

The Rev. Canon Rowan Ernest Grice-Hutchinson (1886-1976) came to the Diocese of Kootenay as the first priest at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Sorrento, BC on the Shuswap Lakes. He served two stints in the Shuswap area, from 1913-1914 and then from 1919-1923.

He was educated at Charterhouse School in Surrey (making him an "old Carthusian") and then at Trinity College, Cambridge; Lichfield Theological College; and finally receiving an MA at Cambridge. He married Maud Gibbons of Boddington Manor in 1910 and was ordained priest in 1911. After serving the parish of Armitage with Pipe Ridware, he and Maud moved to Sorrento in 1913. When war broke out in Europe, he felt he had to return, and served as Chaplain to the 32nd Divisional Artillery in the British Army from 1916-1919. He was mentioned in Dispatches in 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross on December 31, 1918. On the home front, Maud served as Chair of the Boddington VA Hospital.

They moved back to Sorrento in 1919, staying for four more years, before returning to England where he served at three more parishes before retiring in 1951 and becoming Honourary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral. He died on March 18, 1976 at his wife's ancestral home.

Canon Grice-Hutchinson was well educated, a good writer and conversationalist, and athletic (he swam for Cambridge and taught himself to skate on the frozen Shuswap.) He could build furniture; he could garden and fish; he could dress wounds and set broken limbs; and he could thaw your frozen water pipes. He would help you round up your runaway horse, and, after acquiring a boat, he became taxi, ambulance, and courier. If, on his visits criss-crossing the lake, he found you sick in bed, he would alert the neighbours to cut wood and bring food for you, thus becoming a roving social-worker. He installed a telephone in his home, thus becoming a communications hub. He and Maud (who had an annuity) were relatively wealthy compared to many of the people in the area, and they were generous, going so far as to build a coffin for the husband of a poor parishioner, because she could not afford the expense. It is no wonder that the community mourned their departure (twice!)

He kept a diary during his time in Canada, which came to the attention of Dr. Philip Akrigg, a retired professor (English and History) from the University of British Columbia, and his wife, Helen, who had a summer home at Celista, near Sorrento. Helen wrote her Masters Thesis on *The History and Economic Development of the Shuswap Area*, and together the Akriggs founded Discovery Press, publishing several books about local history, including *British Columbia Place Names*.

In the early 1970s, Helen arranged for Canon Grice-Hutchinson to mail the first part of his diary to Bishop Edward Scott, then Bishop of the Diocese of Kootenay, for placement in the Anglican College (now Vancouver School of Theology) and UBC Libraries for research purposes. The second part of his diary, annotated by Canon Grice-Hutchinson when he was in his 80s, arrived in 1991 for safekeeping in the archives of the Diocese of Kootenay.

The two parts of the diary have been retyped and edited by the current archivist, Kathryn Lockhart. All the drawings in the text are from the original diaries and have been inserted at the same point in the text as they originally appear. An index of surnames, place names, and boat names has been added at the end of the document. I have tried to standardize the spelling of

surnames by consulting the parish vital records books (baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials) kept by Grice-Hutchinson during his tenure. He refers often to “camps,” which I assume are logging camps or road-building camps, but I have no other details.

While reading the diaries, it is helpful to consult a map. I have created a Google map <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=z1YuhgBiC0N8.k-by1IJZNNk8&usp=sharing> pinpointing all the places mentioned in the diary still in existence, and you might notice that Grice-Hutchinson has had a mountain named after him! This name was officially adopted by the Province of British Columbia on October 3, 1978, as submitted by Helen Akrigg.

I hope you will enjoy this trip back 100 years to the settlement of the Shuswap area seen through the eyes of a dynamic and devout young man of God.



Grice-Hutchinson hard at work in the Shuswap.
Photo: G.P.V. Akrigg



Grice-Hutchinson in his garden in England.