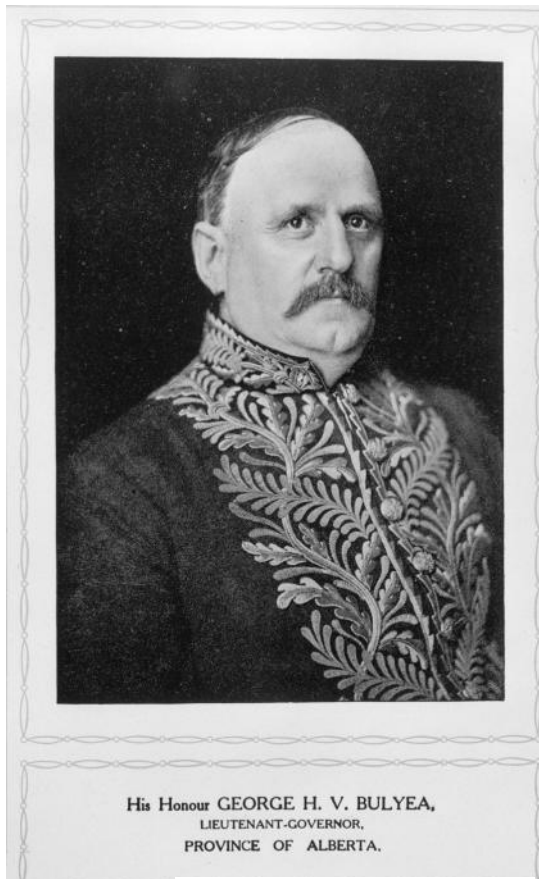


THE HONOURABLE GEORGE H. V. BULYEA
1859 - 1928



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In 1905, when Alberta became a province, someone who could combine executive ability with diplomacy and tact was needed as its first Lieutenant Governor. Tolerant, dignified and capable, the Commissioner of Public works for Regina, George Hedley Vicars Bulyea qualified for the important position. He served for ten years from September 1905 until October 1915.

George Bulyea was born 17 February, 1859, in Gagetown, Queen's County, New Brunswick. He was of good Loyalist stock. His father James Albert Bulyea was the son of James Albert Bulyea and Jemima Purdy who had come to New Brunswick in 1783 with the first fleet of twenty ships carrying 7,000 Loyalists from New York City to Nova Scotia following the American Revolution. George's great grandfather, Henry (Hendrick) Bulyea and his sons were tenant farmers in Philipsburg Manor in Tarrytown, New York. The five sons served with the British Army during the revolution, one of them being taken prisoner. The family lost all its property in New York because it sided with the losing forces and moved north to Belyea's Cove in the St. John River Valley. Belyea Point in New Brunswick is named after them.

Besides his father, George's mother, Jane Blizzard was also of Loyalist descent through William Blizzard who signed a 1782 New York Loyalist Petition.

George was educated at Gagetown Grammar School and the University of New Brunswick, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1878. He was first in his class with honours in Mathematics and French. Until 1882, he was principal of Sunbury Grammar School and then, attracted by the opportunities for young people in the west, moved to Manitoba at the age of twenty-three. The following year he moved to Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan and was elected in 1894 to the North-West Territories Assembly (which at that time included present day Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon). His businesses (surveyor, undertaker, and merchant) in Qu'Appelle prospered and his interest in public affairs grew as he held the various posts in the Assembly, as Special Commissioner to the Territories, Administrator of Territorial Affairs in the Yukon, the Territorial Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. He was author of an official handbook of the North-West Territories, published in 1902. George was also one of the two representatives of the territories in the negotiations with the federal government leading up to the establishment of Alberta and Saskatchewan as provinces.

Dignitaries at the inauguration ceremonies of the first Lieutenant Governor at Edmonton in 1905 included Governor General Earl Grey, and Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier. There was a twenty-one gun royal salute! The Universities of Alberta and New Brunswick awarded the new

official with Honorary Doctor of Law degrees. Following his retirement after his second term as Lieutenant Governor, George was then appointed Chairman of Alberta's Board of Public Utilities. The village of Bulyea, Saskatchewan was named after him.



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George and his wife Annie Blanche Babbit, whom he married on 29 January 1885 in New Brunswick, had one son Percy who died at age fifteen in a skiing accident at Banff, Alberta. The Bulyeas owned a summer home at Peachland, British Columbia, where George engaged in one of his favourite recreations which was driving horses. When he was in residence in Edmonton during the winter, he was annoyed that he was unable to drive the horses on official occasions. He died in Peachland, 18 July, 1928 and was buried at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan in the Qu'Appelle Cemetery.

Sources: Lieutenant Governors of the North-West Territories and Alberta, 1876-1994, Alberta Legislative Assembly Office

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