

Frank Clarence Irwin was born in London, Ontario on 2nd July of 1893, moves to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1904 with his father, Armon (Armon Wellington Irwin born March 1868 and was educated in Public schools in both London and Banner, Ontario then relocated to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1904. He was a General agent for the Sun Life Assurance in Moose Jaw in 1904-1905 then became the Provincial Manager of Dominion Life Assurance. In 1906 he was connected to the Dominion Life Assurance Co but established his own Company. Armon Wellington Irwin was involved with the Saskatchewan YMCA and soon became a Director of YMCA Canada), his mother Margaret Jane, his younger two sisters and younger brother. Frank C. Irwin discovered Scouting in the spring of 1909 and by the fall of 1910 had joined a newly formed Moose Jaw Scout Troop. In 1911 Frank Irwin became a King's Scout, Patrol Leader and Flag bearer and part of the Canadian Boy Scout contingent to the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. In 1912 Frank Irwin graduated Moose Jaw High School with general and commercial subjects then starts University in 1913 after completing his University Prep year in 1912. Frank Irwin graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts (wrote as A.B.) degree in 1916 as a member of the Canadian Officer Training Corps (C.O.T.C.) and signed up for Overseas Military WW1 service with the YMCA. In High School and University in Saskatchewan Frank Irwin worked in his father's Insurance Office, wrote for a newspaper, worked part time then full time as organizing secretary and employee of the Saskatchewan Provincial Scout Council in 1915, was an assistant Scoutmaster of his Moose Jaw Scout troop and became a member with his father of the YMCA. In 1917 he joins (or transfers to) the YMCA of America and became (transfers his Canadian Scouting qualifications) a Boy Scouts of America Scoutmaster in New York (Manhattan) while starting his M.A at Columbia University and a diploma from the New York School of Social Work. In 1917 Frank Irwin was also doing Scouting Field Studies and Work for former Canadian, Lorne W. Barclay then a Boy Scouts of America Executive for Manhattan. During 1918, Frank Irwin enlists and serves in the British Army as a YMCA Civilian in Hospitals in England and India. After completion of his 2 year compulsory WW1 Imperial War Service (actually it became Frank Irwin's Social Worker/MA Internship) as a YMCA Official in British Army Hospitals in England in 1918 and a YMCA Scouting organizer in Bangalore, City, India in 1919 (founded and was the Scoutmaster in Mysore State in 1918 and 1919), In late 1919 Frank C. Irwin returns to U.S.A. and joins his mentor Boy Scouts of America Lorne W. Barclay as an American Scouting Director of Operations Relief Official and organizer of French Scouting in the south of France (At the invitation of the American Committee for Devastated France, the National Council of Boy Scouts of America loaned its Department of Education Director, Mr. Lorne W. Barclay (1885-1970), to be in charge of the Scout camp (Franc port) at Compiègne, France, on the bank of the Aisne for 6 months from June until October of 1920). By the fall of 1920 with his thesis "Canadian Industrial Disputes Act" and his book "The Juvenile Court in Canada" completed, credit for his 2 years of World War One duties as a British YMCA Social Worker, and 6 months of south of France American Relief work, Columbia University awards Frank C. Irwin a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Sociology and he also receives his diploma from the New York School of Social Work. Frank C. Irwin receives both awards in the fall of 1920 and returns back to his Ontario birthplace in October of 1920 and convinces Captain Harry G. Hammond (Baden Powell sent Harry Hammond from England to Toronto in the fall of 1908 as Field Secretary, to organize Scouting in Canada. Harry Hammond became Assistant Commissioner for Ontario, in Toronto from 1910 to 1920 and the Ontario Leader of the 1911 Boy Scout Canadian Contingent to Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary when Frank C. Irwin was the King's Scout 1911 Flag Bearer. In 1960 Captain Harry Hammond was the only surviving member of the Ontario Council and the 1911 Coronation Scout trip. Capt H.G. Hammond an early Silver Wolf wearer died on March 10th, 1962 after viewing the recently completed Baseline Road Ottawa Scout Headquarters.), to retire early in October of 1920 so Frank C. Irwin could take his job and become the Ontario Provincial Executive Commissioner of Scouting in Ontario. Lt. Col. Arthur E. Gooderham the Ontario Provincial Council President from 1913 to 1920 agrees. Frank Clarence Irwin becomes

the Assistant Provincial Commissioner or Provincial Scout Executive or Provincial Executive Commissioner or Executive Secretary from the fall of 1920 until his death on 9th of December 1954. Frank C. Irwin was, also the Ebor Park/ Blue Springs Gilwell Part 2 Camp Chief(from 1923) and was known as" Baloo the Bear "on the Wolf Cub Pack Gilwell Part 2 summer course until his sudden death on December 9th 1954. From July 5th to July 15th 1922 Frank C. Irwin was both an Instructor and a Student on the First Canadian Gilwell Part 2 Troop Scout Course located on the Rothwell Farm east of Ottawa along the Ottawa River south of Lower Duck Island in an area that is still called Green's Creek. (Scouting Leadership training is and was obtained by reading and watching others. Pre 1922 Scouting Leaders could take courses and training at Universities, Colleges, and Private Colleges that included Canadian Military Officer Training Corps-COTC).Pre 1922 Scout Leaders also took courses and training with both the Red Cross and Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). In February of 1937 Frank C. Irwin is awarded a Silver Acorn for his 26 years of especially distinguished Scouting Service and for his Leadership as the Ontario Assistant Provincial Commissioner from 1920 at the 26th Annual Ontario Provincial Conference and Meeting at the Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls. Nine years later in February of 1946 Frank C. Irwin is awarded the Silver Wolf by Dominion Commissioner Mr. J.F.M. Stewart for 25 years of Outstanding Scout Leader service at the Royal York Hotel, in Toronto and for his exceptional Leadership efforts since 1920 as the Ontario Executive Commissioner and the Ontario Gilwell Summer Deputy Camp Chief at Ebor Park/Blue Springs from 1923. On Thursday morning December 9th, 1954 at his home at 850 Tecumseh Park Drive, Port Credit, Ontario Frank Irwin died of multiple thrombosis. F.C. Irwin left behind his wife and two young children.



1930 Frank C. Irwin



1934- Ebor Park. RANN-Mrs. Norman H. Saunders? Baloo- Frank C. Irwin Akela- Mrs. John Stiles (the former Estelle Glover married in 1930). In front of Frank Irwin's Wigwam or Teepee.



Entrance to the Blue Springs Frank C. Irwin Memorial Chapel after 1956.



Gone Home— Mr. F. C. Irwin

WITH a suddenness which shocked the entire Scouting family, Frank Clarence Irwin, Provincial Executive Commissioner for Ontario, passed away early on Thursday morning, December 9th, at his home, 850 Tecumseh Park Drive, Port Credit.

Mr. Irwin had been at his desk as usual on Wednesday, had attended the official opening of a new wing of the school attended by his children that evening, but succumbed to multiple thrombosis in the early hours of Thursday.

He leaves to mourn his passing his widow, the former Kathleen E. Bennett; two children, Donald, 13, and Margaret, 11; his father, A. W. Irwin, two sisters, Mrs. G. G. Emery, Kitchener, Ontario and Mrs. C. L. Coates, Regina, Sask, and a brother, Armon of Honey-moon Bay, B.C.

To Mrs. Irwin, the children and his family is extended the deepest sympathy of all those who have been privileged to know Frank.

Telegrams and cables of sympathy and regret were received from A. W. Hurl, Chief Executive Commissioner at Imperial Headquarters, London; Maj.-Gen. D. C. Spry at the International Bureau, and Arthur A. Schuck, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Schuck's telegram put into its briefest form what all those who knew Mr. Irwin feel when he said, "Those of us who knew Frank Irwin will always remember him as a devoted sincere friend with a high concept of personal service. All of us will miss him."

Frank Irwin was born in London, Ontario, and received his schooling at London, Peterborough and Moose Jaw, Sask. He graduated in matriculation and commercial courses at Moose Jaw Collegiate Institute, gained his B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan and his M.A. at Columbia University, New York City. He also received a diploma in Social Work in New York.

He started to work in his father's office in Moose Jaw, later became a newspaper reporter and he served with the British Army Y.M.C.A. in England and India. In India he became Director of the Mysore Boy Scouts Association.

In October, 1950, Frank completed 30 years on the staff of the Ontario Provincial Council. At that time he produced a few reminiscences from which we quote:

"My first contact with Scouting was reading a red-covered book *Scouting for Boys*, surreptitiously extracted from a teacher's desk during the spring of 1910. That

summer I saw General Baden-Powell and some English Scouts at Banff, and in the fall became a charter member of the newly formed Troop in Moose Jaw.

"The years between 1910 and 1920 were full of interest and activity. High School; Canadian Boy Scout Contingent to the Coronation of George V (1911); University of Saskatchewan (B.A. 1916); Y.M.C.A. work; newspaper reporting; part-time and later full-time organizing secretary of the Saskatchewan Provincial Council; New York School of Social Work and Columbia University (M.A. 1920); Y.M.C.A. service in England and India; first Director of Boy Scouts of Mysore; Scoutmaster in Troops in New York and Bangalore; part-time staff member of Manhattan and National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America."

"When I came to the Provincial Office there were, besides a very small staff at Dominion Headquarters under John A. Stiles, only two men in Ontario devoting their full time to Scouting. One was Alder Bliss in Ottawa and Ernest O'Callaghan of Toronto."

During Frank's regime Scout membership in Ontario grew from just over 7,000 to over 70,000. Space forbids us outlining the many contributions Frank Irwin has made, not only to Scouting in Ontario, but throughout the country.

In a great many ways Frank's deep insight into the problems of Scouting, the wisdom of his approach to these problems, and the background of his knowledge and experience contributed enormously to the success of Scouting.

A sincere believer in, and worker for, the principles of Scouting; a lover of the great out-of-doors; a kind husband and a beloved father; an understanding leader of men; a practising and practical Christian gentleman; a wise and patient counsellor; we shall not soon see his like again.

Irwin, Frank Clarence

Identification

Battalion / unit at enlistment: YMCA

U of S affiliation at enlistment: student

College Building memorial: Second floor, southwest

Notes: RoS - Unable to identify

U of S attendance

Entry date	College	Left - date	Left - reason	Degree	Degree - date	Notes
1913	Arts	1916	grad	B.A.	1916	

Military service - assignments

Group	Type	Location	First known date	Last known date	Reason for end of assignment	Notes
YMCA		Bangalore City, India				

Non-military addresses

Address	Occupation	Earliest date	Latest date	Source	Notes
Moose Jaw	student	1913	1916	U o S Calendar	
Boy Scouts Assoc., Bloor St., Toronto		1928		1928 list	

- Born in London (Ontario), he discovered Scouting in 1910 committed to the [YMCA](#) and became a scout leader in New York. During the First World War he served in the British army under the YMCA in England and India. After founding the troupe of Mysore in India **Frank Clarence Irwin** is in [1920](#) director of operations under the direction of [Lorne W Barclay](#) at [camp school](#) of [Franc port](#) who raises Scouting in France.
- He was then chief executive of Scouting Scout in Ontario until his death December 9, 1954.
- 1910–1920 Capt. H.G. Hammond