

## Daniel Galbraith: 185 Stewart Avenue

This is the earliest known surviving residence in the Newcastle neighbourhood. Originally built around 1890 and extensively remodelled in a vernacular English Cottage style in the 1930s, it is a good example of the stylistic evolution of a building over time.



The English Cottage Style was very popular in Nanaimo during the interwar period. Design features representative of this style include asymmetric building forms, rolled eaves (designed to simulate the appearance of thatch), multi-gabled and mixed-materials facades, dormers and jerkin headed and steeply pitched gable roofs. Most importantly, English Cottage style buildings were intended to exude “coziness” and old-world charm. This residence’s cottage makeover made the building more compatible with many of its newly built English Cottage style neighbours. Located on a corner lot at Stewart and Bryden on a major thoroughfare, the residence is a highly visible neighbourhood landmark. It is now painted blue.

### Who lived at 185 Stewart Avenue?

1. Daniel Allen Galbraith and Clark Cook 1892-1909
2. Richard Wyndham Nixon & Janet Grahame Pearse 1934-1937
3. David Cook & Emily Bailey 1941-1955

### 1. DANIEL ALLEN GALBRAITH & CLARA COOK 1892-1909

Daniel Allen Galbraith was born in March 1860 in Colborne Parish, Restigouche County, NB son of John Galbraith (1812-1904) and Elizabeth Vaughan (1820-1891). John Galbraith and Elizabeth Vaughan had married on Dec 2 1839 at Dalhousie, Restigouche NB.

Daniel’s father, John Galbraith was born Feb 13 1812 in West Kilbride, Ayr Scotland. His mother, Elizabeth Vaughan according to the *1851 Census of New Brunswick* was also born in Scotland but the *1861 Census of Canada* notes that she was a native of New Brunswick. Living next door to the Galbraiths’ in Restigouche NB in the *1861 Census of Canada* is Allen Vaughan who is also identified as a native of New Brunswick presumably an older brother of Elizabeth. It is believed that they were both born in Saint Martins NB on the Bay of Fundy and that their parents were: Daniel Vaughan born Oct 12 1789 and Harriet (Hattie) Elizabeth McLean born 1778 who married on Dec 22 1813 in Saint Martins. The Vaughan family originated from Scituate, Rhode Island settling first at Newport NS about 1768 and then moved across the Bay of Fundy to Saint Martins about 1796.<sup>1</sup>

By the time that Daniel Galbraith was born in 1860, as noted in the *1861 Census of Canada*, the Galbraith family already had seven children: Harriet, 21; Margaret 19; Mary 16; Elizabeth 14; Sarah 10; Catherine 6; John 4; and Daniel who was 1 year old. By the *1871 Census of Canada*, there was one more son born called James H Galbraith making Daniel the second youngest.

---

<sup>1</sup> <file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/note-first-families-is-a-collection-of-genealogical.pdf>

Daniel's future wife, Clara Cook, born in 1863, was also from Restigouche. She was the daughter of John J Cook (Feb 16 1812-Feb 8 1879) from Kiscadale on the Island of Arran in Scotland; and Margaret McPherson (1819- Jun 14 1868).

According the 1851 Census of New Brunswick, John Cook "*entered the colony*" in 1829 at the age of 17, with his parents John Cook (Sep 27 1773 – Jan 29 1864) and Helen Kennedy (Feb 27 1786-Jan 30 1865). The family settled at Charlo one of the older settlements in Restigouche County and lived near the shore. Located on the Heron Channel in Chaleur Bay, the first plot of land at Charlo was granted in 1799 and the oldest Catholic parish in the county was established in 1853.

Clara's mother, Margaret McPherson was born in Miltown Muinas, County Nairn Scotland just east of Inverness and arrived in New Brunswick in June 1819 just after her birth with her parents James McPherson (abt1779 -Jul 26 1857) and Ann Rose (1778 – Mar 8 1851). They were one of the first Scottish families in the New Mills area, just 12km east of Charlo. The family spent their first winter in a cellar they had dug and in the following year, constructed a log cabin. For some years they had no close neighbors.<sup>2</sup>

John Cook and Margaret McPherson married Aug 19 1839 in the parish of Addington soon to be called Colborne in Restigouche County NB. John Cook was a Justice of the Peace and a Captain of the Militia. His brother Alex, (Sandy) was a trustee of the Manse and later had a sawmill at Blackland Bridge. By the time Clara was born in 1863, there were already 10 children and brother Peter would follow her in 1864. Her mother died on Jun 14 1868 at River Charlo so in the *1871 Census of Canada*, Clara's father, John Cook was a widower with 10 children still living at home: Mary Ann 29; Catherine 29; Penelope 23; Elizabeth 21; James 19; Nancy 17; John 13; Rebecca 11; Clara 8; and Peter, 6.

### **SCOTTISH EMIGRANTS TO RESTIGOUCHE**

Restigouche County is located in the northern part of New Brunswick and today is bordered on the north by the Province of Quebec, on the south by Madawaska and Victoria Counties; and to the Southeast by Northumberland and Gloucester Counties. The County is divided into five parishes: Dalhousie, Addington, Durham, Colborne, and Eldon. The population in 1840 was 3,161, exclusive of about 1,200 persons who were supposed to be engaged in the woods, lumbering, at the time the census was taken.



In the first quarter of the 19th century, fishing for the unusually large salmon was the main industry on the Restigouche River. Prior to 1825, few had shown much interest in the northern part of the province, but in that year the great Miramichi fire raged through central New Brunswick and into Maine, destroying the forests that were the mainstay of the province's economy. The fire consumed almost 1/5 of New Brunswick's forests and many of the affected lumbermen and their families moved north to the great pine stands of the Nipisiguit and Restigouche Rivers. In 1832, a total of 52 vessels loaded lumber from the port at Dalhousie.

Before 1829, as many as 15,000 Scottish Highlanders like the Galbraith, Vaughan and McPherson families had emigrated to British North America. About 80% had originated in the Western Highlands a region not well suited either to large scale sheep farming or to extensive cultivation of arable land. These were not emigrants who had been cleared off their lands. They were just looking for a better future. The fact that

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.restigouche.roots.net/History/earlylifewmills.htm>

so many Scottish Highlanders settled in the eastern Maritimes during the late 1700s and early 1800s is largely attributable to the relative ease with which they could be collected by the many timber ships which were then leaving the Clyde for the Maritimes. The eastern Maritimes timber trade was therefore a crucial factor which determined where Scots would settle. How Elizabeth Vaughn Galbraith, husband John Galbraith and her brother Allen Vaughan along with the McPhersons specifically got to northern New Brunswick is unknown but presumably they were following the timber trade.

Between 1829 and 1840, a large number of Scottish emigrants like the Cooks came to various parts of the Restigouche from the Island of Arran in much different circumstances. Their leases had expired, all in the same year, and their landlord, the Duke of Hamilton would not grant renewal. At that time, the land throughout the island was unenclosed and cultivated on the communal system. The duke's scheme was to merge small farms to create larger units displacing many families. It was also apparent that not everyone who had previously been concerned with cultivation would get a portion of the new farms. In fact, those who were in arrears with their rents got none, while those who had their rents paid up got lots, but they had to pay up the arrears of their unfortunate neighbours.

In addition, rules and regulations were laid down and rigidly enforced. If the tenant didn't comply, fines were imposed. Goats were banned as being unprofitable, and swine, which had hitherto been allowed to roam at large, were ordered to be confined devastating the Gaelic culture of the Island. This didn't fit well with the Highland Scottish disposition and about 500 families on the island decided to migrate to North America. The duke was at least persuaded by his estate manager to buy at a fair valuation the stocks, boats and fishing gear of those who were leaving which helped finance their passage. About 400 of these families settled in Restigouche and named the point protruding eastward into Chaleur Bay at the mouth of the Restigouche River Inch Arran after their native island home. (Inch is Gaelic for Island.)

Captain John Hamilton, himself from Arran, was one of the heroes of the movement sailing the brig *Corsair* loaded with settlers in 1829 to the new Restigouche town of Dalhousie. He would become a prominent merchant, an exporter of square timber and a major benefactor to the Church of Scotland (St John's Presbyterian) in Dalhousie.

Clara's father, John J. Cook died on Feb 8 1879 also at River Charlo NB which is located on the Heron Channel about 3km east of Charlo on the road to New Mills and 14km east of Dalhousie NB. In 1866, it was a farming and lumbering settlement with about 35 families, including 7 Hamilton's, 7 Henderson's and 5 McIntyres. By 1871 River Charlo and surrounding district had a population of 275.

In the *1881 Census of Canada*, Clara Cook was now 18 years old and living with siblings Lizzie, 30; Rebecca 20; James 28; John 23; and Peter 16. Daniel Galbraith was 21 years old and living with his parents and siblings Catherine 25; John 23; and James 18. They were all still in the Restigouche area and in the same census registration district.

Sometime between 1881 and 1887, Daniel Allen Galbraith married Clara Cook in New Brunswick. About 1884, one of Clara's brothers, James Cook, had married Catherine J (Cassie) Galbraith, a sister of Daniel's. Then Daniel's brother, John H Galbraith married Clara's sister, Rebecca Jane Cook on Sep 5 1887 at River Charlo. They were obviously two very close-knit families.

***Married: At home of the bride's brother, James COOK, Esq., 5th inst., by Rev. Isaac Baird, John H. GALBRAITH / Miss Rebecca J. COOK, all of River Charlo (Rest. Co.)***

By 1887, according to the *William's British Columbia Directory of 1887*, Daniel and Clara Galbraith were living in Chemainus BC where Daniel was working as a labourer.

### WHY DID THEY GO OUT WEST?

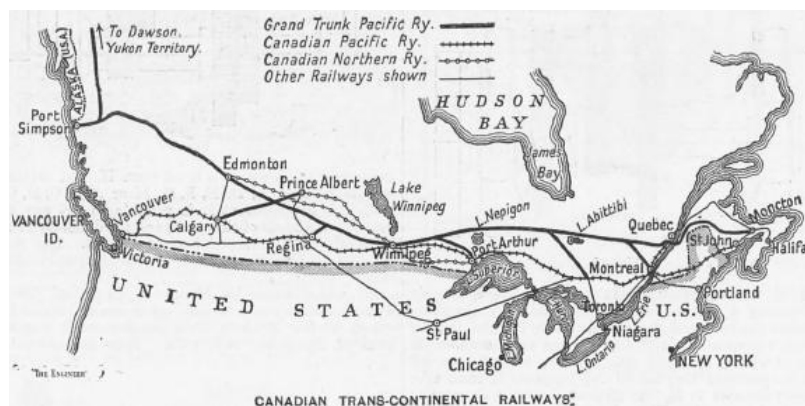
The Maritime Provinces in the second half of the nineteenth century experienced an out-migration strongly motivated by economic factors. Confederation in 1867 began the transfer of allegiance by the British from the Maritimes to central Canada. This combined with gradually diminishing returns in the timber trade and a decline in the significance of wooden sailing ships in international trade assured the complete collapse of the Maritimes' traditional economy. The world was moving from the age of "wood, wind and sail" to one of "iron, coal and rail" and only those Maritime cities like Moncton and Halifax which established strategic points on the Intercolonial railway were able, at least intermittently, to combat the out-migration trend.<sup>3</sup>

In a region so predominantly rural, the experience of most would have been limited to various types of farming, fishing, lumbering, shipbuilding and sailing skills that could readily be applied to the west coast as they had been done in the east coast. Clara's uncle owned a sawmill so Daniel was probably familiar with all aspects of the forest industry.

In addition, Daniel and Clara Galbraith fit the category of newly-weds and young couples who, with none or very few children, began married life by deciding to set up home in a locality with better prospects for advancement. They were also near to being the youngest in large families which meant that there wasn't much left to be passed on to them.

Movement west was also in response to the opening up of this region in the late 1880s and 1890s. There were numerable advertisements in Maritime newspapers for westward routes via the US throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. One could take a ship to New York City and board the Transcontinental Express which would get to San Francisco in 83 hours.

The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was completed in November of 1885 and the first transcontinental passenger train departed from Montreal's Dalhousie Station on Jun 28 1886 at 8:00PM and arrived at Port Moody BC on Jul 4 1886 at noon. The company produced a two-sided map as an informational pamphlet, probably around 1892. The front shows the CPR's lines and connections in the area of Canada and United States between the latitudes of about 38 degrees north and about 54 degrees north, while the reverse lists regulations governing homesteads, lands, immigration and settlers' effects — important information, perhaps, for those wishing to settle in western Canada. Two of Clara's brother appear to have followed her out west but neither to Chemainus.



<sup>3</sup> [file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/administrator,+acad5\\_2art02.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/administrator,+acad5_2art02.pdf) Out-migration from the Maritime Provinces, 1860-1900 by Alan A Brookes in *Acadiensis*

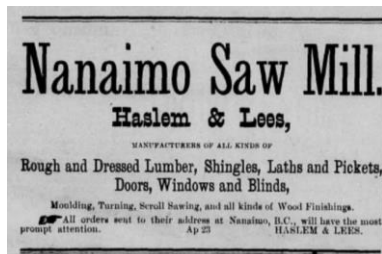
In the *1889 Henderson's British Columbia Gazetteer*, the Galbraiths are still living in Chemainus but by 1890, Daniel is now employed as a sawyer with Nanaimo Saw Mill and a resident of Nanaimo.<sup>4</sup> The couple first lived on Prideaux Street but by **1892, they are living along with Daniel's brother, James Galbraith, at 185 Stewart Avenue just a brief walk to work at the mill.** At that time, the house was numbered as 40 Stewart. Brother James was a fireman at the Nanaimo Saw Mill.

The Nanaimo Saw Mill, one of the first mills established on Vancouver Island, was located on Mill Street by the Millstone River. It was opened in 1885 by the Royal City Lumber Company of New Westminster and operations were commenced in a very small way, the business being devoted exclusively to the sawing of rough lumber up to the year 1887. At that time, Andrew Haslam (1846-1923) who was a shareholder in the company and manager of the Nanaimo mill purchased the property in conjunction with Andrew Elisha Lees (1855-1937) who was a sawyer. The partnership heralded the expansion of the business and the manufacture of all kinds of lumber. In 1889 Haslam secured full control of the business, and at once began extensive improvements all of them being close to shore and easily accessible.



*Steam-powered Haslam Mill, circa 1892.*

The son of a Northern Ireland customs officer, Haslam emigrated when 15 years old arriving with his parents at St John NB from Londonderry in May 1861. He made his way across the country, working in the lumber business at Fort Garry, precursor to Winnipeg, and then to bridge building and sawmilling for two years in Texas before coming to B.C. in 1876.



Through the '90s and into the new century, Haslam continued to prosper and to expand his mill's capabilities, including shingles, sashes and doors, even a shipyard, while involving himself in local politics. He served as MLA for Nanaimo from 1889-1890; twice as mayor of Nanaimo from 1892-1893; and three years as the MP representing Vancouver Island from 1893-1896.

A description of the mill in 1903 noted that: *"it is driven by eight powerful steam engines of 350 horse power, and five boilers, an uncommon feature in the working being seen in the fact that each machine is driven by a separate engine."* At the time, the mill employed about 100 hands, and had a capacity of 60,000 feet of lumber and 60,000 shingles per day of 10 hours.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 1890 Williams Victoria and Nanaimo Cities Directory: Daniel Galbraith, employee Nanaimo Saw Mill living in Nanaimo; and *Henderson's British Columbia Gazetteer and Directory, 1890*: Daniel Galbraith, sawyer, Nanaimo Saw mills

<sup>5</sup> Canadian Forest Industries 1903, page 793  
<https://archive.org/details/canadianforest1903donm/page/788/mode/1up?view=theater>



Looking very much the successful businessmen with his full beard (see picture) and distinguished bearing, Haslam — between his business and his Conservative, Presbyterian and Masonic diversions — built himself a mansion at the corner of Wallace and Comox. Naming it Haslam Hall, he paid what was then an outlandish \$6,000.

In 1891, Daniel and Clara Galbraith had the first of their three children in Nanaimo. John Cecil Galbraith was born Feb 13 1891. In the *1891 Canada Census*, Daniel, Clara and son John are living in the north ward of Nanaimo still on Stewart Avenue and Daniel is working as a sawyer. The *1892 Williams Illustrated Official BC Directory Part 1* confirms that he is an employee of Haslam's Saw Mill, Nanaimo. A second son, Vaughan McPherson Galbraith followed on 28 Mar 1893.

Twins Clara and Daniel Galbraith were born in Mar 1896 but sadly died early in September that same year. Daniel died on Sep 5 1896 from pneumonia; and Clara died Sep 7 1896 of cholera. Between 1881 and 1896, there was a fifth major international outbreak of cholera with cases in Japan and Hawaii but it does not appear to have become a pandemic at that time in Canada as there seems to have been only sporadic cases identified. However, the BC provincial government of the day was sufficiently concerned about the pandemic possibility that on Feb 17 1896 it required “stringent quarantine regulations” and the “examination and disinfection of all the baggage of Orientals who may seek to enter the Dominion by way of this Province.”<sup>6</sup> Then on Jun 30 1896, the BC government approved a comprehensive set of cholera regulations for the containment of the disease.<sup>7</sup>



The *Henderson's British Columbia Gazetteer* of 1900 notes that Daniel is now foreman at the sawmill. In the *1901 Canada Census* taken on Mar 31 1901, the Galbraiths are still living in Nanaimo with sons John Allen, 10 and Vaughan, 8.

On Aug 30 1901, Daniel and Clara had another son called Arnold Allan Cook Galbraith. There seems to be no further indication that Arnold Galbraith lived beyond a few months and may have been registered as Arnold Nelson Gilbreth when he passed away at just a few months old. My apologies if this isn't true but he doesn't appear on any future census records of the Galbraith family.

Daniel's career at the Nanaimo Sawmill Company was, alas, too good to continue indefinitely. In 1904 the sawmill was destroyed by fire. The fact that Haslam had to finance reconstruction himself suggests that he'd been under-insured, and when, shortly upon resuming operations, it was devastated by a second fire, Andrew Haslam was all but ruined.

Haslam was able to bounce back, at least to a degree, when he was given the opportunity to establish the province's log scaling department. By 1923, he was living in Vancouver and it's there that he died. His fine home at the corner of Nanaimo's Wallace and Comox roads survived as a city landmark for more than three-quarters of a century until demolished in 1977.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/arc\\_oic/0055\\_1896](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/arc_oic/0055_1896)

<sup>7</sup> British Columbia Sessional Papers 1898 page 1254

Daniel appears to have gone to work with Haslam in the province's log scaling department since, in the *1911 Canada Census*, he and his family have moved away from 185 Stewart Avenue in Nanaimo and are now living in Victoria where Daniel, age 51, is working as a log surveyor. Son John is 20 and Vaughan is 18. Daniel and Clara spent the rest of their lives in Victoria where Clara died on May 10 1940, aged 70; and Daniel on Mar 19 1944 at the age of 84. The last year they lived in the house at 185 Stewart was in 1909 and it then passed on to other families.

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR SONS?**

Oldest son, John Cecil Galbraith moved to San Francisco to work for the Federal Reserve Bank as a clerk in 1917-1918. He was drafted and served in WW 1. He married Lydia Laurette Cluff on Oct 1 1921 and they made their home in Pocatello Bannock, Idaho where in the *1930 US Census*, John was vice-president of a bank. In the *1940 US Census*, he and Lydia are living in Washington DC where John is a supervisor. John Cecil Galbraith died at 58 years old on Nov 26 1949 in San Francisco while living at the Elks Club.

Second son, Vaughan McPherson Galbraith, remained on the Island. He married Ada Jane McEwen on Oct 20 1920 in Vancouver and in the *1921 Canada Census*, they were living in Comox where Vaughan was a bookkeeper at a sawmill. Vaughan McPherson Galbraith died Jun 26 1942 at Youbou at the age of 49. His obituary noted that he: *was well known among the lumber men of British Columbia. Mr. Galbraith was born in Nanaimo in 1893 where his father, Dan Galbraith, was employed in-the old pioneer Haslam Mill. He received his education at grade and high schools here. He left Nanaimo when a boy of 19 years, and engaged with an exporting company at Hongkong, and stayed with that firm two years. He returned to Canada and went overseas with the 72nd. Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, in the Great War. Mr. Galbraith had worked for a number of lumber companies and seven years ago became manager of the Industrial Timber Mills, Ltd. Mr. Galbraith was second in command of No. 8 Company, Cowichan Rangers, it was while they were parading on Friday night that he collapsed and passed away. The deceased took a great interest in Masonic work, and was junior warden of the Masonic lodge, No. 33, of Duncan. He also belonged to the Tzouhalem Chapter, So. 26, Royal Arch Masons. He is survived by his widow, Ada Jane Galbraith; two sons: Daniel Ewen and Arnold Vaughan, of Youbou; his father, D. A. Galbraith, 605 Dunedin Street, Victoria; and one brother, John Cecil Galbraith, Washington, D. C. Funeral services will take place on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., in the United Church at Duncan, under Masonic auspices, Rev. J. C. Thompson, Youbou, officiating, and interment will be made In Royal Oak Burial Park, near Victoria.*<sup>8</sup>

## **2. RICHARD WYNDHAM NIXON & JANET GRAHAME PEARSE 1934-37**

Richard Wyndham Nixon was born in 1885 in Hound, Hampshire, England the son of Francis William Nixon (1842- 1924) and Edith Eliza Rose Malet (1849-1924) who was born in India, the daughter of Arthur Malet (1807-1888) of the Bombay civil service, and Sophia Marcia Willoughby (1827-1853) daughter of a baronet and member of her Majesty's Council for India. Richards parents had married on Aug 1 1872 at Taunton, Somerset, England when Francis was a widower, age 31, and a lieutenant with the Royal Engineers, and Edith was 23.

On Jul 1 1915, Richard married Janet Grahame Pearse in Port Alberni. Richard was 30 and an engineer and Janet was 29. Janet was born in Welland, Ontario in 1885, the daughter of George Stawell Pearse (1858-1937) a farmer and former ship's apprentice born in Devon England and Julia Louisa Thomas (1858-1941). In the *1891 Canada Census*, the Pearse family is living in the township of Bertie in Welland, Ontario. By the *1905 US Census*, the family is living in Buffalo, NY where Julia Thomas Pearse was born. From there, they

---

<sup>8</sup> Nanaimo Daily News: Monday, June 29, 1942

made their way across the US and in 1913 were living in Yakima Washington and by 1915 were in Port Alberni. George Pearse died there in 1937 and Julia Pearse in 1941.

Richard appears to have been an accountant. **He and Janet lived at 185 Stewart from 1934 to 1937.** Richard died Oct 4 1961. Janet Grahame Nixon died Mar 21 1964 at the age of 79.

### 3. DAVID COOK & EMILY BAILEY 1941-1955

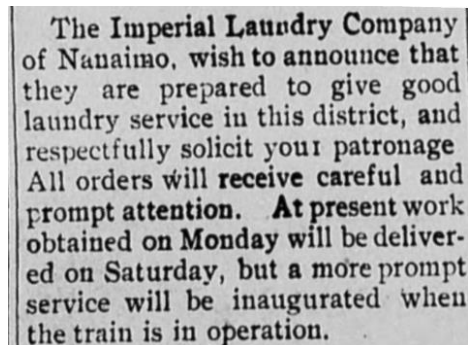
David Cook was born 1898 in Scotland son of William Patterson Cook (Jul 19 1870-Dec 18 1951) and Janet King (Aug 3 1873-Apr 17 1956). They had married in 1898 in Kilbirnie, Ayrshire where Janet was born. The family emigrated to Canada in 1904 from New Cumnock, Ayrshire where William Patterson Cook grew up and worked as a coal miner. The couple had three sons: David Cook (1898-1964), John King Cook (1900-1979) both of Nanaimo, and James Cook (1902-1987) who lived his adult life in California.

In the *1921 Canada Census*, the family was living at 175 Vancouver in Nanaimo. David was 22 years old employed as an "agent". His brother, John Cook, age 21 was working as a stationary engineer. His father, age 51, was working as a public-school caretaker. His mother, Janet was 48. His other brother, James Cook, had already left for California. By 1924, the family had moved to 375 Vancouver.

On Nov 28 1922, David Cook married Emily Bailey baptized Jan 12 1902 in Manchester, England, the daughter of William Bailey (1876-1957), a coal miner, and Alice Cleworth (1875-1963) of 30 Wallace Street in Nanaimo. Her parents had married Sep 16 1899 in Leigh, St Mary, Lancashire, England and emigrated to Canada in 1911.

In 1924, David was working as an insurance salesman for A.E. Planta Ltd and his brother John was a brakeman. Their father continued as a school janitor. His brother, John King Cook, got married two years later on Oct 4 1926 to Mary Miller Clark, daughter of John Clark of Merritt BC and in that year, John Cook was now working as an engineer at the Imperial Laundry. David and John's working lives would eventually become intertwined with that company. In the meantime, father William Patterson Cook opened up a grocery business at 405 Union in Townsite.

The Imperial Laundry had opened with great fanfare on Apr 1 1909 and intended to serve customers up and down the Island. It appears to have originally been owned by the Western Fuel Company and in 1910 was managed by an Edmund Wyatt. Designed by architect Joseph Henry Bowman, it seems to have been Nanaimo's first concrete structure. It was situated at 35 Comox Road at the corner of what was then Benson Street but is now called Cliff Street and was probably on the site of the current AlSCO Uniforms Store.<sup>9</sup> It was here that John King Cook would work as a stationery engineer.



The Imperial Laundry Company of Nanaimo, wish to announce that they are prepared to give good laundry service in this district, and respectfully solicit your patronage. All orders will receive careful and prompt attention. At present work obtained on Monday will be delivered on Saturday, but a more prompt service will be inaugurated when the train is in operation.

Architect Joseph Henry Bowman (1864-1943) was born in London, England on 24 Jan 1864, son of William Bowman, a master builder. He attended the South Kensington Art School and trained with William Rendell in London (in 1884-86) before joining his father as an assistant in his business. Bowman emigrated to Canada in 1888 and was active in Vancouver as a builder until 1897 when he joined the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Co. as a draftsman, remaining with them until 1908. He opened his own

<sup>9</sup> NANAIMO, B.C., Imperial Laundry Co., Benson Street at Comox Road, 1908-09 (Nanaimo Free Press, 29 Oct. 1908, 1, descrip.; 2 April 1909, 1, descrip.; C.R., xxii, 9 Dec. 1908, 29) designed by Bowman, Joseph Henry



architectural office in Vancouver in 1908 and specialized in the design of school buildings for both the Vancouver and South Vancouver School Districts. Many of these schemes were based on a symmetrical Beaux-Arts plan with an elevational treatment employing Edwardian features found on many institutional buildings from this era. In 1912 he invited his chief assistant Harold Cullerne to form a partnership, but within a year the dearth of work forced Cullerne to move to another office in Vancouver and Bowman continued to practice alone until 1922 when he was again joined by Cullerne. They remained in partnership until 1932. Bowman died in Vancouver on 10 May 1943.<sup>10</sup>

For the next 10 years, David Cook continued to work as a salesman with A. E. Planta Ltd.



Albert E Planta (see picture) was born Sep 11 1868 in Australia, the son of J.P. Planta. The family emigrated to Nanaimo in 1879 when Albert was a child so he was educated in Nanaimo and grew up to become a community supporter. Starting in 1905, Planta served eight terms as Mayor after serving as many terms on city council as well as being a school trustee for a number of years. He established a successful insurance and real estate business that he sold in 1911 to Dominion Trust Company who retained him to work as the manager. The business operated out of the present-day Modern Café building on Commercial Street constructed by A.E. Planta specifically for his company. Prime Minister Robert Borden appointed Albert Planta to the Senate in 1917 but Albert had to resign in Dec 11 1935 after being sentenced to two years imprisonment for fraud. He had used \$700 of a client's funds for personal use instead of the client's mortgage. Albert died Jun 19 1952 at the age of 83. Planta was another resident of Newcastle living at 325 Newcastle Ave, now a condominium.

Obviously by 1934, David Cook was at loose ends given his boss's upcoming fraud conviction. David began to work with his father, William Patterson Cook, who was still running the grocery store at 405 Union and living at 375 Vancouver. His wife, Emily, assisted with the business and they lived at 350 Union. Brother John Cook was still working at the Imperial Laundry and was living with wife Mary at 517 Vancouver.

In 1935, David and John Cook purchased the business at 35 Comox Road and became the official proprietors of the Imperial Laundry and City Cleaners.

Imperial Laundry & City Cleaners  
David Cook and John K Cook, Props  
Guarantee Moth Proofed Odorless Cleaning  
All latest equipment  
35 Comox Road. Phones 1235 and 252



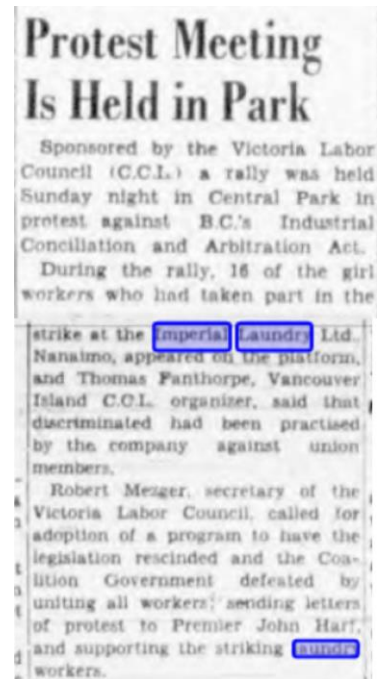
**In 1941, David and Emily Cook moved into 185 Stewart Ave and they would remain there until 1955.**

<sup>10</sup> obit. Province [Vancouver], 10 May 1943, 2; biog. & port. E.O.S. Scholefield, History of British Columbia, 1913, iii, 92-5; D. Luxton, Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia, 2003, 166-7, 494; inf. Architectural Inst. of British Columbia

In 1947, there was a strike at the Imperial Laundry which brought the Cook's into direct contact with another resident of townsite, lawyer Frank S Cunliffe who was living at 36 Stewart.

Some 30 union members went on strike in protest against the dismissal of two women employees. The BC government appointed Frank Cunliffe as special prosecutor in the case to see what action was deemed fit under the provisions of the recently passed *Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act* prohibiting walkouts called without the holding of a government supervised strike ballot. Cunliffe's position was that the union members participated in a strike before the new act's conciliation procedure had been complied with and as a result there were penalties for both union officers and members who participated in an illegal strike.

The issue appears to have been less about the striking workers and getting them back to work but more about whether a trade union, acting as a bargaining unit could be proceeded against under the Act. The court also considered the broader issue that a union by virtue of these new statutes of the province was an entity distinct from its members. Both of the learned judges expressed the view that such a union was by virtue of these statutes of the province an entity distinct from its members and a *persona juridica*. It's an opinion which has been quoted quite often by future judges but it is still not known what happened to the striking workers.<sup>11</sup>



On Dec 18 1951, David and John's father died and on Apr 17 1956, their mother, Janet King Cook, passed away after a brief illness. She was a staunch member of the First United Church, a member of the Women's Auxiliary and a charter member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

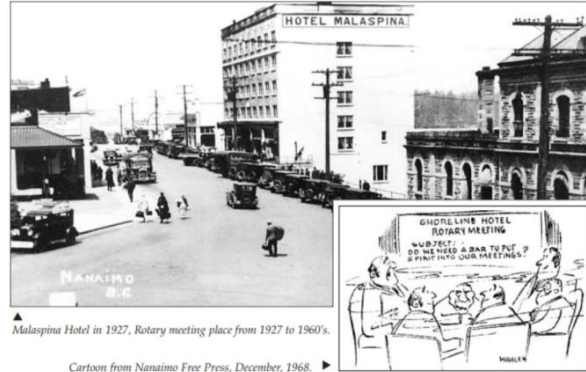
The fact that Janet King Cook was a charter member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union may have had an impact on son John King Cook's reaction to allowing drinking at Rotary Club functions. The Rotary Club met at the Malaspina Hotel from 1927 until well into the 1960s when due to a lack of suitable parking the Club moved back to the remodelled Windsor Hotel, then known as the Shoreline. While at the Shoreline the Club's controversy regarding a bar in the banquet room made the local papers in December 1968. The headline was "No Peaceful Sailing Over the Bar, It Seems":

*"Nanaimo Rotarians are split on a club matter that drew comments from many members in a lively controversy at Friday's meeting in the Shoreline Hotel. The question which sparked the debate was, whether or not the club should upset a 50-year-old tradition and have a bar in the banquet room, or not. After the pros and cons had been heard, a motion was passed asking the directors to study the matter and bring back a recommendation to the general membership two weeks hence. Those in favour of having the bar said it would add to the feeling of fellowship and give new members an opportunity to meet older members. A recent visitor to England,*

<sup>11</sup> The certification of a union with, among others, the power to compel an employer to bargain with it and enter into a collective agreement invests the trade union with those corporate elements characteristic of a legal entity or as Robertson J.A. wrote a "persona juridica" (*Re Patterson & Nanaimo Dry Cleaning & Laundry Workers Union, Local No. 1, [1947] 4 D.L.R. 159 (B.C.C.A.)*)

Canon Harry Greenhalgh said he noticed all English Rotary Clubs have a bar. "It just points up the different attitude between North America and Britain regarding drinking", said Canon Greenhalgh. "It would not add to the dignity of the club," said Jim Scales, echoed by John Cook and Ken Alexander"<sup>12</sup>.

In 1954, David and John Cook decided to retire and sold the Imperial Laundry to Nelsons Laundry out of Vancouver. Founded by Dane Nels Nelson in 1931, the company was the largest laundry and dry-cleaning enterprise on the Lower Mainland and subsequently expanded by purchasing the Imperial Laundry in Nanaimo, the New Method Laundry in Victoria, the Pioneer Laundry in Vancouver and the Royal City Laundry in New Westminster.



▲ Malaspina Hotel in 1927, Rotary meeting place from 1927 to 1960's.

▶ Cartoon from Nanaimo Free Press, December, 1968.



Nanaimo's city council is shown here in 1958, B.C.'s centennial year. Back row, L-R: Aldermen Eddie Blackburn, John Cook, Haig Burns, Bill McGregor. Front row, L-R: Phil Piper, Mayor Pete Maffeo, George Bryce.

John Cook joined the staff of Alexander's Motors as a car salesman and decided to go into politics. After one unsuccessful try, he was elected alderman in 1956 under mayor, Peter Maffeo. Cook was re-elected five times, and through his ten years in office, earned the nickname "Pothole Cook" for his constant efforts to have the city's neglected roads brought up to standard. Mr. Cook was also on the board of the Nanaimo hospital for 11 years and was a past president of the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Eagles Lodge. John died Nov 4 1979, aged 79.

David Cook moved out of Newcastle and was living at 94 Lenhart Drive when he died on Jan 29 1968 at the age of 69.

<sup>12</sup> <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000000387/en-ca/files/page/club-history/club-history-binder/Club%20History%20Binder.pdf> History of the Rotary Club in Nanaimo: Service above Self by Ian V Williams, Len W.B. Lovik and Bruce Gordon.