

### Dowling Biography

Ezra Dowling was born in Eramosa Township, Wellington, Ontario, Canada in 1834 and married his wife, Eleanor (nee Bolton) in Eramosa Township in 1860. Ezra and Eleanor Dowling along with some of their children moved to Grafton, North Dakota. Ezra and Eleanor Dowling along with their sons John, James, George, Hiram and William emigrated from North Dakota, where they had been farmers, to the Clover Bar district of what is today known as Strathcona County in 1897. Ezra Dowling purchased 160 acres of farmland on what is legally known as N.W. 9-53-23-W4th on December 15, 1897 in the Clover Bar district. Ezra Dowling and his family lived and farmed the land until 1901 when it was sold, and the family moved to Edmonton.

During his time farming, Ezra Dowling saw a need for milling of grain grown in the Edmonton area. Ezra Dowling, with his entrepreneurial spirit, constructed and established the first grain milling mill in Edmonton in 1899. The mill was known as the Dowling Milling Co. located on 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue along the North Saskatchewan River close to the Rosedale Power Plant in the Edmonton River Flats. The Dowling family sold the Dowling Milling Co. to R.P. Ottewell and A.B. Campbell in 1906. Ezra Dowling passed away on November 13, 1907, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Ezra Dowling's sons, John Henry Dowling and James Bradford Dowling (known as the Dowling Bros.), shortly after the passing of their father, entered the laundry business and constructed, owned and operated the Snow Flake Steam Laundry at 10404-98 Street Edmonton (present day location of the new Royal Alberta Museum). The Dowling Bros. operated the Snow Flake Steam Laundry until around 1912 when it was sold.

On April 29, 1913, John Henry Dowling purchased 480 acres of farmland (legally known as S.W.22-53-22-W4th, S.E.22-53-22-W4th and N.E.15-53-22-W4th) from Philips Christian Hamilton which is located north of Ardrossan spanning from Range Road 222 to Range Road 223. The 480 acres of farmland was purchased from a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the Snow Flake Steam Laundry in Edmonton, Alberta.

After completing High School in Edmonton, Alberta and working the farmland, John Henry Dowling's two sons, Earl Henry Dowling and Charles Dowling purchased the aforementioned 480 acres of farmland from their father on March 27, 1916, even though they had begun farming the land in 1912. Earl Dowling bought his brother Charles Dowling out of the farmland in 1929. The Earl Dowling family were active members of the Ardrossan United Church as well as serving on various church committees. Additionally, the Dowling Family were active members of the Ardrossan Scout Group. The Dowling Family farm has been passed down through five generations and is still farmed and operated by the Dowling family as of 2025.