

Three Charles Edward Stewarts and Their Families

by Louise Hammett and Barb Prescott

If you have wandered in St. Luke's cemetery, you may have noticed the Stewart Family grave in Row G, the row closest to Cedar Hill Road. In this family grave, you'll find three Charles Edward Stewarts! How confusing is that! Here is some information to help you sort out these three Charles Edward Stewarts and the other family members interred in this Stewart family grave.

The Stewart family parents/grandparents came from England to Victoria via Argentina and Manitoba. Theirs is one of the many interesting journeys taken by those now resting in St. Luke's cemetery.



*The Stewart Family Grave
Row G, Plots 37 and 38*



C. Stewart. Oct. 1862

Charles Edward Stewart (known as Charlie) was born in 1845 in Croydon, England. He was the son of an Anglican minister. In the 1860s, he served in the Royal Navy and then moved to Argentina where he was a railroad engineer and sheep farmer. He married **Edith Rachel Arden (Edie)** in England in 1882 and she joined him in Argentina where they began a family. They returned to England in the early 1890s where Charlie attempted a poultry business in Bedford. He moved to Manitoba near MacGregor in 1895 and began farming. In 1918, Charlie and Edie visited Victoria where they decided to remain. Originally, they lived on Richmond Road (across from the "Normal School" - now Camosun College) but soon bought a house on McIvor Avenue where they lived until their deaths in 1931.

Edith Rachel Arden (Edie) was born in 1855 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England.

After her marriage, she and her husband lived for ten years in Argentina, where five of their children were born. About Edie and Charlie's time in Argentina, her obituary notes, "Life in the Argentine in the country districts was crude and strenuous, with very little organized church life, but in spite of surroundings Mr. and Mrs. Stewart made their Christian influence felt." After leaving Argentina and returning to England, Edie came to Canada in 1896 with four of her children, a year after Charlie and their second oldest son left England for Canada. Two children were left in England and were raised there. The family settled in Katrime and then in MacGregor in Manitoba. Edie taught piano and played the organ at the church in MacGregor. She was made a life member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Church in MacGregor and was also president of the Sunday School for a number of years and honorary regent of Britannia Chapter, I.O.D.E. (International Daughters of the Empire). On arriving in Victoria in 1918, Mrs. Stewart was connected with St. John's Church, again working with the WA. After two years, the Stewarts transferred to St.



Luke's where she again became the WA President. Edie was the mother of seven children, five sons and two daughters. She lost, within four years, three of the four sons who went overseas in the Great War, and a married daughter. Mrs. Stewart's obituary notes, "Mrs. Stewart's life was an example of untiring fortitude and patience amid difficult conditions, notwithstanding which, she gave of her utmost in enthusiasm, interest, and care to God's work. She was a woman of culture with a delightful sense of humour and charm of manner, which endeared her to her many friends, who realize also her sterling character and its spiritual strength whereby alone she was enabled to 'Carry on.' "



Charles Edward Stewart (Ned) was born in 1886 in Mar del Plata, Argentina as a British subject. He and his family moved to Bedford, England in the early 1890s and in May 1896, Ned sailed to Canada and settled near MacGregor, Manitoba with his family. He was a jack-of-all-trades: joining the militia, farming, railroad worker, maintaining grain elevators, cowboy in Alberta, and building paddle wheelers up north. In 1914, he left the north and went to fight in WWI along with three of his four brothers. He was deafened by shellfire his first week on the front and eventually invalided back to Canada. He was the only son to survive the war. He met his wife **Evelyn May Maneely** in Manitoba and they married in 1918 in Victoria where he was working as a shipwright. They bought a house on Thistle Street and raised three children there. Ned

became a carpenter by trade and helped build many buildings around town. He did finishing work on the doors of Christ Church Cathedral, and on the Empress Hotel addition as well as St. Luke's Church. In the 1950s, he built a new house on Richmond Road and lived there until his death in 1966.

Evelyn was born in 1897 in Rat Portage (later renamed Kenora, Ontario). She, her husband, and their eldest son, Pax, had a small orchestra in Victoria named the "Stewart's Oldtimers". Evelyn played piano, Ned played fiddle and Pax played banjo, guitar and Jew's harp. Other (non-family) members played fiddle, guitar, and drums, and included a caller. They were well known around town and played at the old Crystal Garden as well as at Legions, clubs, weddings, and parties. Their New Year's Eve dances at the AOF hall on View Street were broadcast on the radio. They retired from dance playing in 1960. After Ned's death in 1966, Evelyn started playing piano at the Silver Threads Senior Centre twice weekly. She played dances there until 1983. Evelyn moved to the Fraser Tolmie Apartments a few years after her husband's death. She died in 1985.



Ned and Evelyn's children were born in Victoria and all attended school in the single room schoolhouse on Oak Hill, next to St. Luke's Church. Their children were Charles Edward Stewart (Pax), Ynes Helen Stewart, and Donald William Stewart (Bill). **Charles Edward Stewart (Pax)** was born July 19, 1919 on Peace Day, a celebration organised by Britain to celebrate the new peace after the Great War. Hence his nickname. He later attended Mount Doug (now Cedar Hill Middle School). He enlisted for WWII as a

bass drummer in the Canadian Scottish pipe band and was part of the D Day invasion. He married in 1940 to Rose Mae Muir before going overseas. They had three sons. In 1953, he received his teaching degree at UBC and remained in the Vancouver area as a high school math and science teacher. He divorced Rose Mae in 1961 and married Joan Nelson. He was a piper in several different pipe bands over the years and died in Port Moody in 1989.

Ynes Helen Stewart (Helen or Honey) was born in 1922. She married **David Mackereth** (a Victoria fireman) in 1951 and they lived on Richmond Road near her parents and younger brother. They had two daughters and later moved to Oak Bay once their children were grown. She died in 1999.



Donald William Stewart (Bill) was born in 1923. He enlisted, aged 16, as a side drummer with the Canadian Scottish pipe band. In England, he was transferred to the Edmonton Regiment and later, the Seaforth Highlanders and was part of the Italian campaign. He married Wilhelmina Petronella van der Tas in Amsterdam in 1945. After returning to Canada, he built a house next to his parents on Richmond Road and they had three children. He worked as a crane operator at HMC Dockyard. Wilhelmina died in 1958 and he married Muriel Dorothy Holligan (born in 1937 in Edinburgh, Scotland) in 1961.

They had one more child, **Kevin William Stewart**, who was born in Victoria in 1963. Bill rejoined the Canadian Scottish Pipe Band after the war and continued playing drum for many years. He died in 1995 and Muriel died in 1996. Their son, Kevin William Stewart, died in 2011.



Thanks to Louise Hammett for providing the pictures and biographies included in this article. Additional information was added from Edie Stewart's obituary published in The Daily Colonist, Sunday July 5, 1931. Louise Hammett is the great-granddaughter of Charlie and Edie Stewart, the granddaughter of Ned and Evelyn Stewart, and the daughter of Bill and Wilhelmina Stewart. Louise commented that the name "Charles Edward" has been passed down to sons until the most recent generation. Two more Charles Edwards are still alive (another Ned and a Ted) following on the tradition of these three Charles Edward Stewarts resting in St. Luke's Cemetery.