

The Influential life Alice Jane Jukes Jamieson

By Hayden Lester

The life of Alice Jane Jukes Jamieson was very influential for many men and women all over Canada. She changed the world for the better in multiple ways, such as promoting women's rights, becoming the first female judge of a juvenile court in the British Empire, and convincing many people that women deserve equal rights to men.

Before Alice was even born on July 14, 1860 she had already lost a brother and a sister who died as infants. She was born in New York City, but not long after, the family moved to Chicago where her father ran an engraving company. This is where Alice was educated.

Alice married Reuben Rupert Jamieson, otherwise known as R.R. They lived in Toronto where R.R. was working. Toronto is where Alice gave birth to two sons and two daughters. R.R. was then promoted to a position in Smith Falls, Ontario, where they had a fifth child that ended up dying in infancy. R.R. was promoted to General Superintendent and was placed in Winnipeg. He was then promoted again to Superintendent and was moved to Calgary, bringing his family with him. R.R. died on May 4, 1911 in a peaceful retirement after being elected 9th mayor of Calgary.

After her husband's death, Alice decided she needed to take a stand for women's rights, and became one of the driving forces for those rights. She became a founding member for Calgary's YWCA, which is an organization that provides a variety of services for women such as: shelter, counseling, childcare and parenting support. Creating a safe house for women throughout Calgary. She also became the first president of the Calgary Local Council Of Women, which is a council that campaigned for women to be involved in things like government committees.

In 1916, Alice became the first woman to be appointed Judge of a Juvenile Court in the British Empire. She then became the second female police Magistrate in Canada, being head of the Calgary Women's Court.

Not even a year later, a lawyer appealed Alice's ruling saying she was "incompetent and incapable," as women are not considered "persons" under the law in Canada. The Supreme Court Of Alberta spoke in Alice's favor, securing her right to hold office. Alice continued to work for many years before bad health forced her to retire.

She died on June 4, 1949 in her Calgary home at the age of 88. She lived an amazingly successful life and we will always remember her for that. Alice was incredibly happy to be Canadian and constantly said, "I chose to be Canadian," since she wasn't born Canadian.

In 2003, the Calgary Board of Education opened its first all-female school and honored Alice by naming it *The Alice Jamieson Girls Academy*. Four years later, in 2007, a new office tower was built in Edmonton and named *Jamieson Place*, also named after Alice.

Alice really inspires me to continue on with life even when everything seems to be going wrong. But it's not just that. She, along with hundreds of other women have shown me not to let people assume that men are stronger and more reliable than women.

For example, I play hockey on an all girls hockey team, and my mom also played hockey. She didn't get to play on a girls hockey team until she was 15, and at that time girls hockey wasn't very popular. In fact, it was so unpopular that on her team, the oldest girl was 18 and the youngest was nine. But amazing women such as Hayley Wickenheiser made it possible

for girls like me to play hockey. Even though hockey is a very male based sport, now it's not uncommon for a girl to play hockey.

In effect, it's the same thing Alice did. She made it possible for tons of women to become lawyers and leaders in society. I hope that with the help of more amazing women like Alice, that in twenty years women can be whatever they want from hockey players to lawyers and no one will judge them, because I believe no matter what happens we are all equal and we can all succeed in life no matter what gender, age or skin color we are.

She has inspired me to begin promoting the rights of everyone and to take a stand for equality! Women didn't even gain the right to vote in Canada until 1917. That was only 105 years ago! No one deserves to be treated like we used to treat people and Alice stood against it just as I plan to do in the near future.

I will be supporting The Canadian Feminist Alliance For International Action. The goal of FAFIA is to commission womens equality in the public throughout Canada and the fulfillment of its international human rights. I will forever wholeheartedly support this group by donating and participating in campaigns no matter what happens to me or them. That is why I know that Alice Jane Jukes Jamieson will go down in my mind and the world's minds as a woman who changed society for the better. And she has inspired me to do the same.



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