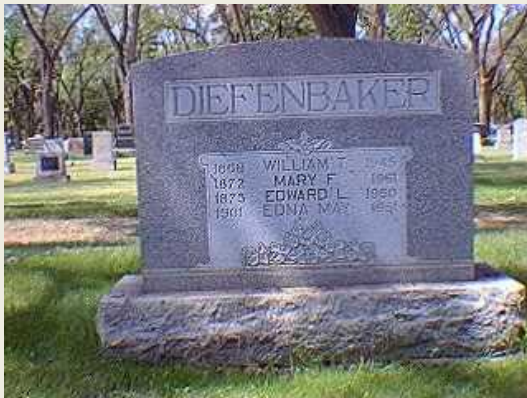


DIEFENBAKER, Edna May

Edna May Diefenbaker, nee Brower, was the first wife of John George Diefenbaker, Canada's 13th Prime Minister (who died in 1979, and is buried on the grounds of the Diefenbaker Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, next to his second wife, Olive).

Born in 1901 on a farm in the Langham area, Edna was a teacher at Mayfair Elementary School in Saskatoon when she married John Diefenbaker in 1929, at the age of 28. She is remembered as a friendly, outgoing person, who worked hard to further the political future of John Diefenbaker. She would sit in the gallery and watch the debates in the House of Commons when he was a backbencher.



Edna died at the age of 50 on February 7, 1951, after fighting a lengthy battle against leukemia. Newspapers called her "*the beloved unelected member of Parliament*". She had been married to John Diefenbaker for 22 years.

Edna May Diefenbaker is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery with other members of the Diefenbaker family (John's mother, Mary; his father; brother; and an uncle).

A book about her life, *The Other Mrs. Diefenbaker: A Biography of Edna May Brower*, written by Simma Holt, was published in 1982 by Doubleday Canada Limited (ISBN 0-385-17089-0).