

Geraldine Moodie's photographs are significant visual records of Canadian history. Her photographs record the Cree Indians near Battleford, Saskatchewan, in the 1890s. She lived and photographed in the North West Territories from 1904-1906, and returned on a second expedition in 1915-1916.



Cree Indian encampment at Battleford, Sask., 1896

Her father was Colonel Fitzgibbon who had served under Brock at the Battle of Queenston Heights; her husband was Superintendent James Douglas Moodie, an officer of the Royal North West Mounted Police.

During the sixtieth anniversary of the force, Stewart Wood conceived the idea of establishing a museum to preserve its history in artifacts, words, and pictures. The Moodies, both amateur photographers and collectors of Eskimo and Indian artifacts, donated generously towards that aim.

In noting some of her donations, Geraldine Moodie listed, 'A collection of 12 photos. taken at the last Sundance where the Police were instructed to see there was no cruel Brave-making, in 1894 North-West of Battleford. These are copyrighted pictures. Size 8"x 10." These and about two dozen more of her photographs still exist in the R.C.M.P. Museum in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Also in the Museum collection, from her early years, is a cabinet-size photograph of a medicine man on a chocolate-coloured card mount with gold-scalloped edges, and gold embossed in the

grapher in Hudson's Bay. In a report to the Department of Marine and Fisheries on February 2, 1905, Major Moodie complained of MacKean's lack of ability as a photographer. The Major recommended that his wife, Geraldine, replace MacKean. Although she didn't receive the title of official photographer, she sent her photographs to the Royal North West Mounted Police Headquarters in Ottawa, to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and to Prime Minister Laurier. Her photographs are now easily accessible through the R.C.M.P. museum, The Glenbow-Alberta Insti-



Eskimo woman fishing through the ice, Fullerton Harbour, Hudson's Bay, 1905.
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Photographs courtesy of RCMP Museum, Regina, Sask.

lower middle margin with the intertwined initials G.W. This same image of an Indian medicine man is part of a 1897 Christmas greeting montage in 8"x 10, made up mainly of G. Moodie's copyrighted photographs.

Major John D. Moodie was appointed governor of Hudson's Bay, and in September 1904 Geraldine Moodie travelled there with her husband aboard the ship 'Arctic.' Mrs. Moodie was travelling in the capacity of secretary. After four weeks the 'Arctic' arrived in Fullerton in the North West Territories.

Frank Douglas MacKean was the official photo-

tute, and the National Photography Collection at the Public Archives in Ottawa. The only surviving negatives of MacKean's are in a private personal collection of Captain Bernier.

In 1911 James Douglas Moodie took a contingent of men from the Royal North West Mounted Police to the Coronation of King George V, and Geraldine Moodie photographed the men riding on horseback near the barracks in Regina, Saskatchewan.

According to her obituary, Geraldine Moodie had four sons and one daughter. She died in 1945 at the age of ninety-two, and her husband died in 1947 at the age of ninety-nine. ☉