



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
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Nightingale Medicine Chest: Custodians in Canada



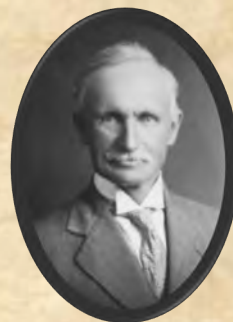
Florence Nightingale
1820-1910



Lady Verney
(1819-1890)



Mr. Isaac Milsom
(1860-1933)



Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Weaver
(1867-1942)



(1880-1954)



Dr. Lewis Thomas
1917-1983



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
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Custodians of the Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada

*...prominent citizens in early
Saskatchewan history*

Arlene Kent-Wilkinson RN, CPMHN(c), PhD
Leegay Jagoe RN, MN, PhD student

Land Acknowledgement

National

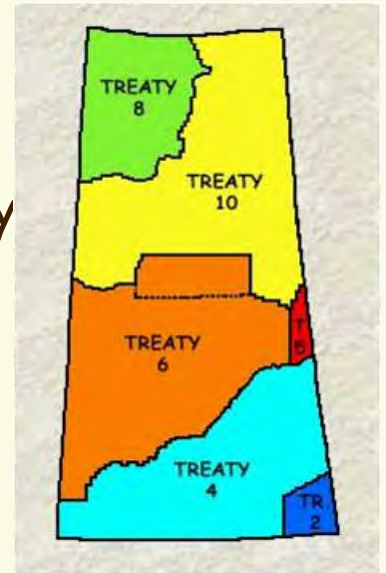
- In Canada, from coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral unceded territories and treaty lands of the First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples who have been displaced with colonization.

Provincial

- We acknowledge in this province, the University of Saskatchewan is on Treaties #2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 lands.

Local

- In Saskatoon, we are on Treaty #6 land.



Treaty #6 Medicine Chest Clause

- Treaty # 6 signed in 1876 was the most significant treaty in relation to health,
- Treaty #6 contained the 'Medicine Chest Clause'.
- The medicine chest was kept in the home of the Indian Agent for use by, or at the discretion of the Indian Agent.
- Interpretation - health care to all Aboriginal people forever.



Timeline Summary of the Custodians of the Medicine Chest

1850s-1890: Florence Nightingale & Lady Verney

- 1853-1856: Medicine chest(s) purchased and went to the Crimea
- 1989: Medicine Chest Box went from Training School to Florence Nightingale Museum
- 1912: This Medicine Chest came to Canada when Milson family immigrated

1890-1917: Isaac and Mary Ellen Milsom

1918-1956: Dr. Herbert D. Weaver and Alice (Thomas) Weaver

1956-Current: University of Saskatchewan

1956-1974: College of Medicine

1974-Current: College of Nursing

1850s-1890s



Custodians of the Medicine Chest Florence Nightingale



Florence Nightingale
1820-1910

Florence Nightingale

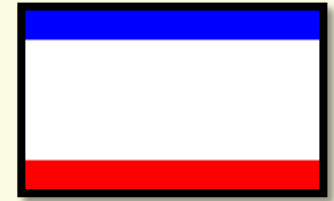
LEGACY

- Founder of modern nursing
- British social reformer
- 'Lady with the Lamp'
- Statistician
- Sanitation, hygiene and nutrition
- Field hospital design
- Nursing education



Florence Nightingale
1820-1910

1854-56



Crimean War 1854-56

- Florence Nightingale brought 38 volunteer nurses with her to the Crimea. The assumption was she also brought medicine chests with her to use in caring for the wounded soldiers.



Florence Nightingale
1820-1910



Medicine Chest (Box)
Florence Nightingale Museum
(FNM, 2023h; 2025)



Medicine Chest came to
Canada in 1912
(Kent-Wilkinson, 2021)



Lady Verney



Lady Verney
1819-1890

Francis Parthenope Nightingale:



Older Sister

- Florence had one older Sister Francis Parthenope Nightingale.
- Parthenope was born a year earlier 1819, and was also name after the city of her birth Naples
(FNM, 2023d, 2023l, 2025)



- Parthenope, at first opposed to her sister becoming a nurse, but later became an active supporter of Florence's work.
(McDonald, CJ, 2025c)
- Parthenope was a writer and a journalist and used her marketing skills to help promote Florence's work.

Francis Parthenope Nightingale:



Lord Verney & Lady Verney

- In 1857, Florence rejected Lord Verney's marriage offer (and 2 others previously) but introduced him to her sister Parthenope and they married the next year in 1858 (FNM, 2023, 2025; McDonald, 2001; McDonald, CJ, 2025c).
- Parthenope then became Lady Verney and lived at
- Claydon House, the ancestral home of the Verney family.



(Photo-Claydon House: National Trust, 2020)

Sir Henry Verney 2nd Baronet
(1801-1894) Verney as caricatured
by Spy (Leslei Ward) in Vanity Fair,
July 1882, Twnkl.com



1890

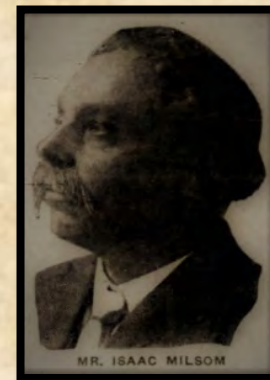


Medicine Chest gifted to Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Milsom

- In 1890 (approx.), Lady Verney (Florence's sister) gifted the medicine chest to their gardener and friends Isaac Milsom (1858-1933) and Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom (1861-1917).



Lady Verney
1819-1890



Isaac Milsom
(1860-1933)



Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom
(1861-1917)

1890-(cont.)



Lady Verney Dies

- Lady Verney (Frances Parthenope nee Nightingale Verney) (1819-1890) died May 12, 1890, at 71 years (on Florence's 70th birthday).
- We presume that Lady Verney gave or willed FNMC to Mr. Isaac Milsom before or on her death?

A future entry in the Florence Nightingale Museum (opened 1989 in London one hundred years later), stated that Lady Verney often gifted some of her sister's possessions to friends and family [FNM: 1004, 0097, and 0099]



1889s-1918



Custodians of the Medicine Chest Isaac & Mary Ellen Milsom



Isaac Milsom
(1860-1933)



Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom
(1861-1917)

1860



Isaac Milsom (1860-1933)

- Isaac Milsom was born in March 1860 in Didmartin, Gloucestershire, England
- Isaac's parents were John Milsom (1819-1888) and Hester Milsom (1820-1905).
- His father, John Milsom was born in 1819 Oldbury on the Hill, Gloucestershire, England and died in Gloucestershire, England at age 69.
- His mother Hester Milsom (1820-1905) was born and died in Gloucestershire, England at age 85
- John Milson (1819-1888) and Hester (1820-1905) had three children: James (1855), Ann (1858), & Isaac (1860).

(1871 England Census, Ancestry.com, 2020).

1861



Mary Ellen McNabb (1861-1917)

- Mary Ellen McNabb was born August 12, 1861 in Assleagh, county of Mayo, Ireland
- Mary Ellen was highly educated at Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland and Magdalen College in Oxford England.
- Mary Ellen won honors in literature at Magdalen College, and wrote articles on literature for that college.

Assleagh, county of Mayo



1870-71



Isaac Milsom (1860-1933)

- In 1870, Isaac at age 9-11 attended Waxell Boys School in Somerset England (1870, Somerset England Schools Registers 1860-1914 for Isaac Milsom: Ancestry.com, 2020).
- In 1871, Isaac (11-12ys) and his family were still living in Didmarton, Gloucestershire, England (1871 England Census, Ancestry.com, 2020).

Didmarton, Gloucestershire



1885



Year of Marriage (1885):

- Isaac Milsom (26) married Mary Ellen McNabb (24) in 1885 in Baliankill, Ireland (1885 Ireland Registration Marriage Index).
- The Milsoms had the first two of their seven children in Ireland.
- Herbert Isaac Milson (1886-1978) and Harry Gordon Milsom (1889-1937) were born in Kylemere, Galway, Ireland (Canada, WWI CEF Personnel Files, 1914-1918, Sept 28, 1914).



1889



Claydon House

- The Verney family's residence since 1620. Located in Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, England (Photo-Claydon House: National Trust, 2020)



(Photo-Claydon House: National Trust, 2020)

- Mary Ellen and Isaac Milson and their two sons moved from Ireland to England in 1889 for Isaac to be the head gardener at Claydon House hired by Lady Verney (Florence Nightingale's sister).

Buckinghamshire



Custodians of the Nightingale Medicine Chest



1854-1889

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

- Purchased medicine chest(s) in England to take with her 38 volunteer nurses to the Crimea (1854-1856) to help care for wounded soldiers



Florence Nightingale
(1820-1910)

Lady Verney sister of Florence Nightingale.

- Isaac Milson and Ellen Milsom were friends of the Nightingale sisters
- Lady Verney gifted the medicine chest to head gardener Isaac Milsom and his wife



Lady Verney²⁰
(1819-1890)

1890

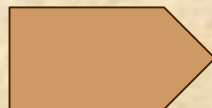


Medicine Chest gifted to Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Milsom

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Lady Verney
1819-1890



Isaac Milsom
(1860-1933)



Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom
(1861-1917)

Garden Cottage, Courtyard, Middle Claydon



Claydon Courtyard & Cottages

Claydon Estate

Claydon's incredible Courtyard was once the bustling heart of the estate. It housed workshops, stables, coach houses, estate stores, the laundry, brew house and staff accommodation. It is now a vibrant hub for events and home to a range of shops, businesses and holiday cottages (Claydon Estate: Historic Houses, 2023).

1891



1891 Address: Isaac and Mary Ellen Milsom

- Isaac and Mary Ellen Milsom lived at 28 Garden Cottage, Middle Claydon, Buckingham, MK18 2EY

Household:

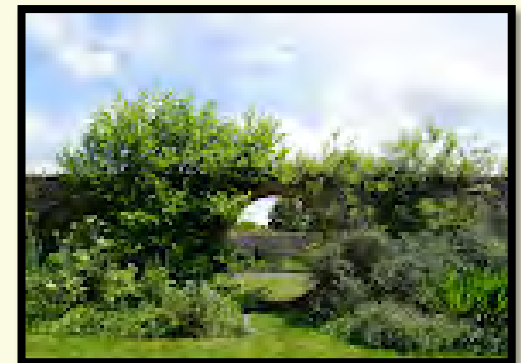
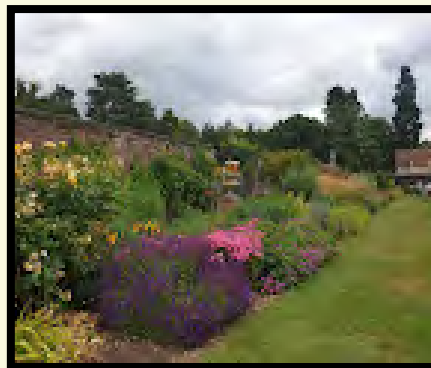
- Isaac Milsom age 31; Mary E. wife age 30; Herbert I. son age 4; Harry G. son age 2 (1891 England Census: Ancestry.com, 2020).

Parish:

- All Saints

Isaac's Occupation:

- Head Gardener



Claydon Estate Gardens

1890s-1912



ACTIVITIES of Mary Ellen while Isaac was head gardener:

- "Member of Claydon (Eng.) school board for five years,
- Matron of Glenowan orphanage,
- Organist and choir leader at Cliftden church
- Known also as a clever speaker and writer on educational and social problems" (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1917).
- Raising 7 children***

PERSONAL FRIENDS of Mary Ellen were:

- "Florence Nightingale;
- Mrs. Stopford Green (historian);
- Edna Lyall (novelist);
- Phillip Snowden M.P.; and
- Will Crooks M.P."
- (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1917).





Immigration to Canada



1909 - Immigration to Canada



Immigration to Canada

- In 1909, the Canadian Census shows that the 2nd oldest child of Isaac & Mary Ellen's children Harry Gordon Milsom at age 19, immigrated to Canada.
- In June 1911, aged 21, Harry was recorded in the census in in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.
- (Census of Canada, 1911)



Portage La Prairie, Manitoba

1912 - Immigration



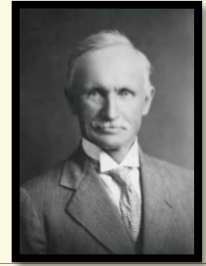
1912 Milsom Family Immigrates to Canada

- Long after Lady Verney had passed in 1890 and two years after Florence Nightingale had passed in 1910,
- Isaac and Mary Ellen Milsom immigrated to Canada in 1912 with six of their seven children (Census of MB, SK & AB, 1916) bringing the medicine chest with them,
- Their 2nd oldest son Harry Gordon Milsom was already in southern Manitoba.
- They came to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for Isaac to do landscaping for the city.

Saskatoon, SK



1914



Flower Show

- Soon after arriving in Saskatoon, Mr. Isaac Milsom met and became friends with Dr. Hugh Dalton Weaver, who was also originally from England (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1914).
- An article in the Saskatoon Daily Star (2014) connects the two men as both on the list of judges of gardening displays at a Flower Show in Saskatoon, along with other gardening related names, sponsored by the Saskatoon Horticultural Society (City of Saskatoon Archives, 2020)



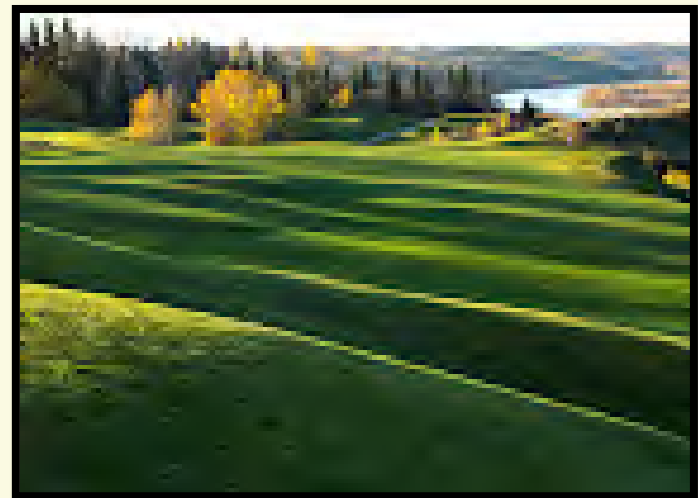
- Isaac Milsom was a Director of Saskatoon's first Horticultural Society (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1933).

1914-1918



Mr. Isaac Milsom- Landscaping

- Isaac Milsom was hired to do landscaping for the City of Saskatoon. Mr. Isaac Milsom worked for the Park Department in Saskatoon from at least 1914 to 1918 (City of Saskatoon Archives, 2020).
- Isaac was the first Director of the Saskatoon Horticulture Society, and member on board of Saskatoon Parks (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1933).
- While in Saskatoon Isaac laid out the plans for the Riverside Golf Course (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1933).



1917 Mary Ellen Milsom Passes



On Sept 1917 Mary Ellen Milsom died.

'Mrs Milson had famous friends in the old country'

- An article about Mrs I. Milsom's death in the Saskatoon Daily Star (1917) did not mention her first name (typical of the era)
- The article revealed Mrs. Milsom had been highly educated at Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland and Oxford University in England, but also had been an intimate friend of Florence Nightingale.
- The article stated Mary Ellen was often included in Florence Nightingale's circle of intellectuals as she was known as a clever speaker and writer on educational and social problems of the day.

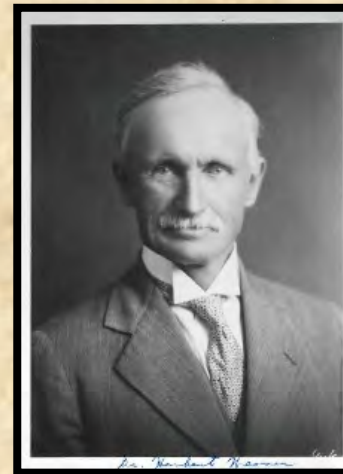
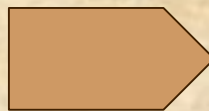


1917-18

Medicine Chest



- In approx. 1918 Mr. Milsom gave the medicine chest to their friends Dr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Weaver (probably before he moved to Regina)



1918



1918

- In April 1918 shortly after his wife died Isaac went to Regina to train WW1 vets in forestry techniques

1921

- Isaac was not in Regina long as by 1921 he was in Philadelphia, PA.
- Perhaps he was recruited as he was known as the best trained man in Horticulture in Western Canada (Star Phoenix, 1933).

1933



1933 Isaac Milson Passes

- Isaac Milson died in Philadelphia, PA on April 28, 1933 at age 73 of diabetes (Ancestry.com, 1933; Star Phoenix, 1933).



Isaac Milsom (1860-1933)
(Star Phoenix, 1933)

Milsom, Isaac (1860-1933)



Addresses of Isaac & Mary Ellen



Addresses (according to census):

1860: Isaac Milsom was born Didmartin, Gloucestershire, England

1961: Mary Ellen McNabb was born in Assleagh, county of Mayo, Ireland

1885-1989: Isaac & Mary Ellen lived in Kylemere, Galway, Ireland

Until at least after August 12 when Harry was born

(Canada, WWI CEF Personnel Files, 1914-1918, Sept 28, 1914).

1889: Isaac & Mary Ellen moved to England to work at the Claydon estate

1891: Lived at 28 Garden Cottage, Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, England

1912: Immigrated to Canada

1914: Isaac & Mary Ellen lived at 60 Lutana, Saskatoon, SK

1916: Isaac & Mary Ellen lived at 36, 5, 3, Cory

1917: Mary Ellen died at Glencairn Farm on Sept 15, 1917.

1918: Isaac moved to Regina in April, 1918

1921: Isaac moved to Philadelphia, PA

1933: Isaac died in Philadelphia, PA April 28, 1933

Milsom, Isaac & Mary Ellen (7 Children)



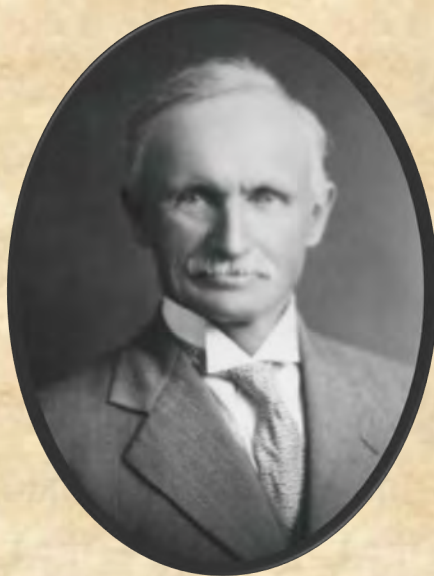
1. **Milsom, Herbert Isaac (1886-1978)** Born Aug 13, 1886 in Kylemere, Galway, Ireland; died Mar 17, 1978 @91 in Riverside County, California, USA. Immigrated to Canada in 1912; Sept 1913, Herbert John Milsom, aged 27, married Athalene Prime, aged 26, in Salem, Marion County, Oregon, USA; divorced.
2. **Milsom, Harry Gordon (1889-1937)** Born Aug 12, 1889, in Middle Claydon, Bucks; died Aug 9, 1937 @47 in Buffalo, NY. Immigrated to Canada in 1909 to Port Le Prairie MB; Harold served overseas during the First World War. 1914-1918 (WWI) (CoS Archives, 2020). Harry married twice. In 1917 aged 28, he married Kathleen Dora Mary Sproull, aged about 21, on 28 August 1917 in Battle, Sussex, England, and they were divorced; in 1928, at age about 38 he married Edna H McKinley, aged about 33, in New York County, NY USA.
3. **Milsom, Katherine Rose (1891-1961)** Born in Middle Claydon. Bucks. England; died @70 in Toronto, ON.
 - Immigrated to Canada in 1912; Married Fred H. Crean.
4. **Milsom, Ronald Gordon (1897-1970)** Born in Middle Claydon, Bucks, England; in 1970 died @73 in Warwickshire, England. Immigrated to Canada in 1912; Trooper, served in WW1. In 1954 @age 57 married June M. Tye.
5. **Milsom, Eileen Norah (1899-1933)** Born in Middle Claydon, Bucks England; died 1933@34 in Oakland, CA. Immigrated to Canada in 1912; at age 26 married Edison John Bruce age 16; one daughter Barbara Jean Bruce in 1928.
6. **Milsom, Gerald (1900-1966)**, Born in Middle Claydon, Bucks England; died Dec 24, 1966, @66 in SK.
 - Immigrated to Canada in 1912; aged about 27, married Hilda Marie Pepper, aged 17, on 29 October 1927 in Toronto, ON; Employment: Bank of B.N.A. Saskatoon, SK.
7. **Milsom, Doreen (1900-1996)**, Born in 18 July 1900, in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England; died Dec 21, 1995 or 1996, @95 in Summerland, BC; Immigrated to Canada in 1912; On Aug 15, 1936 at age 36 she married Irvine Clinton Adams, aged 33, in Summerland, British Columbia, Canada.

1918-1956



Custodians of the Medicine Chest

Dr. Hugh D. Weaver & Mrs Alice (Thomas) Weaver



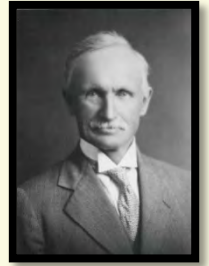
Dr. Hugh Dalton Weaver
1867-1942



Alice (Thomas) Weaver
(1861-1917)

Photos from Robert Thomas (1950-) family photo album

1867



Herbert (Hal) Dutton Weaver (1867-1942)

- Herbert (Hale) Dutton Weaver was born March 12, 1867 in Manchester, Lancashire, England and died September 12, 1942 in Saskatoon, SK, Canada.
- Herbert 's parents were Richard Thomas Weaver (1832-1885) and Elizabeth Dutton (Smith) Weaver (1832-1917).
- His father, Richard Thomas Weaver was born January 12, 1832, in Cheshire, England & died 31 July 1885, aged 53, in Oxford County, ON, Canada.
- His mother Elizabeth Dutton (Smith) Weaver was born June 26, 1841, in Aston, Warwickshire, England. and died December 30 1917, aged 76, in York County, Ontario, Canada.
- Herbert 's was 4th of 8 children born to Richard Thomas Weaver (1832-1885) and Elizabeth Dutton (Smith)Weaver (1832-1917)

(England Census/Canada Census MyHeritage.com, 2023)

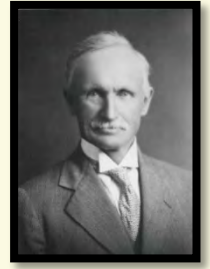
1880



Early Years

- In 1880, Alice Thomas was born in Stellarton, Nova Scotia.

1880

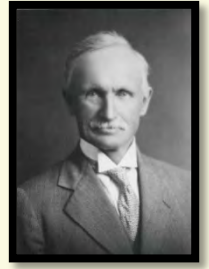


Herbert Dutton Weaver (1860-1942):

Year of Immigration (1880):

- Herbert D. Weaver at age 13 immigrated to Canada from England in 1880 with his parents who settled in Woodstock, Ontario.

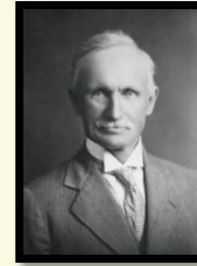
1897-1901



Dr. Herbert D. Weaver

- In 1897, at age 30, Dr. Herbert D. Weaver graduated from Trinity University in Toronto as a physician and then moved to Halifax.
- For several years, Dr. Weaver lectured at Dalhousie University Medical College.
- Beginning in 1901 while in Halifax he worked on a clinical team who were involved in installing the first x-ray equipment in Nova Scotia (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1942).

1906



Weaver's First Home in Saskatoon

- In 1906, Dr Hugh Dalton Weaver (age 39) married Alice Thomas (age 26) in Halifax and moved that year to Saskatoon.
- In 1906, the Weaver's first home in Saskatoon was on the site of the present Victory Theatre.



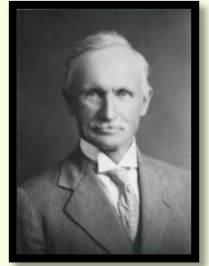
Victory Theatre, 1943, public domain

Entrance to the Victory Theatre at 221-20th Street East.

The marquee advertises a double-feature "Men of Boys Town" and "Prairie Schooner". To the right of the theatre is the Empire Hotel. A restaurant is on the other side as well as the Salvation Army Citadel and Beaton and Brady Plumbers.

Date: [ca. 1943].

1905, 1906, 1907

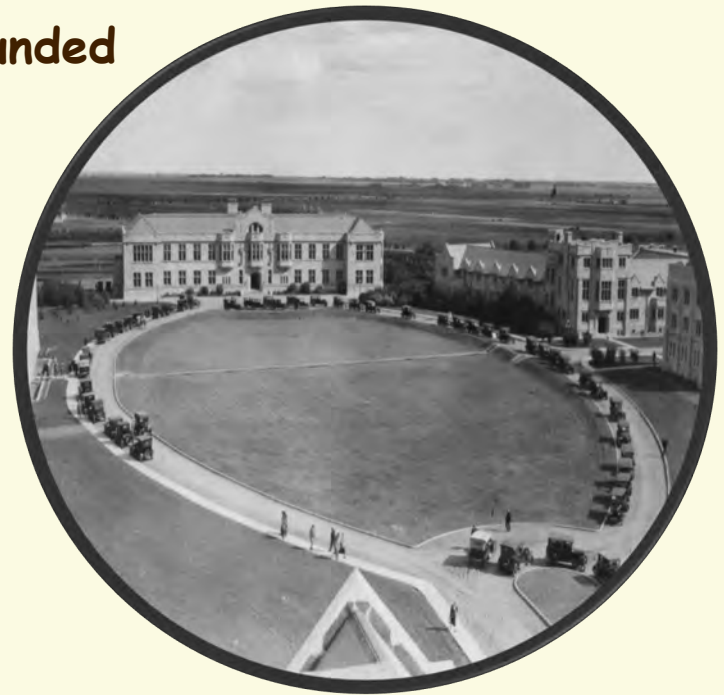


1905 Saskatchewan became a Province

1906 Saskatoon became a City

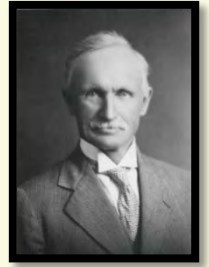
1907 University of Saskatchewan founded

In 1906 Dr. H. D. Weaver arrived in Saskatoon from Halifax and introduced the first x-ray machine to the medical community (Campus News: Shewaga, 2019).



USask, College Bowl, c.1906

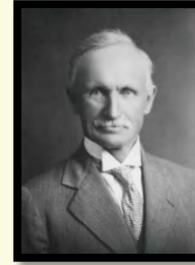
1906-07



Early X-ray Machine

- In 1907, Dr. Herbert Weaver (MD) brought the first piece of medical X-ray imaging equipment in Western Canada, to Saskatoon just one year after Saskatchewan became a province.
- The early X-ray unit—a Ranney-Wimshurst-Holtz Static machine—is the prized piece of a collection lost in time “It was state-of-the-art medical technology at that time
- Dr Hugh D Weaver had lost two fingers from the radiation of the x-ray machines.
- Dr. H. Weaver later donated the x-ray machine and the Florence Nightingale medicine chest to the University of Saskatchewan. (Shewaga, 2019).

1911



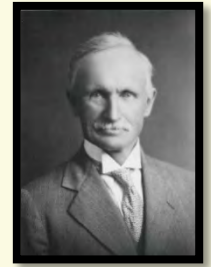
Weaver's Next Home in Saskatoon

- In 1911, the Weaver's built a new home at 4th Ave & 20th St. Saskatoon, SK (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1954)



Weaver residence, Saskatoon

1914

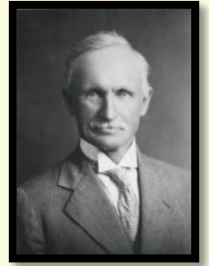


Flower Show

- Soon after arriving in Saskatoon, Mr. Isaac Milsom met and became friends with Dr. Hugh Dalton Weaver, who was also originally from England (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1914).
- An article in the Saskatoon Daily Star (2014) connects the two men as both on the list of judges of gardening displays at a Flower Show in Saskatoon, along with other gardening related names (City of Saskatoon Archives, 2020), sponsored by the Saskatoon Horticultural Society.



1914-1917



Dr. Weaver's Interest in Trees

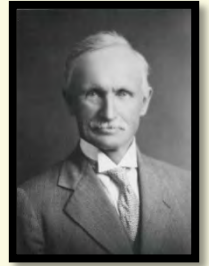
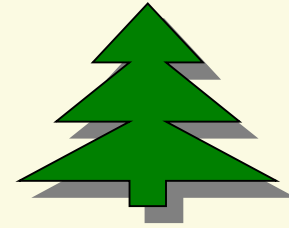
- Dr. Weaver also had an interest in what types of trees and shrubs could be grown in this prairie city and was a board member of the Saskatoon Horticultural Society, often holding meetings at their home.
- The Saskatoon Horticultural Society was formed in 1913. Membership has fluctuated over the years.



Saskatoon Horticultural Society

Growing Since 1913

1914-1917



Dr. Weaver's Interest in Trees (cont.)

- Early on Dr. Weaver established an experimental tree farm that years later became Lake Shore Nurseries in Saskatoon.
- In 1958, Weaver Park, in Saskatoon was named in his honor i (City of Saskatoon [CoS] Archives, 2020).



Lake Shore Nurseries
& Tree Farms

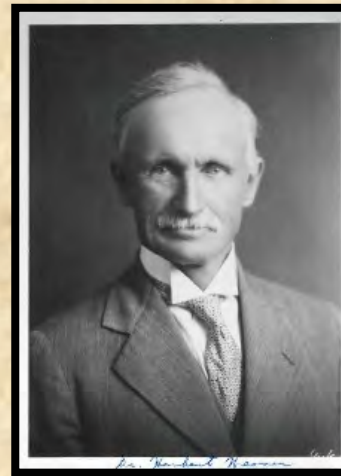
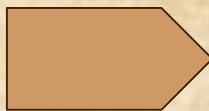


1917-18

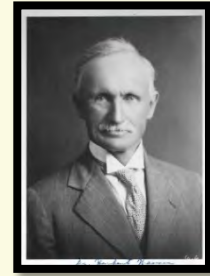
Medicine Chest



- In approx. 1918 Mr. Isaac Milsom gave the medicine chest to their friends Dr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Weaver (probably before Isaac moved to Regina)



Marriage Years



Dr Hugh D. Weaver & Alice (nee Thomas) Weaver

Children

- The Weavers did not have any children.

Nephew

- Alice Weaver did have a nephew Lewis Herbert Thomas (1917-1983) who they raised after his parents died when he was 14 years old.
- Lewis Thomas attended the University of Saskatchewan for his first undergrad degree

Marriage Years



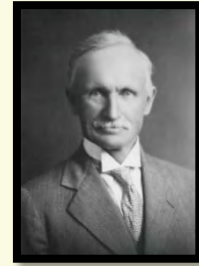
Alice (nee Thomas) Weaver

Activities

- Alice was active in the work of the YWCA and for many years was involved with St. John's Cathedral and Emmanuel Cathedral (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1954).



1940, January 18



Invite Ad to Nurse's Tea on Friday, Jan 19, 1940, featuring the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest

THE BRITISH GRADUATE NURSES NO. 1
INVITE YOU TO A TEA

To be held Friday Afternoon, Jan. 19, in the 'Bay' Auditorium, Fourth Floor
Proceeds in Aid of the Red Cross
There will be on display the original medicine kit used by Florence Nightingale
during the Crimean war



(Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1940,
January 18).



1940, January 19 (cont.)

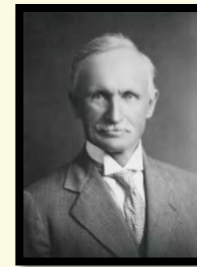


Nurses Tea at the Bay

- A Nurse's Tea was held at the Hudson's Bay Store in downtown Saskatoon.
- The successful event, attended by over 300 people, featured on display the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest.
- Owners of the chest at that time were Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Weaver (Saskatoon Daily Star, 1940).



1940, January 19 (cont.)



Nurses Tea at the Bay, January 19, 1940

- A Nurses Tea and Red Cross fundraiser held at the Hudson Bay store auditorium in downtown Saskatoon showcased the medicine chest, with the claim that this medicine chest was used by Florence and her nurses in the Crimean War.
- Over 300 people attended this successful fundraiser hosted by the British Graduate Nurses Unit No 1, along with Dr. & Mrs Weaver, who were recognized as the current owners of the Chest (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1940).



1940 - January 19 (cont.)



Nurses Tea at the Bay



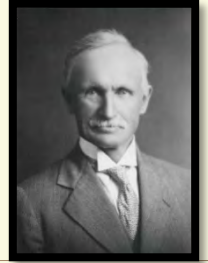
<1850s medicine chest



?1820s Victorian Order of Nurses Kit

... at the Nurse Tea, the more modern nursing Victorian Order of Nurses Kit or black leather bag was compared to the >1850 wooden medicine chest.

1942



Dr. H. D. Weaver dies

- Some of Dr. Weaver's life accomplishments listed in his Obit was that he introduced first x-ray machine to Saskatoon; he was a board member of Saskatoon Horticulture Society; later in 1956 Weaver Park later named in his honor (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1942).



Dr H.D. Weaver
(1867-1942)

1950-1954



Alice Weaver died in Halifax in 1954

- In 1950, Alice left Saskatoon after 44 years to live in Halifax, where her family was from.
- In 1954 Alice she died in Halifax at age 74.
(Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1954).

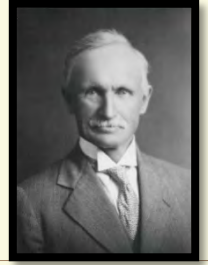
Nephew

- Alices nephew who they raised since age 14 attended the funeral,
- Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas at that time was the provincial archivist for SK (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 1954).



Dr Lewis Herbert Thomas
(1917-1983)

1958



Weaver Park

- Weaver Park, in Saskatoon was named in Dr. H.D. Weaver's honor in 1958 (City of Saskatoon [CoS] Archives, 2020).
- Weaver Park is located in the Queen Elizabeth neighborhood of Saskatoon on Ruth Street East, near Broadway Avenue.



(City of Saskatoon Archives, 2020).

Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas (1917-1983)



Dr Lewis Herbert Thomas
(1917-1983)

1917



Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas (1917-1983)

- **DOB:** April 17, 1917 in Saskatoon, SK
- **Parents:** Reverend Robert Thomas and Margaret (Ross) Thomas
- Lewis' parents died when he was 14 yrs old after which he was raised by Dr. Herbert and Alice Weaver.
- **Education:** BA History and Economics, University of Saskatchewan; PhD University of Minnesota.
- **Occupation:** SK Provincial Archivist, Researcher, Professor
- **Marital Status:** Married Margaret Eleanor Telford in 1946.
- **Children:** Jean Alice Thomas (1948);
 - Robert Telford Thomas (1950)

1917



THOMAS, Margaret Eleanor (Telford) (1917-2015)

- **DOB:** (1917, June 29 - 2015, May 15) @97
Born in Yorkton, SK; died in Ottawa, ON
(moved to Ottawa in 2008)
- **Parents:** Gertrude and John Telford.
- **M Status:** Married Lewis Herbert Thomas in 1947.
- **Children:** Jean Alice Thomas (1948) and
Robert Telford Thomas (1950)
- **Education:** Bachelor of Arts, University of Saskatchewan
- **Occupation:** Housewife

1954-1956



Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas (1917-1983).

- SK Provincial Archivist; Professor, Depart Head, Research and Historical writer at U of Alberta. Edmonton, AB
- Nephew of Alice Weaver
- 1954-1956
- If his aunt Alice died in 1954, and the medicine chest was not donated to USask until 1956, it likely came from their estate.
- Dr. Thomas may have been instrumental in two items being donated to USask, the first x-ray machine in the city, as he was the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest) from the estate of Mrs. & Dr. H.D. Weaver (USask, 2020).



1956-Current



Custodians of the Medicine Chest University of Saskatchewan



**College of Medicine
1956-1974**



**College of Nursing
1974-Current**

1956



1956, Medicine chest donated to University of Saskatchewan

- In 1956, the medicine chest was donated by Dr. H. D. & Mrs. Weaver to the University of Saskatchewan. (CoN Archives: Brown et al., 2008; Saskatoon Daily Star, 1942; 1954).
- We presumed correctly that the medicine chest was bequeathed or willed by the Weaver estate to the College of Medicine, USask, as Dr. Weaver had passed in 1942 and his wife Alice in 1954.
- Alice Weaver's nephew Dr. Thomas handled the estate after his aunt died in 1954 (confirmed by Robert Thomas in 2024)



Dr Lewis Herbert Thomas
(1917-1983)



1956 Institutional Custodian



Custodians of the Medicine Chest

1956...Institutions

- Murray Memorial Library, Murray Bld. 1956-:
- Nursing Professor Emerita recall... for many years the Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest was displayed on the ground floor, Saskatchewan Archives of the Murray Memorial Library.

The Murray Memorial Library on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon shortly after it opened in 1956. The offices of the Saskatchewan Archives are located on the ground floor.
(SK Archives Photo, Photographic Services series, 56-626-03)



(SK Archives Photo, Photographic Services series, 56-626-03)

1956-Current

Forensic Nightingale Medicine Chest

- This historic nursing relic was moved several times on the University of Saskatchewan Campus over the years to different locations as new buildings and libraries were built, opened and renovated.



1956- Current

USask Locations of Medicine Chest



1956--Saskatchewan Archives, Ground floor, Murray Building



1974- A display case was made for medicine chest by the Buildings and Grounds Depart and placed in the Health Sciences Library, B Wing, HSc Building

1974-1978--College of Medicine gave to College of Nursing

2000s--A Wing, Admin Front Office, College of Nursing



2010s-- Health Sciences Library, B Wing, HSc Building



2013--Dube Library, Ground Floor, E Wing, Health Sciences

2015--4th Floor, E-Wing, Atrium, College of Nursing

2020--4th Floor, E-Wing, Lounge near 4242, College of Nursing

2025—Currently remains on 4th Floor, E-Wing, Lounge

Future - to go in wall display in corridor of A Wing

2022-2024

Research on Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada

- Faculty at the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada completed research
- on this artifact that once belonged to Florence Nightingale
- Literature review and archival search started in 2020



2024, August-Sept

Interviews on Aug 23 and Sept 4, 2024 with living descendants of a custodian of the medicine chest Alice Weaver's great niece and nephew Jean and Robert Thomas, grown children of her nephew Dr Lewis Thomas.



Jean Thomas (76)



Robert Thomas (74)



**By Interviewers
Leegay Jagoe &
Arlene K-W**

Thomas Family in Regina

Nephew
of
Alice
Weaver



Dr. Lewis H. Thomas
(1917-1983) @66



Margaret (Telford) Thomas
(1917- 2015) @ 97

Thomas
home in
Regina



Jean Thomas (1948-)

Children of
Dr & Mrs Thomas
Great nice and
nephew of Alice
(nee Thomas)
Weaver



Robert Thomas (1950-)

Custodians of the Nightingale Medicine Chest



Children of Dr Lewis Thomas & Margaret (Telford) Thomas

Robert Telford Thomas (1950-)

- Grew up in Regina, now lives in Victoria, British Columbia
- BSc Engineering, UBC and U of A Arts & Science degree
- Occupation: Computer Software Development

Memories of the Medicine Chest:

- Recalls his father Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas bringing the medicine chest to their house in Regina around 1956; remembers it sitting on the coffee table, front doors that open, revealing green cubicles
- Sent digital photos from their family photo album of their home in Regina, of their aunt Alice Weaver and Dr. H. D Weaver, which were the originals of pictures that were in the Star Phoenix



Robert Telford Thomas
(1950-)

Custodians of the Nightingale Medicine Chest



Children of Dr Lewis Thomas & Margaret (Telford) Thomas

Jean Alice Thomas (1948-)

- Grew up in Regina, now lives in Ottawa, Ontario
- Bachelor of Science, Household Economics, UAlberta
- Occupation: Public servant

Memories of the Medicine Chest:

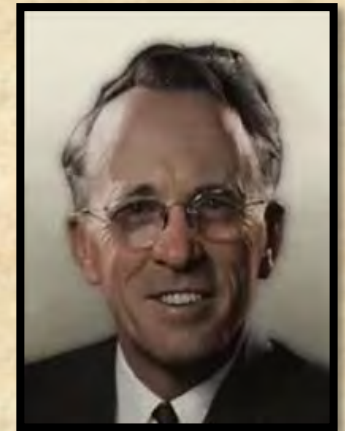
- Does not recall the medicine chest like her brother Robert did, but growing up often heard stories about Florence Nightingale and knew there was some family connection
- As a child living in Regina recalls Tommy Douglas who lived next door, was a frequent visitor to their house.



Jean Alice Thomas
(1948-)



Street View showing 227 and 217 Angus Cres



Tommy Douglas



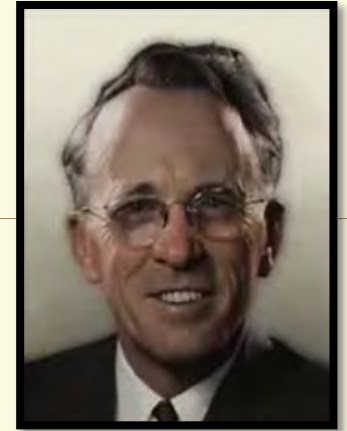
Thomas Home in Regina
227 Angus Cres, Regina, SK



Tommy Douglas Home
217 Angus Cres. Regina, SK



Treaty #6 Medicine Chest Clause



Tommy Douglas - Father of Universal Health Care in Canada

- Tommy Douglas, became the premier of Saskatchewan (SK) from 1944-1961 and leader of the New Democrat Party (NDP) 1962-1966
- In 1947, Tommy Douglas established a system of state-run health care in the province of SK, the first such system in the nation; by 1961 all provinces signed on to Medicare,
- In 2004, Tommy Douglas was voted the Greatest Canadian of all time.



Florence Nightingale Medicine Chest in Canada

The Florence Nightingale medicine chest is a historical artifact dating back to 1850s. Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, purchased the medicine chest in England and took 38 volunteer nurses to the Crimean War (1854-1856) to care for wounded soldiers. **TIMELINE** below depicts the continuing journey of the medicine chest to Canada through its custodians over two centuries



Brief History

- 1854–1856 Medicine chest allegedly taken with Florence Nightingale to Crimean War
- 1890 (approx.) Medicine chest given by Lady Verney (1819-1890), sister of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), to Mr. Isaac Milsom (1858-1933), gardener and Mrs Mary Ellen (McNabb) Milsom (1862-1917) friends of both sisters
- 1912 Medicine chest came with Mr. & Mrs. Milsom and family when they immigrated to Canada, where Isaac would do landscaping for the City of Saskatoon
- 1918 (approx.) Medicine chest given by the Milsoms to Dr. Hugh D. Weaver (1867-1942) and Mrs. Alice (Thomas) Weaver (1880-1954) friends from the Saskatoon Horticultural Society
- 1956 (approx.) Medicine chest given from the estate of Dr. and Mrs. H. Weaver, by nephew of Alice Weaver, Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas (1917-1983), to the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine
- 1974 (approx.) Medicine chest given to University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing
- 2020–2024 Research began to *Explore the Secrets and Providence of the Medicine Chest*. This project draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council.
- 2025 Research findings validated the authenticity of the chest once belonging to Florence Nightingale, through archival document search and finding living descendants (children) of Dr. Lewis Herbert Thomas who validated the family story - Jean Thomas (1948-) and brother Robert Thomas (1950-).

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