

Biography of Sine Alley Abougoush



Born in Lala, Lebanon in 1891, Hussein Ali Abougoush (later known as Sine Alley) came from a small family with only a younger brother who died as a toddler, which left Hussein, an only child.

Like many young adults, he left home at the age of 17(1908) along with a few friends and travelled by ship to Canada. After a long journey of 20 days by sea, they landed in Halifax, where a man by the name of Ahmed Farrhat, who resided in Halifax, used to meet all of the new arrivals, take them home, feed them and put them on the train to Edmonton the next day. Upon his arrival in Canada, his

name was changed by immigration workers to Sine Alley.

Sine made his way to Lac La Biche, where Ali Hamilton (his first cousin on his mother's side) lived, and was advised to head out up north where there was work. He travelled up north where he became one of the best trappers of his time with a dogsled and team of 8 dogs

He and his friend Ali Hamdon set out on foot to Athabasca Landing. They continued travelling the Athabasca River to Fort McMurray and settled at Fort Chipewyan on the Northwest tip of Lake Athabasca. Together they opened a fur trading post called Hamdon and Alley Ltd. Attached below is a letter from "Hamdon and Alley Ltd" about shipping fur:

While working in the north, he met Rose Albina Mercredi, who worked on a boat named the Sylvania and they married on July 21, 1923 in Edmonton. They had 4 children in Canada - Asma(April,1924), Malaki(Jan. 1926), Ameen(Nov. 1927) and Ali(Oct. 1929).

They lived in Lac La Biche for several years before returning to Lala on August 16, 1930. There, he built a home for his family and had a daughter (Zinie). He returned to Canada in the middle of 1932 to his business and stayed another 7 years before returning to Lebanon for the final time in

1939. Here, he had an additional two children, Ameenie and Mahmoud. There, he farmed the land along with his eldest children and was very well known, respected and loved for his kindness and generosity especially to the less fortunate in Lala and throughout the surrounding villages in the Bekka Valley. Sine and Rose never returned to Canada.

Sine Alley passed away in April of 1980 at the age of 92. He lived a long, happy life doing what he loved to do best - helping the poor and less fortunate, and asking for nothing in return.

Date: Fort Chipewyan, Alberta; 1935\r\n

Dear Ahmid:

I am shipping today 11 good Cross Foxes, 15 Reds, 1 Otter, and 4 Lynx to Sam. I am instructing him to pay you \$250.00 and also to pay M. Tarrabain \$100.00 and the balance of approximately \$11.00 to you. I want you to buy me 3 tents 10 x 12, 4' walls, 8 oz. and 3 tents 8 x 10, 4' walls, 8 oz. Also to ship me 150 lbs of cheap butter and 50 lbs of good butter for our own use.

If you remember the last time I was shipping a little bunch of fur coming from Andy to have I divided between yourself and Tarrabain and others. Up till today, the fur from Pond Duc Lak did not show up, so I got a chance and got hold of this bunch of fur as I new you were hard up. I am shipping this fur to Sam.

Business is not very good around here this year, in fact since Christmas there has been hardly anything doing with anyone. Most of the traders close up and go to the café. We are in hope that by the 10 or 12 of March things will be going on nicely. There is going to be plenty of rats and everyone is anxiously waiting for the season to open. So let us hope everything will turn out alright.

Re: Claims. The bunch of claims we got last fall before everybody which is worth a fortune, we lost them, on account of to many good friends mixed up in it such as Sine brother in law Louis Mercrede. He was away to hell and gone in the bush after stakes and he didn't both to come down and sign the papers to have them registered and some other people were delaying in sending there money for there share of the expenses to pay for there register fee, so we lost those beautiful claims tied up to the discovery.

Since I found that out I had to get men to go and stake three claims on your license which I have to pay \$75.00 as a man is going on the plane tomorrow. Of course the other claims are going to cost the same. I am charging \$75.00 to your account which I hope will be satisfactory to you. If not you can let me know and we can turn them over to some other party which will be glad to pay the amount to have the claims. There is another expense to these three claims \$50.00 for registration. I will send the papers for you to sign. That make a total of \$110.00 for the three claims.

I managed to get three parties to stake for you and Sam and Assif I am still holding two, one for Hoe and one for your Nephew, which I hope I will be able to fill soon.

The people are simply going crazy over that place. Plane after plane going there day after day. There is going to be thousands of people there by March or April so let us say like the English better later than never.

Close with best regards to your wife and family, Joe and Mike and everyone of the boys.

You can tell Mike I will try and fill his license at the first opportunity, tell him I am more sorry for him than myself over loosing those first claims.

Yours sincerely,

Ali Hamdon

AW/FW

Letter from Hamdon and Alley Ltd., Fur trade, Edmonton 1930s



Sine Alley and Ali Hamilton – 1970's in Lebanon