

SAANICH ARCHIVES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 2007 GRACE CADDELL SUMMARY

EARLY LIFE:

Grace Logan Scott was born August 5, 1919 to James Scott and Lucy Miller Tate in Victoria at a private hospital on Rockland Avenue. James Scott, an immigrant from Scotland, was a homesteader in Saskatchewan. In 1913, in his fifties and semi-retired, he moved with his wife to Victoria, where they rented a home on Prior Street. Then they bought a home and orchard at the corner of Greenlea and Viewmont Streets in Royal Oak, where they grew apples and loganberries. The house still exists today, although it has been altered. James died of pneumonia in 1921. Lucy, 19 years younger than her husband, then had to raise two children, Walter, born in 1907 and Grace. Lucy was helped by her uncle from Manitoba for a year or two. Some of the household activities were making apple jelly and applesauce, canning strawberries from the packing shed on Haliburton Road, and preserving their own pears and cherries. Around 1935 salmon and cod was bought from the "fish Chinaman", and Walter fished at Beaver Lake with friends Fred and Buster Quick and Allan Rankin.

EDUCATION:

Grace attended Royal Oak Elementary for grades one to eight, where her first teacher was Christine McNab, then was taught by Miss McConnell and Howard Harman. She went on to Mount View Highschool, then Victoria College in Craigdarroch Castle, where she studied history, English, physics, math, economics and geography. Then she earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of British Columbia from 1937-40. There she studied law, statistics, accounting and English. Two of her professors were Dr. Sedgewick and Jesus Friend Day. When Grace returned to work later in life, she periodically upgraded her teaching qualifications at the University of Victoria from the late 1960s.

FAMILY LIFE IN VICTORIA:

After working for a year as an accountant in Victoria, and living at home, Grace married James Tierney Caddell on June 20, 1941 at Wilkinson Road United Church, with a reception at "The Thatch." They lived on Viewmont Avenue in Royal Oak. Their home included an icebox, a coal and wood stove and a wringer washer. The family bought an electric stove only after World War II ended. Housework was relieved by radio serials that were broadcast each day. Their children are James Scott (b. 1942), Byron John (b. 1945), Darrell Michael (b. 1949) and Colvin Neil (b. 1950). Grace's husband James died in 1970.

TEACHING CAREER:

Grace began teaching elementary school in the Sooke school district in the late 1960s. Some of the schools were: Millstream, Savary, and Metchosin. She retired ~1982.

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GRACE CADDELL INTERVIEW**

Thursday, August 16, 2007

Interviewer: Louise Ditmars for Saanich Archives

Interviewee: Grace Logan Caddell at her home in Cordova Bay

Grace, what is your full name? And who were your parents?

Grace Logan Caddell. My parents were James Scott and Lucy Miller-Tait Scott I was born August 5, 1919 on Rockland Avenue in Victoria. I'm a native.

Tell me a little bit about your early life – what was it like?

Well, I always lived at Royal Oak and it was country. It wasn't at all like it is now. The house we lived in is still there but so altered that – I haven't been inside but the outside is very altered. It was the only building between there and the Municipal Hall. It was just a big field, fields all around. Neighbours tethered their cows out on ropes – scared me to death.

Tell me a little bit about your parents' early life. Where did they come from? Were they native Victorians?

No, my father immigrated from Scotland when he was 17 I believe. He came to Saskatchewan with his uncle and family and then the following year my father's family all came. And they all homesteaded in an area south of Wolsley, Saskatchewan. Interestingly, it was mainly a Scottish settlement but there was one English family and one French family. Never any problem about language or jurisdiction or anything. My mother – I don't know where her parents came from – but my cousin told me that perhaps they were United Empire Loyalists. I know of her in Ontario and in Manitoba and she married her husband who was from Scotland. She married him at 18 and went to homestead in Saskatchewan. She wore a red dress to be married in because the man she married hated red and she figured it would be the last time she got to wear red. My mother kept that dress for years and a little red cap – I've seen the same thing in pictures sometimes. My mother was born in Saskatchewan – the first white baby in the area. Actually, her mother had another baby who did not live but Mom was the first one to live. I often think – there's a girl of 18 out in – no mod cons – nothing! My mom grew up in that district, my dad and his family had moved there. I imagine they all met through the church because there was a church built the year Mom was born. And it still operates. I've gone back several times for reunion parties through the church. My mother's mother died when my Mom was 14. My Mom was taken out of school to look after the 5 younger children – didn't even finish the year. And that was her life. She looked after brothers and sisters – 3 girls and 3 boys and Mom was the oldest. She married my Dad who also came from quite a large family although he wasn't the eldest. He had a number of brothers and sisters – two of them still lived on the farm when I was a child and my grandmother (Dad's mother) was there the first time we visited when I was little and some of my Dad's sisters married in the district and some of those kids are still around although they're older than me!

I think you mentioned that your father was a bit older than your Mom?

Yes, I think 19 years older.

Tell me the story of how the family came here.

Well, I guess they probably did well farming and I know that my Dad had come out here and visited the uncle who he had come to Saskatchewan with had moved out here and I guess he decided that perhaps he didn't need to endure any more long winters. So he sold up his farm and he moved out here and my brother was one year old at that time. They lived in a house on Prior Street just off Hillside Road. My Mom said that next door there were East Indians. She had never seen an East Indian before and was rather afraid of them. I don't know what she would do nowadays. My Dad bought the property, this orchard, Mom hadn't seen it – I guess that was common in those days. She said the day the realtor drove them from Victoria out to this place. And she said she looked across the fields and saw this house with a big red barn and thought "I hope I'm not going there" and of course she was. The orchard was a mixed orchard, mainly apples, but some pears, plums and cherries.

Was that the house in Royal Oak? Do you know the address?

700 block Greenlea now. When my Dad bought the property, he bought it from a Mr. Kerr and in front of the garden which had a nice fence around it; there were loganberries all down in front of the garden and down where the orchard was. So he bought that too although it turned out it was a road and for years, our friends called it Scott Road. But there's a Scott Road in the Shelbourne area so we had to change and it was called Greenlea. The other road came down from West Saanich and we didn't know the name of it for years but it turned out to be Raymond Road. It was split up - there were four parts to Raymond Road so it got changed to Viewmont and that's what it is now. The house is on Greenlea which is right behind the shopping centre now.

Is the old house still there?

It's there but very altered and has an addition on the back. I think it's been made into 3 or 4 apartments. I noticed one thing there and I was surprised. It was an old holly tree. I remember the holly tree. So my father had the mixed orchard, there were two more orchards sort of adjoining, the Angus's and beyond that the Brydon's, I think both of them were larger than my father's. He used to, I think, sell some of the proceeds to Copus and Young, a grocery store in Victoria. And I imagine he took some to the packing shed at the bottom of Haliburton Road. I know he used to go to town once a week and stock up and buy his groceries at Copus and Young. I loved Copus and Young. They had a little trolley system running around that carried the money from the clerk up to a central office that made the change and sent it scooting back – it was neat. I think W&J Wilson had it long ago. I saw it somewhere else.

Did you have siblings?

One brother 7 years older than I am – Walter Scott - who still lives in Kamloops. When we were growing up, of course, who wants to have anything to do with his kid sister, apart from that, there weren't that many people so we knew all the same people. We knew the families. He was friends with Buster and Fred Quick and Alf and Percy Blanco who lived down West Saanich and Alan Rankin.

What kind of stuff did the boys do?

Oh, well they fished, and when they were older, they hunted. Alan Rankin died as a result of an accident when he was out hunting – not a shot but he fell.

What kinds of things did the girls do?

Not much, hopscotch (I was a whiz at that), skipping, all the old games. Tea parties with dolls.

Tell me about the kitchen situation? Like, what did your Mom deal with?

What was her job?

We had a big kitchen with a large cook stove and off the kitchen was a large pantry, a sink and cupboards. At some point, I don't remember when, but I was fairly young, she had cupboards put in either end so there were a lot of cupboards and drawers. It was actually a very handy place but the people who lived there later changed everything around. Made a dining room and a kitchen out of the pantry and kitchen. It had a big back porch with I always called it a tin roof, it wouldn't have been tin, but it sounded lovely at night when it rained. In the rest of the house there was a hallway that went from the kitchen and there was a stairway parallel to that going upstairs from the front door. A living room off to the left, large front porch with roses growing in front. Upstairs there were three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Tell me about your schools:

Well, I went to Royal Oak Elementary School for 8 grades but I skipped and did it in 5 years. Three teachers for 8 grades and my teachers were Miss McNab Miss McConnell and Mr. Harmon. Walter's teachers were Miss Chandler and Miss Kinnaird. Miss McNab, (I thought she was great), but I thought she was an old lady – a teacher – I went to her retirement party and she recognized me (because I resembled my Mom). She said it was her first school and she was 18! Mr. Harmon later became a lawyer in a law firm in town. One of my friends was Lillian Exton, her mother was the janitor then (called a custodian now). There were no teachers with one class.

How many students in a classroom?

I don't recall – I should have dug out some pictures. Sometimes there were about 30 or perhaps it was smaller. I think there were that many but there was at least two grades in each class. An earlier friend I had was Vera Pimlott whose Dad had a grocery store but then they moved to Tofino. Lillian Exton was in my class. Beatrice Jones lived down West Saanich with her grandparents, the Grants. Bob Thompson, Eric Whitehead, Leslie Matthews – in the little primary school which

is still there, there weren't any washrooms so when you needed the washroom, you had to go across to the big school (two classrooms). Leslie Matthews didn't want to be in school so he'd get out to go to the washroom and then hightail it down the road to home. So someone had to go always with him to make sure he didn't take off. I often think about that because after the war he came home and used his university credits and went to university.

Tell me about when your mom was raising the family alone.

My Dad died when I was about 20 months old. The top part of the property, a strip of it, was rented to a Chinese farmer and the rest was just left – I guess the fruit was picked but a lot of it was given away. But some who were offered it would say “well, if you would bring it to me.” I think the first year she was a widow, my uncle, her brother, was back from the war and was going to university in Edmonton, came and spent the summer with her and taught her to drive. It was a 1918 Ford car. I remember her often telling me about having visitors from the prairies and Uncle Bob would drive them back to town to their hotel, and coming back in the car, he was singing, he loved to sing. One of the Saanich Police hauled him over, thinking he was probably drunk, I guess. Anyway, after Uncle Bob left, my mom's uncle from the other side of the family came and stayed, I think, a couple of years. So she had somebody there, but I don't know, she just got along. I guess she had good training when at 14 she started looking after siblings.

Tell me about your higher education.

Well, from Royal Oak, I went to Mount View. They had just built three high schools Mount View on Carey Road, and Vic High. Since Mount View wasn't finished when I was ready for high school, I went to Tolmie School which served as Mount View High School, the first year I was going. And then in Grade 10 it was finished, so I went there. I was younger than most of the kids. Mom didn't let me go to school until I was 7 so I had to catch up. Theoretically, it was divided into general and commercial – those who were learning typing, shorthand, they went to those classes, the rest went to French, Math, History. There was no crossing. And what a pity. I mean everybody could have done with a typing course. I remember we had a great principal – his name was Mr. Garner, I always laughed at the wrong jokes. We had a great French teacher, Miss Lucas and Miss Turvo taught English and under Miss Turvo I learned to like Shakespeare. I loved Shakespeare and all because of her. And Mr. Cliff who taught Science and Math. Mr. Lane, Miss Bean, and Mr. Gilbert taught Agriculture. Obviously, I liked some more than others and then there were teachers who taught in the commercial area Mr. Pritchard for one. Classes weren't overly big, most of them. I know the year we graduated Grade 12, the lady teachers wanted to combine with Mt. Douglas, one of the other schools, and have a graduation. The men voted it down, We went to school, wrote our last exam and went home. And when you think of the big production they do now!

So you didn't need a formal dress.

No, I remember when I was in Grade 9, there were very few girls in the class. I don't know how that happened but there were only 3 or 4 girls in the whole class. I was friends with Mildred Oliver, Viola Exton (Lillian's older sister), Jean Pratt. Other people in the class were Lloyd Main, Victor Moore, Bert Braidwood who tossed a caterpillar (the Agriculture class was going on a field trip) and it went down my back. He told me this and I didn't believe him, thank goodness, but it turned out it was true because my clothes were all stained. Everybody talked about it but I didn't report him but then he got in trouble with Mr. Garner. Had a hose pipe which he used on him. He would really be in trouble these days. That's about all that happened although I went to a reunion at Mount View before it closed down and I couldn't believe all the people I saw there, people I had known after going there, and I never knew they went to Mount View. Sort of Interesting.

So you carried on, and this is probably unusual for the time and you went off to College.

I did, I went to Victoria College which later became UVic (but then it was two years and affiliated with McGill - until UBC was built and then I went to UBC). It was at Craigdarroch Castle – it was great – I had English and French in the parlour, Math in the dining room, the ballroom was the library. It was just great – the French teacher was Madame Sanderson Mongden. For some reason, she called me little Scott – I don't know why – I guess I was little. A couple of kids there were younger – Jean Pratt, Paul Smith, Neil Swainson, I Think Neil Swainson was a professor at UVic in later years.

So, what were you studying for?

At that point, I guess I was just studying for my Arts Degree but then I got sort of hooked on Commerce – when I went to UBC. I went to UBC, enrolled in a double degree program, a total of 5 years, so I spent 3 at UBC. So with Commerce, I took Accounting, a lot of Economics, more English, I can't believe how much English I took, you know, Statistics, stuff like that. Bachelor of Arts and Commerce, but you know at that time, they didn't have as many divisions of things. They have so many different divisions for degrees now. It's incredible. I had a Mr. Field who had an Accounting firm in Vancouver who taught us Accounting. There was a Mr. Tupper who taught Commercial Law, It sounds like a dry subject but I could have listened to that guy forever. He was so good – he made it interesting. We had Dr. Sedgwick for English – Shakespeare in fact . He was sort of an eccentric. And we had Jesus Friend Day. He came to class one day, very drunk, opened up his book, gave us the same lecture he'd given us the last class he was there. The boys in the class just loved it. I learned from my uncle that he had been at the University of Edmonton, I think when Uncle Bob was there, and he was brilliant at that time. Anyway, he knew his stuff, but *these are* just the ones you remember. There were 3000 students at UBC at that time and the war started the last year I was there. So a lot of the boys were joining the ROTC officer training corps. A lot of them didn't come back either. Other than that, it didn't affect us too much and I graduated in 1940.

Where did you live when you were going to UBC?

One year, my mother came over and we had a nice little apartment overlooking English Bay and two years I boarded in private homes that took in boarders. There were no residences. I always felt cheated that I never got to live in a residence, you know, but that was the way it was.

Then, did you go to work after UBC

I worked for a little while, doing Accounting, and then I got married in 1941. I married Jim Caddell at the Wilkinson Road United Church on Wilkinson and Glyn Road. Reverend Allan was the minister at that time. On our honeymoon, we drove to Banff and Jasper. We drove over the Big Bend highway and everybody was talking about this awful highway but you know, we were used to the Malahat in those days and it didn't bother us a bit. We lived in a house that we built on our property at Royal Oak. It was on Raymond Road, now Viewmont Avenue, further up Viewmont than where my family's home was. When I was small living there there was one home on that road, the Scrootens, and looking across the field we could see McKinty's house and looking up the road we could see the Municipal Hall and then there was a garage and a house beside the garage, the Masseys, and that was it and there was the Young's house was further up West Saanich. Very sparse.

What did your husband do?

He worked at Safeway for a long time and then he was a salesman for a food company. He died in 1970 when he had just had his 56th birthday.

By that time you had 4 kids.

Well I had Jim, who is the eldest, who lives just up the road here, he was a teacher, Byron who now likes to be called by his middle name, John, who lives in Courtenay. He started out as a teacher but then went into construction and had his own construction business, Darrell, who lives in Deep Cove, and also was a teacher who spent his entire career at North Saanich. Neil, the youngest, who lives at Mill Bay, worked his whole career at the Provincial Parks. They are all retired now. Each son has two children – there are 7 boys and one girl. The two oldest are in Courtenay (John's kids). John's son, John, works for Sysco Products *and* has two young children Easton, and Amelia. His (John Sr.'s) daughter, Jennifer, is a radiologist in Comox. Of Jim's boys, Murray is a Commercial Transport Mechanic and Russell is a Hospital Pharmacy Tech, both living in Victoria. Of Darrell's boys, Tyler has just finished at UBC as an Industrial Ed teacher, and Dustin is in Sheet Metal, both living in the area. Of Neil's boys, Kevin is in Calgary doing Computer Programming and Jeffrey is an apprentice electrician.

Take me back to the time when you were married and your husband was still alive. What kind of situation did you have in your kitchen?

This would be a '40s kitchen. I started out with a wood and coal stove and there was a furnace (*though* not at my mother's place), later I got an electric stove. I

had an old wringer washer but quite a lot later I got a better washing machine, thank goodness. Besides the kitchen, we had a basement with a *wood and coal* furnace. It had a living room and dining room separated by French doors. A fireplace in the living room and then a single French door out into the hallway. Quite a large front hall, stairs going up upstairs. Two bedrooms down, *small bedrooms for the boys upstairs*. One bathroom for six people!

Did things improve a bit after the war?

Well, we all had of course ration books. I did fine with all the kids' ration books, you know. I didn't need all that. Tea and butter....

Did you buy more appliances?

Well, we did get, not immediately after the war, but I did get a better washer and dryer eventually. When I wanted a deep freeze, it was very hard to get, I think that was in 1974, maybe. I know that I went back to Saskatchewan for a reunion of the church, actually, but also I went by train and went as far as Brandon, hired a car, drove to Minnedosa where I knew my mother's uncles had lived because she had taken us to visit when I was 9 years old. So when I was there in 1974, I met a couple who lived in the seniors' home, it was a lovely place, the grandson came to visit and he worked in an appliance store there. I remarked to him that I wanted a deep freeze but I wasn't able to get them. He said, oh it's easy to get them here. So I guess it was just Victoria being on the coast. Three uncles of my mother's, three bachelors, they lived in a nice house, the old house they had previously lived in was still on the property, they each had their appointed chores, one did the washing every week, one did most of the cooking, one did the gardening, Uncle Jack did the gardening, but because he didn't like onions, he didn't look after Uncle Will's onions. Strangely enough Uncle Will died as a result of an accident with a team of horses. Logan's mother in Ontario died as the result of a runaway, she was driving a buggy and then my mother's brother was injured at Fort St. James, when they were building the Alaska Highway, he managed to get the US Army to help him get out to Vancouver, but he many years later he died as a result of that accident, he was paralyzed completely from it. Sort of ironic, that they were all horse related. And lots of spinsters and bachelors in the family. Those three bachelors and in my mother's family, of six kids, one boy died from the flu in 1918, one got married, Uncle Bob, and the third was Uncle Jim. Of the girls, my mother got married, the other two never did and they lived to a good old age.

So your husband died around 1970. Tell me how you managed around that time.

Luckily, I was working or I wouldn't have. Neil and Darrell were still home. I was a teacher in Sooke District.

When had you started there?

Probably late '60s. Maybe 1967. So I hadn't been teaching for long. I had my two degrees but I went back to UVic then and took an Education year before I went

teaching. There were a lot of people at that time who, if they had their degrees, got jobs teaching but I think it must have been difficult.

What grades did you teach?

Primary, and library. I went to Millstream, Savory, Metchosin and Hans Helgesen. At that time they were sort of connected – Metchosin and Hans Helgesen. Now Metchosin is closed and Hans Helgesen is quite a big school. I retired when I was 62, not quite official retirement age, but I was sick.

So what were the things that kind of helped you manage after your husband died? You had a job and your kids were almost grown up, did the community...?

Oh, no, no. You know that's too late. If you'd gone back 50 years, they probably would have. I was independent anyway, I did it all.

Tell me some of the stuff that you've been doing recently.

Travelling, a lot of travelling, but not enough. I've been on bus trips to the United States, one to California, one through the States right down to New Orleans, St. Louis, Memphis, I see on the news today it's 30 years since Elvis died. This is the big thing in Memphis, you see his house. And I've done some short trips to the States, that one that went to New Orleans, into Arizona, New Mexico. It really covered a lot. And you know, what struck me, I didn't realize, what little Americans know about Canada. You tell them you came from Victoria, Vancouver Island, it might as well have been the moon. My better trips were to Europe, England. My first one was to England and Western Europe because Jim and his wife were over there so I spent a summer and then I had another trip that went mainly to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. Another that took in Italy, Germany, and Austria. I went to New Zealand and Australia, they were great. I've been to New Zealand two or three times *and the* Cook Islands. And last year I went to Norway. I'd already been to Norway and the rest of Scandinavia but last year I went on a coastal steamer which went from Bergen right up around the North Cape and then back, it was great. It was a small boat. I had a cruise through the Panama Canal and back through it again. Another trip that went up to Inuvik and then down the Dempster Highway and, *then to* Dawson City, *and* Whitehorse. Then on a cruise ship to Vancouver, then another cruise from Vancouver to Vancouver up to Alaska. Getting so crowded up there – Skagway Harbour was just cruise ships from side to side. And I went, 3 or 4 years ago, to Normandy. I wanted to see Vimy and all those places so I went on a trip that went mainly to those areas. It was quite good. Oh, and China – I went to China – the only trip I ever lost weight on because I don't like Chinese food but it was a good trip and I'm glad I went when I did because it wouldn't be as nice now. A lot of adventures with faulty plumbing. This was our criteria for a room, it was good if it had a clean bathroom and plumbing that worked, forget the TV....

Now, I would like to ask you how you've noticed Saanich change over the years.

Well, when I was a kid Saanich had two motorcycle policeman, Eric Elwell, and I think it was Lowell, and maybe a Chief so three policemen and Saanich then included Central Saanich. That was the Police force. The schools had a doctor that was sort of a school doctor district doctor and a district nurse. That doctor was something else, his name was Dr. Burman and he smoked stinking cigars. Can you imagine that today? The Municipal Hall was at Royal Oak then and one of the early workers there, the Reeve, was Mr. Sewell and his son was in my class in high school. One of the other workers was Kathleen Butt, and we used to buy our milk from them, they had a farm on West Saanich. She used to bring the milk every morning, in a little enamel pail, and leave it on the seat at the entrance to Municipal Hall and we'd go pick it up from there. Interesting. Her sister had a food delivery thing, she'd take dairy products, I guess eggs and vegetables and milk, and she had a little route she went somewhere in town, I think Oak Bay, with a horse and buggy. That was a long time ago. My mother always told us, was warning us (every time there were three flakes of snow) that there would be another 1916 when it took the army 5 days to shovel out the road out from town to the Quadra Street hill where you could see them coming over the hill. And I think Mom said she didn't get out for weeks (Walter was maybe three). Interesting that it took 80 years before it came again (*Blizzard of 1996*). I don't know that much improved in the handling of it. Broadmead was still the Rithet Farm and in 1920 I think Rithets divided some of their land and sold 5 acre parcels and my Dad bought a 5 acre parcel of land from Rithet's just right across the road from where they lived. It's where the Royal Oak Shopping Centre is today. I think they used to get their milk from Rithet's Farm, before we got it from the Butts. And later we got it from the Quick's because they had a dairy. Kids came for school on the bus from way out West Saanich, Old West Road, East Saanich Road, all down around Cordova Bay. Drapers who lived on Sayward Road. It has certainly changed. My Mom used to buy strawberries from the packing house at the bottom of Haliburton Road and I think Mr. Coton used to be in charge of it. He had a small little berry farm off Haliburton Road. My Mom would buy a wooden bucket of strawberries for a \$1.00. I paid \$3.75 this morning for a little basket.