

= William Egbert =

William Egbert , KC (February 25 , 1857 ? October 15 , 1936) was a Canadian physician and politician . He served as the third Lieutenant Governor of Alberta from 1925 to 1931 .

Egbert was born in 1857 to a farming family in what is today the province of Ontario . He attended Ottawa Normal School , then taught and served as a principal at Ontario schools . After receiving his medical degrees , he began to practice in Milverton , Ontario . In 1904 , he moved to Calgary , and involved himself in politics and community affairs as Alberta entered Confederation .

Egbert was an unsuccessful legislative candidate for the Liberal Party of Alberta in the 1905 general election . In 1925 , the Liberal prime minister , William Lyon Mackenzie King , arranged for Egbert 's appointment as lieutenant governor . Egbert served six years in that post , and participated in a variety of activities , from welcoming the Prince of Wales to hosting students at the University of Alberta . In 1931 , he left his position as lieutenant governor and returned to the practice of medicine . He died in 1936 after a long illness .

= = Early life and education = =

William Egbert was born on February 25 , 1857 in Welland County , Canada West (now Ontario) to Joseph Morgan and Maria Catherine Egbert (née Silverthorn) . His father owned a farm near Dunnville .

Egbert attended the Dunnville Public High School , and graduated from Ottawa Normal School in 1881 , with a teaching certificate . He taught at Moote School in Canborough , and served as a principal at the Dunnville Public School . In 1885 , he studied medicine at Victoria University . He received his Bachelor of Medicine , Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery degrees in 1889 . He then attended post @-@ graduate education the next year in Edinburgh and London .

= = Early career = =

When returning to Ontario in 1891 , Egbert established a medical practice in Milverton . He was described as " one of the best known physicians and surgeons in the Eastern provinces , his surgical training winning fame for him . " In the early 1890s , Egbert played a key role in establishing a rural telephone service in his area . He also held many community positions , such as the choir leader at a local Methodist church , and as a member of the local school board . After more than a decade of practice , Egbert spent one year in New York City , doing more post @-@ graduate courses .

After being impressed with the Canadian West on a trip there , Egbert and his family moved to Calgary , where he established a medical practice in 1904 . He registered as a medical practitioner in the North @-@ West Territories in the same year and again in 1906 after the province of Alberta entered Confederation . In addition to his medical practices , he was an active community member , serving as a member of the Calgary Board of Health , Tubercular Hospital Site Committee , Calgary Board of Trade and the Alberta Medical Association , where he served as president in 1921 . He also established the Columbia Hospital , and served as its director .

= = Politics = =

Egbert was the unsuccessful Liberal candidate for the legislative district of Calgary for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in the 1909 general election . In the same year , he was elected to the Calgary City Council , on which he served two terms (1909 ? 1911) . He served as the acting Mayor of Calgary for a month in 1911 in the absence of Mayor John William Mitchell , and was a candidate for the position in December , but was unsuccessful . He also served as president from 1917 to 1925 of the Alberta Federal Liberal Association .

= = = Lieutenant Governor of Alberta = = =

Egbert was appointed the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta on October 20 , 1925 by Governor General Julian Byng , 1st Viscount Byng of Vimy on advice of William Lyon Mackenzie King . He was sworn in on October 29 of the same year , in a simple ceremony in Calgary , the only swearing @-@ in ceremony of a Lieutenant Governor that has not taken place in the capital city , Edmonton . During his tenure as lieutenant governor , Egbert and his family resided at Government House , and visited many areas of the province , remarking that Alberta " was one of the greatest places to live . "

As Lieutenant Governor , Egbert attended many functions , such as the Annual Convention of the Union of Alberta Municipalities and the welcoming ceremony of the new Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary . He also gave speeches at events , such as the 100th anniversary of Father Albert Lacombe 's birth and a speech at the Alberta Legislature Building as a member of National Committee for the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation that commemorated the importance and the achievements of the Fathers of Confederation .

Egbert and his family participated in events held to celebrate the 1927 visit of Edward , Prince of Wales , and Prince George , Duke of Kent to Alberta . The following year , Egbert helped open the Canadian National Railway station in Edmonton . The same year saw the completion of the all @-@ Canadian telephone service , which had connections between Edmonton , Calgary , Vancouver and Victoria . Among events held to celebrate this completion , Egbert participated in a telephone conversation with Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Robert Randolph Bruce from Edmonton to Victoria . Despite a hectic schedule , Egbert took an interest in the University of Alberta , often entertaining groups of students (among whom he was popular) , attending university events and hosting debate sessions . His term as lieutenant governor was extended in October 1930 , and he served until his successor , William L. Walsh was sworn in on May 5 , 1931 .

= = Personal life = =

Egbert married Eva Catherine Miller on December 27 , 1882 . The couple had 3 children : Ethel Camilla (born 1884) , William Gordon (born 1891) , and Alice Leah (born 1895) . Ethel graduated from the University of Toronto in 1908 , and went on to become a librarian at the Calgary Law Society , and the Judges ' Library at the Calgary Court House . William was a lawyer and became a judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta . He was also appointed King 's Counsel . Their youngest daughter , Alice Leah , died at the age of one .

Egbert enjoyed many sporting activities , namely lacrosse and football in his younger years , and golf in his later years . His wife , Eva was described as " a lover of her home , her books , and a congenial circle of friends . "

= = Later activities , death and legacy = =

Following the end of his term as lieutenant governor , Egbert returned to Calgary to resume his medical practice . He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta in 1927 . In 1935 , he became the chairman of the Economic Safety League , an establishment of representatives from various members of boards of trade and chambers of commerce throughout the province .

Egbert died on October 15 , 1936 in Calgary , following a long illness . His funeral service on October 17 , held at the Park Memorial Chapel in Calgary , was attended by more than 400 people . He is buried in Union Cemetery in Calgary , alongside his wife , who predeceased him by eight months .

As a physician , he was described as " humane , never withholding his services from the poorest and humblest , and his unremitting and unrewarded efforts in behalf of the suffering [would] give him rank in a profession eminently benevolent . " Former Premier of Alberta Alexander Cameron Rutherford said that " [Egbert] fulfilled his duties as governor splendidly and as a private citizen he took an equally creditable and useful past in Alberta life . " Future Lieutenant Governor John J.

Bowlen stated " Dr. Egbert was one of the most popular lieutenant governors this province has ever had . He was kind and considerate to men of all points of view . "