

NANTON'S FETHERSTON'S GROCERY STORE

T.H. Fetherston, father of Orie Fetherston and Tom Fetherston, came to Alberta from Ontario in 1894. He started a grocery store in Calgary but moved to Nanton shortly after 1905, opening a grocery store in partnership with James Usher in the Van Camp Building. Later he built a store near the intersection Hwy. #2 (southbound) and 26th Avenue, continuing to sell groceries but dry goods and hardware as well. In 1912, he closed out the business and returned to Calgary.

When T.H.'s son, Orie Fetherston, finished school, he worked in Nanton for Chisolm's Drug Store for three years until Drs. Robertson and Creighton bought the business and erected the 'Nanton Drug Co.' building in 1908. Orie worked for the new business for seven years, at times taking over the operation of their store in Cayley, riding up on horseback in the morning and back at night.

Orie went into the grocery business in 1915, constructing the brick building immediately east of the drug store.

Orie's younger brother, Tom Fetherston, worked for him for several years until Orie bought a grocery store in High River and Tom moved there to manage it. He married Anne Kaiser and they had one son, Tom jr., who was killed flying with the RCAF during the Second World War. Orie continued in business in Nanton until he retired in 1967.

Orie Fetherston was a councillor for many years, served two terms as mayor of Nanton, participated in the hockey, curling, golf, and baseball clubs, and the Board of Trade. During the depression of the 1930's, Orie fed thousands of transients who stopped in Nanton while travelling along the railway looking for food and jobs. He never turned anyone away but gave to each a loaf of bread and a can of pork and beans.



The day after the 1924 fire that destroyed many of the buildings on the south side of Nanton's main street.

The remarkable story of Sgt. Thomas Fetherston RCAF may be found at:
[Thomas Fetherston - A Name in the Sand \(bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca\)](http://bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca)



Fetherston's Store, 1938-40. L-R: Orié Fetherston, Jim Fetherston, Art Rousseau.



George's Café in 2026 -The 'Fetherston's Grocery' signage is the same as seen in the 1924 photo.