

1917?

Uncle Jay
of a
Pioneer Day

AN INTEGRATED PROJECT

Complimentary

By

Wm. W. Parker

Uncle Jay of a Pioneer Day

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A PIONEER PROJECT FOR THE JUNIOR
GRADES I TO VI

L.P. F5719 P3

Uncle Jay of a Pioneer Day

THE PIONEERS



Make hay while the sun shines as Pa did it in 1916.

The early settlers who came to the West are called pioneers. Mother and Dad were early settlers in Western Canada. Some pioneers drove oxen on their new homesteads. They tried to make farms. They plowed the prairie sod for fields of grain. Others took bush land and first had to clear off the trees and roots.

The pioneers built homes. Father helped make roads. He dug wells. He built barns and a home. He plowed the land and cultivated it.

The pioneers worked hard. They had many hardships. They were often a long way from town. Sometimes they ground their own flour. They planted gardens, cut hay, milked cows, raised poultry, pigs and stock. This developed the resources of Canada.

Three cheers for the brave pioneers!

MY HOMELAND

By William Wilder McKinley Parker

<i>I can't help loving our north land, The winter chil' and snow-drifts deep, The summer rain and sun which band Together, growing fields to reap.</i>	<i>With native forests' coolest shade, Kind shelter for the moose and deer From hunter bold or enemy raid, Still kinder lakes and rivers near.</i>
<i>Across the open north expanse, The friendly town and farm homes spread From mountains and prairie to the sea, Producing butter, meat and bread.</i>	<i>What promise the future years withhold Till ourselves we still better know, And riches of the soil unfold And ships of wealth we homeward tow.</i>

THINGS TO DO:

1. Draw a map of the western provinces of Canada on the black-board and in your notebooks. Color the tree areas green. Mark the mountains with crooked brown lines. Color any large rivers, lakes or the ocean blue. Make an X for the cities below:

B.C.	Alberta	Sask.	Man.
Victoria	Edmonton	Regina	Winnipeg
Vancouver	Calgary	Saskatoon	Brandon
Westminster	Lethbridge	Moose Jaw	St. Boniface
Prince Rupert	Red Deer	Prince Albert	Portage La
Nelson	Wetaskiwin	North Battleford	Prairie
Trail	Drumheller	Weyburn	Churchill

2. Another map may be drawn of the western provinces, marking resources as coal, water power, oil, gas, timber, fish and farm lands.
3. Put the railways on one map. Mark main line of the C.P.R. in red. Mark the C.N.R. in black.
4. Draw an ox team, and include a Red River cart with two large wooden wheels, which brought many pioneers to the West.
5. Draw an early log cabin or a sod house.
6. Draw a picture of a pioneer farm home.
7. Name the trees which we find growing in Western Canada.
8. Make a map of the pioneer's farm, naming the fields of grain which he planted.



My Uncle Was An Early Settler Near Edmonton. Alberta.

LOGGING WITH UNCLE JAY

Uncle Jay homesteaded a quarter section of land north and east of Glenevis. It was not far to the woods from his place. There were many pine, spruce and poplar trees in this timber land. There were a few birch trees. Uncle made lumber from trees.

This lumber he used for his house and barn. From the birch he made flooring, eveners for the plow and harrows, and sleigh runners. Tamarac like birch was hard. It made good fence posts. In the winter the pioneers could haul on the smooth ice of the lakes and rivers. It was fun to cut down trees and saw them into logs. I liked to help Uncle Jay fell the trees.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

1. How did the pioneers in the West near Edmonton get materials with which to build their homes?
2. Where did Uncle Jay live?
3. What kind of lumber was hard wood?
4. What kind of trees did Uncle Jay fell near his homestead?
5. How did he use the lakes and rivers in winter time?

A SURPRISE WHISTLE

Uncle Jay came to his new farm before there were any roads. There was only an old Indian trail. His homestead was on section 12, township 56, range 4, west of the fifth meridian. This meridian goes north and south through Stony Plain, twenty miles west of Edmonton.

Uncle Jay built a log house of poplar and spruce logs. He peeled the bark from the logs so that they would not rot. He used poles for roof rafters and floor joists. He dug two wells at the foot of the hill just south of his new log house.

One day Uncle Jay heard a train whistle. He shouted for joy. It was the first C.N.R. train on the new branch to Glenevis. It was a long way off but it made Uncle Jay happy. Glenevis would be more than a store and post office now.

"I'll ride down to the station, it is less than four miles," thought Uncle Jay. "Wouldn't it be fun if I were to get a letter on this first train?"

MORE THINGS TO DO:

1. What made Uncle Jay happy?
2. Trace the road he would ride to town west of sections 1 and 12 and south of two and three. It was not as straight as it looks on the map. Why?

- On what section was his farm?
- What did he do to prevent the logs in his house from rotting?

PLAN OF TOWNSHIP 56
(DRAW IT).

N.							
31	32	33	34	35	36		
30	29	28	27	26	25		
19	20	21	22	23	24		
W.	18	17	16	15	14	13	E.
	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	6	5	4	3	2	1	
S.							
GLENEVIS							

- What shape is a township?
- It is six miles long. How wide is it?
- How long is a section?
- How many sections make one township?
- West is at which side of a map?
- Which side is south?
- Make one inch squares for sections and number them when you draw the township.
- Think of a reason for numbering the sections this way.
- How far would you walk around a township? A section?
- This township is north of township 55. How many miles is it north of United States or the 49th parallel?

CROSSING OLDMAN CREEK

It rained often in those early days between 1910 and 1915. Sometimes water stood on the trail and made it very muddy. It rained three days in June one year. It rained so hard that Oldman Creek overflowed its banks. The water covered all the willows and washed out Uncle Jay's new log bridge.

A party of Indians were returning from a hunting trip. When they reached the creek there was much excitement. One swam his horses over. Then the Indians tied some poles together with willows and made a raft. They put their skins, meat, blankets, wigwam tents on the raft and floated them across the creek. Then they came back for their wagons.

One of their wagons had no wheels. It was just two poles crossed over a horse. The ends of the poles dragged on the trail. They carried many skins on it. Sometimes they loaded it with meat. It is called a travois.

The Indians got wet. But very soon they made a campfire and dried themselves. They set up their tents of poles and skins.

Uncle Jay traded with them. He gave them butter, milk, eggs and bread for deer and moose meat.

NEW THINGS TO DO:

1. Let's really make a pioneer farm home. We can build it from small green poles.
2. Build a barn too.
3. We could make a hill in front of this log cabin, using sand or earth.
4. Draw a map of Alberta to show where Uncle Jay lived.
5. What was the name of his nearest town?
6. Mark Stony Plain on the map and mark Uncle's post office.
7. He sometimes fished in Lake Ste. Anne. Mark it on your map.
8. This land is called parkland country. Why?
9. Draw a landscape picture of it. Put a team of oxen in it plowing.
10. The Indians come each year on a pilgrimage to Lac Ste. Anne on the south of the lake. Mark it on your map.
11. They come here to church to worship. Try to visit the lake at a pilgrimage.
12. Tell the story of the Indians crossing Oldman Creek.
13. Make five questions to ask the class about the time it rained.

JAY MEETS A NEW NEIGHBOR

During the rainy weather is just the time when cows stray into the woods. Uncle Jay had searched all day for his best cow. Finally he thought he heard her bell faintly. It came nearer; it was as if the cow were finding him. No! It was a man, a stranger, ringing the bell.

"Howdy, stranger!" greeted Uncle Jay.

"How do you do, neighbor; searching for cows, too, are you?" he inquired.

"Yes! My name is Jay Clairmore. What's yours?"

They shook hands.

"Glad to meet you, neighbor. My name is Pete Chase."

"So you're hunting cows? How far away do you live?"

"Only about three miles, just on the other side of the bush."

"So?"

"Yes, I've been blowing this tin horn and ringing this cowbell for two days."

"Well, Pete! better come up to the house and have a bite to eat. It's not very far away."

"Don't mind if I do, thanks! I'm cold and wet, too."

THINGS TO DO:

1. Draw a picture of the tall poplar bush. Put the two men in it, if you like. One has a horn and a bell and is tall. Have them shake hands.
2. Make a picture of the Indians crossing the creek on a raft.
3. Let us build a raft. Better tie it well with wire.
4. Let us play Indians. The girls can use blankets and cook like the squaws. Boys can wear feathers in a paper band around their heads and make bows and arrows.

WE FIND OUR COWS

After a cup of tea together the men set out again to find their cows.

"How did you know your cow came this way?" Jay asked.

"I followed her tracks through the bush. I think some of my young stock are with her."

"I hope my cow is with her, too," said Jay.

"Here, Jay, you ring this big cowbell and I'll blow this tin horn!"

They had gone only a little way into the woods again, when suddenly a noise was heard. Cows bellowing loudly!

"At last, we've found them," grinned Pete.

"That was easy, how did you think of it?"

"Did it before; I've found them twice with a bell and a horn."

Soon there was a great rush through the wet, drooping leaves. Cracking twigs told the herd had found the men, as they lumbered into sight.

"Better drive them all to your place, if we can, Jay."

It was easier said than done, however. The cattle were wildly excited and raced to and fro, tails high in the air.

"There's your cow!" declared Pete.

"Right, that's her!" shouted Jay.

INTERESTING THINGS TO DO:

1. Tell a story of hunting for cows.
2. Imagine you met a stranger. How would you introduce yourself?
3. Cut some cows out of cardboard and set them up in a pasture.
4. Or cut some farm animals from apple box wood with a fretsaw.

HAY AND HAIL

It did not rain much in July and before August arrived we had many stacks of hay. What tall hay, bluejoint and red top stood higher than the oxen along the creek. One hundred racks of hay awaited Uncle Jay's mower. We worked long hours to harvest it.

I used one ox and raked hay while he mowed more. My hay-rake was light like a race cart but the hay was heavy. One day we put eight loads into a stack and rolled some into the haymow from the top of a hill.

We got most of the hay stored away. But one hot morning a dark cloud came up suddenly and hail came quickly. It beat the hay and grain down badly.

"Let's gather hailstones and freeze some ice cream," declared Uncle Jay. "Some are as big as eggs!"

I agreed, glad to have a rest from pitching hay.

MORE THAT IS FUN TO DO:

1. Could you draw a picture of the Indian camp near Jay's bridge?
2. Let us make an Indian camp beside a lake in the sandbox.
3. What furniture do you have that pioneers like Uncle Jay had not?
4. Build a hayrack. 5. Build a haystack.
6. Make a picture of work in the hay field.
7. Build a small fence around farm buildings of snare wire.
8. Build a smudge as Uncle Jay did at night to chase the mosquitoes away from his door.
9. Chink the logs in your house with moss as the pioneers did.

HORNETS IN THE HAY

During the haying, one morning Uncle Jay's team of oxen tore through the hay meadow, zigzagging back and forth at a great speed. There was no driver on the mower seat. I stopped the runaway team and soon saw Uncle Jay running away from the meadow, too. It was very peculiar.

"We cut into a hornet nest," he yelled, "and I fell off!"

The oxen were still restless. They could not be urged into the same part of the meadow again. It was a very exciting time. We had to smudge the meadow a few days before we could cut it.

THINGS TO DO:

1. Tell of an accident on the farm.
2. Tell how to chase hornets from a meadow or a building.
3. What would be good to put on a hornet sting?
4. Visit a farm and see the mower and rake.



EXCITING DISCOVERIES

One day Uncle Jay was out east of his house and yelled from a knoll, "Bring the team, quickly! And bring a logging chain!"

I hurriedly did as requested.

"A cow is stuck in the muskeg moss on top of this very hill. She can't move!" exclaimed Jay.

"She certainly is mired deeply," I agreed.

I handed him the long logging chain, which he hooked loosely around the cow's neck. The team drew hard upon the chain. It was all they could do to drag the cow from the soft spot.

"Phew!" ejaculated Uncle Jay.

"It must be a spring," I said, as the task was finished.

"Right! Look at the water there!" agreed Uncle Jay.

"Very good reason the creek never dries up!"

"And it never freezes in the winter. This spring keeps it open." We built a fence around the hill to keep stock off it.

"Good clear, cold water, nothing better," Uncle Jay declared.

PROBLEMS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made Uncle Jay's farm an attractive piece of land?
2. If you were homesteading a farm, what kind of land would you choose?
3. Is distance from town an important item to be considered?
4. Gather soil from various farms and compare it. You may send samples to the University to be tested.
5. Samples of water may be sent for free testing, also.

THE THIRD OX

When Uncle Jay got his house and barn built he began to clear and break land. There were some small trees to clear away; there were some old stumps; this took toil but section twelve had to be made into a farm. Some fields were light clearing but others were heavy. One night there were over a hundred bonfires on a ten-acre field.

Uncle Jay broke in a young ox which he had raised and drove three oxen on the breaking plow, and on the disc. Soon a field for wheat was made ready. When it was hot the oxen would puff. While they rested the young ox would often lie down. They were a little slow but that was a good thing should the plow hit an unseen rock under the sod.

WHAT ABOUT AN EDUCATION?

At first there was no school near Uncle Jay's farm. More neighbors moved into this pioneer district and at last there were eight children of school age.

"Now, we must have a school. We must!" declared Mrs. Price, who had been teaching her little girl at home more than a year.

"Yes," agreed Uncle Jay, "although I am a bachelor, we must have a school."

A meeting was called and Uncle Jay was elected as one of the members of the school board. They laid plans for the building of the new school. It took several months but that fall it was ready. When the first teacher arrived we learned that his name was James McCrea.

There was a great variety of young Canadians in this new Glenevis school. The settlers of the district were Scotch, English, Irish, Swedish, German and French. Some of them could not speak English so Uncle Jay felt that the girls and boys from these homes were showing us how nations could get along together if they but tried. No one thought he was any better than another, here was real equality.

THINGS TO DO:

1. Pretend you live in a new district. Try to dramatize the pioneer scene of forming a school board.
2. Draw a plan for the one room school with cloakrooms. Put plenty of windows on the east and north side.
3. Choose four boys' names and four girls' names for the eight children in this new school.
4. Why did Uncle Jay think it was a good thing when the first school was built?
5. From what countries had the parents of these new Canadians come?
6. How did the C.N.R. help to develop the country?
7. The pupils of the Glenevis school learned to do some tumbling and stunts. Can you turn a backward somersault?
8. Do you know how to do Indian wrestling? You lie upon your backs and lock a leg with a competitor, trying to turn him over.
9. This school liked last couple out, two deep, prisoners' base and stealing sticks. Can you tell how to play one of these games?
10. Try to play all of these good games.
11. Draw maps of your province. Make some large ones on wrapping paper.
12. Save pictures that help to tell the history of our West. Perhaps you would like to make a little booklet of the West. Things you help to make you will want to keep.

DO YOU SING?

Do you sing songs in your school? Songs make people happy.

The children of the Glenevis school like to sing. Uncle Jay liked to sing and play his guitar. Often a neighbor would bring over his violin and the homesteaders would all sing in the evening. It was fun.

They had no radio in those days yet. But they had a phonograph which they sometimes liked to play. Here is a song about the West. Perhaps if you try you can make one to sing.

"Strong and swift thy rivers flow, Alberta, Alberta!

Wood and prairie verdant grow, Alberta, Alberta!

Great thy noble mountain chain,

Broad thy heavens without a stain,

Queen with countless beauties blest, Alberta, Alberta.

Queen of all the golden west, Alberta!"

(Notes and words from author, 25c)



OLDTIMERS' DAY

This project might be called Western Folklore or Homestead Days. You might name it Oldtimers of the West. But whatever you name it, hold a little program, even a tea, and invite two or three of the oldest settlers of the district to tell you something of the early days. Make it a parents' day and let them see what you have made in your various activities.

Everywhere the oldtimers are highly respected. Honor them with this day! If it had not been for them there would never have been we! Without the honest efforts of the pioneers like Uncle Jay and other uncles, nephews and nieces would not enjoy many of the good things that Canadians now share everywhere in the West. Let them know we appreciate them and the work they have done.

LET'S DO THINGS:

1. Make a little history of your school and read it on Oldtimers' Day.
2. Have a committee write up the history of the district.
3. At the annual picnic, make a row of seats for pioneers. Reserve them, label them if necessary.
4. Some flowers at a school program or picnic would make an acceptable gift for Oldtimers.
5. It is this little thing that counts; in our town we have an Oldtimers' park and an Oldtimers' cabin. Send a car for them, let them know you will call by sending them a short note. Get the pioneer out to the program.

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