

Homesteads

Between 1883 and 1887 people began to view our district as perhaps being part of their future. Some of these first settlers were: Sandy Fraser, Napoleon Remillard, the Brown brothers and their sister Isabelle. Also settling just to the north, near the Red Deer River crossing, was William (Bill) Kemp.



Early settler
Sandy Fraser

<p>Pre-Sale Homestead No. 1937 60582 Sandy Fraser</p>	<p>C.P.R. Co. No. 6253</p>	<p>C.P.R. Co. No. 6855</p>
<p>C.T.E. Ry. No. 404 C.T.E. L. Co.</p>	<p>C.T.E. Ry. No. 114 C.T.E. L. Co.</p>	<p>C.T.E. Ry. No. 59108 C.T.E. Ry. No. 518 C.T.E. L. Co.</p>
<p>J. N. Briggs No. 22</p>	<p>C.T.E. Ry. No. 109 C.T.E. L. Co.</p>	<p>C.T.E. Ry. No. 40 C.T.E. L. Co.</p>

Surveyed by the Undersigned 1887 Dominion Lands Office Ottawa

The 1887 record of homesteads found west of Innisfail



Sandy Fraser's homestead site



Brown Brother's homestead site



Pioneer Bill Kemp

The following article by Dr. Henry George, a physician who resided here described the early settlement of Innisfail or Poplar Grove as it was then called. The article was entitled "TWENTY YEARS AGO".

"Twenty years ago, in 1886, Arthur Content and Napoleon Remillard journeyed from Montana to Alberta, and settled on land immediately south of Poplar Grove, as Innisfail was then called. There was no railway in those days, mail and passengers travelling from Calgary to Edmonton by 'stage'.

A few houses were scattered along the trail for the convenience of the stage, one of them being 'Content's Stopping Place'. Shortly after Arthur, as Mr. Content is popularly known, had fixed up his winter quarters James Brown, Alf Carter and Sandy Fraser dropped anchor in the Little Red Deer District, and F.M. Rogers and the Jones Brothers, a small English colony pitched their tent on land now owned by Ralph Cooke. These with a few half-breeds and Indians, constituted the first settlement of Poplar Grove.

At that time Arthur Content and the Rogers and Jones colony built shacks on either side of the Edmonton trail and facing one another, Content's being then one of the stage's head quarters.

The Calgary and Edmonton Railway was constructed in 1891, and the name of the settlement was changed from Poplar Grove to Innisfail.

Mr. Content left Innisfail a few years since and founded a town east of Lacombe which bears his name.

Napoleon Remillard is in British Columbia. His name will always be associated with Innisfail inasmuch as the Lake on his homestead is known as "Napoleon's" Lake and is so designed on the maps of the district."



One of the buildings used by pioneer Napolean Remillard



Homesteader D. Laird and his family



Ranchers branding livestock



Breaking the prairie soil



Pioneer accomodation