

Constable Forbes was promoted corporal on Aug. 1, 1897, and that month was transferred to 'Depot' Division, Regina, (where he resided continuously since) to assist in preparing the troop of Mounted Police that went to London, England, for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Mr Forbes was considered one of the pioneers of Wascana settlement, for he had made many trips overland—sometimes as military escort to the commissioners who made the Indian treaty payments—through the unpopulated district from Fort Walsh to Qu'Appelle, passing what are now the cities of Moose Jaw and Regina.

On June 1, 1898, he was made sergeant and became head saddler for the entire Force, an important post in those days when every man was mounted. He remained at 'Depot', then the Force's headquarters, where he was promoted farrier staff sergeant on Feb. 1, 1904, until his discharge to pension on Aug. 14, 1913.

When young Forbes first passed into the territory which is now southern Saskatchewan, it was but a part of endless, unbroken prairie, the habitat of buffalo herds. Little did he or his companions realize, as they travelled the great open stretches of country, grey with its coat of prairie wool, that they were visiting the future sites of thriving cities, nor in those hectic days of settlement on the western plains did the teen-age sub-constable dream that half a century later he would sit in his pleasant little home and look out upon large and extensive grounds, facing rows of buildings of the R.C.M.P. barracks.

Puffing contentedly on his pipe, 'Ike' could charm and entertain the listener with many a wonderful story drawn from his rich store-house of memories.

In 1915 he was honoured by receiving the R.C.M.P. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada.

*The Regina Leader-Post* contributed the following editorial in his honour:

"NOBLY, THEY PLAYED THEIR PART

Another link in the storied past of the western plains has been severed with the death of Isaac Jameson Forbes. A former staff-sergeant of the mounted police, his colourful career goes back to the days of

The Great Lone Land. Eighty-five years of age when he died, he came west from Oxford county away back in 1876. He joined the old North-west Mounted in 1878 and served the Force well and truly for thirty-five years before his retirement in 1913. He rode the trails with the best of them and leaves behind him a record rich in honourable conduct and unselfish achievement. He and those who served with him in those early days are as justly entitled to the designation of nation-builders as those who played more conspicuous parts. Without them, the west could never have become what it is today. The development of the prairieland and the peace and order which now prevail under the watchful eye of the enlarged and modernized Royal Canadian Mounted Police organization remain a monument to the hard work and courage of this fast dwindling band of men who were the first to bring law and order to the west."

The old veteran was laid to rest with full military honours in the R.C.M.P. cemetery, Regina. Officers, men, scores of civilians, friends and cronies of former years, including ex-Insp. W. A. Cuning and ex-S/Sgts W. W. Phillips and Robertson, and a full turn-out of the Masonic Order crowded the chapel on the barracks square.

Bishop E. K. Knowles, honorary chaplain of the R.C.M.P., officiated, assisted by Ven. Archdeacon J. K. Irwin. The new R.C.M.P. choir was present. 'Ike's' old sword, Sam Browne, gauntlets and medals figured in the colourful rites. So did that white helmet with its oddly-shaped spike so often seen in pictures of the popular veteran. After the funeral services, these were placed on the sturdy gun carriage that stands outside the chapel. The cortege, followed by a draped horse with riding boots stirrured in reverse, passed slowly down a file of serving members, out of the square and around to the little barracks cemetery.

Mr Forbes is survived by three sons: Leighton, of Maple Creek, Sask.; Douglas, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Evered, 5712 Dewdney Ave, Regina, Sask.; and a daughter, Mrs Jas Green, Edmonton, Alta.

The passing of this grand old pioneer will be mourned by all; it brings home the thought that there are very few of the old, old timers left.