



Built 1865 – British Columbia's oldest house

New Westminster – March 2020

This amazing 1800's colonial home was the residence of Captain William Irving, King of the Fraser River. It was our first time visiting this spectacularly preserved heritage house in New Westminster, BC. We had a knowledgeable tour guide who took us through the 14 beautifully furnished rooms and told us the history of the house, the Irving family and several descendants. Built in 1865 much of the interior features of the home displayed architectural aspects one might find in the interior of a ship. The walls and some of the woodwork were specifically designed to reflect Captain Irving's love of the many ships he sailed across the open seas.





The day we picked to visit was perfect as there was only one other visitor on the tour with us. We had the place practically to ourselves as we wandered the corridors and marvelled at the architecture feeling privileged to see many personal items which belonged to the Irving family. The last members of the Irving family lived in the house until the 1950's and as many of the heritage locations which were once private homes, the Irving House was eventually sold to the city.

We did ask our tour guide if there was any paranormal activity experienced in the house. She informed us that several staff and visitors would occasionally smell pipe smoke, hear the faint sound of bagpipes being played and on a couple of rare occasions, a white feather would mysteriously waft down from the staircase. We felt positive energy in and around the home but had no

overt paranormal experiences. We did, however, experience something unexplained which we will share later. We were also drawn to the story of one of the Irving granddaughters, Mary Aline Cox, who was an author and wrote *Saga of a Seafarer* about her grandfather's adventures at sea. Days after the tour, Gina began to research and amazingly turned up an intriguing document. Please check in with us from time to time as we do have a project involving the Irving House which will reveal more details of our fascinating visit.

Many people equate paranormal experiences largely as being creepy or disturbing but sometimes they can be positive and revealing. Why did we feel compelled to research Mary Cox? That same day after we toured the house we visited the Fraser Cemetery to find Captain Irving's gravesite and the visit was energized, positive and almost as if we were being invited and led to learn more which is exactly what happened.

