

Mrs. Isabella Hall
879 Beckwith Road

Interview March 15, 1972
Born October 15, 1880 at Duffton
Scotland.

- Extracts from 1902 Richmond Methodist Church circular: Contract let for Robert Gordon, Mrs. Hall's father to build the parsonage at \$1240 materials and labor, Cambie and River Roads accepted offer of James Sexsmith 2/3 acre land, \$400 cash for old Parker property.
- 83rd Anniversary of Church recently with Rev. Finmore (now dead) met Mrs. Hall.
- Father Robert Gordon from Scotland spring 1887 to Vancouver - parents both born Scotland - family came in 1887 - John, Alexandra, George, Isabella (age 8) and Margaret Ann died at 2½ years age on boat day they landed at Quebec, and mother - Mother had infected ankle - came from Vancouver to Richmond on tugboat middle of night - next morning Mother put on stoneboat taken half way between Terra Nova and Steveston, all night at Tom Smith's, next morning on to Steveston, tugboat to Westminster and St. Joseph's Hospital, 3 weeks.
- lived at Terra Nova - Dad built Mr. Youdall's house.
- brothers (older) went to school at Town Hall.
- Isabella not old enough to walk 3½ miles at first - long desks, benches - went there until 1901¹⁹⁰¹ when Lulu School built, supervised by Dad, secretary - Mr. Thompson and Mr. Youdall and Dad responsible - same year Methodist Church built - Town Hall burned down - Mrs. Youdall taught her 2 daughters and Mrs. Hall in her house until children old enough to attend school at Town Hall - went to Lulu Island School through grade six - no local high school - her first teacher Mr. Jamison became principal Mt. Pleasant School - last teacher lived on Kingsway, Dr. Atchison - school incidents ; A.B. Dixon, clerk of Municipality,

- anecdote re donkey and horse - had pot-bellied stove teacher stoked -
- winters were colder - bread froze inside house - Middle Arm of Fraser froze (1922) - older brothers skated on River - took out the B.C. Electric bridge when ice out - Marpole doctor was Dr. Lowry - first doctor in Steveston was Dr. Greer - then Dr. W.K. Hall, Marpole (wife living in North Vancouver) - Dr. Martinoff, Marpole, Russian doctor -
- from school days still living - Ezra Udy in Kiwanis Home - R.E. Jenne now at Chevelah, Wash.
- went out to work at home of Minister Rev. John Logan for a year - also a blacksmith, George Shea, Marpole and Mr. and Mrs. Bothwell.
- Oliver, Victor, Ezra, Miney, Florence Udy family had small farm in Brighthouse area.
- Jenne family had farm in Blundell area.
- *picked wild berries - Chinese and Indians picked berries commercially
- remembers cannery at Terra Nova, brought in Indians and built shanties for them - Indians too lazy and stupid - Chinese section - Indians soldered little ones (dead) in cans and took them back to bury at the end of the season - going to school incident with shoulder injury and cord of wood - took her in to Dr. ^{Brydon - Jack} ~~Bridenick~~, Main St. and 5 or 6 Ave. (no General Hospital then)
- when first came Cheese Factory No. 3 Road and River Road where early Coopers house.
- also said Cheese factory next door on Charles St. after O.B. Sweet gave up farm - basement shelves of Italian cheese, 1909, couldn't make money.
- married January 1, 1908 to Frederick William Hall, oldest son, born in Kentucky of Irish father 6-7 in family.

- 3 -

Mrs. Isabella Hall

- Dad has 2 horses, cows which she had to milk Saturdays when brothers went to Rifle Range - Dad made their first churn, square - built First St. Andrews Church, Richards St., not a nail in it - was cabinet maker joiner.
- made all doors in their Terra Nova house, oiled them - made desk and book case, beautiful.
- remembers sewing machine "Wheeler and Wilson" Mother brought from England, had a crooked needle, - Mother died 1940 - B.C. Packers bought house late/40's.
- got meat every 3 months, tugboat from Vancouver or New Westminster 'Fairy Queen?'
- had oodles of fish
- wagons brought once a week - Grauers, Dan McKay and Sam Churchill.
- then store opened No. 2 Road by River Road owned by Ken Sweet.
- used to pick raspberries on large Sweet farm before married - huge orchard - hundreds of meadowlarks - starlings take over robins eggs - now feeds starlings since leather jackets have come
- 2 Dinsmore children went to school with her, Dinsmore Island named after. - Used Eburne Post Office.
- went to Pt. Grey pick wild blackberries where a natural growth on mainland - also picked wild big Himalayan berries - Mother picked wild blackberries on the Island to make wine - then Municipality sprayed riverbank so berries, birds destroyed - a grove of trees near school found salmonberries - brothers fished - could buy a salmon at nearby cannery for 10¢ or get for nothing - had 30 pints in basement she canned herself - also smoked salmon in refrigerator 3 years old (smoked by brother who died and lived on Lassam Road.

- 4. -

Mrs. Isabella Hall

- recalls fish lying on banks, rotting, early days - 3 brothers worked in canneries, all foremen, in Sunnyside Cannery (north) now destroyed; another cannery;
- end of season all given a case of salmon (never without salmon) early women in cannery could wrap up all wanted, take -always had a garden.
- incident of driving into Vancouver in late 1890 with sister in old English 2 wheel cart and horse - workmen signaled of blasting ahead - couldn't stop horse, reared up, turned around headed home - horse sometimes had 'bit in her teeth' from Terra Nova to Marpole.
- incident of stagecoach - none when arrived - James Mellis (father of Billy) started stage in Terra Nova when Post Office there - 2nd oldest brother and Mrs. Hall coming home from Vancouver with Billy Mellis stage when Steveston Stage ahead had driver killed by falling tree on road - had to wait for help to clear road - so had to walk from Shaughnessy (hill) to Marpole.
- recalled time of flood on Julu Island around 1898 washed out family front door, between Christmas and New Years - Gordon house on Terra Nova near had build (by Chinese) dyke - trunk on floor washed through house ended in field - pigs, dog climbed on top straw stack at back 1/2 mile - 1 brother's bed only bed dry as waves went over house - all chickens drowned - little cannery across went out plus 1/2 orchard - had breakfast on top of front door - no one took a cold - after shovelled 1/2 inch dirt off floor.
- brothers made punts with canvas that could be raised - neighbors used to rent punts for hunters - used to be grain grown so brothers shot 50 ducks early times - 2 brothers later survived San Francisco earthquake.

- 5 -

Mrs. Isabella HallNOTE ADDED:

Mrs. Hall was a charter member of Richmond United Church and a life member of the Women's Missionary Society - two honors also bestowed on her mother. She also was presented a medal by the Canadian Red Cross for her services.

TAPE 10 - 1000