

out in 1933, Jean with husband Andrew Scott and daughter Eileen in 1934, and John with wife May and their two daughters followed soon after.

Around the house on Point Grey, as the children and grand-children arrived and became established, a large new "colony" of the original group from Selkirk developed. Unfortunately, Bob senior lived only thirteen years after his move, long enough to "strike it rich" with mining stocks, but not long enough to enjoy the results. Agabella lived only eight years longer. It was succeeding generations who put down roots in British Columbia. Gradually the Thomson dynasty made itself felt in Vancouver and the Gulf Islands.

0.6.1

John Thomson/May Wood:

John (J.) Thomson — 1885 - 1969

May Wood — 1889 - 1978

Married 23 Mar. 1910

0.6.1.1 Mary Isabelle — 1913 -

0.6.1.2 Helen — 1921 -



0.6.1. John Thomson of Tarbolton.

John, the eldest son of Agabella and Bob Thomson, was not strong as a young boy. In fact, his

mother took great care of him, because she had been so afraid "she would not be able to raise him". During boyhood he could assist only with the lighter chores, but by his teen years he was working right along with the men. It was sometime after he owned three quarters of Section 17-12-22 a short distance southeast of Bradwardine that John inserted his middle initial "J" as a distinguishing mark for his mail and business transactions from those of "the other John Thomson", a neighbor.

John, Andrew and young Bob were all born in the original small house on Section 22-11-22 and walked or drove together to Spring Valley School before going on to higher education in the city. Only two years apart, the three brothers went the same general route, although John had neither the energy nor the desire to pursue either a medical or legal degree as did the younger boys. John was back in Tarbolton and was celebrating his twenty-first birthday when on August 3, 1906 the great house-warming for the big brick house was held with friends and well-wishers from miles around. While brother Andrew was looking forward to medical school in Edinburgh, John was courting May Wood, daughter of an early English settlers' family, and planning to establish their home just east of Bradwardine.

John and May were married in 1910, the spring following Andrew's departure. They established their home as planned, where their two daughters, Mary and Helen, were born. An attractive, well-kept farmstead, it was convenient for the girls to walk in to the village school most days and for John or May to slip in easily to do business or just visit with friends. In 1928 John decided to give up farming, rented to brother-in-law Andrew and Jean Scott, and went into business in the second general store in Bradwardine. There he could enjoy seeing friends and neighbors frequently, and became involved in the young men's softball league.

When his parents sold the home farm, put his grandparents on the train to live with Mary Mitchell near Marsden, and departed for Vancouver, John and his family remained. Even when in the nineteen-thirties, they sold their business and followed the others west, John maintained the Bradwardine house for several years so they could return annually for the ball team's summer schedule.

In Vancouver both girls attended the University of British Columbia and worked in the Meteorological Bureau on Sea Island during the war. When, after the war, Helen and husband Harold August departed for Kelowna, John, May and Mary also moved inland. John and May enjoyed their life together until John died of a heart attack in Helen's garden in October, 1969.