

INSPECTOR FRANCIS JEFFREY DICKENS

1844 - 1886

Inspector Francis Jeffrey Dickens, of The North-West Mounted Police, was born in London, England, January 15, 1844, the fifth child of Author Charles Dickens.

- 1851 – At school in Boulogne, France
- 1858 – At school in Hamburg, Germany; pre-medicine
- 1863-70 – Served with the Bengal Police, India
- 1871 – Returned home to England after father's death.
- 1874 – Arrived October at Fort Dufferin, near Emerson, Manitoba. Appointed Sub-inspector.
- 1875 – Fort Livingston, Swan River and then Fort Macleod.
- 1876 – Fort Macleod, N.B. Custer massacred in June at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, by Chief Sitting Bull and the Sioux. The Great Plains of North America were in a great state of tension.
- 1877 – Arrival of Chief Sitting Bull at Fort Walsh and at Wood Mountain Post. Sitting Bull stayed in the area until 1882.
- 1877 – Fort Macleod. Dickens travelled to attend the signing of Treaty No. 7 at Blackfoot Crossing.
- 1878 – Dickens transferred to Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills. There he would overlap with Sitting Bull and the Sioux.
- 1879 – Fort Walsh – Dickens' mother died. In November Constable Graburn murdered near Fort Walsh.
- 1880 – Fort Walsh then transferred back to Fort Macleod in June. Received promotion to Inspector.
- 1881 – Fort Macleod then transferred to Blackfoot Crossing 'The Ridge Under the Water' in August.
- 1882 – Blackfoot Crossing on the Bow River.
- 1883 – Transferred to Fort Pitt on the North Saskatchewan River, placed in charge.
- 1884 – Fort Pitt.
- 1885 – Fort Pitt. Rebellion broke out in March. Fort Pitt abandoned. Dickens and his men raft to Fort Battleford on the North Saskatchewan River. Dickens continued at Battleford.
- 1886 – Ottawa. Dickens resigned his commission in March. Died June 11, 1886, in Moline, IL, shortly after giving a speech to the Friday Club on the Northwest Rebellion. Francis is buried at Riverside Cemetery. His father, Charles Dickens, is buried in Westminster Abbey, London, England.