

NAME: WATSON, Alexander James **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Hull, Yorkshire, ENGLAND **ENTERED SERVICE:** 21 Sept. 1909 **DATES:** b. 5 Sept. 1878
d. 18 Sept. 1965

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*: Position: Post: District: HBCA Reference:

*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May

21 Sept. 1909-21 Sept. 1910	Salesman	Dry Goods	Vancouver Saleshop	RG2/38/122
21 Sept. 1910-31 Aug. 1911	Floor Manager/Ass't. Ad. Clerk, Dry Goods		Vancouver Saleshop	RG2/38/122
31 Aug. 1911- 1 Aug. 1914	Manager	Dry Goods	Vancouver Saleshop	RG2/38/122
1 Aug. 1914-1 Aug. 1923	Merchandise Manager		Vancouver Saleshop	RG2/38/122
1 Aug. 1923-1 Mar. 1943	Store Manager		Victoria Saleshop	RG2/38/122

- Retired
- presented with gold long service medal in honour of his 30 years with the Company on 28 Oct. 1939; newspaper clipping on file records the following career summary: "Mr. Watson was born in Yorkshire, England, and at the age of 12 went to South Africa. Three years later he returned to England, where he served his apprenticeship in the drygoods business [with Marshall & Snelgrove]. In 1903 he came to Canada, first settling in Manitoba and later coming to British Columbia, where he engaged in fruit ranching [near Nelson]. In September, 1909, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver as a salesman and soon advanced to buyer and merchandise manager there" (*Victoria Daily Times*, 28 Oct. 1938, p. 11[item on file in RG2/38/122]).
- received letter from the Mayor of Victoria conveying thanks and appreciation of the city for his co-operation and assistance rendered to civic authorities during his business career with the Company in Victoria (dated 11 Jan. 1944; see RG2/38/122)
- presented with inscribed silver bowl at dinner held in his honour on 24 Jan. 1944, commemorating 35 years of service with the HBC
- wife: Maude Watson, d. 4 Jan. 1958
- children: 4 (Bradley; John A., b. 1910, m. Audrey Head; Margaret [husband killed in action during WWII, d. 1945]; Rene Maconachie) (see RG2/37/200)

Search File: "Watson Family"

Photographs: 1986/45/6; 1987/363-E-700-W-43-50, N51-N52; 1987/363-E-720/ 21, 26,33-35; RG2/38/122/1

