

Cremona

Name Origin:

In Cremona's centennial museum a miniature violin - presented in 1991 by a group of tourists from Cremona, Italy - evokes this village's namesake, the home of Stradivari (the maker of Stradivarius violins). That visit was Cremona's only Italian connection. Ontario-born Lillian Jackson (1860-1965) and her husband Smith had established the post office in 1906. Smith's brothers hometown in Yorkshire. Postal authorities rejected the name as too similar to Hanley, Saskatchewan. Smith and Lillian then suggested Cremona, after the Italian City famous for its violins.

Lillian became post mistress and registrar when Smith died in 1909, and as registrar she earned a 25¢ provincial government fee for reporting her own wedding, in 1910 to farmer Percy Bird. Both Lillian Bird and Smith Jackson are buried in Carstairs. Cremona was incorporated as a village in 1955. The 1991 visit by Gianfranco Carutti and his group was reported by newspapers in both southern Alberta and Cremona Italy. Though Cremona's official sign is "Village with Promise" its postal code (T0M 0R0) might suggest another Village of Tomorrow

Cremona-5000 Years Ago Native People And Their Lives

Natives traveled and hunted in the Cremona area for thousands of years before the area became settled. Our proximity to several buffalo jumps has led to numerous artifacts being found by local residents. Two well known buffalo jumps are at Eagle Hill and Madden. Also, there was a buffalo pound located southeast of Cremona. Numerous archeological studies have been conducted by the University of Calgary. (Historic Trail Patterns in the Cremona-Sundre Area-Joachim Fromhold-1971-72)

We are located on what is historically called the 'Old North Trail'. It is actually series of ancient paths stretching from the shores of Watson Lake in Yukon Territory to the deserts of New Mexico. It is

two separate trail systems, an inner one that runs through the foothills of the Rockies and an outer one that follows a route through the prairie. In the summer people could make better time on the prairie without the hills, rivers and bushes to get in the way. There was always game around in the summer. People would camp near the buffalo jumps. But in the winter it was too dangerous on the open prairie, so the people would travel in the foothills, where there was more shelter, wood, game and less wind. There are a number of places in Alberta where you can see features that relate to the trail. Starting right in Calgary, there are some circles of stone, four meters in diameter, that are located on the edge of Nose Hill Park in north central part of the city, which would have been used in ceremonies such as sun dances.

A local resident, Barry Thomson, has found many interesting items such as arrowheads, hide scrapers, hammerstones, knife blades, buffalo skulls, and pemmican. A neighbor of theirs also found a jade double bladed axe, that indicated that there was trading of materials used to make their weapons. Some of the arrowheads have been dated to be close to 9000 years old

Homesteading- Old Cremona-1906

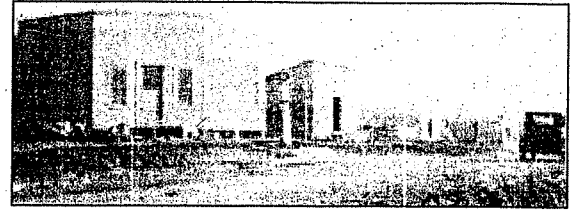
In the late 1880's the area 25 miles north of Cochrane opened up for homesteading which came to be known as the Cremona district. It was necessary to travel this far north as other ranchers had control of the land as far as the area which became known as Bottrel.

In 1906, on land that was part of Squire Jackson's farm,

Old Cremona was established. There was the Post Office, a store, the cheese factory, and a blacksmith's shop that formed the hamlet. At first the store was small, just groceries that were needed and gradually it grew larger. The store became a meeting place for the farmers who brought their milk to the cheese factory in large cans. With the milk the cans weighed about 200 pounds.

After a time the Cheese factory shut down because the area was sparsely populated and the necessary volume of milk was not available. The building sat empty for some time until someone suggested using the old cheese factory as a high school. Some of the original buildings were moved into Cremona and could be found attached to businesses such as the Red & White store.

Today over 400 residents make up the population of picturesque Cremona.



Top Photos L to R: Cremona Main Street(1932)



Cremona/Westcott Brass Band(1912)