

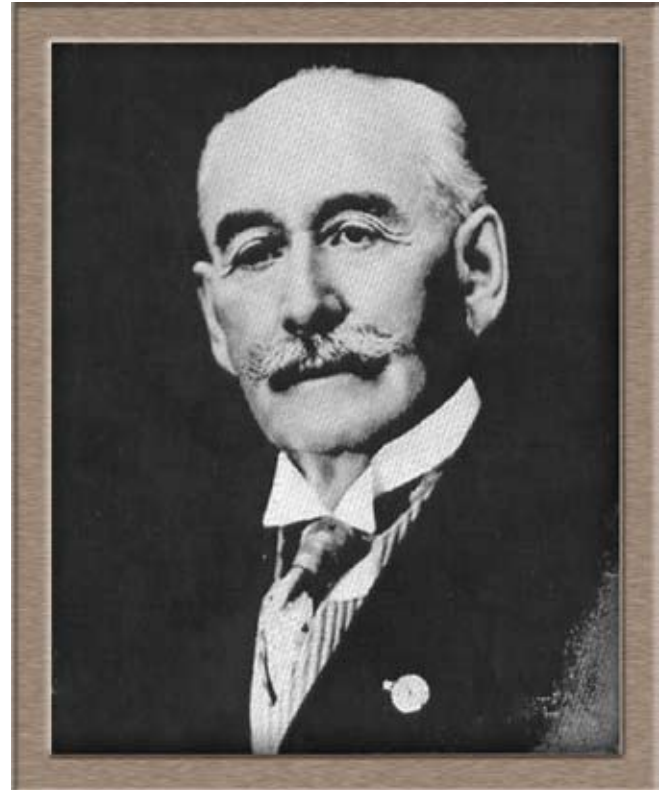
# KHHC

**Kristi's Heritage Corner**  
Kristi Johnson brings life to  
Calgary's Hidden Heritage Gems.

## The Calgary Residences of Allan Poyntz Patrick (The Man who first found oil in Alberta)

Unfortunately, not all of the buildings showcased in this article are still standing. The home on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave has been demolished for quite some time now, however the 37<sup>th</sup> street house is still standing. In fact, it was just recently recognized by the Calgary Heritage Authority as being a building of heritage significance. This is not surprising, as its' owner was a man whose influence is felt around Calgary and indeed the province.

Allan Poyntz Patrick was born in Montreal around 1848 to Alfred Poyntz Patrick and Tirzah Hopkins Patrick. Allan's father Alfred was a man of some esteem in politics. Due to his loyal service to the Commonwealth, he was awarded The Companion of the most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. In



*Allan Poyntz Patrick*

Diplomatic circles, the abbreviations for this award have been humorously referred to as "Call Me God". For those of you who love a good bit of trivia, James Bond was awarded the C.M.G in "From Russia with Love".

As a young man, Allan Poyntz Patrick received his education from Upper Canada College and The Kingston Military College.

Patrick's military education led him to serve on the Queen's own Toronto Regiment. He was also a member of the Queen's own Rifles and was known to be a superior marksman. There is a wonderful story that during a competition Allan opted to show off his expertise by attempting to hit his mark after spinning around in a complete circle. While he did not win, he did become the only competitor to hit a bulls eye while in constant motion.

Patrick's military service was not limited to impressing young women with his marksmanship. As a member of the Queen's Own Rifles, he served in both the Fenian Raids and the Riel Rebellion.

After his duties in the Riel Rebellion, Allan traveled west

as a Dominion Land Surveyor to survey areas in Alberta. In his time as a surveyor, Patrick surveyed the original grid for Calgary as well as the railway sites between Ft. Macleod and Edmonton. Patrick was also involved in a topographical survey between the Highwood River and Waterton. This particular job would prove to be an interesting stroke of luck for him.

During some of his work around Cameron Creek, what is now part of Waterton National Park, Patrick found what he believed to be a lucrative oil deposit. With the help of some financial backers, Patrick filed a claim around the area and began drilling on what became known as "Crude Oil City". Unfortunately, between a quick production decline and operational difficulties, the drilling in Crude Oil City soon came to a halt. While the find may not have amounted to much in the long term, Patrick is recognized by some as the man who discovered oil in Alberta.

Before becoming a city dweller, Patrick lived the life of a rancher. Patrick's first ranch was located along the Ghost River and was known to be the



*Patrick Ranch House - 37 Street W.*

largest private ranch in the area. Around 1886, Patrick purchased land in an area just west of what was then the city limits and built a farmhouse he named Plateau Farm. It was here that he and his wife lived after their marriage. Patrick married Margaret MacPherson in 1887. Margaret was related to the Hardisty family, whose members included William Hardisty of the Hudsons Bay Company and Belle Hardisty who became Lady Lougheed.

Around 1910, the land of Plateau Farm was surveyed for residential development and was named Holmpatrick. It is this area that was to become Glenbrook in later years. With the development of Holmpatrick, Patrick moved the farmhouse to 37<sup>th</sup> street west. The family remained there until some time after WW I when the Patrick family left the farmhouse and moved into the location on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Patrick lived at the house on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave until his death on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1948. This was just a few months shy of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*Patrick Residence - 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.*

Research and Photographs courtesy of:  
Harry Sanders  
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[www.landsurveyinghistory.ab.ca/](http://www.landsurveyinghistory.ab.ca/)