

Attree Lake

SASKATCHEWAN HONOURS ITS FALLEN

In November of last year, Scott got an email from a David Earl Vincent Attree, who lives in Middleton, Nova Scotia, in which David was able to share the name origin of our own Attree Lake. It is a special place to us and to our guests, but it has a more poignant meaning for David and his whole family.

The lake is actually named for Vincent and Earl Attree, both lost in World War II, in 1943 and 1944 respectively. Earl was David's father, and you can see that the family has honoured both father and uncle in his given names.

Both Earl and Vincent were born and raised in Prince Albert, and there are still Attrees in the area. Earl joined the RCAF in 1939, and after being trained as a flight engineer in Dartmouth, he was posted to Yarmouth. It was there he conducted submarine patrols along the east coast. He was part of 162 BR Squadron, flying Cansos.

The squadron was posted to Iceland in January 1944. On December 19 of that year, Earl, after taking the place of a sick member, was killed with his crew when their plane crashed just south of Reykjavik. Earl was just hours away from a flip that would have taken him home for Christmas, and he never got to see David, who was born in September.

There is less information about younger brother Vincent, but he was a tail-gunner with a Lancaster squadron, stationed in Cambridge, England. As a younger brother, he joined later, and he was involved in several bombing runs before their plane was badly

shot up over Germany in 1943. The plane made it back to base but the tail section containing Vincent was destroyed. His grave is in a Cambridge cemetery.

The Saskatchewan government has decided to name a geographical structure, most often a lake, after the more than 8,000 service men and women of that province who died in World

War II. There are probably ten lakes in our area, and an island in Amisk Lake, named after these individuals. However, Attree is unique in that we know of no other lake that is named after two brothers, and the brothers were commemorated well before the program was instituted. Attree Lake was named in 1951. There is speculation that David's aunt, who went to school with John Diefenbaker, and who knew the family well, was responsible for getting the lake named after her brothers.

It is a sad story, but a proud story, and we are happy in our small way to honour the sacrifice of Earl and Vincent, and to honour all those who fell in the service of our country. 🐟



A. Vincent and Earl Attree - RCAF, 1942.

B. Earl and his crew were flying Cansos when they crashed in 1944.

C. Funeral services, December 24, 1944, for crew members, including Earl Attree.

D. Attree Lake from 2,000 feet. The river comes in at the bottom left, and exits at the left of the photo.



Neighbours Gotta FISH TOO

Carl lives in a beautiful log cabin next door to Scott, and Andrew lives in the newest and nicest place on the river. No matter how beautiful their surroundings though, they have to get out and satisfy their craving for that tug on the line, and experience the joy of a fat walleye as it breaks the surface.

Both Carl and Andrew are good fishermen, but they have so many projects on the go that they seldom get out. It's sad to say, but their wives sometimes have to force them out because it's been so long since they have enjoyed a good feed of pickerel. And so, not too reluctantly, they put their gear into one of two boats that are sitting ready, and are in a

On two separate occasions, and at the gentle urging of wives Bernice and Angie, Carl and Andrew got out, with the results evident. The great thing is, they were a one minute boat ride from home.

position to catch fish within five minutes. The wonderful thing about the river is that you can catch fish almost anywhere, and Carl and Andrew have a favourite spot within sight of their cabins. In about an hour they are back home, and soon after that, depending on the length of happy hour, they are tucking into one of their favourite meals. 🐟

