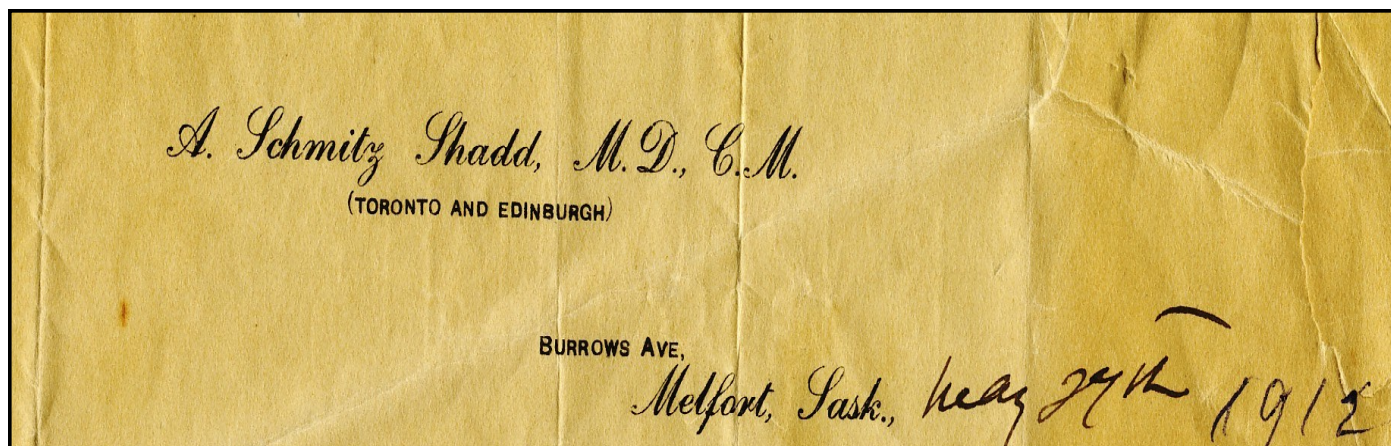
The Melfort *Moon* reported this statement, “The schools have relieved the parents of a large part of the work of education, and there is a disposition to shift the whole burden to the schools, which the speaker said was quite wrong.”

In the following picture we can see what the town of Kinistino would have looked like when Shadd moved down the line to Melfort. Although teaching and education were very important to him, in his case he would use his teaching career as a stepping stone to his role as a doctor. This in turn would allow him to branch into so many other things in which he had an interest.



Kinistino, 1905 (Just after railway built)
Photo Kinistino Museum

DOCTOR



Letterhead copy, Melfort & District Museum

Above all else, Alfred Schmitz Shadd was a doctor. After graduating from Trinity College in 1898 he opted to return to the prairies to continue in his chosen field. He returned to his friends, the Lowries, at the Carrot River Settlement and Mrs. Lowrie became his assistant on many of his cases, also travelling with him and offering mid-wife services.

His stay with the Lowries was brief as he soon had a place of his own. His two-room abode was built in the Lowrie's yard complete with rooms he called the "chamber of silence" (his bedroom) and the other (his medical room) called the "chamber of horrors."

His next move put him in a larger place which he shared with a RCMP officer [D. Thomson.] In 1902 he purchased the Tennant Farm [SW 16-45-21 W 2nd] across the Carrot River from the Lowrie's place. The house was built by John Paynter and Bill Young and the spruce trees around it were thanks to Ernie Marcotte.¹

The doctor's early practice was not just limited to people.

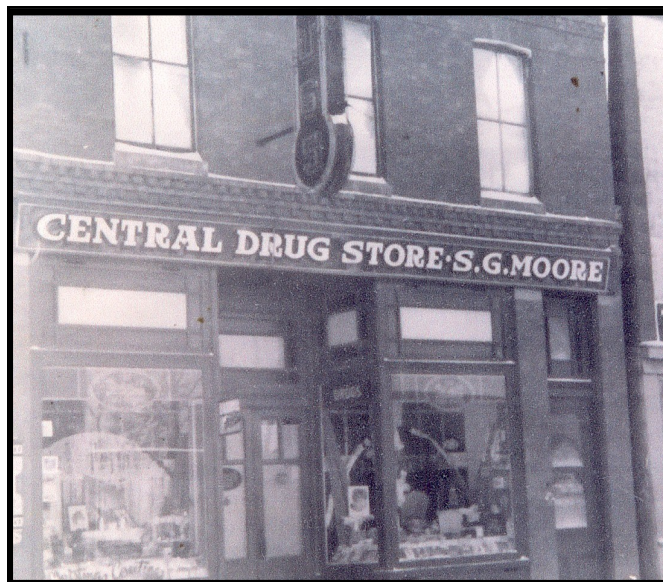
"Often times Mrs. Lowrie had to assist in his (Dr Shadd's) operations and calls came from Melfort to Birch Hills, often times being a horse with colic or a cow with milk fever."²

The Shadd Block (picture on right) was built shortly after Dr. Shadd arrived in Melfort. The lower floor housed the Central Drug Store, which was managed by Sid Moore; the upper floor was Doctor Shadd's medical office which he shared with Dr. Spence.

Because of his dedication to his profession, Dr. Shadd became quite a prominent figure in the area surrounding Kinistino-Melfort. Many of the community history books pay particular attention to the medical circumstances in the area and several family histories make special mention of the doctor as the attending physician, particularly in reference to births.

"Most medical services in the early 1900's were provided by Dr. Shadd, a legendary figure among our pioneers. Many owe their lives to this doctor who travelled to attend anyone who called, regardless of hour or weather conditions."³

Mrs. Sam Jackson assisted him as a practical nurse and midwife. "Dr. Shadd was a fine man," she says, a fine man, a gentleman, and a good doctor.



Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

Everybody had a high regard for Dr. Shadd. A man of many interests, he was primarily a doctor devoted to his profession, and he had qualities of character that won him respect from everybody, and affection from those who knew him well.”⁴

An early indication of Shadd’s dedication is reported in the Kinistino history book. “Calls came in from the Birch Hills on the west to the Melfort plains on the east, from the Pasquia Hills on the south to the Saskatchewan River on the north. He was the only doctor in a territory of a thousand square miles. Over the few dirt roads that in spring and fall were often veritable quagmires, along rough winding trails through the bush, Dr. Shadd went to those who needed him. It is told how once he crawled on his belly across thin ice on the Saskatchewan River to reach a sick man on the far side.”⁵

The history book, *Tisdale: The Story of the Century*, has a reference that Doc Shadd, while still in Kinistino, travelled to Tisdale to inoculate the children for diphtheria. He was apparently on call in that area until Dr. Fred Hogan arrived in 1905.

*“The first baby born in Melfort was Ora, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Monsees. Jim (Claggett) drove a horse and buggy into Kinistino to get Dr. Shadd to attend to Ora’s birth on March 17, 1904. The weather was below zero and blowing up a blizzard.”*⁶

When Dr. Shadd decided to make the move to Melfort he was a very busy man right from the start. When he arrived he set up office above Code’s Flour and Feed Store on Burrows Avenue. The *Melfort Moon* reported on April 13, 1904 that Contractor Rush was busy setting up counters and shelving to get the store open soon. In February of 1905 Dr. Shadd went a step further when he purchased Lot 25, Block 2 [just off Main on Burrows Ave. East] from William MacKenzie, Donald D. Mann and Roderick MacKenzie of Toronto and built the Central Drug Store. A look at the prescriptions of the new store [passed on via successive owners Vern Minor and Dale Frier] shows a total of sixty-one filled out in the month of April, 1905. The “Doc” was busy right from the start.

Illnesses and accidents were not in short supply. The *Melfort Moon* kept the public informed of the doctor’s activities.

BABY LOG

Aasen, Clarence	August, 1910	SE 15-47-19 W2
Arthur, Fulton Shadd	1901	Flett’s Springs
Ballantyne, Willma	January, 1914	Melfort
Corner, Ted	1914	NW 13-41-18 W2
DeCoteau, Stella	1900	NW 34-43-20 W2
DeCoteau, William	1903	NW 34-43-20 W2
Foster, Evelyn	?	Flett’s Springs
Foster, Frances Pearl	October, 1907	NW 3-44-20 W2
Foster, Margaret	December, 1908	NW 3-44-20 W2
From, Eric Vider*	March, 1911	NE 4-47-19 W2
Hadden, Christine	July, 1905	N 18-44-20 W2 (near)
Hadden, Mary Frances	June, 1907	N 18-44-20 W2 “
Hadden, William	July, 1909	N 18-44-20 W2 “
Hadden, Robert	August, 1911	N 18-44-20 W2 “
Head, Margie	1905	NE 2-47-24 W2
Hess, Isabel L R	August 18, 1913	Melfort
MacRae, (Reed) Viola	May 1, 1914	SW 15-43-18 W2
McCoshen, Mamie	1905?	NW of Star City
McHarg, John	April, 1911	NW 36-46-18 W2
Moffat, Helen Scott	October 26, 1912	Percieville Sch. Dist.
Monsees, Ora	March 17, 1904	NW 32-44-18 W2
Rigg, Nellie	1913	Shannon View Sch. Dist.
Robson, Lloyd	July, 1914	Melfort
Sanderson, Ellie	?	7-43-19 W2
Smylie, James David	June 11, 1905	NE 21-45-16 W2
Spearman, Edgar	October, 1910	NE 19-47-18 W2
Strain, Peter	August 1, 1909	31-43-19 W2

[* 15 mile trip for Doc Shadd]

In the family histories that appear in the local district history books, many make the additional reference to Dr. Shadd being the attending doctor. Some examples are included in the references on the left. One must remember that this doctor made house calls and that many of these houses were a long way from his office.

His continued care is referred to in the following reference from the Jack Robson family history in the Vaughan/Melfort history book.

*“ A serious accident marred the first year So Jack Robson hitched up a team and set out ... to bring Dr. Shadd to the little sufferer. His practiced eye soon detected blood poisoning that had reached such a critical stage that he rushed her at once to Lady Minto Hospital. There his untiring and skillful efforts brought about a recovery that was complete except for a slight limp and to this day the Robsons pay tribute to Dr. Shadd as do so many others.”*⁷

“On the 16th while a hand car from Melfort loaded with passengers was running east on the C.N. Ry, [sic] about five miles east of Star City, the car jumped the track and A. Robinson, ‘Dominion Timber inspector’ and Ira Monsees who were sitting on the forward part of the car were thrown off and the car passed over Mr. Robinson’s ankle and Mr. Monsees’ body - Monsees escaped with a few bruises, but Mr. Robinson’s leg sustained a compound fracture. The injured man was at once brought to Melfort, where Dr. Shadd reduced the fracture and Mr. Robinson is laid up for some time to come at Clift Bros., where he is receiving every attention.”⁸

“A son of Mr. T. Grainger of Pleasant Valley, met with an accident on Sunday evening May 1st which resulted in a fractured wrist.... The limb was set by Dr. Shadd and the sufferer is doing well.”⁹

Other recorded incidents involved the following: “Just as we go to press Doctors Shadd and Grant are dressing Chas. Hannah’s hand which is badly mutilated by coming in contact with a circular saw in Flett. Bros. Mill at South Melfort....The two forefingers and the thumb were completely severed.”¹⁰ and “On Saturday last Doctor Shadd again tapped E.J. Williams and removed nearly 120 ounces of liquid which had accumulated in about one week. This is the third time it has been necessary to do this, and a total of nearly three hundred ounces in all has been removed from his chest.”¹¹ As much as construction and saw mill accidents were prevalent there were other incidents that called for the doctors attention. One such instance was related in the paper. “Yesterday as Mr. Jas. Aikenhead was coming along the road on his bicycle he met a team and turned out. But the team suddenly swerved and run full force into him. The tongue of the buggy caught him full in the solar region over the heart. He was at once carried into the hospital where Dr. Shadd and Spence had their hands full for half an hour reviving him.”¹²

The Melfort *Moon*, April 27, 1904, adds, “C. J. Lutes and Arthur Renner of Tisdale, made Melfort Monday evening on a velocipede. ...Mr. Lutes reports Miss Allie Hans, John Taylor and the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Renner on the sick list. Dr. Shadd accompanied them to Tisdale, and will look after the wants of the sick.”

Ailments needed attention and Shadd was there.

Lady Minto Hospital

Once Dr. Shadd had his practice and drug store in operation the next thing that occupied his attention was a hospital. Conditions for any medical procedures were not the best and soon there was a push to get a medical facility that would allow for more optimism dealing with the multitude of demands put on doctors. One reference talks about the manner of dealing with cases.

“During the winter he (John Peter Peterson) worked at the livery barn, mostly driving Doctors Shadd and Spence on their calls.... As there was no hospital, Dr. Shadd often used their kitchen table as his operating table and put his patients upstairs while they recovered. The children found this frightening and couldn’t be persuaded to go ‘up there’.”¹³

Lady Minto Hospital started in 1906 when a Board of Trade meeting dealt with the question of health care. Six lots were acquired and construction began after the tenders were considered and one chosen. In 1907 a nursing program began and in 1910 a nurses residence was constructed.

In his letter to the editor, John Ashdown wrote, “I would be pleased to use your paper as a medium by which I could express my thanks for the kindness I have received at the hands of Miss Heales and her staff of nurses while in the Lady Minto Hospital. I realize now what a good institution this is for Melfort and district, and both farmers and merchants should always be willing to do their utmost for its welfare.”¹⁴

[Details of the development are posted separately in the next darkened note.]

That there would be issues between the hospital board and Dr. Shadd was indicated early when a special meeting of the board was called May 6, 1907. Entries in the minutes include: “This meeting was called at the request of Dr. Shadd who was urging the admittance of patients to the Hospital even in an unfinished condition. Motion passed. “That we do not admit any patients until Miss Heales is ready....”¹⁵

Two things stand out in Dr. Shadd’s involvement with the board. One is that his attendance was exceptional considering his absence for making medical calls out of town. He was on occasion late, but from February, 1906 until May, 1907 he

managed to get to thirty of forty-two meetings. The other thing notable in the minutes is the number of motions he presented or seconded. He was a very active member.¹⁶

What became obvious was his concern for his patients and as time wore on it became apparent that he was not always in agreement with the board. One thing that he was conscious of was the cost to his patients. In an effort to alleviate some of this cost he presented the following motion:

“Moved by Dr. Shadd

Seconded by Mr. Norman

That we issue yearly hospital tickets that the price of these be \$10.00 each and that 300 be printed. Carried unanimously.”¹⁷

However, at the June 6, 1907 meeting the entry read”

“Moved—Wood, Sec.-Turner That Dr. Shadd’s resignation be accepted. Carried”¹⁸

The disagreement between Doctor Shadd and the board as to how the hospital should be run had taken its toll. The board’s concern was with money and management while the doctors’ main concern

was with their patients. Early in January, 1910, Dr. Shadd sent a report covering the following items: he indicated that the notion of friction with the board was exaggerated; they still needed an ambulance; he was not in favour of the proposed nurses home (he was more in favour of more hospital); the hospital and town were too small to be a teaching facility for nurses; and he still thought the patient charges were too high. The board members, however, spoke in favour of a nurses home.¹⁹

Some comments by Mr. G. B. Johnson at the meeting must have been suggestive as at the next meeting he appeared to deal with the circumstances. The board saw nothing wrong with Mr. Johnson’s remarks. “Motion: That the Board regrets extremely that any wrong construction should have been placed on the remarks made by Mr. Johnson at the Annual Meeting in reference to Dr. Shadd and that members will take any opportunity of refuting any misstatements or derogatory remarks in connection with same that may come to their notice.

Copy to be sent to Dr. Shadd.”²⁰

History of Hospital

A committee of six was appointed at a Board meeting [Board of Trade], namely - Reginald Beatty, James Rutledge, G. B. Johnston, E. J. Crawford, L. Norman, and Captain Turner, to decide whether it should be a Government sponsored or V.O.N. Hospital.

The Lady Minto fund offered a grant of \$1,000.00, which was later increased to \$2,000.00, so the decision was in their favour, and in accordance with their Bylaws twelve directors were Appointed - G. B. Johnston, Reginald Beatty, A. E. Wild, A. H. Anderson, A. McNaughton Stewart, Leonard Norman, E. J. Crawford, James Rutledge, S. J. Greenwood, Dr. Shadd and Captain Turner.

A canvass of the Town and rural area was made, also the wholesale houses in Winnipeg and the East, that the Town did business with. The results were gratifying - \$1,200.00 subscribed. After the splendid start nothing could stop the enterprise, a building devoted to the suffering of humanity. Mr. Peter Aikenhead kindly offered a site on his property, but it was thought too far out of town.

McKenzie, Mann & Co. generously gave six lots in the northeast corner of Stovel and Govt. road.

(The above company built many railroads including the one through Melfort.)

Tenders were let for the construction of a six bed hospital of lumber and a cement basement, not to exceed \$2,500.00. The contractor charged \$50.00 for the plans - quite a contrast to the fee of the modern architect. The tender received was \$3,675.00 for the two complete floors, without furnishings.

When finished it was 30 x 60 with two stories holding fourteen beds, nine public, five private and semi-private. It also contained nurses’ quarters, kitchen and dining room.

The full staff was to be two nurses, a servant and orderly. Miss Heales was sent by V.O.N. as the first Matron. Her salary was \$50.00 a month, with no provisions for holidays or extra salary after a year.

Many fraternal organizations were asked to furnish wards if possible. On May 15, 1907 the formal opening of the Lady Minto Hospital was held. The local business firms to honor the occasion closed for an hour and many visitors attended and toured the institution.

[*Melfort Union Hospital: A History 1907-1982*]

That there was friction in philosophies is probably best illustrated in Reg. Beatty's comment reported as an aside in the minutes. "(Mr. Beatty remarked he would like extremely to see the four Melfort Doctors running the hospital for a year and it might lend to change their views.)"²¹

There were obviously problems with the later management provided by the head nurse. Dr. Spence reported, "... that under the present supt. 'Miss L. Sweeny' he had seen the hospital like a bar room with patients smoking, gramophone going and a big racket going on."²²

Dr. Shadd weighed in on this problem as well which showed his concern for the people under his care. "Dr. Shadd stated he had personally rebuked the Supt. for allowing smoking on the wards, he also complained that his prescriptions were not delivered promptly at the hospital, he further said he would not place a serious case in the Hospital under Miss Sweeny's management."²³

As ground rules for the administration of the hospital were eventually worked out it does appear that there was a continual push-pull between administration and the doctors.

As significant as Dr. Shadd's role was in the medical community, it does seem strange that at the March 17, 1915 meeting of the board there was no reference to his death in Winnipeg (on March 15).

Although Dr. Shadd was an early doctor in the area, he was not alone. Dr J. G. Grant was in the area when he came. Grant was a Scotsman who had graduated from the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh.

There is some speculation that this might have had some bearing on Dr. Shadd's decision to choose Edinburgh to work on his masters.

In 1904, Dr. A. E. Whitmore from Stites, Idaho joined Shadd in his practice. In 1905, Dr. Thomas Charles Spence became a partner. As a veterinary surgeon, he was a great asset for the livestock producers who were growing in numbers in the area. He had some registered cattle himself. The two doctors both claim Edinburgh as their training facility and this may have had some bearing in their decision to partner.

The partnership grew again in 1912 when Dr. M.B. Baker joined his fellow Trinity College student. In 1898 Shadd and Baker had shared the

Top Grad" award at graduation. Baker had practiced in Ontario for eight years and after doing post grad work in New York and Chicago moved to B.C. The next stop was Melfort.

Later, Melfort added Dr. Mervyn Hawke who, like Dr. Shadd, became very active in the town culture.

The number of doctors attests to the medical demands of the region. Because of the house calls, there needed to be backups when doctors were out of town or busy. Examples from the *Moon* show Dr. Shadd's involvement:

"Dr. Shadd returned from a visit to Winnipeg last week and is now kept busy setting broken limbs."²⁴

"Dr. Shadd and A.E. Jarvis took a trip to the Pokonan and Coxby a few days ago on business."²⁵

"Dr. Shadd left by this morning's train on a professional visit to Fir River."²⁶

And from the *Journal*, "Dr. Shadd paid a professional visit to Hudson Bay Junction on Sunday."²⁷

In addition to doctors, Dr. Shadd had assistance from a variety of people. Two such groups are listed next page. This included the people who were mid-wives or nurses or at least fulfilled these roles. The other group included men who were drivers of the doctor's teams. Shadd had two teams to allow one to rest between trips and the added driver just gave him more time to relax. He would later have a car that allowed him easier trips in the summer time. The doctor was very good at hiring people, particularly people who had need of a job as they were getting settled in the area. This is also shown in his hiring of many people to work at his farm. [covered in the agriculture section]

Not long after moving to Melfort, Dr. Shadd made another important move in his career. He left for Europe to improve his medical standing. In the August 31 edition of the Melfort *Moon* a news release reported, "Dr. Shadd gone to Europe for several months. Will spend time at Medical Colleges in Edinburgh and Paris." The actual path of his trip is not easily documented.

The first clue came with the examination of one of the few photographs of the doctor. The frame had a reference to a photographer, Thomas P. Lugton, on the mounting that indicated he was at the Edin-

burgh address on the picture from 1902 to 1905. There was also evidence that Shadd had been in the company of Dr. and Mrs. Spence from Prince Albert and that they moved to Melfort to join Dr. Shadd in his Melfort practice. When Spence arrived his professional advertisement in the paper listed the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh as his training location. Fortunately, the records at the Royal Infirmary were still available but a check with the assistant archivist revealed no recording of Dr. Shadd or Thomas Spence having graduated from the facility.

The enquiry to the Lothian Health Services Archive in Edinburgh brought the following response from Rosie McLure, assistant archivist. "I've had a look at our Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh staff and student records for the years 1904-1905 but I'm afraid I didn't come across a record of Dr. Shadd (or Dr. Spence). The records I looked at are as follows:

1) Student Ticket Registers I thought it possible that Dr. Shadd may have bought a season ticket as a post-grad student to do some further studying at the Infirmary.

2) List of Residents

3) Register of Medical and Surgical Staff Appointments

4) Career Record of Infirmary's Physicians and Surgeons....

5) Manager's Minutes Dec. 1903-Feb. 1905 I checked the index to these minutes on the off-chance that Shadd or Spence may have been mentioned.

I'm sorry not to have come up with more results for you - it may be that because Dr. Shadd spent such a short length of time in Edinburgh that his presence wasn't recorded anywhere. Also although you have a record of Spence spending some time at the Infirmary, Shadd may have chosen to work at a different hospital?" (3 February 2006)

In a later email, Archivist McLure added:

"With regard to the search for Dr. Shadd, it is possible that he may have attended another teaching hospital in this area at that time, for example, Leith Hospital or the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital. Unfortunately though, there aren't any surviving records which would document

Assistants

The first category would include the people who worked as nursing assistants or midwives.

Mrs. C.S. Lowrie and **Mrs. Sam Jackson** were mentioned in the Carrot River Settlement.

1903 **Mrs. Fred Ashdown.**

"**Mrs. Ashdown** often helped Dr. Shadd as a midwife or assisted others when sickness came to their homes."²⁸

1906 **Sarah Jane Hill**

"She came from Sheffield, England in the spring of 1906 as a midwife. The first two winters she worked with Dr. Shadd."²⁹

1912 **Ziphorah Baker**

"Both doctors [Shadd, Brigham (Star City)] had automobiles.... When they encountered a respiratory case they believed could benefit from her care, they would pick up Ziphorah and take her to live with the patient and family for whatever treatment time was necessary or possible."³⁰

Mrs. Crawford McAusland

"Since there was no medical doctor nearer than Prince Albert, Mrs. McAusland was in great demand as midwife and practical nurse.... After Dr. Shadd came to the district she would go with the neighbour and Bill McAusland would be sent on horseback to bring the doctor."³¹

Mrs. Ole Aasen was a dedicated midwife.

From conversation with Tonda Redgewell she indicated that **Stella De Couteau** assisted the doctor as well.

The second category includes the drivers.

1904 **Ralph Watson Connor**

"He came to Melfort and started working for the late Dr. Shadd as a coachman.... Many were his journeys in all types of weather with Dr. Shadd, to many pioneer homes in the valley area. He later assumed this post with the late Dr. Spence."³²

1905 **John Peter Peterson**

"During the winter he worked at the livery barn, mostly driving Doctors Shadd and Spence on their calls."³³

Also, from conversation with Verna Shupe, she listed her grandfather, **George O. Shupe**, as another of the drivers.

"In 1911, Joe (**Joseph R. Murray**) applied for the homestead on NW 34-42-20 W2 and purchased 160 acres for \$10.00 plus a team of horses for \$500.00. He worked for Dr. Shadd while cleaning their land which was very wet."³⁴

Frances Westlund indicates that both **Crawford** and **Bill McAusland** drove Dr. Shadd when required.

medical student attendance at either of these institutions.

I've had more success with your other query, Dr. J. G. Grant. First of all I contacted the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal College of Physicians where Grant obtained his Licentiate (LRCS and LRCP) to find out exactly when he got his qualification. The RCSE have a record of a John George Grant who registered as a medical student in 1894 and passed the Triple Qualification in 1899.... His schedule suggests that he studied in Edinburgh from around 1898, having varied his time between London and Glasgow before that.

So I then went to the Royal Infirmary Student Ticket registers again to look for evidence of Dr. Grant having attended. A J. G. Grant, from Broughty Ferry (Dundee, Scotland) purchased student season tickets on 3rd May, 31st August and 24th October 1898.

...If he did move from Scotland, with established connections to the Infirmary, this would perhaps support the notion of Shadd and Spence coming over to Edinburgh.” (23 February 2006)

When you consider that Dr. Shadd left Melfort in August of 1904 and returned early April in 1905, he really wasn't away for very long - especially if you consider the time for the trip there and back and the fact that he did some family visiting back in Canada before returning to Melfort.

Regardless of how it came about, the designation “C.M.” appeared on the letterhead of Dr. Shadd when he returned to Melfort.

The C M stands for “Chirurgiae Magister” or Master of Surgery. To obtain this distinction, a student usually had to do at least two years post-graduate work.

In his role as doctor, Shadd made an impression on the local natives particularly the Cree Indians in the Kinistino/Melfort area.

The following story comes from Reginald Beatty's letters. Beatty was the first white settler of the Vaughan district. He was a clerk with the Hudson Bay Company and his early settlement eventually became Melfort. The letter was entitled, “Life of Ne-Gua-Nan-I-Sew.” Beatty had befriended the young Cree and had followed this young man's experience with courtship, marriage and childbirth. The first child brought great happiness to the

immediate family and others around but tragedy occurred when the year old child died. Three more children died in their first years and the couple was devastated. In the meantime Beatty had also become close friends with a new black doctor who was quickly gaining a reputation as a good doctor. When their next baby was born, the young couple took the young girl to Dr. Shadd (with Beatty as interpreter). Shadd gave them specific instructions and did follow up examinations every three months. In Beatty's words. “When the baby was about two years old the doctor performed a slight operation for tubercular gland and the child throve. The parents were immensely grateful, and this girl baby developed into a fine, handsome young woman who went to school at Emmanuel College, was the pride and delight of her parents and through her efforts they both became converted to Christianity. In the meantime two other children were born to Neshtow and being duly treated by Dr. Shadd grew up into fine youngsters. A happier more contented Indian family you could not find....”³⁵

The black Dr. Shadd was reacted to by the young Cree this way, “...if a white doctor's medicine is strong, why a black doctor's must be stronger.”³⁶

A post script to this event has a tragic ending. Camped near Ethelton during a very dry summer, the family was caught in a prairie fire and those who did not die at the scene succumbed to their injuries shortly after.

A typical first nations family from this period is shown in the photo (next page). Nomadic by design, they would move to locations that provided sustenance and goods to trade. On occasion they would camp near a farmstead in their tents (ridge or tepee) working for the farmer in return for supplies. [In conversation with Torance Tornquist of Nipawin. Feb. 2016]

The good doctor just seemed to have a way with people. His hearty laugh and his sense of humour stood him in good stead. Some responded as much to his laughter as to his medicine. An event showing humour and tact was described in the John and Margaret Foster family history in the Pathlow history book.

Mother was attended by Dr. Shadd. We three boys were awed by him as we had never seen a black man before. We were peeking around a corner at him - he said, 'Come here you fellows and I'll get some salt and eat you.' We disappeared fast."³⁷

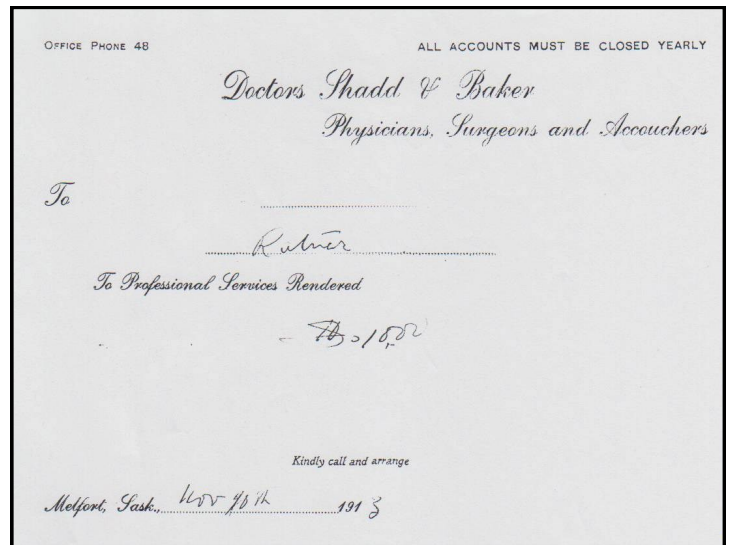
Other areas related to medicine that occupied the doctor included being coroner and health officer. Two newspaper reports in late 1912 gave these accounts:

"Shooting Accident At Spooner - Word was received here last Friday that Emil Isaacson ... shot and killed himself last Thursday evening, Nov. 14 at the home of Henry Andal, near Spooner. Coroner A.S. Shadd and Staff Sergt. Loggin went to Tisdale yesterday to attend the inquest...." and

"Shot While Hunting At Nipawin. Word was received here on Tuesday of the accidental shooting of James Dobson, a young farmer of Nipawin....Dr. Shadd and Staff-Sergt. Loggin went to Tisdale yesterday to attend the inquest...."³⁸

In R.M. news in the Pathlow History Book it was reported that the R.M. of Flett's Springs named doctor Shadd as their Medical Health Officer for 1915.³⁹

The following fee for services is an example of the billing done in the region.



Melfort and District Museum

The wide area of his responsibilities must have put more pressure on his many commitments in the town of Melfort.



Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

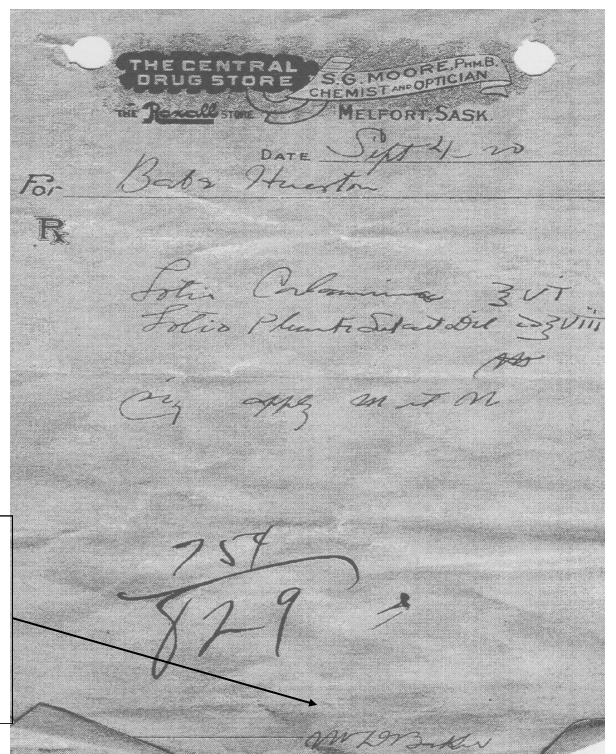
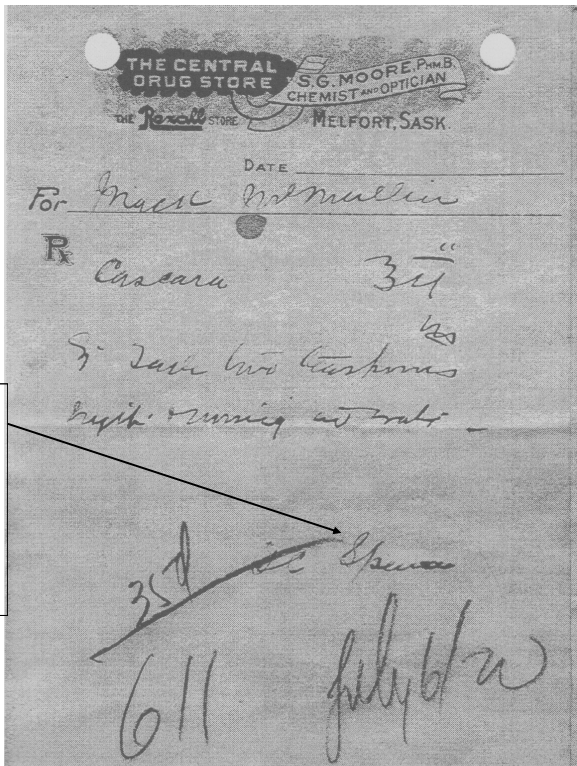
A Melfort Publicity Commission promotion proclaims: "An institution of which the people of Melfort are very proud is the Lady Minto Hospital and Nurses Home (See below). The hospital is splendidly built and equipped and would do credit to much larger places than Melfort. It has every modern improvement adapted to a hospital of this class. There are four doctors and a competent staff of nurses." [Saskatchewan Archives Board]

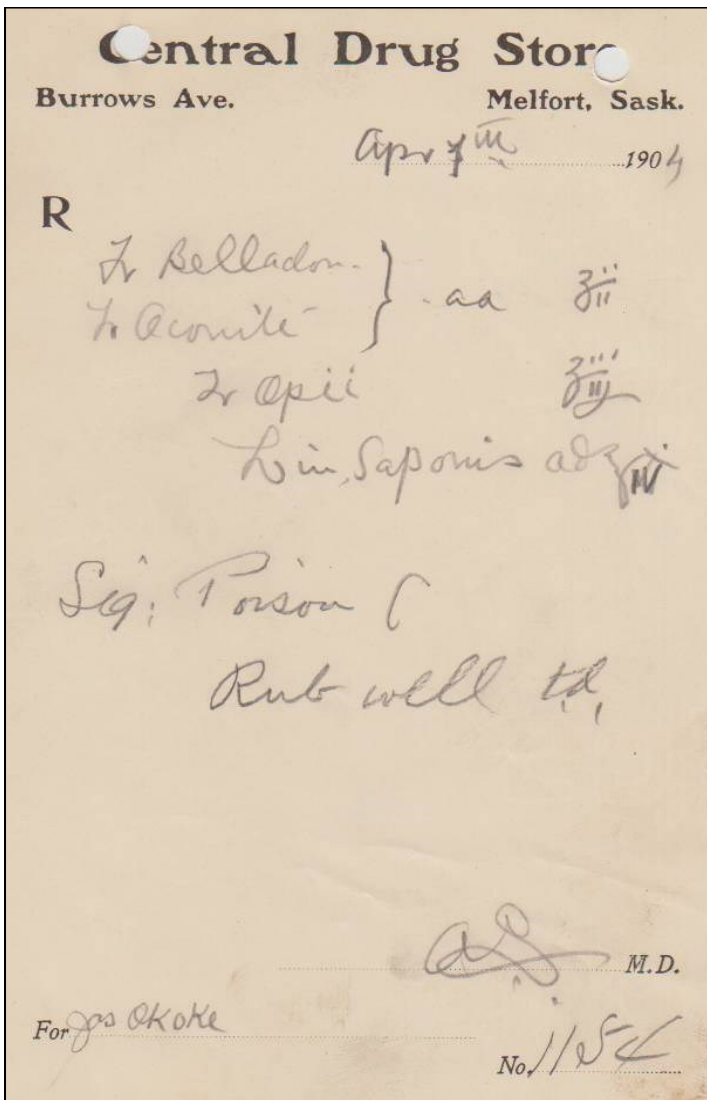
The picture below was taken about the time of Dr. Shadd's death.



Lady Minto Hospital (1907) and Nurses Residence (1910). Photo 1915? Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

Early prescriptions written by Dr. Spencer and Dr. Baker (and others next page) Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

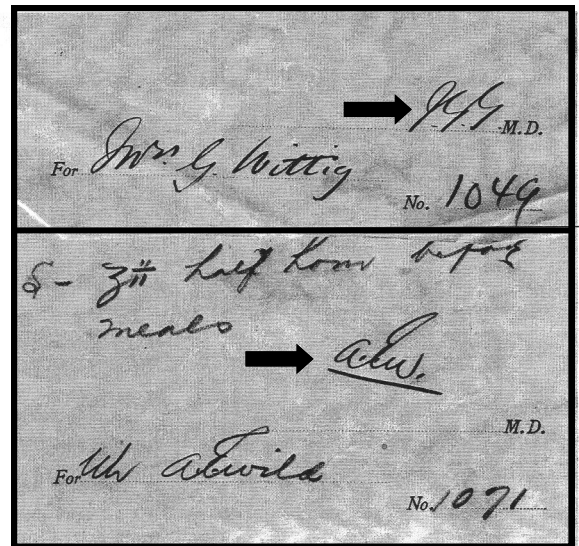




Doc Shadd's first prescriptions
(above and to the right)

The numbers of the prescriptions in the collection indicate that the medical field was a busy one in Melfort and district.

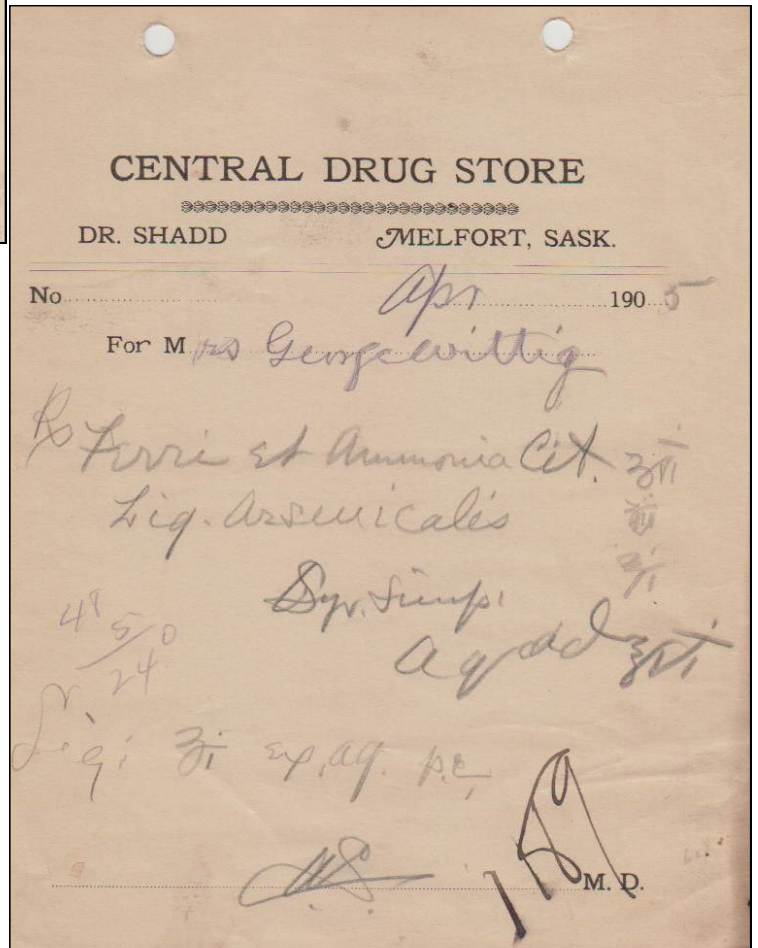
In April of 1905
Dr. Shadd signed 61 prescriptions himself. There were others signed by other doctors.
Note the "No." reference (bottom right) which would be a total for the number of writings.
See the section on "Snippets" for more background references to these busy times.



OTHER DOCTORS

J.G.G. Dr. J.G. Grant Melfort's first doctor

A.E.W. Dr. A.E. Whitmore
Dr. Shadd's partner



Although there are suggestions that Dr. Shadd suffered from some financial problems upon his return from Edinburgh, there are details that show him a very patient man in terms of collecting his fees. At times they came in kind and at times they were excused. But he did keep track and went after those that could afford their fees. Those owing were reminded in this ad in the *Carrot River Journal*, “Those having open accounts with Doctors Shadd and Spence will please call at once and have same arranged or address Box 96, Melfort.”⁴⁰ and a letterhead in the Melfort Museum collection shows a bill for \$10.00 made out to Ratner for “Professional Services Rendered” from the office of Doctors Shadd and Baker, Physicians, Surgeons and Accouchers (male midwives).

Doc was not above going to court to get his due. “District Court Held By Judge Forbes. Shadd vs. Hines. Disputed account for medical services. Stewart for Shadd. Judgement in full \$50.00 and costs.”⁴¹

“The inability of settlers to pay and the inability of doctors to collect payment is evidenced in the case of Shadd vs. Rosak, heard at the Recorder Hall in Tisdale, June, 1910. The district judge presiding over the case ruled in favour of Dr. Shadd of Melfort, who had treated Rosak’s wife for typhoid fever for a period of one month, but upon her release from the hospital in Melfort, Rosak refused to pay the bill. The judge ruled that doctors must be paid the same as any others, in fact, even where there were no special agreement, if the party accepted the service, the doctor was entitled to payment.”⁴²

History Book Snippets

Mac O’Brian writes the following in the history of James and Margaret O’Brian in the Pleasantdale book *Memories of the Past*.

“The first trip which Mr. O’Brian made to Melfort was at night when a man from the mill had the misfortune to seriously injure his hand. They went by team and had to follow trails through the bush. The only doctor in Melfort was a negro, Dr. Shadd (who was instrumental in the founding of the Lady Minto Hospital in Melfort.) Mr. O’Brian administered the ether while the doctor stitched the hand.” [p. 650]

Eric From writes about the dedication of the doctor

in his history in *Memories We Treasure* (North Star). “The only time a doctor was summoned was when Eric was born. A devoted negro, Dr. A. Shadd, came by horse and buggy for 15 miles to the homestead shack to help Mrs. Ole Aasen the dedicated midwife.” [p. 25]

Thelma Halvorsen wrote this about the Duncan MacArthur family. “During 1914 father’s heart gave a lot of trouble, but Dr. Shadd treated him with Gold Medicine, now known as Digitalis.” [p. 56]

Also from the *Memories We Treasure* history book, Gottner Strinholm writes about Nels Lauren Strinholm. “One of those early years dad came down with Quincy in spring seeding. A doctor, called Dr. Shadd came down and lanced the infection.” [p.82]

From *Leaves Green and Brown* (Weldon and area) the story of the Oscar Olson family contains this reference. “He (Oscar) also worked at the dam at La Colle Falls. On one occasion he became ill and was treated by the pioneer Dr. Shadd at the Melfort Hospital [p. 136]

Catherine (Pringle) Jones writes, “I still remember the day I cut my foot with a Hudson Bay axe. I was seven at the time. Dad was hewing logs. He had to take me with a team and wagon to the Fort where Dr. Shadd just put a few stitches in, so I carry a good scar.” [p. 354]

The Lorentz and Anne Steen history reference (Feb. 8, 1907) states, “...when Gunnar the youngest boy only thirteen passed away with a disease unknown to Dr’s Shadd, Hall and Stuart.” [p. 400]

(This is one noted episode with negative results. There are few evident in the literature)

In *Memoirs of Vaughn and Melfort Pioneers* the history of the Thomas B. Pengally family contains these two references.

(At a community picnic) “Mr. Pengally had been suffering with a toothache for some time before that and looked on this as an opportunity to have the trouble remedied. So he sat down on a wagon tongue and had the doctor (Shadd) remove the offending tooth.” [p. 92]

“At another time while he was cutting logs in the bush for the building of his first house he got a very bad snag run into his foot when he jumped to the

ground from the top of the load. This time he had to go all the way to Flett's Springs to find the doctor and several of his neighbours went along. Three or four of them held him down while the doctor cut the foot on both sides of the deep-seated snag and then pulled the thing out. Mr. Pengally was laid up for quite some time after that incident." [p. 92]

The articles in the papers probably don't show the full picture of his dealing with medical issues in and around the quickly developing community.

In this final quote we see the reverence that the people of Melfort had for their doctor as he continually strove to improve the health of his patients. He also continued in his efforts to improve the total culture of the community.

"There were no hospitals or medical facilities during those early years. Midwives assisted the babies into the world. Eventually Dr. Shadd, a much loved Negro doctor, did come to the community. Families were great distances apart. He had to drive many miles to see his patients, thus causing untold hardships during the dreadful cold of Saskatchewan winters. In later years the doctor was spoken of as 'Dear Old Dr. Shadd' by the old-timers.⁴³

But Dr. Shadd would be far more than a doctor in this pioneer town.



Information on box

RE SUBLIMED
Sulphur
PUT UP
FOR MEDICINAL
USE ONLY
The Central Drug Store
R. G. Moore Phm. B
Chemist and Optician
The Rexall Store
MELFORT SASK.

This cardboard container was found during renovations to the Shadd Block in January, 2017.

Photo courtesy Melfort & District Museum



Photo courtesy of the Kinistino Museum

This is a picture of Will Lyle's drug store in the Carrot River Settlement at the time Alfred Shadd lived there. The department store set up was probably very similar to what the Central Drug Store would have looked like when it was built in Melfort.

See more on the Central Drug Store in the business section.

NAME	ADDRESS	QUALIFICATION
Paintin, A. C.	Knowlton, Que.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1900; Mem. C. P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Paddell, H. W.	Young, Sask.	M.D., Det. Med. Coll., 1908.
Palmer, S. W.	Waldeck, Sask.	M.D., Queen's Univ., 1906.
Palmer, W. M. R.	Craik, Sask.	M.D., Trin. and Tor., 1900.
Patterson, W. J. (B.A.)	Adanac, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1906; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1906.
Patrick, T. A.	Yorkton, Sask.	M.D., West. Univ., Lon., Ont., 1889; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1900.
Penner, E. (B.A.)	Rosthern, Sask.	M.D., McGill Univ., 1901; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1904.
Pennington, J. W.	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Peterson, G. R.	Saskatoon, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1903; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1904.
Phillips, A. C.	Punnichy, Sask.	M.B., Univ. Tor.; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Porter, T. H.	Eyebrook, Sask.	M.D., Univ. Man., 1907; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Potter, J. L.	Norris Arms, Nfld.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1905.
Proctor, R.	Shellbrook, Sask.	Univ. Man., 1905; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1905.
Prust, T. H.	Grenfell, Sask.	M.D., Trin. Med. Coll., 1900; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1905.
Radcliffe, S. W.	Moose Jaw, Sask.	M.B., Univ. Tor., 1898; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1899.
Ramsey, G. H.	Pense, Sask.	M.B., Univ. Tor., 1899; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1900.
Reavley, E.	Unknown	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1887; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1895.
Redden, H. O.	Outlook, Sask.	M.D., Queen's Univ., 1906.
Reid, H. A. L.	Prince Albert, Sask.	M.D., Trin. Med. Coll., 1891; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1891.
Reid, J. T.	Montreal, Que.	M.D., C.M., McGill, 1890; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1895.
Richardson, W. A.	Toronto, Ont.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1898.
Rivers, J. H.	Raymond, Alta.	M.D., Trin. Med. Coll., 1896; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1902.
Robbins, E. E.	Govan, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1906; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1906.
Roberts, E. L.	Zealandia, Sask.	M.D., Tor. Univ., 1896; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Roberts, A. B.	Saskatoon, Sask.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Robertson, A. G.	Griffin, Sask.	M.D., Western Univ., 1909.
Robertson, G. M.	Stoughton, Sask.	M.D., Univ. Man., 1900; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1906.
Robertson, W. A.	Moose Jaw, Sask.	M.D., Tor. Univ., 1908.
Rosiers, J. P. Des.	Saskatoon, Sask.	M.D., C.M., Laval Univ., Mont., 1906; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Ross, H. R.	Wynyard, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1890.
Rothwell, O. E. (B.A.)	Regina, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1906; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Routledge, J. A.	Unity, Sask.	M.B., Tor. Univ., 1908.
Roy, L. A.	Herbert, Sask.	M.D., C.M., Laval Univ., Mont., 1905; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Rubblee, O. E. (B.A.)	Bradwell, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1907; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Ryan, Helen, E. R.	Kingston, Ont.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1905.
Shalmark, G. W.	Saltcoats, Sask.	M.D., Univ. Man., 1908; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Sandwith, B. A.	Nokomis, Sask.	M.D., Queen's Univ., 1906; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1908.
Saunders, E. H.	Chesnut, Mont.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1906.
Scott, H. W.	Victoria, B.C.	M.D., Det. Med. Coll., 1897.
Scott, J. B.	Moose Jaw, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1909.
Scott, R. G.	Wakaw, Sask.	M.D., Univ. Man., 1910.
Scratch, J. A.	Maymont, Sask.	Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1907.
Seymour, M. M.	Regina, Sask.	M.D., C.M., McGill Univ., 1879; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1886; Mem. Council C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1897-1903; Pres. Council C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1898, and Vice-Pres. Coun. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1901-1910.
Shadd, A.	Melfort, Sask.	M.D., Trin. Med. Coll., 1898; Mem. C.P. & S., N.W.T., 1898.

Members and Officers of the Council Of the College of Physicians and Surgeons OF Saskatchewan 1912-1913
 Courtesy Archives of Saskatchewan

Note: This document, written in 1913, makes **no mention** of the "C. M." designation used on his letterhead.

BUSINESS



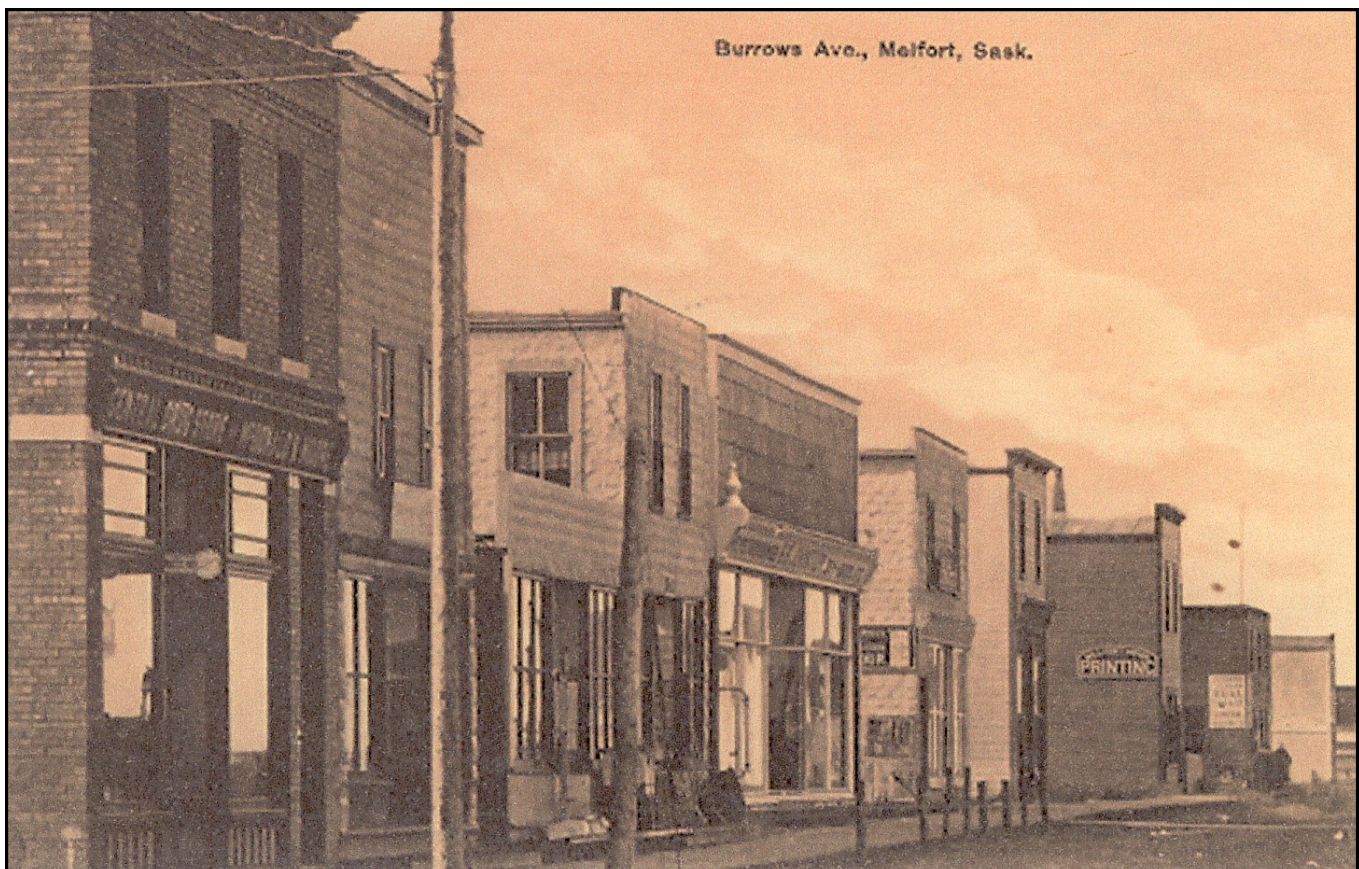
During his tenure in Melfort, Dr. Shadd involved himself extensively in many adventures - some as part of a larger group such as the Board of Trade or the Town Council and sometimes alone in terms of a specific business like his drug store, his newspaper or his farm.

When Doc first moved to Melfort he set up his medical office and a drug store immediately. He was no doubt familiar with the drug store concept as W.J. Lyle operated one in the Carrot River Settlement. [See p. 24] Although the Monsees brothers had a drug store in operation, Dr. Shadd opted to have his own.

His business venture in Melfort began over the A.E. Code Feed and Seed store which he rented from Mrs. W. McAusland. On February 13, 1905 he started a new building called the Shadd Block [Lot 25, Block 2, Plan 101773807]. C. McDonald

managed the store and Sid G. Moore was the “Chemist and Optician” according to the prescription forms. They worked under the REXALL name. The 1906 Census for the Village of Melfort shows Lot 25, Block 2 occupied by A.S. Shadd, two years in residence, employing three men and one woman.

Although it was called a drug store it really resembled a department store. From newspaper ads run in the *Carrot River Journal* there was evidence of a large selection for sale. The store sold musical supplies, tobacco (including pipes, pouches and cigars), books, stationary, calendars, toiletries and school supplies. Specific reference was made to “Fancy Stag Horn Goods, Ladies’ Manicure Sets, Papeterie, and Extract of Wild Strawberry for cramps and summer complaint.”¹ In addition it was also the home of a circulating library.



Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

The school supplies and the library could have been the result of the doctor being a former teacher and school board member.

In July of 1908 the store was leased to Charles McDonald and Sid Moore as the doctor's interests turned more political and he was looking for a more supportive voice in the media. The *Moon* had a Liberal bias and he was a Conservative. His first attempts to run for office fell just short in the Northwest Territory election of 1902 and the Saskatchewan election of 1905. His understanding of his aunt's newspaper, the *Provincial Freeman* in Ontario, and how it influenced the public, probably went a long way to guide his efforts in Melfort. Political writers pulled no punches when they were extolling their ideals about a system of government in the West. The following is an excerpt from the May 4, 1904 *Moon*.

What the people of the North-West Territories ask, and demand as a right, not as a favour, is the privilege of self government. The matter of division of the Territories in to one or more provinces is a detail; and details are easily adjusted. Our old friend the Advocate, of Prince Albert, is one of the sheets that in its feeble way, through its able writer tries to offer excuses for the government in this connection. The excuses will not go down with the people of this district: we are sick and tired of men like T.O. Davis, Walter Scott and the greatest traitor of all, Frank Oliver, of Edmonton. These three men, who are at present misrepresenting us at Ottawa are not in the confidence of the electors of the Territories of to-day, and we hope never will be again; not on account of their politics, but on account of their betrayal of the interests of the N.W.T. We have no party leanings but we reiterate what we said before that justice must be done to the North-West Territories. Our motto has always been and will continue to be "The Province of Saskatchewan" with Melfort as a centre, but at the same time we are willing to fall in line with our neighbors, but will not concede our right to full Provincial Autonomy. We wish the people of this district would awake to the idea of the importance of this matter and ... let the authorities know ... that we are capable of self government.

It was the *Advocate* that Dr. Shadd purchased in 1908 and moved to Melfort (and renamed the *Carrot River Journal*) to be used to further his beliefs about the conditions in the West. As editor and publisher, Doc was quick to establish his reputation as a very good writer and the paper flourished. "Dr. Shadd, as editor made the paper known throughout the province for his crusades against

government bootlicking and corruption." ²

From his political campaigns we see his leanings as favouring a decentralized government and local autonomy. He was a huge fan of railways but particularly if they provided a service where needed (for Doc this meant connecting Melfort to other important emerging centres and particularly to Hudson Bay.) He also supported the notion that the C.P.R. should lose their exemption from paying taxes. After the formation of the province, he took a stand for provincial control of public lands as well as the natural resources. [See more details in "Politician" chapter] Just as his aunt had in Ontario, Doc took the stand that the schools should not be segregated and that a curriculum be provided that would enhance the lives of all immigrants coming into the area. From 1908 until 1912 "his editorials were about subjects such as: western rights, grain prices, and freight rates. Shadd was also a town councillor who urged citizens and council to 'move into the twentieth century.' " ³

The first location of the *Journal* was at 207 Main Street (now a jewellery store). The following picture features a visit to the town by Frederick Haultain, premier of the Northwest Territories until the first election in Saskatchewan in 1905



Courtesy Melfort and District Museum

The *Journal* office sign is directly behind the official party moving down Main Street. See arrow at top left.]

The early paper "ran from six to ten pages, but from four to six of these pages were ready print, that is, they were entire pages of advertisements or articles of general interest made up by larger establishments and sent to the small newspaper to be included in the weekly paper.

"The staff of the *Journal* at first totalled three

two girls who hand-set the type until 1920, and the editor. The staff in 1949 numbered seven. For the first while there was no power except that supplied by two Indians who turned over the big press by hand. When the new premises were taken over a gasoline engine supplied the power.”⁴

This new location was 310 Main Street and the move occurred in 1911. The new post office was built just south of the *Journal* in 1912.

The paper did well from the onset and Dr. Shadd was not hesitant to include good references about it. This Letter to Editor appeared in the March 19, 1909 edition of the *Journal*.

“Enclosed please find \$1.00 subscription to The *Journal* for 1909. I consider the *Journal* to be absolutely the best paper ever published in the district.... I wish you every success.”

As the town grew and the pressures of running a business made more demands on his time, Doc had to make some changes. In 1911 he announced in the *Journal* that it would continue to be issued every Friday but that he had turned more responsibilities over to a new staff. He hired Mr. Norman Bowes as news and advertising manager and Mr. A.E. Bessette as business manager. He would remain as editorial supervisor.⁵

The *Journal* could be reached at:

Phone 31 and

P.O. Box 96, Melfort, Saskatchewan



Courtesy Melfort and District Museum

Soon after he decided enough was enough and in the February 2, 1912 issue of the *Journal* he wrote his patrons this farewell.

*“With today’s *Journal* the present Editor is forced to bid adieu to the readers of this paper. After three or more years, we are going to lay aside the pen, for more hands to take up. We were born young, but age is making us old. And with age comes wisdom. This goddess points out that the *Journal* has now reached the place where a practiced newspaper man should be at the helm. She points out that while tenacity is generally a winner, there is a time when the goal is won by letting go. The goal striven after by the *Journal* is in sight. Younger and more practical men will be able to guide us along until we reach it.*

*Our successor, Mr. S.C. Lancaster, is well known to the Melfort public. He helped to get out the first issue of the paper and was with us for several months, leaving to take over the management of our esteemed contemporary. He has been in that office every [sic] since. The lure of the first love, however, was too strong and now Mr. Lancaster returns, not as manager but as editor and proprietor. His experience in newspaper work, bespeaks a bright future for him in his new venture. The *Journal* will now be enlarged and improved in many ways. A growing town and community requires a growing publicity medium. This has always been the policy of the newspaper and it will so continue.”*

*“The *Journal* during the past three and a half years has received many kindly assurances from its readers and contemporaries; also many bumps, both of which were very much appreciated. Our thanks are due our patrons and supporters, and in heartily tendering the same, we commend their continuance [sic] to Mr. Lancaster.”*

The Bill of Sale [a sixteen page document dated January 12, 1912] shows that the business (building and contents) sold for \$3,000 and the land for \$2,000.

His business acumen was also applied to his farming enterprise and this too enjoyed a high success rate. A full accounting of Doc’s efforts related to farming will be covered in the Agriculture chapter.

AGRICULTURALIST



When Mary Ann Shadd counselled her brother, Isaac, to buy land as soon as he could afford it, she might have also been counsel to her nephew, Alfred.

The collective agreement among the Shadds seemed to be that if the new refugees coming to Canada were to gain any independence and self-esteem they should focus on two things: education and land ownership.

Shadd arrived at the Carrot River Settlement in 1896, got his medical degree in 1898 and once he returned he was soon involved in acquiring land. In 1900 he purchased the Tennant Farm [SW16-45-21 W2] situated just across the Carrot River from the settlement. In 1902 he applied for a homestead [SE30-45-22 W2]. Growing up he had lived on a farm in Ontario [Kent County, Raleigh Township near Chatham]. Even with this experience behind him Shadd was exposed to much more in the agricultural sector mainly due to his relationship with Thomas Sanderson, the leader of the group that had established the Carrot River Settlement. Sanderson, who was a progressive entrepreneur interested in plant and animal development in the new rich soil area he had claimed, introduced Shadd to very high end Shorthorn cattle production. The two men were very much involved in the Agricultural Society of the area as well.

Answers to questions on his homestead application revealed the following. His Tennant Farm had a frame house valued at \$1200, stables worth \$400 and 5 horses and 15 cattle that were kept in 80 acres of fenced land.¹

When Shadd moved to Melfort, he was first involved in getting his medical practice and his

drug store business established but he also put together a farm package that became a model of innovative practices and efficient management in this new environment.

In August of 1913 he purchased NE10-46-17 W2, named it Craig Bog Farm, and started to put his dreams into reality. “His farm was a model for the early agriculture of this area. He kept about 150 pigs, and 98 head of the finest beef cattle, shipping about 25 hogs each month to market. He grew his own feed, and also shipped quantities of No. 1 Marquis wheat and other grains.”²

Marquis wheat was developed by Sir Charles Edward Saunders in Ottawa and it was made available to the public in 1909. It proved to be an early maturing, high quality crop that soon dominated the wheat trade in North America.

Harry Slinn was manager of the Craig Bog farm from January, 1914 until the estate was wrapped up in December of 1915. In his diary we get a day-to-day account of the activities at the farm including a list of times when the doctor was present. Land was prepared for the planting of trees and different crops were worked into the rotation. Production crops included wheat, oats and barley along with potatoes and turnips in quantities large enough to sell.

The mixed-farming enterprise required extensive work. The staff changed but there were usually at least three workers involved in the multitude of jobs. Harry’s diary entries stated that they: harrowed, disked, plowed, packed, drilled, grubbed, mowed, crushed, stacked, raked, coiled, cut, slaughtered, dehorned, tagged, clipped, fenced, hauled and formalined (*formalin is a solution of formaldehyde in water used as a disinfectant*).

Jerrold Armstrong in the history book, *Kinistino*, comments on the relationship between Shadd and Sanderson. Shadd was a good student as he took the information and then ran with it. Armstrong states, “He seeded his pastures to tame grasses. He planted trees, among them the first crabapples seen in this country. He not only adopted good farming methods, he was an experimenter and innovator.”³

While the rural house was being prepared, the



Kinistino cowboys

Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives

farm provided for many of the town house needs including ice, firewood, eggs and butter. Harry's diary notes, "I took 200 sheaves to Melfort for Dr. Shadd's cow."⁴

The farm was a very active social spot. Many friends came out to spend time with the Shadds. In addition there were many others there who worked on the farm. Listed by first name only these workers were very appreciative of the opportunity to get some income and experience allowing them to get their own homesteads established. In the diary period, 14 workers were hired which included two "hired girls". Harry was the last to leave. In his final entry on December 4, 1915 he wrote, "I hauled two loads of Wheat to Star City—."⁵

One of the main pursuits at the farm was the establishment of the Shorthorn cattle herd. Rolly Bateman, a cattle historian from Turner Valley in Alberta provided a very thorough catalogue of the doctor's accomplishments at the Craig Bog Farm. His letter is in the shaded area below.

As indicated, Shadd's efforts were placing Craig Bog Farm in the forefront of the cattle industry not just in Saskatchewan, but in Canada and North

America. There is also a reference to his trying to get a horse breeders' association started in the area, but Harry Slinn in his June 23, 1914 diary entry states, "I fixed up for meeting of Horse Breeders' Assn. Ass'n fell through."⁷

Since this happened in the year before his death, one wonders if his health was such that Shadd didn't have the drive necessary to see the attempt through. This was the only reference to a Shadd endeavor not succeeding.

Early in 1906, a year after arriving in Melfort, Dr. Shadd became involved in an effort to establish an Agricultural Society. Having experience from the one in the Carrot River Settlement, (one of the earliest established in the province) Shadd would be well aware of the benefits of such an activity. With financial assistance from the government, these societies pushed the dissemination of the most advanced information concerning the running of a farm through competitive events that focused on seed, stock, field management, and experimental practices. The fact that the events included judging meant there was more at stake with the naming of

The records tell us the herd was started in late 1911 with purchases from the good herd of Thomas Sanderson of Kinistino - the same Mr. Sanderson that was a political rival of Mr. Shadd's. The red five year old Flora 80477 sired by King of the West 51151 who was born in 1903 in the herd of James Hunter of Fordwich, Ontario and brought west by Mr. Sanderson in 1904. King was a royally bred bull got by the show winning Clansman 39236 who was bred by the brothers John and William Russell of Richmond Hill, of note is this bull's grandma was champion female at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, as did her grandma win the Champion award at the First Centennial Show held in 1876 in Philadelphia. Flora's dam Redgrave Star 50962 was one of Sanderson's foundation cows. She was bred by Johnston & Sons of Forwich, Ontario and carried the blood of the =imp=Blue Ribbon 17095, a Marr bred bull. Shadd also purchased her daughter Red Rosina 91822 calved in June of 1909 she was sired by the R.W. Walker bred bull Kinistino Boy 57896, who came west in his dam Forest Beauty 31080 and sired by Clansman 39236, the aforementioned Russell bull. Flora would produce the first Shadd registered Shorthorn, Janet, 104400 born February, 1912. Shadd decided his herd needed the best stock bull available and spent \$1,000 for Bandsman's Choice, a white September 1910 calf bred in the quality herd of Mitchell Bros. of Burlington, Ontario. Choice had won the calf division at the Guelph Winter Show. His sire was the imported = Bansman 73729 a son of the Highland Champion Newton Crystal. Choice's dam was Scottish Nell 62256 import-in-dam, born April of 1903 got by Prince William 32083 bred at Kinellar in Scotland. Nell's dam carried the best blood Scot-

land could produce, being sired by the Highland champion Best of Archers for Wm. Duthie of Callyniefame. More females were added to the herd, all from Mr. Sanderson, the red 1908 calved Duchess of Nebo 88299 by Kinistino Boy 57896 from a daughter of King of the West, making her a 3/4 sister to Red Rosina. Pretty Kitty 95447 also came in the same transaction, she too a King of the West; Kinistino Boy bred female. Shadd would further his herd with the purchase of three sisters, all sired by Star Chief 72486. He is bred by W.C. Edwards of Rockwood, Ontario. He was sired by the imported Chief Ruler and star's dam was also imported Goldie 46th, she from the famous Bruce herd, carrying the finest of Scottish Shorthorn. Rosalie 103057 was from the famed Kentucky bred Rose of Sharon cow family, her sister Julia Campbell 103656 traces to one of the earliest cow families in Canada, Miss Syme =369. The third sister Bonny Annie 103655 was a Lady Anne Rose of Sharon female. It is unfortunate that Mr. Shadd died so soon after establishing his quality herd. Each beast was line-bred to some of the finest cattle of the era.

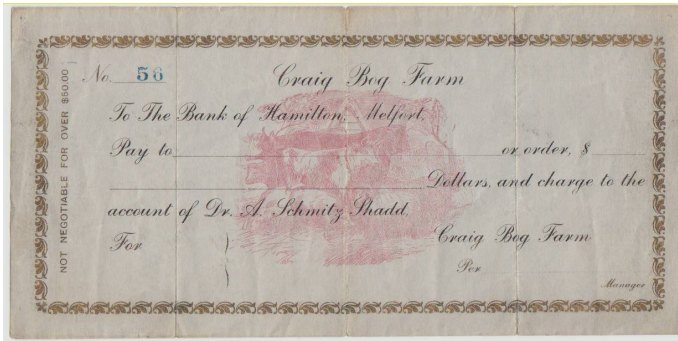
Of additional note - James H. Claggett of Melfort had purchased Flora 89477 from the Shadd Estate and she produced a bull named Sir Wilfred born June 15, 1916 sired by Bandsman's Choice and was sold to Ed Jones of Melfort.⁶

[Pedigree Research: Dominion Shorthorn Herd Books appropriate years 1900-1915. Bandsman pg. 587. Shorthorn Cattle in Canada by Hon. Duncan Marshall]

winners. On July 10, 1906, when the first gathering was called to get Melfort's Agricultural Society going, Shadd's colleague, Dr. J. G. Grant was appointed chairman to get an executive named. They concluded with a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, a secretary-treasurer and two auditors elected. The Honourable W. R. Motherwell was named the Honorary President. They next determined that there should be thirteen directors elected. Dr. Shadd was elected second.

Shadd became a force for putting things in place. At the second meeting of the executive Doc was involved with presenting (moving or seconding) eleven of the nineteen motions and one other motion made him a bondsman for the organization. They took the prize list from the Kinistino Agriculture Society and tweaked it to suit their needs in Melfort. The last motion was also handled by Dr. Shadd and that was to adjourn the meeting; something he did at many of his meetings.

One wonders if this was his way of not wasting any time when he had such a busy schedule.

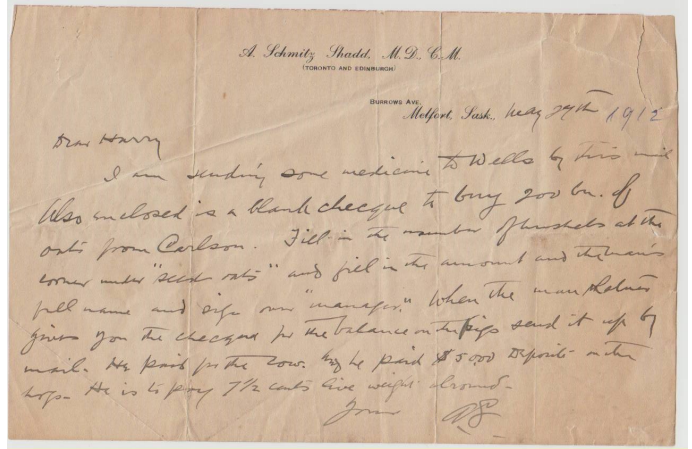


Courtesy Melfort and District Museum

Above: Cheque blank from Craig Bog Farm for manager's use. 1912. Manager Harry Slinn See Diary also.

Next 2 pages: Two postcards from Craig Bog farm that were sent to Mrs. Joe Murray while she was at the farm.

The farm house picture on the right is the house Dr. Shadd built at the Craig Bog Farm
 Courtesy Melfort and District Museum



Courtesy Melfort and District Museum

Text of above note

A. Schmitz Shadd, M.D. C.M.
 (Toronto and Edinburgh)
 Burrows Ave. Melfort, Sask.

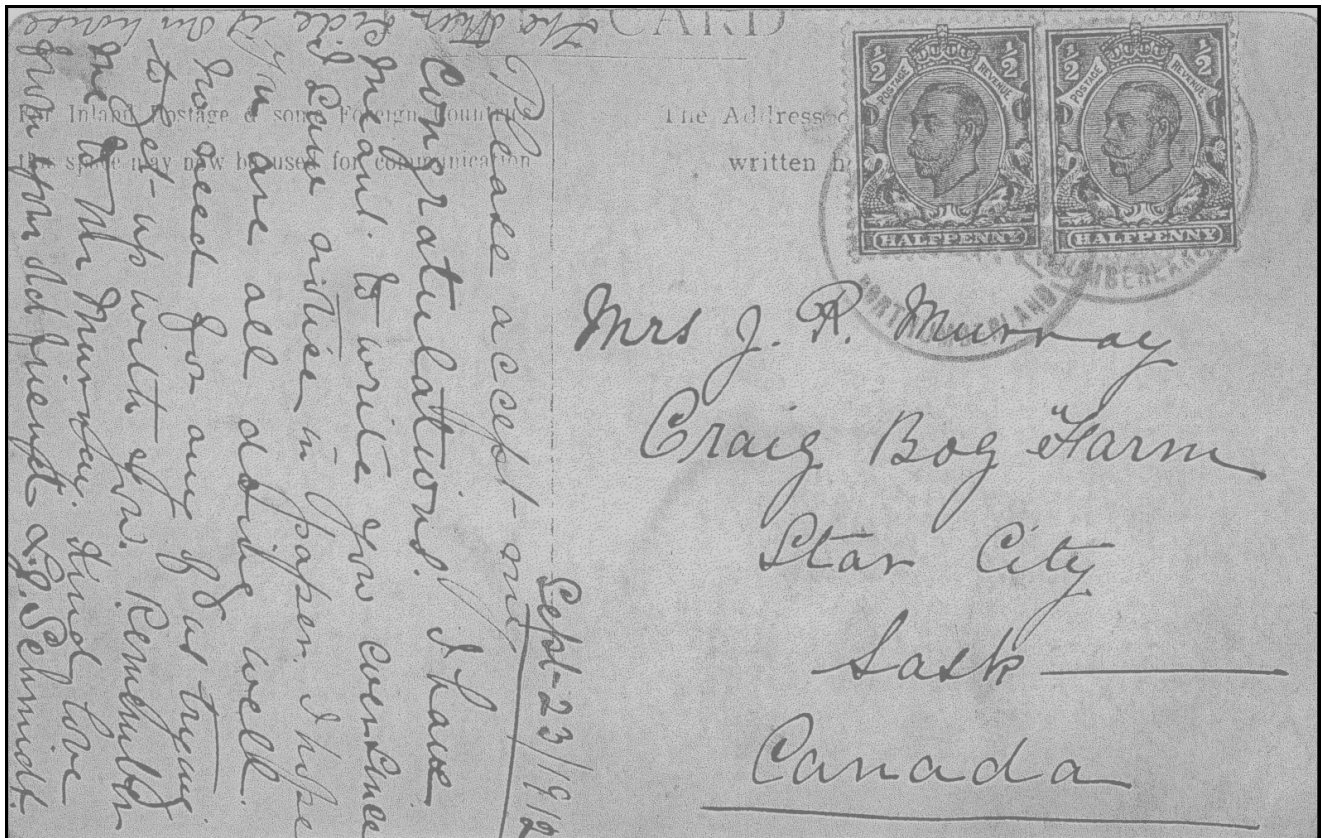
May 27, 1912

Dear Harry

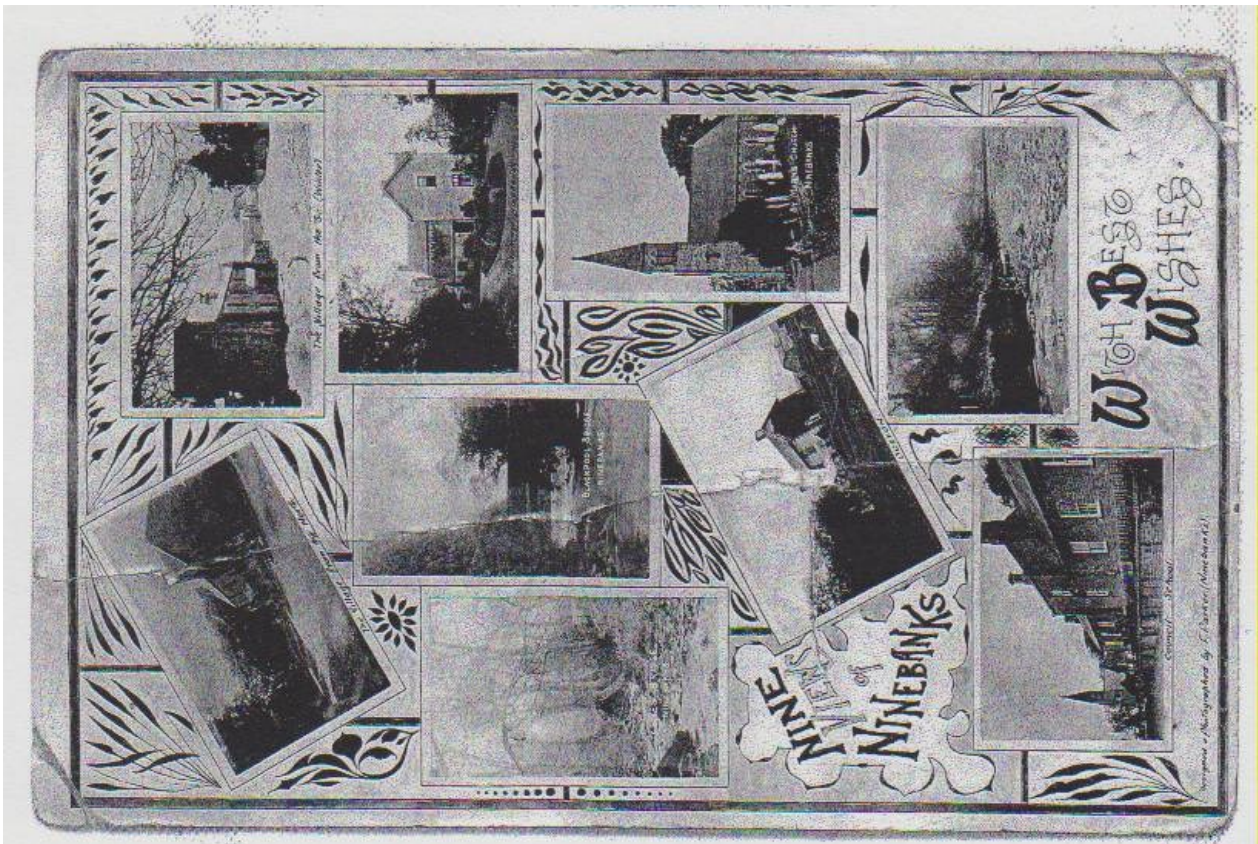
I am sending some medicine to Wells by this mail. Also enclosed is a blank cheque to buy 200 bu. of oats from Carlson. Fill in the number of bushels at the corner under "seed oats" and fill in the amount and the man's full name and sign over "manager". When the man Robson (?) gives you the cheque for the balance on the pigs send it up by mail. He paid for the cow. And he paid \$5000 Deposit on the hogs. He is to pay 7 1/2 cents live weight alround.

From AS





Courtesy Melfort & District Museum



Courtesy Melfort & District Museum

Even before Dr. Shadd actually started his farm in the Melfort area, he was very much involved with other matters pertaining to the development of farming. When he arrived in Melfort it was little more than a small hamlet. Ten years later it boasted a population of over 1000. Much of this growth can be traced back to the progression of mixed farming. The development was somewhat unique as much of it precluded the arrival of the railways. People like Dr. Shadd, however, could see the much greater possibilities if grain handling and rail transportation could be established. The region was a veritable paradise for the growing of crops and much more grain could be produced than was needed locally. Livestock such as cattle, pigs and sheep could also be produced in huge numbers. Rail lines became a significant need.

Delays in rail development in the region were a concern. Then, the C.P.R. was slow to expand with branch lines and hesitant to spend more money on facilities and rolling stock. Transportation fees were also a concern.

Another offshoot from this dissatisfaction was the notion that if the railways were not going to accommodate the farmers then maybe it was time for the farmers to get proactive and form their own railway. An adventurous entrepreneur from Minnesota, who became known as 'Farmer' Hines, was promoting the idea of a Farmers' Railroad Co. that should be built from Regina to Hudson Bay. The Hudson Bay "route" had been looked on favourably because the farmers in the area could see Melfort becoming a hub for this development. An organization was formed with an executive to look into this. Dr. Shadd was a participant and spoke at many of their meetings. As much as there was great anticipation for this endeavour, it did not come to fruition. About a half mile was built on Jack Campbell's land but it was eventually turned back into farmland. The action was not without some benefit as there were other railroads and branches built, probably sooner than later because of the threat of a farmers' railroad. The C. N. R. did get the Saskatchewan Midland Railway built from Melfort to St. Brieux by 1912 but the full line to Humboldt did not get completed until 1920.

The arrival of the railroads brought about another production topic. When farmers began growing

more than they personally could use they looked for markets. Storage and transportation issues followed and having their own grain elevator was looked on favourably. Dr. Shadd was again a role player as he was the Secretary Treasurer of the new Farmers' Elevator Company.

The Homestead Act had brought settlers into the area and provided a base from which to operate but it was the tenacity and leadership of forward thinking people that enhanced the lives of these newcomers.

Dr. Shadd must have noticed many similarities between the start of this farming centre and the structure provided by the Elgin Settlement back in Ontario.

Homestead Patent Requirements

Any male 18 years or older, or a widow who was the sole head of a family, could pay \$10.00 and apply for a homestead. Specific requirements had to be met to get a quarter section title transferred from the Crown. These included: break 30 acres of land, build a residence and make improvements of \$300.00 value, live 6 months of each of 3 years on the land and be a British subject by birth or naturalization. This ended with the title being registered at the Land Titles Office.

Given his personal viewpoints about farming and production, Dr. Shadd was very vocal in all the areas where he was involved.

This could end and be the biography of a very busy man. But there is still more to his story.

POLITICIAN



Dr. Shadd's personal experience gave him plenty of contact with politics. From his family in Ontario to his own life in Kinistino and Melfort, Shadd developed criteria for his own philosophy. He was a supporter of the Conservative Party (in contrast to the Moon editors and their support of the Liberals). When he tried running as a candidate in 1902 for the Northwest Territories Assembly he was defeated by F.W. Meyers. There appears to be no hard lines drawn between political friendships and social friendships as a very close friend of Shadd's, James Kearns, shares this information.

"In 1902 there was an election of members to the North West Territories Assembly.... Cumberland House was an important place then; there were several score votes in the settlement and both parties electioneered. At election time Tom McCloy, Billy Traill and I, with Alec Smith as our guide, went to Cumberland by canoe in the interest of Capt. Meyers." ¹

In running for office, Shadd expounded his beliefs. This was before the province of Saskatchewan was formed and he campaigned for decentralized government and more local control of developments on the prairies. His dissatisfaction showed in a December 3, 1909 editorial when he stated, "For many years this fertile Valley, consisting of over five million acres of arable land, has been left to look after itself as best it might by those who sit in the high places at Ottawa.... It is not right to induce people to settle up far out unless the government is prepared to let them have the ordinary courtesies of citizenship."

He had, as stated earlier, strong opinions about the railways. He was a proponent of the Hudson Bay Railway but was upset with the local progress. The Canadian Northern built through Melfort in 1904 was not well maintained. He had challenged the CNR for its bad service record and strongly urged the Board of Trade to push for competition - namely the CPR. But he also had misgivings about the preferred status that the CPR was getting. Definitely transportation

improvements were needed to get the grain and produce to a bigger market at a fair cost to the producer.

Shadd was not just a man with ideas; he backed up his ideas with commitment and involvement. In 1906 he was on the Board of Trade and he focused on some of the needs of Melfort. The town experienced a good growth during his time here and Shadd did much to move the town forward in terms of infrastructure. His desire to see an agricultural society resulted in his being nominated to the committee that would push for such an organization. In 1909 he introduced the idea of a telephone system for the town and a motion was passed to look into it. He would later provide space for the switchboard in his Central Drug Store. As an educator he promoted a school curriculum that would meet the needs of the many different backgrounds of the immigrants.

In 1912 while on the town council, Shadd pushed for more change. Sewer and water lines were installed under his guidance.

The company that is shown in the photo below had just finished doing the same work in Yorkton. Shadd was chair of the Waterworks and Sewage Committee. An interesting development occurred during his tenure here as he had a scrap with one of his committee members, Ira Monsees.

Dr. Shadd is Black and Ira Monsees is the owner of the Ozark Hotel, so named as he comes from the Ozark Mountains in Missouri. G. B. Jameson is the mayor.



Photo courtesy of Saskatchewan Archives

The altercation is recorded in the council minutes and the recorder, apparently in some haste, has inserted notes between lines.

“The Waterworks and Sewage Committee through Chairman Shadd reported that he had written E. Coxworth - that the letter had been handed over to the Secretary Treasurer was now before the Council. He stated as regards the advertising in a newspaper that he considered that there was ample time to do this. That there had been no waste time in this respect - & he advised the engaging of a man if the bylaw re: water passed. He objected to interference _____ (?) with - by him from councillor Monsees. (Inserted) - That the council had waited 3 years for water and there was no water yet.) He objected to Councillor Monsees writing independent of the committee without the Chairman’s knowledge and consent. He stated that one Thurber was prepared to enter into an arrangement with the town for digging of the well.

Councillor Wild considered Thurber an irresponsible party for the purpose.

Councillor Monsees replied to Councillor Shadd. He claimed that he had a right as a citizen of the town to write in regard to the needs of the town if he wished & that he will do so & that he thought the chairman slow in the matter.

Chairman Shadd claimed that it was a matter [inserted] That he refused to write letters as Chairman if other members were also going to do it.) of gentlemanly conduct. That if Councillor Monsees wished not to act gentlemanly & write as he had [inserted] & could be the commissioner of the town also. But) done, he could do so. That he Chairman Shadd would resign if he was going to be interfered with - as he would not play second fiddle to councillor Monsees. He wished to be left alone like the other Chairmen.

Mr. Coxworth’s letter was discussed.”²

There is no indication as to how this was resolved unless you read between the lines of the next order of business. Remember that Ira Monsees is a hotel owner.

“Moved by Councillor Clift; seconded by Councillor Shadd: that hotels and restaurants be charged two dollars per month - for cleaning closets and removing slops.”³

The motion was duly put and was carried. Those voting for the motion were Councillors Greenwood, Clift, Shadd and Wild. Councillor Monsees refrained from voting.

Although there appears to be some animosity here the two men through their many associations in other organizations developed a mutual respect and admiration for each other (probably due to the desire to see the town advance and prosper). Monsees would later get Dr. Shadd his first automobile and over the following years keep it running.

In 1912 electricity was established in Melfort and the doctor had a hand in that as well. He was efficient at multi-tasking. He was very much a businessman, interested in politics, had agricultural interests and yet he was still concerned with the well-being of his friends and neighbours not only medically but socially as well. He was also very active in the Independent Order of Foresters - a fraternal benefit society which provided assistance to average families and communities in need. Insurance benefits eventually were available to women and later to children of deceased members. This started in Canada in 1875 when insurance was more an item for the rich.

After a close race in his first attempt at election, Shadd tried again as a Provincial Rights candidate in the 1905 provincial election. His appeal to the district is copied below.⁴

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT OF KINISTINO

Gentlemen, ---We have a very large district, and although I have held meetings in nearly every portion of it, still many of you may possibly not have met me or been made acquainted with my views upon the present issues. I would therefore in the first place say, I am fully convinced that in our purely local affairs it is better that we should consider the province of Saskatchewan first in the present juncture, and the Dominion as a whole second. At the General Elections for Ottawa I would certainly say, consider the Dominion first and our local interests secondary. In short, I think that as a province we will get even justice when the Premier of Saskatchewan has not to think whether he will injure his party at Ottawa or not, by standing out for our full rights in questions between the local and Dominion government. I think that Mr. Haultain took that stand, knowing at the time that he would be deprived of his position as our Premier by doing so. We have not so very many men in public life who deliberately do this, and when we find them I believe we as electors should uphold their hands.

I believe also the property of railways and corporations and great land companies should be placed upon the same general footing as regards paying taxes as our farm

property; and as the Dominion government failed to provide for this in framing the Autonomy Bill, in so far as the C.P.R. tax exemption is concerned, therefore the Dominion government should increase our subsidy by the exact amount we lose by not being able to tax this property. This is only just, as we know the C.P.R. was built for Canada as a whole and not for us in particular.

We should also undertake in our own behalf the building of a line of railway to Hudson Bay at once. By the word we I mean the Western Provinces. I don't think the Ottawa government will be in any haste to do this work, and I don't think we can wait.

I think again that if we are to become as important a province as, say, any of the eastern group of provinces, we should be handed over the control---and at once---of our public lands and forests, as well as any minerals we may have. Without these resources we will be forever tied down to the Federal government grant or to direct taxation. Besides, without lands our borrowing power will be very little and our rate of interest correspondingly higher.

Regarding our schools, I believe the matter of their control should have been left in our own hands. Personally I am convinced that in countries like this where men of every race and creed are coming in and making their homes, a system of national schools for all the little children alike would be the best way of forming good Canadian citizens of them all. And as we all well know, one school is certainly more apt to be efficiently conducted where settlements are sparse than are two.

Apart from this, if I am returned I am prepared to give Mr. Haultain a full measure of support along all lines of general progress. And I am sure we are all agreed, both friends and opponents of his, that Mr. Haultain has in the past done his utmost to give our vast North West Territories efficient and progressive management. As we have that experience to go by, I am convinced that the Province of Saskatchewan can do no better than return Mr. Haultain as her first elected Premier.

If you, gentlemen, think with me in these matters, I ask your support at the polls.

Believe me, your obedient servant,

A. SCHMITZ SHADD.

Melfort, Nov. 28th.

This time he lost to his close friend Thomas Sanderson from Kinistino by some 50 votes. This is much more serious when we realize that the ballot boxes coming from Fort a la Corne were upset into the river on their way back to the election centre. Surprisingly, the boxes were recovered but not the ballots they contained. Dr. Shadd spent considerable time at the Fort and would have been very popular there as he attended many injuries at the surrounding wood mills.

Another story from the election involves some furtive behaviour on the part of the overseers. The following is an article from the Aug 8, 1940 *Prince Albert Informer* under "the Old Days" heading

written by Alex Shipman.

"In the early years of the territory and the province, election procedures were somewhat different from what they are now. Together with his ballot paper the voter was handed a red pencil and a blue pencil with which to mark his X. If he voted Liberal he marked his cross with the red pencil, if Conservative with the blue. Then, as now, the ballot was folded and put into the sealed metal ballot box, and no-one, it would seem, could know how the voter voted.

Wily deputy returning officers and scrutineers had a way of finding out, however. The red and blue pencils were kept sharpened to an exact point. After the voter had made his mark his pencils were retrieved and examined, and it was not difficult to determine which one had been used. Thus a pretty accurate tally could be kept as to how the candidates were faring and the information might be put to use. In one of the first elections to the legislative assembly it was discovered that many more of the Cumberland voters were voting Tory than were voting Grit. When the ballot boxes were being transported across the River an accident occurred: somehow, the boxes fell overboard and sank. The Liberal was elected; the Conservative lost - by a narrow margin." ⁵

To note the significance of this, the first black politician to eventually be elected to provincial office was Leonard Braithwaite in Ontario in 1963. (58 years later) Lincoln Alexander became a Member of Parliament in Ontario in 1968. He went on to become the Governor General of Ontario in 1985.

Beyond provincial politics Shadd worked in smaller areas such as the Melfort School Board, the Lady Minto Hospital Board, the Board of Trade and the Melfort Town Council. His attendance record was exceptional for such a busy man and the minutes of these boards reflect that he initiated many of the motions presented or he spoke in support of them. With his involvement on the hospital board he was forced to make a choice and the "doctor" won out over the "politician". He was more concerned with the circumstances and health of his patients than he was with the running of the facility.

There is still the social side of his life to cover with his family, friends and fellow pioneers. He enjoyed a very active existence here as well.

SOCIAL/ CULTURAL



Dr. Shadd was a jovial man with a good laugh. More than one reference to him talks about his laughter being “good medicine”. In a conversation with Craig Woods (who now owns the farm land that Shadd owned south of Kinistino) he mentioned that the attitude of the local people was that they were always glad to see Alfred Shadd and James Kearns arrive at a party because then it would liven up. Shadd was also involved in his community at this early stage. There is a dance card in the Kinistino Museum that is for the December 23, 1903 Foresters’ Annual Ball listing Shadd and Kearns along with W.H. Meyers and Jas Lowry as the organizing committee. This reputation seems to have stayed with him throughout his time on the prairies. In the local paper he was a focal point as his activities were often recorded. This changed however when he started his own paper.

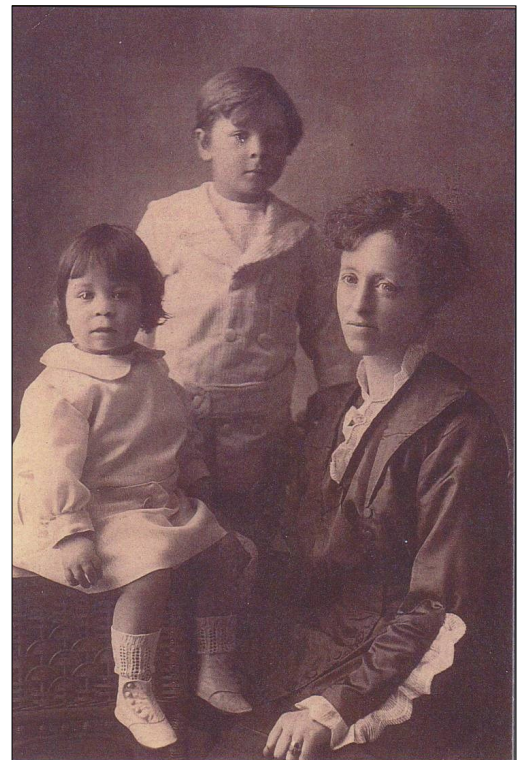
An eloquent speaker, he was often the one giving the toast, the speech or the report that was part of the occasion. At the farewell evening for Miss Georgie Heales, superintendent of the Lady Minto Hospital “Dr. Shadd spoke on behalf of the medical staff eulogizing both the hospital and Miss Heales.”¹ This ability to speak well in public no doubt held him in good stead. Active in his church (Anglican), the Orange and Masonic Lodges and so many organizations in town, he no doubt had occasion to rub shoulders with a very broad cross-section of the community. The fact that he was made the victim of witty jibes also showed his acceptance by those around him. After the headline “Curlers Enjoy Most Tasty Menu” the newspaper article went on to explain the evenings entertainment at the Ozark which was sponsored by the Honorary President, G. B. Johnson. This was a

complimentary banquet for the curlers. The tone of the evening may best be shown in the quote, “Reginald Beatty sat on a high chair explaining between times to Dr. Shadd how the game would cure his lumbago, and to Pres. Rutledge of the Board of Trade how Curling would yet bring Home Rule to Ireland.”²

Getting a doctor in a time of crises meant sending someone to town to find one then bring him out to the patient. It was Dr. Shadd who broached the subject of a telephone system at a Board of Trade meeting on October 1, 1907 as indicated earlier. Soon after, it became a reality in town followed quickly by the rural areas surrounding the town. Not only was this an advantage for calling the doctor for emergencies, it also added to the social discourse of the whole community.

Wife
Jeannette
Son
Garrison
Daughter
Lavina

Photo
courtesy
of the
Melfort and
District
Museum



In 1906 Dr. Shadd married Jeannette Simpson, who was a white woman who came to Canada from Scotland. In April, 1910 they had a son, Garrison and in June, 1912 their daughter Lavina was born. The family home was situated on the 200 block of McLeod Ave. with Reginald Beatty a next door neighbour and then the Anglican Church.



Photo courtesy of the Melfort and District Museum

In the above photo the Shadd house is on the left; Beatty's house is on the right. The church was located next to Beatty's on the corner of the block. See below.



Photo courtesy of the Melfort and District Museum

When plans were being made to build the new church, Dr. Shadd was on the committee. He and three others decided that the church needed a bell. When the new building was officially opened in September of 1906, it sported a 1200 pound bell. Dr. Shadd served as a warden for two years and was a vestry member for four years.

He also served as a fireman as the church notes indicated that one evening while returning home he noticed flames in the church and quickly doused the fire.³

The house was a hive of activity especially when VIP guests were entertained there. Frederick Haultain, the Northwest Territories premier visited. Newspaper items record the social occasions. "Mrs Shadd will receive Thursday afternoon."⁴ and "Mrs. Dr. Shadd will not receive on the first Thursday but on the second Thursday this month."⁵ The Shadds were also hosts to a young people's group that met at their home. Other activities included judging: Dr. Shadd was on the sports committee for races at an Orange Lodge activity and both he and his wife went back to Kinistino to do some judging at the Agricultural Society's event. In September of 1910 the Saskatchewan Red Cross appointed Mrs. Shadd to its Executive Council.

The concern for his family may be shown in Dr. Shadd's arrangement for insurance. Perhaps this was precipitated by his work with the Foresters. The 1911 Canada census records show that he had an insurance package worth \$10,000 that cost him \$432.00 per year - a significant sum in those days.

The ability of the doctor to get around, both for business and social reasons, took a big step when he acquired a 1906 REO. When the Melfort streets recovered from water and sewer line work there were complaints that drivers were using excessive speeds in town and that everyone should adhere to the 10 mph speed limit. Although not mentioned by name, Dr. Shadd responded to these accusations by saying that his car had saved more lives than it had hurt. Aside from work the car was often used to tour guests about. Harry Slinn, in his diary, mentions many visits to the Craig Bog Farm by guests enjoying a ride in the new car. The editor of the *Moon* (before Shadd started the *Journal*) describes trips they took just checking the crops in the area it is apparent that the doctor enjoyed his time with others even as brief as it must have been.



Dr. Shadd's House

Photo Melfort & District Museum

The 1906 RIO (shown below in a refurbished form) must have been impressive as he would rush from up to a sick person's home for another house call.

Ira Monsees had acquired the auto for Shadd and spent a great deal of time keeping it roadworthy as Dr. Shadd didn't always use the limited roads that were available. More than one fence needed mending after he made a fast trip to a patient.



The impact he made is further portrayed in this family history story written by Peter Whyte in his community history book, *Reunion 1995: Brooksby, Edenbridge, Irvington, Willow Valley*, "I'll never forget the first car I ever saw. My brother John and I were walking home from Campbellville School when we heard such a noise on the other side of the bush. We ran and hid in the trees. Dr. Shadd passed in his car! This was both the first car and the first black man we had ever seen." ⁶

As involved as Doc was around town, we have no photos of him from any of his activities! But he did make an impact as the following tributes illustrate

Photo online <http://www.early American automobiles.com/1906.htm>

TRIBUTES



Dr Shadd was a special man. Well-received in his own time, he became a pillar in the pioneer district that earned him accolades long after he was gone.

Following his death, the *Moon* carried this obituary. “...for he was universally liked by all who knew him, especially those who received medical treatment from him, it being as good as medicine to hear his hearty laughter when he was cheering up a patient. No matter how cold the night: he always answered the summons for his assistance, and many a night with the thermometer around zero and below, he has come in from a long drive to find another call awaiting him and he was gone without his rest and visited the patient, when by himself, had been suffering extreme pain that would make other men take to their beds. Oldtimers of the district feel that they have lost a friend that will be hard to replace.”¹

In his lifetime in Melfort Dr. Shadd was a very active participant in the civic affairs of the town. In his many involvements with the business and social fabric he made a major contribution.

In recognition of his efforts in the public arena, he was presented with the number one post office box in the newly built building seen below which was completed in 1913. [Photo Credit, Saskatchewan Archives Board]



The digging machines that are obvious in the foreground are actually putting in the water and sewer lines. Dr. Shadd was responsible for this project when he was on town council.

A second form of tribute acknowledging his popularity occurred early in his career on the prairies. This involved the naming of babies after him. In many of the district history books there is often an addition to the listing of the children that were born to the family. This involved including Doc Shadd’s name as the attending physician and how well liked he was. In addition, on more than one occasion, the baby was given the name “Shadd” as a tribute.

Fulton Shadd Arthur “In August, (1901) the baby arrived, assisted by Dr. Shadd. The doctor was held in such high esteem by the young couple that they named their first-born son Fulton Shadd Arthur.”²

William Shadd Audette Moise and Christina Audette, of the Ethelton district, named their son William Shadd Audette after Dr. Shadd delivered him July 19, 1903. Then, eighty years later, Brent and Colleen Prosser named their son Shadd Prosser. His grandmother (Janet Edith Prosser) was William’s sister ... and the name continues.³

Dr. Shadd’s untimely death occurred on March 9, 1915 when he could not recover from appendicitis. When the doctor took ill, he was taken to a Winnipeg hospital for treatment.

This is somewhat strange as there were doctors closer that could have treated him. Perhaps he knew

of the seriousness and wanted the best treatment he could get.

The news spread quickly and his funeral was a huge affair. Although the service was held at the Anglican Church a second location was set up at the town hall to accommodate the hundreds who were unable to gain access to the church. The Right Reverend J. A. Newman, Bishop of Saskatchewan, was in attendance as well as three of the town's ministers. Rev. Fraser spoke this tribute. "This is a gathering to gladden the heart as well as sadden it, for the passing of our brother has brought together people of many nations and religious beliefs to do homage to his memory in the spirit of the brotherhood transcending even the price of race. Human sympathy was sweet, and the heart glowed anew to behold this tribute of respect and affection for the dear, dead doctor, who in his lifetime ruled in all our hearts, and in his death still dominated the hour. Which here revealed to us the one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin. Against many disadvantages he had fought the good fight and conquered. Many flowers bedecked his coffin in death, and it was good to know that many sweet flowers of affection had been placed in his hand during life. For the hard road, the long road and the cold road, he had ever the will. He loved his profession but he loved humanity more, and the cry of pain, or the cry of weakness never appealed in vain. The mind's the standard of the man and Dr. Shadd had been an example and an inspiration to all. He saved others, himself he could not save. But the Good Physician had seen to that, which was our consolation and assurance that our brother was not lost but gone before. Our heart's most tender sympathy went out to the widow and little children. He wished he had been spared to help them a little further along the road of life. But God's finger touched him and he slept in the strength of his days and the midst of his usefulness, and his dear ones were with us to mourn a kind husband and a loving father, and in all that our hearts were with them. The good doctor had gone out into the sunrise, we went now to

the grave to lay to rest the poor human clay in which his brave spirit had tabernacle for a time. But in the great gathering which thronged our town we beheld humanity's tribute to the triumph of mind, the supremacy of character and the fact that 'A Man's a man for a' that.' ”⁴

At the conclusion of the service a funeral procession was formed, led by the Citizen's Band playing "Dead March in Saul." It was followed by nearly seventy-five automobiles and horse drawn vehicles and hundreds of pedestrians. One observer remarked that when the coffin arrived at the cemetery, there were still vehicles and carriages a mile back at the end of the procession that had not started to move yet.

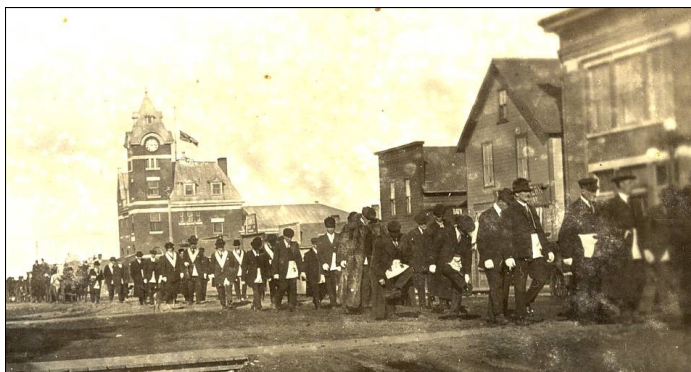
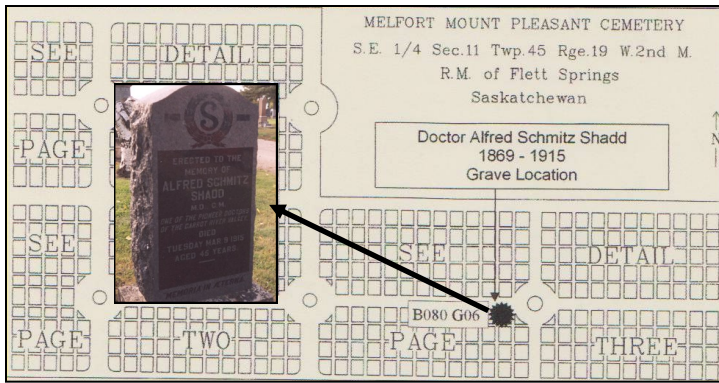


Photo courtesy Melfort & District Museum

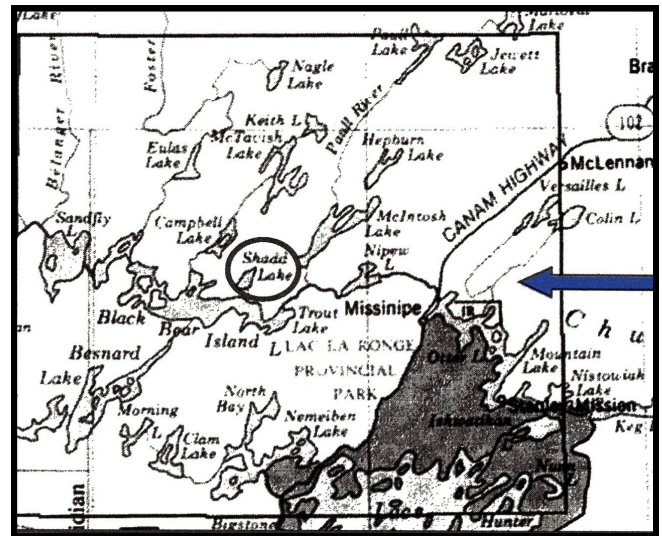
Five years after Dr. Shadd's death a memorial committee was formed to deal with the issue of no prominent headstone marking the grave.

In 1916 Mrs. Shadd married D. M. Bullock and moved to Winnipeg.

The committee indicated that the contributions for the memorial would not be solicited and that no donor would pay more than \$1.00. [An article in the paper listing contributions showed however that some of the contributions were double the intended amount.] As it turned out, the doctor was well remembered and the committee had no problem gathering the funds required. As the *Journal* reported, "In every part of the Carrot River there are people who would esteem it a privilege to give their portion to this memorial." The stone marks the resting place of the popular pioneer in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



A northern Saskatchewan lake now bears the name “Shadd Lake.” In 1951, the promoters nominating Dr. Shadd used Grant MacEwan’s reference in *The Sodbusters*, “He was ‘God’s right hand man’ and it gives one a lot of satisfaction to tell about him.” The lake is situated in the Lac La Ronge area and it has the co-ordinates: Latitude 55° 41’ and Longitude 105° 27’.



When the city purchased the old Division III school and turned it into the Northeast Leisure Center they had one room designated as the “Heritage Room.” One wall was set apart for the mayor’s gallery which contained a framed picture of the mayors of Melfort with one exception.



Photo courtesy of the Melfort and District Museum

The inscription reads: Erected to the memory of Alfred Schmitz Shadd M.D., C. M. One of the pioneer doctors of the Carrot River Valley. Died Tuesday, Mar. 9, 1915 aged 45 years. Memoria in Aeterna

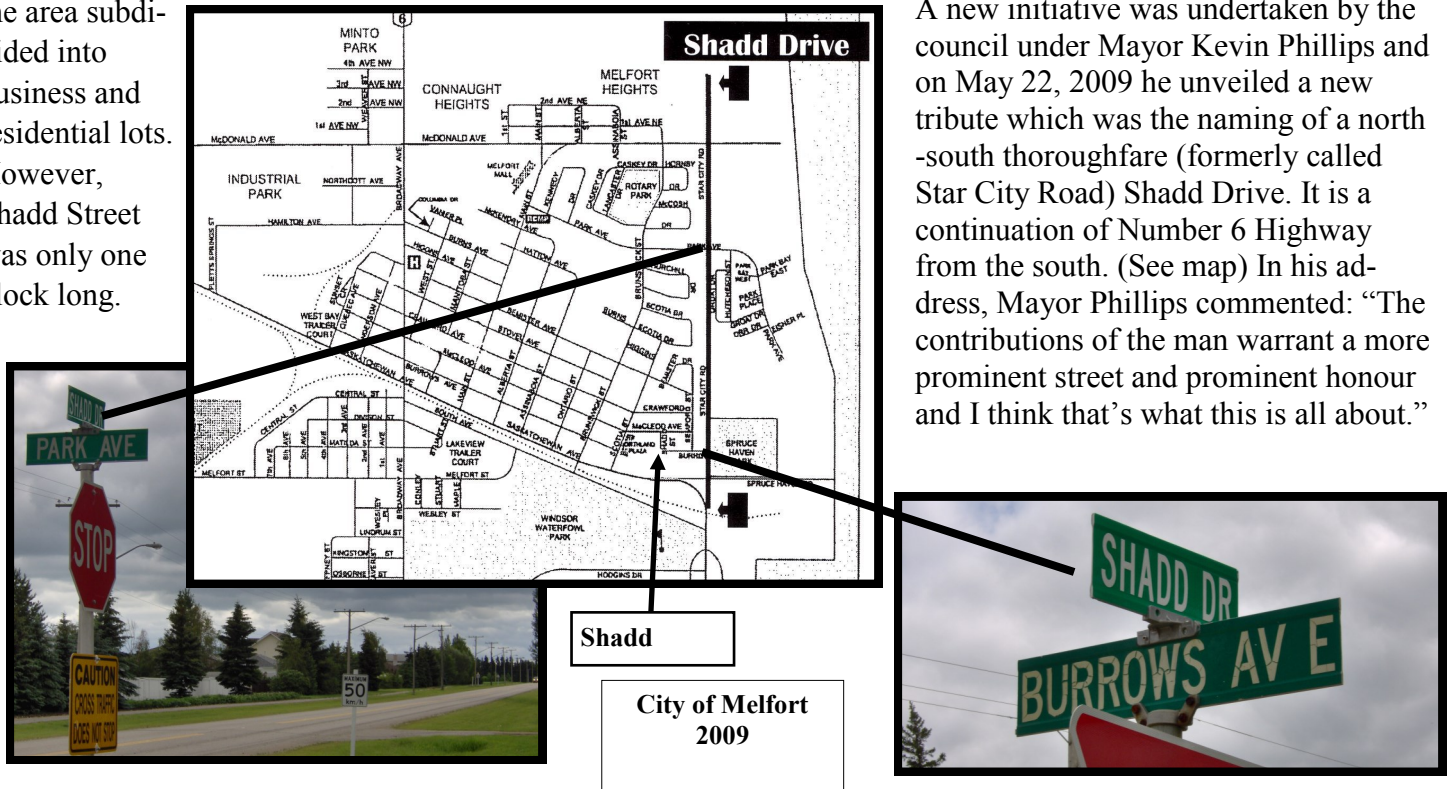
Gravestone photos courtesy Garry Forsyth



Included at the beginning end was a painted portrait of Dr. Shadd done by local artist Phyllis Dickie. The first few mayors were all peers from the early days of Melfort. Dr. Shadd served on council but he was never the mayor.

One of the later recognitions came when the City of Melfort decided to name a street after the doctor when the drive-in was torn down and the area subdivided into business and residential lots. However, Shadd Street was only one block long.

There were many who believed that the recognition should be more substantial. A new initiative was undertaken by the council under Mayor Kevin Phillips and on May 22, 2009 he unveiled a new tribute which was the naming of a north-south thoroughfare (formerly called Star City Road) Shadd Drive. It is a continuation of Number 6 Highway from the south. (See map) In his address, Mayor Phillips commented: "The contributions of the man warrant a more prominent street and prominent honour and I think that's what this is all about."



When the city was working on its centennial celebrations, a committee was set up to look into the placing of a cairn in the front of the Melfort Union Hospital, the same hospital that Shadd had been instrumental in setting up. The cairn was built and the plaque on the front reads:

Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd 1870-1915

*Visionary-Doctor-Teacher-
Pioneer-Farmer
Journalist-Entrepreneur-
Politician*

*His dedication to the residents
of the Carrot River Valley
Is remembered with warmth
and thanks*

The plaque summarizes some of the doctor's life story and it ends with the quote:

*"No Pioneer ever served his
fellows in the agricultural
frontier with more devo-
tion.*

Memoria in Aeterna."

In the image on the left the cairn is shown in relation to the hospital. In the photo below the three speakers at the 2005 dedication were Mr. John Wegener, CEO of the Kelsey Trail Health Region; Mr. Norman Edwards, representing the Melfort Agricultural Society; and Ken Sorenson, publisher of the *The Melfort Journal*. These gentlemen spoke on behalf of the organizations Dr. Shadd contributed to greatly in the pioneer past of the city. Also present were: Melfort and District Museum officials Ingvar Berggren and Shannon Cunningham; MLA Rod Gantefoer; and Mayor Darrell Collins.



Photos courtesy of the Melfort and District Museum

2005 Centennial Tribute to Dr. Shadd.

Dr. Shadd was nominated for a Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award by the Saskatchewan African-Canadian Heritage Museum in Regina. Mayor Darrell Collins of Melfort accepted the award made September 24, 2005 at the Centennial Banquet (Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, Regina). The award consisted of a certificate and a medal with “Saskatchewan Leadership Award” inscribed on it. The presentation was made by Doreen Hamilton, MLA, Regina Wascana Plains.



Photo courtesy Garry Forsyth

The certificate reads:

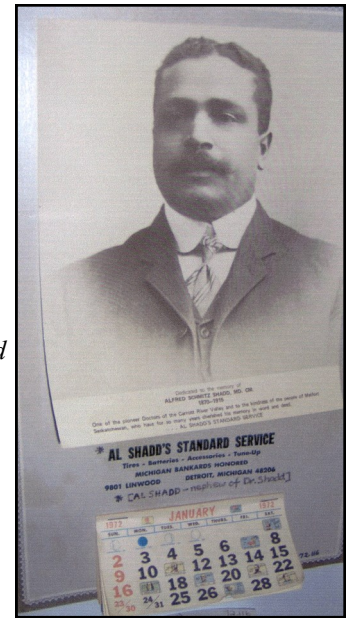
***Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award
In Recognition Of
Alfred Schmitz Shadd
FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO OUR
PROVINCE***

It is signed by Lorne Calvert (Premier) and G. Hagel (Centennial Committee Chair)

In addition, there are two artefacts that reflect the contact made by people in the Melfort area with Dr. Shadd’s relatives. The first is a calendar which is in the Star City Museum. It is accompanied by a letter to Mrs. Clarence Rolles who was the museum contact.

The inscription at the bottom reads: *Dedicated to the memory of ALFRED SCHMITZ SHADD MD, CM 1870-1915. One of the pioneer Doctors of the Carrot River Valley and to the kindness of the people of Melfort, Sask., who have for so many years cherished his memory in word and deed.*

AL SHADD’S STANDARD SERVICE.[DETROIT] 1972



The accompanying letter reads as follows:

“Dear Madam. It is with much pleasure hearing from you. My family has deeply appreciated the sharing of memories of Dr. Shadd. When we were fortunate to visit Melfort two years ago I shall never forget that privilege and I’m sure Star City has many more memories they could share with us. I was born three years after my uncle passed and talking with the people of Melfort made me feel like I too had known him. I’m mailing pictures and calendars to try and explain reasons for them, for I was trying in some small way to say Thanks to all the dear people that Doctor Shadd had the privilege to serve.” “Very Best Regards to all. Sincerely, Alfred Shadd”

The second is a plaque located in the Kinistino Museum.



Photos by Garry Forsyth

The inscription reads:

*In Memory of
Our Doctor
Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd
The First Colored Doctor
Who Served
In Kinistino & Melfort
1870-1915
PRESENTED BY
DR. SHADD’S FAMILY IN
ONTARIO*

Unfortunately there are no further details nor dates

In the literature available there are many verbal tributes to the doctor. The added reflections, included here, come from his peers and family.

In the 1950s, Grant MacEwan, who pioneered near Melfort and went on to become an entrepreneur, writer and politician, wrote the book *Fifty Mighty Men* and one of the men referred to was Dr. Shadd. This is his tribute: “No drive was too long; no night too dark; no trail too rough to deter the doctor when the call for assistance came.... Rich or poor, he made no distinction and nobly he performed his duty.” ...“That was old Doc Shadd.”⁵

The two newspapers in their final coverage supported his popular role in the community. His funeral attested to this. “It was easily the largest gathering of this nature that has been held in the Carrot River Valley, and would have been considerably larger had the roads been in condition for travelling.”⁶

Following the funeral and before returning home Dr. Shadd’s brother submitted this last word to the *Journal*.

“Melfort, March 17, 1915

To the editor of the Melfort Journal.

Dear Sir,

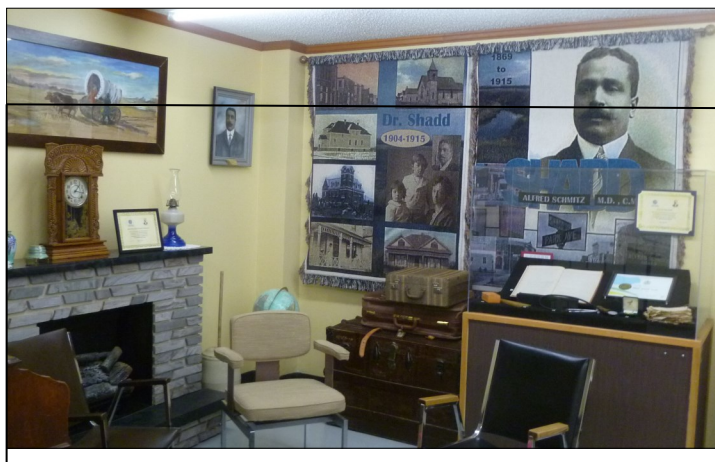
Will you kindly allow me to express, through your worthy journal, in behalf of Dr. Shadd’s wife and family, and also of myself and family in my humble way, our fullest appreciation of the deepest sympathy, expressed by the country generally and by his many personal friends. This certainly is the highest tribute and the best means humanity has of paying tribute to their passing heroes, and we, as member of his family, cannot help, in this our hour of sorrow feeling honored at being relatives of a person who by his cheery disposition and devotion to duty would bring forth such voluntary expressions of this magnitude and character. Politically allow me to say that sinceon federatio [sic], whether by accident or otherwise. Shadd’s family name has been without exception associated with conservatism and we feel that especially in this hour of the Empire’s need, we have

lost a valiant leader and an able and worthy exponent of the best of English principles.

Signed by his affectionate brother W. G. Shadd”

Over the thirteen years that Dr. Shadd’s history has been researched, curator, Gailmarie Anderson and the Melfort & Distict Museum staff have built a visual and virtual collection to illustrate the efforts of the doctor. In the Power House where the museum has it’s office there is a corner dedicated to him which has two large cloth tapestries that hi-lite some of his story. The display case in front contains some of the artefacts turned in such as the Craig Bog Farm Diary and a collection of the first prescriptions Dr. Shadd wrote in Melfort. The museum has been instrumental in keeping the doctor in the public eye and this probably was a big reason for the “Shadd Drive” recognition.

The results of the research project in printed form are also available here in the office. This contains a collection of substantiated information along with some of the anecdotes that have been handed down.



Photos courtesy Melfort & District Museum

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Dr. Shadd, the museum dedicated a newly constructed building on the grounds of the Pioneer Village to the doctor. This building will feature the medical artefacts in the museum’s collection. [See picture next page.]

The dedication was supported by the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM) out of



Photo Melfort & District Museum

Regina. Reggie Newkirk spoke on their behalf along with Mayor Rick Laing, MLA Kevin Phillips and researcher Garry Forsyth. SACHM also provided drummers who added music entertainment.

In February of 2018 the museum unveiled their “Melfort Historical Portrait Gallery” in the Power House which has pictures and short biographies of twenty prominent and influential people who were instrumental in the development of Melfort. Dr. Shadd has his place in the display. [See picture below]

At this same time, SACHM released a new book which was based on the life and times of the Shadd family featuring Dr. Shadd and his son, Garrison. It is entitled *Li'l Shadd: A Story of Ujima*. It is a children’s book and was presented as a legacy project in honour of Saskatchewan’s shared history and multicultural heritage. Written by Miriam Körner and Alix Lwanga; illustrated by Miriam Körner, it focuses on a life lesson learned by young Garrison. When his dad has to go attend a patient, the young boy learns that helping others when they are in need can be more important than one’s own birthday party.

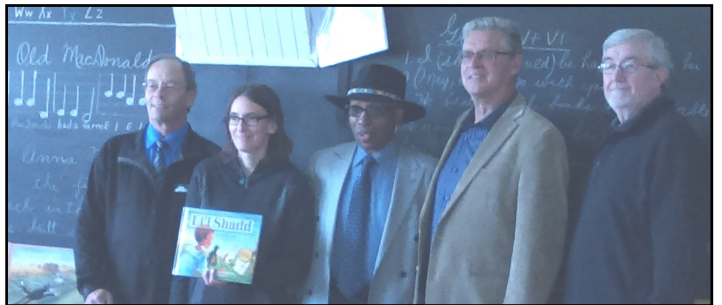


Photo credit, Gail Forsyth

Dedication participants. L to R: Mayor Rick Laing, Miriam Körner, Reggie Newkirk, MLA Kevin Phillips and Garry Forsyth.

In May of 2018 the Saskatchewan Legislature announced that the Ministry of Culture had



Photo courtesy Melfort & District Museum

purchased enough copies of the book to distribute it to all schools in the province.

This long list of tributes does indeed reflect the deep respect people had for this pioneer doctor.

The plaque below (situated in the doctors' office) reads:

Visionary-Doctor-Pioneer-Teacher

Farmer-Journalist-Entrepreneur- Politician

He is remembered with warmth and thanks

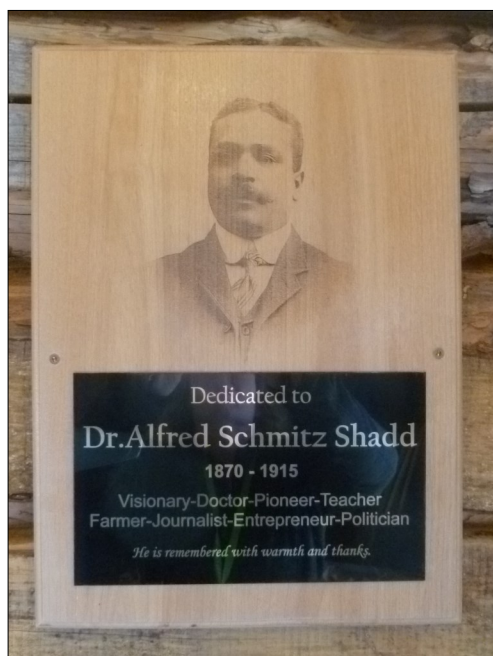
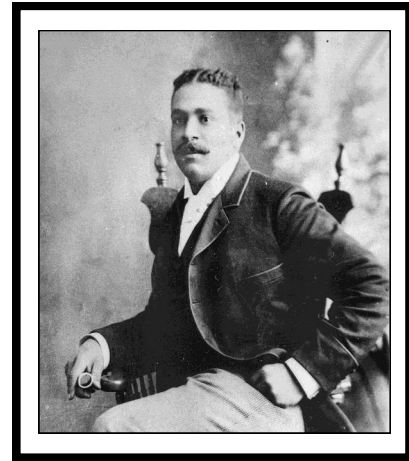


Photo courtesy Garry Forsyth

How can one explain this anomaly of a single black man surviving this early prairie experience? One has to look at the background and the character of this progressive, self-confident man. By his actions he made himself endeared and indispensable, attaining a level of success that would have pleased his Aunt Mary.

I'm reminded of the Robert Service poem called "The Ballad of The Ice-worm Cocktail" and the use in it of the term "sourdough". In this Yukon setting, you earned the name sourdough if you had the character to stay the whole year round and, in particular, survive the rigors of winter. It took a special kind of person. In Docs case, I think he showed his mettle by proving up in the eyes of his peers. [The term "proving up" is also used in the Homestead Act for those who qualified to get their land grant.] "Old" Doc Shadd was revered as a person for a lifetime of accomplishments; but, a lifetime altogether too short as his stay in Melfort was only eleven years! Still, Melfort has been well served by their "Sourdough" Shadd.

Stories



Incidents and Anecdotes

On The Life and Times

Of

Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd

KINISTINO, MELFORT & AREA

During the search for documentation on the doctor many stories surfaced that reflected on the character of the revered pioneer and the conditions of the homestead era. What follows is a presentation of these stories listed by a key word order and started by the supplier of the information.

Appendectomy

Ken Bennett relates this tale about Dr. Shadd coming to the farm and performing an appendectomy on his uncle who was then a small boy. He went on to become the R.M. Administrator in Pleasantdale. This operation took place on the kitchen table of the Bennett House which is now a part of the Melfort & District Museum's building display.

Best Man

Margaret Groat related that her grandmother was Mrs. John Robertson whose sister was Jessie Mitchell. She included these quotes from the Kinistino history book.

“1904 was a memorable year in my life. A young woman named Jessie Mitchell came to Carrot River Settlement to visit her sister Mrs. John Robertson.” [“James Kearns” p. 112]

In the family history portion of the book this quote appeared. “In 1904 James Kearns married Jessie Mitchell; Dr. Shadd was the best man.” [p. 347]

Election irregularities

Louise Claggett, Jim's wife, wrote “The Jim Claggett Story” printed in *The Melfort Journal* in 1964.

“In 1902 before there was a province of Saskatchewan, this district and east for a hundred miles was in the Prince Albert constituency. At this time an election was being held with Col. Meyers, as Liberal candidate and Dr. Shadd running on the Conservative ticket. Deputy Returning Officers J.M. Campbell and Ace Guinne, went to Chagoness and arranged for a boat, balloted at Chagoness and Nut Mountain. These ballots were with them when they went down the Red Deer to Erwood. Unfortunately, the boat upset, losing the ballots which had been cast, only saving the empty boxes and no ballots....

Col. Meyers was elected. Dr. Shadd being the defeated candidate.”

Evidence tampering

Lorna Porter gives a slightly different twist to a story recorded in the local history book, *Kinistino*.

“A young boy, I don't know how old he was - maybe 15 - went out to the Waterhen Marsh, or out that way and shot a couple of ducks out of season. D. Thomson, the policeman, caught him, took the birds from him and put them in a sack. These he hung in the cellar part of Albert Shadd's house, which he was sharing, so that he would have evidence when he took the boy to trial. They don't say who, but they kind of suggest that Shadd didn't like to see this young boy get into trouble. A couple of fellows went out to shoot some coots which are not illegal to hunt. Thomsen heard the shooting and when he went out to check they came around and changed the ducks and put the coots in.

The history book states that hens replaced the ducks but my dad maintains it was coots.”

New respect

Mona M. McAlister (McCrae) offers: My grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Reed, were from the U.S.A. and they did not like black people. Grandma Reed was expecting my mom and wanted a white doctor to deliver her. When no white doctor was available, Dr. Shadd came and delivered my mom, Viola MacRae (Reed) on May 1, 1914 on the farm 12 miles south of Melfort (SW 15-43-18 W2) in the Resource district. Everything went well. Grandma Reed said, “Dr. Shadd had a black face, but a white heart.” They had great respect for Dr. Shadd for the rest of their lives.

This story was related to me by Mom’s older sister, Nell McLeod (Reed)

Referral nurse

Harvey Heavin related this information about his great grandmother.

Ziphorah Baker, nee EHELER, was born May 24, 1876 in Bracebridge, Ontario. Ziphorah came to Melfort from Ord, Nebraska in the summer of 1912 with two sons and four daughters in a covered wagon pulled by three horses and a tethered cow. She was a single parent at the time, with the youngest child of toddler age.

The family made their home with Ziphorah’s brother, William Eheler, who farmed five miles north of Melfort. (Farmyard was on the east side of road between #6 highway and the railroad track).

The oldest daughter, Emma Baker, married Otto Heavin on November 11, 1914 and farmed in the Naisberry-Whittome district until retiring to Melfort in 1943.

Ziphorah was a trained midwife and although she had no formal training as a nurse that we are aware of, she had a talent for nursing, especially to those with chest ailments such as pleurisy and pneumonia. In the era before antibiotics, medical treatment for these ailments was somewhat limited, and Doctors Shadd in Melfort, and Brigham from Star City, made considerable use of her skills. Both doctors had automobiles, as much of the doctoring at that time was in the patients homes rather than in hospital. When they encountered a respiratory case they believed could benefit from her care, they would pick up Ziphorah and take her to live with the patient and family for whatever treatment was necessary or possible.

Ziphorah married George MacKenzie in about 1925. They lived for a number of years in a house on Saskatchewan Ave. (Between the present day Acklands and Little Venice.) Ziphorah was buried in Melfort Cemetery, January 21, 1947.

Runaway team

Craig Woods tells of a time when he (Dr. Shadd) got a call and his driver got his team and cutter ready for him. He was putting on his big coat when the driver handed him down the lines. The team was a fairly spirited pair and when the lines relaxed they took off with the doctor running along beside the cutter not able to get into it. He soon found himself coming up to an outhouse and ended up with no alternative but to run right in the door!

Shadd Street

Judy Meier. “My dad (Nels Soiseth) was on town council in the 60’s and came home with a list of names that were being considered for use in naming streets. When my mom (Nicki) looked at the list, she suggested that Dr. Shadd’s name should be added. Dad took his name back to council and it was chosen. My mom was disappointed though because the street was so short and had no houses on it.”

Snoring Doctor

Karen (Sundelin) Johnson’s story. “Once again, mine is a story that cannot be substantiated. It is a ‘word of mouth’ story passed down through our family. The only authenticity I can put to it is that the story was told to me by my father who was known to be as honest as the day is long.

In 1902 my great grandfather (Jacob Daniel Halin), my grandparents (Jacob & Anna Sundelin) and my father (also Jacob Amandus Sundelin) and his two sisters immigrated to the North West Territories from Sweden, via a 12 year stay in Minnesota. They arrived at their homestead (SW 14-47-21 W2) in the fall of 1902.

Like many early pioneers their first obligation was to look after their livestock for this was their food supply and livelihood. There was no time to build both a house and a barn so they built a combination house/stable - the family on one side and the animals on the other side.

As the story goes it was during this winter of 1902-03 that Dr. Shadd paid my family a visit. There is a trail that goes through the center of the Sundelin homestead, separating the house from the barnyard area. At this point in time this trail was known as the Hudson Bay Trail and went north through our yard, then angled west to Prince Albert and branched off east becoming the Fort a la Corne Trail, leading to the Native settlement that had been built up in the area.

Apparently, Dr. Shadd had been out seeing to a patient and found that he could not make it back to the town of Kinistino (I guess it was only a settlement at this time) so he stopped at the home of my family and asked if he and his driver could be put up for the night. We were told that Dr. Shadd always had a driver who would have a team of swift ‘road horses’. My family, being no different than the majority of pioneers gladly offered to put the men up but of course this meant that they would have to share the meagre accommodations of the human-animal shelter.

The story that my father always told us was this small tidbit that I believe adds a small bit of a personal touch to Dr. Shadd is that Dad would tell us that ‘I don’t know who made more noise that night - Dr. Shadd snoring or the noise of the animals on the other side of the wall!’

Another fact that I have always found interesting is that I don’t believe my Dad ever mentioned the color of Dr. Shadd’s skin when he told us this story.”

Train Track woes

Velma Campbell has this story about her dad and Dr. Shadd. “My dad, Roy Groat, was eleven years old and came by train from Ontario with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. W.K. Groat, sister Annie and brothers Ed and Clifford. His oldest brother Will, had come out on two western harvest excursions and convinced Granddad this was the place to be.

Arriving in Tisdale they had to stay there because the rails were washed out between Melfort and Tisdale. Granddad had business in Melfort so rented two hand cars to go on to Melfort. They were powered by push poles.

Granddad and Uncle Ed were on one, with Dad and Dr. Shadd on the other one. They were doing fine but in one of the sloughs, Dr. Shadd lost his pole. They still made it to Melfort.

Granddad, Grandma and the family moved to Melfort in midsummer. For a while, whenever Dr. Shadd met Dad, smiling he would say ‘Roy, if you had lost your pole too, we’d still be in that slough.’ ”

Train troubles

Sylvia Kellington related this story in conversation, but Martha Grafslund (relating the Henry Kobbe family history in *Memories We Treasure*) as well as Mabel Nelson (telling the Gust Nelson family history in the same book) share the same story.

“Dr. Shadd was on the same train that took my grandparents and their children to Melfort, in 1904. They arrived in Melfort June 4. My father, Gust Nelson, was one of those children. He was nine years old at that time. I remember him telling the story of one humorous incident that happened on the journey. They were riding in the last box car which became unhooked and got left behind. Dr. Shadd started running after the train. They finally noticed that something was amiss, so they backed up and got hooked up again.”

Transition

Craig Woods reflects on the changes at the Carrot River Settlement over the years. He reminded me that when Dr. Shadd built his house [it was built of unplanned lumber and it was ‘back plastered’ - they would use 2 x 2’s or 2 x 4’s on their side and then they applied lathe and plaster. This they did to both sides because there was no insulation and the back plastering provided a dead air space.] There were no trees except for a few along the river. You see plenty today, but if you look at the picture of the settlement you won’t see many at all.

The old post office at the settlement was built with hewn logs. Over the years the bottom logs would rot and disintegrate. After the rest of the settlement was moved, the old post office remained at a farm site. Eventually the roof got lower and lower as the logs rotted until finally there were only three rows of logs left and a roof. But the building was still used as a hen house.

Well liked

Wilma Ballantyne’s short testimonial. “Dr. Shadd was my mother’s doctor and he was very well liked!”

Bibliography

Cover

Photo, Main Street Melfort, 1911, Melfort & District Museum

Photo, Carrot River, Garry Forsyth

Preface

Photo, A.S. Shadd, Melfort & District Museum

Introduction

Photo, Shadd Dr/ Park Ave., Garry Forsyth

Background

1. Arlie C. Robbins, *Legacy To Buxton* First Edition (Chatham: Ideal Printing, 1983), 36 [This is an excellent picture of the people and culture of Buxton from the inside. Also many thanks to Jim Robbins (Arlie's son) for the copy of the second edition of the book. Garry]
2. Robbins, op. cit., 58
3. A detailed account regarding the Elgin Settlement and the role of the Shadd family can be found in Jacqueline Tobin, *From Midnight To Dawn* (Doubleday, 2007) and D.G. Hill, *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* (Agincourt: The Book Society of Canada Limited, 1981)
4. D.G. Hill, *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* (Agincourt: The Book Society of Canada Limited, 1981)
5. Robbins, op. cit., 73
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