FORGOTTEN FOOTHILLS

The 1910 map also shows several communities that once boasted schools, post offices, houses, stores and halls that no longer exist today within the Foothills County. Many of these rural districts, however, are still generally referred to by these names.

Academy: Academy was a railway siding north of DeWinton. It was established in 1892 to accommodate sections of railway cars. Long trains often needed to unhitch some of their cars in order to make it up the long incline. *Source: Sodbusting to Subdivision history book.*

John Lineham

Lineham: The Lineham Post Office opened in 1895 close to the trail between the Upper Lineham Ranch and Lineham Logging Camp in the foothills west of Black Diamond — both the ranch and the logging camp were business ventures of John Lineham (lumber) and his brother W. D. Lineham (ranching). The post office closed in the 1930s. Lineham School opened in 1913 and served the area until 1939. Lineham Church also operated for several years. *Source: In the Light of the Flares*

Tongue Creek: Tongue Creek School opened in 1891 and served the educational needs of the rural district until 1938. The Tongue Creek post office opened in 1905 at the ranch house of Walter McIntosh, and served the rural community until 1918. Tongue Creek Church opened in 1916. According to legend, the creek after which the school and post office were named was originally called Tongue-flag Creek, translated from the Siksika name. A Siksika hunter killed a bison but could not carry all the meat, so to mark the spot he raised a pole made from a tree branch. Since one tree branch looks much the same as the next, he hung the carcass tongue on top so he could find it. *Source: Journal of Alberta Postal History Issue #7 Edited by Dale Speirs Published May 2016; and Tales and Trails—A History of Longview and Surrounding Area*

Loch Sloy: S-18-2-W5 The Loch Sloy post office and general store established in 1908 with Hugh MacFarlane as postmaster. He named it after a lake in his native Scotland. McFarlane sold the store in 1911 to Alex Riddell who took over as postmaster until 1915. During this time, he moved the store/post office into a large building, so large that after the post office closed years later, the building was used as a dance hall and community hall. Harry H. Baines was the third and final postmaster until March, 1918 when the post office closed. *Source: Journal of Alberta Postal History Issue #7 Edited by Dale Speirs Published May 2016*

Azure: Stockyards and a grain elevator established about half way between High River and Cayley. It became a busy shipping port for grain and livestock. When the stockyards were built in 1946, it significantly impacted the stockyard business at Cayley. Azure was aptly named: it means 'bright blue in color like a cloudless sky.' The grain elevator still exists, located on private land. *Source: Under the Chinook Arch, 2007, A History of Cayley and Surrounding Areas.*

Azure grain elevator

Pine Canyon: A post office and school served the rural district of Pine Canyon. A post office opened in 1913 at 13-21-27-W4. The post office closed in 1916. *Source: Library and Archives Canada post office history*
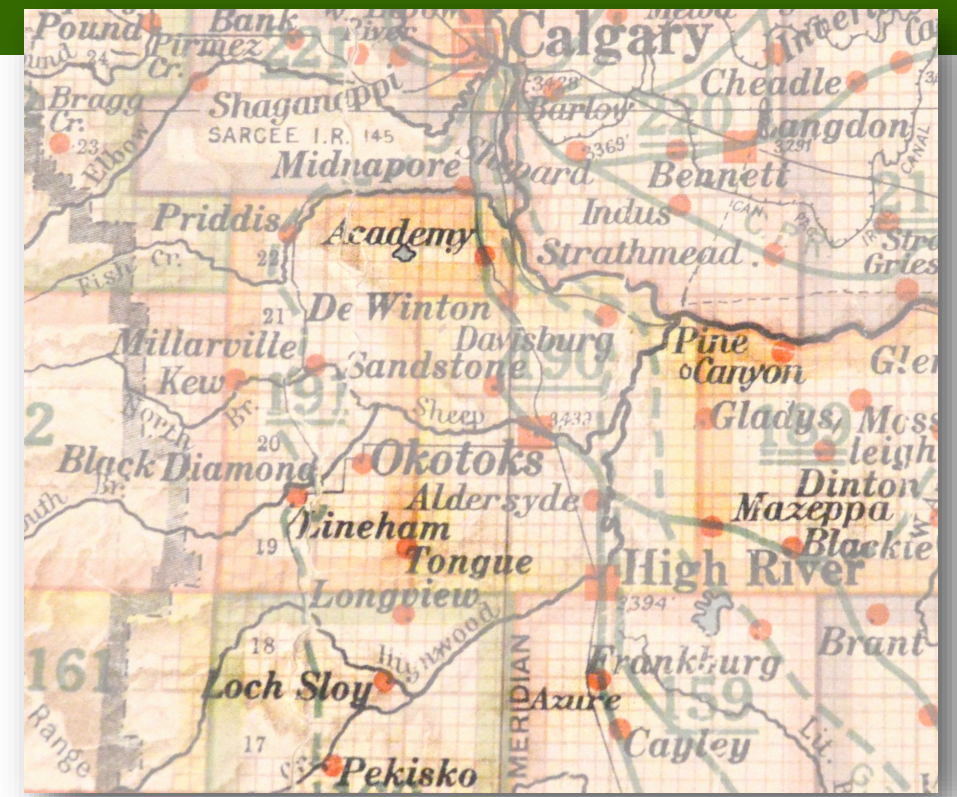
Mazeppa: 30-19-27-W4 A Canadian Pacific Railway station was established here in 1912 and was named after the hero of Lord Byron's poem of the same name. (Mazeppa was a Polish or Cossack military commander). A post office was in operation from 1913 to 1955. A gas plant also operated in the area for 30 years. *Source: Library and Archives Canada post office history*

Pekisko: The name Pekisko is from the Siksika language and means "rolling hills". The Pekisko post office was one of the earliest in Southwestern Alberta, opening on 1886-08-01 with Mary Stimson as postmaster. In 1919, the Duke of Windsor, at that time HRH Prince Edward, made a Royal Tour across Canada. Passing through southern Alberta, he spent a few days relaxing in the ranching district west of High River. He enjoyed the area so much that in September of that year, he bought a ranch located near Pekisko. He visited it on several occasions in the 1920s, while Prince of Wales, and, after his abdication, as Duke of Windsor in the 1940s and 1950s while accompanied by his wife Wallis, the Duchess. The Duke owned it until 1961. The Pekisko post office closed in 1967.

The Prince of Wales' EP Ranch, 1920s

Source: Journal of Alberta Postal History Issue #7 Edited by Dale Speirs Published May 2016