

PETER ANTHONY PRINCE (1836-1925)

In Calgary, Alberta's Heritage Park there is a house known as the Prince House. The house was built in 1894 based on plans Peter found in the November 1893 edition of Scientific American, Architects and Builder's Edition. It originally stood at 4th Avenue and 2nd Street in the Eau Claire district before being moved in 1967.

Waymarking.com says the following about Peter: "Peter Anthony Prince was born near Trois-Rivieres, Quebec May 4, 1836. Prince lived in Ontario where he learned the millwright trade and lumber business. In 1866 he migrated to northern Wisconsin where he joined the Northwestern Lumber Company and became an American citizen. Prince moved to Calgary in 1886 and became the Manager of the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company, a position he held until 1916. Prince quickly became involved in other business ventures and with I.K.Kerr, president of the lumber operation, built a flour mill and elevator which later became the Robin Hood Mill. Prince also operated Prince - Kerr ranch at Brooks, became president of the Calgary Iron Works, the Louis Petrie Company, the Calgary Milling Company and held an interest in the John Irwin Company grocery business. In 1889 Prince signed a contract to supply Calgary with electricity and formed the Calgary Water Power Company which he ran until his death in January 1925 at age 89. His wife Emily survived him by nineteen years and his stepdaughter Nora remained living in the 4th Avenue house until her death 1965. Calgary's Prince's Island is named for the "lumber baron", Peter Prince."

Peter Prince married four times, and the first three wives predeceased him in Prince House. His first wife, Margaret Corrigan, died on Feb. 4, 1898, at 58 years of age, from a long illness. His second wife, Emma Wallin, died in Oct. 17, 1900, from tuberculosis, at 46 years of age. His third wife, Rosa Douglas, died on Oct. 21, 1907, from cancer. He married his fourth wife, Emily (Douglas) Whitlock, in 1909. Peter Prince died on Jan. 12, 1925, at the 89 years of age. Emily died in 1944. Emily's daughter, Nora Whitlock (Peter's stepdaughter), died in the house in 1965.

Peter was the founder of the Alberta Natural Gas and Electric Company. The company donated the house to Heritage Park in 1966. The house was moved to its present location in 1967.

There are some interesting legends about Prince House:

Peter's second wife, Emma Wallin, was confined to the third floor of the house, due to her illness. The third floor is said to be haunted by her. (The third floor is closed off for safety reasons, as the stairs leading to it are narrow, steep, and dark. The third floor was also the living quarters for the servants employed by the Princes.)

The nursery on the second floor is where many people have seen a lady dressed in period costume, a long white dress with high lace collar. She has been seen wrapping a baby in a blanket and sitting in a chair in the corner, rocking the baby. This story was taken from a book titled: Ghost Stories of Heritage Park. The book also states that no one goes into the rooms upstairs except for the curator and the cleaning staff. The rooms are locked because they are filled with artifacts. The Lady in white carrying the baby has also been seen next door in the Sandstone house.

The Gauntlet adds: "There have been many questionable occurrences on the third floor of the house that is closed off to the public. One evening, a security guard noticed that all the lights on the third floor were on, although there was no electricity up there. The lights were extremely bright, while the first and

second stories remained dark. He decided to investigate it in the morning but, the next day everything had returned back to normal without anybody entering the home.

Another evening a security guard was performing his nightly check and noticed the balcony window on the third level was swinging open and closed. He decided to go into the house with his guard dog. Upon coming back down the stairs, the dog froze in his tracks, his hair stood straight up, his ears went down and his tail went between his legs. He strained to run out of the house as if something or someone had spooked him. When he got outside, he returned to normal as if nothing had happened.

Other staff members have heard extremely loud stomping on the second level, and have noticed various misplaced objects.

Individuals have also reported seeing a woman dressed in a flowing white dress, playing with a baby in the nursery of the house, only to look again and see no one.”

Peter Anthony Prince's third and fourth wives were both Douglas's. The fourth wife was Emily (Douglas) Whitlock (1860-1944). Emily was first married to Frank Henry Whitlock b.Jan.9,1851 Winterslow, Wiltshire. In 1881 the family is living at Middle Winter, Winterslow and Emily's sister Gertrude Douglas, age 17 is living with the family. In 1891 a daughter Winifred Nora Whitlock was born and it appears Frank Whitlock died shortly afterward and the family emigrated to Canada, settling in Calgary. It is not yet clear about the connection between Peter's third wife Rosa Douglas and his fourth, Emily (Douglas) Whitlock but the connection is likely the reason Emily and Nora settled in Calgary.

Frank Henry Whitlock was the son of Anthony & Betsey (Lywood) Whitlock and is part of the WHITLOCK03 chart, The Whitlocks of Pitton, Wiltshire #1. He descends from Richard Whitlock who married Mary Wassall Jul.27,1683 in Figheldean, Wiltshire.

SOURCES: X7118; X2801/5; X2916/1