

OBITUARY...DR. B.B.MARR

FROM : THE LANGLEY ADVANCE

....OCTOBER 19, 1939

Dr. B.B. Marr, a highly esteemed resident of Langley, passed away at his home East of Langely Prairie last Saturday evening after a long illness. He was fifty-seven years old.

Born in New Brunswick Dr. Marr started his practise at Fort Langely in 1907. He was Langley's first Medical Health Officer, a position he held until he retired. Always an involved citizen and strong Canadian he took great interest in the development of his home district. At the outbreak of the Great War he was one of the first to offer his services, telegraphing Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of the Militia, who replied they would use him as a medical man. However the doctor wanted to go to the front as a combatant. He joined the cavalry and during the winter of 1914-15 went through the cavalry training school at Winnipeg, earning his commission. When it became apparent that mounted troops were no longer required he joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps, serving first in England as specialist in a hospital, later in France where he remained until the Armistice.

On his return to private practise in 1919 Dr. Marr was made the first President of the Langely branch of the Great War Veterans Association, and when the Canadian Legion formed later he became the first President of its Langely branch. He was very active, instigating the inauguration of memorial services in honor of the fallen soldiers. He was largely instrumental in the erection of the cenotaphs that stand at the Murrayville and Fort Langely cemeteries, which were among the first built in Canada. Also achieved by his branch of the Canadian Legion during his terms of office was the renaming of roads after those who gave their lives in France and elsewhere in the service of their country.

He was a Freemason, a member of Eureka Lodge AM & FM, and he belonged to the Langely Elks Lodge. In both organizations his wisdom and judgement were admired and respected.

For many years a farmer as well as a medical practitioner he raised high class cattle on his large farm at Fort Langely. Later he gave up the farm to move into a lovely new home he built at the foot of the hill East of Langely Prairie. Unfortunately his health began to fail him soon after. He has lived there in retirement since selling his medical practise two years ago.

A rare personality Dr. Marr always had a smile and a pleasantry for everyone. Even after he became seriously ill he greeted all with the same smile despite the pain he suffered.

He leaves one son, William Lloyd, and two daughters, Katherine and June, to mourn his passing. There also two sisters, Mrs. H.D. Nelson in New Brunswick, and Mrs. F.A. Thompson in Portland, Oregon, and three brothers, A.R. Marr, Langely Prairie, I.B. Marr, New Brunswick, and H.F. Marr, Halifax, N.S. His charming wife predeceased him three years ago.

The funeral, held yesterday afternoon, was largely attended. Service was conducted by Rev. J.H. Hobbins and Rev. W.R. Wilkinshaw at the Fort Langely United Church. S. Bowell and Son had charge of the funeral arrangements. He was interred in the family plot at the Fort Langely cemetery.