

In 1870, that lot, now listed as ADRL 3, was owned by the Whiteway family. Exactly which Whiteway is unknown.

(misprints happen in the transfer of handwritten documents all the time). Listed is Sam Whiteway but it could have been a messy “James” and James Whiteway’s son William filed ownership over the property in 1875.

James Whiteway was a well known farmer in the region. He cultivated a large plot, as many as 63 acres, had livestock, a barn, ploughs, canoes and carts at his disposal much of his wealth came from his father (also, James), who was a retired Bay man.

James senior was from Orkney and had joined the HBC as a boy, worked as a labourer and interpreter at Fort Edmonton during the early 1800’s.

He had been sent to live among the indigenous tribes on the upper Missouri River about 1810. His mission was to learn the languages and customs of the people and to find out what impact the American mountain men were having on the HBC trading partners in the area. James sr. was already in his mid forties when he formally married Mary Park, daughter of the famous HBC steersman, John Park. He retired to St Andrews in the 1820’s and was a next door neighbour at John Park (lot 4 . - there is a plaque dedicated to the Park family on Riverbend Crescent).

James and John and several others from western inland forts had retired to Red River to take up farming after the merger of the HBC and the Northwest company (1821).

The merger cost about 1300 fur trade workers their jobs. Many were returned to their places of origin (England, Scotland, the Orkney or Canada) but without their “country wives and families”.

The fatherless families either returned to their mother’s tribes or were stranded at the far flung Bay forts to fend for themselves. This created such social disruption that post commanders pleaded with Governor Simpson for a solution. He resolved the issue by giving “almost free” land along the Red and Assiniboine rivers to former employees who

Whiteway - Lot 3