

## ***HISTORY OF CANADA'S RED COAT TRAIL.....***

In July of 1874, a force of North-West Mounted Police began their journey west from Dufferin, Manitoba toward the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers more than 800 miles away, in what is now Southern Alberta. Their objective was to halt the lawlessness and create an environment conducive to westward expansion. Fort Whoop-up, notorious stronghold of the whiskey traders, was their first target.

Today, the Red Coat Trail is not a singular route but a thread of history connecting communities and more than 7,000 years of history. It transverses the southern regions of Canada's three Prairie Provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Following an imaginary red line, it commemorates the North West Mounted Police and their historic march to the frontier.

The Red Coat Trail in Saskatchewan cuts across the southern section of the province following highway 13, and provides a tribute to the "Land of the Living Skies." The expansive horizons of the southern grain belt meld with glacier terrain. The Red Coat Trail crosses and skirts rugged terrain from the Big Muddy Badlands through the picturesque Frenchman River Valley along the southern part of Saskatchewan. Some of the landscape appears relatively unchanged, save for the highway markers along highway 13. Along the way, you will find living history, panoramic views, friendly people, and Saskatoon Berry Pie (here in Redvers).

## ***HISTORY OF REDVERS***

Our town has a unique history based on a man who had a difficult life within war. The town's name is based around a military war hero Sir Redvers Buller. Redvers Buller was born at Crediton, Devonshire in 1839. As a new soldier he saw his first action in the China War of 1860. In 1870 at the time of the Red River Rebellion, British and Ontario soldiers were sent to quell the rebellion. Captain Buller was in charge of one such company. The Red Coat Trail, which is number two highway in Manitoba and highway thirteen in Saskatchewan today, was the trail that they had taken at the time of the Red River Rebellion. Redvers originally began as a camping site of the men who were fighting this war.

By 1874, Buller was in the Ashantee War. In 1879, he was sent on special service to the Cape, held command of the Frontier Light House in the Kaffir War of 1878 – 79, and served with great gallantry in the Zulu War. He was present at Tel-el-kebir, at El Teb and Tami, and accompanied the Nile Expedition of 1884. After twenty-eight years of military service, Captain Buller became General Sir Redvers Buller, Commander in Chief of the British forces in South Africa until 1900, during the Boer War. *Since he has spent a large part of his military career in Africa in the Zulu War, he received the Victoria Cross for gallantry.* He died in 1908.

In 1897 – 98, surveyors arrived at the point where Redvers now stands and were called upon to give the town a name. The headlines in the newspaper that evening carried the news of the Boer War and mentioned the names of Generals Sir Redvers Buller, Warren, Rhodes, Metheun, and Wauchope.

Our town incorporated in 1905, was given the name of Redvers, and out streets the names of the other generals, a statue of a Northwest Mounted Policeman in our town commemorates the Red Coat Trail, which runs through the town.