



Peter Fidler monument in Elk Point, Alberta

THE ORIGINS OF CITY PASSPORT

In 1788, as a young man, Peter Fidler joined the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and came to York Factory in Manitoba.

Peter Fidler was one of Canada's greatest exploratory surveyors, and one of the few men who laid the framework for all maps of Western Canada. Having been trained by the Hudson's Bay Company, together with his famous contemporary, David Thompson, Fidler arrived in the prairies in 1792. His task - to help build the first Hudson's Bay Company posts in Alberta. Over the length and breadth of Western Canada, 48,000 miles in all, Peter Fidler carried his sextant and his "artificial horizon of quicksilver." Fidler has much to tell us of the Indian tribes, the effect of the coming of the white man, the rivalry between the Hudson's Bay and North-West companies, and the establishment of the Red River settlement in Manitoba in 1812.

Excerpt from Alberta's Survey History. More Information concerning Peter Fidler, read J.G.MacGregor's book, Peter Fidler, Canada's Forgotten Surveyor.

Peter Fidler was my mother, Marie Fidler's great, great grandfather. Learning the story of our family history caused me to embrace the adventure of exploring and pass on this book to you, in the hopes it will encourage you to continue exploring. We visit, explore, discover and learn, embracing our heritage every step of the way.

Just as Peter Fidler did before us, enjoy exploring the places you come upon.

Randy Vannatter
President - City Passport



Banff

INTRODUCTION TO BANFF

In 1883, two years before the driving of the last spike marked the completion of Canada's first transcontinental railroad, three railroad workers stumbled upon a series of hot springs on the lower shoulder of what is now called Sulphur Mountain. By 1885, after a heated ownership dispute, the springs and surrounding area were set aside as Canada's first national park.

The Canadian Pacific Railway immediately recognized the tourism potential of the Canadian Rockies.

Photo courtesy of Tourism Banff/Lake Louise, Banff Attractions