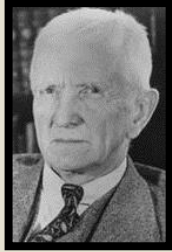


O'BRIEN LEWIS JAMES



EARLY LIFE

Nov 28, 1868

Born in Laskay, Ontario to Daniel and Alice (Wood) O'Brien.

1871 Census

Age 2

Lived in King, Ontario with Daniel O'Brien (head of house – father, age 38), Alice O'Brien (mother, age 32), Emma O'Brien (sister, age 13), Joseph O'Brien (brother, age 11), Edith O'Brien (sister, age 9), Frederick O'Brien (brother, age 7), Annetta O'Brien (sister, age 6), Benjamin O'Brien (brother, age 4), and John Young (boarder, age 18).

1881 Census

Age 12

Lived in King, Ontario with Daniel O'Brien (head of house – father age 48), Alice O'Brien (mother, age 42), Joseph O'Brien (brother, age 20), Edith O'Brien (sister, age 19), Fredrick O'Brien (brother, age 17), Annetta O'Brien (sister, age 16), Benjamin O'Brien (brother, age 14), Kate O'Brien (sister, age 8), Edna O'Brien (sister, age 3) and Isaac Bridgeman (boarder, age 19).

1891 Census

Age 23

Lived in King, Ontario with Daniel O'Brien (head of house – father, age 58), Alice O'Brien (mother, age 52), Joseph O'Brien (brother, age 30), Annetta O'Brien (sister, age 26), Benjamin O'Brien (brother, age 24), Kate O'Brien (sister, age 19), Edna O'Brien (sister, age 13) and John Precious (boarder, age 20).

1897

Age 26

Received Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Toronto.

1900

Age 32

Enrolled at the University of Würzburg, Germany where he obtained his M.D., where he remained for a bit to do some clinical work in Germany and Austria.

Sep 1, 1903

Age 34

Married Alice John (age 26), daughter of Evan John and Sarah Lewis of California, USA. They were married in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

1911 Census

Age 43

Lived on Prideaux Street in Nanaimo, British Columbia with Alice O'Brien (wife, age 34), Herbert O'Brien (son, age 6), Daniel O'Brien (son, age 3), Eric O'Brien (son, age 1), Elsie Wake (domestic, age 22), Jean McGill (domestic, age 22), Bruce Smith (boarder, age 32) and Gerald Lewis (domestic, age 76).

MILITARY SERVICE

Sep 10, 1915

Attestation
Paper

Attested to the Overseas General Hospital, Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force

- **Number:** Capt.
- **Present address:** Victoria, British Columbia
- **Next of kin given:** Mrs. Alice O'Brien (Wife) in Victoria, British Columbia
- **Trade or calling:** Physician and surgeon
- **Married:** Yes
- **Previous military:** Yes – Army Medical Centre
- **Religion:** Presbyterian
- **Physical attributes:**
 - **Age:** 46 years
 - **Height:** 5'10 ½"
 - **Complexion:** Dark
 - **Eyes:** Grey
 - **Hair:** Grey

Served in the tent hospitals of Salonika, France, Egypt and England.

AFTER THE WAR

1921 Census

Age 52

Lived in Grande Prairie, Alberta with Alice O'Brien (wife, age 44), Herbert O'Brien (son, age 16), Daniel O'Brien (son, age 13), Eric O'Brien (son, age 11), Margaret O'Brien (daughter, age 8) and Hugh O'Brien (brother, age 7).

Worked in Grande Prairie, Alberta as a physician but when he arrived there was only a log mission hospital with 18 beds and a staff that consisted of 1 nurse and 1 ward aid. These two staff were on duty 24 hours day and their responsibilities included nursing and in addition, cooking, cleaning and laundry. The operating room equipment consisted of a wooden table and a coal oil lamp. During surgeries Dr. O'Brien acted as both anaesthetist and surgeon and often travelled long distanced over undeveloped roads to operate on rural patients.

1922

Age 53

Actively promoted the idea of a community hospital which eventually came into being. A local carpenter built a new operating room in lieu of paying his medical bill and the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary purchased the only X-ray machine north of Edmonton, Alberta. Hospital District No. 13 had been formed and taken over by the municipality of Grande Prairie.

1939-1940

Age 71-72

President of the Alberta Medical Association.

1940

Age 72

Ran as an Independent for the Grande Prairie Constituency in the Alberta Provincial election. He defeated the Social Credit incumbent and served as an MLA for 4 years.

Jun 29, 1954

Age 86

Lewis was an avid naturalist and had a provincial park named after him: **O'Brien Provincial Park**, on the bank of the Wapiti River in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Spring 1955

Age 86

Jun 14, 1955

Age 86

Awarded honorary LLD from the University of Alberta.

Lewis died in Edmonton, Alberta. He is buried at City of Grande Prairie Cemetery in Grande Prairie, Alberta. He served on the school board and was president of the Alberta Medical Association.

IN THE NEWS

Honorary LLD from University of Alberta

Honorary Degree Recipients

1955

Spring

Laurence Yeomans Cairns, LLD

Lewis James O'Brien, LLD

George Hobson Steer, LLD

PHOTOS

Dr. Lewis J. and his wife Alice O'Brien in the yard of their Grande Prairie Home in 1940



Ancestry

Log Mission Hospital where Dr. O'Brien started his work



City of Grande Prairie Cemetery Walking Tour

Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital (Dr. O'Brien was actively involved in the development)



City of Grande Prairie Cemetery Walking Tour