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Office, Normal School
REGINA

November 3, 1937

James Meakes, Esq.,
Lestock, Sask.

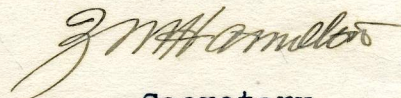
Dear Mr. Meakes:-

Mr. Hall of the Provincial Government staff informs me of an interesting discovery you made on your farm of an old rifle belonging to a Mounted Policemen who had been killed by an Indian.

The Executive of this Society would regard it as a great favour if you would consent to lend us this relic for the collection we are gradually getting together. It would be displayed as your property.

I feel that perhaps we may be presumptuous in this request, but our excuse must be that we are doing all in our power to gather mementoes of the stirring old days in this western country.

Yours sincerely.



Secretary.

ZMH)MAH.

November 27, 1937.

Z. M. Hamilton, Esq.,
Regina, Saskatchewan.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

This acknowledges your letter of November 3 and I must apologise for not answering it before but relief administration constitutes a good alibi, I believe.

Mr. Hall misinformed you as to the discovery of an old rifle on our farm. The facts are like this. During the dry years, the Misagagi Lake on the shores of which our farm house is built, has gone down about fifteen feet in depth, leaving a shore line of from two to three hundred yards wide, greater than it was in 1905 when I homesteaded. The bottom of the lake is white silver sand with innumerable boulders spread through. Some two months ago when my youngest son was watering his saddle pony, he noticed a tube of about eight inches long sticking up through the sand a few yards from the edge of the water. He kicked this up and to his surprise found that it was an old single barrelled shot gun of 12-gauge calibre with the spent shell case still in the barrel. He kicked around to find the stock or metal portions of it but could not find it anywhere. So that what we really have is just the gun barrel and the brass shell head.

The late Lieutenant Colonel Hollis who lived on 330-28-15 since about 1882 and who ranched in this country until the advent of the settlers about 1905, has frequently told the story of how the Indians camped around this lake, stole the calves and killed them as they felt they needed them. Complaints of this to the Fort brought an R.N.W.M.P. man up here and according to Mr. Hollis's story, the Indian resisted capture and shot the policeman with his shotgun. When other policemen came up to make the arrest, the Indian's shotgun was not found but the Indian was taken, tried and given a life sentence and Mr. Hollis informed me that the Indian died quite recently in Prince Albert Jail. With a story of this kind having been told us several times by the Colonel, it was quite natural for the boys to connect the policeman, the gun, and the Indian, and to think reasonably that the gun barrel found by David was a part of the gun which had been used by the Indian who shot the policeman.

76B JM/ML

As you can see, guess work and imagination play a free hand as far as the old gun barrel is concerned but if the Society would care for it, I can bring it down sometime when I'm coming to Regina.

And then to leave that story, in connection with your Society, I believe, that in this neighbourhood are some documents which would be worth trying to obtain and I believe that the custodians of these documents would willingly put them into the hands of your Society. Mr. Grafton N. Long (the newly elected reeve for this municipality) has been for some years a trustee and also secretary for the Round Plains S.D. #30 and he has the original minute book and cash books for the district and the information contained in them I believe, is worth keeping as mementos of those old stirring days of which you speak.

You may probably have heard of the old Round Plains Stone Church which was completed and dedicated in 1888. It stands on 311-29-15 W2 and is still in use. The cemetery of two acres surrounds the church and is now the property of the municipality. It was originally used by the Presbyterians but after the Presbyterians got fewer in number was used by the Methodists and after some disension another small church was built five or six miles northwest and the old church fell into disuse. Later the trustees of the church deeded it over to the municipality and the cemetery was surveyed and is still in use and well cared for by the surrounding neighbours. G.M. Atkinson, Esq. of Wishart P.O., who was the M.L.A. for Touchwood for the first twelve years of the Saskatchewan Parliament, was the first teacher of the Round Plain S.D. and also was one of the trustees who deeded the Stone Church and its cemetery over to the municipality. Mr. Atkinson is now getting close to eighty years of age but still an active man and he told me just some few weeks ago that he had a bunch of papers in connection with the church and wondered what to do with them. I told him that I myself was much interested in it and that some day when I had time I would call in and see him. As I stated in the front of my letter, relief administration in a municipality with 4300 residents doesn't leave much spare time and I have not yet gone to Mr. Atkinson. I feel confident however, that a visit from you or a letter from you would leave you in the possession of the documents that I spoke of regarding the old-time residents here and the building of this first place of worship in the district.

My office is on the northwest of 12-28-15 W2 and if ever you are in the district I would be very pleased for you to call.

Yours very sincerely,

JM/ML

Sec.-Treas.

JAMES MEAKES

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Phone 29125

Office, Normal School
 REGINA

December 14, 1937.

J. Meakes Esq.,

Rural Municipality of Emerald No. 277,

Lestock, Sask.

Dear Mr. Meakes:

Thank you for your courteous and informative letter of November 27th.

I am very much interested in the tale you told of the Indian who shot the Mounted Policeman as related by the late Mr. Hollis. I have written to Colonel Wood, Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, asking him for the history of this case; also to the Warden of the Prince Albert Penitentiary asking for the record of the Indian reported to have served a life sentence there for this crime.

I knew Mr. Hollis long ago. He was a friend of Nicholas Flood Davin the member of Parliament for the vast Constituency of Western Assiniboia, and he occasionally visited him in Regina. I was at that time editing for Mr. Davin the "West" newspaper, which he had started after selling the Leader. The "West" after passing through several transitions, eventually merged into the Regina Post, which of course is an element of the Leader of today.

76D

December 14/37

I am very much interested in what you say about Mr. Long and his records, as well as in the Old Stone Church at Round Plain.

As soon as the winter is over so that travelling becomes easy I intend to make a visit to your district when I hope to have the pleasure of making your acquaintance. In the meantime I would greatly appreciate the old gun barrel, and I would of course be glad to see that your son got full credit for his discovery.

Yours most sincerely,

Z M Hamilton
Secretary

ZMH/OB

Jamie introduced Col. Hollis to Lucabelle one day in 1934 when they were mending fences on the west of their 1st home (the Christie farm). Col Hollis rode up on his sorrel pony. He was wearing his khaki hat + uniform (He was a veteran of W.W.I) He was well known to James Meaker SR. + the Hall brothers (ATK, Jim + Fred) He was likely in his early 70's at that time. He was out for a spring ride, exercising his pony. He was Jamie + Lucabelle's neighbor (to the west) + Lucabelle was very happy to meet him because she'd heard so much about him from the Hall brothers (who were seniors as well)

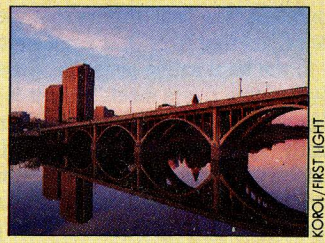
WRITTEN BY LUCABELLE - 1992 1992

2010 - THIS IS BEING RESEARCHED BY THE SASK ARCHIVES 166

76E

McLEANS MAGAZINE JULY 6/92

HISTORY NOTEBOOK



SILENCING THE ALMIGHTY VOICE

In October, 1895, after a long struggle had left native North Americans largely passive under white rule, a Swampy Cree Indian distinguished himself as the last of the renegades. Born in Saskatchewan around 1874, Almighty Voice seemed ordinary in everything but name until, at 21, he was arrested by Sgt. Colin Colebrook of the North West Mounted Police for killing a neighbor's cow. That same night, he escaped from the lockup, crossing the frigid South Saskatchewan River and continuing on to the coulees and willow bluffs of Touchwood Hills. A week later, Colebrook arrived—and Almighty Voice shot and killed him, then disappeared for a year and a half, despite a hefty \$500 reward for his capture.

During his time on the run, while Mounties continuously combed the vast prairies, the renegade Cree became a symbol of defiance in the native community. But on May 26, 1897, his adventure began to unravel when he was spotted near his home reserve—where he had been hiding all along. The next day, Mounties arrived, and Almighty Voice and two relatives retreated to a five-acre wooded bluff. Surrounded, and possessing no food or water and little ammunition, they managed to hold off the cannon-firing posse until May 31, when all three were found dead—two of mortar wounds and one of a bullet. The event marked the end of 19th-century native resistance in Canada.

AT MEANES LAKE

JAN 1995 - I NOW THINK THAT McLEANS MAGAZINE MAY HAVE ERRORED. TWO ORIGINAL ACCOUNTS I HAVE READ, SAY THE LAKE WHERE KILLING TOOK PLACE WAS NEARER SASKATOON

NOT THE TOUCHWOOD HILLS

PAGE 144, MARCH OF THE MOUNTIES



* Big Bear after capture by Steele's Scouts. On his left is Sergeant Colin Colebrook who in 1895 was murdered by an Indian, Almighty Voice. The murder began a chain of violent acts that resulted in two more policemen and an ex-policeman being killed, as well as Almighty Voice and two companions.

JULY 6th 1992
McLEANS MAGAZINE