

= Philip Primrose =

Philip Carteret Hill Primrose (October 23 , 1864 ? March 17 , 1937) was a Canadian police officer and the fifth Lieutenant Governor of Alberta .

Primrose was born in 1864 in Nova Scotia . He attended the Pictou Academy before graduating from the Royal Military College in 1885 . Upon his graduation , he took up employment with the North @-@ West Mounted Police (NWMP) (later merged into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) . Over the 30 years he spent with the NWMP , he was stationed at many locations throughout the North @-@ West Territories , serving as Superintendent on four separate occasions before his retirement from the force in 1915 .

Primrose then moved to Edmonton and accepted the position of city police magistrate , a position he would hold for 20 years . Amongst other positions , during World War I he commanded the Edmonton Reserve Battalion of the Canadian Army . Although he had never actively participated in politics , in 1936 Primrose was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Alberta , a position he held for only 167 days before he died after a long illness .

= = Early life , education and career = =

Primrose was born in 1864 in Halifax , Nova Scotia , the second of three children of Alexander and Elizabeth Catherine Rebecca Primrose (née Daly) . He was named after a good friend of his father , Philip Carteret Hill . His father Alexander came to Nova Scotia from Rothiemay , Scotland and settled in the Pictou area around 1815 . He was a barrister and served a term on the Halifax City Council from 1853 ? 1855 . He was a distant cousin to the Earls of Rosebery , including the 5th Earl , who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1894 ? 1895 , A cousin , Clarence Primrose served in the Canadian Senate from 1892 until his death in 1902 . He was a descendant of the United Empire Loyalists .

After graduating from the Pictou Academy in 1881 , Primrose was accepted into the Royal Military College , from which he graduated in 1885 . He remained in Canada after graduation , rejecting the option of accepting a commission in the British Army . Primrose was appointed an Inspector of the North @-@ West Mounted Police on August 1 , 1885 , and was sworn in on August 31 of the same year .

= = Police career = =

= = = North @-@ West Mounted Police = = =

During his 13 years as Inspector , Primrose was posted to many locations in the North @-@ West Territories , including Wood Mountain in the District of Assiniboia (today in Saskatchewan) , Fort Macleod , and Calgary (today , both in Alberta) . In addition to serving as a " Mountie " , he served as Justice of the Peace while stationed at Macleod . In 1898 , at the outbreak of the Klondike Gold Rush , Primrose was assigned to the Yukon , where he was stationed at the H Division in Tagish . He became superintendent of that division in October 1899 , then was transferred to become superintendent of the B Division one month later . In 1901 , he was posted to Dawson , where he assumed responsibility for 43 Mounted Policemen and 4 other men at the Whitehorse station . During his time in the Yukon , the main role of the police was guarding people awaiting trials and prisoners serving sentences .

Primrose supervised the 1900 Yukon census , reporting to the Commissioner that the territory 's population was 16 @,@ 463 . On May 13 , 1900 , he fined 31 " members of the sporting fraternity " \$ 55 each , boosting the territorial treasury . Other activities included more community @-@ oriented tasks , such as firefighting when permitted . During his time in Dawson , he befriended a lawyer currently practicing in the area , William L. Walsh . Walsh would be his predecessor to the office of Lieutenant Governor of Alberta . Primrose 's assignment to the Yukon ended in 1902 .

After returning from the Yukon , he assumed command of the A Division of the NWMP in Maple Creek (today in Saskatchewan) . After two months at Maple Creek , he took over the NWMP Macleod Department (today in Alberta) as Superintendent , serving there until 1913 . He became a prominent landowner during his time in Macleod , owning several lots in town , as well as a section outside . He was appointed a commissioner of police in the new province of Alberta in November 1911 . In 1913 , he was posted to the NWMP Headquarters in Regina to assist in the organization of the Criminal Investigation Branch . In August he was granted a leave of absence when he went to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester to undergo surgery to repair an undisclosed rupture and remove his appendix . After returning to Regina in 1914 , he retired at the rank of Superintendent on April 5 , 1915 .

In 1920 , the RNWMP and Dominion Police would be merged under a new name , the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) .

= = = Magistrate = = =

Following his retirement from the NWMP , Primrose was offered the position of a police magistrate in Edmonton . Primrose accepted , as he had always wanted to retire in the city . In 1917 , he was chairman of the three @-@ person Alberta Provincial Police board of commissioners , where he was tasked with supervising the new force . Before his retirement as magistrate in July 1935 , it had been estimated that he had dealt with over 40 @, @ 000 cases .

During World War I , Primrose was the commanding officer of the Edmonton Reserve Battalion of the Canadian Army , with the rank of Lieutenant @-@ Colonel . He was president of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Veterans ' Association in 1922 ; he lobbied hard for adequate pensions for veterans .

= = Lieutenant Governor of Alberta = =

Although a Liberal by family heritage and disposition , Primrose never sought public office , or ever actively participated in politics . On September 10 , 1936 , on the advice of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King , Primrose was appointed to the office of Lieutenant Governor of Alberta by Governor General John Buchan , succeeding William L. Walsh , his old friend . He was sworn in on October 1 , 1936 . During his time as Lieutenant @-@ Governor , Primrose and his wife resided in Government House , however , during this time , he was plagued by illness , therefore making him essentially unable to fulfill his duties of office , remaining in medical care from October 19 , 1937 until his death . Most of his duties were carried out by his wife , Lily , who hosted the 1937 New Year 's Day reception at Government House , and served as an honorary officer of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Women 's Auxiliary . Public functions were also attended by others family members , assisting in the absence of Primrose . On February 25 , 1937 , the Speech from the Throne was read by Horace Harvey , Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta , due to Primrose 's illness .

= = Personal life = =

On January 8 , 1902 , Philip Primrose married Lily Deane (June 3 , 1877 ? March 15 , 1966) . She was the daughter of Superintendent Richard Burton Deane of the North @-@ West Mounted Police . Deane had served with the NWMP during the Riel Rebellion of 1885 , tasked with guarding Riel and 50 other participants of the uprising in their prison cells . The Primroses had four children : Phyllis Jessie (1902 ? 1975) , Neil (1904 ? 1904) , Neil Philip (1905 ? 1991) , and Sybil E. (c . 1909 ? 1946) . His oldest son , Neil Philip was a lawyer , practicing in Vegreville and Edmonton . After being created a King 's Counsel in 1951 , Neil served as a Judge with the Supreme Court of Alberta in its Trial Division . One of his grandchildren , John Nairn Primrose won trap shooting championships at the Commonwealth Games in 1974 and 1978 respectively , and , in 1981 , was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada .

Primrose Lake was named after him in 1900 , while he was Inspector in charge of the Tagish

branch of the NWMP . In 1927 , Primrose was made a life member of the Army , Navy , and Veterans ' Association in Edmonton . He received the RCMP Long Service Medal in 1935 . In 1970 , a subdivision in Edmonton was named in his honour . Philip Primrose was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada .

= = Death and state funeral = =

Philip C. H. Primrose died on March 17 , 1937 , in Edmonton , while still occupying the office of Lieutenant Governor , a post he had held for only 167 days . He was the first Lieutenant Governor of Alberta to die in office . He had suffered a heart attack , with pre @-@ existing complications from a long , undisclosed illness . On March 19 , 1937 , he lay in state for two hours in the main chamber of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in what was described as one of the " most impressive ceremonies ever beheld in Edmonton . " His coffin , draped with the Union Flag lay on a table in the chamber in front of the speaker 's rostrum , guarded by four Royal Canadian Mounted Police constables ; members ' desks were draped in purple velvet . At his request , Primrose was dressed in the uniform of a NWMP Inspector .

After lying in state for two hours , his body was taken back to the funeral home , and was taken to Government House the next morning , from where it was brought to the church that afternoon . His state funeral , the first ever in Alberta , was held in Edmonton 's First Presbyterian Church . It was attended by many prominent provincial @-@ level politicians , including Premier William Aberhart , Chief Justices Horace Harvey and Charles Richmond Mitchell , University of Alberta president William A. R. Kerr , Attorney General of Alberta John Hugill , Mayor of Edmonton Joseph Clarke , and Assistant RCMP Commissioner Colonel Henry M. Newson . He was interred at the RNWMP plot at the Edmonton Cemetery . The state funeral was said to have " set the precedent for others in the future . " John C. Bowen was sworn in as Primrose 's successor to Lieutenant Governor on March 23 , 1937 .

= = Legacy = =

Primrose was described as " one of the most colourful , interesting and forceful characters in Edmonton 's civic life for many years . " His NWMP command was described as a " model to the Force " , while his police career had been described to have " won the confidence and respect of the public to an exceptional degree . " Donald E. Cameron , who delivered the eulogy at the funeral remarked of Primrose , " Colonel Primrose never sought for himself or for his men more than that their record of service should be allowed to speak for itself . Somewhat austere he clung to the tradition of the service that duty faithfully discharged its own reward . " An obituary published shortly after his death described him as " courageous , outspoken and firm in dealing with his criminals . " John W. McDonald , Mayor of Macleod also stated , " Col. Primrose was one of the outstanding officers of the force . ? He was a good citizen and a good police officer and a man of many admirable qualities . " On January 12 , 1970 , the Primrose subdivision in Edmonton , Alberta , North of Whitemud Drive to 100 Avenue , west of 178 Street to RDA was named in his honour , although most of this area is now better known as West Edmonton Mall .