

100 Years of the Deane House

Superintendent Richard Burton Deane arrived in Calgary in July 1906 where he found the previous Officer's Quarters had been condemned and torn down. Construction on a new building started in August and was completed in early December at a cost of \$6200. Unfortunately, his wife Martha passed away in late December and never did live in the house.

In June 1907, the Captain hosted Japanese Prince Fushimi during a visit to Calgary. The tour Deane planned included luncheon at the Deane House. Deane was very proud of his garden and the caragana hedge surrounding it and when the Calgary Barracks site was sold to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1914 he dug up the hedge and gave the plants to friends.



All the Mounted Police buildings were torn down except for the Deane House, which was moved closer to 9th Avenue and the Elbow River and used as the Station Agent's home. In 1929, the house was sold to Charles L. Jacques who moved the house across the Elbow River and set it on a new foundation. Jacques remodeled the house into a rooming house. Rose and her brother Alex Brotherton bought the building in 1939 and called it the Gaspé Lodge.

The historic significance of the house encouraged the City of Calgary to purchase the house in 1972 and for 5 years it was the home of the Dandelion Gallery. The house was designated a Registered Historic Resource in 1978. And in 1974, the RCMP Veterans' Association rebuilt and restored the verandah as a RCMP Centennial project. The interior of the house was restored to its Edwardian beauty with the aid of the Junior League of Calgary and a Restaurant opened in 1986.

During 2005, the exterior was stripped of layers of paint and restored to its original colours of red siding, white trim and green roof. As we celebrate the Centennial of the Deane House in 2006, Fort Calgary is fundraising in order to makeover the interior of the Historic House.

Fast Facts

Captain Richard Burton Deane came to Calgary Barracks as the Commanding Officer in 1906 and stayed until his retirement from the Royal North West Mounted Police in 1914. Highlights of his life include:

- Born in India in 1848, educated in England, married Martha Rideout in 1870
- Served in the Royal Marines until early retirement in 1882 with the rank of Captain
- Burton, Martha and their five children immigrated to Canada
- Joined the North West Mounted Police force in July 1883 and served in Regina
- Wrote the first Rules and Regulations for the force.
- In charge of Louis Riel following the North West Rebellion in 1885
- Deane was a skilled dramatist, magician, cricket player and horticulturalist
- Served in Lethbridge, Maple Creek, then Calgary
- Martha died in New Westminster, B.C. on December 23, 1906
- Mary Dennehy acted as nurse while Deane was recovering from a back injury
- Burton and Mary married in 1908
- Mary died July 22, 1914 of tuberculosis
- Deane retired from RNWMP in 1914 and moved back to England.
- Wrote his memoirs "Mounted Police Life in Canada – A Record of 31 Years of Service"
- Married May Thyne in 1917
- Died while travelling in Italy December 13, 1930

