

ISBISTER, Malcolm Scarth Halsetter



Malcolm Scarth Halsetter Isbister was born in the Orkney Islands in 1851, and moved to Ontario in 1854. He came west in 1883, working as a contractor for the CPR, and running a general store in Manitoba before moving to Saskatoon to open a hardware business.

Although he was Mayor for one term, his important contribution to the development of Saskatoon in the early years was as Chairman of the Saskatoon Board of Trade, from 1908 to 1914. *"Of the citizens who gave freely of their time and energy, special mention must be made of M. Isbister, who for several years was the board's able president."* (*"The Saskatoon Story"*, page 62.)

The Board of Trade acted as a lobby group on behalf of Saskatoon and its business community by advertising the benefits of Saskatoon abroad, putting pressure on the railways to run lines through the city, helping job seekers find employment, as well as various other activities.

Malcolm Isbister died on June 30, 1920, at the age of 69, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Block 35; Lot 2.



Information for the article and photo of Malcolm Isbister, courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archives