DEADWOOD STAGECOACH LINE



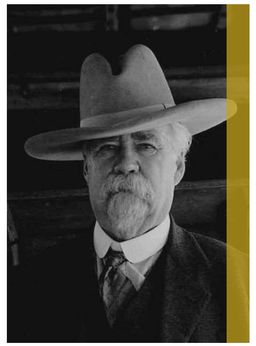
Colonel Felix Warren and H. C. Baldridge in Stagecoach at University of Idaho pageant (June 11, 1923).

Orr Historical Photograph Collection, PG 90, 90-10-147. University of Idaho Library Special Collections and Archives



Colonel Felix Warren and stagecoach in Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Calgary, Alberta (ca. 1912 or 1919).

Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary (CU1174828).



Courtesy of the Nez Perce County Historical Society, Lewiston, Idaho.

Colonel Felix Warren, (1932).

Stagecoaches were integral to traversing Alberta in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They were common in southern Alberta by the 1880s and while they were generally displaced by the arrival of railroads, stagecoaches continued to serve isolated parts of the province until the early 1900s.

These vehicles earned their name by travelling in 'stages', making scheduled stops along their routes for food, rest, and fresh horses. Stagecoaches united Albertans in many ways; they transported people and their luggage, as well as carrying mail and freight.

One of the last mail and passenger stagecoaches in Alberta was the Deadwood Stagecoach Line, which ran from 1909 to 1917. The line was established by Col. Felix Warren, who immigrated to Alberta from Idaho, homesteaded near Favor, and opened a livery stable in Bassano with fellow Idahoan Bill Caldwell. Col. Warren was a renowned horseman and experienced stagecoach operator, having run various lines in eastern Washington and northern Idaho from 1875 to 1909. Shortly after arriving in Alberta, he established the Deadwood Line.

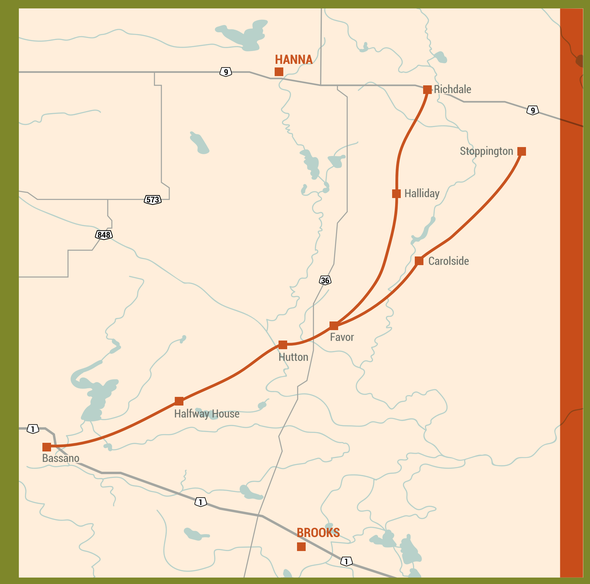
The Deadwood Line served thousands of people living in southeastern Alberta in the early twentieth century. It ran northeast from Bassano to Stoppington and Richdale. Stopping houses along the way provided opportunities for food and rest, while the horse team and driver were typically changed at Col. Warren's homestead near Favor. The stagecoach ran three times a week and carried passengers and up to fifty pounds of mail and cargo. Col. Warren was assisted by a number of skilled drivers who became well-known local figures, including Pete Galarneau, Charlie Siler, 'Frenchie' Quinte, Jerry George and Barry Sandum.

The Deadwood Line played a crucial role connecting the isolated farms and communities of this region until the arrival of the railway. Col. Warren remained in Alberta until the mid 1920s, when he moved back to the United States. He died near Almota, Washington, in 1937 and was laid to rest in Lewiston, Idaho.

Colonel Felix Warren and horses at Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Alberta (1912)



Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary (CU1195687).



Deadwood Stagecoach Line routes, 1909 -1917.

Scan the code to learn more.

Alberta Government