

plagiarism with “It is hoped ... that all the writers whose labours have to some extent been appropriated, will accept this acknowledgment.”¹²⁷ Among those “appropriated” were the opinions of a delegation of English agriculturalists who visited Manitoba in 1879. The following summer Wyatt came back to Canada, where he was noted sailing from Owen Sound with “a large party from England, in charge of Captain Wyatt, in search of homes in Manitoba. He also had 100 deck passengers for Bay Mills, Lake Superior, and 95 laborers for the Canada Pacific Railway works.” Their passage was on the *City of Winnipeg* another vessel of Wyatt’s former colleague, A.M. Smith, for whom Wyatt was the English agent.¹²⁸

In 1881, Wyatt turned from agencies to actively promoting the Great North West and Manitoba Land Company. The firm anticipated raising a capital of £400,000 Stg to acquire land in Manitoba which they would sell in Britain, and especially in Ireland. The plan called for a British board along with a local board in Winnipeg, which would include two local MPPs and “George H. Wyatt, Esq., Winnipeg.”¹²⁹ In the summer of 1882, Wyatt returned to Canada with two of the company directors.¹³⁰ For all that he was advertised as having been living in Winnipeg, this appears to have been his first extended stay in the city. It ended with his death there on 6 January 1883.

According to the obituary in the *Manitoba Free Press* he “has been busy gathering material for a new work relative to this country” but had intended to leave for Britain before the new year.¹³¹ The *Globe* offered a more salacious account of Wyatt’s passing in his room in the Royal Exchange Hotel:

Wyatt’s death was due to reckless exposure to the fierce cold of the past week. All the winter he persisted in wearing clothes barely warm enough for autumn, merely that he might produce his clothes on the platform in England, as proof of the mildness of the climate. For ten days he gradually froze to death.¹³²

The *Free Press* obituary had also noted that Wyatt had been “separated from his wife for a number of years.” Hints of scandal were dropped in the version later quoted in the *Montreal Gazette*: “... the particulars of the separation being no doubt fresh in the memories of many of our readers who

¹²⁷ Geo. H. Wyatt, *Dominion of Canada. Manitoba, the Canadian North-West and Ontario* (Toronto, 1880).

¹²⁸ *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, 28 August 1880.

¹²⁹ *Daily News* (London, England), 20 May 1882. This prospectus was widely distributed among the British press. Earlier references had involved Wyatt with the “Canadian North-West Land Company” *Globe*, 17 October 1881, 28 December 1881.

¹³⁰ *Gazette* (Montreal), 2 September 1882.

¹³¹ *Manitoba Free Press*, 8 January 1883.

¹³² *Globe*, 8 January 1883.