James practised law for 10 years & remained active in the Oak Ridges Cavalry, Richmond Hill.

1861 – Trent affair & Fenian Raids on Canadian Border

1867 – James promoted to rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel; news of the armed Fenians reached James in Ontario

Went west to help quell Riel Rebellion. There he met Mary Drevers. He proposed & although she accepted she would not return to Toronto with James because of her ailing father. They broke their engagement.

July 14, 1871 – James arrived back in Toronto.

1872 – Fort Garry Post was opened, but James received no word re his posting there. He went to Isle of Skye with his sister Maggie Baldwin

1873 – James received a summons from R. M. Macdonald, offering him the position of superintendent 3rd. in Command of the newly formed North-West Mounted Police (May 23, 1873). James returned to Canada.

1873 – Fall, James arrived in Winnipeg & became engaged to Mary Drevers immediately. They were to be married in 1874, but it was postponed.

June 1, 1874 James was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Police & ordered to ride south to Fort Dufferin, where he joined forces with troops from America to begin trek west to Fort Whoop-Up, to rid Canada of the whiskey scourge. Sept. 11, 1874 reached the forks of the Bow & South Saskatchewan Rivers. They didn't find Fort Whoop-Up until October 2, 1874 & by then the whiskey traders had fled.

Jerry Potts led them to Old Man's River, where an island rose from the centre. The building of Fort Macleod began.