



TEACHER PACKAGE



PRE-VISIT PACKAGE

TIME LINE

Superintendent's Residence of the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station

- 1913 - Ground is broken for the Sutherland Nursery Station - 10 years after the opening of the first station at Indian Head
- 1914 - The park road system is laid out and the barn, pump house, and packing shed are set in place and working. 'The red brick house' receives its first superintendent, James McLean, and his family
- 1916 - The station distributes its first ash, poplar and willow seedlings just three years from its inception.
- 1931 - The heat is on! The Sutherland Forest Nursery overtakes Indian Head by shipping out approximately 3,500,000 trees to Indian Head's almost 3,000,000
- 1935 - In combined efforts with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), the nurseries become heavily involved in field shelter belt production.
- 1942 - W. Les Kerr becomes the house's second superintendent.
- 1951 - The auditorium is opened and becomes a community hall.
- 1963 - 147,000,000 trees have been distributed over the years by the Sutherland Station.
- 1965 - The Sutherland Station is closed and all activities move to Indian Head. Approximately half the site remains with Agriculture Canada while the other half is sold to the City of Saskatoon. What we see today is only half of the original site.
- 1972 - The Saskatoon Zoo opens on-site.
- 1990 - The Superintendent's Residence is designated Municipal Heritage property.
- 1991 - The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognises the national importance of the site for its contribution to tree planting on the prairies.
- 1998 - A 10 - year lease is signed by the Friends of the Forestry Farm House and the City of Saskatoon. Landscaping, external and internal restorations commence.
- 2000 - The restored Superintendent's Residence is opened to the public
- 2001 - The Friends of the Forestry Farm House are selected to receive a Vintage Building Award from the Saskatchewan Architectural Heritage Society in the Adaptive Re-use - Community Landmark category.



FLORA McLEAN'S DIARY

Teacher Instructions:

This section is to be used at school for the week prior to the visit to the Forestry Farm to generate interest and introduce the students to the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station. It consists of several fictional diary entries written by Flora McLean, who was only 8 years old when she moved from her sod house near Zealandia to the Red Brick house when her father was appointed as the first superintendent of the SFNS.

Used in combination with some of the background material, these excerpts should provide enough of an introduction for students. On Day One students are introduced to Flora and her brother Neil through paper dolls with which they can cut out and play. The remaining days have visuals that relate to the content of the entry for that day.

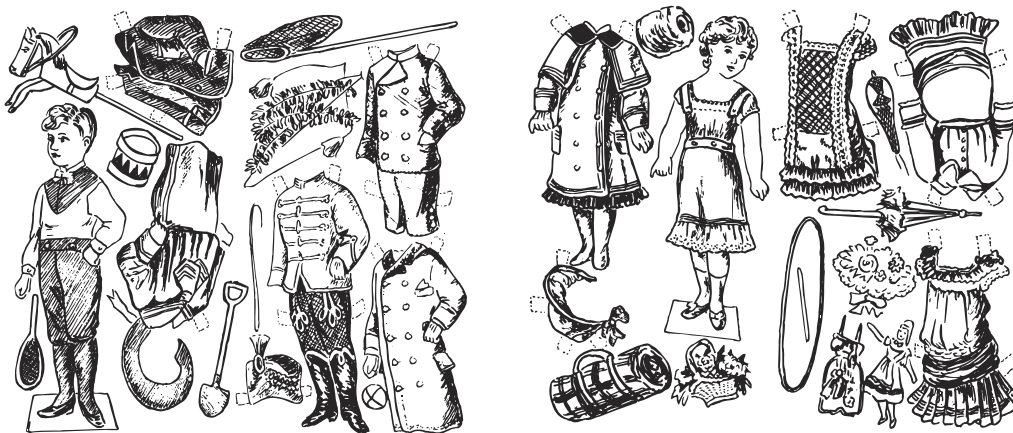
Day One:

Date: April 23rd, 1914

Dear Diary,

My teacher says I have to make a diary for school. I have to write one thing every week. I have to tell about me and my family. I will start today. I am Flora McLean. I live by Zealandia on a farm in a sod house. My father is James McLean and my mother is Elizabeth McLean. I have a little brother named Neil and a big sister named Nellie.

Visual: Paper Dolls



Day Two

Date: April 30th, 1914

Dear Diary,

Today I have to tell about where I live. I live on a farm. Our house is made of sod. The windows are little. It is dark inside. My father grows wheat and we have 3 cows and some chickens. Neil and I have to help feed the chickens. The land here is really flat. We don't have trees. Father says that the wind blows the dirt away without trees. We need the dirt to grow our crops. The house and yard would be prettier too if we had trees. Trees would catch the snow. The snow would melt and make water for our garden. Father wants to plant trees around the house and the yard but he doesn't know where to get them.

Visual: The McLean Sod House at Zealandia (with the hired man outside)



Photograph #9461 courtesy of Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room.



Visual: The McLean Sod House at Zealandia (with the hired man outside)
Photograph #9461 courtesy of Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room.

Day Three

Date: May 7th, 1914

Dear Diary,

We got exciting news today. Father has a new job and we're moving! Father says we're going to Sutherland near Saskatoon.

I hope there will be some girls my age there. Right now we live in a sod house on a farm. It's not very big and it has a dirt floor. The new house is really big! It has three floors and it's made of red brick. I can't wait! Instead of a dirt house we'll have house made of brick.

Remember I said Father wanted to plant trees? Well, his new job is on a tree farm. He's the Superintendent. I think that means he's the boss of the tree farm. He calls it a nursery. He is going to grow trees so farmers can plant them and make their farmyards pretty. The trees will help keep the crops in the fields safe too. He says it's called the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station where we will live. We are moving in two weeks. Mother is putting our things in boxes to take. We all have to help. I have to put my clothes in boxes and Nellie will help Mother pack the pots and pans.



Visual: Prairie Environment.

Saskatchewan Archives Board S-B6214
University of Saskatchewan 1910.



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Saskatchewan Archives Board S-B6214 University of Saskatchewan 1910

Day Four

Date: May 14th, 1914

Dear Diary,

Today I asked father why he needs to grow trees. He told us that the government wants more people to come here to live from across the ocean. But they don't want to come because there aren't many trees here in Saskatchewan. They have lots of trees and pretty farmyards across the ocean. That's one of the things the new tree nursery will do. We'll grow trees and bushes around our new house to show people how pretty a farmyard can be. We'll grow lots of trees in the fields too. Then Father will send the trees to the farmers to make their farms nice too. If we had trees I could climb them. Birds could make nests too. It's only one more week until we go to Sutherland. I can't wait to see the new house.

Visual: Mr. James McLean (Flora's father), and the cover of Immigration Brochure



Saskatchewan Archives Board: G 86.11

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Visual: Mr. James McLean (Flora's father), and the cover of Immigration Brochure Saskatchewan Archives Board: G86.11

Day Five

Date: May 21st, 1914

Dear Diary,

This is the last time I will write before we move. Tomorrow we go to Sutherland and the Red Brick House. All our things are packed in boxes. We're taking the train to Saskatoon and then we get to see the new house. Father showed us a picture of the outside. It's really big—Mother says we'll have to buy new furniture once we get there. We are the first family to live in the house. There are eleven rooms in it. I will have a bedroom of my very own. Next time I'll write about the inside of the new house.

Visual: 1914 Picture of the house



Photograph #LH5134a courtesy of Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room.



Visual: 1914 Picture of the house
Photograph #LH5134a courtesy of Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room