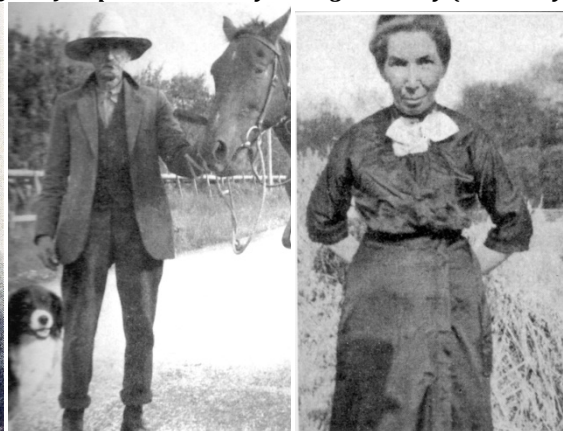
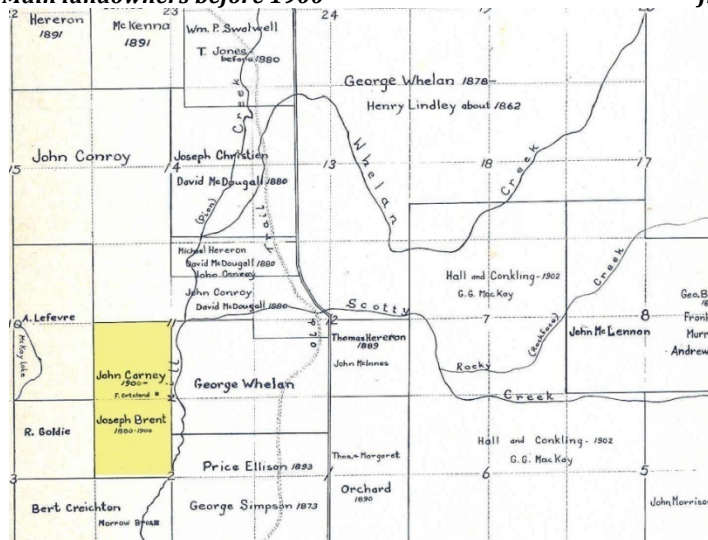


John James (Jim) Carney was born on August 31, 1894 on the Simpson Ranch, just north of what is now Kelowna B.C, where his father John Joseph was manager. Kelowna was then little more than a handful of wooden buildings on a wide dirt road. His father had earlier been foreman of the now historic O'Keefe Ranch near Vernon, homesteaded by Cornelius O'Keefe in 1867, where he'd met Bridget (née Casey), Jim's mother, working as a nanny and seamstress to the O'Keefe children. John Joseph and Bridget were both born in Ontario, John Joseph near Woodstock and Bridget in Fallowfield near Ottawa. Jim was the eldest of their four children. It was a tough, challenging life.

John Joseph & horse Billy Bridget Carney (née Casey)



Jim revisits "the home place" @ 1973



From "The History of Ellison District", Ellison Centennial Committee, 1959.

After graduating from the local schools, working to cover his own expenses (family legend has it that he spent one winter in a tent in order to complete high school) Jim attended Normal School in Vancouver for six months, sufficient to earn a job in Flagstone, a small settlement - long gone - in the southeast corner of B.C., where he taught for two years.

Leading citizens, Flagstone, BC @ 1915



Jim Carney's class, Flagstone, BC @ 1915



On February 7, 1916, in Kelowna, Jim enlisted in the 172nd Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, Regimental Nbr 687632 . (The 172nd was raised by the Rocky Mountain Rangers, described in [Wikipedia](#) as "*a body of mounted irregulars, consisting of cowboys and ranchers from what is now southern Alberta*", formed in 1885 to help quell the North West Rebellion. In 1916 the RMR were and remain today headquartered in Kamloops, BC). His Attestation Paper records his age as 21 yrs, 5 months; height 6' (tall for his generation); chest 38", eyes "blue" (in fact his eyes were brown), hair "red"; complexion "fresh", condition "fit". He states his occupation as "teacher" and his religion "Methodist"; interesting because both of his parents' forebears, from Tipperary and Limerick, Ireland, had undoubtedly been Roman Catholic. Canadian Census records of the time show few Roman Catholics in the Okanagan valley; most settlers

declared themselves Anglican, Methodist or Protestant. Military experience ? Instructor in the local militia cadet corps.

Attestation papers, Feb 11, 1916

172ND BATT. C.E.F. ORIGINAL
ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 687632
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? *Carney*
- 1a. What are your Christian names? *John James*
- 1b. What is your present address? *Kelowna*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Kelowna B.C. Canada*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *John Joseph Carney*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Kelowna B.C. Canada*
5. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
6. What is the date of your birth? *Aug 31st 1894*
7. What is your Trade or Calling? *School Teacher*
8. Are you married? *No*
9. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
10. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *Ind. in the Cadet Corps*
11. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *No*
12. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
13. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force? *Yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John James Carney*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *Feb 7* 1916 *John James Carney* (Signature of Recruit)
W. H. Jones (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John James Carney*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *Feb 7* 1916 *John James Carney* (Signature of Recruit)
W. H. Jones (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Kelowna* this *7* day of *February* 1916.

W. H. Jones (Signature of Justice)

Description of *John James Carney* on Enlistment.

Apparent Age *21* years *11* months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height *6* ft. *0* ins.

Girth when fully expanded *38* ins.

Range of expansion *3* ins.

Complexion *fair*

Eyes *blue*

Hair *dark*

Church of England ☒

Presbyterian ☒

Methodist ☒

Baptist or Congregationalist ☒

Roman Catholic ☒

Jewish ☒

Other denominations (specification to be stated) ☒

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will enter the date and particulars in any previous service, attach a slip to that effect for the information of the Assembling Officer.)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him *fit* for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date *Feb 7* 1916 *W. H. Jones* (Signature of Medical Officer)

Place *Kelowna B.C.*

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

John James Carney having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

Date *FEB 11 1916* *W. H. Jones* (Signature of Officer)

O.C. 172 C.E.F.

Corporal J.J. Carney, 1916 @22 yrs



RMS Mauretania at the River Tyne 1907- (Wikipedia)



On October 25, 1916 Jim and fellow members of the 172nd Battalion departed Halifax on the RMS Mauretania, a sister ship to the RMS Lusitania. Both ships were designed as luxury liners for the Cunard Line by the same naval architect and built at the same shipyard in England to much the same specifications. Both were launched in 1907, and at that time were the largest and fastest ocean liners in the world. Infamously, only 18 months before, on May 7, 1915, the Lusitania had been torpedoed by a German submarine off the south coast of Ireland with a loss of nearly 1200 lives.

The Mauretania arrived safely in Southampton, England on October 31, 1916. Jim and a contingent of 1400 young Canadian soldiers, most from the West, were sent to the sprawling Camp Bramshott, Hampshire, only to suffer – Jim Carney included – an outbreak of German measles, and in January 1917, of mumps. Bramshott at least offered the Canadians a step up in accommodation – wooden sleeping barracks. For much of their eight months training in Canada they had lived in tents. Jim, appointed acting corporal, became an instructor in physical drill and bayonet fighting.

In May, 1917, he volunteered to join the 72nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, a kilted regiment already fighting in France, and arrived via Le Havre at the huge British and Allied Army hospital and troop staging complex at Étaples, France. (At that time there was no Canadian Army as such; Canadian soldiers fought as part of the Fourth Division of the Canadian Corps, a component of the British Army, ultimately under British command).

Wikipedia: : "Étaples became the principal dépôt and transit camp for the [British Expeditionary Force](#) in France and also the point to which the wounded were transported....

(It) was a particularly notorious base camp for those on their way to the front. Under atrocious conditions, both raw recruits and battle-weary [veterans](#) were subjected to intensive training in [gas warfare](#) and [bayonet](#) drill, and long sessions of marching at the double across the dunes. After two weeks, many of the wounded would rather return to the front with unhealed wounds than remain at Étaples.^{[5][6]}

....."The military camp had a reputation for harshness and the treatment received by the men there led to the [Étaples Mutiny](#) in 1917. Étaples was also, from a later British scientific viewpoint, at the centre of the [1918 flu pandemic](#).^[10] The British virologist, John Oxford,^[11] and other researchers, have suggested that the Étaples troop staging camp was at the centre of the 1918 flu pandemic or at least home to a significant precursor virus to it. There was a mysterious respiratory infection at the military base during the winter of 1915-16.^[1]

..."Among the atrocities of that war, the hospitals there were bombed and machine-gunned from the air several times during May 1918. In one hospital alone, it was reported, 'One ward received a direct hit and was blown to pieces, six wards were reduced to ruins and three others were severely damaged...The nearby six-hectare [Étaples Military Cemetery](#) is resting place to 11,658 British and Allied soldiers from the conflict^[9]

(See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89taples_Mutiny#cite_note-shotatdawn-5)

Between May, 1917 and May 1918, Jim Carney must have seen a good deal of Étaples. The cryptic notations in his service records provide only a glimpse: "Jan 20, 1918, to Canadian Corps

Gas School", and (the same day ??) "Jan 20, 1918, Fell in trench while on duty injuring right knee, was five weeks in #13 Canadian General Hospital", (emphasis added) and - January 22 "Evacuated sick. Can Corps Gas School, Synovitis, left and right knees" (Synovitis is an extremely painful inflammation of the knee); "Feb. 27 "Report of continuing synovitis, reference to Harvard, USA". "Mar 14, Left for CCRC" (Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp). And so forth.

From May 1917 to August 1918 – 16 months – Jim saw extensive action along the Western front. He had arrived in France just one month after the historic Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge (April 9-12, 1917), which broke the seemingly intractable position of the German army in northwest Europe. Vimy Ridge was part of a broader conflict known as the Arras Offensive. The Seaforths, a component of the 4th Division of the Canadian Corps, were a major force in that campaign, culminating in what is now known as "Canada's Hundred Days" (August 8 to Nov 11, 1918). Jim Carney participated in the holding of Vimy Ridge following its capture and subsequent battles in the Arras (France) and Ypres (Flanders/Belgium) salient including Belleau Wood (June 1-26, 1918) as the Allies pushed north, though mercifully not Passchendaele. Most notable was the Battle of Amiens (August 8 to 26, 1918), strategically perhaps as significant as Vimy Ridge, for which Jim (and many other Canadians), was recommended for the Military Medal – a high level award for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (The equivalent for officers was the Military Cross). Jim received his MM on May 12, 1919.

[In 1967, as part of the 50th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, Jim 73, and wife Dora 64, revisited some of the scenes of the conflict in northern France and Belgium in 1917/18. Dora – a long-time writer – wrote of their experiences in her unpublished manuscript "Looking for Gabrielle". She quotes Jim: "We stayed wet for weeks. One time I remember we were in the line for 44 days. No chance for hot baths, I assure you, even when we came out on rest. We just scraped the mud off and cleaned ourselves as well as we could. On rare occasions we might get down to the divisional baths, 27 drops we called them. They served the whole division of about 12,000 men. If circumstances permitted we'd be marched down there, strip off and stand around in the open waiting to go in. Once there was four inches of snow on the ground, and we lifted our feet just like chickens...you know chickens ? (Mimics chickens walking in mud)...then the rain changed to hail.....The showers were one big room with pipes in the ceiling. A whole big group would all go in together. Then would come the order, "Soap on !!" Then a few minutes later, "Soap off !" In the interim we got the 27 drops. Then we'd all go out and get a clean suit of underwear."

Dora asked, "but you would have the same kilt and tunic ? So you wouldn't get rid of the lice ?" "By no means" Jim said, We always had the lice".

Jim's children recalled him describing how the hem of their kilts would become encrusted with dried mud and chafe the back of their knees raw. The lice would feast on the bloody flesh.]

On August 26, 1918, five days short of his 25th birthday Jim, now a sergeant, was recommended for Officer Training School at Bexhill, Seaford, England. On November 5 he was promoted to Lieutenant – a commissioned officer - and on Nov 23, following the

Armistice, rejoined the 72nd Battalion of the Seaforths, arriving back in France on December 24, 1918. In those years, given the rigid class-conscious British military system, an enlisted man from the colonies receiving a commission was exceptional.

He spent the first five months of 1919 in France, much of it at Étaples on "conducting duty", during which he reinjured his right knee. On May 19 he returned to England and spent most of the next four months in various hospitals for treatment of Synovitis (both knees) and Urethritis, a painful infection of the urinary tract. On August 19 he was "recommended for invaliding" to Canada and on September 11 sailed for Halifax on the RMS Araguaya, arriving on September 19, 1919. He was again admitted to hospital where he remained until October 9, receiving a one-time "wartime gratuity" of \$549.00. In addition to his Military Medal, Carney received two service decorations – the British War Medal and the British Victory Medal.

Lt. J.J. Carney, Nov. 5, 1918



SERVICE RECORD

John James Carney - Reg. Nbr. 687632 - Date of Birth August 31, 1894

1916

Feb. 7- Enlisted in the 172nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Kelowna, BC. Age - 21 years, 5 months. Occupation - school teacher; religion - Methodist - single. Previously an active member of the militia and an instructor in the Cadet Corps.

Feb. 7- Medical examination, pronounced fit. Height 6 ft. Chest 38 in. Complexion "Fresh", eyes blue, hair red.

May 15 - Promoted Acting Corporal.

Oct. 25 - Departed Halifax in SS *Mauretania*.

Oct. 31 - Arrived in England.

Nov. 1 - Arrived Camp Bramshott, England,

Nov. 1 - Appointed Acting Corporal, 172nd Battalion

Dec. 12 - Admitted to Isolation Hospital, Aldershot * (Rubella/German measles)

Dec. 20 - Discharged from hospital.

1917

Jan. 1 – Trsfrd from 172nd to 24th Reserve Battalion, Bramshott

Jan. 5 – Admitted to Isolation Hut #1, Bramshott* (Parotiditis/Mumps)

Jan. 26 – Discharged from Isolation Hut # 1

May 5 - Trsfrd from 24th Reserve Battalion to 72nd Battalion, Seaforths
"Reverts to ranks" (private) upon going overseas

May 10 – Proceeds overseas (to France) to join 72nd Battalion

May 11 - Arrives at Canadian Base Depot in France (Etaples ?)

May 24 - Leaves for unit

June 6 – Joins unit; B213 DCS 130

Sept. 16 – To P.I. & BF Course, CD School

Oct. 6 – Returns from “ “

Dec. 13 – Granted 14 days leave

Dec. 28 – Rejoins from leave

1918

Jan. 20 - To Canadian Corps Gas School

Jan. 20 - Fell in trench while on duty injuring right knee. Five weeks in #13 Canadian General Hospital.

Jan. 22 - Evacuated sick, Can Corps Gas School; Synovitis (inflammation) left and right knees.

Feb. 27- Report of continuing synovitis, reference to Harvard, USA.

Mar. 4 - TOS ("Taken on Strength") "from Boulogne, Clfd "A", Etaples"

Received from 4 Cl.B.O.

Mar. 6 - Appointed Lance Corporal in the field (B. 213)

Mar.14 – Left 4 Cl.B.O. for C.C.R.C in field.(Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp)

Mar.14 – Arrived C.C.R.C.

Mar, 23 – Rejoined unit (B 213)

May 10 – Appointed Acting Sergeant (paid as Sgt)

May 16 – Reverts to Lance Corporal on ceasing to perform duties of
Sergeant.

May 16 – Appointed Lance Sergeant

July 30 – Promoted to Sergeant

Aug 8-13.Battle of Amiens. (Canadian term was the "Llandoverly Castle Operation"). Sgt. Carney recommended for Military Medal. He receives the medal on May 12, 1919)

Aug. 26 - TOS from 72nd Bn to 1st Reserve Bn, Seaford, Eng.

Aug. 31- Tsfrd to OTS (Officers Training School), Bexhill, Seaford, Eng.

Nov. 5 - Promoted to Lieutenant, BC Regiment Depot.

Nov. 14- Ceases attachment to OTS, awaiting appointment to unit in the
CEF. Posted to 1st Reserve Bn., Seaford.

Nov. 23 -Rejoins 72nd Bn.

Dec. 24 – Arrives in France, TOS 72nd Bn.

1919

Jan. 10 – To England to be retrained on Conducting Duty at CSBD,

Jan. 20 – Arrives at Etaples, France, for “Conducting Duty”

Feb. 4 – From CGBQ-from Conducting party ???

Feb. 7 - ???? to Officer Commanding Cdn ???? Camp ????

Feb. ? - Re-injured right knee in fall from horse. No hospital.

May 5/6-SOS (Struck off strength) from 72nd Bn on transfer to Canadian

Reserve List (CRL)

May 12 – Receives Military Medal*

May 19 – Proceeded to England

May 23 – TOS to CRL on posting from overseas services unit

May 23 – Patient in Canadian Red Cross Hospital, 17 North Audley St. W.

London. (Urethritis/Synovitis))

Jul.. 27- Diagnosed with Urethritis and Synovitis – both knees

Jul. 31 – Trsfrd to Orpington, Kent for special treatment.

Aug. 1 – Admitted to 16 Canadian General Hospital in Orpington*

(Urethritis/Synovitis)

Aug. 19- Recommended for invaliding to Canada

Sept.1 – Discharged* Posted to Hosp. Sect. 19-9-19

Sept.11- Sailed for Canada on the SS Araguaya.

Sept. 19 - Admitted to hospital, Halifax.

Oct. 7 – Medical History. Describes illnesses, injuries

Oct. 9 – Discharged.

Oct. 10- Receives a “Wartime Gratuity” of \$549.00

Oct. 17- Struck off Strength (SOS) in Canada (#6 District Depot) from

Canadian Expeditionary Force with the rank of Lieutenant.

Summary of service:

Canada: Feb. 7, 1916 to October 18, 1916 (8 mos)

England: Nov. 1, 1916 to May 9, 1917 (6 mos)

France: May 9, 1917 to Aug. 24, 1918 (16 mos)

England: Aug. 24, 1918 to Dec. 21, 1918 (4 mos)

France: Dec. 24, 1918 to May 19, 1919 (5 mos)

England: May 19, 1919 to Sept. 11, 1919 (5 mos)

Total 44 mos

Note: In 1919, he spent from May 23 to Sept. 11 (4 ^{1/2} mos) in hospital in England followed by hospital in Canada from Sept. 19 to Oct. 9 for a total of approximately 5.5 months in hospital, including his passage home.

* The Military Medal (MM) was awarded to non-commissioned personnel (ranks below lieutenant.) The equivalent for officers was the Military Cross (MC). They both ranked just below the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM).

WW I medals awarded to J.J. Carney



Carney returned to Vancouver and Normal School, renewed his teaching credentials ("a second class Diploma for life"). He received a post on the teaching staff of the "South Vancouver Municipal Schools". He found teaching unsatisfying, underpaid and perhaps just dull, and in August 1922, with a strong letter of recommendation from Brig. General A.J. Clark (Ret'd) his former Commanding Officer and at that time a Member of Parliament and founding partner of the prominent Vancouver law firm Clark, Wilson),



BRIG-GEN. J. A. CLARK, C.M.G., D.S.O.

(Copy)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

901 Vancouver Block
Vancouver, B.C.
August 9th, 1922

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that I am well acquainted with John James Carney. He served in the 72nd. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, in France, under my command for a period of approximately two years. He joined my battalion as a private, and after having been promoted through the various non-commissioned ranks was awarded a commission in the field. He won the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry at the battle of Amiens, 1918.

I can thoroughly recommend him as a man of excellent character to anyone requiring his services.

Yours truly

(signed) J.A.Clark

(Brig.General former

JAC/B

C.C. 72nd.Seaforth

Highlanders of Canada.)

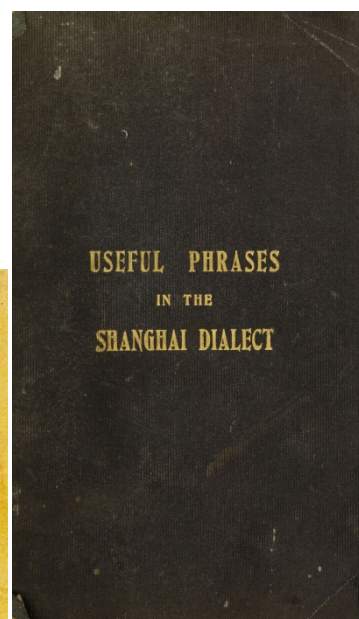
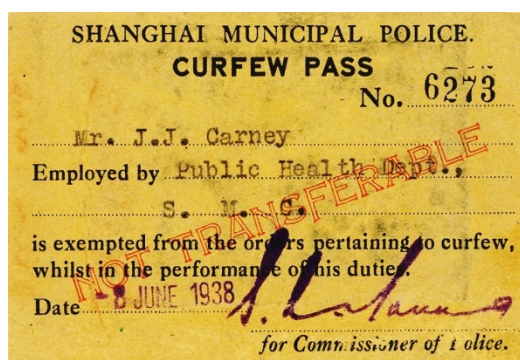
The family story has it that early one morning Jim and two buddies joined a mob of men on the Vancouver docks clamoring for jobs (a "bull labour pick-up"). The first mate emerged and shouted "I need three volunteers; you, you and you", pointing to three men, including the comparatively tall and red-haired Jim Carney, who spent the next three weeks at the black, blistering job of shoveling coal into the fiery boilers of the *SS Canadian Inventor*, bound for Shanghai, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Vancouver.

(In a later document explaining his resignation from teaching he states "the lure of the Orient and the curiosity to see the Mystic East proving too strong I resigned and came to China"). A rarely manifest romantic streak !!

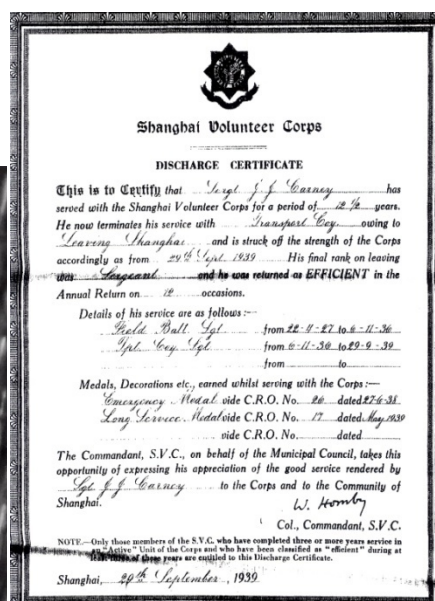
Arriving in Shanghai, he "jumped ship" into a waiting sampan (having first advised the captain he would be doing so, normal protocol), and on October 13, 1922, joined the Shanghai Municipal Council (SMC) Police Force, a largely British-run outfit responsible for maintaining law and order in Shanghai's International Settlement. Shanghai was already a huge, bustling city – the "Pearl of the Orient" – where the European powers, as a result of the Opium Wars of the 1840s, had coerced the reluctant Chinese into granting separate "concessions", allowing them ("foreign devils with blue eyes")

relatively free reign in trade and commerce. Shanghai was also rife with gangs, crooks and crime. There was an uneasy but pragmatic truce between the criminals, the Chinese authorities and those of the International Settlement; essentially, we'll let you run your own show, if you let us run ours. Indeed, in those years, according to Jim, the SMC police did not carry guns on the mutual understanding that the crooks and gangsters wouldn't either. Nonetheless, it remained a rough, raucous and, for many Europeans, glamorous world. The job of a policeman was anything but dull.

He spent his first sixteen months with the SMC Health Department "doing duty" in the Mental Ward of the SMC Sanatorium at Monkashan. He was attracted to the work of the Health Department and in November 1925 transferred to it as a "Sanitary Overseer" or Health Inspector. In 1927 he joined the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, a quasi-military reserve unit with mostly British officers, serving in the SVC Transport Company and Field Artillery Battery for nearly 13 years, leaving the SVC with three service decorations.



With the twins - @ 1938



Every three years, “expat” employees of the SMC were given three months “Home Leave”. Carney used this as an opportunity to see more of the world and upgrade his Health Inspector credentials with public health courses in the UK. His voyage home by ship – possibly a tramp steamer - in 1928, recorded in B&W photos, included stops in Japan, Singapore, Johor/Malaya, Colombo (then Ceylon, now Sri Lanka), Suez, Port Said, and Genoa.

On the ship returning to Shanghai from his home in BC in 1933 Jim, then 39, met a 30 year-old Canadian named Dora May Sanders. Dora had been born in Capetown, South Africa. Her father, Harry Sanders, was a young English-born lawyer; her mother Lucy Emma May Bing was from a fourth generation English-Irish family in the Eastern Cape. Following a brief stay in England the young Sanders family moved to Ontario about 1911, where Dora and her sister Byrne Hope Sanders, began careers in Toronto as journalists and writers.

Dora was headed for “The Orient”, specifically Hong Kong (or Rangoon ?) ostensibly to marry her English cousin Tony, whose young and beautiful wife Dorothy had died tragically in a flu epidemic. But Dora wanted to write newspaper and magazine articles about the Far East and had negotiated informal agreements to do so with several then well-known publications in Eastern Canada. She met the red-haired and charming (as she describes him) Jim Carney on the ship and lives changed. Dora and Jim disembarked together in Shanghai; in due course were married and in May 1935 produced twins, Jim (“JJ”) and Pat, followed two years later by the birth of younger sister Norah. (This is a vastly over-simplified version of those times; a far more detailed and entertaining description may be read in Dora’s book **“Foreign Devils Had Light Eyes”** and her daughter Pat’s **“Trade Secrets”**).

A shipboard romance blossoms....



A honeymoon in Japan.....



And a home in Shanghai...



Fun in Jessfield Park....

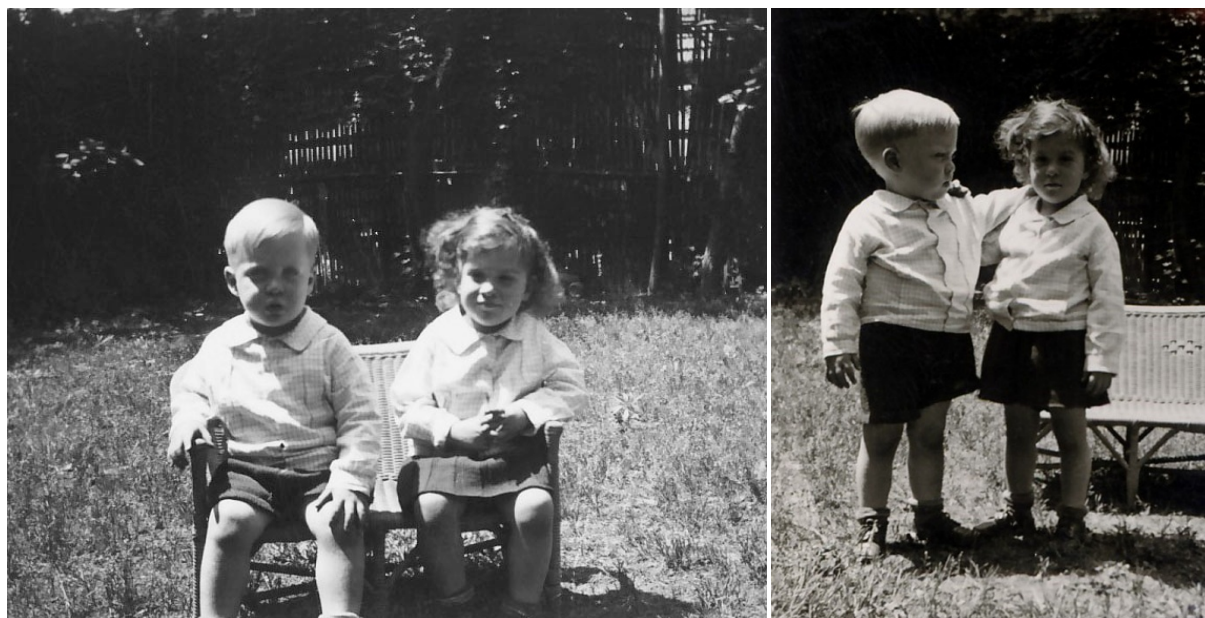


...with twins Jim & Pat



Our home in West End Gardens....





The 30's were a turbulent time in China with increasing aggressions by the Japanese, especially in Shanghai, Nanking and the northern regions of the vast country. Initially, Shanghai's International Settlement – as distinct from the larger city - was spared, although Jim Carney's duties with the SVC required excursions into that larger city to assist in various police and public health emergencies, including the collection of bodies. In late 1937 things became much more dangerous and the British Consulate (we travelled on British Passports) ordered an evacuation. Mother and we three children found passage in steerage class on a small ship bound for Honolulu via Hong Kong, leaving father behind with the SVC, not knowing whether we would ever see him again. We rendezvoused several weeks later in Honolulu and continued on to Vancouver and a temporary respite in Canada.

In 1938 Jim and his family returned to Shanghai, essentially to get a feel for the situation and make arrangements for a more orderly and final return to Canada, which they did in October, 1939 on the Japanese vessel *Hian Maru*. By that time Dora was pregnant with their fourth child, Daniel David Thomas, who was born at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver on February 19, 1940.

Jim was now 46 years old, married with four children. At the old Carney family homestead in the Okanagan he faced a choice: whether to invest the relatively small amount of cash he had salvaged from Shanghai to buy a small ranch near his home in the central Okanagan or become a veterinary surgeon – requiring four years of university study to acquire a degree as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). He chose the latter. There was only one institution in Canada that offered the degree: The Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario (There was another in Portland, Oregon, but Jim wanted his children to grow up in Canada), so the family moved to Ontario, where they lived for four years in Morriston, a few miles from Guelph, renting an

inexpensive, somewhat decrepit house with several acres of land. Jim commuted to the OVC daily in his Model A Ford, while the twins enrolled in the local two-room county school, teaching grades one to six.

Morrison @ 1943 L-R: Norah, JJ, Tommy; Tommy, Norah, JJ, Pat



1945 - Dr. JJ. Carney - DVM...



Jim Carney graduated from the OVC in the spring of 1945, at the age of 51. He had never been interested in what he called the "kitty-cat and puppy dog" kind of veterinary practice, but preferred to work with large farm animals; horses and cattle. He was offered jobs with government agencies in Hawaii, Bermuda, and British Columbia, but again raising his kids in Canada was his priority.

In the summer of that year Jim and Dora with the four children drove across the continent, mostly through the US (there was no TransCanada Highway at the time) in a brand new 1942 Ford sedan (which he was allowed to buy, under wartime restrictions, because his work was considered in the national interest). It took ten days, but they eventually arrived in Victoria, BC, in time to celebrate the Allied victory in the Pacific (then known as V-J Day) in August, 1945. He had been hired by the BC Department of Health as the province's first Dairy/Milk Commissioner and assisted in drafting the first provincial regulations for that industry. In 1949, he transferred to the BC Department of Agriculture and the family moved to Nelson, where he was the Veterinary inspector for the West Kootenays until his retirement in the early 1960s, followed by a temporary recall to the Fraser Valley to deal with a break-out of Brucellosis, or Bang's Disease. In 1962, Jim and Dora retired for good to a small, Japanese-styled home on Saturna Island. He died on June 22, 1976 at the age of 82.

Revised September 9, 2016