

John Rowand. (1812-1865)

John was born on February 8, 1812, the son of John Rowand Sr. (b. 1787 in Montreal) and his Metis wife, Louise Humphreville. He married Margaret Harriott. His sister, Nancy was married to John Harriott, and sister Margaret was married to James McKay. John Rowand followed his father into H.B.C. service. In the 1830s he was postmaster at rocky Mountain House and Fort Garry. From 1836 to 1850 he was clerk in charge at Fort Assiniboine, fort Pitt, Cumberland House, and again at Fort Pitt where he became Chief Trader in 1850. In 1856 he retired to Red River.

Silver Heights the home of Mr. John Rowand was situated in St. James Parish, both Mr. Rowand and his brother-in-law the Hon. James McKay moved from the village and built fine substantial houses in St. James. McKay's home was called Deer Lodge. Rowand's estate, Silver Heights, was on Lots 18-20. Mr. Rowand's house was put at the disposal of the Lieutenant Governor for the summer months, and also of the Governor-General when he paid the Settlement a visit. Manitoba's first Lieutenant Governor, Sir Adams Archibald, occupied it and this made quite a stir in our little community, they were always at morning services on Sundays, they were very hospitable and entertained very delightfully.¹ The Silver Heights property was purchased by Donald A. Smith as a summer residence while he attended to his Hudson's Bay Company duties at the Upper Fort. The Silver Heights house burned to the ground in 1892, though a farm house was built nearer to the Portage Road sometime later.



¹ Jean A. Drever, "Reminiscences of an Old Timer, Part 2", *Manitoba History*, Number 21, Spring 1991.

After 1892 the house was rebuilt as the Deer Lodge Hotel. After another fire in 1907 an even larger building was put up by Roderick McKenzie, the son of Sir William McKenzie. June 1, 1916, Roderick Mackenzie donated it to the Military Hospital Commission. By the end of June it became the I. O. E. D. Deer Lodge Military Convalescent Hospital. In 1919 the hospital was purchased and put to use as the acute care by the Department of Soldiers Civilian Reestablishment. By 1930 another 175 beds were added bringing capacity up to 250 beds. As the Second World War broke out in 1939, temporary wooden buildings were built to house another 300 veterans bringing its capacity up to 550 beds. By the end of the war Deer Lodge is severely taxed holding 1100 wounded patients. Six operating rooms were busy night and day. It was not till 1955 that the temporary buildings are demolished to make way for a new 8 storey hospital in 1958.

NAME: ROWAND, John Jr.		PARISH: Native [born in North America]		ENTERED SERVICE: 1833 (B.239/u/1 # 1767)		DATES: b. 8 Feb. 1812 d. 23 or 13 March 1865	
Appointments & Service							
Outfit Year*	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:			
<small>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</small>							
1833-1835	Postmaster	Rocky Mountain House	Saskatchewan	B.239/k/2 p. 64; B.239/g/			
1835-1836	Postmaster	Fort Garry	Red River	B.239/k/2 p. 90; B.239/g/			
1836-1841	Clerk in charge	Fort Assiniboine	Saskatchewan	B.239/k/2 pp. 128, 156, 178, 199, 221; B.8/d/3; B.239/g/			
1842	Clerk in charge	Fort Pitt	Saskatchewan	Order by G. Simpson to J.E. Harriott, 4 Nov. 1841 (SF)			
1843	Clerk in charge	Cumberland	Saskatchewan	B.239/k/2 p. 251; Order by G. Simpson to John Rowand, 1 Dec. 1842			
1843-1850	Clerk in charge	Fort Pitt	Saskatchewan	B.239/k/2 pp. 273, 321, 352, 385,404, 426, 456; B.60/d/86; B.239/g/27			
1850-1855	Chief Trader in charge of post	Fort Pitt	Saskatchewan	B.239/k/2 p. 479; B.239/k/3 pp.6, 30, 50, 75; B.239/g/			
1855-1856	Availed himself of furlough (leave of absence)			B.239/k/3 p. 97			
1856, 1 June	Retired to Red River Settlement			B.239/g/			
1856, 25 June	Will			A.36			
Parents:	John Rowand Sr. and Louise (Lisette) Umphreville						
Siblings:	Alexander, Anne (Nancy), Sophia, Margaret, Adelaide (Search File "Rowand, John Sr.)						
Wife:	m. 6 January 1848 Margaret Harriott, daughter of John Edward Harriott and Margaret Ann Pruden (Register of Marriages, Alberta Archives)						
Children:	Maria (b. ca. 1849) (Gail Morin, <i>Métis Families...</i> , p. 1049) Adelaide (b. 1852), m. John Balsillie (Morin) Margaret Louisa (b. 1857), m. Andrew Robert James Bannatyne (Morin) John James Alexander (bt. 1861, d. 5 July, before attaining the age of 21 years", A.36) Anonymous (buried 31 Dec. 1862) (Morin) Edward Robert Tache (bt. 1864) (Morin) William (SF)						
Photograph:	Manitoba Archives, Bannatyne Family Collection 100						
See also:	J.G. MacGregor, <i>John Rowand - Czar of the Prairies</i> , p. 149						
Search File	"Rowand, John Jr."						
Filename: Rowand, John Jr. (1812-1865) (fl. 1833-1856)		JHB 1999/07; rev. 2002/07					



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