

## **Great-Great-Grandson of a Loyalist Plays Important Role in Canadian Army during First World War**

September 11<sup>th</sup> is a date with special resonance since the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington.

But back in 1881, it was just another day, but an important one for Robert Wright Dulmage and his wife Mary Mulcaster. On September 11, 1881 Mary gave birth in Clinton, Huron County, Ontario to their fourth and last child, a boy whom they named Anson after his father's younger brother.

About three years after his birth, the Dulmage family joined many other families from Huron County in a move to the west. Large parcels of land were being given away for almost nothing, if you were willing to move to Manitoba or what was called the "Northwest Territories", later subdivided into Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territory.

It was probably a wrenching decision to leave family behind, including Robert Dulmage's aging parents Jonathan and Christiana (Wright). But when he stopped to think about it, Robert's family's history was a story of constant moves:

- Jonathan and Christiana had moved from Prince Edward County where they were both born, up to Huron County when land there became available.
- Jonathan's father Jacob Dulmage had moved as a young child from New York Province to Canada with his own parents David and Mary (Jennings) Dulmage when they came to Prince Edward County as Loyalists. David's service with Jessup's Rangers fighting for the King in the American Revolution guaranteed that he was no longer welcome to stay near his former neighbours in the Camden Valley in New York after the war ended in 1783.
- And David had already made a major move earlier in his life. Born in County Limerick, Ireland to Germans who had emigrated from the Palatinate in the area of the Black Forest, he came with his brother John and other family members to the New York Province about 1760.

So when wee Anson Dulmage was born on Sept. 11, 1881, he was the great-great-grandson of a Loyalist, David Dulmage UE. Anson went on to earn other titles as well. He became a druggist after study at the Ontario College of Pharmacy in Toronto, Ontario. He opened his own drug store in North Battleford, Saskatchewan in 1904; two years later he sold out and opened a store in Saskatoon. He became a Lieutenant with the 95th Saskatchewan Rifles, a militia unit.

And once World War I broke out, Anson Dulmage was put in charge of the 11th Reserve Battalion in England, when the first Canadian contingent went over. "During this time he has had thousands of soldiers pass through his hands for training, before being drafted to the front," explained a 1917 newspaper article. It continued,

Lt.-Col. Anson H. Dulmage of Saskatoon is to be general staff officer on the headquarters staff of Brigadier-General John Hughes, camp commandant of Camp Hughes this summer. This information was officially received by The Phoenix from military headquarters at Winnipeg, yesterday afternoon. The appointment which Col. Dulmage has received is one of the most important on the

headquarters staff of the camp. He will have entire charge of preparing and supervising the training of the 30,000 soldiers who will be quartered in the camp this summer. The duties involve the drawing up of training schedules for each unit and the holding of periodic inspections so that the training of the battalions may be advanced as they become efficient. When it is realised that there will be more than a complete army division in training at the camp, it will be seen that the duties of Col. Dulmage will be of a very onerous nature. Before the units leave camp it is expected that they will engage in the most advanced strategical movements and several large tactical schemes in field operations and bivouacking are already being prepared for the summer training.

For this demanding service, Lt.-Col. Anson Dulmage was mentioned twice in despatches, and then awarded the OBE – Order of the British Empire – on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919.

On May 12, 1919 Anson had his discharge medical examination and was pronounced healthy although later documents say he was suffering from severe arthritis. He returned to his life as a druggist in Saskatoon, but perhaps seeking a new challenge or maybe milder weather, he moved to New Jersey and opened a pharmacy there in 1929. On January 28, 1932 the *New York Times* reported:

#### Canadian World War Veteran Found Dead in His Drug Store

Roselle, N.J., Jan. 27. -- Anson Dulmage, 49 years old, who served for four years in the World War with the Princess Pat Regiment, was found slumped in a chair in the prescription department of his drug store here this morning by a customer. Death was ascribed to heart disease.

Ironically, Anson died less than two hundred miles from the Camden Valley area where his great-great-grandfather David Dulmage the Loyalist had first lived in America.

*Lt.Col. Anson Dulmage OBE is my first cousin, twice removed. - Nancy Findlater Cutway UE*