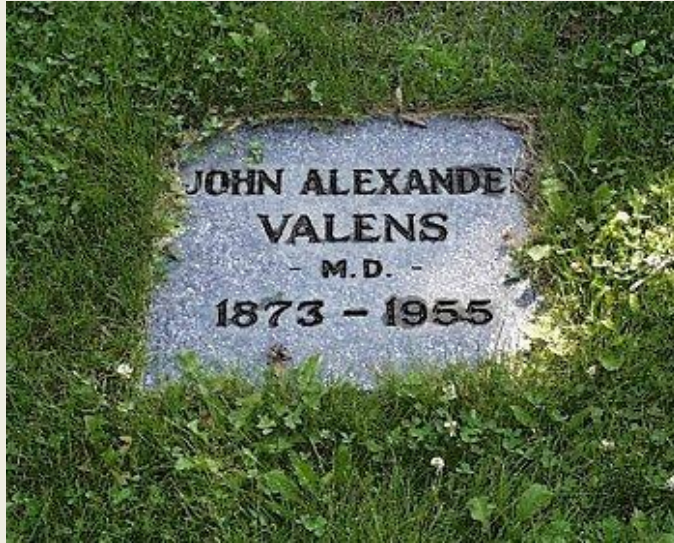


VALENS, Dr. John Alexander

John Alexander Valens was born on September 4, 1873, on a farm in Kinloss Township, Bruce County, near Lucknow, Ontario. Educated in Ontario and Winnipeg, he worked as a teacher in Kincardine, Estevan, and near the Souris coal mines until he entered medical school in Winnipeg in 1901. He graduated with a medical degree in 1905.



After working as the Health Officer in North Portal for a few months, Dr. Valens started practicing medicine in Saskatoon in January, 1906, when the city had a total population of only 3,000 people. His early practice was typical of that of a pioneer doctor in a new area. Travel was by horse and buggy, and patients were usually treated in their own homes, which could be anywhere within a 50 mile radius of the city. He never owned a horse and buggy himself, but hired one from a local man. He once admitted to sometimes making his city rounds on a bicycle.

Dr. Valens' first wife died during the influenza epidemic in 1918. In 1920, he married a second time, to Edna Peacock of Saskatoon.

Professionally, Dr. Valens contributed greatly to Saskatoon. He practiced medicine for 45 years, and it is estimated that, at the time of his retirement, he had delivered 5,000 babies in the city. He also served as President of the Saskatchewan Division of the Canadian Medical Association and the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons; was the Director of the City Hospital Cancer Clinic for 10 years; was on staff at both St. Paul's Hospital and City Hospital; and acted as the City Coroner until the 1930s.

Personally, Dr. Valens was an avid sportsman; was active in the YMCA; and was actively involved in football and bicycling. He was a lifetime member of the Old Timers' Association; a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and the Foresters Lodge; an elder in Knox Presbyterian Church; and was a member of the Senate of the University of Saskatchewan, the Board of Governors of City Hospital and the Collegiate Board. He was also elected as Alderman and served on City Council. In 1922, he was unsuccessful in a challenge as Liberal candidate for the Saskatoon provincial constituency.

Dr. Valens died in Saskatoon on June 28, 1955, at the age of 82, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery on July 2, 1955.

Information taken from Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* articles dated July 30, 1948; January 20, 1951; and June 29, 1955.