

## THE BROWNS - POPLAR GROVE'S FIRST FAMILY

By 1881, the last of the great buffalo herds had disappeared. Less than 1000 non-natives resided in what is now called Alberta.

In 1883, this changed with the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Calgary. On one of these first Calgary trains, was a young Scot named Jim Brown. After asking local land surveyors where the best farm land could be found, Jim and 2 friends journeyed north along the dusty Calgary-Edmonton stagecoach trail to a treed rest area called Poplar Grove.

Jim Brown decided to stay, and along with his brother John, settled just west of Poplar Grove. Jim and John, after constructing a simple log shelter, soon sent for their 16 year old sister Isabelle. Upon arriving at Poplar Grove, Isabelle became the first non-native woman to reside in this largely uninhabited land.



John Brown Jr.'s violin

By 1884, the rest of the Brown family arrived and the next few years (1884-1891) a trickle of settlers would follow. This became a flood with the 1891 coming of the railroad to Poplar Grove.

The Brown brothers and their parents expanded their operation; milking cows, selling cream and beginning years of threshing for numerous neighbors with the area's first steam threshing outfit.



Isabelle & husband David Sinclair