

= John Cameron (Alberta politician) =

John Cameron [n1] (May 28 , 1846 ? October 6 , 1919) was a merchant and politician in Alberta , Canada and a municipal councillor in Edmonton . He is regarded as one of the city 's pioneer citizens .

Born in Canada West (later Ontario) , Cameron worked as a merchant in his birth province and Manitoba before coming to Edmonton in 1881 . In Edmonton he continued as a merchant , owning and operating a store for 15 years . In Edmonton he quickly established himself as a prominent citizen , serving on the inaugural Edmonton Board of Trade as president , which he would remain for five years . Cameron also was involved in the development of the Edmonton Public School Board , serving on the board in the 1890s . He was also involved in the town 's politics , winning election to Edmonton 's first town council in 1892 and serving an additional term when elected in 1895 . After this retirement from politics , he worked in the coal and real estate business until his death in 1919 , at the age of 73 . Upon his death , he was lauded as one of the pioneer citizens of Edmonton ; a street , neighbourhood and ravine were named for him .

= = Early life and career = =

John Cameron was born at East Hawkesbury , Canada West in 1846 , the son of Colin and Anna (née McLaurin) Cameron . His brother was Sir Douglas Cameron , who also went into politics , serving in the Ontario Legislature and as Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba . John attended school in Hawkesbury and Renfrew and in 1871 became a merchant at Vankleek Hill , with a partner in the firm Cameron & Mode General Merchants . In 1876 , he went west and relocated to Winnipeg , Manitoba to establish Cameron & Company general merchants , where he remained until 1881 .

= = Career in Edmonton = =

Cameron moved from Winnipeg to Edmonton in 1881 by ox @-@ cart , travelling through Carlton and Battleford , bringing with him 96 @,@ 000 pounds (44 @,@ 000 kg) of freight on a journey that took three months . Once in Edmonton , he used this freight as the initial inventory of a store , the A. McDonald Company , where he entered into a partnership . In 1891 , he would purchase the store from its original owner , A. McDonald . He moved into a new building in 1893 , designed by architect William S. Edmiston and constructed by contractor Kenneth McLeod . The building , located on Jasper Avenue , included a cellar , main floor for merchandise and storage , and an upper storey , heated in its entirety by a furnace . He would operate until 1896 . After the sale of the store , he entered into the real estate and coal business . In 1914 , Cameron was serving as managing director and treasurer of Gainford Collieries Ltd. and as chairman of the provisional directors of the Canada Northwest Loan and Mortgage Company .

He was elected the first president of the Edmonton Board of Trade upon its founding in 1889 . He served until 1894 . He also played a vital role in the development of the school system in Edmonton , involving himself in education @-@ related affairs as early as 1881 , and serving on the public school board from 1886 ? 87 and 1889 until 1897 . In 1881 , he was part of a group that provided funds for the first school teacher in the city . In 1886 , with the school board , Cameron was responsible for introducing a fee for the parents of students attending schools in the Edmonton Public School District who did not live within the district , as district residents were taxed for the school 's services . He would serve as secretary @-@ treasurer from 1882 to 1884 and later as chairman of the school board from 1890 to 1892 and 1894 .

= = = Civic politics = = =

Cameron was one of six candidates elected as aldermen to Edmonton 's first town council in 1892 ; he received the fifth most votes of the fourteen candidates . He was defeated in his 1893 re @-@ election bid , in which he finished seventh of nine candidates . He briefly returned to the council after

being elected again in 1895 , but did not seek re @-@ election the following year and remained out of politics thereafter . During his first term on the council , he was involved in an altercation in which the dominion government had made a decision to Dominion Land Office from Edmonton to Strathcona , at the time a separate town , south of the North Saskatchewan River . When news of the decision and crews to execute it arrived in Edmonton , angry citizens descended on the office and tore to pieces the wagon that the officer was packing with records for transportation . Led by mayor Matthew McCauley , Cameron was part of a group of prominent citizens that headed the resistance , eventually leading to the dominion reversing its decision .

= = Personal life = =

At Vankleek Hill in 1872 , he married Jane Vogan . She would die some time afterwards , and John Cameron , aged 29 , would remarry Elizabeth Ann McCann on November 8 , 1875 . They had two sons , John Hilliard and Howard , and four daughters , Mabel , Florence , Alice and Jessie . He was a member of the Edmonton Old Timers ' Association as well as the Edmonton Agricultural Society . He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed canoeing and hiking in the Edmonton North Saskatchewan River Valley . Along with his wife Elizabeth , he was an early member of the Presbyterian church in Edmonton , attending First Presbyterian Church , where he was an elder . Though he served as an independent on the Edmonton Town Council , he was a Liberal .

= = Death and legacy = =

He died of heart failure in the morning of October 6 , 1919 after a brief illness at his Edmonton home . He was survived by his wife and children . After his funeral at his home on Cameron Avenue , he was buried at the Edmonton Cemetery . At the time of his death , the Edmonton Bulletin praised Cameron for his efforts in establishing the foundations of the city Edmonton , and remarked that " the city owes much to him because of his strenuous efforts with others in maintaining this as the permanent site for the city " . Elizabeth Cameron died in Edmonton in 1933 at the age of 79 .

Cameron Street , the neighbourhood of Cameron Heights , and the Cameron Ravine (in the vicinity of Cameron Heights) in Edmonton are named in honour .