

Heay Family

(J. Taylor, updated Dec 8, 2004)

- Family were once prominent on Cortes Island. They may have settled at first in Victoria and then relocated to Cortes; the Hagues of Victoria (relatives) followed them. The Heays (but not Hauges) left Cortes before about WW1. They are said to originally have come from Washington State, where there are still people with this last name. I wrote to a selection of Heays there but got no response. There are no families of this last name in Canada, as at 2004 (see Canada 411 web site).

Chronology of the Heay families in Archival Records:

- **1875** - in the 1901 census Horace Heay (born 1867) is reported to have come to Canada in 1875.
- in **1881** the Heay family were all living together in one household in Victoria - Alexander (9), Francis (5), Horace (14), James (15), Lydia (18), Martha (2), Phillima (7), Walter (12), with their father James (52), farmer from US and their mother Eleanor (34), also from US.
- **1885** - James Heay died in Victoria and is buried in Ross Bay cemetery. Death cert B13077, 1885-09-004260. [Also buried in Ross Bay Cem in Victoria are Martha Jane (12), died 1891 and Robert Greely Heay, born Cortes, 1903/12/2.
- in **1891**, Victoria census, many (or all) Alexander and Walter (21) were living in separate boarding houses.
- **1891** census for Cortes, no Heay
- **1892** directory for Victoria, Alex, Frank, Horace Heay (all boiler makers) were living in Victoria, as was Walter Heay, sealer.
- **1894** directory - H. Hay, engineer; no other family members listed
- Horace Heay registered for parts of Section 8, June **1895**, N. of Lagoon. CG 1904.
- Alexander Heay registered for parts of Sec 15 & 16, Aug **1895**; abandoned 1906.
- **1895** directory - H. Hay, engr
- **1897** - Horace Heay and Cora Smith married
- **1898** directory - Horace Heay, engineer; Alex Heay, farmer.
- Walter Greely Heay for parts of Sec 16, May **1898**, cancelled.
- Alex H born **1898**, registered as born at Cortes.
- Walter Greely Heay, born July **1898** on Cortes, parents Cora Smith and Horace Greely Heay.
- **1899** directory - Alex Heay, farmer; Horace Heay, trader.
- Walter Heay registered for pre-emption, Sec 16, May 1898; abandoned.
- James Heay registered for parts of Section 6 in **1899**, 160 acres, cancelled.
- Frank Heay, registered for parts of Sec 8 & 9, May **1899**. Relinquished.
- Ethel Gertrude Heay, registered as born on Cortes, **1900**; daughter of Horace and Cora Heay; she married at 18 in 1918 in Victoria to Robert McIlwaine; died in Victoria in 1976, as Ethel Gertrude McIlwaine. There are two McIlwaines in Victoria currently ('03) but neither are related.
- **1901** census - Horace (farmer) & Cora Heay, with son Walter G. Horace came to Can 1875
 - Alexander Heay (boilermaker) & mother Eleanor & his infant daughter Ethel G
- **1901** directory - Horace Heay, rancher; Walter Heay, farmer; Alex Hey, farmer.
- **1902** directory - Horace Heay, rancher; Walter Heay, farmer; Alex Hey, farmer.

- **1903** directory - Horace Heay, rancher.
- **1905** directory - no Heay under Cortez or Whaletown listings.
- **1909** directory - no Heay
- **1910** directory - Frank Heay, farmer; Horace Heay, farmer under Cortes; Frank Heay, boiler mkr; and Horace, Heay, farmer, under Whaletown.
- Alexander Heay m Viola Wagomer in Vancouver **1909**. Cortes family?
- Voters' List, **1911-12**: Horace Heay, Whaletown, Cortes Island, farmer
- **1918** directory - no Heay
- **1919** directory - no Heay

Horace Greeley Heay (Nov 10, 1930); Isabel Heay (Jan 12, 1892); and Robina Geraldine Heay (Jan 21, 1912) are buried in Mt. View Cemetery in Vancouver.

At present the name Heay does not appear in Canadian directories (Canada 411) but there are a number of people with this name in the US, especially in Washington State.

Family Members:

Horace Greely (or is it Greeley?) Heay, born in Nebraska, was often listed as an engineer and sometimes (1906 voter's list) as a farmer. He married **Cora May Smith** (age 15) in 1897; both were then living at Thurlow, B.C. Witnesses at their wedding: A.N. Smith, Philip Heay, Anna Lydia Wildgrube and Lena Wildgrube of Hernando & Read Isl; (see marriage cert). He came to Canada in 1875 (see census) and he had been living on Cortes since at least 1894 (directory). [There was a famous US journalist, who started the New York Tribune, named Horace Greeley; any relation??]

Horace's wife Cora had formerly been living with her family at Burdwood Bay on Read Island. Cora's parents, the Smiths, were involved in a famous love-triangle murder case on Read Island in 1894. Cora was only 15 when she married Horace directly after this trial. Horace registered for a property north of the lagoon at Mansons, Section 8, in June 1895 and got the crown grant in 1904. They had at least two children: Walter G. and Ethel Gertrude, born 1900. (Ethel G., infant, was living with Horace's brother Alexander and his mother, Eleanor, at the time of the 1901 census and was said to be Alexander's daughter, though it should be noted census facts are often wrong.) Also at the time of the 1901 census Cora's 14-year-old brother was living with Cora and Horace. Her father was boarding with a family on Cortes.

Horace worked as an engineer on Mike Manson's boat sometimes; and residents of the area brought their engines/machines to him for repairs. Horace had Canadian citizenship as early as 1898, when he appears in the voter's list. In the 1906 voter's list Horace was registered at Whaletown (his address or simply where he was registered to vote?) The Hawkins are said to have taken over the Heay's property at Manson's Lagoon in 1908. The last time Horace was listed on Cortes was in the 1911-12 Voter's List. There are no death records for Horace or Cora in BC. One of their children, Ethel Gertrude, married Robert McIlwaine in Victoria in 1918. Their daughter Ethel Gertrude married Robert C.H. McIlwaine in Victoria in 1918. B11372, 1918-09-035315 (JT has record copied).

Horace and Cora's property was sold to the Hawkins in 1908 and now belongs to Ian Disney.

Lydia Heay (19) married Henry Hague (21) in 1882 in Victoria and the couple settled on Cortes in the 1890s. They took over Henry Heay's pre-emption at the lake.

Alexander (Alex) Heay (farmer) registered for parts of Sec 15 & 16, Aug 1895, abandoned 1906. An Alexander Heay married Viola Wagomer in Vancouver in 1909. He was 36 and a resident of Vancouver. He was born in W.S.(?) And was a boilermaker. His parents were James Heay and Eleanor Davis. They were married in the home of Horace Heay at 679 Cordova St in Vancouver. Alex is listed as a farmer in the directories. He sold his property to August Tiber in 1908 and it now belongs to Ellingsen.

Walter Greely Heay registered for parts of Sec 16, May 1898. He's listed in directories as a farmer.

James Heay registered for parts of Section 6, 1899; canceled.

Frank Heay registered for parts of Sec 8 & 9, 1899. Last listing is 1910 directory, farmer and/or boiler maker. There was a Frank Heay born in New West in 1891... Francis (Frank) Heay (38) married Margaret Adams (29) in Vancouver in 1915. He was born in Copland Nebraska. His father was James Heay (farmer) and his mother was Eleanor Davis. He was a farmer at Gambier Bay at the time of his marriage. Frank listed himself as a boiler-maker in the 1906 voter's list.

Eleanor (or Elinor) (nee Davis) Heay, living with son Alexander in 1901 (census). Elinor died in New Westminster at age 77 in 1924. She was then a resident of Collingwood, S. Vancouver before being committed to care for senility (7 months). She was born in Iowa April 16, 1847.

Philip Heay, has not been traced on Cortes, but he signed as a witness for Horace and Cora's wedding in Vancouver in 1897.