

Boyd – River Lot 117

Built about 1858, by retired HBC officer, John Edward Harriott, Hawthorn Lodge was a grand house filled with memorabilia and artifacts from his days at HBC posts across the Northwest. His daughter, Rachel became the wife of Thomas Bunn, the secretary and legal advisor to Louis Riel during the Riel Resistance.

Harriott sold the lodge to Judge John Black in 1862. Black was the English-speaking Red River settlers' representative that Louis Riel sent to Ottawa to negotiate the terms of Manitoba's entry into Confederation. When Black left Manitoba to retire in Scotland, the mansion stood fully furnished and empty. The residence became the temporary home of member of the legislature for St Andrews, Alfred Boyd.

Boyd is recognized today as Manitoba's first premier.

Alfred Boyd was an English-born merchant from Winnipeg who was elected from St Andrews to the Province's first Legislature in December, 1870. In that first provincial election, Boyd defeated his near neighbour, Mr. Donald Gunn!

Boyd's moderate tone during the political maelstrom surrounding the Riel Resistance, resulted in his being entrusted with the most powerful post in the elected assembly.

The intensity of the fighting between the Schultz-led Canadian party, the French and Anglo-Metis settlers wore Boyd down. He resigned his seat in favour of the outspoken and charismatic Metis – also originally from St Andrews - John Norquay!

Norquay assumed several major posts in the short-lived Manitoba governments over the next few years and ended by becoming Manitoba's 5th Premier in 1878! It was Norquay who skillfully managed the tortuous transition years of Manitoba's emergence as a full-fledged province in the Canadian confederation. He governed from 1878-1887.

Alfred Boyd retired to England about 1889 and sold his holdings in Manitoba (including Lots 26, 83 and 86 in St Clements). He died there a wealthy man in 1908.

For more information on Boyd, Norquay and Harriott, go to Memorable Manitobans at mhs.mb.ca, biographi.ca or the HBC archives at gov.mb.ca.