

DR. ROBERT REDDICK

Robert was the oldest child of James Reddick, born in County Leitrim, Ireland about 1820 and Matilda Goldie, born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1823. He was born in Marlborough Township, Carleton County, Ontario on November 18, 1848. The Reddicks were Presbyterian but, since the early church records of the area were not well preserved, the entry for his baptism has not been seen.

The only local record in which Robert's name appears is that of Loyal Orange Lodge #561 at Pierces Corners. The minutes of June 3, 1864 report his admittance to membership. Later in the year he was admitted to the Little Purple Degree, in 1865 to the Royal Blue Degree, in 1868 to the Arch Degree and the Royal Arch Degree. The minutes of the next twenty years are lost and he left the community long before that period was over.

Where Robert attended school is not known but his public school days were almost certainly spent either in the school at Pierces Corners or in the one on lot 2, concession 4. The schools were about one and one-half miles apart and the latter was marginally closer to the Reddick farms. It is likely that high school was available no closer than Kemptville although there already may have been, and certainly later in the century there was, a continuation school in part of the public school building at Pierces Corners.

It is known that he graduated in medicine from McGill University in 1874. He practised in Kemptville (Grenville County, Ontario) for one year after graduation and then, in 1875, he established a practice in Winchester, (Dundas County, Ontario) southeast of Ottawa. In 1888 the village was formally incorporated. Robert was a councillor in the first village council and reeve in 1893. In much later years he transferred his practice to Ottawa.

On February 4, 1879 a marriage license was issued to Robert and Mary R. Wallace by a Mr. Laflamme, a Justice of the Peace, in Winchester. His age was given as 31, hers as 24. They were married on February 25. She was the daughter of J.B. Wallace of Matilda township. Then or later, her father is said to have operated a hotel in Winchester. There was one child of this marriage, Annie Mary, born in 1889.

Before his marriage, and even before he graduated from university, Robert was active in the Canadian militia. During the Fenian Raids in 1870 he served in the 56th Battalion at Prescott, Ontario. From Troublous Times in Canada, a History of the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870, John A. MacDonald, (1910), concerning 1870:

"Lieut-Col W.H.Jackson, Brigade Major of the 8th Brigade Division, was in command of the force which assembled at Prescott, and performed the arduous duties required of him most efficiently. On the departure of Lieut.-Col. F. T. Atcherly to take command of the force at Cornwall, Lieut.-Col Jackson was instructed to assume command of the forces which were concentrating at Prescott. A large body of Fenians had gathered at Ogdensburg, just across the river, and rumors were rife that they intended making a crossing. He accordingly took

prompt precautions to place that important point in a state of defence. The troops at his command were one division of the Ottawa Field Battery, with two guns; the Ottawa Rifle Company (Capt. Mowat), the 43rd Carleton Battalion (Lieut.-Col. Bearman), and the 56th Battalion Lisgar Rifles (Lieut.-Col. Jessup). In addition he had two companies of Railway Guards, making his total force about 750 officers and men This force was kept on duty until the 3rd of June, when the danger having passed, they were relieved from further service."

In 1899 a General Service Medal was authorized for all who served in 1870 and who formally applied. The Medal Register shows that Robert served as a private in the 56th Grenville Battalion, at Prescott, from May until July. He qualified for the medal and clasp which were sent to him at Winchester on June 24, 1904.

Robert's own hand-written record shows that he received:

- in 1870, Fenian Raid, Medal and Clasp
- in 1871, Second Class Certificate, Military School,
Kingston, and
- in 1872, First Class Certificate from Military Board
Prescott.

It also shows that he was, in 1873/74, 1st. Lieut. in the Prince of Wales Rifles (Montreal)
All of these events occurred during his medical studies in Montreal.

In 1885 Robert served during the Northwest (Riel) Rebellion. By that time he had graduated and been in practice for more than ten years. His own record shows that he was a full surgeon, No.1 Field Hospital Corps, and Assistant Surgeon to the Midland Battalion. A research paper from the Saskatchewan Provincial Archives records him as having been attached to Field Hospital No. 1. The Medal Register simply notes that he served as a surgeon and was awarded a medal which was delivered to his home at Winchester. Robert's medals, both from 1870 and 1885, as well as the hand gun which he carried in 1885, have survived.

There is good reason to suspect that there were difficulties between Robert and his wife. He is remembered as having been a heavy drinker and in his family it is said that being married to a woman whose family owned the local hotel made this problem worse. The Kemptville Advance of November 26, 1896 reported that;

"On account of poor health Dr. Reddick of Winchester, so favourably known here, intends spending a year in Rossland, B.C."

Perhaps the reason given was valid. In any case, he established his credentials with the British Columbia Registry of Physicians on January 15, 1897 and continued to be registered as practising in Rossland in each year until 1902. Thereafter, until 1920, he maintained his registration but with no designated location of practice.

From The Medical History of British Columbia, A.S. Munro;

"Rossland in its heyday was one of the best known mining camps in America. The Le Roi, War Eagle, and the Center Star mines made it famous and it was only natural that medical men should be attracted to this promising new centre of wealth. Many of these were possessed of qualifications and training more befitting a practise in a metropolitan city or university than a rude mining camp.....

Rossland old-timers will readily recall the name of Dr. Robert Reddick who came to Rossland in 1897 and after a short residence there returned to Ontario; also

But it was not in Rossland that Robert found his greatest challenge but in Northern Ontario. From Metals and Men, the Story of Canadian Mining, D.M. LeBourdais, (1957), comes this summary;

"In 1903, a young geology student named H.L. Kerr had graduated from the University of Toronto and the following year acted as field assistant to W.A. Parks who, some years before, had examined the geology of Porcupine. Their survey included a cursory examination of the rocks in the vicinity of Larder Lake; Parks was impressed by the formation along the east arm, and remarked to Kerr that he would like to return and make a more thorough investigation.

Two years later, when Park's assistant had become part owner (with George Glendinning and W.J. Blair) of the University mine at Cobalt, he was visited by two former University associates, William H.F. Addison and Julian D. Loudon, both graduates in medicine, who were anxious to stake some claims. They asked Kerr to suggest a good spot for them to begin prospecting and he directed them to Larder Lake. The two young prospectors were almost as new to paddling northern rivers as they were to prospecting, but in due course they arrived at the spot recommended by Kerr. To their surprise, someone was there ahead of them. The intruder proved to be Dr. R. Reddick, of Winchester, Ontario, who was working a number of claims which he and four associates had staked a short while before. The area was dominated by a dome-shaped dolomite dike, shot through with quartz veinlets; it was 450 to 500 feet wide and was exposed for a distance of about half a mile. Even to their inexperienced eyes the occurrence was impressive, and they quickly staked three claims adjoining Dr. Reddick's seven. Dr. Loudon paddled to Haileybury to record the claims, one each for Addison, Kerr and himself."

Perhaps it was during Robert's years in Rossland that he had learned that wealth could come to a person who was the discoverer of a rich orebody. Crews building the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway had reached Cobalt in 1903. By chance a rich vein of silver was exposed there triggering a stampede of prospectors. There is nothing yet to show that Robert was active in (or even in) the Cobalt area but that discovery led directly to the aggressive prospecting of lands to the north and one of the earliest results was his arrival at Larder Lake. Not all the authors agree on the the facts

surrounding the episode but there is general agreement that Robert was the first person on the site.

From The Way North; Men, Mines and Minerals, S. A. Pain, (1964):

"In the first wave of the prospectors who were enticed into the Larder Lake area in 1906 there was Dr. Reddick, a physician from Winchester, Ontario, with four partners; and not far behind him there came another party of four adventurers, headed by J.T. Kearns. They were all heading up the long northeast arm of the lake, and both parties were attracted by a ridge of rusty rock which was bright green when broken, with stringers and veins of quartz running all through it. They called it dolomite or the carbonate formation.

Both parties made camp and started to explore and it was evident quite early in the game that this would be something big, very big, if only they could find some gold in all the quartz. Edward Flynn of the Reddick party made the first discovery of gold and they sank two pits which proved that it was still present at a depth of fourteen feet. Shortly afterwards a find was made on the Kearns group and they incorporated Chesterville Larder Lake Gold Mining Company in order to raise money for the work.

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Not far behind the Reddick and Kearns canoes there came another small party of two young medical graduates from Toronto, Dr. William H.F. Addison and Dr. Julian D. Loudon.

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They were surprised to find the Reddick and Kearns parties already on the spot, and they immediately staked three claims to the west of Reddick, one each and one for Kerr.

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While the Chesterville and the Kerr-Addison-Loudon groups marked time, Dr. Reddick incorporated the Dr. Reddick Larder Lake Gold Mines Limited and started mining from the open pit in 1908, and built a small amalgamation mill to treat the ore. They treated 100 tons of ore and said that the grade was between \$10 and \$12 per ton. Then H.P. Depencier, who afterwards became manager of the Dome Mine in Porcupine, came to the Reddick mine from South Africa and sank a shaft ninety feet and ran a crosscut at the eighty-three foot level, under the open pit, but failed to find ore there. So in 1911 they decided to try their luck crosscutting in the opposite direction at that level, under another outcrop which looked good at the surface.

At a distance of sixty-two feet from the shaft they found a twenty-foot width of ore and again talked about \$10 or \$12 grade ore and started up the mill again, from July to October 1911. But the grade was nothing like that; in fact it barely

amounted to \$3 and work stopped and the property lay idle for the next six years."

Again from Metals and Men:

"Dr. Reddick, acting for Dr. Reddick Larder Lake Gold Mines Limited, which had acquired a majority interest in his claims, later sank a hundred-foot shaft. At the 83-foot level he did about a thousand feet of drifting and located a small quantity of ore which assayed about ten dollars in gold to the ton. The Reddick company erected a ten-stamp mill, and it has been claimed, though not conclusively proved, that the first gold coins minted in Canada were struck from gold mined by Dr. Reddick at Larder Lake."

It will be obvious that Robert Reddick's mine was the forerunner of the rich Kerr Addison Mine which, after 1938, produced more than 10 million ounces of gold. Robert's interest in the property ended about 1914 and in the years thereafter many of the properties were consolidated into larger holdings, eventually emerging as Kerr Addison Gold Mines Limited in 1936.

Again from The Way North:

"Jack McFee, an old Cobalt hand with much experience around Kirkland Lake was put in charge of dewatering the old Reddick workings, but nothing much was found there. Then under the direction of "Matt" Fairlie as consulting engineer, four adits or tunnels, were driven into the hill of carbonate formation and drifts were run lengthwise of the deposit, and all the ore was put through a small sampling mill. Still the answer was an obstinate \$3.50 grade and orders were sent up to the property to close down everything and remove all the machinery.

But McFee had been studying the old records and he noticed that one, and only one, of the diamond drill holes showed some interesting values. He begged the principals of the company to allow him to put down just one more hole to check this, and they reluctantly allowed him to do so. The hole confirmed the presence of ore and it turned out to be the first hint of the No. 10 ore-body which was afterwards mined out to surface.

Just to show the erratic luck which attends mining, Mr. Fairlie in an address in 1943 pointed out that the old crosscuts from the original Kerr-Addison shaft had passed between No.9 and No.10 ore-bodies, and if the Reddick shaft had been sunk to the 400-foot level instead of doing so much work at the eighty-three-foot level, they would have dropped onto the No.16 orebody, the best in the mine".

Robert's original shaft was never deepened. A nephew is said to have entered it many years later and found in it the remnants of the small tools that were used in the early years. From the Financial Post Survey of Mines (1973), its name, nature and location are described as:

"No. 2 or Reddick shaft, about 1800 feet northeast of No. 1 shaft, has one level at 85 feet".

At a later time W. S. Rowe, then Chairman of the Board of Kerr Addison Mines, said that he had confirmed, either from the Master of the Mint (or from a person who later became the master of the Mint), that the first Canadian gold coin, a \$5 coin of 1912, was minted from gold produced at the Reddick mine. The March 24, 1955 edition of The Temiskaming Speaker of New Liskeard contained a special report entitled "Fifty Years of Progress in the North". In part it reproduces an article from the early years dealing with the first five years of Cobalt. An extract from it is as follows:

"An item of special interest appeared in the Ottawa despatches recently stating that the new Government coins were to be made from Larder Lake gold.

We understand that the Government have made arrangements with the Dr. Reddick Company of Larder Lake for the supply of this gold which means that the gold of Larder Lake is of high grade. It is most gratifying to know that Temiskaming is to supply this gold and this fact will advertise our gold fields most effectively".

It is unlikely that Robert was actively involved with the mine when that coin was minted.

Robert did not benefit from the mine as might originally have been expected, in fact it is likely that it was his medical practice which supported his work there for as long as he persisted. In the edition of June 13, 1907, The Kemptville Advance carried this headline which may have come from an Ottawa paper; "Dr. Reddick Mines at Larder Lake Very Rich". The substance of the item was that a nugget weighing 118 pounds had been discovered by the superintendant, Edward Champney, at the nine-foot level of a new strike on one of their claims and that it was on display at the Trust Building on Sparks Street in Ottawa. But it is likely that within a few years Robert had left the north and the subsequent events at the Dr. Robert Reddick Mines did not affect him. From the Canadian Register of Mines of Dormant and Defunct Companies (Northern Miner):

"REDDICK GOLD MINING CO LTD: Assets acquired by Goldfields Ltd. in 1914; latter co. sold out to Canadian Associated Goldfields in 1921, which went bankrupt in 1929".

In October 1907 Robert was ill at Winchester. In January 1911 a brief article in the Kemptville Advance reported that Mr. Bannell Sawyer had sold sufficient preferred stock to wipe out the \$5000 debt on the Reddick Mine at Larder Lake; that he expected to resume operations; that the stamp mill was to be started up again; and that bankruptcy had been averted. On the whole it seems pretty certain that Robert had lost control of the mine at a fairly early time.

Larder Lake was not Robert's only involvement with minerals in Northern Ontario. He was awarded a medal for his services in the Northwest Rebellion but there was also an award of land and he took his allotment in Holmes Township west of Swastika. Over a period of time he and a nephew prospected the land for minerals but without success although he was always optimistic. The land passed to Robert's sister on his death and then to her step-daughter who owned it until she died in 1990.

A daughter, Annie Mary (Nan), was born to Robert and his wife in 1889. From family members it has been learned that she married Harry Newton Moore, the son of Rev. T. Albert Moore of the United Church of Canada. Harry became the editor of a Philadelphia newspaper although at earlier times he had been engaged in the news business in London, Paris and Ireland. During the First World War Nan had driven an ambulance behind the front lines on the continent. She died in mid-December, 1929, her mother in 1931. Both are buried at Iroquois, Ontario.

Robert died in 1930. While he practiced in Winchester he had hired a young man, a Barclay, to drive his buggy in summer and his cutter in winter. The young man admired Robert and decided that he also would be a doctor. Robert did not have a cemetery plot when he died so Dr. Barclay insisted that he would be buried in his. As a consequence Robert's name and the years of his birth and death are inscribed on the back of the Barclay stone in the Maple Ridge cemetery on Highway #43 between Winchester and Chesterville. On the front of the stone are these names and dates:

George C. Barclay 03/06/1916, age 73

Elizabeth Donnelly (wife) 12/01/1918, age 77

and on a small ground plate is:

Samuel Barclay 07/10/1876 - 01/05/1949.

The back of the stone is inscribed:

Robert Reddick, M.D. 1847-1930

although he was actually born in 1848.

His obituary:

" Late Dr. Reddick

A veteran of the Fenian Raid and the North West Rebellion and one who practised his profession for more than half a century in Winchester, Ontario, and Ottawa, died at the Civic Hospital, Ottawa, on Thursday night last, in the person of Dr. Robert Reddick.

A native of North Gower, Dr. Reddick, who was in his 83rd year, was a son of Jas. Reddick of Marlborough Township. He was graduated in medicine from McGill University. One of the interesting phases of his long and useful life was when he served as a medical officer in General Middleton's column during the North West Rebellion. During the Great War, he was attached to the Canadian

troops patrolling along the St. Lawrence in the capacity of medical officer being too old to proceed overseas.

Dr. Reddick commenced the practice of medicine in Winchester about 1876 and removed to Ottawa some years ago. He was prominently connected with the Masonic Order and was one of the original members of Winchester Lodge A.F. and A.M. As a resident of Ottawa, he was a staunch member of Glebe United Church.

Surviving are his widow, four sisters, Mrs. D. Eager, 176 Second Avenue, Ottawa, Mrs. L. Cameron, Montreal, Mrs. W.V. Puntney and Mrs. F. McDonald, both of Minnesota.

The funeral was held from the residence of his sister, Mrs. D. Eager, 176 Second Avenue, Sunday afternoon at 1.30 o'clock to Winchester by motor for interment in Maple Ridge Cemetery. The funeral was conducted by the officers of Henderson Lodge, A.F. and A.M. Winchester, Wor. Bro. H. Flora conducting the service, assisted by Rt. Wor. Bro. A. Sweet, W. Bro. F. Davidson and Bro. T.A. Scott and W.J. Ault, the latter four acting as pall bearers. A number of Masons went to Ottawa and accompanied the remains to Winchester. The Cortège was met just outside Winchester by members of the local Masonic Lodge who were joined by many other former friends in this district of the deceased. The remains were laid to rest in Maple Ridge, the impressive funeral service being conducted by Wor. Bro. H. Flora.

The late Dr. Reddick had many warm friends in this section. He was a courteous and kindly gentleman and skilled physician."

His obituary did not mention his years in the Larder Lake gold camp.