

DR. B. B. MARR - 1937



SABEL DREW MARR.

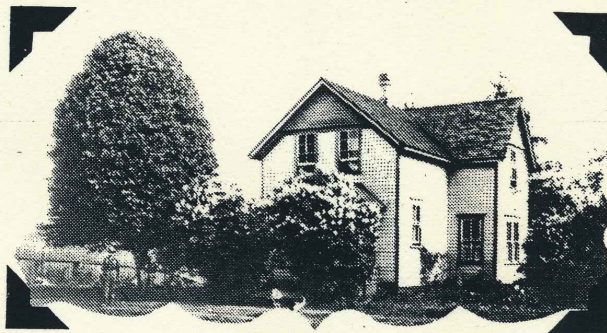


Dr. Benjamin Butler Marr

It is said that Joseph Michaud feared nothing on earth except a bee sting, to which he was exceptionally allergic. It is also said he was a terrible shot, preferring to chase off mauling bears and the like with a pitchfork. Fortunately, his young son was one of the best shots in the Valley, supplying the family table with wild meat and game from the tender age of seven.

The coming of this French-Canadian family to the Langley area also marked the beginning of the Roman Catholic Church in the area, Mass being said at their home for many years until a proper church was built.

The first "church" was a small schoolhouse which was moved across the Yale Road, established in the Michaud hayfield, and christened "St. Joseph's".



New Brunswick born Dr. Benjamin Butler Marr, 1882-1939.

As a young man, he paid his tuition at Tufts Medical School in Boston by working as a brakeman on the Boston Maine Railroad while commuting to and from classes. After graduation, he came to British Columbia in 1907, playing a large part in the establishment of upcoast settlement hospitals.

He then established himself as the first medical practitioner in Langley, building himself a fine home at the Fort and also a fine reputation for buggy racing, which provided his undoing the day of his own wedding. Somehow, a trace snapped, flipping the buggy and tossing the best man into the nearby bushes, but dragging the groom a considerable distance at the cost of a broken collar bone, three cracked ribs and a respectable amount of skin. In true pioneer fashion, he went on with the wedding, making his first honeymoon stop at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster before continuing with the itinerary.

Dr. Marr was responsible for the fine growth of chestnut trees on Glover Road.



Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Vanetta Vanetta had been a private in the Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers,

for three years on the side of the North before returning to the family farm in Iowa and marrying Elizabeth Murchison in 1873.

The young Vanettas and the older Murchisons came out first to New Westminster, moving to Langley in 1874.

Baby Alexander made his appearance two months later, the first white child born in the newly created municipality. Later, Alex Vanetta was to gain some fame by capturing escaped prisoner Alex Houston, who was searching for Bill Miner's loot.

The Yale Road was little more than a swamp when the Vanettas arrived in Langley, and it was Vanetta Sr's job to turn it into a usable wagon road for the municipality so that produce could be freighted to and from the K de K ferry service at New Westminster. Later, Vanetta became the first customs officer for Lyndon Shortreed, a position he held for 25 years.

Photographs courtesy of the Langley Centennial Museum and National Exhibition Centre.

BENJAMIN BUTTLER MARR, M.D.
1908 (approx)



Aug 10th, 1882 - Oct 19th, 1939



LETITIA ESTHER FOLKINS
1852 - 1911

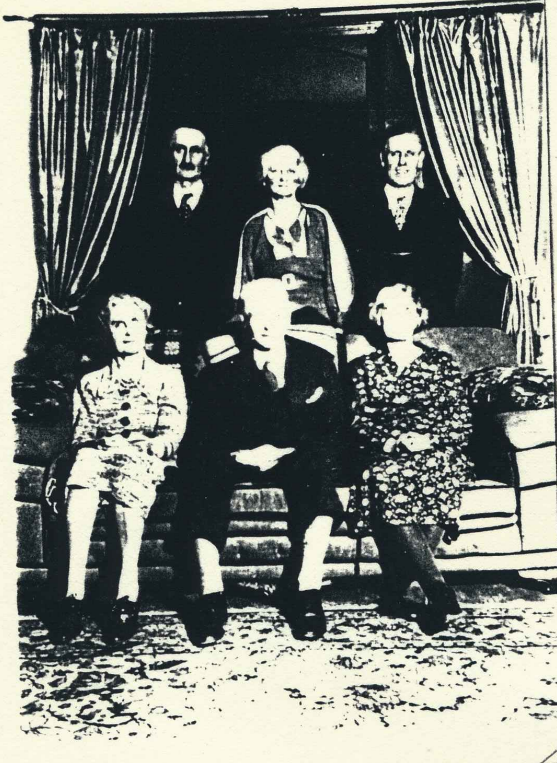
ALFRED FLYNN MARR
1846 - 1926





Isabel Drew Marr
Oct 30th, 1895 - 1952

Some of the MARRs



BLISS - ETTA - ALF
MARGARET - BEN - HATTIE
Murrayville 1937

ALFRED (ALF)
ALFRETE (ETTA)
← IN ORDER OF
AGE.

"Harry, Bessie, Bliss and Ben,
Hattie, Hazen and the Twins,
and little Margaret thrown in."

All knew this little jingle, it
established a guide to age and
seniority.

BEN, LETITIA,
SPENCER CRISP
BESSIE, MARGARET
HATTIE, ALLIE
BLISS and Baby
Leonard.



TRIBUTES TO PIONEER DOCTORS:

DR. BENJAMIN MARR

CAME FROM N.B., A GRADUATE OF TUFTS MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON. HE SUPPORTED HIMSELF THROUGH MEDICAL SCHOOL AS A TRAINMAN, WORKING A TRAIN INTO BOSTON IN THE EARLY MORNING, SPENDING THE DAY AT HIS MEDICAL STUDIES, AND WORKING ANOTHER TRAIN OUT OF BOSTON AT NIGHT. ON GRADUATION IN 1907, HE MOVED TO B.C. WHERE HE SPENT A SHORT TIME IN FERNIE AND KASLO; BUT EXPERIENCING A DELAY IN QUALIFYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, HE JOINED THE REV. DR. JOHN ANTLE IN THE COLUMBIA COAST MISSION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH FOR 2 YEARS, PLAYING AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FOUNDING OF VARIOUS HOSPITALS ON THE COAST. IN 1909 HE WAS RECRUITED BY YOUNG WILLIAM G. SWAN, THEN A YOUNG ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY THROUGH THE LOWER FRASER VALLEY, AS DOCTOR FOR THE LARGE CONSTRUCTION GANGS; AND IN 1910 DR. MARR SET UP IN PRACTICE AT FT. LANGLEY. IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR HE SERVED IN THE CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES FROM 1914 TO 1916 AND IN THE CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR. FOR DR. MARR IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A MOST STRENUOUS PRACTICE. HE BECAME THE PRINCIPAL DOCTOR FOR THE LANGLEY AREA, AND WITH ANOTHER DOCTOR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN 9,000 PATIENTS. IT WAS HIS DEVOTION TO THIS LARGE PRACTICE WHICH LED TO HIS UNTIMELY DEATH IN 1939, A MARTYR TO DUTY. WE HONOUR DR. MARR AS DOCTOR, SOLDIER, AND DEVOTED SERVANT OF HIS PATIENTS.

Charles Woodward Memorial Room
Woodward Biomedical Library
University of British Columbia

WEDDINGS

Marr—McIntosh.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Fort Langley, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Wednesday evening, September 10, when Isabel Drew, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McIntosh, was united in marriage to Dr. Benjamin B. Marr. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The bridal party stood beneath a floral arch, while Rev. C. McDiarmid, pastor of the Presbyterian church, performed the ceremony. The groom was supported by Dr. M. C. Bagnall. Miss M. E. Coulter assisted the bride, and Misses Peggy Allen and Shirley Foley looked sweet and pretty as flower-girls. The bride's dress was mousseline duchesse, with tunic formed of tinsel embroidered chiffon, the lower part of lace trimmed with rosebud edging. She wore a pearl necklace, the gift of the groom, with a veil trimmed with orange blossom, and carried a shower bouquet of white roses. Her traveling costume was of brown tweed, with silk plush hat to match. The bridesmaid wore a beautiful dress of pink chiffon over white satin.

After the ceremony a reception was held in the home of the bride's parents. Standing under a floral bell the bridal pair received congratulations from some one hundred and forty guests from Vancouver, Westminster and the Fraser Valley. Of special local interest is the fact that the bride was born at Fort Langley, in the home where the parents still reside. She has been organist in the Presbyterian church for some time, and in appreciation of her voluntary services the congregation placed a suitably engraved gold watch among the other many beautiful gifts. The groom's gifts were: To the bride, a pearl necklace, with pendant; to the groomsmen, a pair of cuff links; to the flower girls, bracelets.

The guests from a distance were: Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Bagnall, Dr. M. Bagnall, Dr. and Mrs. Crosby, Mrs. Cruikshanks, Mrs. J. C. McArthur, Mr. and Mrs. Savage, Mrs. E. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. M. McSween, Mrs. Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Miss Chew and Miss Bonnie, from Vancouver; Dr. and Mrs. Drew, Dr. and Mrs. McSween, Dr. Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. Barclay, Mr. J. Goodwin, Miss Goodwin, Miss McDonald and Miss Mitchell, from New Westminster; Mrs. Armstrong and Miss McDonald, from Chilliwack; Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, from Kamloops; Dr. and Mrs. Sinclair, and Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, from Cloverdale.

The newly married couple and many of the guests went on the S. S. Fort Langley, specially chartered for the occasion, to New Westminster. After an extended honeymoon trip, Dr. and Mrs. Marr will reside in their new residence, just completed, on Main street, Fort Langley.

CAPT. MARR FOR DUTY IN FIELD

LANGLEY, April 27.—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McIntosh of Langley Fort have received word from their daughter in England, Mrs. (Dr.) Marr, that she expects to return to Canada as soon as she can obtain a permit as her husband, Capt. B. B. Marr, formerly Dr. Marr, of the Fort, has received orders to cross the Channel into France for duty in the field.

Mrs. Marr will be accompanied by her infant son, who was born in the Old Country. Lieut. F. J. MacKenzie, who is now home on furlough, had the opportunity of visiting Capt. Marr and also Mrs. Marr and child when they were stationed at Lyminge, Kent county, where Capt. Marr was in charge of a special military hospital. Capt. Marr was afterwards transferred to Brighton, Sussex, in expectation of service in France and Flanders.



TRIBUTES TO PIONEER DOCTORS:

DR. BENJAMIN MARR

Aug 10 1932

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MEMORIAL ROOM

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Aug 10/1985

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x MARR
 x SUBJECT
JORDAN
MARR
NORTHWESTERN
Now.
 x St John

Biography and background

Benjamin Butler Marr was born August 10, 1882 to the large family of Alfred Flynn Marr of Jordan Mountain, New Brunswick. They were of United Empire Loyalist stock and had worked the land of Kings County for several generations.

The mother, ^{LETITIA} Letitia, was deeply loved. She attended to the needs of many families at births and deaths, and at such other times that sympathy and good sense could add to the comfort and well being of those living close by. In those early days, the remoteness of the rural areas denied these people the benefits of what little medical knowledge there was then available. It was undoubtedly the influence of the mother that directed her fourth son into medicine. It was she who encouraged him to attend ^{HIGH SCHOOL} grammar school in Sussex many miles away. Those were difficult years, and the walk home on winter week-ends must have been long and cold indeed.

Ben Marr completed grammar school and then went to Massachusetts, as so many young men and women were inclined to do, because of the lack of centers of higher learning in the maritimes and the distance to Upper Canada. He boarded with an uncle, an arrangement no doubt made by a resourceful mother, an uncle who lived 70 miles out of Boston.

This uncle was a conductor on the Boston-Maine Railroad and Ben was able to enroll in Tufts Medical College and pay his tuition fees by hiring on as brakeman on the railway. He would work the train into Boston each morning, attend Medical School and then work a train homebound in the evening. He graduated with a degree in Medicine in 1907 and immediately left for British Columbia. - NOTHING IN NB.

MANAGED TO BORROW \$500 - GUESS STAKE
\$500 TO POST FOR EXAM - FAILED
\$450 BACIC - WROTE AGAIN IN 6 MON. - FAILED
\$500 BORROWED. REATIME



PASSED ON 3RD SITTING
2 YRS LATER.

ODD JOBS + WENT WITH
AUNTIE FOR 2 YEARS.

WAS THINKING OF GOING HOME

AUNTIE ENCOURAGED HIM TO WRITE
A THIRD TIME

- Dad feels Auntie must have
put a good word in for him.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the name "COLUMBIA" and other illegible text.

As a young doctor he spent brief periods in both Fernie and Kaslo before coming to Vancouver in 1908. It was here that both trouble and fate intervened. Trouble in that his money, loaned by the aunt in Massachusetts was about at an end, and he had failed to pass his B.C. Medical examinations - which may have been in part because of a lingering distrust of American institutes of learning and the diplomas they conferred. It was at this low point that a chance meeting on the Vancouver waterfront changed his fortunes and he commenced what he later described as the finest 2 years of his life. This chance meeting deserves a word.

The young doctor was sitting on a wharf piling on this particular evening. Disheartened and depressed, contemplating returning home to New Brunswick. He was, as it turned out, observed by a man who was waiting for an engineer, who it seemed, when ashore frequented the saloons, and tended to overstay his leave. This man watched the younger man and sensed his distress. So he struck up a conversation and when he heard the story, asked if he thought that a young doctor could run the engines of a vessel moored nearby. This man was the Reverend Dr. John Antle of the Anglican Columbia Coast Mission - and for the next 2 years the doctor served with Dr. Antle on the mission boats and played a part in establishing a number of hospitals at up coast settlements which were to care for both the body and soul of any in need. At the end of this period he successfully rewrote his examinations and left Dr. Antle to establish himself at Fort Langley.

(THE "COLUMBIA" - WERE SEVERAL BY THAT NAME HAD FULL SET OF SAILS.

In 1909 the Canadian Northern Railway, the second Trans-Canada line, began construction along the south side of the Fraser and through Fort Langley. The Engineer-in-Chief responsible for the building of the section of railway



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feels house completed when he went overseas.
first part of house - is what Letitia came to - completed for wedding
did not go overseas till in 1916

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Built Pattullo Bridge HIS ENGINEERING FIRM } FIVE SCREEN
Flow FAMILY Auction 3.
between Vancouver and Hope, was 26-year old William George Swan -- a name that in the next 60 years would become intertwined with the development processes of this emerging province. Swan knew that he would require the services of a doctor to administer to the needs of the large construction gangs coming into the valley. He advertised and Dr. Marr replied. *Wanted a Dr. in Fort Langley area - covered that part of time.*

Dr. Marr located in Fort Langley in 1910 and for the first few months while his house and office were being built he boarded with Mr. and Mrs. W.J. MacIntosh and their daughter Drew, whom the doctor married several years later. Billy MacIntosh was the blacksmith. He tended to the needs of a number of fine horses that the doctor required to transport himself across this large area with its expanding population.

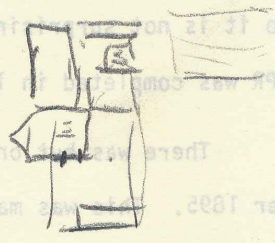
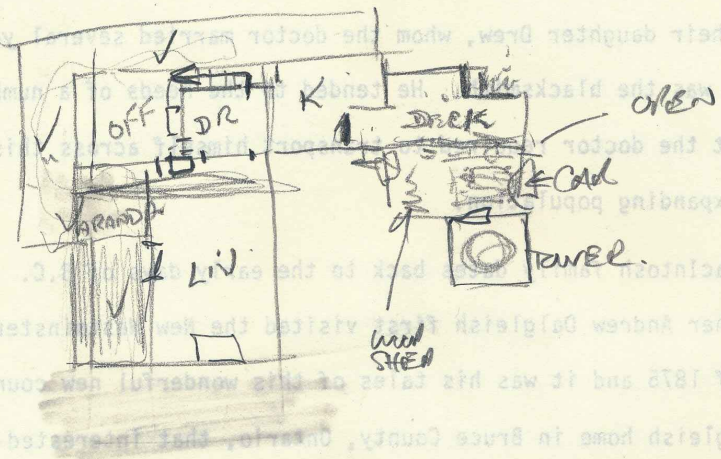
The MacIntosh family dates back to the early days of B.C. Mrs. MacIntosh's father Andrew Dalgleish first visited the New Westminster area in the summer of 1875 and it was his tales of this wonderful new country, told in the Dalgleish home in Bruce County, Ontario, that interested MacIntosh and so it is not surprising that he arrived in Fort Langley very shortly after the CPR was completed in 1886.

There was but one child born of this marriage, Isabel Drew, born October 1895. This was many years before there was any doctor closer than New Westminster. Mrs. MacIntosh had been in labor some time and in trouble with delivery. Bill MacIntosh took a row boat to New Westminster and fetched Dr. Drew to Fort Langley; this a story in itself. Dr. Drew found a crisis situation at the MacIntosh home and drastic measures required. He hoped to save the baby. He operated by coal oil lamp on the kitchen table and used the carving knife. --His instruments were on the bottom of the river. He

This is not so



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delivered the first baby in B.C. born by Caesarean section and saved both mother and daughter -- a feat of medical proficiency that earned a great doctor distinction and prestige and the family's everlasting gratitude. The daughter was named Drew after the man that gave her life. Dr. Marr married Drew MacIntosh in 1913 when she was 17 years old.


On August 4, 1914 Britain declared war on Germany. This brought Canada into the First World War. Dr. Marr was the first Langley man to offer his services and enlisted in August 1914. He trained in the Mounted Rifles and subsequently passed to the rank of Field Officer in Cavalry Training School and was posted overseas. It was in England in 1916 that it was finally realized that the day of the horse was at an end. As a result the doctor's unit was re-assigned and he transferred to the Medical Corps.

While overseas in a hospital in France, Dr. Marr and an Infantry Lieutenant Archie Payne decided that if either returned, they would attempt to have the streets and roads in Langley named for their fallen comrades. Both made it home to carry out this project.

When Dr. Marr was overseas the vacancy in Langley was filled by Dr. Albert McBurney, who moved into the Marr house in Fort Langley. When he returned in 1919 to again take up his practice in and about Fort Langley, Dr. McBurney moved to Langley Prairie to administer to the needs of the rapidly expanding population of that area. These two doctors alone, and up to the time of Dr. Marr's death in 1939, looked after the medical needs of a population that had grown to 9,000 and was scattered across a municipality that comprised over 125 sq. miles of territory.

The demands were great and unending. House calls were the order of the day, as hospitals were yet to be built in rural areas. The pay was poor and the times were hard. The heavy day and night demands without rest or relief, took a heavy toll of all doctors of that day and Dr. Marr was not to be spared. He died in 1939 in his 57th year from heart attack.

To remember Dr. Marr for a life of work and devotion to his profession, and for his personality that did so much to inspire confidence, and for his ability to bring relief and kindness to the people of this still new and oft times inhospitable land, must indeed be a fitting memorial. He was a man who could not have been other than what he was.



Ref. The Langley Story - Donald E. Waite
Printed by D.W. Friesen & Sons Ltd.
Altona, Manitoba.

Ref. The Legend of Langley - Langley Centennial Committee
Printed by Evergreen Press
1070 S.E. Marine Drive
Vancouver



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McMORAN - WILLIAM JOHN 1863 - 1926
CATHERINE HART 1868 - 1948

MARR ISABEL DREW 1895 - 1936
BENJAMIN BULL 1882 - 1939
RUTH DIED @ BIRTH.

ANDREW DALGLEISH DIED SEP 6, 1928

ANN SINCLAIR DIED AUG 22, 1896
AGE 65 YRS.

ST ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
OPENED - SEP 26 1885.