

## Step 5: Appreciating history and contributions

	TEACHER DIRECTED	STUDENT DIRECTED
Reflect on the research process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have students reflect on the research process and evaluate their own research</li><li>• Guide students to discuss the aspects of their research that interested them most</li><li>• Discuss with students ways to show appreciation and respect for the contributions of others and the importance of history and heritage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have students reflect on the research process and evaluate their own research</li><li>• Have students indicate and write about the aspects of their research that interested them most and helped them learn new ideas and appreciate different perspectives</li><li>• Have students demonstrate their appreciation and respect for the contributions of others and the importance of history and heritage</li></ul>

## Teaching and learning strategies

The following activity and project suggestions are general starting points for schools and community groups to use the sourcebook for their own project and learning. The suggestions can be adapted to different grade levels and for different subject areas. Teachers and community leaders are encouraged to select and adapt the activity and project ideas to best meet the needs of their students.

### Family album

Have students draw pictures or collect photographs of their families and compare the details they have included to those reflected in any of the photographs of the Famous 5. Ask students to reflect on the similarities and differences between their families and families of long ago. Have them reflect on the similarities and differences between the area in which they live and the homes of any of the Famous 5.

### Big book

Have students draw pictures to illustrate different aspects of the life of one of the Famous 5. The pictures can be collated and bound into a big book for the classroom. The big book can be used to discuss how people can make contributions to their families and their communities.

### Community profile

Have students work in groups to create a profile of their communities.

The profiles can include the following:

- Written descriptions
- Picture collections
- Drawings and illustrations
- Words to a song about the community
- Models of buildings and facilities

Have each group use their community profiles to describe the activities that take place in their community. Ask students to compare the way they describe their communities to communities in the past.

## Teaching and learning strategies

### Collage

Have students work in cooperative groups to prepare illustrations of the lives of the Famous 5 and some of their activities and accomplishment. Students can be placed in expert groups that each focus on one of the Famous 5 and complete the activity using a jigsaw cooperative learning strategy. Have each group add their illustrations to a classroom collage on the Famous 5.

### Web

Have students create a cause and effect web that outlines some of the things that one of the Famous 5 accomplished in her lifetime and the resulting effects on lifestyles and women's rights.

### Posters

Have students prepare a poster advertising an event (fictional or real) that will occur in their community. Have students consider the types of techniques they are using to interest people in the event and encourage them to attend it. Have them compare their posters to any used to advertise the speeches of the Famous 5.

Have students use Irene Parlby's sourcebook to prepare a poster that illustrates Irene Parlby's home and the environment around Alix. Have students discuss the difference between urban and rural communities.

### Timelines

Have students create a timeline of the life of one of the Famous 5 by using the sources provided in the sourcebook as well as other sources of information. Ask students to consider the following with each event they choose to add to their timelines:

- Where
- What
- Why
- How

### Mobiles or three-dimensional timelines

Have students take an event from the timeline. Then have students look up what other events were happening in Canadian history at this time. Print and Internet sources can be used to of this information. Have students create a three-dimensional mobile that represents this time in Canadian history. Have students hang their mobiles on a wire across the classroom to create a three-dimensional timeline of a period of Canadian history.

## Teaching and learning strategies

### Museum

Have students work in groups to create a design or a model of a museum honoring the accomplishments of one or all of the Famous 5. Ask students to use copies of the sources in the sourcebook, or create their own facsimiles of primary sources. Have students do some additional research using other sources of information. The museum can also reflect the lifestyles of the time period in which the women lived.

### Charter of rights

Have students work in groups to create a charter of rights for children. Ask them to use the sources in Emily Murphy's and Irene Parlby's sourcebook to consider what rights Irene Parlby or Emily Murphy might have been fighting for during the early 1900s. Use additional sources of information to learn more about children's rights during this time period.

### Letters

Have students write response letters to any one of the sources in the codebook. The letters can be from the point of view of one of the Famous 5, or from any other person, real or fictional, from this time period.

### Decision-making model

Have students use Emily Murphy's sourcebook to examine the letters written by her on issues relating to the role women should play in the judicial system. Have them identify an issue and outline the steps involved in making a personal decision on the issue. Ask students to make their own decision.

Have students use the article "A Plea for Extension of Women's Influence" in Henrietta Muir Edwards' sourcebook to outline an issue and the steps involved in making a personal decision on this issue. Have students consider the advantages and disadvantages that Henrietta Muir Edwards outlines in her article. Ask students to make their own decision.

Have students use Louise McKinney's sourcebook and the articles included on the issue of temperance to outline this issue and the steps involved in making a personal decision. Have students consider the advantages and disadvantages that Louise McKinney provides in her articles, and what can be learned from her biography. Ask students to make their own decision.

Have students use the article "Hon. Irene Parlby Says No Need of Woman's Party" in Irene Parlby's sourcebook to outline the issue of a separate party for women, and the steps involved in making a personal decision on this issue. Have students consider the perspectives that Irene Parlby gives in the article. Ask students to make their own decision.

Have students use Nellie McClung's sourcebook with the article "Should Women Preach?" by Nellie McClung to outline an issue and the steps involved in making a personal decision on this issue. Have students consider the advantages and disadvantages that Nellie outlines in her article. Ask students to make their own decision.

## Teaching and learning strategies

### Government of tableau

Have students use the Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby and the 'Persons' Case sourcebooks to prepare a tableau that illustrates what the legislature that Nellie McClung and Irene Parlby served in might have looked like during her time. The tableau can be created with students acting different parts; or it may be created as a poster or drawing.

### Creative writing

Have students use one of the articles, stories or novels of the Famous 5 as the basis to write their own stories. Ask students to analyze how society and lifestyles are depicted in her writing; and write a parallel story of current society and its issues.

### Wall mural

Have students create a wall mural to reflect the lives and accomplishments of the Famous 5. Items placed on the wall mural can be three-dimensional and can include facsimiles of primary sources.

### Position papers

Have students write about their own positions on some of the issues and topics that the Famous 5 were concerned about:

- Women's rights
- Women's legal rights
- Women's political understanding and participation
- Suffrage
- Temperance
- Children's rights
- Health care
- Equal access to careers
- Equality
- Economic privileges
- Property rights and access to children
- Divorce
- Politics
- Democracy

### Political cartoon

Have students create their own political cartoon to reflect the activities and accomplishment of the Famous 5. Have students consider how they might have depicted one of the Famous 5 in a political cartoon if they lived during the same time period.

## Teaching and learning strategies

### Magazine article

Have students write their own magazine article on the Famous 5. Ask them to focus on an area of her life that interests them most, and write an article. Students may also be encouraged to submit their articles to the local newspaper or to a community magazine. The collection of articles may also be organized in a classroom magazine and published for the school.

### Community display

Have students work in groups to create a three-panel display of the Famous 5, based on the three themes in this research and discussion sourcebook. Have them create paragraphs, illustrations and examples of posters, cartoons and newspaper or magazine articles that represent their lives and times, their roles and accomplishments and why we remember them.

### Web page

Have students work in groups to create a web page on the Famous 5. Students can organize their work around the three themes in this research and discussion sourcebook, or create their own topics and themes on which to focus.

### Multi-media presentation

Have students work in groups to plan and present a multi-media presentation on the Famous 5. Students can focus on specific areas of the life of one of the Famous 5, her writing, or her activities and accomplishment. They can also be asked to focus on broader areas for their presentation, such as women's history, rights, and citizenship. The class may be asked to work in a cooperative group structure, and each take on an area of responsibility. Each group can then provide content for one aspect of the presentation.

### The Famous 5 day

Have students work in groups to plan and present a Famous 5 day for another class, or their school. Have students plan activities that focus on celebrating the accomplishments of the Famous 5 and their impact on Western Canadian society. Activities may include things such as a play based on a section of one of the books by the Famous 5, one of their speeches, a tableau of their families, and a monologue from one of their articles.

### Infomercial

Have students work in groups to prepare an "infomercial" on the Famous 5. Students may be asked to focus on an aspect of the life of one of the Famous 5 or on her impact on Canadian history and the fight for women's rights.

## Teaching and learning strategies

### Newspaper

Have students create a newspaper that focuses on the different aspects of society during the time of the Famous 5. Have them use additional sources of information to find out how newspaper of the early 1900s looked and what types of information and advertisements were included. Students may be asked to work in cooperative groups to each complete a part of the newspaper.

### Casebook

Have students use sources relating to Emily Murphy's legal career and develop a casebook that includes stories about the fight for women's and children's rights during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Have students use Emily Murphy's letters as examples and write their own fictional cases for their casebooks. Have them compile their stories into a booklet format.

### Comparison chart

Have students create a comparison chart that provides information about the roles and images of women today compared to the roles and images of women during the time of the Famous 5. An additional section of the chart may focus on the changes that have occurred between the early 1900s and today. Students may be asked to use the sources in this research and discussion sourcebook, additional sources that deal with women in the early 1900s, and current media and advertisements.

### Video clip

Have students work in groups to create a video montage of different aspects of the lives and accomplishments of the Famous 5. The video can also focus on accomplishments of women today and provide examples of different women who are making a difference to the community and to Canada.

### Legal profile

Have students prepare an outline and list of the legal rights that women have today, compared to the rights they had during Henrietta Muir Edwards' and Emily Murphy's time. Have students use sources in Henrietta Muir Edwards' and Emily Murphy's sourcebooks to compile this information into a retrieval chart or a poster of rights and responsibilities.



Source(s) I will use

TITLE OF SOURCE	WHAT IT'S ABOUT	WHERE I CAN FIND IT

What these sources tell me about my topic

Lined area for notes.



## Life and times

e45



Emily as a young girl, 1875.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession No EA-10-1999

## Photograph scrapbook

Emily Murphy served her community, province and country many ways. Some aspects of her life are represented in these photographs.

### For you to think about

- Emily Murphy and her family
- Emily Murphy and her work
- Women's lifestyles in the early 1900s
- Lifestyles in Canada in the early 1900s
- What was happening in Canadian history in these years



e40

Emily with her family - Arthur, Kathleen, Evelyn and Doris.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession No EA-10-2016



Emily at work, October, 1917.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2011



e41

Emily with Nellie McClung and  
Alice Jamieson, c.1918.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2070



e42

Emily at work, 1918. City of Edmonton Archives. Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2010

Emily with Emmeline Pankhurst,  
a famous British suffragist, 1918.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-1985



e50



Emily dressed in early Saxon costume, 1919.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2039

e46

Emily with Colonel F. Jamieson,  
Captain Ritchie (RCMP),  
Chief A. Shute and K.C. McLeod of  
the City of Edmonton, 1924.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-1997





e39

Emily dressed as an Irish poet. 1926.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2018



Emily in September 1927.  
City of Edmonton Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-1984

e47



Emily Murphy. 1928.  
City of Edmonton Archives. Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2023



e44

Emily walking with her husband. June 1932.  
City of Edmonton Archives. Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-10-2002

## Life and times

### An author's house

Other people also wrote about Emily. They not only wrote about her accomplishments, but about her life and where she lived. She was known as an author before she was known as a political activist and suffragist. However, she was active in more than just politics. She was interested in literature, and was involved in women's organizations such as the Canadian Women's Press Club.

For you to think about

- Emily Murphy and her home
- Emily Murphy's family history
- Attitudes towards women
- Lifestyles during the Great Depression

m52

## one

Excerpt



This article "Author's House Reflects Culture and Sympathy" was written about Emily Murphy's home.

It appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* on Saturday, May 30, 1931, p.10

### "Author's House Reflects Culture and Sympathy"

Once, years ago, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, D'Alton McCarthy and other distinguished Canadians of the day sat at dinner in Ontario. Their host's little seven-year-old daughter was lifted to the table where she recited "The Burial of Sir John Moore." Sir John A. Macdonald gave her a quarter, but her brothers were mortified. It was tactless, they said, to refer to the burial of one "Sir John" in the presence of another.

That little girl was Magistrate Emily Murphy then Emily Ferguson, who has been decorated by His Majesty the King and received international recognition for service to womanhood, Canada and the empire. The brothers grew to be distinguished men themselves. The statesmen who sat at the old, black walnut drop-leaf table are gone, but the table stands in Edmonton today. Lieut.-Col. Ogle R. Gowan gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Murphy's mother.

### An Author's Home

Mrs. Murphy's home is east of all an author's house. The walls are lined with books; in long cases under windows they are not shut away by glass but, literally, at hand. There are books in the drawing-room, the hall, the bedrooms and in Mrs. Murphy's library study. This valuable library includes the famous "Breeches Bible" printed in 1578 and the only one in Canada: rare autographed volumes and just editions, some of them of great age. Many are gifts to the present

... years ago, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, D'Alton McCarthy and other distinguished Canadians of the day sat at dinner in Ontario. Their host's little seven-year-old daughter was lifted to the table where she recited "The Burial of Sir John Moore." Sir John A. Macdonald gave her a quarter, but her brothers were mortified. It was needless, they said, to refer to the burial of one "Sir John" in the presence of another.

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#### An Author's Home

Mrs. Murphy's home is first of all an author's home. The walls are lined with books; in long cases under windows they are not shut away by glass but, liberally, at hand. There are books in the drawing-room, the hall, the bedroom and in Mrs. Murphy's library study. This valuable library includes the famous "Beechey Bible" printed in 1878 and the only one in Canada; rare autographed volumes and first editions, some of them of great age. Many are gifts to the present owner or her family by distinguished men and women of letters.

A pen and ink sketch of Bliss Carman by Duncan McKellar, given to Mrs. Murphy by William Arthur Deacon, Canadian reviewer and literary critic, and another of Deacon, himself, possess both literary and artistic interest. A delicate water color, the gift of Lady Aberdeen, another from Lady Aikins of Winnipeg; a painting given her by Agnes Deanes Cameron shortly before her death; the original of the colorful illustration made by H. Haslehurst, R.A., for her own book "Open Trails"; and autographed photographs of Hon. R. B. Bennett, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Hon. Howard Ferguson and Mrs. Ferguson in court dress and others, attest the wide friendships enjoyed by Mrs. Murphy among the literary, artistic and political figures in Canada during her own interesting life.

Family portraits and photographs indicate clearly from whence she received her legal talents and "fighting" ability.

the only woman to receive it and the first person to be decorated by the order after its establishment in 1931.

Because as president of the Canadian Women's Press club she kept the privy women of Canada working for prisoners of war work throughout the great war, Mrs. Murphy received *Le Vêtement du Prisonnier de Guerre*, an exquisite little bronze plaque showing a Polish prisoner writing home—a poignant reminder of war.

Everywhere in the home of this remarkable woman are indications of her breadth of interest and human sympathy; everything from her collection of wooden and clay vessels made by Doukhobors in Canada, and pipes and bowls of Chinese opium smokers, held by special permit from the dominion government, to delicate etchings and autographed books contributes to an atmosphere of culture, study and purpose.

### Foster's Weekly Weather Report

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Storm wave of mild form, expected to cross continent during week ending on 31, is expected to be a warm storm centre, bringing average temperatures back to above normal after the sharp drop ending on 28, generally over the continent. This warm wave will be the starting of the best period of crop-weather of season, as neither temperatures nor precipitation will be expected to depart very far from normal during the month to follow.

Storm wave centering on 31 is expected to be a typical summer storm wave, traveling the northern transcontinental storm path while the high barometer crosses southern states, causing cool wave with general rains in southern and central latitudes to occur between the low barometer storm wave and the following high barometer.

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Excerpt from "Author's House Reflects Culture and Sympathy, Magistrate Emily Murphy Lives Surrounded by Treasures of Literature. Art and Family History in Edmonton Residence." *Edmonton Journal*, Saturday, May 30, 1931, p. 10.

## two

Excerpt

The temptation is to write, not about the soft Persian rugs, Turcoman hangings, Indian and Persian brasses, Duncan Phyfe sofa and little Empire cabinet with its fascinating curios; but a history of the Murphys, the Fergusons and the Gowans, those romantic adventurers who came from Ireland to pattern their lives into the history of the new world. . . .

### First Canadian Orangeman

Her grandfather, who founded the first Orange lodge in British North America, was the same Colonel Gowan who raised the first volunteer corps in Canada, recruiting the Queen's Royal Borderers to fight for the crown in the rebellion of 1837. The original recruiting placard of that date hangs framed in Mrs. Murphy's drawing room and is a Canadian museum piece.

On the bottom of a coffee pot that has the mellow sheen belonging only to pewter is written: "Given by Sir John A. Macdonald, prime minister of Canada, in June 1863 to Emily Gowan, daughter of Lieut.-Col Ogle R. Gowan, M.P., on the occasion of her marriage to Isaac Ferguson of Cookstown,

Many are gifts to the present owner or her family by distinguished men and women of letters.

A pen and ink sketch of Miss Carman by Duncan McKeellar, given to Mrs. Murphy by William Arthur Deacon, Canadian reviewer and literary critic, and another of Deacon, himself, possess both literary and artistic interest. A delicate water color, the gift of Lady Aberdeen, another from Lady Atkins of Winnipeg; a painting given her by Agnes Deanes Cameron shortly before her death; the original of the colorful illustration made by H. Haslehurst, R.A., for her own book "Open Trails"; and autographed photographs of Hon. R. E. Bennett, Hon. W. I. Mackenzie King, Hon. Howard Ferguson and Mrs. Ferguson in court dress, and others, attest the wide friendships enjoyed by Mrs. Murphy among the literary, artistic and political figures in Canada during her own interesting life.

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#### Of Historic Interest

Of historic interest to Edmonton is Dorothy Stevens' original etching of the "Big House" at Fort Edmonton, a gift from Katherine Hale (Mrs. John Garvin) for whose book, "Canadian Houses of Romance," it was done as an illustration in 1924.

It is romantic to see a picture of Annie Laurie of Maxwellton, whose name has been sung by Scottish men in every corner of the earth. The immortal love poem was written by Douglas of Finland, but Annie Laurie married his rival, Sir James Ferguson of Craig, Darroch. She seems to have been a bit of a coquette for Lord Binning's quaint "the evergrateful Nanny," are addressed to her also. Old prints of the steeple bells and her handsome coquette hang in Mrs. Murphy's drawing room.

The Ferguson family later moved to Ireland where a Ferguson married Mary Roberts, a kinswoman of Lord Roberts and Mrs. Murphy's grandmother.

The temptation is to write, not about the soft Persian rug, Turcoman hangings, Indian and Persian bronzes, Duncan Phyllis sofa and little Empire cabinet with its fascinating curio; but a history of the Murphys, the Fergusons and the O'Garra, those romantic adventurers who come from Ireland to pattern their lives into the history of the new world.

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#### Cropweather Features Expected

June is expected to average about a normal month in both temperatures and precipitation for the continent and for the month. That does not mean that each small area will average about normal, but taking North America as a whole.

Periods 1 to 15 and 20 and 30 will be expected to average above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Most precipitation and lowest temperatures of month during week centring on 21.

Moderately severe storms, expected to centre on 21, will cause principal precipitation of month; moderate storms expected to centre on 8, 15 and 28; mild storms expected to centre on 30. Such storms expected to be transcontinental, crossing continent from west to east.

By "centre on" is meant that storms will be expected to reach 90th meridian on date given; when "week centring on" is used, weather feature forecasted is expected to cross continent during that week and reach 90th meridian on date given, which would be the central date of that week.

Lowest temperatures of month expected near 17, 24 and 27. Cool waves following storm centres of May 31 and June 8 not expected to reach great extremes. No cold waves or killing frosts expected this month excepting in the far

Ontario. The officiating clergyman was Rev. Stephen Lett, D.D., rector of St. George's church, Toronto."

The daughter of this marriage is a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the order and star being bestowed upon her in 1915 by His Majesty the King. In 1927 she received the decoration of the Banner of St. George, bestowed upon her by the Most Noble Order of Crusaders. It is a white moiré ribbon with the symbol of the scarlet cross. The crusader's badge, a sheathed sword upon which are imposed the scarlet and blue chevrons of service is of gold with the words "Sic Deus Vult." Hanging from a bar is the inscription, "For Merit, 1927, Emily F. Murphy." What the service to empire was for which she received this decoration, Mrs. Murphy does not tell. She is the only woman to receive it and the first person to be decorated by the order after its establishment in 1921.

Because as president of the Canadian Women's Press club she kept the press women of Canada working for prisoners of war work throughout the great war, Mrs. Murphy received "Le Vetement du Prisoniere de Guerre," an exquisite little bronze plaque showing a Poilu prisoner writing home — a poignant reminder of war.

Everywhere in the home of this remarkable woman are indications of her breadth of interest and human sympathy; everything from her collection of wooden and clay vessels made by Doukhobors in Canada, and pipes and bowls of Chinese opium smokers, held by special permit from the dominion government, to delicate etchings and autographed books contributes to an atmosphere of culture, study and purpose.

Excerpt from "Author's House Reflects Culture and Sympathy, Magistrate Emily Murphy Lives Surrounded by Treasures of Literature. Art and Family History in Edmonton Residence." *Edmonton Journal*. Saturday, May 30, 1931. p. 10.

## Life and times

### Photograph scrapbook

Henrietta's family was extremely important to her. Sometimes pictures are worth a thousand words. Put yourself behind the camera of these photographs.

g75

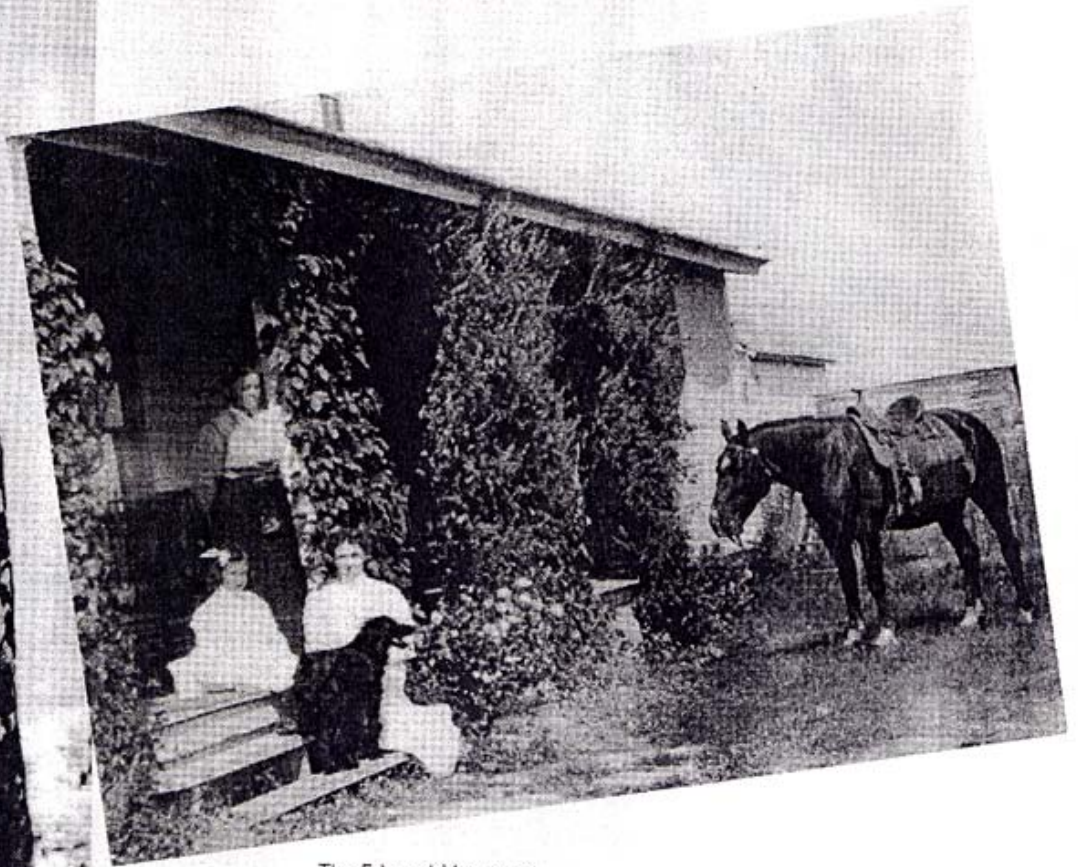


Portrait of Henrietta Muir Edwards.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta  
Accession No NA-4035-138

### For you to think about

- Henrietta Muir Edwards
- Henrietta and her family
- Henrietta's home
- Lifestyles in the late 1800s and early 1900s
- Women's lifestyles
- What was happening in Canadian history in these years

g74



The Edwards' home on  
the Blood reserve, Alberta 1906.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-4035-5





Henrietta Muir,  
Montreal, Quebec,  
Ca. Before 1876.  
Glenbow Archives,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup>  
NA-2607-7



Mrs. Henrietta Muir Edwards seated  
in a boat on the river, Clarence,  
Ontario, July, 1921.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-4035-124



Henrietta Muir Edwards, her husband and three children.  
Records of O.C. Edwards,  
University of Alberta Archives,  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 78-62-6



Henrietta Muir  
Edwards, Records of  
O.C. Edwards,  
University Of Alberta  
Archives,  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 78-62-5

Dr. and Mrs. O.C. Edwards  
and grandchildren.  
July 16, 1911.  
Glenbow Archives,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup>  
NA-4035-167



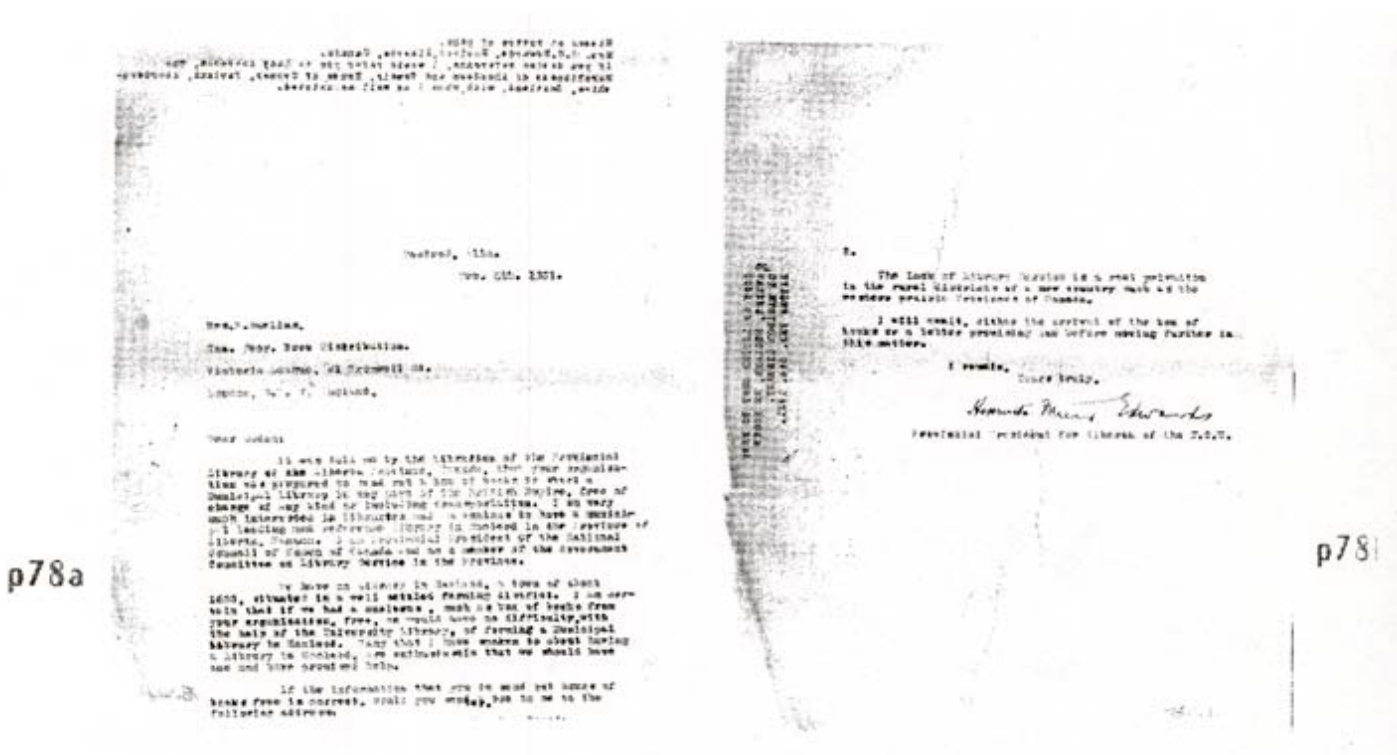
## Roles and accomplishments

### The reading rooms

One of Henrietta Muir Edwards' interests and passions was in the establishment of libraries. In 1874 she opened a reading room for women in Montreal. The next year she established a boarding house for women that had a large reading room. She continued to advocate for the establishment of libraries in her own community of Macleod.

For you to think about

- Henrietta Muir Edwards' contributions to her community
- Reading rooms for women
- Libraries
- Rural communities
- Community action and participation
- Citizenship



This letter was written by Henrietta Muir Edwards on February 5, 1931 regarding the establishment of a library in Macleod, Alberta. The note at the top of the first page was written by Henrietta when she realized she forgot to include it at the end of the letter.

Provincial Archives of Alberta. Accession No PA78.312

*Macleod, Alta.*  
*Feb. 5th 1931.*

*Mrs. D. Rawlins*  
*Hon. Secy. Book Distribution.*  
*Victoria League, 81 Cromwell Rd.*  
*London, S.W. 7, England.*

*Dear Madam:*

It was told to me by the Librarian of the Provincial Library of the Alberta Province, Canada, that your organization was prepared to send out a box of books to start a Municipal Library in any part of the British Empire, free of charge of any kind or including transportation. I am very much interested in libraries and am anxious to have a municipal lending and reference library in Macleod in the Province of Alberta, Canada. I am Provincial President of the National Council of Women of Canada and am a member of the Government Committee on Library Service in the Province.

We have no Library in Macleod, a town of about 1800, situated in a well settled farming district. I am certain that if we had a nucleus [sic], such as [a] box of books from your organization, free, we would have no difficulty, with the help of the University Library, of forming a Municipal library in Macleod. Many that I have spoken to about having a library in Macleod, are enthusiastic that we should have one and have promised help.

If the information that you do send out boxes of books free is correct, would you send a box to me to the following address...

The lack of Library Service is a real privation in the rural districts of a new country such as the western prairie provinces of Canada.

I will await, either the arrival of the box of books or a letter promising one before moving further in this matter.

*I remain,*  
*Yours truly,*  
*Henrietta Muir Edwards*  
*Provincial President for Alberta of the N.C.W.*

*Missed at bottom of page.*

*Mrs. O.C. Edwards, Macleod, Alberta, Canada*

If you desire reference, I would refer you to Lady Aberdeen, The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, House of Cromer, Tarland, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, with whom I am well acquainted.

# Life and times

## Photograph scrapbook

Louise McKinney was a quiet, dedicated woman who believed in many of the same issues women are still fighting for today. Some aspects of her life are represented in these photographs.

### For you to think about

- Louise McKinney and her work
- Louise McKinney's travels
- Women's lifestyles in the early 1900s
- Lifestyles in Canada in the early 1900s
- Women's participation in government
- What was happening in Canadian history in these years
- Passports as sources of information

p149 a only  
passport  
close crop



Louise McKinney with a group of women.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-3509-8

Louise McKinney passport photograph.  
This passport gave her permission to visit the United States, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Monaco, Great Britain, and the Netherlands.  
Provincial Archives of Alberta.  
Accession N975.48/40



g148 left

new photos

G147 big one blur edges



Mrs. Louise McKinney, Claresholm,  
Alberta.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-825-1



Photograph of a portrait by J.H. Forster,  
funds for which were raised by women's  
organizations in Alberta. It was started by  
the artist with sittings by Louise McKinney,  
but completed from photographs after  
her death.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-1731-3



g97

This photograph shows Louise McKinney among  
other members of the Regina, Saskatchewan,  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1908. Louise  
McKinney is in the back row on the far right.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-1399-1

## Life and times

### A biography

Louise's family was extremely important to her. Her son, J. Willard McKinney wrote this biographical pamphlet for the *Alberta Temperance Review* in the early 1900s.

#### For you to think about

- Key events in Louise McKinney's life
- Louise McKinney's family
- Rural communities
- Women's organizations and what they promoted
- Attitudes towards women
- The Woman's Christian Temperance Union
- The temperance movement
- Women's property rights and the Dower Act in Alberta
- The 'Persons' Case
- Women's status and rights
- Louise McKinney's achievements
- Citizenship

#### Full transcript

Mrs. Louise C. McKinney

Pioneer temperance Crusader of Alberta

(from biographical pamphlet, by her son, J. Willard McKinney)

Louise Crummy was born of Irish parentage, in the County of Leeds, Ontario, in 1868, the sixth in a family of ten. She attended Athens High School, Athens Model School for Teachers, and later Ottawa Normal School. She had the ambition to take a course in Medicine, but too many obstacles were placed in the way of women taking the medical course at that time.

After four years of teaching in Ontario, she moved West, and joined her married sister in Drayton, North Dakota. There she taught for three years before the call of Temperance work became insistent, and she was made W.C.T.U. organizer in 1894. While in this work, she met James McKinney, who had also come earlier from Ontario. They were married in 1896, and settled first on a North Dakota farm. As W.C.T.U. District President she attended the Silver Jubilee National Convention in Seattle in 1899.

In 1903 the McKinneys became pioneer settlers of Claresholm, in what is now the Province of Alberta. They were active in organizing a Methodist church there. For Years [sic] Mr. McKinney taught a Bible Class, and Mrs. McKinney headed the Primary Dept.

In 1904 Mrs. McKinney went to Calgary where she met Mrs.

Craig of Olds, and others from Edmonton, Regina and Medicine Hat to form the Northwest Territories W.C.T.U., with twenty local units.

Following the formation of the two provinces in 1905, the name naturally became the Alberta and Saskatchewan Union, with Mrs. Craig continuing as President. On her retirement because of ill health three years later, Mrs. McKinney became President. By 1912 the membership had grown too large for one organization in so vast an area, so two Provincial Unions were formed. Alberta with forty-three local Unions keeping Mrs. McKinney as President, so that she was continuously in office for more than twenty-two years. Even earlier, however, she had helped to organize a local in her own town in 1903, where she was the first and until 1930 the only President. And in 1907 she established her contacts with the Dominion Union, serving as a Vice-President from 1908 to 1930, when at the death of Mrs. Wright she became acting President. This meant preparing for the World's Convention in 1931, where she was hostess and was elected World's W.C.T.U. Vice-President.

Under her guidance the W.C.T.U. made its influence strongly felt the occasionally turbulent life of the young province, and her emphasis was always on the second letter in the title. The union stood not merely for Temperance, but for everything Christian in life, and could succeed only as a Christ-centered body. All intelligent social reform had the support of the W.C.T.U. It played a major part for instance in obtaining equal franchise for women in 1916. Social service and aid to immigrants received due attention too. But nothing ever altered or submerged Mrs. McKinney's reasoned conviction that beverage alcohol has no place in modern civilization. Temperance education was stressed and continuously promoted – by Loyal Temperance Legions, in schools, and in any other up-to-date way; for example by slides in the University Extension Dept. A local option campaign in Claresholm in 1907, failed of its objective because of the two-third majority requirement of the law at that time. But she had a major part in the 1915 campaign which made Alberta the second province to have prohibition of retail sale. From then on she fought to

keep the temperance people awake to the need of continuous education to hold and enforce the law. In this she failed and saw repeal coming because of the apathy of those who should have been alert. Yet her labors did

P100

**MRS. LOUISE C. MCKINNEY**  
**Pioneer Temperance Crusader of Alberta**

(from biographical pamphlet, by her son, J. Willard McKinney)

Louise Crummy was born of Irish parentage, in the County of Leeds, Ontario, in 1868, the sixth in a family of ten. She attended Athens High School, Athens Model School for Teachers, and later Ottawa Normal School. She had the ambition to take a course in Medicine, but too many obstacles were placed in the way of women taking the medical course at that time.

After four years of teaching in Ontario, she moved West, and joined her married sister in Dryden, North Dakota. There she taught for three years before the call of Temperance work became insistent, and she was made W.C.T.U. organizer in 1894. While in this work she met James McKinney, who had also come earlier from Ontario. They were married

North Dakota farm. As W.C.T.U. District President she attended the Silver Jubilee National Convention in Seattle in 1899.

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Following the formation of the two provinces in 1905, the name naturally became the Alberta and Saskatchewan Union, with Mrs. Craig continuing as President. On her retirement because of ill health three years later, Mrs. McKinney became President. By 1912 the membership had grown too large for one organization in so

This article "Mrs. Louise C. McKinney Pioneer Temperance Crusader of Alberta." Was written by Louise's son and published in the *Alberta Temperance Review* after her death. Provincial Archives of Alberta. Accession No 65.73/56

not go for nothing; such labors must bear fruit in years to come as civilization gradually learns the real nature of liquor. When Mrs. McKinney was induced to stand as a candidate of the Non-partisan [sic] league for the Provincial Legislature in 1917, she was somewhat surprised to be elected. She thus became the first woman legislator in the British Empire. This is memorialized today by the hanging of her portrait in the Legislative buildings in Edmonton, with a plaque suitably inscribed. There is also a bronze plaque in the Senate Chamber of Ottawa which memorializes the fact that eve women, including Mrs. McKinney, had successfully appealed to the Privy Council in 1929, to have women recognized as persons in terms of the British North America Act, and so eligible to sit in the Senate. During her term as a member of the Alberta Legislature, she had also been instrumental in the framing and passing of the Dower Act, which greatly improved the status of widows and separated wives under the law.

Her church honored her by electing her a delegate to the final meeting of the Methodist General Conference in 1925. Thus she became a Commissioner to the first General Council of the United Church, held in Toronto, June 10th of that year. She was the only woman to sign her name to the Basis of Union.

As a worker in the W.C.T.U. Mrs. McKinney had attended Conventions in 1907 at Boston, in 1913 at Brooklyn, in 1920 at London, England, and in 1928 at Lausanne. But the climax of her labors was undoubtedly the World Convention in Toronto in 1931, where as acting Dominion President she also presided as hostess.

She seemed to be still in the fulness of her powers. Although she had accomplished much, she knew well how much remained to be done, and would gladly have continued her labors in fields near and far. But it was not to be. It is perhaps fruitless to question whether a wise Providence called her to higher service or whether the limitations of human wisdom deprived us of blessings from her talents and devotion, which could have helped us further. One thing is clear. God's good purposes for his people will never be defeated as long as there are hearts to respond to the example and challenge of noble living, by taking up the torch.

Naturally the sudden passing of one who had played such a prominent part in a world gathering brought tributes from all corners of the globe. An intimate friend of many years, Mrs. Nellie McClung, summed up very concisely the key-note of her life. "Mrs. McKinney was a great lover of people, and because she loved them she could not look with complacency on any of life's evils."



## Life and times



g85?

Irene Parlby in the farmyard in Alix with her son Humphrey.  
Glenbow Archives. Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-142-2



g86

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Parlby, 1910.  
Glenbow Archives. Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-2925-3



g87

Irene Marryat, ca. 1890.  
Glenbow Archives. Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-2204-11

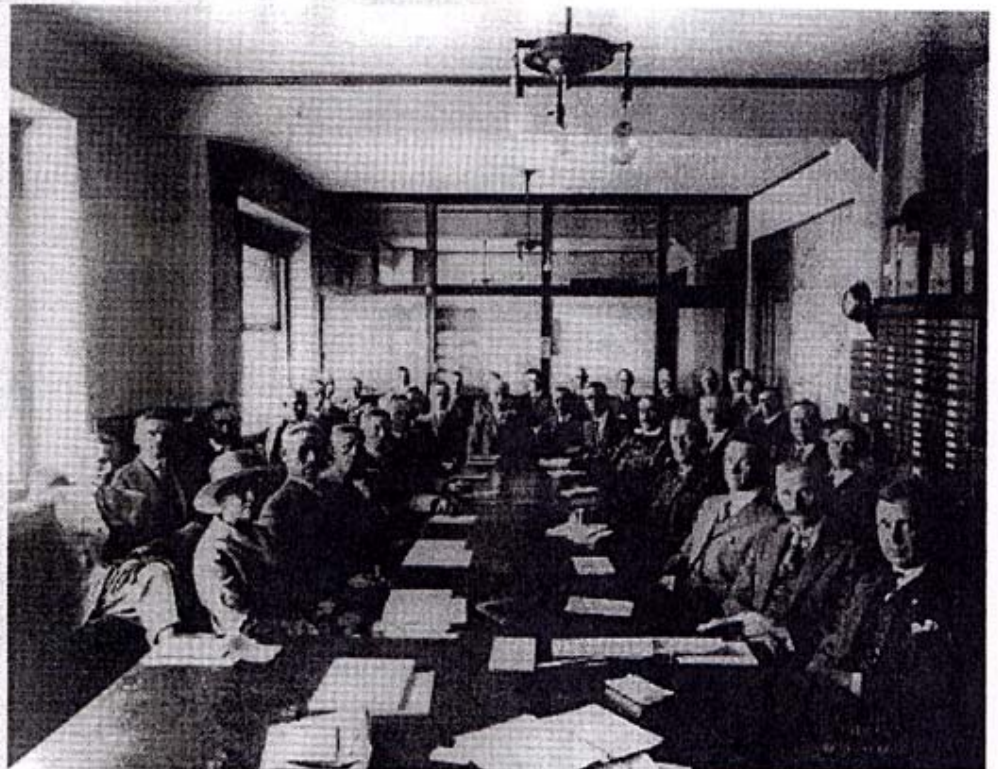
## Photograph scrapbook

Irene Parlby served her community, province and country in many ways. These photographs show some aspects of her life.

### For you to think about

- Irene Parlby and her family
- Irene Parlby and her work
- Women's lifestyles in the early 1900s
- Lifestyles in Canada in the early 1900s
- Women's participation in government
- What was happening in Canadian history in these years
- The League of Nations
- Canadian prime ministers

p142



Irene Parlby with the  
United Farmers  
caucus in July, 1921.  
Provincial Archives of  
Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> A482

e63

Portrait of Irene Parlby, c. 1920. The City of Edmonton Archives. Accession N<sup>o</sup> EA-267-408



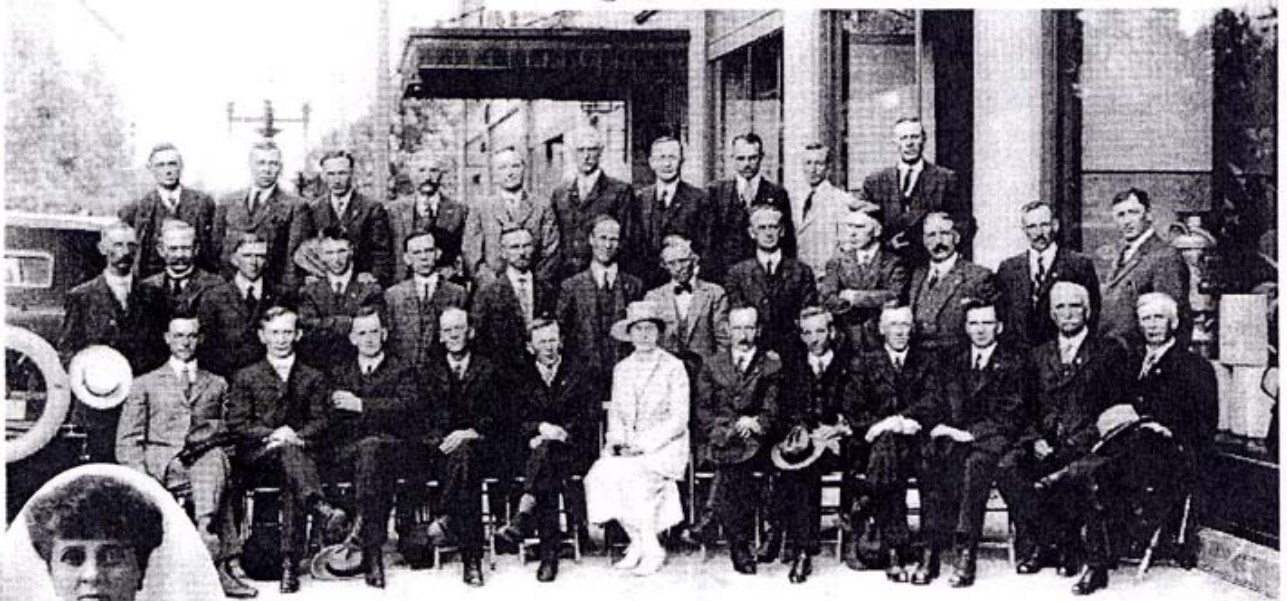
The Canadian delegation to the League of Nations, Geneva Switzerland, 1930. Irene Parlby is sixth from the left, beside Sir Robert Borden.

Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-142-5

G84



G83



P71



Portrait of Irene Parlby. Provincial Archives of Alberta. Accession N<sup>o</sup> PA3353

This photograph shows Irene Parlby with the United Farmers members after her election as MLA in the Alberta government. The photograph was taken in Edmonton in July 1921.

Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-2004-4

*Irene Parlby*

# Life and times

PROCEEDED, she has forgotten the exactness of a word or a phrase in her writing. She says she has never written a letter, and she has never written a book. She says she has never written a book. She says she has never written a book.

## Mary Irene Parlby

By Barbara Villy Cormack

The recent announcement that Mrs. Irene Parlby was to attend the coming assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva as one of Canada's representatives was received by all who know something of the work of Alberta's minister with enthusiasm.

What is she like, the woman who is to represent Canada at the League of Nations? In the past five years I have never met another public worker who has done more than what she has done in the past five years and all her time has been spent in the service of her fellow-citizens.

There are, as a matter of fact, several Mrs. Parlbys. To those who know her only in assembly or in some formal platform there is the familiar, slightly severe, black and white figure, always cool, collected and quiet, with a good measure of dignity and reserve. Serious, keenly alive, and very much in earnest.

At the same time, she is a woman who is a great variety of organizations. There are, as a matter of fact, several Mrs. Parlbys. To those who know her only in assembly or in some formal platform there is the familiar, slightly severe, black and white figure, always cool, collected and quiet, with a good measure of dignity and reserve. Serious, keenly alive, and very much in earnest.

And then there is the Mrs. Parlby at home, in the country, for you must remember that she is first, last and always a country woman, having lived in the Alix district as a bona fide farm housewife for the past thirty-five years. She is a woman who is a great variety of organizations.

And then there is the Mrs. Parlby at home, in the country, for you must remember that she is first, last and always a country woman, having lived in the Alix district as a bona fide farm housewife for the past thirty-five years. She is a woman who is a great variety of organizations.

## Can You Laugh?

By Angela Patti

Could you see laugh you will be in a bad way when the children begin to grow up. Remember that it is all right to see for you to be an educated child. There is the early stage of the world, and then of all of more things to do and things to do.

Could you see laugh you will be in a bad way when the children begin to grow up. Remember that it is all right to see for you to be an educated child. There is the early stage of the world, and then of all of more things to do and things to do.

## A sense of place

Irene Parlby's devotion to her home and her community gave her a strong connection to her hometown of Alix, Alberta.

For you to think about

- Irene Parlby's home and political life
- Irene Parlby's home and community
- Rural communities
- Attitudes towards women
- Women's lifestyles in the early 1900s
- Irene Parlby's contributions to Alberta

## Mary Irene Parlby

By Barbara Villy Cormack

The recent announcement that Hon. Irene Parlby was to attend the coming assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva as one of Canada's representatives was received by all who know something of the work of Alberta's cabinet minister with enthusiasm.

What is she like, this cabinet minister of ours, who has so capably voiced the composite mind of her sisters for the past nine years? Like many another public workers Mrs. Parlby is known far more by what she has done than by what she is, and all farm women must have heard directly or indirectly of some of her achievements, whether they have read of the actual bills she has sponsored in the house, or of her addresses before and in aid of a great variety of organizations.

There are, as a matter of fact, several Mrs. Parlbys. To those who know her only in assembly or on more formal platforms there is the familiar, slightly severe, black and white figure, always cool, collected and quiet, with a good measure of dignity and reserve. Serious, keenly alive, and very much in earnest. Then there is the "Mrs. Parlby rampant" inspired and eloquent with a very emphatic simplicity of diction, when she is launched with a good stiff breeze on one of her pet themes "creative education," "education in Denmark," "the bare essentials of child training." Here is a woman with a message still cool, still unruffled, but with a vitality and an energy that seems some way or another to be bubbling over in spite of itself.

And then there is the Mrs. Parlby at home, in the country, for you must remember that she is first, last and always a country woman, having lived in the Alix district as a bona fide farm housewife for the past thirty-five years. Here is the Mrs. Parlby who confided once to a

This newspaper article appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* on Tuesday, September 2, 1930. The article talks about Irene Parlby's political and home life.

friend that when she was at last free and had retired from public life she would make a mad, glorious bonfire of her political documents and correspondence and, dance merrily around. Maybe you can't picture that. You could if you had been to "Manadon."

"Manadon," her present home, named after the old home in Devon, has a gracious charm and sweetness that is distinctly old world. Once inside the high board fence that leads into the garden – of which more later – the visitor is hard put to it to remember that he is still in the cold, real world of facts, and actually on a perfectly practical and go-ahead western farm. It is a place to read and dream and think good thoughts.

A veranda to live in, a friendly hospitable hall, mellow with old brasses and fine prints, living rooms filled with more good things, inviting groups of books between curious book ends, a wide welcoming fireplace with crackling logs, an ever present "pleasantness of green things growing," a sunlit blue and white kitchen, modern and scientific but saved from severity by shelves of Wedgewood willow pattern china peeping from the glass.

And then, outside – the labored breathing of a big tractor breaking land – just to remind you that you are not really in "the land where it is always afternoon."

It is such a usable house, with practically no change it transforms itself from the occasional meeting place of the local U.F.W.A. to the scene of a young people's rollicking party or the resting place of celebrated guess – on each and every occasion a gracious setting for a gracious hostess.

Of course, if you turn up in the moving, in the midst of cleaning operations, you will find another Mrs. Parlby – also rampant, brush and mop in hand, head bound up in a big handkerchief – getting things done. I might say that our lady cabinet minister is an extremely efficient and immaculate housekeeper, and rarely keeps any help.

And then you step into the garden. Many things have been written about Mrs. Parlby's garden, and I cannot tell you the names of the myriads of plant, wild and cultivated, transported or native, that find shelter there, in what is comparatively a small area. I can well remember the first sight of it I had myself coming to it hot and dusty one scorching July day for it seemed there the sweetest of stopping places – border beds flaming with brilliance, but overhanging shrubs, creepers, vines and trees speaking an underlying coolness and peacefulness. There is the little flag garden too at the side, where she has planted all manner of specially sweet scented things. Beside the rose trees and the larger shrubs come little unobtrusive plants, creeping shyly between the big flat stones, and over all, the sweetest medley of fragrance. The sort of garden that makes you instinctively carry yourself a shade better and breathe deeply from away down below the bottom rib, if you know what I mean.

But by the Mrs. Parlby of the Garden I do not mean just an admirer of beauty or hostess of garden parties in an ideal setting. I mean a worker, a toiler, a figure in old clothes, working, stooping, selecting, weeding, with grimy hands and a protective armor of newspapers to keep out mosquitoes. It is possibly in the garden that you can

first detect those qualities of persistence and untiring energy which have brought its owner to the position in public affairs which she holds today. Gardening may be many things, from an occasional spasmodic hobby to a very end in itself. In Mrs. Parlby's case I should be inclined to regard it as the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.

For Mrs. Parlby has entered and remained in public life first and



View of Walter and Irene Parlby's home in Alix, Alberta.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA-142-3

foremost because of her belief in public service. She is not the type of woman who seeks the seats of the mighty for any excitement there, or who enjoys the cuts and thrusts of an election campaign. To the management of provincial affairs she brings a mind keenly alive to the difficulties and necessities of pruning, weeding, grubbing in the dirt – but with the constant vision of the blossoms at the end.

There is positively no “gush” to Mrs. Parlby, and it would be little short of sacrilege to gush

about her. Yet in the nine years of her provincial stewardship she has so firmly entwined herself around the hearts of the women of this province that, when the time comes to hand over to other hands, her ideals will be clearly grafted into the composite plan of Alberta womanhood.

## Life and times

### Photograph scrapbook

Nellie's career and the roles she played in her lifetime were very diverse. Her family was also very important to her. Sometimes pictures are worth a thousand words. Put yourself behind the camera of these photographs.

#### For you to think about

- Nellie McClung and her family
- Nellie McClung and her work
- Women's roles in the early 1900s
- Women's lifestyles in the early 1900s
- Lifestyles in Canada in the early 1900s
- The suffrage movement
- What was happening in Canadian history during these years

?bca109



Nellie. December 1910.  
British Columbia Archives. Accession  
No 193501-001: Call No B-06795



A portrait of Nellie, sitting at a table. 1914.  
Glenbow Archives. Calgary, Alberta. Accession No NC-6-1311

?g107



Nellie and Robert Wesley McClung.  
British Columbia Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 193501-001;  
Call N<sup>o</sup> D-09034



Mrs. Nellie McClung,  
ca 1910-1918.  
Glenbow Archives,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NA 273-2



Nellie McClung and Emmeline Pankhurst in Edmonton, Alberta, June 17, 1916.  
Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> NC-6-1746

bca110

Nellie McClung with her child.  
British Columbia Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 198307-001;  
Call N<sup>o</sup> G-04011



G112  
close crop

BCA113  
close crop

Nellie in a group taken  
on the day the Alberta  
Women's Suffrage  
Bill was passed.  
January 1917.  
British Columbia  
Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup>  
193501-001:  
Call N<sup>o</sup> B-06791



BCA115



BCA114



A portrait of Nellie. 194-?  
British Columbia Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 193501-001:  
Call N<sup>o</sup> B-06788

Nellie McClung. 194-?  
British Columbia Archives.  
Accession N<sup>o</sup> 193501-001:  
Call N<sup>o</sup> B-06794



G116

Nellie McClung, Emmeline Pankhurst and others in a car in Edmonton, Alberta.  
June 17, 1916. Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. Accession N<sup>o</sup> NC-5-1747



## Life and times

### Home and career

Nellie McClung had a strong influence on many of the rights that women currently have. She faced many of the same issues and concerns faced by women today. Nellie McClung was concerned with a number of different issues. She wrote about the roles of women in many circumstances. In the first article "Can a Woman Raise a Family and Have a Career?" Nellie writes about meeting her future mother-in-law and her husband. She also discusses the questions raised by women who try to juggle families and careers. The second article "Shall Women Preach?" discusses the role of women as ordained Ministers in the United Church.

### For you to think about

- Nellie McClung's life story
- Nellie McClung's work and involvements
- Nellie McClung's beliefs and values
- Contributions to communities
- Women's lifestyles
- Society and beliefs
- Attitudes towards women
- Women's rights
- Women's responsibilities
- Nellie's experiences as a public figure
- Attitudes towards education and careers

## Can a Woman Raise a Family and Have a Career?

By Nellie L. McClung

When the question of a career for a married woman is mentioned, one thought rises up like a gray ghost from the welter of opinions and has to be laid, before the discussion can go on: What does her husband think of it?



This article called "Can a Woman Raise a Family and Have a Career?" was written by Nellie McClung and published in *Maclean's* magazine on February 15, 1928. It provides information about her life as well as understanding about some of the opinions she held.

When I first began to give public addresses, I saw this question standing in front of me at every meeting. A man may make an address, sing a song or paint a picture, and go on his way, leaving behind him an impression of what he has done, and that only, but a woman has to be explained: Who is she? Where is her home? Does she wash on Monday? Does she have meals on time? Are her children well-trained? And above all: What does her husband think of her activities?

Now, I readily admit that the matter of the husband's attitude is all important. Not many women are strong enough and aggressive enough to face the world without the husband's moral support. I have come through many strenuous fights myself, and must confess that I had much delight therein, and hope to fight again with equal joyousness, but none of them have been domestic quarrels; I would be a sorry fighter with my own folks. Home, for men and women must be a place of restfulness and peace, where harmony abounds and the soul is refreshed with comradeship.

So the critics of any woman's public activities are right in the first round. It does matter what her husband thinks!

And because men form their opinions of women from their mothers, the woman who feels that she might like to step outside her home before she is done with life, had better choose her mother-in-law with great care.

I do not think it was with this thought in mind that I deliberately selected my mother-in-law, but it is true that I did choose her, and I have always taken great pride in the fact.

### Choosing a Mother-in-Law

I had come to a country neighborhood adjacent to the little town of Manitou, Manitoba, to finish the school year in a Hazel school, for a friend of mine, and on Sunday the family went to Sunday School, and I went too. Clara and I went to the Young Ladies' Bible Class and found the new minister's wife was our teacher. She was a strikingly handsome woman, in her early forties and to my country eyes, at least, beautifully

dressed in seal brown cashmere with smocked yoke and cuffs, and a moonstone brooch to hold her linen collar in place. She wore a velvet bonnet trimmed with folds of silk that made me think of the rosy tints of a winter's dawn, opalescent in their changing sheen; and her eyes – when looking into her eyes, I saw the browns and greens and gold of the moss in the meadow brook at home when the sunshine fell into clear stream.

The lesson, I remember, was the story of the Prodigal Son, and the group of 1892 flappers, with their hair in braids with the ends teased out, were not especially interested in the Prodigal Son coming or going. So I, being a teacher myself, and having sympathy for a fellow-sufferer, fell upon that lesson with fervor. I drew lessons, expanded thoughts, asked questions, repeated the golden text and was able to tell where it was found. Indeed, I can safely say without pride, I was the best girl in the class, and though I was probably detested by the others, I saw the gratitude in the teacher's golden brown eyes, and came home in an exalted mood – quite determined to keep to this breakneck pace of proficiency.

The family at home were greatly interested when we told them that the minister's wife had taught our class. A new minister's wife is always 'news.' Clara did her best to describe her, but even though she described the brown dress, velvet bonnet and moonstone brooch, I felt her description lacked something, authority, or conviction, or enthusiasm or something.

"In fact," I said, "she is the only woman I have ever seen whom I would like to have for a mother-in-law."

Clara's mother checked my enthusiasm by telling me the minister's wife had only two quite young boys.

I inquired their ages.

"Fourteen and ten."

Then, I pointed out that I was not quite sixteen, and what was two years' difference in ages anyway. It would never be noticed when he was fifty and I was fifty-two. Having put my hand to the plow, I was not going to be turned aside by two little insignificant years.

Six weeks later, Clara's mother brought back the news from town that the minister had also a big boy – eighteen years old, who had stayed behind in the East to complete his full, qualifying teaching term.

"So you may have your mother-in-law yet," she said to me, as I helped to carry her parcels into the kitchen; "but," she added, "he has red hair."

"I like red hair," I said. I hadn't known it until that moment, but I knew that I had always liked it.

## two

Excerpt

### No Need for Family to Suffer!

A woman can do other things while raising her family, and the family need not suffer, but she must have harmony at home. A woman can do many things if she has love and loyalty, and I have had these in abundant measure in my own home and in my own family in all its branches, mother, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. When I am home, after a campaign, whether I came with my shield or on it, I have been received joyously, and we have had great fun over it. No woman could grow bitter, even though defeated, when she has a family like mine!

I remember when the big political fight of 1913 was raging, and the Telegram now defunct, was running cartoons of me every day, my youngest boy, three years old, ran away one morning and we were alarmed over his disappearance. But before we had time to be greatly disturbed, his brother, aged eight, delivered him at the back door, breathless with joy at being safe home with the young deserter. "I got him, mother," he shouted, "it's all right, the Telegram didn't see him. I sneaked him up the lane."

He would have made a more interesting picture for the Telegram than the weird things they were running, too, with his grimy little face, and one stocking at half mast.

We had the baby trained to say he was a suffragette's child, anticipating and incidentally answering the wise old cracks about neglected children. He was a red-cheeked little chap, with a fine head of yellow hair, and in his white suits was very good to look at when we went to Edmonton to live. My brother Will, who lived beside me, quite enjoyed the shock of surprise some of his friends received when they asked "Who is this fine child you have, Mr. Mooney?" to hear the fine child reply with profound gravity and a fine air of detachment, "I am a suffragette's child - and never knew a mother's love."

Excerpt from "Can a Woman Raise a Family and Have a Career", *Maclean's* February 15, 1928. pp. 71.

## three

Excerpt

The standards of the world regarding women are pretty tightly set. The decree is that she must either stay at home, or at least do nothing serious. No one has much to say about the woman who stays away from home for frivolous purposes; and now while we are speaking about it, I wish to say that I believe I have spent more hours in my own home than the average woman, for I do not play bridge, I am not a habitual attender of teas or dances, and I rarely go out in the evening. But still I get phone calls like this: "is that W4717? Is Mrs. McClung home, by any chance? To which I reply: "She is at home, though it is not by chance, it is by deliberate design, and what can I do for you?" It's good fun to hear the sudden scamper to cover: they seem to think I come home only when every place else is closed.

### Not so bad as has been Feared

As a matter of fact, I have not been away from home as much as many women who go merely for pleasure. Once, when I went to England, I was gone four months, but that was by far the longest time I was ever away from home: And my absences have been carefully planned and prepared for. My mother-in-law stayed with my family once, when I lectured in the United States for two months; and, under her careful eye no part of the household machinery was left uncoiled. There are many capable, and conscientious women who can be secured, if one knows how to go about it – and I have been greatly blessed in my assistants. I have never suffered from the obsession that no one can care for a child, but its mother. I believe a mother does, or at least should, understand a child better than anyone else, but, after all, normal healthy, happy children are not much of a puzzle to anyone. The women who helped me to raise my children loved them sincerely, and were loved in return. Four of them have named their children for mine, which shows, I believe, that their memories of my family are not unpleasant. I tried to make up for my absences when I came home, by spending my time with the children. I kept a daily record of my doings, the places I visited, the people I met, making it as interesting as I could, for I wanted to keep them with me, and in sympathy with my work and they have always loved this. I wrote to them regularly, too, and sent to them books and pictures and souvenirs.

Once my daughter traveled with me for eight weeks, and we had a delightful time; she has never forgotten her meeting with Anna Howard Shaw, Carrie Chapman Catt, Mary Garrett Hay, and many other notable and charming women.

I have never had any illusions about the real work of running a house, the baking, scrubbing and washing – I have done enough of it to know it requires patience, and skill and a gift for planning, and knowing this as only a woman knows it who has done it, I am not an exacting mistress. If a maid burns a pan of biscuits or breaks a dish, I remember some of my own shortcomings and am not unduly perturbed, nor do I make her feel she is a social outcast. And because I am able by my attitude to allay her ruffled feelings the affair does not assume undue proportions. After all what are a few burnt biscuits, or even broken china in the great plan of life? Junk! Just junk! And I believe it is well for us to keep always our sense of proportion. In this way, and because I am not grieved to see a maid sit with empty hands if she wished to relax that way, I have kept house for thirty-one years very happily, and though I have not actually performed many of the household operations, they have been carefully executed. The basement is whitewashed and clean; the linen shelves are in order, the fruit-cellar is well stocked – and the jars are not sticky either!, and the meals are served with a reasonable promptness, and regularity, and the people most concerned are satisfied, I may even say, happy.

So it isn't nearly so bad as has been feared in certain quarters.

Children are not a handicap to any woman. They open up a new world to their mother, the rainbow-hued world of childhood, with its delightful confidences and the unforgettable times when all the world shut out, mother and child wander together

through the world of story books. I remember reading *David Copperfield* to my two eldest children – softening that dreadful scene where David was whipped for biting his stepfather – while they sat, scarcely breathing in their anxiety for their little friend.

Some time after, when their father was in bed with a cold, my eldest boy, then about seven, drew me hastily from the room, with a directness of manner that brooked no delay or evasion, and asked me, all out of breath: "Is my daddy very sick? Is he sick enough to die? If he died would you marry again?" Before I could frame a denial of any of these, he burst into tears, and cried: "I've had enough of this step-father business." I was able to give him the assurance he wanted. I reasoned it out with him that he was as safe as any little boy could be from the possibility of a step-father. And our faith has been justified.

I cannot lay claim to any great wisdom in bringing up children, neither do I presume to tell how it should be done. I leave that to the qualified people. Five children are a complete disqualification. But I have one strong conviction, and that is this – I have always allowed my children, nay encouraged them, to talk back. The 'Not a word, sir! I'm your mother!' type of parent is an abomination. None of my children have ever suffered from ingrowing eloquence, and I am glad of it. I believe that a woman who has done something outside her home, acquires a wider viewpoint, which in turn is passed on to her children. Trifles will not irritate her. If the baker forgets to call, she will not think he has planned this neglect deliberately. If some one fails to invite her to their luncheon, she will understand that no unkindness is meant.

Life is a winding road, we never know what is around the corner, and the secret of happiness is, I believe, never to lose one's sense of wonder and delight in simple things. It was Robert Louis Stevenson who said that 'To travel hopefully is better than to arrive.'

Can a woman have a Career, and Raise a Family?

I think so. Of course, I am not through yet. My family are still being raised. I am still working at what we call for lack of a better name "my Career!"

The past perfect tense does not belong here. I can only use the Present Imperfect of Continued Action.

Excerpt from "Can a Woman Raise a Family and Have a Career", *Maclean's* February 15, 1928. pp. 71, 75.