Early days of settlement

Research conducted by J. Ross and Associates in 2011

Introduction

Following the transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada in 1869, the west was surveyed and opened up for settlement. Settlers began arriving to the area around Bremner House in the early 1880s. Upon arrival, they began choosing land and building farms and communities. Two nearby communities, Bremner and Clover Bar, thrived for a time but were paved over in the 1960s to make way for Highway 16 interchanges. Originally governed by the North-West Territories, the region became part of the Province of Alberta when it formed in 1905. Local governing units shifted over time; since 1962, Bremner House has been part of Strathcona County.

Topics covered:

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve. The former Rupert's Land in western Canada was surveyed after 1869, creating square-mile sections. Even-numbered sections were made available for homesteading at $10 per section, with certain stipulations regarding use and upkeep. In 1881, odd-numbered sections along railways also became available to settlers, sparking a year of speculative fever that prompted numerous colonization companies to form and then quickly dissolve. Through treaties, another portion of the land went to Indigenous peoples as reserves. In 1888, a local Cree band, the Papaschase, surrendered its reserve in Treaty 6 for settlement after band members in the grip of hunger and poverty exchanged their reserve land for scrip land. Settlers, including Charlie Bremner, bought scrip land. Devastating forest fires between 1892 and 1895 prompted the federal government to set aside 170 square miles as the Cooking Lake Forest Reserve for fuel and lumber.

Hamlet of Bremner. The hamlet's post office was first named Hortonburg after the first postmaster and storekeeper. It was renamed Bremner's Corner (later Bremner) after 1909, when the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway came through and built a station there, thanks to Charlie Bremner's influence. At various times the hamlet had a church, recreation grounds, an Orange Hall, a blacksmith shop, a creamery, a sawmill, a butcher shop, grain elevators, stockyards, a gristmill, a lumberyard, a shoe repair, a service station, a bank, a tearoom, an egg grading station, a direct buying station and a machine company. The hamlet shrank over time and disappeared in 1966 when the land was needed for a Highway 16 overpass.

Village of Clover Bar. All the homesteads around Clover Bar were claimed by the mid-1890s. The hamlet and post office were named after Thomas Clover, a California '49er gold miner who also worked the Cariboo gold rush. At various times, the hamlet (later a village) had a government creamery, a succession of schools, churches, and other services. The hamlet ceased to exist in 1970 to make way for a Highway 16 cloverleaf.

Evolution of local government. Initially governed by the North-West Territories, the region became part of the Province of Alberta when it formed in 1905. As the population grew, governments set taxation rates to fund urgent services such as roads and firefighting. In 1893, Clover Bar became the first Statute Labor and Fire District to form in what would become Alberta, beginning the path to greater local self-government. Local districts evolved into Municipal Districts, with Clover Bar and Strathcona among the districts. In 1943, the two districts merged into the Municipal District of Strathcona No. 83; in 1962 the municipality became County of Strathcona No. 20.

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STRATHCONA COUNTY

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve			
Subject/location	Date	Details	Source
Western portion of Rupert's Land	1870s-1900	Once Rupert's Land transferred to Canada, the federal government had the west surveyed. Adapting the American landholding system, the surveyors divided the land into townships of 36 sections. Each section was 640 acres, or one-square mile. Each section was divided into quarter sections. Townships were numbered northward from the 49th Parallel, and ranges were numbered westward from the first meridian established at Fort Garry, Manitoba. Surveyors marked the corners of the sections and quarter sections with firstly wood and then iron stakes so homesteaders could locate their land. The Dominion Lands Act 1872 stated that even-numbered sections were available for homesteads for a $10 entry fee. Applicant had to live on the homestead for six months each of three years, break 80 acres and build a home. Other lands were withheld for schools, the Hudson's Bay Company and railways.	Myers, *Facing the Land*, pp. 3-4, 19
		Preemption is a "process adopted in Canada from the United States in 1874 allowing a settler who had entered on a homestead to obtain an "interim entry" on another quarter-section located adjacent to his homestead. After he received his Letters Patent for his homestead he could then purchase the additional "preemption" land at government prices. Preemptions were discontinued in 1890 and reintroduced in 1908 and repealed in 1918."	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Canada_Land_and_Property

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve			
Subject/location	Date	Details	Source
	1880s-1900	An average start-up cost of settlement on the prairies was about $1000 in 1900, a lot of money for many if not most homesteaders. Immigration pamphlets etc. are filled with testimonials of successful farmers who started out with almost no capital. Yet, "there is ample evidence to support the view, commonly held in the period, that 'energy, experience, judgement, and enterprise' were probably more important to the establishing of a successful farm than a large initial investment." Under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, a settler was prohibited from mortgaging homestead lands prior to the issuing of a patent although land purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway or colonization companies could be mortgaged but required a down payment. Canadian Pacific Railway land could be acquired with 1/6 or 1/10 down followed by five equal annual instalments. Canadian Pacific Railway land sold for $2.50-$5.00 depending on its distance from the railway and grain handling facilities. After 1900 Canadian Pacific Railway prices jumped. The cost of building a log house was very low with only nails tools, lumber for doors, door frames, windows, flooring and roofing. "Bachelors tended to select their lands adjacent to the homesteads of their friends with whom they would share accommodation during the first year or two.." Furnishing a log house could be done for as little as $20 if one made his own furniture. In 1881 a Manitoba settler estimated the cost of a team or horses and harness to be $325.	Dick, *Farmers 'Making Good'* pp. 51, 53

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve			
Subject/location	Date	Details	Source
Odd-numbered sections along railways	1881	To defray the expenses incurred in the construction of the transcontinental railway line and to help settle the vacant prairies, J.A. MacDonald, Prime Minister, introduced the colonization company scheme into the National Policy. This plan allowed for the sale of the odd-numbered sections in the townships outside the 24-mile belt that lay on either side of the proposed railway line. The ratification of this contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway resulted in a "land boon" that created a speculative fever in the Canadian business world.	McCracken, Yorkton During the Territorial Period p. v.
		Businessmen and politicians, envisioning huge profits to be made through the re-sale of their odd-numbered sections to the expected influx of immigrants, became very interested in the colonization company scheme. Some 260 companies were formed, the "Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company" being one of them.	Also, *Canadian Encyclopedia* "Colonization Companies"; Biamonte, "The History of Clover Bar", pp. 2-3 as quoted from a letter from the Department of the Secretary of State January 29, 1954 to A. Biamonte
		"The terms required the company to locate 2 settlers on each of the odd- and even-numbered section of its tract within 5 years, although the Crown maintained exclusive ownership of the even-numbered sections. In return, the company was to receive a rebate of $160 for every newly established, *bona fide* settler within the tract."	
		Profits could be realized in proportion to the number of settlers they attracted. The government hoped to sell 10 million acres to private colonization companies and recover $10 million from the $25 million it had pledged to the Canadian Pacific Railway. When the land boom collapsed in 1882, most of the companies withdrew and only 27 ratified contracts were drawn up, the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company being one. Its letters patent are dated June 27, 1882 with its head office in Ottawa. G.A. Simpson was the company's general manager.	
Four area townships	1884	The Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company brought in some settlers. In return the company got a land grant of four townships including mineral rights. Their land grant was for odd-numbered sections. The company also brought in the first threshing machine. It was later sold to R.P. Ottewell. The company built a store, boarding house and barn. The company spent an estimated $87,000 in improvements but failed to attract many settlers.	*Cherished Memories*, pp. 348, 353. Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931," p. 5

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve			
Subject/location	Date	Details	Source
Saskatchewan Land Colonization Company tract	1884	Only one farmer on the Saskatchewan Land Colonization Company tract had a seed drill. They were marketed as "tillage machines".	Anderson, "A History of Seeding Practices …", p. 15
North-West Territories	1885[+]	The North West Half Breed Commission was established to satisfy claims of the Métis. "Children of Métis heads of family could claim $240 or $240 worth of land (240 acres), and heads of family, $160 or 160 acres of land. This was intended to permanently extinguish any indigenous land rights. … Métis land scrips were given for 240 acres".	Gerhard J. Ens, *Homeland to Hinterland : the Changing worlds of the Red River Metis in the Nineteenth Century*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Buffalo, London, 1996, p. 183-184.
Saskatchewan Land Colonization Company tract	1887	The Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company wound up its farming operations by selling all of its livestock on October 6, 1887. "The sale will take place at the company's farm house, south side, and will be the most extensive ever held in the district."	*Edmonton Bulletin, 1* October 1887, p. 1

Homestead land, scrip land, forest reserve			
Subject/location	Date	Details	Source
Roughly between Ranges 25 and 23, and parts of townships 51, 52 and 53	1888	The Papaschase Indian Reserve, created in 1877 when Cree Chief Papaschase signed Treaty 6, was surrendered just a year later amid growing hunger among the 200 band members. This was the first of the reserve surrenders of the North-West. Located in what was to become Strathcona County (and later annexed to Edmonton's south side), reserve 136 covered 25,600 acres, a little over one township (23,040 acres). In 1885, 194 band members took Métis scrip, and local businessmen pushed for opening the reserve for settlement. Facing hunger, most of the band members had scattered, and only three signed the surrender, when a majority was needed. There are three survey maps of the Reserve, which was surveyed by George Simpson in 1880 and twice in 1884 by John C. Nelson.	Donald, "Edmonton Pentimento…" p. 37. Also, Martin-McGuire, *First Nation Land Surrenders,* pp. 163-165, 244-246, 326-329. Maps: Indian Affairs; Tyler, "A Tax-Eating Proposition…". See also summary of Department of Indian Affairs sources in Archival Records Survey, 2006, 110
Cooking Lake Forest Reserve	1892, 1895	Cooking Lake Forest Reserve was created in hope of protecting crucial forests following fires around Beaverhill Lake. The forest resources were set aside by the Dominion government to be used for lumber and firewood. The 170 square mile area included what is today Elk Island National Park, south to Miquelon Lake, west to North Cooking Lake and east to Ross Creek. Deville and North Cooking Lake districts were part of the reserve.	*Land among the Lakes,* Stefiszyn, "Cooking Lake Forest Reserve," pp. 32-36

▼   *Interesting tidbit—*

In the 1940s, rivalry between the Clover Bar and Bremner baseball teams was fierce. The rivalry largely involved the Schroters (mostly Bob and Lawrence) and the Baileys, who had a farm off Wye Road and later bought the Gillies farm near Clover Bar.

▼   *Interesting tidbit—*

Nellie Schroter often hosted the Bremner Friendship Club at her home after the family purchased Bremner House. Formed in the 1960s, after the widening of Highway 16 forced the closure of churches in Bremner and Clover Bar, the club won awards for good works and well-made quilts.

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
Establishment and demise	1880s	Bremner (once known as Hortonburg) was established at 7-53-22-W4. Some of the first settlers in the Bremner area were the Jacksons, Rice, Sid Ottewell and J. Daly.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 1, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1890-1900	Much of Strathcona County was settled by British or Ontario-British. Another influx of settlers saw George Fraser, Gray, Johnny Williams, Bert Tomlinson, Bob Easton Seymore, and Bill Byres take up homesteads. Mary and Johnny Longmore were a Métis family that moved into the Bremner district; Mary was a well-known medicine woman.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 349. Also, Daly, "The World They Lived In," pp. 1, 3, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1896	The post office at what became Bremner was at first named Hortonburg after Henry B. Horton, the first postmaster and storekeeper. Syd Ottewell donated an acre of land for Horton's store. Philip Ottewell donated enough lumber for Harry to put up the first store building and the local men all pitched in to erect a building.	Looking for another source (web page no longer available)
	1907	Horton wrote a letter to the editor complaining about the lack of a post office at what became Bremner Corner. "The 1906 mail carriers' term has expired and along with it the services of the genial and most obliging of mail carrier, Mr. Joseph Tone. The department … have given us a service much less satisfactory, our mail now arriving on Tuesday and Friday evenings instead of on Tuesday and Saturday at 11 a.m. as heretofore, cutting the whole community out of their weekly papers till the following Tuesday."	*Edmonton Bulletin*, January 2, 1907, p. 7
	1900	Henry (Harry) Horton, also called the "tea man", carried staple food items and took orders for goods to be delivered on his next trip out. He did this until he established a store at Bremner Corner where he stayed for 10 years.	Unknown local history book, p. 31, Source unknown
	1909	The first Grand Trunk Pacific Railway steam engine with one passenger car and one baggage car puffed its way through the area. The name Hortonburg was changed to Bremner. It was located on Section 7.	Harrison, *Place Names of Alberta,* p. 34

Hamlet of Bremner

Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1909	The Grand Trunk Pacific was building stations at Ardrossan and Clover Bar but not at Hortonburg. Residents enlisted the influential help of J.C.C. Bremner to have a station built at Hortonburg. Thus, the hamlet's name was changed to Bremner's Corners, later Bremner.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1909	One house had to be removed to make way for the railway.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1909	The first station was an old boxcar. This was replaced in 1910 by a real railway station.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 4, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1912	The name of the siding and post office was changed to Bremner in 1912. Daly claims that J.C.C. Bremner had a secret deal with the Grand Trunk Pacific that when the siding was built that its name was to be Bremner. According to Daly, not many in the area were pleased with the name change from Hortonburg. It became known as Bremner's Corners. Later when the highways built, Bremner was on the southeast corner of Highways 16 and 21.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 4, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1912	Billy Barr was the telegraph operator.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1926	The Deer Mound Post Office was closed and all mail went to Bremner.	Library and Archives Canada
	1930	The Bremner United Farmers of Alberta sponsored a prize for the best speech on pioneer days.	*Cherished Memories,* p. 351
	1930s	Bremner had three or four houses, no more.	Interview with Reg Marler by Jane Ross 5 April 2011

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1966	The Hamlet of Bremner disappeared when the Alberta Department of Highways built an overpass here.	Source unknown
Businesses	1897	Patrick Hanlon built a blacksmith shop adjacent to Horton's corner at what became Bremner's recreation grounds just east of the creek on 7-53-22-W4	Source unknown
	1900	A creamery opened but closed a few years later due to friction among the farmers.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1903	Hanlon's blacksmith shop closed.	Source unknown
	1904	Philip Ottewell had a sawmill set up on the north bank of Old Man Creek.	*Cherished Memories,* p. 678
	1907	Wm. Picksland opened a butcher shop.	Source unknown
	1909	Grand Trunk Pacific laid its rail line through Bremner. The siding's water tower was located one mile east on a creek. The railway stationed a section crew at Bremner until the 1930s when the foreman, Bill Leggo, left to return to Poland.	Daly p. 5; photocopy of "The Bremner of Days Gone By" at back of Daly's essay, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1909	The Atlas grain elevator was built at the Bremner siding.	Source unknown
	1909-1910	Stockyards were built east of the elevators. Jim Woods was the stock buyer until the mid-1930s. "The people of the district would have small cattle drives to the yards as not many of them had trucks. It was not uncommon to see a farmer coming down the road with six or seven cows leading the way."	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 5, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	Circa 1909	Harry Horton converted the creamery into a gristmill.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 5, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1911-1912	Alberta Grain Company built Bremner's second grain elevator. It held 25,000 bushels.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1911-1912	Two grain elevators at Bremner Siding by 1911-12 year: a 30,000 bushel elevator owned by Atlas Elevator Company and a 30,000 bushel elevator owned by Alberta Grain Company The Atlas elevator was sold to Security Grain Company.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1912-1913	J.C. Creighton built a blacksmith shop.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1912	"A large elevator at Bremner, 23 miles east of the city, the property of the Alberta Grain Company, was totally destroyed by a fire which commenced about a quarter to one a.m. Wednesday morning. Over 11,000 bushels of grain were consumed. There is no fire brigade at Bremner so the fire could only be allowed to die out, as no water is available, and although the Edmonton contingent received word at one o'clock they decided not to go the distance as a chemical engine would be useless at such a conflagration."	*St. Albert Star* 4 December 1912, p. 7 from http://peel.library.ualberta.ca
	1913	The Alberta Grain elevator no longer listed by Grain Commission.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1913	Mr. Todd built a second store in Bremner south of the tracks.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1914	First World War broke out in Europe.	
	1914	Mr. Todd went to war so sold his store to F.M. Latam. Latam had the post office moved to his store. Todd was killed in the war.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)

Hamlet of Bremner

Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1914-1920	Frances Melbourne Latam was the Bremner storekeeper and postmaster; the mail was delivered by horse from the main post office in Strathcona twice a week. From Bremner, the postmaster delivered the mail to district residents on a regular mail route every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. "Mr. Latam carried a lantern light lit underneath the robes in the cutter in the winter to keep his feet and body warm…"	"Horses", Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1914	Creighton sold his blacksmith shop to Charles Christien who was the smithy for three or four years.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1914	W.A. Fyfe lumberyard opened one-half mile south of the Bremner corner.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 5, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	No date	An African-American, Charlie Dickenson opened a shoe repair shop next to the Orange Hall.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 6, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1916	At Bremner siding, there was a loading platform and the grain was hauled up this platform beside the box car. One man had to shovel it into the car because the Canada Grain Act forbade power loaders. "I realized the need of a strong farmers' union while I was shovelling."	*Cherished Memories,* p. 625
	1917	Frank Lechleutner opened Bremner's first garage.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1919	Leo Busse bought the Christien blacksmith shop and operated it for "a number of years."	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1920	Merchant's Bank opened a branch. At some point it was bought out by Bank of Montreal which closed Bremner branch.	Source unknown
	1920	A boarding house opened beside the lumberyard, but closed soon afterwards. It was later converted into a private home.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 6, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1920	Vernon Foster bought Latam store.	Source unknown
	1921	"The East Clover Bar branch of the UFA and the council of the Clover Bar Municipal District worked together to locate a set of public weigh scales at Bremner … [of] six tons capacity preferred and to be erected as near Bremner post office as convenience permits."	*Cherished Memories,* p. 595
	1922-25	Fyfe's lumberyard closed sometime in the early to mid-1920s	*Cherished Memories*, p. 343. Also, Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 6, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1923	Horton's store burnt.	Source unknown
	1925	Ogilvie Flour Mills built Bremner's second grain elevator but sold it to the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1928. It held 31,000 bushels. A 9,000 bushel loxstave was added in 1940.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1925	Walter Dance bought the garage and his wife operated a tearoom on the second floor.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1928	Ogilvie Flour Mills elevator was sold to Alberta Pool Elevators.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1929	Foster moved his store to Harry Horton's lot. The lot was vacant because Horton's store had burnt in 1921.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)

Hamlet of Bremner

Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1930	Security Grain elevator sold to Northern Elevator Company which licensed it for 25,000 bushels.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1932	Martin Reynolds operated the garage.	Source unknown
	No date	Martin Reynolds had a service station at the top of the hill where the railway crosses Highway 16. He sold UFA gasoline.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross, June 7, 2011
	1940	Northern Elevator Company Ltd. as a company sold to National Grain Company Ltd.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	No date	Jenkins recalls Bremner having four elevators, Gillespie being one (it's hard to know how accurate Jenkins's memory is since the Grain Commission only ever lists two elevators. Jenkins may be confusing locations or the grain elevator ownership changes.)	Interview, George Jenkins by Jane Ross March 8, 2011
	1941	Foster closed his store. John Bertwell built a new store and egg grading station.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1945	Train station closed although siding remains open until 1950s.	Source unknown
	1945	The stockyards closed.	Source unknown
	1948	National Grain sold its elevator to Alberta Wheat Pool to become Alberta Wheat Pool No. 2. Alberta Wheat Pool No. 1 elevator had capacity of 45,000 bushels.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1952	Bertwell closed his egg grading station.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 343.
	1960s	The hamlet of Bremner was located on both sides of Highway 16 at the junction with Highway 21. The post office and the two grain elevators were one half mile south of the highway. There was Bertwell's general store on the north side of the highway and Reynolds' UFA service station at the top of the hill where the railway crosses Highway 16.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross, June 7, 2011

Hamlet of Bremner

Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1966	Alberta Wheat Pool No. 2 was torn down.	Records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada 1911-1917
	1909-1966	The Alberta Wheat Pool facilities at Bremner handled a total of 3,315,200 bushels of grain over the life of the elevators. Bob Fouracre was the last elevator manager at Bremner. Previous buyers were J.L. Barclay (1928-1935), C.M. Hutchinson (1935-1937), C.A. Nolan (1937-1938) and S.E. Fleming 1938-1952.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 343
	1970	Only the Bremner Direct Buying Station and H & H Machine Company were left of the hamlet's business section.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. ix, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1976-1977	Alberta Wheat Pool No. 1 was torn down.	Canadian Grain Commission. Annual crop years, 1911-1997
Church and faith	1923	When the Clover Bar church was moved, members of the congregation who lived to the east (at Bremner) moved "the brick school across from the cemetery for this purpose" to Bremner.	*Cherished Memories*, pp. 344-346
	1924	The bricks from the original Clover Bar school were recycled to build a church.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1942	Neither the Bremners nor the Schroters are listed on the church's honour roll.	*Cherished Memories,* p. 354
	1940-1950s	The minister has four churches – Bremner, Clover Bar, Salisbury and Ardrossan – where he preaches every Sunday.	Interview, Helen and Don Jackson by Jane Ross June 13, 2011
	No date	The Bremner congregation installed pews in its church.	Unknown local history book, no page number, Source unknown
	1956	The manse at Bremner' was a showpiece with 14 rock gardens; the original owner had been an English gardener.	*Cherished Memories*, pp. 354-355

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	No date	The Clover Bar and Bremner churches jointly formed a Scout and Cub group. The group was a member of the Edmonton District Council. The Scouts had camp trips to Skelton Lake and other local camps. The Scout groups disbanded when highway widening forced the churches to move.	Source unknown
	1966	The church building was purchased by the Department of Highways when it widened Highway 16.	Source unknown
Entertainment	No date	Mr. Horton built a skating rink.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1910-1925	Bremner had an exceptionally good baseball team with the Marler and Schroters playing as well as Clayton McGhan, etc.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 615
	1912	An Orange Hall was built this year.	Source unknown
	1917	An automobile club was started. The Ardrossan, Bremner, Clover Bar and Salisbury club remained active during the winter months when other such clubs closed.	Source unknown
	1940s	The rivalry between the Clover Bar and Bremner baseball teams was fierce. Fights would break out. It was largely a rivalry between the Schroters (mostly Bob and Lawrence) for Bremner and the Baileys who had a farm off Wye Road and then bought the Gillies farm, for Clover Bar. Lawrence and Bob were on the Bremner team at the same time. When they "retired", Dick, Allan and Alex played. Allan pitched and played right field. The teams had uniforms. The Clover Bar team uniforms were tan and the Bremner men's team uniforms were blue. To raise money for the uniforms, there were barn dances held in the hayloft of the Marler barn. There were also women's baseball teams at Bremner and Clover Bar. The rivalry between the women's teams was not as strong. Tory Allan played for the Clover Bar women's baseball team. They played against Bremner and Ardrossan women's teams.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011 Also, interview, Allan and June Schroter by Jane Ross, June 6, 2011

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	No date	There was no school at Bremner so the ball diamond was a community ball diamond. In the winter, the same parcel of land at Bremner was turned into a skating rink.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011
	1940s	There was a hockey league. "They used to go to Thorsby and all over." Harvey Hanlan and Harvey Reynolds were on the Bremner hockey team. Rivalries were keen.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011
	1940s	No "big" dances were held at the Orange Hall. Card parties were held at the Hall. Later the Orange Hall was moved to Roy McGhans and he used it for some kind of shed.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011
	1939-1945	During the war, the Red Cross holds fundraiser picnics on the south side of Highway 16 in Bremner where the ball diamond and tennis courts are located.	Interview, Helen and Don Jackson by Jane Ross, June 13, 2011
	1926	The Clover Bar United Farm Women's Association organized a "Farmers' Picnic" each year at Bremner.	Clover Bar United Farm Women's Association fonds, box 1, file 2, Series 2 Minutes 1923-1926
	1928	Tennis club opened in Bremner but soon closed.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931", p. 20.
	1930	Second tennis club opened on Bremner's recreation grounds.	Source unknown
	1940-1970	Either the Farm Women's Union of Alberta or the UFA sponsored the annual Bremner picnic.	Interview, Helen and Don Jackson by Jane Ross, June 13, 2011
	1955	The Orange Hall was sold to be used as a church in the Wye district.	Source unknown
	1950s	Dances were held in the huge Lakeview Pavilion at South Cooking Lake.	Interview, Allan and June Schroter by Jane Ross, June 6, 2011

Hamlet of Bremner			
Subject	Date	Details	Source
	1968	The Bremner Friendship Club was formed when widening of Highway 16 forced the closure of the Bremner United church and the Clover Bar church. The church's women's group wanted to keep meeting so they changed their name to the Bremner Friendship Club and invited all women in the area regardless of religious denomination to join. The Club put on bridal showers and served lunch at community functions. The Club met once a month, rotating the venue through the membership. The Club held an annual bazaar and tea in the local community hall where crafts and baking were sold. The Club sold five to 10 quilts, plants, baking and had a bazaar table. The Club donated the money to worthy causes such as the Cancer Society, the Red Cross, MS Society, Camp He Ho Ha, etc. In 1980 the club twinned with the Libran Ladies group of Wellington, Somerset, England. In 1974 the club held the first County Fair at Ardrossan High School. In 1978, the club had 15 members.	Tory Allan Collection. (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.) Also, interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011
	No date	Nellie Schroter was a member of the Bremner Friendship Club and many meetings were held at her place since it was such a large house.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011
	1970s	The first County Fair was held August 21, 1974. The crowd was drawn from Ardrossan, Salisbury, Clover Bar, etc. "Over 1000 people came to view the efforts of sixteen communities from throughout the rural area of the County." There was a community display competition. Prize money was $1500 donated by agricultural societies of Ardrossan, Colchester and Josephburg. The Bremner Friendship Club took 3rd prize. Reg Marler was a key organizer. "The District Home Economist, Simone Demers, and her assistant, Dora Graham, worked closely … in organizing the displays and arranging for the Dept. of Agriculture Judges." The Club's display was the Bremner General Store.	Tory Allan Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	No date	The Bremner Friendship Club made quilts that they sold at bazaars. They also made quilts for each other. They used liquid embroidery to decorate the quilts. Tory Allan still has the quilt that the Club made for her.	Interview, Tory Allan by Jane Ross, June 8, 2011

Village of Clover Bar

	Date	Details	Source
Establishment	1881-1882	R.P. Ottewell, Thomas Jackson, the Holmes brothers, Alex Fraser, W.D. Carscadden, Thomas Stevens, George Simpson, St. George Jellet and Edward Langrell arrive August 7. The Jacksons homesteaded in 1883. Most of early settlers Anglo-Saxon and either hailed directly from Britain or from the USA.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 353. Also, interview with Don and Helen Jackson by Robert Briggs, August 14, 1985
	1881	Ottewell, Jackson and Langrell the first to homestead south of the N. Saskatchewan River. Others had not for fear of the Blackfoot.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 4
	1884	The hamlet and post office was named after Thomas Clover, a California '49er gold miner who also worked the Cariboo gold rush. He arrived at Fort Edmonton in 1860, settling by a bar in the North Saskatchewan River where he finally "struck gold". NW10-53-23-W4	Harrison, *Place Names of Alberta,* p. 54
	1884	The Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company brought in the first threshing machine. It was later sold to R.P. Ottewell.	*Cherished Memories*, pp. 348, 353. Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 5
	1890s	It took 10 years for all homesteads in the townships around Clover Bar to be taken up.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 6
Businesses	1899	The Clover Bar post office was located at the home of J.S. Doze on 20-53-23 W4.	*Lowe's Directory of Edmonton & District 1899*, p. 169.
	1905	A government creamery opened here only to close at the end of the following year.	Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch, PAA 67.21, file 11, "Creameries in Alberta and Number of Years in Operation"
Schools	1885	The first school district to be organized in Alberta is formed in Edmonton (School District No. 7), followed by Calgary, Belmont and the Fort Saskatchewan district. At the end of the year, there are nine school districts in the Edmonton area.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 10. Also, Kostek, *A Century and Ten,* p. 29

Village of Clover Bar			
	Date	Details	Source
	1887	School District of East Edmonton (Clover Bar) No. 98 was organized. The first school was at the home of E. Caverhill, one mile north of Wye Road.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 10
	1907	By now the school was too small and a new school built.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1909	The new No. 98 school burnt and was rebuilt in 1910.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1913	The rapidly increasing population meant that a new school was needed by this date. The schoolhouse built in 1910 was moved.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1932	The 1913 schoolhouse was sold (and presumably moved to) the School District of Fultonvale. A new school was built.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1954	Another room was added onto the East Edmonton School.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	No date	The East Edmonton schools were also known as East Edmonton South schools.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1915	School District of East Edmonton North was organized. With a number of coal mines in the area, the population increase demanded a school. One was built on Baseline Road at what is now 34 Street. It became known as Baseline School or East Edmonton North School.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 43
	1950	The old Baseline Road school needed replacement. A three-room schoolhouse, the Braemar School, was located at what is now 100 Avenue at 68 Street.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1951	Another school, King George Park, was built at 85 Avenue and 73 Street. It boasted three rooms.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 53
	1891	School District of Clover Bar No. 212 was organized April 27, 1891 and classes held in the building of the colonization company.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 11

Village of Clover Bar			
	Date	Details	Source
	1891	The Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company store was rented as a school after the school district was formed. A dedicated building was erected near the first church and across from the cemetery at or near NW10-53-23-W4.	*Cherished Memories*, pp. 351-352
	1895	A new brick schoolhouse was built to replace the colonization company schoolhouse. It was built across the road from the present Clover Bar cemetery. Later, this building was moved to Bremner to become the United Church.	*Schools of Strathcona County* p. 43. Also, *Cherished Memories,* pp. 699-700
	1912	Clover Bar No. 212 school was built. It was moved in 1924 two miles east. Later in 1941-42, it was replaced and the old schoolhouse was sold to Lloyd McGhan.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 352. Also, *The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 70
	1903	School District of East Clover Bar No. 1001 was organized. It was the most easterly of the four schools that were named after Thomas Clover.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 11
	1904	A school was built in 1904 and opened in 1905. The first teacher was Miss Lackey. Among those attending the school were Roy Schroter, Myrtle Schroter and Alma Schroter. The school remained open until 1958.	*Cherished Memories* p. 678. Also, *The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 51
	1904	The school also served as a church from Methodists, Presbyterians and Anglicans, taking turns with their services. The school also served as the community centre.	*Cherished Memories,* p. 678
	1920	The School District of East Clover Bar built a new two-room brick school. Its Treasurer was Vernon S. Foster of Bremner. The original frame school was then moved to Bremner to become the Bremner Garage. It was used for that purpose until 1932.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 51
	1958	The East Clover Bar School was part of Ardrossan School and was known as the Ardrossan Annex.	*The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 51
	1914	School District of North Clover Bar No. 3117 was organized. Its school burned in 1924 and was replaced immediately.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 12

Village of Clover Bar			
	Date	Details	Source
	1914	North Clover Bar school, No. 3117, was built.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 352. Also, *Schools of Strathcona County*, p. 70
	No date	The Clover Bar Fair Association was organized with Clover Bar Centre, Clover Bar North, Clover Bar Village, Clover East (two rooms), Salisbury, East Edmonton (three rooms) Schools. The annual school fair was always held at Clover Bar Village School.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 12. Also, *The Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 45
	1923	Clover Bar Village School: The school district was divided into East Clover Bar and Clover Bar and a new school was built in the hamlet of Clover Bar. School No. 212 was moved east to NW11-53-23-W4. Children in the Bremner area attended the East Clover Bar school until 1955.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 352. Also, interview with Don and Helen Jackson by Robert Briggs, August 14, 1985, p. 10
	1923	School District of Clover Bar No. 212 was divided due to the large number of miners' children in the west part of the district. School District of Clover Bar Village No. 4174 was formed. It was in the west part of the Clover Bar district. A two-room frame building was erected in 1924.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 12. Also, *Schools of Strathcona County,* p. 45
	1923	The first schoolhouse was moved to Bremner where it served as a church.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 2, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1924	The North Clover Bar school burnt but was rebuilt almost immediately.	Daly, "The World They Lived In," p. 2, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	1955	A regional school was built in Ardrossan where children were bussed. School No. 212 was closed.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 352
	1899	The School District of Salisbury was organized.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 11
Church and faith	1883	Methodist minister D.C. Sanderson held services in home of Daly brothers.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 21

Village of Clover Bar

	Date	Details	Source
	1887	Presbyterian minister A.C. Baird built church at Clover Bar and secured a grant of $100. Later the church was torn down.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 21
	1896	Baptists met at home of G.R. Ball but discontinued within a year or two.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 21
	1899	Homewood Church (Presbyterian) built with Rev. D. G. McQueen as minister. A Methodist church built.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 21
	1900	A parsonage and church were built for Colchester Anglicans.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931" p. 21
	1903 1904	A Methodist Church was built in Clover Bar with Rev. R.E. Finlay as the first resident minister.	*Cherished Memories,* p. 354. Also, Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931", p. 21
	1912	A parsonage was built next to Clover Bar's Methodist Church.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 354
	No date	This source states that Mr. Foster's house in Bremner was purchased by the Clover Bar United Church to be used as a manse.	Newspaper article, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1923	Homewood Presbyterian church closed.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931", p. 21
	1931	A stone gateway was erected at the Clover Bar cemetery as a Jubilee memorial.	*Cherished Memories*, p. 354. Also, Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making 1881-1931", p. 24
Demise	June 20, 1970	The hamlet of Clover Bar ceased to exist due to highway expansion with a cloverleaf.	*Edmonton Journal, 13* June 1970

Evolution of local government

Location	Date	Details	Source
North-West Territories	1887	Under the North-West Territories' Statute Labor Ordinance, local land owners could pay their taxes by working on road crews at $1.50/day, or pay cash.	Masson, *Alberta's Local Government,* pp. 83-84.
North-West Territories	1893	In 1890, the ordinances pertaining to fire and labor districts were combined into a Statute Labor and Fire Ordinance, a form of local government. But the stipulations set were so high that few areas qualified to form districts. In 1893, the ordinance was amended to permit any township with a population of eight residents to be designated as a labor and fire district.	Masson, *Alberta's Local Governments,* pp. 83-84. Also, *South of the North Saskatchewan*, pp. 16-17
Clover Bar, T53 R22 W4th	1893	The Statute Labor and Fire District No. 2 at Clover Bar is the first such district to be created in what is now Alberta. The districts imposed a $.05 per acre property tax, which was paid in labor to build and maintain roads, as well as fight fires.	*The North-West Territories Gazette*, 1 May 1893, pp. 73-74
North-West Territories	1899	The Territorial government creates Local Improvement Districts to facilitate the construction of roadways in slightly populated areas.	Walchuk, *Alberta's Local Governments,* p. 33
Alberta	1905	The Province of Alberta is created and takes over jurisdiction of the growing local improvement districts.	
Alberta	1912	The Rural Municipality Act divides the province into a grid of larger local improvement districts. Local Improvement Districts No. 27-R4, 26-S-4 and 26-R-4 combine to form Local Improvement District No. 518.	*South of the North Saskatchewan*, p. 17
	1913	Local Improvement District No. 27 R4 becomes Local Improvement District No. 517. The first meeting is held at Fort Saskatchewan, February 8, 1913.	*South of the North Saskatchewan,* p. 17 Schedule of Districts Constituted Under the Provisions of the Local Improvement Act, *The Alberta Gazette*, p. 9,
	1913	Local Improvement District No. 518 forms.	
	1917	The Council of Local Improvement District No. 518 meets in South Edmonton.	*South of the North Saskatchewan,* pp. 17-18
Clover Bar	1918	On August 10, Local Improvement District No. 517 becomes Rural Municipality: Municipal District of Clover Bar No. 517.	*South of the North Saskatchewan*, p. 17

Evolution of local government

Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	1900s	Most roads were not graded, ditched or gravelled. Reg Marler's grandfather had a Fresno he used "to move dirt around with." His grandfather had a platform to which he attached a couple of blades and he graded the roads after a rain to get out the ruts. He was paid for his work.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Strathcona County	1930s	Some road work, grading at least, was done in what is now Strathcona County.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
MDs of Clover Bar and Strathcona	1943	Municipal District of Clover Bar No. 517 is merged with the Municipal District of Strathcona No. 518 to form a combined Municipal District of Strathcona No. 517	*South of the North Saskatchewan* pp. 17-18
Municipal District of Strathcona No. 83	1945	The new larger Municipal District of Strathcona No. 517 is renamed the Municipal District of Strathcona No. 83 when the Alberta government renumbers all municipal districts across the province.	Ministerial Order, April 14, 1945
County of Strathcona No. 20	1962	The municipality is incorporated under the provisions of the Alberta County Act, to be known as County of Strathcona No. 20, as of January 1.	Order in Council 1417/61, *The Alberta Gazette*, 30 September 1961