

## Bird House: 461 Vancouver Avenue

Built in 1914, the Bird House is a good example of a Craftsman style home. The house features many design elements typical of this style including half timbering in the gable ends, triangular eave brackets and an open front verandah supported by flared piers. Although the original wood siding has been covered by stucco and most of the original windows replaced or modified, the building is otherwise substantially intact. The house was designed by William Frederick Gardiner (1884-1951) born in Bath, England who came to Vancouver in 1907.<sup>1</sup>



The Bird House is significant as a residence for a succession of Bank of Commerce managers who lived in the residence until at least the late 1950s. It is, therefore, linked to another heritage Nanaimo building, the Great National Land Building, which was built in 1914 for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Originally named the Frontier Building, its stone and brick, curved facade and fluted columns make it an imposing piece of architecture that has dominated the corner of Commercial, Church and Chapel streets in downtown Nanaimo for more than 100 years.<sup>2</sup>



The Frontier Building replaced the Commerce Bank's smaller two-storey brick building that was torn down in 1913 to make way for the Frontier Building. The design by architect Victor Horsburgh represented a new corporate image of dominance, strength and stability and has been used in more than one place across Canada. The bank capitalized on those notions by advertising the security of its safety deposit boxes after the building sustained only superficial exterior damage from a fire that destroyed 10 structures around it in 1930. Its brick

construction was credited with halting the spread of the blaze.

Peculiar features of the Great National Land Building's facade are two caduceus symbols near the roof and above the front doors. In North America the symbol, or variations of it, became associated with the medical profession after the insignia was adopted by the U.S. Army Medical Corps. In Greek mythology, though, the caduceus was a staff carried by Hermes and Mercury who were messengers of the gods more related perhaps to symbols of commerce such as finance and trade which would be appropriate for a bank. The building's interior is as impressive as its exterior. The interior woodwork has survived several renovations and its appearance overall remains historically accurate. The customer areas of the ground floor are Italian marble and the manager's office had oak floors and a Roman brick fireplace.

The structure was renamed The Great National Land Building after it was bought in 1963 by former Nanaimo mayor Frank Ney who formed the Great National Land and Investment Corporation in 1964. Ney was also president of Nanaimo Realty. The city awarded it a heritage designation in 1975, which prevented it from being torn down, a subject under consideration when the building's systems had become severely

<sup>1</sup>**GARDINER, William Frederick** (1884-1951) NANAIMO, B.C., residence for E.H. Bird, Vancouver Avenue near Townsite Road, 1913 (Nanaimo Free Press, 9 June 1913, 3, t.c.)

<sup>2</sup>**HORSBURG, Victor Daniel** (1866-1947) (Nanaimo Free Press, 1 Oct. 1914, 1, detailed descrip.; Const., xi, April 1918, 120-21, illus. & descrip.)

outdated and the company needed more space. Instead, a six-storey addition of concrete and glass was constructed and the Great National Land Building was renovated in the process.

There were banks on this site as early as 1901. It's not clear if E.H. Bird, the bank's manager from 1905 to 1925, ever lived in the building, but single male employees did live on the third floor throughout the 1930s and '40s, according to the Nanaimo Community Archives.

#### **Who lived at 461 Vancouver?**

1. **Ernest H. Bird and Annie Blanche Burt 1914-1928.**
2. **Frederick C Grant and Alice E Grant 1927-1936.**
3. **James Harold Eakin and Annie Florence Beaton 1937-1947.**
4. **Alexander Harper Carmichael and Marguerite Glaholm Young 1948-1956.**

### **1. ERNEST HERBERT BIRD & ANNIE BLANCHE BURT 1914-1928**

Ernest Herbert Bird was born Feb 22 1867 in Hong Kong, son of Shearman Godfrey Bird (1837-1873) and Amy Laura Chun (1841-1923). His father, Shearman, was born on Nov 29 1837 in Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex, England the son of Rev Godfrey Bird, rector of Great Wigborough. With an extended family full of senior military men, architects and civil servants, Shearman had joined the British army in 1856 and was sent to China in 1857 to fight the Second Opium War which had escalated over issues relating to the exportation of opium from India to China.

In late 1858 or early 1859, Shearman, age 22, met 18-year-old Amoi Chun in Guangzhou (Canton). Amoi Chun was from a middle to upper class family born on May 31 1841 to Chun Akon and Sing Quork in Wan Po, China. Wan Po is located in the Sai Kung District one of the 18 districts of the Hong Kong Constituency Area. Although no marriage certificate has ever been found, the two claimed to have married on Jun 1 1859. Their first child, James Bird was born on Aug 17 1860. About 1863, Amoi was baptised into the Anglican church under the name Amy Laura.



By 1862, Shearman Bird had resigned his military commission. He supported his family by working in the office of the Surveyor General in Hong Kong, but left to join the architectural firm of Palmer and Turner where his brother, Sotheby Bird, was employed. On Feb 1 1865, Shearman was initiated into the Freemason Zetland Lodge in Victoria, Hong Kong. His occupation is given as "civil engineer". Shearman suffered from "bilious fevers" in the hot summers of South China so the family, now with five children, decided to go to England. They left Hong Kong on Jun 25 1867.

In England, they took up residence in Donyland, Essex, near Shearman's birthplace of Great Wigborough and Amoi gave birth to another child, Helen Bird. Within two years, the decision was made to emigrate to Canada and, for some unknown reason, to Barrie, Ontario. Barrie was first settled during the War of 1812 as a supply depot for British forces and perhaps its reputation had preceded it amongst military men. A railway connection between York (Toronto) and Barrie had also been completed in 1865.

Donyland Lodge, Colchester.  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY**  
**E. J. Craske,**  
 In the second week in May, by direction of S. G. BIRD, Esq.  
**A**LL the superior and modern FURNITURE (new within  
 nine months), Beds, Bedding, China, Glass, and Earthen-  
 ware, and Out-door Effects on the above Premises.  
 Particulars next week.

They disposed of all their property in England and in May 1869, Mr. S.G. Bird, Mrs. Bird; Edith Agnes Bird, 7; Ernest Herbert Bird 2; and Helen Elizabeth Bird, infant, arrived at Quebec City on the *Hibernian*. When exactly the rest of their children came is not known but by the *1871 Canada Census*, the whole family is living

in Barrie with Shearman's occupation as architect. For some reason, in the census, Shearman is listed as "Thomas" Bird, 33; wife Amy is 27; and children are: James 10; Edith 8; Caroline 7; Ruth 5; Ernest 4; Helen 3; and Eustace 1. Charles would be born in 1872.

They were devoted members of the Anglican church and Shearman Bird's reputation as an architect might have been a result of his plan for a new Parish Hall for the Anglican Trinity Church in Barrie in 1870. "It is an exceptionally fine piece of architecture, with massive roof- beams. The panels above the wainscoting are the pew doors from the first church, and the boarding above, the lining of the old church."<sup>3</sup>

By 1872, the family had eight children and had just completed a lovely family home, *Sans Souci*, at 17 Peel Street complete with Asian-inspired pagoda style roof lines and finials. Designed by Shearman, a little traditional tea house beside the stream along the edge of the garden was meant to be a place to relax and entertain. Also known as the China Bird House, the original colour of the roughcast plaster of the exterior walls was a dark red.



On Jan 27 1873, Shearman died suddenly at the age of 35. He had contracted pneumonia perhaps as the result of injuries sustained in a fall from the roof of the church under construction. Amy was a widow at the age of 31 in a foreign country with eight children, the oldest James, 12, the youngest Charles, just a baby.<sup>4</sup> Ernest Herbert Bird was four years old. Amy would live for another 50 years in Barrie. Their eight children lived to adulthood and had successful, financially secure lives: James Bird born Aug 17 1860 in China and died in Montreal; Edith Agnes Bird (1863-1954) born in Guangdong, China and died in Barrie; Caroline born Aug 17 1864 in China and died in England; Ruth born Jun 9 1866 in China and died in Toronto; Ernest Herbert Bird (1867-1930) born in China and died in Victoria BC; Helen Bird born Sep 21 1868 in Essex, England and died in Montreal; Eustace Godfrey Bird (1870-1950) born in Barrie Ontario and died in Barrie; and Charles Harold Bird (1872-1944) born in Barrie and died in Gananoque, Ontario.

In the *1881 Canada Census*, the family is living in Barrie with widow Amy, 39, as head of household. Oldest, James Bird appears to be working as a telephone operator while all the rest of the children are presumably in school. Ernest is 14 years old. This picture was taken at the Sans Souci House about 1880: from left to right, back row: Edith (b.1862), Ernest (b.1867), Helen (b.1869), Amy Laura "Amoi", Caroline (b.1864), Ruth (b.1866). Sitting in front from left to right: Charlie (b.1872), Eustace (b.1870). James is missing from the photo.



<sup>3</sup> History of Trinity Church of England, Barrie Ontario, 1835-1935

<sup>4</sup> Shearman Godfrey Bird and Amoi Chun by Naomi Ridout in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Vol 17, Number 1, Spring 2011

Amy lived in widowhood for over 50 years. When the children grew up and moved away, Amy found Sans Souci too big for her and son Eustace, who also became an architect, built her another house next door. This Tudoresque home at 88 Sophia St. E. still stands today, as does Sans Souci. She filled her later years as a volunteer in the service of her adopted church. Her love of flowers and gardening led to widespread landscaping, tree-planting and terracing of the Trinity Anglican grounds. She was touted as a fine devoted lady of the Episcopalian parish at Trinity church in Barrie: "Of another nationality and blood, she took the liveliest interest in her church. She was a devout worshipper, loved her church, and never failed in attendance till age prevented. She had a large circle of acquaintances, being a very high type of personality and maintained social contacts till her death in 1923. Miss Ruth Bird is the only member of the family still a member of the parish. Miss Edith Bird, and Mr. Eustace Bird, Toronto, Dr. Chas. Bird, Gananoque, and Mrs. Helen Gillet, Montreal, are other children. Mrs. Bird at this period made a canvass of the parish, and secured sufficient funds to remodel the whole of the church hill, and plant shade trees, perennial borders, and the great centre bed, the trees now being of great size."<sup>5</sup>



In the *1891 Canada Census*, Ernest Bird, 24, is a lodger in St James Ward, Toronto working as a "cashier". A couple of his fellow lodgers are also bank tellers. In the meantime, his mother is in Barrie with only Ruth and Helen still at home.

On Apr 11 1898, Ernest H Bird, age 31, banker married Adelaide Talbot Chilton, age 27 who was living in Goderich, Ontario at the time. Adelaide Talbot Chilton was born Oct 5 1868 in Washington USA, the daughter of Robert S Chilton (1822-1911) born in New Jersey, USA and died in Washington; and Mary Virginia Brent (1833-1921) born in Washington DC and died in Atlantic City, New Jersey. At the time of the marriage, Adelaide's father, Robert S Chilton, was the US Consul in Canada.

In the *1901 Canada Census*: Ernest, 34, is a bank clerk in Belleville, Ontario making \$1000 per year. He and Adelaide, 32, have a daughter, Virginia Bird born Feb 17 1899 in Belleville who is 2 years old. Their second child, Ernest Shearman Bird would be born Nov 22 1901 also in Belleville.

About 1906, Ernest was now out west and working in the Fernie BC branch of the Bank of Commerce which had opened in 1898. Then, in 1907, he became the manager of the Bank of Commerce in Nanaimo which opened its branch on Mar 7 1887.<sup>6</sup> For the first eight years, the branch had earned a moderate profit but with stagnation in the coal industry small losses alternated with small profits.<sup>7</sup>

Ernest and his family were most likely living in bank accommodations as in the *1911 Canada Census*, they were living on Chapel Street in Nanaimo while the bank itself was located at the corner of Church and Chapel. Ernest is 44; Adelaide 39; Virginia 10; and Shearman 7 years.



On Nov 3 1914, the *Nanaimo Free Press* announced that the City of Nanaimo had received approval of a \$50,000 loan from the Bank of Commerce to carry out some improvements to Haliburton Street which had been impossible to undertake due

<sup>5</sup> History of Trinity Church of England, Barrie Ontario, 1835-1935

<sup>6</sup> The Canadian Bank of Commerce: Annual Reports 1908-1914, Volume III

<sup>7</sup> A History of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Volume I by Victor Ross

to lack of public funds. The matter was the subject of heated discussion at City Council when the chair of the Finance Committee feared that, at the present rate of outlay: "the time might soon come when they would be unable to meet their payments." Another councillor suggested that the Finance Committee, instead of stopping every useful outlay, they might do better to: "set themselves to devise new ways and means for raising more money."<sup>8</sup>

On Feb 26 1915, Ernest's wife, Adelaide Talbot Chilton, died in Nanaimo of cancer at the age of 46. Virginia, their oldest child was 15 and Shearman was 12. Ernest immersed himself in the church and the community. On May 31 1918, the Nanaimo Free Press had a help wanted advertisement for: "Verger for St Paul's Anglican Church. Apply stating qualifications to E.H. Bird, Esq., Bank of Commerce or to Rev S Ryall, St Paul's Rectory". On Apr 20 1920, a group of golfers established the Nanaimo Golf Links Limited with E. H. Bird on the first Board of Directors. The club developed a nine-hole course on 86 acres of land leased from Western Fuel Company at Wakesiah Avenue, Jingle Pot Road and Comox (now Bowen) Road. Membership was limited to 250. The Quarterway Hotel served as clubhouse.



On Jun 26 1920, Ernest Herbert Bird, age 53, married Annie Blanche Burt at St Pauls Anglican Church in Nanaimo. Annie Burt was 36, born Apr 17 1884 in Paris, Ontario the daughter of Dr William Burt (1849-1919) and Janet McHoull Ballingal (1858-1904) who had married in 1880. The bride, who was given away by her aunt, wore a suit of Copenhagen blue, a white hat and a small ermine fur, and carried Ophelia roses. The maid of honor Miss Virginia Bird wore a dress of rose-pink taffeta and a large white hat, and carried pink carnations. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Bird went away by motor. Later that year they took

a trip to Alaska sailing on the *Princess Mary* from Prince Rupert and arriving at Ketchikan on Aug 16 1920. Their son, Herbert Godfrey Bird was born Aug 17 1921; and daughter, Janet Blanche Bird, was born May 20 1924.

Annie had obtained a BA from University College at the University of Toronto in 1907. In the *1911 Canada Census*, at age 27, she was working as a teacher at St Hilda's private school for girls in Calgary, Alberta which had opened in 1905. It's not known how she came to Nanaimo or how she and Ernest might have met.

In the *1921 Canada Census*, Ernest Herbert Bird is now living at 461 Vancouver Ave in Nanaimo with 2nd wife, Annie Blanche Burt; daughter Virginia Bird, 25 from his first marriage; and domestic Agnes Williams, 23. His son, Ernest S Bird, age 19, is working in Summerland BC as a banker.

Also in the *1921 Canada Census* is Ernest's mother, Amy Chun Bird, age 80, and still living in Barrie, Ontario at 88 Sophia Street with her daughter Ruth, 55. One day in 1923, while shopping downtown, Amoi Bird suffered a stroke and was brought back to Sans Souci, to rest. She was 83 years old by then, mother of eight, grandmother of 17, and great grandmother of four. She was also a world traveller, a perhaps unintended breaker of societal and racial barriers, a staunch supporter of her church, a charitable community member and a strong lone parent to a large brood of children. A week later, a second stroke

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<sup>8</sup> Nanaimo Free Press, Nov 3 1914

reunited her with Shearman. She passed away Sep 12 1923 and was buried with him at Barrie Union Cemetery on Sept. 15, 1923. In 1924, her children sponsored a stained-glass window entitled "The Resurrection Morn," in memory of Lieut. Sherman Bird, R. E. and Amy Bird, his wife.

Ernest Bird's daughter, Virginia was married to Harold George Hinton in Nanaimo on Jun 8 1925 at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church. The bride entered the church accompanied by her father to the strains of the wedding march from Lohengrin, looking radiantly lovely, wearing a powder blue georgette dress with scarf to match, and a large blue picture hat trimmed with French flowers. Mrs. Bird wore a cinnamon georgette dress with touches of red and hat to match, carrying red roses. Immediately after the ceremony the wedding party and immediate relatives motored to the bride's home on Vancouver Avenue where a wedding breakfast was served. Mr. and Mrs. Hinton left shortly after on their honeymoon by motor for Victoria enroute to a mountain resort.



This view of the Hotel Malaspina is from the harbour. The hotel opened July 30, 1927, and a new wing was added in 1940.

In 1926, E. H. Bird was one of that group of businessmen who decided that Nanaimo needed a new "modern hotel" that could also serve as a social centre for concerts and banquets. They formed the Nanaimo Community Hotel Limited which included other Newcastle residents like A.C. Van Houten as Directors. The Malaspina Hotel was officially opened on Jul 30 1927 with a community banquet and dance.<sup>9</sup>

By 1927, Ernest Herbert Bird had retired from banking and decided to pull up stakes and move to Victoria where he lived at 6 Sylvan Lane for the rest of his life.<sup>10</sup> He died on Mar 7 1930. At the time of his death, he was honorary treasurer and acting honorary secretary of the Boy Scouts; and a member of the Christ Church Cathedral building committee. His wife, Annie Blanche Bird died on Sep 15 1981 at the age of 97 in Victoria. She was also a life member of and, active participant in Christ Church Cathedral. Son, Ernest S Bird, died Jul 15 1972 New Westminster, BC; daughter Virginia Bird Hinton died Dec 3 1977 in Ottawa; son, Herbert Godfrey Bird died Feb 11 2004 in Prince Rupert; and daughter Janet Blanche Faucher died in Nanaimo on Apr 19 2015.



## 2. FREDERICK CONNON GRANT AND ALICE ELIZABETH CLARKE 1927-1936

Frederick Connon Grant was born May 26 1878 in Elora, Wellington County, Ontario the son of James Grant (1849-1911) and Elizabeth Connon (1855-1925)

He married Alice Elizabeth Clarke about 1905. She was born Nov 29 1885 in Saskatchewan, formerly called the North West Territories, the daughter of Rev Thomas Clarke (1854-1933) and Alice Sarah Couzens (1861-1950).

In 1877, Rev Thomas Clarke was recruited by the Church Missionary Society in England to respond to a request from the Diocese of Saskatchewan for a young lay missionary to inaugurate new missions on Indian Reserves. He sailed from Liverpool on May 9 1877 in a steamer named the *Dakota* which came to grief by running on the rocks in North Wales. About 700 passengers and the crew were safely landed by the help of lifeboats, and he sailed again from Liverpool on the steamer *Wisconsin* on the 13th, arriving

<sup>9</sup> Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition 1920-1967, page 52-53

<sup>10</sup> The Journal, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, November 1928, page 401

at New York on May 24. Travelling to the West via Minneapolis and St. Paul, he reached Winnipeg, and owing to incessant rains and bad roads, was delayed a month before continuing his journey in company with the Reverend J. A. Mackay, his wife and one or two other families. They walked and rode to Fort Carlton--a 500-mile trip--and took with them two wagons and horses, nine oxen and Red River carts loaded with a year's supplies and mission goods finally arriving at Fort Carlton on Aug 25. Rev Clarke was appointed to Battleford where the Battleford Industrial School would be erected in 1878. A photograph of the Battleford Indian Industrial School was taken in 1883 and on the back of the photograph is written: "The first Principal was Rev Thomas Clarke (seen seated in the front row garbed in clerical clothes)."



After eleven years' service in this position, Mr. Clarke resigned as principal and was appointed to undertake teaching and missionary work at Montreal Lake, Saskatchewan.<sup>11</sup>

We know the ultimate results of what, for the Rev Clarke was a mission of learning, turned out to be a life of misery and abuse for First Nations children forced to attend these government and church sponsored institutions. On June 11, 2008 the government of Canada officially apologized to former students, their families and communities for Canada's role in the operation of these infamous residential schools.<sup>12</sup> The road to truth and reconciliation is still underway as more atrocities are uncovered.

Alice Sarah Couzens was born Jun 22 1861 in Kenninghall, Norfolk England, the daughter of Robert Hunting Couzens (1824-1897), a cabinet maker, and his first wife, Julia Ann King (1830-1869). It is probable that Couzens emigrated to Canada from England after the death of his first wife in 1869 with his second wife, Jessie Gasson, and a number of children, including Alice, and settled in Listowel, Ontario. In 1879, the family moved to Manitoba coming west to Winnipeg by train then travelling further west by Red River cart along the Assiniboine River to a homestead about eighteen miles north of Rapid City, Manitoba. In the *1881 Canada Census*, Alice Couzens, 16 and born in England is living with her parents in Manitoba. At some point, between 1881 and 1885, Alice Couzens made her way to Battleford, Saskatchewan where she met and married the Rev Thomas Clarke.<sup>13</sup>

In the *1891 Canada Census*, Alice Couzens Clarke, 29, and Thomas Clarke 37, are living in Battleford and they have three children with the oldest, Alice Elizabeth Clarke, now 5 years old. Thomas and Sarah Clark would have the following children: Alice Elizabeth Clarke born Nov 29 1885; John C Clarke born 1888; Victor Thomas Clarke born May 24 1890; and Hermon Bunn Betts Clarke born Mar 9 1901. In 1894, the Rev Clarke is noted on the *Canadian Civil Servants Lists* as the Principal of the Industrial

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<sup>11</sup> <http://anglicanhistory.org/canada/sk/payton1974/12.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sasktoday.ca/north/local-news/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-in-north-battleford-sept-10-and-11-4032190#sthash.JnPWOFMu.dpuf>

<sup>13</sup> Saskatchewan marriage records are not yet posted online.

School at Battleford, NWT earning \$1200 per year. By the *1901 Canada Census*, Alice, 15 and the family had moved to Prince Albert.

In the *1901 Canada Census*, the Clarke family is now living in Prince Albert and Alice Elizabeth Clarke is 15 years old. By the time of the *1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*, Alice Elizabeth Clarke has left the family home to marry Frederick C Grant.

In the meantime, as already noted, Frederick Connon Grant was born in Ontario in 1879. In the *1891 Canada Census*, he was 12 years old living with his parents James and Elizabeth Connon Grant in Chesley Ontario on the Bruce Peninsula. Ten years later, in the *1901 Canada Census*, Frederick, 22, a bank clerk, is living in Winnipeg. Somewhere, probably around 1905, Frederick Grant married Alice Clarke.

Frederick Grant and Alice Clarke had the following children: daughter Alice Jean Grant born Jul 30 1906 in Melfort Saskatchewan; Margaret H Grant born November 1908; and Dorothy Elizabeth Grant born May 27 1910 in Winnipeg. She died in 2003 in Victoria.

In the *1911 Canada Census*, Frederick 33, a banker, and Alice 26, are living with her parents, Thomas Clarke and Alice Couzens Clarke, in Melfort, Saskatchewan along with their three daughters: Alice Jean Grant, 4; Margaret H Grant 3; and Dorothy E Grant 1.

In the *1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*, Rev Thomas Clarke and wife, Alice Couzens Clarke were now living in Prince Albert with son Hermann.

In the *1921 Canada Census*, Rev Thomas Clarke, 67; wife Alice Sarah Clarke, 60; and granddaughter, Dorothy Grant are living in Melfort, Saskatchewan. Frederick Grant and wife Alice Elizabeth Clarke Grant have now moved farther west to Moose Jaw with six children: Alice Jean 14, Margaret 12, Dorothy 11, James 8, John 4 and Mary Grant, 2 months. Also living with them is Alice's brother, Hermon G B Clarke, 20 who is a bookkeeper. Frederick is the Moose Jaw manager of the Bank of Hamilton a competitor to the Bank of Commerce. Between 1898 and 1910, the Bank of Hamilton opened 128 branches in Ontario and western Canada. On Jan 2 1924, the Bank of Hamilton merged with Canadian Bank of Commerce. Frederick also sits on the Moose Jaw Board of Trade Council.



By 1927, the Grant family has move to Nanaimo where Frederick took over as manager of the Bank of Commerce from Ernest Bird; and took over the house at 461 Vancouver Avenue. He would stay in Nanaimo until 1936.

Frederick was a Master Mason in 1930 at Nanaimo Lodge, No. 110 and also served a term as president of Nanaimo Rotary. His daughter Dorothy Elizabeth Grant was married to Lionel Arthur McKay Peake on Jul 1 1931 at St Andrew's United Church in Nanaimo. The bride was given in marriage by her father, and her



gown was of Chantilly lace over dull flat crepe. Her veil of Brussels net was fashioned as a fitted cap with orange blossoms at either side of the soft folds. She carried a bouquet of sweetheart roses.<sup>14</sup>

On Apr 8 1933, Alice Grant's father, Rev Thomas Clarke died at Oyster Bay in Ladysmith at Frederick's summer home called Craigelachie.

Frederick retired in 1936 from the Bank of Commerce and he and Alice moved to Vancouver. Alice's mother, Alice Sarah Clarke died on Jun 10 1950 in Vancouver.

Frederick died Feb 7 1966 in Vancouver at the age of 87. His wife, Alice Elizabeth Clarke Grant died Feb 8 1971 also in Vancouver at age 85.

### **3. JAMES HAROLD EAKIN AND ANNIE FLORENCE BEATON 1937-1947**

James Harold Eakin was born on Oct 18 1887 in Glennan, County Monaghan, Ireland, the son of Robert Wilson Eakin (1841-1923) and Sarah Jane Strain (1852-1931) who had married on May 30 1872. In the *1901 Ireland Census*, Harold is 13 and living with his parents and siblings in Glennan just 2 miles west of the Northern Ireland border. Some say that he came to Canada with his parents as a child but in the *1911 Ireland Census*, his parents are still living in County Monaghan whereas Harold was already in Canada as noted in the *1911 Census of Canada*. At the time, he was 24, single, working in a bank and living in Edmonton, Alberta.

His four brothers had also come to Canada either before or after him: William R Eakin in 1894 to Montreal; John I Eakin was living in Lethbridge, Alberta in the *1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*; and Fred S Eakin arrived on Mar 20 1924 at St John, New Brunswick with a new wife and young baby.

Their father died in 1923 in Ireland and in 1924, their mother was still living in Ireland. She appears to have come to Canada at the age of 76, aboard the *Letitia* landing at Quebec in June 1929 travelling with her youngest daughter, Millicent Eakin Johnston and her family. Sarah Jane Strain Eakin died May 9 1931 in Toronto, Ontario

On Apr 21 1915, James Harold Eakin married Annie Florence Beaton in Edmonton. At the time, he was the manager of the Bank of Commerce in the village of Rockyford, Alberta first settled in 1913 and located about 100 miles east of Calgary. According to the "*1909 Standard Bank of Canada – Rules and Regulations Handbook*", junior officers needed permission from the President to get married. Taking on debt was frowned upon and the bank was worried that a wife would spend what little money the man made plus a wife would be a distraction. It was also easier and cheaper to relocate single employees.

Annie Florence Beaton, born Apr 27 1884 in Glenelg Township, Grey County, Ontario was the daughter of Alexander Cameron Beaton (1855-1930) and Eleanor Ritchie (1858- 1918). Alexander Beaton was a farmer born in Ontario who moved his family of seven children to Alberta between 1901 and 1906 and applied for a Homestead on Nov 20 1907.

In the *1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*, Annie, 21, is living at home in the village of Strathcona, Alberta which amalgamated with the City of Edmonton in 1912. In the *1911 Canada Census*, Annie is still living at home, age 24 working as a Stenographer at the Land Titles office along with her twin sister, Maggie Beaton. Her father is a contractor building sidewalks.

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<sup>14</sup> Vancouver Sun, Tuesday, July 7 1931

The marriage took place at the home of the Beatons and the bride wore a travelling suit of midnight blue corded silk. The couple left on the afternoon train for San Francisco and other points south.<sup>15</sup> Annie's mother, Eleanor Ritchie Beaton passed away in Edmonton in 1918 at the age of 60.<sup>16</sup> In the *1921 Census of Canada*, Alexander C Beaton is a widower living in a two-room house on their homestead property. He died at St Paul, Alberta in Nov 1930 at 76.

In the *1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*, James Harold and Annie Beaton Eakin were living in the Bow River District of Alberta which probably included Rockyford where James Harold was the manager. Somewhere along the line, James Harold Eakin also worked at a bank at Elfros, Saskatchewan 200 km east of Saskatoon. By the *1921 Canada Census*, the couple had moved 70km east to Drumheller, Alberta and they would stay there until 1926. Daughter Margaret Elain Eakin was born Sep 3 1923.

While in Drumheller, Eakins, along with other businessmen of the community became embroiled in the One Big Union (OBU) debate. The OBU was a labour organization that proposed to unite all workers into one union formed on a class basis instead of a basis of craft or industry. It would have a common card for all members regardless of occupation and the initiation fee could not be more than one dollar.

According to one union representative: "A bunch of the men drew off in the corner of the barn to have a consultation. After they had their talk, they hustled each one of us into a car. They put me in a car owned and driven by J. H. Eakin, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Drumheller, and on the seat with him was William Henderson, owner of the Jewel and Western Glen Mines. There was a man on each side of me. The car drove at high speed to Munson, twelve miles, then about eight miles further, when they said to me, "Unload and keep going." It was early Sunday morning when I reached home and found my wife in a state of collapse

In 1927, the Eakins moved to Vancouver where James Harold was manager of the Dunbar Heights CIBC branch at Dunbar and 27<sup>th</sup> which is planned to be closed in 2022. They were there for two years living at 3478 W 36 Street. Then, in 1929, the couple were transferred to Courtenay BC remaining there until 1937 when their next stop was Nanaimo and the bank house at 461 Vancouver Avenue. During their time in Courtenay, Annie's father, Alexander Beaton, died on Nov 30 1930 at 76 years in St Paul Alberta.

Once in Nanaimo, James Harold Eakin participated in community life. He was president of the Nanaimo Rotary Club in 1941-1942. An ardent golfer, he was also a member of the Nanaimo Golf and Country club. In 1928, while in Courtenay, he participated in a golf tournament with Cumberland golfers, losing in the semifinals.<sup>17</sup> In Nanaimo, he participated, not too successfully, in the 1940 handicap championship of the Nanaimo Golf Club where the event was "favoured with excellent weather, the sporty Nanaimo course was crowded and keen play was enjoyed throughout the day."<sup>18</sup>



Harold Eakin  
1941-42

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<sup>15</sup> Edmonton Journal, Apr 22 1915

<sup>16</sup> Eleanor R Beaton, Alberta, Canada, Deaths Index 1870-1968; Registration Number 748

<sup>17</sup> The Cumberland Islander, Friday Oct 26 1928

<sup>18</sup> Nanaimo Daily News Mar 18 1940

For several years he took a very active part in the Red Shield Appeal for the Salvation Army. Fraternally, he was a past master of Nanaimo Lodge No. 110 A.F and A.M. He was treasurer of the Nanaimo Branch of the Navy League of Canada established on Jun 8 1943; and he was also a vary keen bridge player. He and Annie Florence Beaton had one daughter, Margaret Elaine Eakin, who lived with them at 461 Vancouver until her marriage on May 13 1944 in Nanaimo to Roy Joseph Bennett.<sup>19</sup>

James Harold Eakin was manager of the Nanaimo Branch of CIBC until retiring in 1947 at which time he had to move from 461 Vancouver to make way for the next bank manager. In 1949, he and Florence were living at 527 Arbutus Avenue. He then went to work for McLennan & Lenhart Agencies Ltd at 81 Victoria Crescent in the mortgage department until illness forced his retirement in 1970.

James Harold Eakin died Mar 14 1975 at Nanaimo at the age of 87. His wife, Annie Florence Beaton had died Oct 31 1951 in Nanaimo, age 66.

#### **4. ALEXANDER HARPER CARMICHAEL & MARGUERITE GLAHOLM YOUNG 1948-1956**

Next to move into 461 Vancouver Avenue was Alexander Harper Carmichael born Dec 8 1892 in Greenock Scotland just outside Glasgow. He was one of seven children of John Carmichael (b Mar 31 1840) a railway station master from Douglas, Lanarkshire, Scotland and Elizabeth Wilson (b1853) who had married Oct 17 1873 in Edinburgh. John Carmichael was son of James Carmichael and Sarah Watson, born in Douglas Lanarkshire.

Alexander may have first landed in Halifax in 1913 although in the *1921 Canada Census*, he claims he arrived in Canada in 1909 when he was just 17. He had a sister, Sarah Carmichael Bell in Vancouver, married to Frank Gibb Bell who came to Canada in 1907.

On Sep 21 1915, Alexander was living in Vancouver when he enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. His occupation at the time was a bank teller. He returned from active service on Jan 24 1919 on the *Empress of Asia* arriving at Victoria from Liverpool. In the *1921 Canada Census*, Alexander is lodging with his older sister Sarah and husband Frank Gibb Bell, electrician at 1243 12 Ave E and his occupation is bank clerk. In the *1922 Vancouver Directory*, Alexander is a clerk at the Bank of Commerce and living at 1957 Pendrell. He disappears from the *Vancouver Directory* in 1923 and reappears in the *Prince Rupert Directory* in 1926 as secretary, Bank of Commerce.

The Prince Rupert branch of the Bank of Commerce was opened on Feb 1 1907 as soon as the location of the terminal of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was announced to take advantage of the opportunities such a location was expected to offer. The bank officers who went to Prince Rupert took a safe with them, if little else, and the first difficulty which they encountered was when the safe ran amuck on being lowered from the steamer, smashed the sled waiting on the wharf to convey it to its destination and landed in such a perilous position that most of the population of the town had to come to the rescue.<sup>20</sup>



<sup>19</sup> Nanaimo Daily News May 16 1944

<sup>20</sup> A history of the Canadian Bank of Commerce with an account of the other banks which now form part of its organization, by Victor Ross, Volume II page 284

Then, on Oct 7 1926 in Prince Rupert, Alexander married Marguerite Glaholm Young (1897-1958) born Aug 28 1897 in Nanaimo, the daughter of the Honourable Frederick McBain Young (1863-1937) and Mary Edith Glaholm (1872-1955). Marguerite's father, Frederick McBain Young was born at English River, near Montreal, on Oct 30 1863, the son of the Reverend Alexander Young, a Presbyterian Minister, who had come to Canada from Inverness-shire, Scotland. His mother, the former Helen McBain, was descended from an old Canadian family in the Province of Quebec. After graduating from Osgoode Hall, Frederick set out for Vancouver, B.C., in 1892. Vancouver and Victoria seemed to have a plethora of budding lawyers at that time, and after looking around a bit, Young decided that the little bustling town of Nanaimo would be a good place to commence a law practice. Here he formed a partnership with the late E. M. Yarwood and, on Aug 16 1893, married Mary Edith Glaholm, whose mother was the first white girl born in Nanaimo. Mary Edith Glaholm's father, Thomas Glaholm was connected with the firm of A.R. Johnson and Company of Nanaimo.



In 1907, Frederick McBain Young became a judge of the County Court in Prince Rupert where he remained for 28 years retiring in 1933. He died in Vancouver on May 31 1937. Mr Young served as Grand Master of BC Masonic Lodge in 1901-1902. They had three children: Alexander McBain (1894-1950); Frederick McBain (1867-1937) and Marguerite Glaholm (1897-1958). It was fortunate happenstance that Marguerite and Alexander Carmichael were able to meet in Prince Rupert.

After the wedding ceremony the couple left for the south on a three weeks' honeymoon trip to the cities of Puget Sound and Vancouver Island and on their return took up residence in Prince Rupert, where the groom is an accountant in the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Alexander was noted, in his spare time, as an avid tennis player.

By 1929, the couple were living in Vancouver where Alexander was an accountant at the Canadian Bank of Commerce. They were living at 2211 W 37<sup>th</sup> and, by 1947, Alexander had risen to manager of one of the branches in Vancouver. Their son, Frederick Harper Carmichael was born in Vancouver on Mar 5 1929. He died Oct 11 2019 in Vancouver.

In 1948, Alexander was transferred to Nanaimo and the couple settled in to 461 Vancouver Avenue. By 1956 they were back in Vancouver living at 1950 Robson Street. On Sep 19 1958, Marguerite Glaholm Carmichael died. She was buried in the family plot in the Nanaimo Cemetery. Alex officially retired from the Bank of Commerce in 1960 and died Oct 7 1966, in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year while living at 1901 Barclay, Vancouver.