

The Isaacs Family of Rainsford Ranch
Oyama, BC

Researched and Written by Nancy Josland Dalsin

Constance Felicie Valentine Léa Seta (Léa Godfrey Isaacs)



The Province Vancouver, BC Aug 21, 1934

Courtesy of Cunard White Star Line

Constance Felicie Valentine Léa Seta was born around 1874 to Céline Fulvie Félicité Joseph Riguelle, and François Marie Seta. "Léa" as she was known to friends and family was living and working in London as a dramatic soprano opera singer. She went by the stage name of "Léa Perelli". Léa performed at the London Opera House, Covent Garden with Sir Thomas Beecham conducting as well as performing a Wagnerian Concert at Queens Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra as a solo artist, conducted by the famous conductor Felix Weingartner.

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Lea Perelli (Mrs. Lea Godfrey Isaacs) The Observer, London, England 09 Nov 1924

In 1892 Léa married a very handsome 25 year old business man from a prominent Jewish family, Godfrey Charles Joseph Isaacs. The couple were married in Paris and made their home in London, England, where they had two sons, Marcel Godfrey Isaacs and Dennys Godfrey Isaacs.

During the time Léa lived in Oyama she spent the summer months at the ranch in Oyama and the winter months either in Victoria, BC or in Vancouver where she was well known in the prominent circles and entertained regularly. Trips were made on a regular basis back to England and France. In 1951 Léa moved permanently to Cap d'ail on the French Riviera and passed away at her home, Villa dHarma on December 26, 1956.



Photo, Mrs. Godfrey Isaacs and Rene Godfrey Isaacs, Times Colonist Victoria, BC Jan 30, 1941

Godfrey Charles Joseph Isaacs



Ancestry

Godfrey “Jack” Charles Joseph Isaacs was born in 1866 in London, Middlesex, England, the son of Sarah Davis and Joseph Michael Henry Aaron Isaacs. Godfrey “Jack”, one of ten siblings, was of a different temperament to his brothers. Quieter and a more studious nature, he was inclined to indulge a taste for the use of long and recondite words. Isaacs attended Leibniz University Hanover and Free University of Brussels. Godfrey’s father, as well as being an Alderman and Sheriff, was also head of the firm Messrs. M. Isaacs and Sons, Fruit Brokers of Monument Yards, London. After Godfrey graduated from University, he apprenticed in his father’s firm of fruit and ship brokers. In 1910 Isaacs became the Managing Director

of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company. Shortly after, all the headlines in the UK and America were splashed with news of "The Marconi Scandal" In 1911-1912, the British government negotiated with the British Marconi Company to build a series of wireless transmitting and receiving stations to connect Britain's colonies. On the 7th of March 1912, a tender was signed for the first six stations, and the government and Marconi officials began working on the terms of the actual contract. That same month the American Marconi Company decided to increase its capitalization with a huge new share issue.

In April, British Marconi Company director Godfrey Isaacs offered some of these new shares to his brother Sir Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading and Attorney General in the Liberal government of Great Britain at that time and others, even though the shares were not yet approved and not yet available to the public. Ten days later, the shares opened on the United States and British exchanges, closing the day at a value over four times what the insiders had paid for them.

Afterwards, the government officials claimed that what they had done was not improper because they had bought shares in the American Marconi Company while negotiating a contract with its British counterpart. The public was not amused by the distinction, especially when the American Marconi stock, after a brief run-up, sank back to its original level. Isaacs was appointed a director of the newly formed British Broadcasting Company in 1923. However, he made some serious mistakes with his investments and after suffering losses of £6 million he resigned from the board of Marconi in November 1924. He died 5 months later in April of 1925. The newspapers attributed his death to overwork.

Céline Fulvie Félicité Joseph Riguelle

Céline Fulvie Félicité Joseph Riguelle was born on January 5th, 1853 in Liège, located in the easternmost province Belgium. After Napoleon's fall from power in 1815, Liège became part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The eastern half of Verviers became part of the Kingdom of Prussia. During the 20th century, due to Liège's borders with Germany, there was fierce fighting during both World Wars.

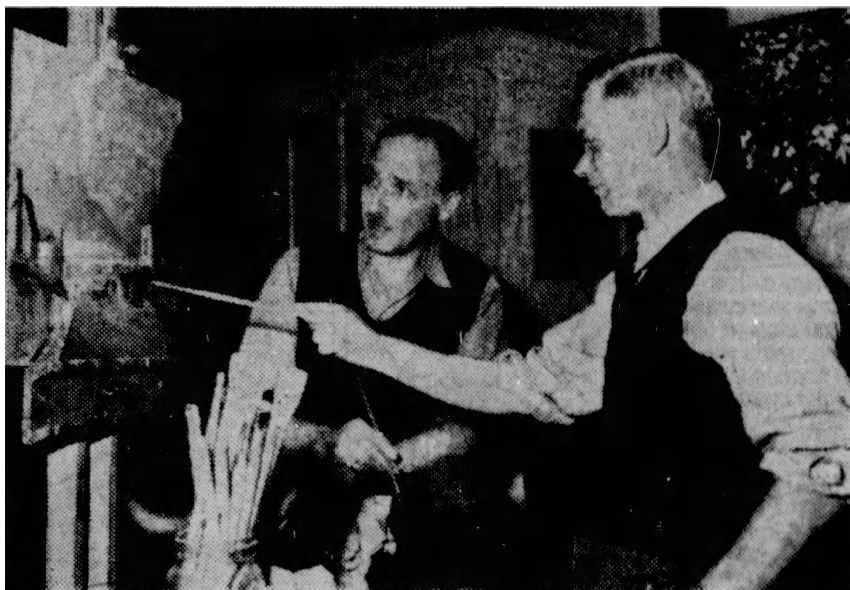
Fulvie traveled quite a bit throughout her life. She withstood the siege of Paris in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870/71, while the staff of the German army was quartered at her father's chateau at Crecy. She married her first husband, Dr. Antonio de Nogueira while still in her teens. They made their home in Brazil. Dr. de Nogueira was the first citizen of Brazil to renounce his title of Baron and free the

slaves of his immense coffee plantations. Shortly after that in the early part of the 1870's, the government asked him to lead a scientific expedition up the Amazon and Fulvie accompanied her husband and his party of 45 men. Sadly, her husband died of typhoid fever during their journey in 1873. One by one other men on the journey died. At times the only food the party had was what was killed by Fulvie who was an excellent shot. She eventually made her way back to Manos, Argentina where she remained in the hospital for many months recovering from typhoid.

A short time later a still very young Fulvie met François Marie Seta, born in Clay-Souilly, Seine, France in 1853. Together the couple had two children, a daughter Constance Felicie Valentine Léa Seta, and a son, Armand Pascal Seta. There are no marriage records available for this couple. Fulvie continued to use the last name of her first husband "de Nogueira"

Madame de Nogueira first came to Canada in 1926 with her daughter Léa Godfrey Isaacs, her grandsons Marcel and Dennys Godfrey Isaacs and her great grandson Richard Marcel Lancelot Isaacs when the family moved to their new home at Rainsford Ranch in Oyama. For many years Fulvie travelled back and forth between France, England and Canada, making Oyama her permanent home in 1937. Fulvie died on Valentine's Day in 1943 at the winter residence of her daughter Léa in Vancouver.

Marcel Godfrey Isaacs



Photo, Marcel Godfrey, city artist gives pointers to member of Atelier Sketch Club. The Province, Vancouver, BC 09 Oct 1948.

Marcel Godfrey Isaacs was the first born son to Godfrey and Léa Isaacs, born on November 2, 1893 in London England.

In 1912 eighteen year old Marcel arrived with his father aboard the RMS Lusitania in New York. From New York, Marcel carried on alone to Canada. Unskilled, he tried his hands at various jobs, butler, salesman and restaurant worker as he travelled around the country. He wrote about his adventures in a book titled "The Bush and the Salon" and used the pen name "Lofty".

In 1914, twenty-one year old Marcel married eighteen year old Vilma Williams, who lied about her age on the marriage certificate stating that she was twenty-one years old.

Vilma was born on the 31st of March 1896 in Vernon, BC, to a well known Medical Officer, Dr. Hugh Gerald Williams and his wife Marie (Fischer) Williams. The marriage was not to last and in 1911, Mrs. Williams, with her two young daughters moved permanently to London, England.

A month after the young couple were wed, Marcel received a commission in the Warwickshire Regiment, and was transferred to the Royal Marine Light Infantry. In 1917 the couple gave birth to their only son, Richard Marcel Lancelot Isaacs. At the end of that year Marcel was invalided out of service and went on to perform on the stage, at the Drury Lane and Palace Theatres.

In 1918 Vilma introduced her husband, Marcel to Capt. Louis Charles Cox, a handsome American who held a commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

It was during this time that Vilma told Marcel she had met someone interested in the production of cinematography films and that she was going "into pictures". She left for York, UK to take part in the production of a cinematography film. Marcel became suspicious and followed Vilma to make inquiries at the Albion Hotel where Vilma was staying. He was shown two registration forms, one signed by a Mr. Cox and the other in Vilma's handwriting, signed "Mrs. Cox" and her address as "They Savoy Hotel". Marcel returned to London that night and the following day, he confronted Vilma and Mr. Cox.

They both denied that any adultery had taken place. Vilma said that she had passed herself off as Mrs. Cox for her own protection and had not stayed at the hotel. Marcel accepted their explanation, but he forbade Vilma to associate with Mr. Cox in any way. Later he discovered that Vilma was receiving letters from Mr. Cox. When Marcel pressed the subject there was a big scene. Vilma walked out on Marcel and her infant son, saying that she was going to join Mr. Cox. Marcel left with the child and a nurse and started divorce proceedings against his wife. In November 1918, he transferred the lease of his flat at Lauderdale Mansions and sold all his furniture. In April 1919 he obtained a decree nisi for divorce against Vilma, on the grounds of adultery with a man named Louis Charles Cox.

Marcel remarried shortly after to Marie Louise Cattier, daughter of prominent Belgian lawyer, banker and philanthropist Félicien Cattier. The couple had one son together born in 1922 in Kensington, London, England, Patrick Isaacs. The marriage did not last and there is no evidence that Patrick came to Canada.

In 1928 Marcel met René C. Scudamore in Paris where she wrote for the International News Service, doing fashions from Paris and publicity for Elizabeth Arden and Kreuger, the late match king. The couple were married in Kensington, London, England.



Photo, René Scudamore “American Woman Captures Paris” Mrs. René Scudamore, fashion Advertiser” The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, Louisiana Aug 29, 1931

René came to Canada where she resided with Marcel at Rainsford Ranch. Although Rainsford Ranch had been purchased for Marcel and Dennys, Marcel had no real interest in working on the Ranch. His true calling was the arts. In 1932 Marcel had gone to Majorca off the coast of Spain to write a book, when his wife came to visit a few months later she found he had forsaken his pen for a palette. Previously Marcel had been editor of “The Piccadilly Magazine” aimed at a public which was modern without being “high-brow.” Four years after the start-up The Piccadilly Magazine Limited went into bankruptcy. The failure was attributed by a director to the lavish and extravagant manner in which the company began business.

On the 27th of May, 1937 Marcel Godfrey opened his first one-man art show at the Vancouver Art Gallery with 48 paintings. Following a private view, the exhibition was open to the public until June 6th.

In the Vancouver Sun on the 28th of May, 1937 Bob Bouchette writes a wonderful description of Marcel’s personality and appearance while viewing some of Marcel’s oil paintings;

“In my meetings with Marcel Godfrey I had seen a mercurial sort of fellow, immensely entertaining, amiable and kindly. But, I had not suspected that he had depth. He struck me as being a species of human cocktail—stimulating, amusing, but not to be taken in too large quantities. Not, by any means, a piece de resistance. After looking at his exhibition I find that my snap judgment on his character was far out of line. His feathery lightness of touch is there. So is his versatility and adaptability. More than that there is a core of purpose and a profundity of feeling which stands out from the canvases as vividly as a traffic signal. In his work he has articulated what I am convinced is the real Marcel Godfrey. Since I am more interested in men than in their achievements, I shall describe this painter to you before I deal with his pictures. His real name is “Godfrey-Isaacs” and he is a relative, fairly remote, I think of the Marquis of Reading. For the last couple of years he has been living in the Okanagan. His appearance is striking. Medium height, but very erect. He carries a full-dress suit beautifully.

His hair, sweeping back from a broad forehead, is a light brown. His eyes are very blue, large and eloquent. His nose is aquiline, aggressive. His jaw is solid and determined. It is covered with a reddish-brown imperial. He has a fine speaking voice, deep and resonant. He talks French without making a hearer aware of the nasality of the language. He believes in living in the moment and for the moment, but when you see his pictures you realize that moment to him means a lifetime..."



MARCEL GODFREY AND SUBJECT
... New York was a fairy landscape.

Photo, Marcel Godfrey and Subject "Artist Brings Paris to City Studio" The Province, Vancouver, British Columbia 19 Jan 1948.

In 1940 Marcel won the “Beatrice Stone Silver Medal” awarded annually by the Vancouver Art Gallery for an oil painting of “Signor Rossi” who was with the H. M. Orcas stationed at a West Coast depot.



Photo, Captain Marcel Godfrey Isaacs and Mrs. Godfrey Isaacs, The Vancouver Sun, Jul 03, 1944

Marcel and René regularly travelled to London and France where they would spend 6 months at a time working and socializing. In 1951 they took up permanent residence in Europe.

Marcel died May 1984 in Hove, Sussex, England.

Vilma (Williams) Isaacs



Photo, Daily News, New York, New York Aug 16, 1945

Shortly after her divorce from Marcel, on the 4th of July 1919, Mrs. Vilma Isaacs was charged on remand, with obtaining goods to the extent of £318 by false pretences from Messrs. Debenham and Freebody of Wigmore Street W. London, England."

It was reported that Vilma had been arrested at Euston Station as she was about to leave London for America in the Company of Mr. Cox.

"On June 17th, Vilma accompanied with Captain Louis Charles Cox, went to Messrs. Debenham and Freeboyd's where Vilma selected some expensive night-dresses and wanted to open an account. It was reported that Mr. Cox sat and read the newspaper while she selected the nightdresses. On July 18, 1919 At the London Sessions the charges against Mrs. Vilma Isaacs were "obtaining goods by false pretences, and incurring a debt of £344 with Messrs. Debenham with intent to defraud." The Judge, Mr. Lawrie said that the jury had returned the only possible verdict of guilty on the charge of obtaining goods with intent to defraud. He bound her over for two years and ordered her to pay £50 towards the costs of the prosecution.



Photo, Standard-Speaker Hazelton, Pennsylvania, 16 Apr 1926 “Cox is shown here with Miss Anne Morgan at the time when she named his Nighthawk plane.” In November of 1940 Vilma who is now calling herself “Lady Kempton” and going by the name of “Velma” finds herself in the headlines again.

The Daily News, NY, NY reports;

“Virtually a prisoner in the Park Ave. apartment of his titled ex-wife, because his clothes were taken from him and locked up. Capt. Louis Charles Cox, ex-RCAF flier and airplane manufacturer, yesterday committed suicide by inhaling gas. Cox passed the hours before his death with his former wife, The British-born, Lady Velma Kempton and his mother, Mrs. K. H. Brooks, at Lady Kempton’s suite on the twenty-first floor of 10 Park Ave.”

It is interesting to note that Vilma who often went by “Velma” had upgraded her social status as “British Born” and “Lady”. The article further states that “Lady Kempton” was divorced from her “second husband” Sir Charles L. Kempton. Lady Kempton visited with her former husband for most of the afternoon. She left to keep a dinner engagement, (at the Hotel Marguery with her friend Marion Langford)., She told the police that she locked up Cox’s clothes in the hopes that he would remain at the apartment as he had been drinking heavily. The large blast from the gas explosion blew out a large window into fragments, which dropped into the street below, tore the iron framework into bits and damaged the furnishings. Lady Kempton, summoned from her dinner engagement, identified the body.

In June of 1945 Vilma, happy for the attention and notoriety finds her name splashed all over the headlines with one of the strangest and most sensational murders of the decade. The murder of Albert E. Langford in the foyer of his six-room suite in June of 1945 shines a spotlight on the elegant exclusive Hotel Marguery at 270 Park Avenue. As the story unfolded, the crime and its victim took a back seat to a colourful cast of characters dragged into the investigation.

“Marion Langford and her husband Albert were enjoying a quiet evening at home when they suddenly were startled by their Pekinese growling at their door. While Marion stayed in bed, Albert let in two men who said they wanted to talk to his wife about a mutual friend who had recently died. Moments later, 63-year-old Albert Langford lay dead with his face torn open by a .38 slug, the killers were gone and a hysterical Marion was trying to comprehend why anyone would want to hurt her husband.”

Albert Langford was a textile sales manager who made a good living, but his wife was rolling in dough and made sure everyone knew it. Mrs. Marion Grimes Langford was the daughter of a public utility magnate, and was comfortable hobnobbing with high society as well as questionable characters who lived by night in the city's bustling club scene. Tabloids described her penchant for club hopping, heavy gambling losses in underground casinos, and her hosting all-night card games at her apartment. Langford had been married to a lawyer who died over a decade earlier and the merry widow had also forged a reputation as a free-spending patroness of the arts whose proteges all happened to be young and attractive musicians, singers and actors. The police found a pair of thick notebooks belonging to her that listed thousands of dollars in loans and gifts to hundreds of would-be entertainers. Police were nowhere near solving the "Murder at the Marguery,". The Langford case was rich in theories and characters but very short on clues. The city's tabloids served up juicy tidbits about the case for days. Vilma or "Lady Kempton" as she preferred, was featured in most of these press releases with images of her all decked out in heels, and furs. Daily News, NY, NY 06 June 1945 reports; "Two early witnesses were Mrs. Vilma Kempton—who corrected earlier stories calling her Lady Kempton—and Frank Teller, theatrical promoter and son of a wealthy Philadelphia family. Mrs. Kempton said Teller was her fiancé. (This relationship did not last, they never married). They had visited the Langfords in the late afternoon Monday and were to have remained for dinner, but went instead to Mrs. Kempton's apartment at 148 E. 48th., because the latter had been lucky enough to get a leg of lamb for dinner. If we had kept our date at the Marguery this might not have happened." Mrs. Kempton said. She described herself as the Canadian-born daughter of Mrs. Charles Hutton now living in London and the granddaughter of Countess Festovich, (she would be referring to Marcel's maternal grandmother Fulvie). By a strange coincidence, Mrs. Kempton also lost a husband, though in that case a former one—nearly five years ago while she was visiting Mrs. Langford at the Marguery. Newspapermen who covered that story were told Mrs. Kempton was "Lady Kempton." the divorced wife of "Sir Charles L. Kempton."



QUESTIONED—Mrs. Vilma (Lady) Kempton, friend of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Langford, is shown arriving at the Criminal Courts building for questioning.

“Arriving at the Criminal Courts Building For Questioning” The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Brooklyn, New York 10 Jun 1945

The tabloids used the police reports and leaks to present a very unflattering picture of the grieving widow. She was said to be frequent habitu  of illegal poker flats and she even had been arrested in a raid of one such establishment the year before. When the police began cracking down on the gambling joints, the papers said she held card parties in her suite for friends and acquaintances, some of whom were unsavoury characters. Her ledger showed that she had showered money on a long list of hangers on and proteges. She also had lost heavily in her gambling. Between her marriages, she was a frequent visitor to nightclubs usually accompanied by a younger male escort. The murder went unsolved for years, with lots of theories but little clues. To read more on this sensational murder and the strange characters involved google “Murder at the Marguery”. Vilma died June 1975 in New York.

Richard Marcel Lancelot Isaac



Lyne, Runnymede Borough, Surrey, England

photo Find A Grave Memorial Nancy Josland Dalsin

Richard or “Dickie” as he was known to his friends immigrated to Canada with his grandmother Léa Isaacs, his great grandmother Fulvie de Nigeria, his uncle Denys Godfrey Isaacs and his father Marel Godfrey Isaacs in 1926 after the death of his grandfather Godfrey Charles Joseph Isaacs.

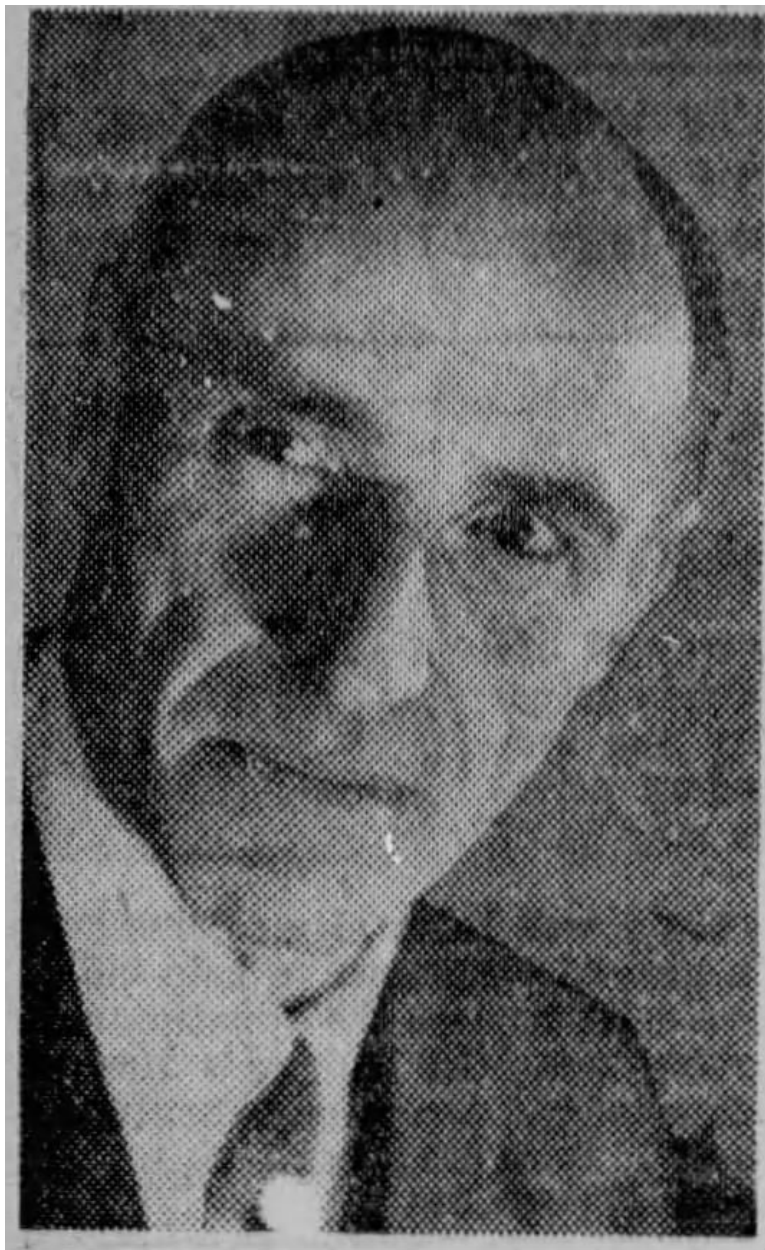
At the beginning of the school year in September of 1927, Richard was sent to nearby Vernon Preparatory School in Coldstream, owned by Reverend Austin Mackie and his brother Hugh de Fylton Mackie. It was at this time that a polio epidemic broke out at the school. An article in the Okanagan Historical Society 29th report by Hugh F. Mackie relates that Dr. Gerald Williams, the Medical Health Officer for the area was very involved in trying to contain the outbreak. It also says that a boy named Richard Isaacs at the school, the grandson of a wealthy lady residing at Oyama was showing symptoms of the disease. He was isolated from the other students and care for by his grandfather, Dr. Williams. Unfortunately, 10 year old Richard Marcel Lancelot Isaacs passed away on October 3, 1927.

From the Chronicle of the Vernon Preparatory School, Vol X, No 3, Christmas, 1927 Rev. Austin C. Mackie writes the following obituary;

“Oct. 3rd, at the School, Richard Isaacs, only son of Marcel and grandson of Mrs. Godfrey Isaacs, of Oyama, ages 10 1/2 years. It may seem presumptuous to write of one who had only been with us three weeks, but we had seen enough to recognize in him no ordinary boy. He was obviously of high mental powers, could speak French, Italian, German and Spanish with some fluency, had visited many European countries and been brought into familiar contact with men whose names are household words and had assimilated a larger fund of general knowledge than many an adult. Physically and mentally he was like quicksilver, full of boyish eagerness and joi de vivre. The heir to ample means, a member of a famous family, enjoying the advantages of the careful upbringing of a peculiarly gifted grandmother, there is no saying to what heights he might have risen had his life been spared.”

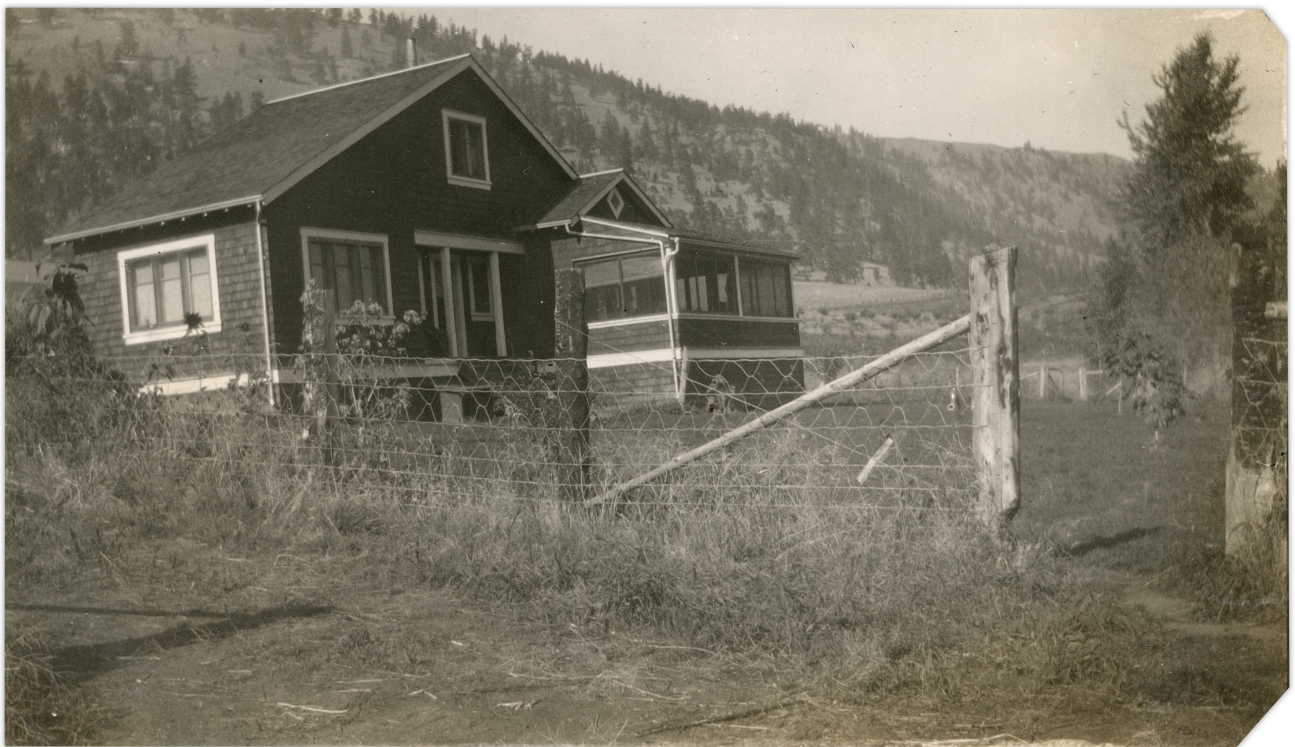
Young Richard’s body was shipped back to England where he was buried with his grandfather Godfrey Charles Isaacs who had died only a year earlier.

Dennys Godfrey Isaacs



Dennys Godfrey Isaacs, The Vancouver Sun, Dec 06 1946

After the death of his father in 1925, Dennys made several trips to Oyama, BC, Canada with his mother. Probate records for Godfrey Charles Isaacs show he left an estate valued at £195,000 to be administered by his widow, Léa Isaacs. In 1925 Madame Léa Isaacs purchased Rainsford Ranch, consisting of 60 acres of orchard and 2000 acres of range land, from George C. Goulding as a home for herself, her two sons Marcel and Dennys and her grandson Richard “Dickie”.



Rainsford Ranch

Lake Country Museum and Archives 2015.26.5.18

Rainsford Ranch, located northwest of the Oyama isthmus and extended from the lake up the hillside, was one of the largest orchards in the District and had a size-

able cherry block, employing many of the local people. It was Dennys who had a real interest in running the orchard part of the ranch and seriously undertook this task. Although Dennys had no hands on experience in running an orchard he had the family background and some knowledge from his own grandfather and uncles who were well known fruit brokers in London. The livestock side of the Ranch held no interest to Marcel, so on Friday August 24, 1928 a horse auction was held on the premises of Rainsford Ranch, the Auctioneer was Chas. D. Simms of Vernon, BC. Up for auction was the entire band of horses, about 100 head in all, consisting of Standard Bred, Kentucky, Hackney and other pure-breds, crossed with thoroughbreds Kentucky sire, along with 20 Brood Mares and Colts. Several were broken to saddle and all were halter broken.

Dennys was born in London on the 2nd of August 1896. A Barrister by profession, early records list his occupation either as salesman or as “none”. On September 1922 Dennys married Marion Phyllis Birch Crisp in London, England. Marion was the daughter of the very wealthy and well known Charles Birch Crisp, Financier who handled loans worth millions on the London Stock Exchange and was called the “World’s Seventh Power”. In London Financial circles they called him “Chinese Crisp” because in 1912 he arranged a loan for the Chinese Government worth \$5,000,000 pounds. The couple had 2 daughters. Ann Sarita Godfrey Isaacs was born in 1923 and Yvonne, Marion Godfrey Isaacs was born in 1925. At this point the marriage had already dissolved.

On May 15th 1926 Léa and Dennys arrived together to the Port of Halifax, Nova Scotia on their way to Oyama to purchase Rainsford Ranch.

June 3, 1926 the Town & District news column states that Dr. & Mrs. Williams friends, Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey-Isaacs, came to Vernon from England in early June. This would have been Dennys Godfrey Isaacs arriving with his intended bride Florence Eliza Chapman. Dennys and Florence were married a short time later in June 1926 at St. Andrew’s Church, Vernon, BC. The witnesses for their marriage were George C. Goulding, former owner of Rainsford Ranch and his wife May B. Goulding.

In November 1926, Léa Isaacs, arrived in Canada with her grandson, Richard Marcel Lancelot Isaacs and her 71 year old mother Fulvie Félicité De Noquira, to take up permanent residence with her two sons. The log trophy building on the lakeshore was enlarged for Dennys and his family along with his mother to live in. Marcel and his family moved into the original Goulding home.

On the 13th of August 1927 the couple had a daughter, Ella Denise Godfrey Isaacs. Sadly, Florence passed away in 1934.

1933 was the start of the “Cent a pound or on the Ground” campaign. Dennys was initially opposed to the plan, but quickly came on board. The Vancouver Sun reported on 12th of Sep 1933 in an article “A fight For Their Lives”, that “the fight by Okanagan fruit-growers are making to set a fixed price of one cent a pound on their apples is more than a fight for preservation of British Columbia’s fifty-million dollar fruit industry. It is a fight for their lives and their children’s lives and the preservation of their homes... But between that luscious fruit and the consumers of the world stands a greedy and cumbersome system of handling and distribution that with one hand holds up the price to the consumer and with the other doles out an impossible price to the grower. A box of apples that brings the Okanagan producers 20 to 30 cents, costs the Vancouver consumer \$1.25 to \$1.50. So serious have conditions become that the growers of the district are signing the agreement not to sell for less than a cent a pound in a volume almost 100 perent. Without co-operation there will be no fruit industry”, writes Bob Bouchette from the scene of the movement.

Kelowna growers producing one-third of the entire valley of apple crop organized themselves into a “so-called” Growers with the slogan “A cent a pound or on the ground.” Vernon and Penticton quickly followed. These three districts making up the whole Okanagan fruit production. Associated Growers, (the selling agency of the cooperatives) and the principal independent shippers under growers prodding, agreed to sell over one desk and refrain from cutting prices to the jobber against one another. Unofficially, independent leaders agreed to the grower’s scheme. Vi-

olence was threatened against the minority of growers who refused to join the “Cent a pound” campaign.

Again in 1938 charges that a ruthless jobber-shipper combine existed in the marketing of fruit and vegetables in British Columbia and throughout the prairie provinces were made at a meeting of growers by Dennys Godfrey Isaacs, Oyama grower.

The Province Newspapers 18, Aug 1938 read “Growers Betrayed, Cheated, Declares Isaacs Demand Probe”. “Mr. Isaacs said that a short time ago he had a search made at the office of the registrar of companies in Victoria, and then discovered, through the medium of company reports filed by Okanagan shipping interests, that the old Nash-Simington Company under a new name of Dominion Fruit Ltd., and controlled by Western Grocers Ltd., had through its agents in the valley—Roy Baird Staples and Arthur Clarence Staples—acquired control over shipping interests in all the important centres on the main line in the Okanagan Valley and Similkameen, a control which exceeded in strength that which was exercised by the old Nash combine in the days previous to 1926, the year when convictions were obtained. Mr. Isaacs’ startling allegations supported by affidavits caused a sensation throughout the Okanagan valley. A growers’ meeting passed a resolution immediately calling for a new Duncan probe. The motion called upon federal ministers, provincial ministers and Okanagan members to further its demands for an enquiry.”

The charges made by Isaacs at the meeting were;

1. That a combine is operating in the fruit and vegetable industry of Western Canada, depriving growers of money that is justly theirs.
2. That the principals in this combine are Western Grocers Ltd, and Dominion Fruit Ltd., and others, directors of these companies.
3. That the persons and corporations mentioned have committed and are committing breaches of Section 27 of the Sales on Consignment Act of British Co-

lumbia in that they are operating as part of a jobber-shipper combine in defiance of the law.

4. That the corporations mentioned have rendered themselves liable to dissolution under the provisions of the “Sales on Consignment Act.”
5. That the persons and corporations mentioned constitute a combine within the meaning of the “Combines Investigation Act.” and that they are subject to the penalties provided in the said Act.
6. That the persons and corporations mentioned have committed and are committing breaches of Section 498 of the Criminal Code of Canada in that they are members of a criminal combine against the public interest.
7. That the persons and corporations mentioned, who are shippers of fruit or vegetables in the province with malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in the performance of their duties to the unprotected producers of the province.
8. That the persons and corporations mentioned have plotted and conspired to break the laws of the country and to prevent the producers of British Columbia from Obtaining a fair return for their labours.
9. That through the flouting of laws enacted for the protection of the producers and the general public of Canada, the members of the combine have rendered ineffectual the work done in furthering the interests of the fruit and vegetable industry by the minister of agriculture, by marketing boards, by grower’s associations and by independent and co-operative shippers.
10. That the persons and corporations mentioned are a menace to the business morality of the province and of Canada and that they should be dealt with by all right-thinking people as such.

On the 17th of November 1938, The Vancouver Sun reported

“Okanagan is Satisfied by Ottawa Move”

Hon. Norman Rogers, Federal Minister of labor announced that F. A. McGregor, commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act was en route to British Columbia to continue his investigation into alleged jobber-shipper combine. "The decision is an excellent one, and gratifying, but not unexpected," said D. Godfrey Isaacs who alleged combine.

In October 1939 Dennys Godfrey Isaacs found himself in front of Mr. Justice Robertson to answer questions disclosing the source of information on which he based an address which was the basis of a libel suit. Isaacs was being sued along with William Sandham Harris, Vernon publisher, for damages for alleged libel in connection with a report of a fruit growers' meeting at Vernon 14 months earlier at which a combine in the fruit business was charged. The claimant was Roy Baird Staples, Kelowna packing company manager. Justice Robertson decided on Staples' application for an order compelling Isaacs to answer 49 questions on a discovery examination and produce a document. Isaacs, in his defence said the exemption from disclosing a source of information, which applies to newspapers, does not extend to individuals. All charges both to W. S. Harris, publisher of the Vernon News and to Dennys Godfrey Isaacs were dropped.



Mrs. Dennys Godfrey Isaacs, "Saying Goodbye to Vancouver, at Hotel Georgia until their departure they sail on the Diemerdyk shortly en route for London and Paris." The Vancouver Sun Dec 06, 1951

By 1935 Dennys has married a beautiful French woman born in England, Antoinette Therese Eugenie Vallier-Robinson. While living on the Ranch in Oyama, Antoinette taught dance. The couple with the daughter from Dennys' first marriage continued living and operating the ranch, making many trips to Europe. In 1951 the couple decided to move permanently to Corsica. By 1962 Antoinette was back in Canada and living in Vancouver. I was not able to find a death certificate for Dennys and believe he likely died in Corsica and Antoinette returned to Vancouver.

Harold David Butterworth writes in his autobiography that he had worked many years on the Rainsford Ranch as a young boy and that later he purchased the ranch from Léa Isaacs. In 1955, Harold received a letter from Marcel Isaacs informing him that the family no longer had any interest in living in Canada, and had decided to sell the Ranch. He suggested that we might like to buy all or a portion of it. When the legal part of the ranch was complete Harold found himself owning a ranch that was not in good repair. Al and Myrtle Smith who had a good summer business with their resort, Blue Water Lodge, suggested Harold fix up the log building and the Smith's would send them their summer overflow. They managed to remodel the building into 2 units and added a third the following spring. They called it Rainsford Lodge.

Note, although in Oyama many people may be familiar with the family name being "Isaacs" Marcel, Dennys and Léa went by the surname of "Godfrey Isaacs". Marcel signed his art Marcel "Godfrey". In researching this family all surnames were used to find records.

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