

Riding Mountain, North West Territories, North America.

In their first letter home in October, 1880, they wrote, "We have now been here for six weeks and are living in an old Hudson's Bay Company fort which is in a state of disrepair as it has not been habited for six years."

This fort was a winter post, a subpost to the Fort Ellice (now St. Lazare). The Riding Mountain post was established in 1854 by the Hudson's Bay Company and moved down the Minnedosa River to Elphinstone, "having been located at Lake Audy for twenty years," according to the company's records.

"On the voyage we met Glen Campbell. His father has two sections of land which Glen wishes to farm when he becomes of age which will be in three years' time. He asked us to occupy the fort and make whatever use of the land we wished."

On their way to the Audy Plains they had stopped at the Brandon Plains, "hiring out for \$120." With this cash they had purchased a "creaking cart, ponies, oxen and provisions."

"Crossing the Big Plain from Brandon we passed the homes of the McKenzies and McEacherns and spent the night with the Camerons. We paid \$2.50 for room and board, slept between two feather ticks, German fashion, and were served a breakfast of potatoes, pork, biscuits and tea."

Leaving Prairie City (Minnedosa) they entered the Riding Mountain where they found the road was "difficult to trace through mountains, hills and over sloping trails through birches, young poplars and tall trees ten to fourteen inches thick where a fire had passed through."

James C. Audy was an officer with the Hudson's Bay Company, in charge of the Riding Mountain post when it was transferred to Elphinstone. His visits to the Lothians were appreciated.

"Audy often takes two or three weeks to go into the mountains to trade with the Indians in the winter time returning with as much as four or five hundred dollars worth of furs. He uses a dog sleigh with three dogs in single file and bells on each dog.

"There is an Indian reserve between us and the Hudson's Bay Company post and at present buffalo, elk and moose are plentiful but I fear they are fast disappearing."

In December, 1880, William wrote home to say that Mr. McDonald had entered into a contract with the Hudson's Bay Company for twelve thousand logs of pine. He and James had obtained employment for two or three months at a monthly