

# Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum

## Fact Sheet No. 2 - Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd (1869 – 1915)



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- 1869** Born in Kent County, Raleigh Township (near Chatham, Ontario). His grandfather, Abraham Doras Shadd was an influential activist in his time. Alfred became a teacher and was a principal at the Woodstock Institute.
- 1896** Alfred answered an ad in a Toronto paper for a teacher in the Carrot River Settlement (now Kinistino, Saskatchewan) and was accepted.
- 1898** Attended Trinity Medical College in Toronto and graduated with distinction as a medical doctor.
- 1901** Dr. Shadd ran as a candidate in the Assembly of the North West Territories but was defeated by F.W. Meyers. He would later run again in 1905 in the provincial election as a Provincial Rights candidate and narrowly lost to his friend Thomas Sanderson.
- 1904-06** He arrived in Melfort in April, 1904 but left in August to go to Edinburgh to expand his medical training (Masters of Surgery). Alfred married Jeannette Simpson, a nurse he met in Edinburgh and they had two children: Garrison (born 1910) and Lavina (born 1912).
- 1905–15** Dr. Shadd distinguished himself as an outstanding pioneer in the development of the town of Melfort. His involvement included: practicing medicine, owning a drug store and a newspaper, running a farm specializing in registered Shorthorn cattle, serving on town boards including town council, hospital, chamber of commerce, school and agricultural society, initiating a farmer's elevator company, being a member of the Masonic Lodge, Orange Lodge, the Independent Order of Foresters and the Anglican Church.
- March 9, 1915** Alfred lost a battle with appendicitis and died in a Winnipeg hospital. He is buried in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Melfort. The funeral is regarded as one of the largest ever held in Melfort. The Right Reverend J. A. Newnham, Bishop of Saskatchewan, attended and three of the town's ministers took part in the service. Part of Rev. Fraser's farewell included the following: "This is a gathering to gladden the heart as well as sadden it, for the passing of our brother has brought together people of many nations and religious beliefs to do homage to his memory in the spirit of the brotherhood transcending even the price of race. Human sympathy was sweet, and the heart glowed anew to behold this tribute of respect and affection for the dear, dead doctor, who in his lifetime ruled in all our hearts, and in his death still dominated the hour, which here revealed to us the one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin."

**Tributes** Given the #1 box in new post office (1913), special headstone erected by friends (1920), Shadd Lake named in Saskatchewan (1951), Hospital Cairn erected in his honor and Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award (2005), Shadd Drive unveiled in Melfort (2009).

