

ROLFE, James (1848-1930s)

Penticton Museum Archives

All the information found below has come from the Penticton Museum. They have no idea where the things came from but we are delighted to compile at least a little bit of James Rolfe's life.

Jim was born in January 1848. There is proof of this on a discharge document from the Mercantile Marine Office, dated December 8, 1874 signed by Thomas B Dexter (master). He entered the Mercantile Marines from St John NB and was discharged in Dec. 1874. The document names the ship as the schooner *Wm Starrat*, from Windsor -tonnage 194 and the description was 'coasting'.

There seems to be no further information until a letter arrives in Naramata from his wife, Alice, dated June 22, 1902. It was sent from Mrs. Rolfe to 'Mr James H Rolfe, Columbia, BC' from Westbrook, NS:

Westbrook

June 22, 1902

My dear beloved husband,

It is with pleasure I sit down to try to write you a few lines to let you know the children and I are well and hoping these few lines will find you enjoying good health.

There is no school now, for the teacher's sister is dead and she went home. _____ can't write this time for this is all the paper I have until I can get some more. I tell you I am lonesome without you. I think the time long waiting to get word to go out west some days. I will never go but time will tell. I can't stay here much longer for there is to(o) many her(e). Jesse has 4 boarders so we are pretty well crowded.

I haven't heard from Jeannie since I wrote before but I don't believe she will ever be any better. I heard there is more cases of small pox in Parsboro. Mother is up to Elleattus? today. She is getting better and the children think a long time waiting for the _____ but they will be tired before they get there. I dread the journey, it is so far with five children. I will be glad when we get settled down for Lord it is so lonesome living this way. It don't seem that living this way at all does it(?) for it will soon be 8 years since you went away. I haven't any news to write. Write as soon as you get this and tell me all the news. I close with love and good wishes from the children and me from your absent but ever-loving wife, Alice Rolfe to my Dear Beloved Husband, James Rolfe.

The next item dated 1904 was a grocery purchase. Not sure which store, but items were:
potatoes \$.50

flour \$2.00
tea \$.50
bacon \$1.32
butter \$.75
baking powder \$1.00
salt \$.50
cream \$1.00
raisins \$1.85

In Jim's small brown book he mentions that he took three trips to Penticton in his row boat in 1904
In 1909 he received a notice of Assessment showing that his parcel of land was 1247 and the lot was 11 of lot 2711-284 and a half acres. The assessed value was \$750 and the tax was \$4.50. It also shows that he was in arrears, owing \$12.00 to be paid immediately together with a 6% interest.

1915-Looks like a purchase of two mares \$107.00 bought from J A Noyes. He then had a credit for the servicing of three mares @ \$15.00=\$45.00 - feed and one lariat. Balance due \$47.00

1916 Provincial Elections Act - letter to Jim Rolfe

Take notice that I have received an objection in writing to your name being retained on the List of Voters for the Okanagan Electoral District on the ground that your name is on the voter's list twice, and unless you show cause to the contrary, one of the names will be struck off and your name will appear on the voter's list as James Henry Rolfe, Naramata, Lot 2711, Teamster, and take notice that the County of Revision to be held on the 15th day at 10:00 o'clock at Vernon Court House.

Dated 18th day of April, 1916.

September 1918 - Farmer's Ordinary License certifies that James Rolfe of Naramata is allowed under the 'Game Act' to carry firearms and hunt game birds and deer on his pre-emption.

1918 - A certificate from Prof. Jesse Beery's Course in the Riding and Training of the Saddle Horse.

1919 - Letter of account with Matt G. Wilson, Paradise Wharf, Okanagan Lake. Purchase of supplies for \$258.10

June 1919 - Jim Rolfe applied for a Grazing permit, and received a letter from the District Foresters Office. The form was received but never applied for.

December 1926 - A bill from H B Rushbury - General Groceries and Provisions

2 bread - 20 cents

2 tobacco - 30 cents

cornflakes - 13 cents

1927 - A letter from the Government Agent suggesting that Jim had already received a cheque from them. no suggestion as to what the cheque was for.

1929 - A receipt from Jim Rolfe having paid \$6.00 rent for a shack he rented on April 1st, 1929

January 1929 - A letter from Ed Hayward to his friend Jim Rolfe

My Dear Friend,

Mr David Good and Mr John Clarnee (?) have both asked me re you moving back into the Hayward House and I have told them that you may do so.

All I ask is that you pay the taxes and take the same care of the property as before and you may have all the fruit for yourself.

The irrigation tax is I think payable in Naramata. Land and School tax is I think payable per year the total being \$3.60

So if you can see your way clear to pay this amount per year you are at liberty to move in there and stay until such time as I am able to dispose of the property. Mr Dan McKay has no authority to keep you out. NONE WHATEVER. Move right in if you wish

Ed J Hayward