

Snippets and snapshots from the past ...

Gold and governance at Clover Bar

After joining the gold rush in California in 1849 and following it to British Columbia in 1858, Thomas H. Clover was lured further still by rumours that gold had been discovered on the North Saskatchewan River in the North-West Territories. In 1859, he set out east to cross the Rocky Mountains and arrived at Fort Edmonton the following spring. (Source: Berry, J.P., *Clover Bar in the Making*, 1881-1931)

Clover set up his “rocker” east of the fort. Located two and a half miles north of the old Clover Bar post office, it became known as Clover’s Bar.

Soon “Clover Bar” was the name used for the whole district between the river and Beaver Hills, including an area declared by the territorial government on April 14, 1893 as **Fire and Labor District Number Two**. This form of self government was needed to protect property from stray cattle and horses, and the threat of fire.

In April this year Strathcona County will recognize the 115th anniversary of the declaration that made Clover Bar the first rural self-governing area in what is now Alberta.

Strathcona County's history can be traced through stories, recollections and photos of the past.

To share your story of Strathcona's past, contact us at (780) 416-6762.



Mr. Cleland with young child and dogs in the hills at Clover Bar, circa 1910
Credit: Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Clover Bar was the name used for the district between the North Saskatchewan River and the Beaver Hills. This photo shows the primitive lifestyle of some inhabitants in the area.



Appreciating our unique history

Strathcona
County

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Check out www.strathcona.ab.ca/history for more on Strathcona County's past.