MURRAY, Walter and Christina

Dr. Walter Charles Murray was born in Studholm, King's County, New Brunswick, on May 12, 1866. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick 20 years later, and went on to study at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Berlin. He taught for a period of time at the University of New Brunswick and at Dalhousie University.

In 1908, he accepted an appointment as the first President of the University of Saskatchewan. His task was difficult, as he was in effect starting a new university where one had not existed before. He served as the President of the University of Saskatchewan until 1937, and during his term was successful in building a progressive university of high standards with a beautiful campus. His own work was in education and education history, but he was also a supporter of art and music.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and received many honorary degrees during his life. He was active in the Presbyterian Church and helped in the formation of the United Church in Western Canada. He was also a member of the National Research Council and the National Film Board.

Dr. Walter Charles Murray died on March 23, 1945, at the age of 78. He was survived by his wife, Christina, and three daughters.

Christina Murray was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in 1866, and graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1894. She married Walter Murray in 1895.

Mrs. Murray was active in the development of the University of Saskatchewan, paying particular attention to the needs of the University's female students, developing the first undergraduate women's society, as well as forming the women's work division. In 1937, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree for her work with the University.

She was also a member of the YWCA, the University Women's Club, the Arts and Crafts Society, the Council of Women and Knox Metropolitan Church. During the 1918 flu epidemic, she opened her home as a hospital.

Mrs. Murray died July 4, 1947.

The grave marker at Woodlawn Cemetery marks the burials of Dr. and Mrs. Murray, as well as their three daughters, Christina Cameron, Lucy Hunter and Jean Elizabeth. The stone marker has the names and years of birth and death of the five individuals on one side. The other side is simply marked "MURRAY".

Information for this article was taken from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix; The Saturday Press; The Saskatchewanians, produced by the Saskatchewan Diamond Jubilee and Canada Centennial Corporation; and Notable Saskatchewan Women, 1905-1980. Dr. Murray's photograph is from an article in the Saturday Press, 1913.