



Interview with Elsie Ansdell by Eric Damer September 18, 2012 - Track 1

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory287>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the recording pertains to the Brown-Johns first settling in Burnaby. Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell discusses land clearing for the family home, each of her parents and her brothers.
Date Range:	1910-1946
Photo Info:	Elsie Brown-John (bottom, far right) with her class at Kitchener Street School, [1936]. Item no. 549-001.
Length:	0:09:17
Name:	Brown-John, Victor Joseph Charles Brown-John, Winnifred Douglas
Subject:	Land Clearing
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - Napier Street
Historic Neighbourhood:	Vancouver Heights (Historic Neighbourhood)
Planning Study Area:	Willingdon Heights Area
Interviewer:	Damer, Eric
Interview Date:	September 18, 2012
Scope and Content:	Recording is an interview with early Burnaby resident Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell conducted by Burnaby Village Museum employee Eric Damer, September 18, 2012. Major themes discussed are: settling in Burnaby and the early years of the Brown-John family.
Biographical Notes:	Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's father, a trained carpenter and cabinet maker, Victor Brown-John came to Canada from Wales in 1910. He cleared three lots at Napier and Gilmore Streets and built a two-roomed house. In 1912, he was joined by his wife and two eldest sons, Victor and Archie. Twin boys, Frank and Roy, were born in 1914 in the Burnaby home and their fifth son, Clive, was born in 1915. From 1916 to 1919 Victor John-Brown left Burnaby to serve overseas. Elsie Brown-John (later Ansdell) was born in 1921. Her younger brother, Gwyn "Jerry" was born in 1923. In 1925 Victor Brown-John suffered a fatal accident while working as a longshoreman in Northern British Columbia. Elsie attended Kitchener Elementary and North Burnaby High School. She married during the Second World War and moved to South Burnaby to raise her family whilst continuing to work in various department stores both in Vancouver and Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	4
Total Length:	33:02
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Ansdell, Elsie Brown-John
Interview Location:	Burnaby Village Museum
Interviewer Bio:	Eric Damer is a lifelong British Columbian born in Victoria, raised in Kamloops, and currently residing in Burnaby. After studying philosophy at the University of Victoria, he became interested in the educational forces that had shaped his own life. He completed master's and doctoral degrees in educational studies at the University of British Columbia with a particular interest in the history of adult and higher education in the province. In 2012, Eric worked for the City of Burnaby as a field researcher and writer, conducting interviews for the City Archives and Museum Oral History Program.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burna-Boom Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS171-001_Track_1
Transcript Available:	None
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

Images



Interview with Elsie Ansdell by Eric Damer September 18, 2012 - Track 2

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory288>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the recording pertains to Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's memories of a trip she and her mother and brothers took to the Cariboo region of British Columbia. She also discusses attendance records and photographs from her time as a student at Kitchener Street School. A neighbourhood storekeeper is also briefly mentioned.
Date Range:	1916-1948
Photo Info:	Elsie Brown-John (bottom, far right) with her class at Kitchener Street School, [1936]. Item no. 549-001.
Length:	0:08:25
Name:	Brown-John, Winnifred Douglas Kitchener Street School
Interviewer:	Damer, Eric
Interview Date:	September 18, 2012
Scope and Content:	Recording is an interview with early Burnaby resident Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell conducted by Burnaby Village Museum employee Eric Damer, September 18, 2012. Major themes discussed are: settling in Burnaby and the early years of the Brown-John family.
Biographical Notes:	Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's father, a trained carpenter and cabinet maker, Victor Brown-John came to Canada from Wales in 1910. He cleared three lots at Napier and Gilmore Streets and built a two-roomed house. In 1912, he was joined by his wife and two eldest sons, Victor and Archie. Twin boys, Frank and Roy, were born in 1914 in the Burnaby home and their fifth son, Clive, was born in 1915. From 1916 to 1919 Victor John-Brown left Burnaby to serve overseas. Elsie Brown-John (later Ansdell) was born in 1921. Her younger brother, Gwyn "Jerry" was born in 1923. In 1925 Victor Brown-John suffered a fatal accident while working as a longshoreman in Northern British Columbia. Elsie attended Kitchener Elementary and North Burnaby High School. She married during the Second World War and moved to South Burnaby to raise her family whilst continuing to work in various department stores both in Vancouver and Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	4
Total Length:	33:02
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Ansdell, Elsie Brown-John
Interview Location:	Burnaby Village Museum

Interviewer Bio: Eric Damer is a lifelong British Columbian born in Victoria, raised in Kamloops, and currently residing in Burnaby. After studying philosophy at the University of Victoria, he became interested in the educational forces that had shaped his own life. He completed master's and doctoral degrees in educational studies at the University of British Columbia with a particular interest in the history of adult and higher education in the province. In 2012, Eric worked for the City of Burnaby as a field researcher and writer, conducting interviews for the City Archives and Museum Oral History Program.

Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

Series: [Burna-Boom Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS171-001_Track_2

Transcript Available: None

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track two of recording of interview with Elsie Ansdell](#)

Images



Interview with Elsie Ansdell by Eric Damer September 18, 2012 - Track 3

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory289>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the recording pertains to Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's early years of marriage while also a member of the work force. She talks about her own children; their early years spent in South Burnaby.

Date Range: 1939-2012

Photo Info: Elsie Brown-John (bottom, far right) with her class at Kitchener Street School, [1936]. Item no. 549-001.

Length: 0:07:05

Interviewer: [Damer, Eric](#)

Interview Date: September 18, 2012

Scope and Content: Recording is an interview with early Burnaby resident Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell conducted by Burnaby Village Museum employee Eric Damer, September 18, 2012. Major themes discussed are: settling in Burnaby and the early years of the Brown-John family.

Biographical Notes: Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's father, a trained carpenter and cabinet maker, Victor Brown-John came to Canada from Wales in 1910. He cleared three lots at Napier and Gilmore Streets and built a two-roomed house. In 1912, he was joined by his wife and two eldest sons, Victor and Archie. Twin boys, Frank and Roy, were born in 1914 in the Burnaby home and their fifth son, Clive, was born in 1915. From 1916 to 1919 Victor John-Brown left Burnaby to serve overseas. Elsie Brown-John (later Ansdell) was born in 1921. Her younger brother, Gwyn "Jerry" was born in 1923. In 1925 Victor Brown-John suffered a fatal accident while working as a longshoreman in Northern British Columbia. Elsie attended Kitchener Elementary and North Burnaby High School. She married during the Second World War and moved to South Burnaby to raise her family whilst continuing to work in various department stores both in Vancouver and Burnaby.

Total Tracks: 4

Total Length: 33:02

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Ansdell, Elsie Brown-John](#)

Interview Location: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Interviewer Bio: Eric Damer is a lifelong British Columbian born in Victoria, raised in Kamloops, and currently residing in Burnaby. After studying philosophy at the University of Victoria, he became interested in the educational forces that had shaped his own life. He completed master's and doctoral degrees in educational studies at the University of British Columbia with a particular interest in the history of adult and higher education in the province. In 2012, Eric worked for the City of Burnaby as a field researcher and writer, conducting interviews for the City Archives and Museum Oral History Program.

Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

Series: [Burna-Boom Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS171-001_Track_3

Transcript Available: None

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track three of recording of interview with Elsie Ansdell](#)

Images



[Interview with Elsie Ansdell by Eric Damer September 18, 2012 - Track 4](#)

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory290>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary:	This portion of the recording pertains to Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's early memories of recreational activities and daily life as a young person in Burnaby (activities include swimming, skating and going to the movies). She mentions Frank Walsh's Garage and discusses photographs of Brown-John Trucking, "the blasting stump" and Burns Acreage.
Date Range:	1927-1938
Photo Info:	Elsie Brown-John (bottom, far right) with her class at Kitchener Street School, [1936]. Item no. 549-001.
Length:	0:08:14
Subject:	Recreational Activities - Swimming
Historic Neighbourhood:	Vancouver Heights (Historic Neighbourhood)
Interviewer:	Damer, Eric
Interview Date:	September 18, 2012
Scope and Content:	Recording is an interview with early Burnaby resident Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell conducted by Burnaby Village Museum employee Eric Damer, September 18, 2012. Major themes discussed are: settling in Burnaby and the early years of the Brown-John family.
Biographical Notes:	Elsie (Brown-John) Ansdell's father, a trained carpenter and cabinet maker, Victor Brown-John came to Canada from Wales in 1910. He cleared three lots at Napier and Gilmore Streets and built a two-roomed house. In 1912, he was joined by his wife and two eldest sons, Victor and Archie. Twin boys, Frank and Roy, were born in 1914 in the Burnaby home and their fifth son, Clive, was born in 1915. From 1916 to 1919 Victor John-Brown left Burnaby to serve overseas. Elsie Brown-John (later Ansdell) was born in 1921. Her younger brother, Gwyn "Jerry" was born in 1923. In 1925 Victor Brown-John suffered a fatal accident while working as a longshoreman in Northern British Columbia. Elsie attended Kitchener Elementary and North Burnaby High School. She married during the Second World War and moved to South Burnaby to raise her family whilst continuing to work in various department stores both in Vancouver and Burnaby.
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Interviewer Bio:	Eric Damer is a lifelong British Columbian born in Victoria, raised in Kamloops, and currently residing in Burnaby. After studying philosophy at the University of Victoria, he became interested in the educational forces that had shaped his own life. He completed master's and doctoral degrees in educational studies at the University of British Columbia with a particular interest in the history of adult and higher education in the province. In 2012, Eric worked for the City of Burnaby as a field researcher and writer, conducting interviews for the City Archives and Museum Oral History Program.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burna-Boom Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS171-001_Track_4
Transcript Available:	None
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[🔊 Track four of recording of interview with Elsie Ansdell](#)

Images

