

VALLEY HISTORY AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A 1K0 November 2018 250-342-9769



Maud and Basil Hamilton

Anna Maud Mary Crawford was born in England at Litherland, Lancashire, on February 14, 1858. She was the daughter of the late Capt. Matthew Crawford and Mary MacWilliam Crawford. Maud was a graduate of the Toronto General Hospital. She initiated the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses and was co-editor of the Canadian Nurse. She also started and superintended the hospital when it was first opened at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

Before her marriage, she was at one time associated with St. Hilda's College, Calgary. She was married in 1907 to Basil George Hamilton. The Hamiltons arrived in Invermere, B.C. in 1910.

Mrs. and Mr. Hamilton were residents of Invermere for over 26 years, coming into the district when land was opened up for settlement. She was president for many years of the Windermere District Hospital Ladies' Aid and was a life member of the woman's auxiliary of the Church of Eng-

land in Canada. She was a member of the Canadian Women's Press club since its second year of formation. She was editor and secretary-treasurer of the "Living Message" for the diocese of Kootenay and president of the East Kootenay W.A. Conference. She and her husband helped exceedingly in building up Christ Church in Invermere. The land on which the vicarage now stands was donated to the parish by Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton.

Basil George Hamilton was born in Collingwood Ontario on October 14, 1869. He was an insurance agent by trade and leading historical figure in the community. He was a conservative, systematic man who believed in the importance of historical facts. For this reason he devoted much of his life to learning as much as possible about the earliest inhabitants of Eastern British Columbia. Much of his work involved interviewing settlers, Indians and miners. His correspondence with historians and museums was also extensive. Basil also kept accurate diaries until the day he died. The collection in our archives (Windermere District Museum) follows his travels as a CPR land supervisor (1898-1910) and as a gentleman from 1910-1933.

No news escaped B.G.'s eyes or ears. As a Notary Public and wire correspondent, he was usually one of the first to know of birth, death, or scandal.

Maud shared his enthusiasm for community matters. They had no children. Mrs. Hamilton invited Kitty Walker to live with Basil and herself for a year, with a view to adoption if it was mutually agreeable after a test period. Kitty lived with the Hamiltons for a year and rebelled only when she learned that with adoption she would become "Katherine Hamilton". Being Kitty Walker meant more to her than changing her name to obtain this coveted education.

A small emergency hospital was opened in Peterborough (Wilmer) in 1900 under contract of the Columbia River Lumber Co. Dr. Elliott attending. No women patients admitted. Later in 1900, the name of "Windermere District Hospital" was adopted.

In 1910 the Windermere District Hospital Association formed to finance needed improvements. Mrs. B.G. Hamilton called a meeting and the Women's Hospital Aid was duly formed and incorporated for the purpose of A- assisting the Windermere District Hospital Association in the upkeep and furnishing of the Hospital and B- suppling modern beds, linens and other comforts. In November 1910 the following were elected officers:

President- Mrs. B. G. Hamilton
1st Vice President-Mrs. Joe Lake
2nd Vice President-Mrs. R. Kimpton
Secretary-Mrs. G. A. Bennett
Treasurer-Mrs. George Starke.
Buyers- Mrs. Hannington and Mrs. F Hall .

The first object in hand was to procure two decent hospital beds, blankets and linens. The convicts of Kingston Penitentiary were the only makers of Hospital beds. The cost was considerable. Undaunted, two beds were ordered.

The Ladies Aid sponsored a "Basket Social" in the Wilmer Schoolhouse. So successful, the beds, linens and blankets were funded. They found funds in various ways to provide a kitchen stove, utensils and more furniture.

The Windermere District Hospital, Invermere Heights, opened in June 1914. The Ladies Hospital Auxiliary continued to supply all linens for every purpose. Bed gowns, pajamas, dressing gowns, slippers, bed socks and pneumonia jackets were also supplied. The ladies also took care of mending and making jams, jellies and pickles.

During the time of financial problems facing the Hospital Association in 1915-16, the Aid raised \$200.00 to cover back expenses. Many members assisted the nursing staff during this time and took over the annual spring cleaning.

B. G. Hamilton passed away in 1933. Though his health declined for a number of years, he continued to take daily walks, attend church and participate in many clubs.

Thanks to the Hamilton's, the history of the Windermere Valley will be alive forever. Maud passed away at her home at Kootenay Lodge in 1936.

Jessie Lockhart (Frater) said she didn't know too much about B.G. or Maud Hamilton personally but she did work for him one summer when she was 16. One of her duties was to go into the community and interview newcomers. She believes this is what sparked her interest in history.

Golden Star May 11,1912

J.E. Cornwall, manager of the Bank of Montreal at Athalmer, is building a nice residence in that town.

The football ground at Athalmer, located on land donated by J. L. McKay, is kept in splendid condition.

The automobile stage will be inaugurated between Golden and Cranbrook next week and will carry mail between those two places.

B.G. Hamilton of Wilmer, secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands, was in Golden during the week. Mr. Hamilton states that the offices of his company will be moved from Wilmer to Invermere before the end of the present month. This is the first important move in the development of the new town site in which, it is expected, there will be considerable building this season. The waterworks will be completed in about ten days and many other projects are under consideration. The new hotel, which is splendidly furnished, is taxed to its capacity.

Golden-Spillimacheen section of the Kootenay Central Railway is being rushed.

The Godlien Family

Godlien Family Reunion
Service of Worship and Thanksgiving
Kelliher Saskatchewan
July 20, 1986

Mathias and Hedwig Godlien came from Oslo Norway to the U.S.A where they lived until Madias came to Canada in 1905. He bought a homestead in the Garnock Saskatchewan district. In 1906 Hedwig and their 5 children, who were born in Minnesota, came to join him. The children were: Cora, Mable, Melvin, George and Hilbert. Altogether they had 16 children. Eleven were born in Canada. They were Bert, Lawrence, Kerney, Roy, Elvena, Marie, Freda, Sydney, Arthur, Myrtle and Raymond. All 16 attended Garnock school.

Elvena was the only one who did not marry. Mable, George, Cora, Hilbert, Kerney, Roy, Alvena, Marie and Myrtle all settled in Saskatchewan. Melvin made his home in Manitoba and Bert, Lawrence, Freda, Sydney, Arthur and Raymond made their homes in different parts of B.C.

Although in the days of Matt and Hedwig's lives times were not easy, they did an excellent job of rearing a big family and they both lived to a good age.

Hedwig passed away in October 1954 at the age of 74 and Matt passed in November 1965 at the age of 94.

Editors Note: Ray Goldien came into the Valley in 1944 with Ingver Byman. They worked for Elliot Logging. Art and Bert Godlien followed Ray a year later.

(Submitted by Brenda Godlien Semko)

1908— E.M. Taylor operated a Ladies, Gents and children's Furnishings Store in Wilmer. Wing Sun had a Grocery Store in the Union Hotel building. He owned it until the Hotel burned in the 1930's.

Memories of Wilmer

By Madeline Turner

Wilmer was a busy logging and mining community, which was also influenced by the influx of settlers brought in by the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands Co. Ltd., in which Hon. Randolph Bruce had a large interest.

The only branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada in this area was in a small building. There were two general stores, the Peterborough Trading Co., operated by Mr. F. Ball and the Wilmer Mercantile, run by Mr. Arthur Taylor and Mr. Horace Jones. They also had the Post Office. Goldie Stewart had the drug store. A Chinese laundry was owned by Wing Lee and the blacksmith shop was run by Billy Hautf. The hotels were the Delphine Hotel owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. George Starke and the Windsor or Green Hotel. A livery stable belonged to Gordon Palmer. There you could hire a team and democrat, saddle or pack horse. There were very few cars in those days. Mr. Bruce had two, Mr. Starke had a model with no top and Mr. H.E. Forster had a car.

As the railway was not yet built, all freight came by paddle steamer from Golden in the summer months and in the winter, by horse and stage.

The C.V.I. had their offices in Wilmer and they had built a large bunkhouse for the settlers to live in while their houses were being built.

There was plenty of old fashioned entertainment in those days such as dances and the 'Basket Social' which everyone attended. Music was supplied by fiddles and piano. In the winter, there were sleigh rides in an ox sleigh drawn by a big team. There was lots of hay to sit on and a hot baked potato to hold to keep your hands warm. Every Sunday afternoon there were skating parties up on the MacCarthy's pond and ski touring trips behind a fast team of horses.

Windermere Valley Museum Pioneer Cabin

This cabin is the most traveled building that we have in the complex. In 1962 the Windermere District Historical Society acquired the cabin from Kootenay National Park. It was placed on village property on the southern rim of Pothole Park across from AG Family Foods.

It was a long time dream of the WDHS to have a building to 'house' their collection of artifacts, books and documents that travelled in boxes from meeting to meeting.

By 1965, the Crook's Cabin was officially opened by MLA James Chabot and Village Chairman A.E. Erickson as "The Littlest Museum in Canada." Thanks to Ray Crook for the foundation, Ian Weir for the hauling as well as Simon Ronacher, Wilder Bros and E.E. Trethewey for the use of machinery.

Prior to this move, the little cabin, built by Ray Crook and his dad on their homestead as part of their tourist camp had been moved from Crook's Meadow to be used as accommodation for someone that looked after the Kootenay River fire-lookout a quarter of a mile down the road.

Then it was moved to be part of Kaye's Cabin (a warden's station) five miles east of the Radium pool and then to the Invermere Pot Hole. The fourth move was to the Museum Complex by the Station building. This proved its soundness of construction.

(Museum Files)

Golden Star December 7, 1928

The men from the Land o' the Heather assembled in force at Hotel Invermere on St. Andrew's Night and did honor to their patron saint. The haggis had an important and imposing position. Then there were Scotch reels, strathspeys and a goodly display of kilts. William Weir gave the address to the haggis as it was born in on high by kilted attendants. Orchestral music was furnished by E.E. Tunnacliffe, F.W. Hillier and William Weir.

Did you Know that wherever Scotsmen gather and a strip of ice is to be found, there will be curling ?

The clatter of the 'stones' have echoed around the world since the sons of Caledonia migrated to make empires. The Roarin' Game of the Highlands is now played through out northern North America and Europe. The game was played on the lakes and ponds of Scotland. History says that in 1607, in the Orkneys, that there were 'plenty of stones for curling.' Rough blocks of granite and whinstone were used in the early days, rounded at the base. A groove for finger and another for thumb served as a handle. It took a powerful grip to swing the stone in those days. They ran from 30 to 115 pounds. The average stone today weighs 35 pounds.

Movie Night at the Museum January 20, 2019

Dames- 1934 plus
Kaleidoscopic Eyes

Which is a great introduction to Busby Berkeley's exotic 1930's extravaganzas. Stage hopefuls versus a disapproving decency group.

February 24, 2019

Within the Law-1923

Produced by and starring Norma Talmadge this B&W non-talkie (with intertitles and dramatic piano score) is one of the earliest and best 'underdog to strong woman' movies.

2019 WDHS Executive

President: Margaret Christensen

Secretary: Donna Tunnacliffe

Treasurer: Josette Jarcho

Directors: Joy Bond

Anne Keely

Louise Frame

Sandy McKay

Audrey Mantyka

Sherry Dewey

Sandi Jones

Sue McDonald

(Compiled by Sandy McKay)