

The 100 mile Portage



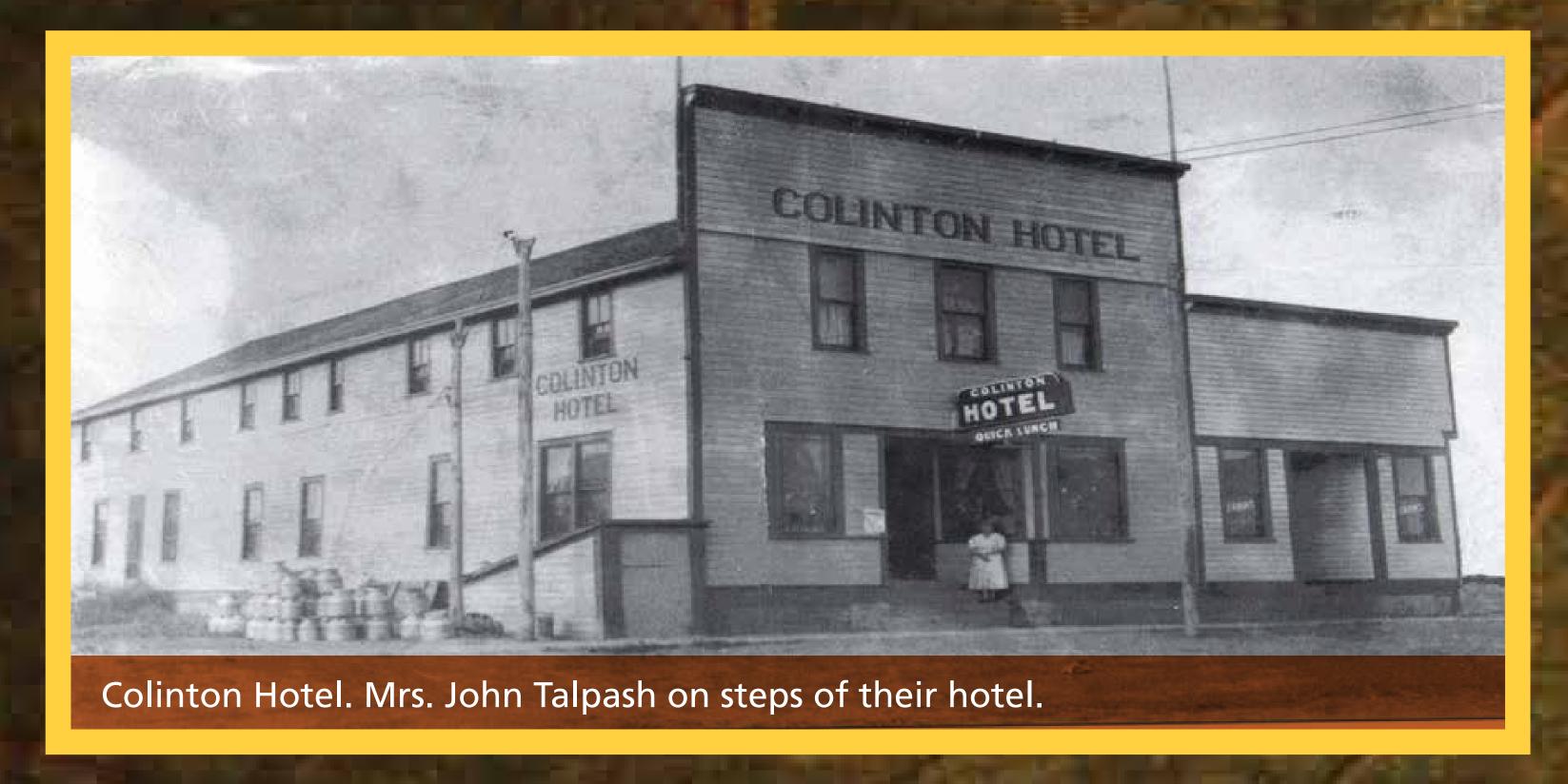
Athabasca Landing Trail – The historic route went from Fort Edmonton to Athabasca Landing and was dubbed the "100 Mile Portage" since it linked two major waterways – the North Saskatchewan River and the Athabasca River. Built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1876, the trail brought fur traders, gold miners, settlers and others to Alberta's northern regions. It was an important transportation route until 1912 when the railroad came through.

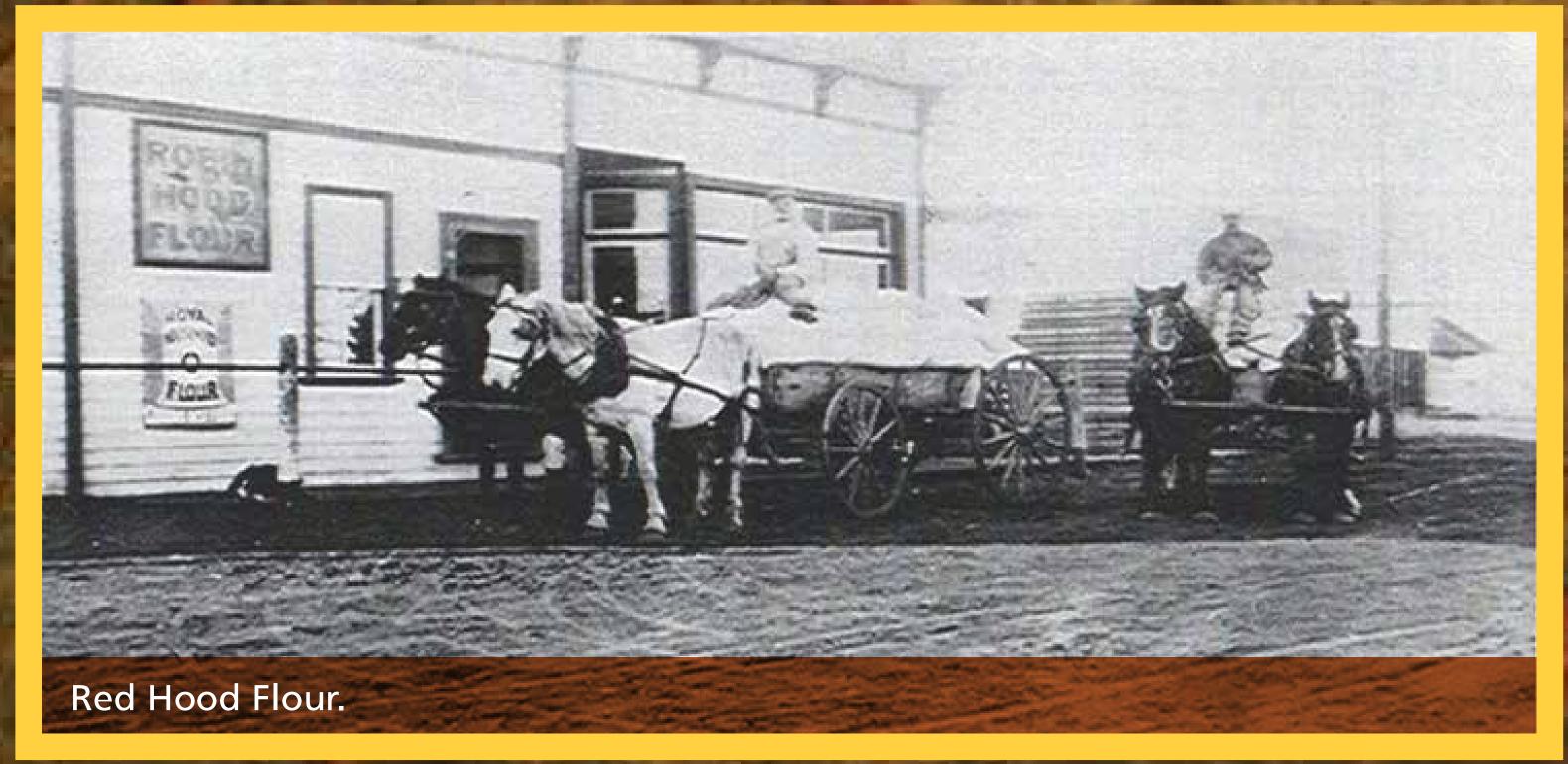
David Hay was one of the earliest settlers in the Colinton area. He arrived in 1904 and homesteaded in 1905, calling his property 'Kinnoull' after his family's estate in Scotland. In 1909 he married Mary Jack – their son Doug Hay was born in 1911 and was the first baby born to settlers in the region. In 1910, Hay built a store and post office at the site, and in 1912, gave a portion of his land for the building of St. Andrew's Anglican Church. The original log church still stands on its original site.



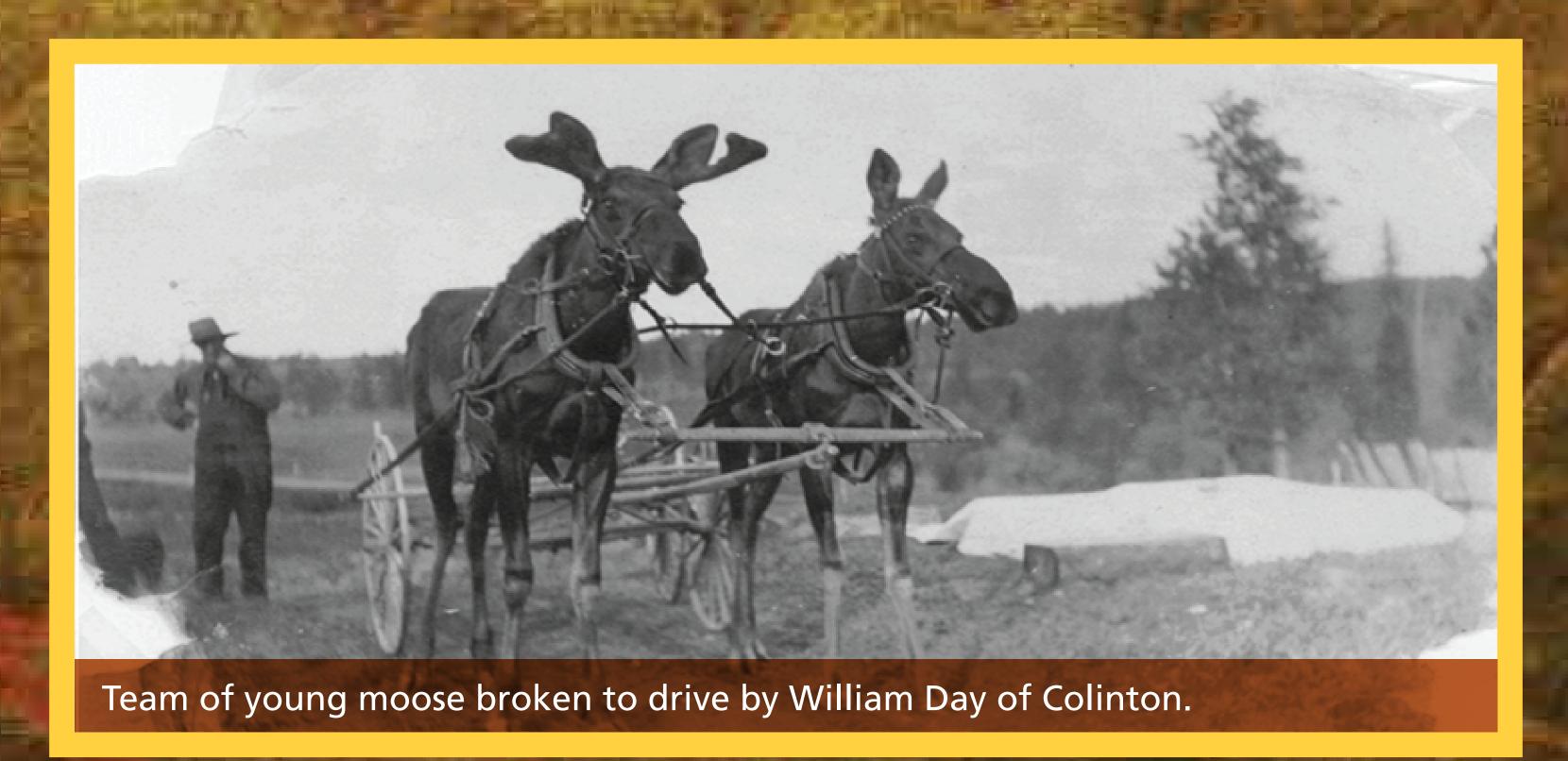
You are standing at the hamlet of Colinton, one of the sites along the historic Athabasca Landing Trail.

When the railway came through the same year, James Milne owned the land where the railway station would go. He agreed to give them the land if he could name the hamlet and called it Colinton after his native home in Scotland. A townsite grew on the spot and Hay built a new store, the Colinton General Store, in 1913. The store is still in active operation across the road from this sign. Other businesses followed and for a time, Colinton was thriving community. The Colinton area now has a population of approximately 250.





All photos are from the book Colinton and Districts: Yesterday and Today.









athabascalandingtrail.com

