

EARLY BELCARRA SETTLEMENT

By Michael Cotton – October 1997

JOHN HALL — “BELCARRA’S FIRST WHITE SETTLER”

The *Land Ordinance Act* was proclaimed and passed into law in 1870. This Act provided for any British male subject eighteen years or older to be eligible to pre-empt 160 acres of Crown Land. He must then dwell on his claim for a period of four years and improve it by at least \$2.50 per acre. For \$1.00 per acre he could then apply for legal title to the parcel of pre-empted land.

A Mr. John Hall, born around 1819 (Crease 1882), in Kent Ireland, found a plot of wilderness beauty lying north of the Burrard Inlet and east of the North Arm (Indian Arm). The beautiful property was once known as “Dead Horse Bay.” He applied for Lot 229 in early 1870 and in September of the same year the application was registered.

Hall built a house, planted a garden and an orchard on a piece of land partially cleared earlier by Indians. On September 4th, 1882, the [title was registered in his name](#). (Verified by *Survey & Records Branch*, Victoria, BC, 1984) His property included the entire present-day Belcarra picnic site, more than half of the Belcarra Peninsula and all of the Turtlehead and Whiskey Cove areas.

John then took to wife (common-law), a young Indian maiden from a nearby reservation. (Whiting 1978) They had two children, born around 1877, and 1879. (Crease 1882)

John was known to have cultivated a certain affinity for alcoholic beverages and had been known to go on periodical drunks. On October 18th, 1882, neighbors dropped in to John’s house for an hour or two of partying and drinking. Mary Dish (or *Mn-Shaat*) — John Hall’s mother-in-law and her sister *Chelta* canoed over from the north shore so that Mary could visit with her grandchildren.

Around sundown, according to Chelta, Mary was pressing John for re-payment of money he owed her husband. An employee of Hall’s, Peter Calder said Mary had stolen some money from Hall and tried to run away. Peter said he retrieved a \$20 gold piece, allegedly stolen, from inside her blouse. They claimed Mary was trying to flee in her canoe as John shot her through her breast. She died instantly. Chelta retrieved Mary’s body from the beach some hours later. John Hall was arrested the next day with no apparent trouble by [Constable Jonathan Miller](#) from the Granville townsite, constable for the Burrard Inlet district. An inquest by [Dr. Charles Newland Trew](#), coroner for the Burrard Inlet district, was held in Moodyville on October 20th, and John Hall was formally charged with Mary’s murder.

Hall pleaded “not guilty” to the murder.

John Hall commissioned a young Irish lawyer, [William Norman Bole](#) who was the first barrister to settle permanently in New Westminster, to plead his case. Bole’s abilities as a defense lawyer were well known even though he had been admitted to the bar only a year earlier.

Jonathan Miller (1834-1914)

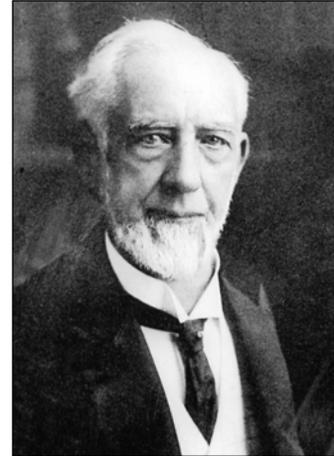
Jonathan Miller was born in Melbourne, Ontario, in 1834 and married Margaret Springer in 1855. He left for BC in 1862, with his brother-in-law, Benjamin Springer, as part of the Cariboo Gold Rush. His wife, Margaret, and children joined him in 1864. During that same year, he became a member of the New Westminster City Council. Between 1866 and 1869 he was involved in the lumber trade.

In 1871 Miller was appointed Granville townsite's second police constable, government agent, and collector for the Burrard Inlet district, succeeding Granville's first constable: Tompkins Brew. Miller served 15 years as constable from 1871 to 1886. (In 1873 New Westminster hired its first police constable: Jonathan Morey.) Miller began a "chain gang" in 1873 with chained prisoners being taken out daily to work at clearing and building roads and lanes, under the watchful eyes of a guard armed with a shotgun. (The *British Columbia Penitentiary* in New Westminster didn't open until 1878.)

Miller was on the committee which drafted the charter of Vancouver.

In 1886, Miller's cottage served as the polling booth for Vancouver's first civic election, and Miller was the returning officer at the first mayoralty election. Vancouver was incorporated on April 6th, 1886, and by May 10th, 1886, Jonathan Miller's cottage served as City Hall, the courthouse, and the jail. Miller also served as the fledgling city's collector, jailer, constable, court clerk and government-agent. He declined the offered job of Chief of Police. On May 1st, 1886, the Vancouver post office came into existence, and Jonathan Miller became Vancouver's first postmaster, a position he held until 1909, when he retired at the age of 75. Jonathan Miller died in 1914.

Source: *City of Vancouver Archives* (Record Numbers: Add. MSS 819, 511, & 291).



Jonathan Miller 1886
(CVA Port. P471)

Murder of a Mother-in-law

Daily British Colonist, Saturday, October 21st, 1882, page 3.

Granville, October 20th, 1882 — Yesterday an old man named John Hall, who has a ranch opposite Port Moody, shot and killed his mother-in-law, and Indian woman, who, he alleges, had stolen some money from him and was leaving with it. He has been arrested and the inquest and trial are being held in Moodyville today. Particulars not received.

Inquest — John Hall Committed For Trial

Mainland Guardian, Wednesday, October 25th, 1882, page 3.

Inquest — Coroner Trew held an inquest on the body of the Indian woman shot at the North Arm of Burrard Inlet; the verdict was equivalent to one of willful murder. The bullet, from a Henry rifle, entered at the back of the left side, and travelled the body to the right side, producing instant death. The prisoner, John Hall, was brought over on Saturday night and lodged in our city prison; he was fully committed for trial on the charge.



Dr. C.N. Trew
(CVA Mil P298)



R.

Province of
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 2479

Robert Heaver
S. Gore Chief Court Lands Works
H.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Know YE, that WE do by these presents, for US, Our heirs and Successors, in
consideration of the sum of One hundred and fifty one Dollars,
to US paid, give and grant unto John Hall

his heirs and assigns, All that Parcel or Lot of Land situate in New Westminster
District, said to contain One hundred and fifty one acres,
more or less, and more particularly described on the map or plan hereto annexed and coloured red,
and numbered Lot Two hundred and twenty nine (229) Block One (1)
on the Official Plan or Survey of the said New Westminster District
in the Province of British Columbia, to have and to hold the said Parcel or Lot of Land, and all and
singular the premises hereby granted, with their appurtenances, unto the said John Hall

his heirs and assigns for ever.

PROVIDED, NEVERTHELESS, that it shall at all times be lawful for US, Our heirs and
Successors, or for any person or persons acting in that behalf by Our or their authority, to resume any
part of the said lands which it may be deemed necessary to resume for making roads, canals, bridges,
towing-paths, or other works of public utility or convenience; so nevertheless that the land so to be
resumed, shall not exceed one-twentieth part of the whole of the lands aforesaid, and that no such
resumption shall be made of any lands on which any buildings may have been erected, or which may be
in use as gardens or otherwise for the more convenient occupation of any such buildings.

PROVIDED, also, that it shall at all times be lawful for US, Our Heirs and Successors, or for
any person or persons acting under Our or their authority, to enter into and upon any part of the said
lands, and to raise and get thereout any gold or silver ore which may be thereupon or thereunder
situate, and to use and enjoy any and every part of the said land, and of the easements and privileges
thereto belonging, for the purpose of such raising and getting, and every other purpose connected
therewith, paying in respect of such raising, getting, and use, reasonable compensation.

PROVIDED, also, that it shall be lawful for any person duly authorized in that behalf
by US, Our Heirs and Successors, to take and occupy such water privileges, and to have and
enjoy such rights of carrying water over, through, or under any parts of the hereditaments hereby
granted, as may be reasonably required for mining or agricultural purposes in the vicinity of the said
hereditaments, paying therefor a reasonable compensation to the aforesaid John Hall

his heirs or assigns.

PROVIDED, also, that it shall be at all times lawful for any person duly authorized in that
behalf by US, Our Heirs and Successors, to take from or upon any part of the hereditaments hereby
granted, without compensation, any gravel, sand, stone, lime, timber, or other material which may be
required in the construction, maintenance, or repair of any roads, ferries, bridges, or other public works.

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent,
and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

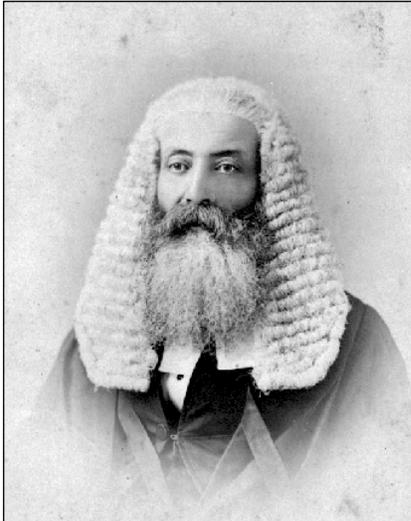
Witness His Honour Robert Francis Boninall Lieutenant-
Governor of Our Province of British Columbia and its Dependencies, at Our Government
House, in Our City of Victoria, this fourth day of

September in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred
and eighty two, and in the Forty sixth year of Our Reign.

By Command [Signature]

John Hall's Deed to Lot 229 — September 4th, 1882

The discovery of Judge H.P.P. Crease's "bench book" (Judge Crease's personal notes recorded during John Hall's murder trial) in the *British Columbia Archives* in 1997, about 115 years after the trial, provides the only reliable record of the circumstances surrounding the event and the evidence made available at the trial. Until then, only sensationalized stories passed by word of mouth, letter and other second hand sources were the sole basis for information about the murder. According to the evidence brought forth at the trial, much of the previous gossip turned-out to be incorrect.



Judge Crease circa 1876

Henry Pering Pellew Crease, 1823-1905. New Westminster, Victoria; Lawyer, Attorney General, Judge.

Judge Crease was born 20 August 1823 at Ince Castle, Cornwall, England, the son of Captain Henry Crease, R.N., and Mary Smith Crease. He graduated from *Clare College*, Cambridge on 29 April 1846 and on 21 May 1846 was admitted to the *Honourable Society of the Middle Temple* to study law. From June to September 1847 Crease resided in Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey under medical treatment for a pulmonary infection, then returned to complete his legal studies at the *Inns of Court* and was called to the degree of the Upper Bar on 8 June 1849. He proceeded to Toronto, Canada in the same year and while there joined an exploring expedition on Lake Superior with the purpose of surveying a proposed ship canal between Lake Huron and Lake Superior. He returned to England in 1851, where he continued to practice law as a conveyancing barrister and managed *The Great United Wheal Vor Mines* near Helston in Cornwall. On 27 April 1853, he married Sarah Lindley

(daughter of Dr. John Lindley, a renowned British botanist and sister of Lord Nathaniel Lindley, a British judge of some merit who was eventually to become senior judge in Chancery, President of the Court of Appeal, and finally Lord of Appeal in Ordinary with a life peerage). As a result of the commercial depression of 1857, Crease gave up his management of the Cornish mines and returned to Toronto in 1858, but continued on to Victoria. Here he became the first barrister qualified to practice in both Vancouver Island and British Columbia, when he was admitted and enrolled as a Barrister of *Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Civil Justice of Vancouver's Island* at Victoria by Chief Justice David Cameron and British Columbia by Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie on 18 December 1858. Crease sent for his wife and three daughters (Mary, Susan and Barbara) and they arrived from England in February 1860. On March 2nd, 1860, Crease took his seat in the *House of Assembly* (Second Parliament) as a member for Victoria District. He accepted the additional responsibility of Attorney General of the *Colony of British Columbia* on 14 October 1861, and subsequently resigned his seat in January 1862 when he moved to New Westminster. He was a member of the first legislative council of British Columbia, which sat on 21 January 1864, and he served on the Executive Council to Governor Frederick Seymour. From the unification of the two colonies in 1866 until his elevation to the Bench in 1870, Crease continued to serve as Attorney-General and member of the legislative council. The Crease family had resided in New Westminster from 1862 but at the end of November 1868 they returned to Victoria. During his years on the mainland, Crease also represented the *Colonial Securities Company Limited* (later the *Canada Agency Association*) of London and was also elected in 1868 as a Fellow of the *Royal Colonial Institute*. Crease was appointed a *Puisne Judge* on 13 May 1870. In addition to that responsibility, he served as Chairman of the *Royal Commission for the Revision of Laws of BC* preparatory to Confederation with Canada (1870), served with fellow justices Begbie and John Hamilton Cray on the Royal Commission inquiry into the acquisition of Texada Island (1874), and chaired the *Royal Commission for Consolidation of the BC Statutes* (1877). Judge Crease retired from the bench on 21 January 1896. He died 27 November 1905, and was buried in the *Ross Bay Cemetery* in Victoria, BC.

Source: *British Columbia Archives Cat. MS-0054 (Photograph BCARS B-01397).*

The trial took place in New Westminster before Judge H.P.P. Crease on November 27th, 1882, before a jury of six people.

John Hall did not testify in his own behalf. Mr. Bole put several witnesses on the stand to testify to Hall's good character. He also used a witness who testified that the type of rifle John Hall owned was prone to malfunction. The witness said it was difficult to tell whether such a rifle was loaded or not. Such information was offered to suggest that perhaps the murder had been accidental. Apparently Hall's faith in his lawyer's reputation was not misplaced for rather than face the gallows, as was the more frequent punishment following a murder charge, Hall was found guilty of manslaughter! The jury sentenced him to 7 years of hard labour in the B.C. Penitentiary. (Calendar of General Assize, New Westminster, BC, 1882) The Judge's notes indicated that it was his belief that Hall was drunk at the time and he also noted there were no extenuating circumstances.

The Judge's journal shows that Bole noted Hall to be 63 years old, a good church-goer and that he left two orphan children. It is interesting to note that John Hall's wife did not play a role in the murder or the trial, and the Judge's statement that she left two orphan children would seem to indicate that she was already dead.

While preparing the case, the 37-year-old Bole viewed the scene of the murder, and immediately fell in love with the area. A common practice at that time was the part payment of fees with goods or property. A deal was struck whereby the title to the land was to be transferred to Bole "in payment for legal services rendered." The early logging site of *Dead Horse Bay* (Belcarra Bay) was thus acquired by Judge W. Norman Bole. Soon after the trial Bole placed money in a bank account for John Hall to use upon his release from prison (Bole 1920).

Although very little is known about [Captain, His Honour W. Norman Bole](#) and the time he spent in Belcarra, we do have a fairly detailed history of his life.

Bole came from an old Surrey (England) family that had emigrated to Ireland in 1520. He was the oldest son of John Bole, Esq. who was deputy clerk of the Crown and Peace for Mayo, and his mother Elizabeth Jane of a branch of the Argyle clan that came to Ireland at the time of James the First. Norman Bole was born in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland, on December 6th, 1846. Educated at Dublin, he arrived in North America, en route to Queensland in 1877. At San Francisco he found that his ship had already left so the young man changed his plans, coming to Victoria early in 1877, where he took his call to the Bar in 1878. He still had intentions of going to Australia but was persuaded, there being no other lawyer in New Westminster, to commence practice there. The temporary arrangement became permanent. (*British Columbia, from the earliest times to the present by Howay and Schofield, Vol. 4*) Judge Bole soon became the senior member of the New Westminster bar. In the many cases with which he was connected in a private capacity he exhibited the possession of every faculty of which a lawyer may be proud — skill in the presentation of evidence, marked ability in cross examination, persuasiveness before the jury, strong grasp of every feature of the case, ability to secure a favorable ruling, unusual familiarity with human nature and the springs of human conduct, and last but not least, untiring energy. He had a brilliant career as a criminal lawyer and defended with marked success many notable criminal cases. (*British Columbia from the earliest to the present by Judge F. W. Howay and Schlegel*)



City of Vancouver Archives (CVA P.974)

Captain, His Honour W. Norman Bole — New Westminster *circa* 1893

He married Florence Blanchard Coulthard, daughter of Major John Haning Coulthard, J.P. in 1881. (Howay 1914) They had two sons, Garnet Seymour, who died in childhood and J. Percy Hampton Bole. In 1884 he became New Westminster's first police magistrate and in 1886 he was elected as New Westminster's representative in the House where he "manfully stood up for the rights of his constituency". (*Source: supplement to the New Westminster Columbian, December, 1903, page 70*) He was appointed a Q.C. in 1887, became a Bencher of the *Law Society* in 1888 and a year later County Judge of the Supreme Court.

William Norman Bole, the father of the New Westminster bar, was admitted as a solicitor in the province on May 31st, 1877, and called to the bar on November 25, 1878. He was appointed Queen's Counsel on May 27th, 1887. He was appointed a Judge of the *County Court* in New Westminster on September 19th, 1889, which then included Vancouver, and a local Judge of the *Supreme Court of BC* on December 7th, 1891. (*Source: Roll books of the Law Society of British Columbia.*)

He gained the nickname, the "lightning justice". Judge Bole was an excellent marksman and a yachtsman. He took an active interest in the militia, achieving a rank of Captain of No. 1 Battery, B.C. He was also a Bencher of the *Law Society*, Chairman of the *Dominion License Commissioners* and president of the *Board of Trade*. The Judge was also a "born orator" (*Source: Supplement to the New Westminster Columbian, December 1903*) and therefore a popular speaker at the laying of the foundation of the Carnegie Library in New Westminster around 1902. Judge Bole died in New Westminster on April 7th, 1923.

"A long and intimate connection with local affairs in British Columbia has naturally led Judge Bole into other important affairs of an industrial, commercial or charitable character. For many years he served as president of the *Royal Columbian Hospital*, exerting his influence for the benefit of that institution. He also was president of the *Board of Trade* and as such did valuable work along promotional lines. He was president of the *Hastings Sawmill Company* and held the same office in connection with the *New Westminster Southern Railway Company* when he, in connection with A. J. McColl, John Hendry, T. J. Trapp, H. Hoy, and other public-spirited citizens out of their private resources built the railroad from New Westminster to the United States boundary at Blaine, a line which has since been acquired by the *Great Northern Railway Company*.



William Norman Bole c.1880

For many years Judge Bole was actively identified with military affairs in the province, serving as first lieutenant of the *Seymour Field Artillery* and later of No.1 Battery, *British Columbia Brigade of Artillery*, of which body he was captain and commanding officer. Judge Bole also enjoys an enviable reputation as a public speaker. At the public celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, at New Westminster, Judge Bole was unanimously chosen as the orator of the day and delivered a splendid address in Queen's Park, during the course of which he referred to all the principal events of the Victorian era and was listened to with rapt attention by an audience of over five thousand people. The speech, which was published in the leading papers, was the subject of much flattering commendation. Judge Bole has at many other public

events been among the principal speakers, and as a parliamentary debater he has marked success and in this connection was not infrequently placed upon government benches when a dilemma on points of parliamentary procedure arose.

Judge Bole has always taken a keen interest in shooting, yachting and all manly outdoor sports. He is honorary president of the *New Westminster Gun Club* and has been president of nearly all the local clubs. He also finds recreation in magazine writing and is a valued contributor to some standard publications.” (*British Columbia from the earliest to the present by Judge F. W. Howay and Schlefield*)

It is not known how long or often the family stayed at Belcarra, nor whether they built a house there. Probably the land at Belcarra was a summer retreat for the Bole family as it was for many other well-to-do Vancouverites.

Hans Hanson was hired as caretaker for the Bole property. Hanson had “jumped ship” or left the Norwegian ship *Esmeralda* known as the “hell ship.” (Defieux 1969)

(Bole’s son Percy met Hans by accident near Campbell River in the 1930’s and was able to renew the family friendship — resulting in a newspaper article that recorded these facts for posterity.

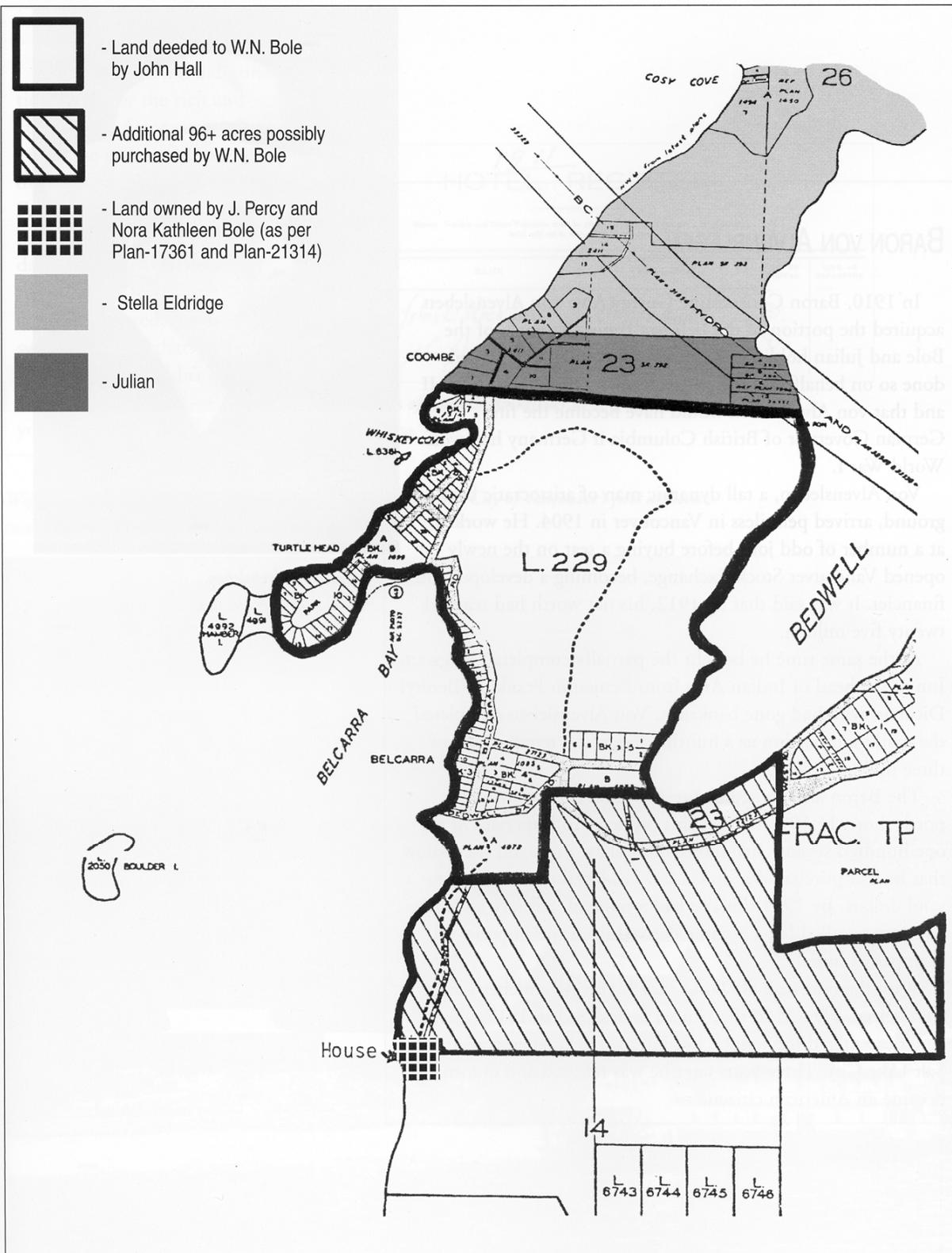
Apparently, Bole pre-empted an additional 100 acres of land adjoining 229 (Nelson, 1927), but this has not been verified. The possible location of this land is shown on the [map below](#) (*Source: “Between Forest & Sea: Memories of Belcarra”*). The size of the parcel is 96± acres.

Lot 229 was subdivided in 1908 — [See map below](#). (*Source: “Between Forest & Sea: Memories of Belcarra”*), but Bole’s name did not appear on the subdivision plan as owner. Instead the *Belcarra-Bidwell Bay Land Company* is listed as the owner. It is not known if Bole was a principal of the company.

Judge Bole’s son, Percy, returned to Belcarra in 1934 after being wounded in World War 1. Ironically, it seems he had to re-purchase land there, near the “Ranch” once owned by his father. He built a house (date unknown) that is still standing south of the Belcarra picnic area. (As of 1998). He lived there for many years with his wife Nora Kathleen Bole without road access, running water or electricity. Kathleen claims he lived longer because of this. The family left years before the GVRD purchased the property for the Regional Park. Percy died in 1966.

William Norman Bole gave Belcarra its Celtic name that means “the fair land on which the sun shines”. In 1886 he became an MLA and in 1889 a judge of the County Court of New Westminster. In 1908, he subdivided Lot 229 and it was registered in the name of *Belcarra-Bedwell Bay Land Company*. Bole died in 1923. His sole surviving son, J. Percy Hampton Bole returned to Belcarra in 1934 with his wife Nora where they built the still existing log house and they lived there for many years without benefit of access, electricity or running water. (*Source: The Belcarra Barnacle.*)

The site of 160 acres was the Bole Estate for many years afterward. One of the caretakers was Hans Hanson who lived on the site for a number of years before the turn of the century. (*Source: North Arm News, April 1979.*)



Source: "Between Forest & Sea: Memories of Belcarra"

Belcarra Land Ownership circa 1910

The Bole Family

William Norman Bole gave Belcarra it's romantic sounding name that means "the fair land upon which the sun shines".

Belcarra is derived from two Celtic words "bal" which means "the sun" and "carra" which means "fair or lovely land". Despite the beautiful sounding name, Belcarra for years was known as "Judge Bole's Ranch" and was a popular place for picnics.

Bole also was responsible for another local place name — along similar lines — Carraholly, "fair land in which holly abounds". Carraholly Point is a small area along the south arm of Burrard Inlet about 1.5 km. or 1 mile east of Admiralty Point. The family who lived at Carraholly Point would have been among Bole's nearest neighbors.

In a letter written by Sarah Boles, a long time resident of Belcarra, on May 6th, 1937(5?) to Major Matthews, a former Archivist for the *City of Vancouver*, Mrs. Boles related her knowledge of John Hall.

Thus it was that William Bole acquired the deed to D.L. 229, and subsequently named his new property Belcarra, "*Fair Land On Which The Sun Shines.*"

The story is told that one day Judge Norman Bole was driving his horse and buggy to town and he met his friend Patrick, also Irish, walking to town. His Honour stopped and offered Pat a lift. They hadn't gone far when His Honour asked:

"Pat, did you ever stop to think that you would be a long time in Ireland before a Judge would stop and pick you up?" Pat's quick come back was:

"Yes. Yes, Your Honour, I have thought of it, but, Your Honour, did you ever stop to think how long you'd have been in Ireland before you would be a Judge?"

BRITISH COLUMBIA
FROM THE EARLY TIME TO THE PRESENT
Biographical Vol. IV

THE ADVOCATE

Vol. 32 (1974) Page 161

By Alfred Watts, Q.C.

JUDGE WILLIAM NORMAN BOLE

(Judge Bole was among one of the very early professionally trained County Court Judges, being appointed to the *District of New Westminster*, September 1889.) He resigned in 1907 and continued the practice of law until his death at New Westminster, April 7th, 1923.

He was a man of many parts and, as the biographical sketches portray, a vigorous leader in the affairs of his community. On the professional side both as a lawyer and a judge his biographers attest to his ability and his reported judgments bear this out.

That he was not a narrow clutching council is perhaps illustrated by an anecdote in the *Vancouver Daily Province*, April 7th, 1923.

“Times were free and easy in the pioneer colony, and there was as little disposition to stand on ceremony in legal matters as in other lines. As an illustration of the spirit of the day, Mr. Bole used to tell of a case which he argued before Mr. Colin Buchanan Sword, J.P., at Matsque. The hearing took place in Mr. Sword’s home, and Mr. Bole was defending a man accused of stealing two steers from Thomas Yorke, a pioneer rancher. When dinner-time came the court adjourned and Mrs. Sword served an excellent meal to the magistrate, council and litigants. When it was over, Mr. Bole and Yorke walked off for a smoke. They had a friendly chat in the course of which the lawyer suggested that they end the case by tossing up to see who owned the steers. Mr. Yorke fell in with the proposal and when he lost took steps to have the charge withdrawn.”

His tenacity is demonstrated in the “Halliday” trial.

“Tom Poole, a Pemberton Meadows rancher and storekeeper, had been murdered and “Scotty” Halliday had been charged with the crime and came before Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie at Clinton for trial. Mr. Bole was his council and at the trial which lasted several days there were numerous lively passages between the presiding judge and the lawyer for the defense. In the end the jury disagreed. There was a second trial and a second disagreement. Then the case was traversed to New Westminster where it came before Mr. A. Rocke Robertson prosecuting. The trial ran on for a month, with sessions averaging twelve hours a day. At length Mr. Bole succeeded in breaking down the evidence of the crown and Halliday was acquitted. Years afterward, four Indians under sentence of death for another murder, confessed that they had murdered Poole.”

The following was printed by
The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company,
Vancouver, Portland, San Francisco, and Chicago
Page 606, 609 and 610

HON. W. NORMAN BOLE, K. C.

The Queen against Halliday, where the prisoner charged with willful murder was tried three times, resulting in two disagreements of the jury, while at the third trial before the late Sir Henry P. P. Crease, which lasted nearly one month — the court sitting on an average of twelve hours a day — the result was acquittal, mainly due to the breakdown of the principal crown witness under the pitiless cross examination of Mr. Bole. In a judicial capacity Judge Bole presided at the celebrated trial of Mr. Lobb, a banker, accused of the willful murder of his wife. The crown was ably represented by the late A. J. McColl, Q.C. The trial lasted eight days and the judge's charge occupied four hours. The judge while carefully revising the evidence expressed no opinion upon the facts and the jury acquitted the accused. In many other important cases Judge Bole has taken part and his name is a familiar one not only to the legal fraternity but also the general public to which he rendered conspicuous service.

In 1881 Judge Bole was married to Florence Blanchard, only daughter of the late Major John Haning Coulthard, J.P. To this union were born two sons but one, Garnet Seymour, has passed away, the other being J.P. Hampton Bole of whom extensive mention is made elsewhere in this work. The club connections of Judge Bole are with the *Terminal City Club* and the *Royal Vancouver Yacht Club*. His home address is "Ardagh," 310 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. The life record of Judge Bole is the story of a man whose activities have been used for the betterment of his adopted country and its people, and serves to encourage and inspire others, indicating the possibilities that lie before the individual and demonstrating what may be accomplished when effort and ambition combine.

Judge Bole Story

Many of the foremost figures in the ranks of the legal fraternity of British Columbia are native sons. Among them is Hampton Bole, barrister and solicitor and head of the well known firm of that name. Son of a distinguished father, he worthily follows in his footsteps. His parents are Hon. W. Norman Bole and Florence Blanchard (Coulthard) Bole, of whom extended mention is made in another part of this work.

Born in New Westminster, January 23rd, 1882, J P Bole entered, upon completing his education, the office of his honour, Judge Howay, in 1899, and after a most thorough course of close application to and wide writing in the law, was admitted to the bar of British Columbia in 1904. In that year he began the practice of his profession and is today considered one of the leading members of the generation, prominent in his profession, giving particular attention to criminal practice. He exemplifies in his conduct the lofty ideals on an ancient and noble calling and honors his profession by paying it honor and by his adherence to the solid virtues and enlightened principles underlying the law.

To make his native talents subserve the demands of the social and business conditions of his day is the ambition of his life and the ultimate purpose of his work and he stands today as an excellent representative of the lawyer to whom personal gain is but one aim in many, secondary in importance to public growth and development and less important than many other elements which go to make up the sum total of human existence.

In 1906 Mr. Bole married Miss Evelyn Brown, a daughter of Major Brown, of New Westminster, who as second in command took the local rank of major general and participated in the Chinese campaign under the late General Gordon. Major Brown has since passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Bole have two daughters, Norma S. and Florence B.

Mr. Bole is one of the prominent figures in the younger ranks of the liberal party and stands for the most progressive form of liberalism. He is a leading spirit in the *Native Sons of British Columbia* and in religious faith is an Episcopalian. An ardent sportsman, he is devoted to motoring and yachting, owning a fine sailing yacht in the *Royal Vancouver Yacht Club*. Yet a young man, he stands on the threshold of a career that will no doubt connect him in an important manner with the legal and political history of the province and its development. Strongly marked by character, he is recognized as a forceful element in his home community, enjoying the high regard and confidence of those who know him.