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JESSIE DE WOLF HIGGINSON  
an inventory of her papers  
in the  
CHILLIWACK ARCHIVES

compiled by

JIM BOWMAN

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Jessie De Wolf was born in Quebec City in 1876. Other than a sister who died in infancy, she was the only child of William Henry De Wolf and Fanny Elizabeth Tilley. Her father was a broker of lumber and cotton, and the family lived in Quebec in the summers and in New Orleans in the winters. In 1891 Mr. De Wolf retired to Vancouver for health reasons, and in 1892 the family moved to Chilliwack.

Jessie De Wolf became interested in becoming a kindergarten teacher, and in 1897 began correspondence lessons with Jessie C. Lobdell, a noted educator of Ridgebury, Connecticut. Miss Lobdell accepted no payment for the lessons, apparently motivated by religious faith. The correspondence between the two women is interesting for its revelation of the mores of the time.

After completing her course, Miss De Wolf opened what was probably the first kindergarten in Chilliwack. She ceased teaching in 1905 when she married James Higginson of Sardis. She raised three children and was active in the life of St. John's Anglican Church, Sardis, until her death in 1948.

The bulk of the Jessie De Wolf Higginson papers were presented to the Chilliwack Archives by her daughter, Mrs. Edith M. Barr of Sardis, in 1986. Additional papers and a completed questionnaire giving further biographical information were presented by her other daughter, Mrs. Emily Tingle of White Rock, in 1987.

