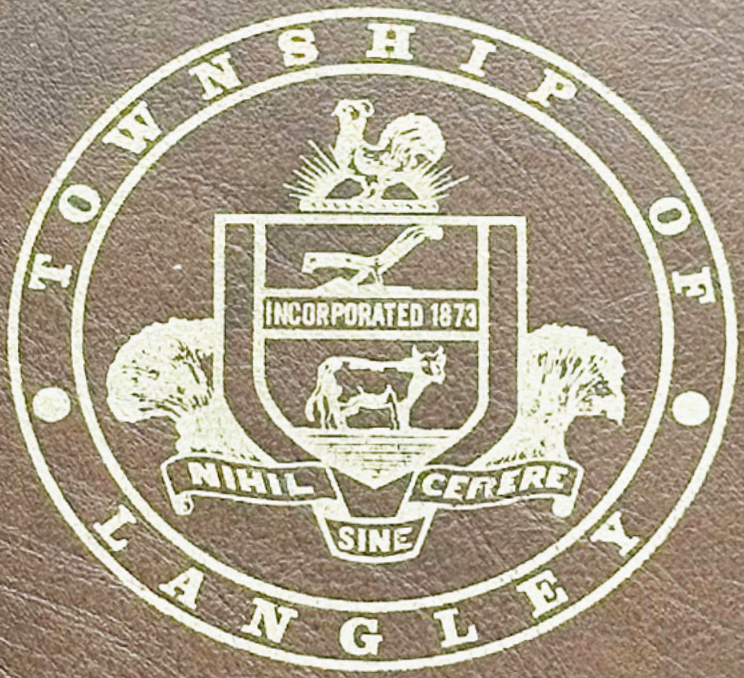
The Langley Story illustrated



Donald E. Waite

PLAN OF
TOWNSHIP No. 11
EAST OF COAST MERIDIAN.
NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT

Scale, 40 Chains to an inch.

Amended
Feb 2nd 93
See Map No IV

115181

Surveyed by

G. Turner	1873
Wm. Ralph	1874
J. W. Carey	1874
E. Mohun	1875, 1877 & 1881
A. R. Howse	1867
J. Turnbull	1869

Compiled from the certified copy of the Field Notes on record in the Department of the Interior.

Department of the Interior
Technical Branch
Ottawa, 1st July 1881

With warmest best wishes
to Mom & Dad at
Xmas 1977
Love always
Your son
Donald

The Langley Story illustrated

An Early History of The Municipality of Langley

This book could not have been written without the help of many people. I want to especially thank Miss Eleanor V. Coates, Deputy Clerk of the Municipality of Langley; the Mayor and his Council; Mr. Kenneth A. Norman, Curator of the Langley Centennial Museum; and his assistant Mr. Peter Chant; Mr. Duncan C. MacKenzie and Mr. Gordon Gilroy, past and present men in charge of the Fort Langley National Historic Site respectively, and their assistant Mr. Reginald M. Pattenden; the late Mr. Gordon L. Byrnel, Field Supervisor with B.C. Hydro; Mr. Derek Reimer, Aural History Programme of the British Columbia Provincial Archives in Victoria; Mrs. Ann Yandle, Special Collections Library at the University of British Columbia; Mr. Terrance W. Carlow, Registrar of Titles at the Land Registry Office in New Westminster, and his assistants Mr. Gerald Ridout and Mr. Lawrence Quissy.

I will always be indebted to Mr. John Edgar Gibbard who wrote 'The History of the Fraser Valley, 1808-1885' back in 1937. Mr. Gibbard interviewed many of the pioneers of Langley for his university thesis over 40 years ago. Although he never had a tape recorder and although his notes have been lost he is still able to vividly recall his meetings with the pioneers. Much of these recollections are included in this book. Mr. Gibbard edited my manuscripts in their earlier stages and made many excellent recommendations.

I must last but not because the least thank the descendants of the pioneers that told their stories so well. It is to them that I especially take great delight and pleasure in releasing the Langley Story.

Maple Ridge, B.C.
10 September, 1977

Don Waite Publishing
22391 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, B.C.
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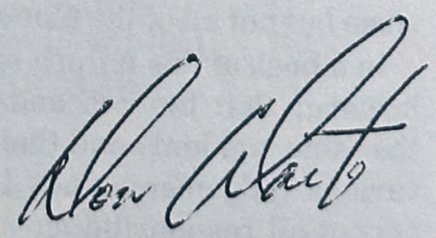


INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Langley Story is primarily the history of the municipality's pioneers. It covers the period from the building of the original Fort Langley in 1827 until the end of the First World War in 1918 with the greater emphasis placed on the years between 1870 to 1900. To deal with the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Langley to any great depth would be merely to rehash the many excellent works of pioneer historians John Edgar Gibbard, Judge Frederick W. Howay, Bruce A. McKelvie, Denys Nelson and Robie L. Reid. Wellwood R. Johnson touched lightly on my project when he wrote 'Legend of Langley' in 1958 for the Langley Centennial Committee. Johnson, as I have to do, apologized for writing about some but not all of the pioneers.

In a book of this nature errors are inevitable. Let me point out however that the descendants of the pioneers often discussed the same incidents and their stories were very different. For the various judgements that I have made which are incorrect I accept all responsibility.

CONTENTS

1

FUR COMPANY EXPLORATION

For ten thousand years the valley belonged to the Indian.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century the fur brigade companies of the world began looking at the land west of the Rocky Mountains and north of Oregon Territory. The North West Company, operating out of Montreal, Quebec, was the first to send an exploratory expedition over the mountains to the sea in 1808. Their leader was Simon Fraser. In an attempt to lay claim to New Caledonia or New Scotland—the name of the vast interior country north of the Columbia and west of the Rockies—the North West Company set about building fur trading posts. The objective of these forts was to discourage the Hudson's Bay Company, a British organization, and American pedlars, from reaping the harvest of prime beaver pelts. Fraser, in descending the river since named in his honour, was searching for the mouth of the Columbia. Disappointed he immediately ascended the river he had just come down, condemning it as being unsuitable for canoe travel. Although the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company amalgamated in 1821, it was three years later before their men again approached the Fraser Valley in search of a suitable location on which to establish a fort.

This was done primarily to head off American trading ships which were loitering around the Fraser's mouth monopolizing trade with the Indians. A second reason for seeking out a fort site was to produce food for the occupants of the various posts of the company west of the mountains. When, in 1824, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Northern Department in America for the Hudson's Bay Company, visited Fort George at the mouth of the Columbia, he reported that "the management shows an extraordinary predilection for European supplies without once looking at or considering the enormous cost it means."

It was with these two points in mind that the Governor dispatched an expedition composed of some men who had hunted over the area earlier, only eleven days after arriving at the fort. James McMillan, a former employee of the North West Company, who had travelled extensively with David Thompson, was to head the expedition. He was to explore for a fort site with surrounding land suitable for extensive farming operations.

McMillan's party consisted of over 30 men. His three clerks were Francois Noel Annance, Thomas McKay, step-son of Dr. John McLoughlin from the Columbia, and John Work. The interpreter was Michel Laframbois. The men were:—Louis Anawano Junior, Alexis Aubuchon, Peo Bean, Cannon, Cawano Junior, F.H. Condon, Leo Depuis, Segwin le Deranti, Joseph Despard, Louis Diomelea, J.B. Dubian, Joseph Grey, Louis Hanatiohee Junior, Charles Jaundeau, William Johnston, Pierre Karaguana Junior, Andre Le Chappel, Pierre L'Etang, Andre Lonctoin, Joseph Louis, Momonta, Ettuni Oniager, Jacques Patvin, Pierre Patvin, Basil Pioner, James Portneuf, Jean Baptiste Proveau, Charles Rondeau, Louis Satakarata Junior (alias Rabiska), Louis Satakarata Senior, Thomas Toyanel, Pierre Villandri, Louis Vivet, Pierre Walker and Thomas Zawaiton. Both Louis and Portneuf were Abenaki Indians. The rest of the party consisted primarily of French-Canadians or Metis and Hawaiians. The fun-loving Islanders had found employment in the company as the result of Honolulu becoming a trans-shipment point between London and the Columbia River. On westward voyages via Cape Horn, the Hudson's Bay Company ships would unload English manufactured goods for the English

and American settlers residing on the Islands and then reload the ships with sugar, molasses, rice, and coffee for Fort Vancouver. In many instances these Islanders, called Kanakas, found work with the company as seamen.

These voyageurs left Fort George on November 24 in three bateaux. The inland water route chosen by McMillan was difficult but practical. To have attempted the stormy seas of the open coast with their frail canoes would have been disastrous. From Fort George the party paddled down the broad Columbia to Baker Bay. From here they portaged overland to Shoalwater Bay. They followed inland a small stream which flowed into the bay and then again portaged to Gray's Harbour into which ran the Chehalis River. They ascended the Chehalis to a tributary which they named the Black River because of its colour and reached its source from Lake Tumwater. On November 30 they secured as a guide Pierre Charles, a French-Canadian, who was living with the Indians. An Indian trail led them from Tumwater Lake to Eld Arm of Puget Sound.

On December 13 they entered Mud Bay and began to ascend the little Nicomekl River. This river was blocked with driftwood, necessitating a great deal of work to make passage for the large bateaux.

The driftwood was not the only difficulty which had to be overcome. An 8,000 yard portage between the Nicomekl and Salmon Rivers had to be crossed. The party required three days to get their boats and baggage over this obstacle. On December 15 they reached the Fraser. Jean Baptiste Proveau, one of the party who had descended the river with Fraser in 1808 instantly recognized the mountains to the north (Golden Ears). The party proceeded upriver to seek out a suitable location for a fort and to get acquainted with the Indians. The following day, they descended the river to salt water; on their return journey the party reached Fort George on the Columbia, having followed down the coastline, on December 30. McMillan's vital information was only to be filed for future use.

On June 27, 1827, a group of 25 men again under the command of Chief Trader McMillan left for the Fraser River from Fort

Vancouver, a new post situated about 90 miles up the Columbia. McMillan was again accompanied by Clerk Annance. He also had two new clerks—George Barnston and Donald Manson. The other 21 men were:—Anawiskum, Amable Arquoith, James Baker, Louis Boisvert, Oliver Bouchard, Pierre Charles, Como, Joseph Cornoyer, Jean Baptiste Dubois, Jean Baptiste Ettiers, Dominique Faron, John Kennedy, Peeoh Peeoh, Antoine Pierrault, Jacques Pierrault, Francois Piette, Simon Pomondean, Louis Satakarata Junior, Laurent Sauve, Francois Xavier Tarihonya, and Abraham Vincent. McMillan, Annacis, and Barnston Islands, all located in the Lower Fraser River, and Manson Mountain near Hope, are named in honour of the Chief Trader and his Clerks.

McMillan's new clerks had varied careers. Manson had been born in Scotland and had joined the company's service in 1817 at the age of 17. Because of his education and his long and faithful service he rose in the ranks. He left Fort Langley in 1828 and went to Fort Vancouver. In 1831 he acted as second-in-command to Peter Skene Ogden in the expedition which founded Port Simpson at the mouth of the Nass River. He subsequently established Fort McLoughlin on Milbanke Sound and ran it for nine years. In 1841 he took charge of Fort Kamloops on the Thompson River. In 1842 he took the place of John McLoughlin Junior, the son of Dr. John McLoughlin, who had been killed by Indians at Fort Stikine. In 1844 he was promoted to the command of New Caledonia. He retired from this position in 1857 and settled at Champoeg on the Willamette River in Oregon.

Clerk Barnston was also a Scotsman. Leaving Fort Langley he was put in charge of Fort Nez Perce. He retired in 1831 and went to Lachine, Quebec, but rejoined the following year and with Alexander Caulfield Anderson explored the Ottawa River in Ontario and the Great Lakes. For some years he was in charge of Norway House at the north end of Lake Winnipeg. He retired a second time and settled in Montreal.

McMillan's party used only two boats in 1827 to reach the Fraser. They were escorted to the open sea by the schooner Cadboro, under the command of Aemilius Simpson. The party

paddled down the broad Columbia and safely over the shoals at its mouth. Upon reaching salt water they were picked up by the Cadboro and taken north along the Pacific coastline and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Gulf of Georgia. From here the schooner brought them up the Fraser to the site chosen for the establishment of the fort by McMillan in 1824.

FIRST FORT LANGLEY

Here the men and horses were unloaded from the ship and the work of building the first fort easily accessible from the Pacific north of the Columbia began. It was July 30. The first timber for the fort was cut August 1. The first objective of the small group was to complete one of the bastions since rumours had come in that the Indians were preparing to massacre them if they persisted in building the fort. By August 13, except for the roof of bark, the first bastion, 12 feet square and built of 8 inch logs, was up. Six days later the men began digging the trenches for the palisades. On August 31 the second bastion was finished except for the roof. On September 18 the Cadboro weighed anchor and headed south leaving the fort's occupants to fend for themselves. The formidable structure in which they lived was only 40x45 yards. On November 26 a flagstaff was erected and the new post was officially named Fort Langley, after Thomas Langley, a prominent stockholder in the management of the company. He had inherited his brother's stock in the Hudson's Bay Company in 1793 and was selected as a member of the committee in 1807. He held this position until his death in 1829.

The three horses that had been brought in the Cadboro fared poorly. One got stuck in a quagmire and died from exposure. Another became entangled in a swamp and suffered a like fate. The third soon afterwards succumbed from natural causes.

Prior to the establishment of Fort Langley as a terminal on the Pacific Coast the furs from New Caledonia were taken all the way back to the Great Lakes. It was not until 1811 when David Thompson descended the Columbia to the coast, proving it satisfactory, was a major trade route established to the Pacific. In 1812 Joseph Laroque of the North West Company blazed out a

Packer with his piece
A tump line passed across the packers forehead enabling him to carry the 90 pounds of fur with his hands free to move over the portages.

trail from New Caledonia to Fort Thompson (Kamloops) while David Stuart of John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Trading Company worked up from the Columbia to Fort Thompson. Once these routes were made passable a district headquarters was set up

at Fort Vancouver. The Pacific Fur Company interests were bought out by the North West Company in 1812. The yearly brigades from the New Caledonia and Thompson River Districts consisted of 400 horses and 50 men. For these hauls furs and goods were traditionally baled into 90 pound pieces for packers to carry over the many portages. Usually not more than 5 foot 6 inches in height and weighing only 130 pounds these men were not considered worth their salt unless they could carry two pieces at one time. Each piece was tied together and a tump line was passed across the packer's forehead to support the weight. This left the man's hands free to move through the bush. This excessive exercise resulted in often grotesque appearances. Their chest and neck measurements were fantastic. Unfortunately their frames literally outgrew their vital organs. The strain on these unsupported organs bouncing around in the large chest cavity often ended with fatal results before 40 years of age.

"Dull and monotonous—everything has a wintery appearance," was the entry in the Fort Langley journal for December 8, 1827. The approach of the year's end did not indicate any Yuletide festivities. The men were not expecting any. Isolated from the rest of the world they were not aware that their superiors had planned something for them.

It was the guard on the gallery who first spotted company on Christmas Eve. Out on the river an Indian ran on the ice toward the fort waving a note at the guard. McMillan met him, read the note, and then sounded the alarm that Chief Trader Alexander McKenzie and four of his men from Fort Vancouver were dangerously situated among the Musqueams near the river's mouth.

Within a few moments Donald Manson and Francois Annance had enlisted an armed party and were headed downriver to the rescue. They soon found McKenzie. He had been forced to land among the Indians due to ice on the river. Although he had been threatened and robbed his party was otherwise all right. McKenzie had been fortunate enough to have a Kwantlen carry a message to Fort Langley for help.

The visitors to the fort were welcomed by a beaming James

McMillan. The Fort Langley men were thankful to have friends that would come all the way from the Columbia to bring mail and liquor. Laughter and violin music echoed throughout the fort. On Boxing Day, Annance took an armed party to the Musqueam Village and recovered the goods which had been stolen from McKenzie.

New Year's Day came and went with even greater enthusiasm than had been displayed at Christmas. The men danced, shouted, fought, and sang. They competed with one another in feats of strength and agility. When the merry mood was spent McKenzie prepared to return to Fort Vancouver. McMillan decided to accompany the McKenzie party and show the fort's take of beaver skins to his boss, Dr. McLoughlin. McMillan was proud that in addition to erecting a strong post in the wilderness his men had also succeeded in trading almost 1,200 pelts with the Indians.

Indian Trade Gun

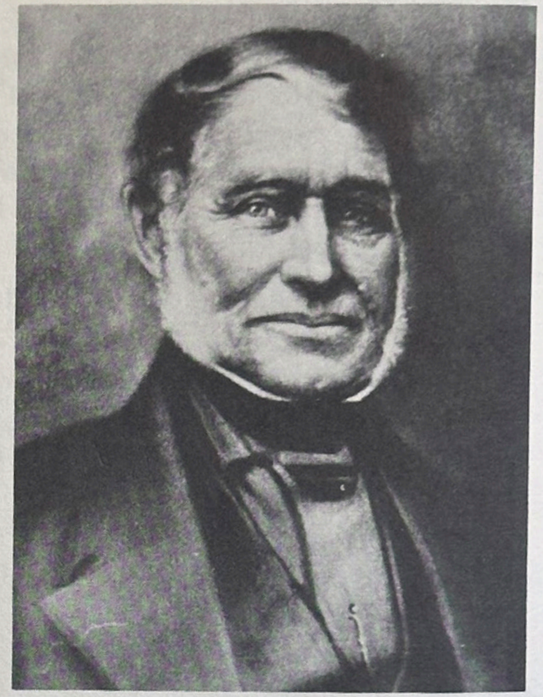
On the morning of January 3 the party got under way intending to camp at the mouth of the Fraser. The guns of the fort fired a parting salute and the men in seeing them off gave three hearty good cheers. Ten days later McMillan returned. The party had been stormbound at Point Roberts so decided to put off sending the furs until the weather cleared. McKenzie and his men volunteered to return to the Columbia and tell McLoughlin of the plans.

On February 15 Manson left for Fort Vancouver with the returns instead of McMillan. There was no firing of salutes to see him off as rumours had been received that McKenzie and his men had been murdered by the Clallams while camped on the shores of Puget Sound. The rumours had not been confirmed and McMillan prayed that they were not true.

Soon came the dreaded news to the fort occupants that McKenzie had indeed perished. The Hudson's Bay Company authorities feared that unless something was done and done quickly New Caledonia would not be safe for any company employees. When the brigades from the New Caledonia, Peace River, and North Thompson Districts arrived from their long, arduous overland trip to Fort Vancouver with the annual take of pelts McLoughlin explained the situation to them. It was decided that a punitive expedition, consisting of 60 men, would seek out the killers of McKenzie and make them pay with their lives. Two families of Clallams were encountered and wiped out. Two men, two women, and four children had been killed. It was never ascertained if they knew anything about the killing of McKenzie. Later the main party of Clallams was located by the Cadboro under the command of Simpson. The Clallams invited those on board the schooner to attend a council meeting ashore. They intended to murder the group when they landed. Instead the guns of the Cadboro were brought to bear upon the huts of the Indians. The cannon roared and the flimsy cedar houses splintered and collapsed. The company men then landed and put the torch to any huts left standing. They then destroyed 40 canoes that were drawn up on the beach. A count revealed that 17 Clallams had been killed.

McKenzie's death had been avenged. The punishment doled out by the company was unfair; however, it in the long run undoubtedly resulted in fewer whites and Indians being killed.

In October, 1828, Sir George Simpson arrived at the fort from upcountry having made a tour of inspection of the New Caledonia posts. Accompanying him were Archibald McDonald and James Murray Yale. Both men would do much to improve the productivity of Fort Langley. The Simpson party had left Fort York on the other side of the continent on August 15. As a result they descended the Fraser River in autumn and not in freshet as did Fraser. Of the river as an alternate supply route the Governor wrote: "Frazers River can no longer be thought of as a practicable communication with the interior; it was never wholly passed by water before, and in all probability never will again...althou we ran all the Rapids in safety, being perfectly light, and having three of the most skilful Bowmen in the country, whose skill however was of little avail at times. I should consider



Archibald McDonald
(1790-1853)
Second Chief Factor in charge
of Fort Langley

Fort Langley National Historic Site,
Fort Langley, B.C.

the passage down, to be certain Death, in nine attempts out of Ten. I shall no longer talk of it as a navigable stream."

With Simpson's departure 17 men were left to man Fort Langley. McDonald was left in charge of the post and Yale was to be his second in command. McMillan and Barnston were transferred out.

McDonald was well groomed for the position he was about to fill. Born on the south shore of Loch Leven, Glencoe, Appin, in Northern Argyleshire, Scotland, he had studied the rudiments of medicine at the University of Edinburgh before coming to Rupert's Land in 1813 as leader of a party of Lord Selkirk's Colonists. Under Governor Miles Macdonell he served as Deputy Governor of the Red River Settlement until the Seven Oaks Massacre. He then entered the services of the Hudson's Bay Company and after its merging with the North West Company in 1821, was sent to the Columbia River District. In 1823 he married Chief Comcomly's daughter, who died the following year giving birth to a son Ranald. McDonald married again in 1825 to Jane Klyne, the daughter of Michael Klyne, Postmaster at Jasper's House. She bore him 13 children.

McDonald's assistant, although less than 5 feet in height was a man of proven ability. The Governor was very fond of 'Little Yale' describing him as "a young gentleman in whom we can repose the utmost confidence." Born in Quebec City, Yale had joined the Hudson's Bay Company while still in his early 'teens and was immediately posted to New Caledonia. He had pioneered in the Peace River and had opened Yale House in 1805 just below the North West Company post at Fort St. John. He had been taken prisoner by North West Company men prior to amalgamation and some of his men had been murdered at Fort George on the Upper Fraser River by the rival company. He had been one of the punitive party sent out by McLoughlin to avenge Mckenzie's death by the Clallams.

McDonald, at the time of his takeover, described the fort thus: "The fort is 135x120 feet with good bastions, and a gallery four feet wide all round. A building of three compartments for the men, a small log house of two compartments in

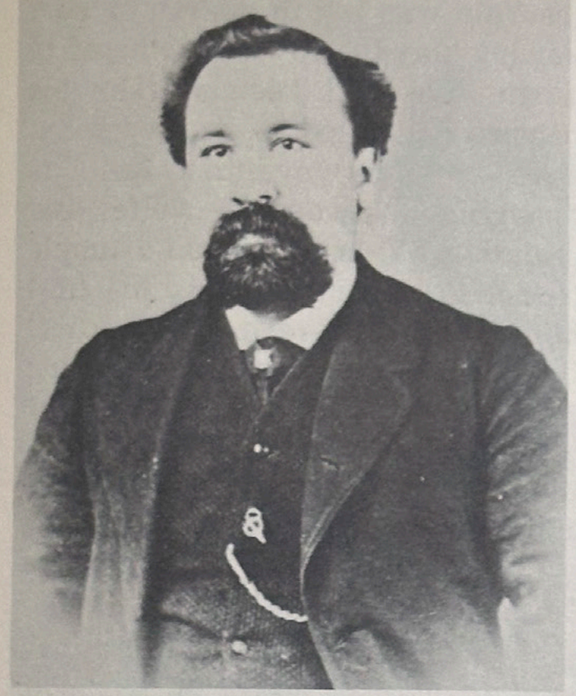
which the gentlemen themselves reside, and a store, are now occupied, besides which are two other buildings, one a good dwelling house with excellent cellar and a spacious garret. A couple of well-finished chimneys are up, and the whole inside is now ready for wainscoating and partitioning. Four large windows are in front, and one in each end, and one, with a corresponding door, in the back. The other is a low building with only two square rooms, with a fireplace in each, and a kitchen adjoining made of slate. The out-door work consists of three fields, each planted with 30 bushels of potatoes, and looks well. The provisions shed, exclusive of table store, is furnished with 3,000 dried salmon, 16 tierce salted salmon, 36 cwt. of flour, 2 cwt. of grease, and 30 bushels of salt.''

The new boss of the fort took seriously the orders of the company that the fort should be for the most part self supporting. The new factor applied himself and his men to the clearing of land and the planting of crops. The records of the following year were up roughly 100 percent. Ninety-one bushels of potatoes were planted in a field back of the fort with a 2,000 bushel yield. Over 7,000 salmon were bought from the Indians.

He and Yale then went to work perfecting a method of curing salmon for the foreign market. The fish curing industry at Fort Langley, despite setbacks, went steadily ahead. In 1830 William Cromarty came to the fort as Chief Cooper. Another early cooper was James Rendall who was forced to quit owing to ill health. A good cooper could turn out 7-10 barrels a week.

Across and upriver from the fort, Cromarty found a good stand of first growth fir on a river which had been named in honour of Clerk John Work. The trees were cut down and floated across the river to the fort cooperage where they were made into staves and assembled into barrels, some of which were capable of holding 800 pounds of fish. As a result Work's River was changed to Stave River. The barrels were used to ship salmon to the Hawaiian Islands and England. Unfortunately the first barrels to reach England were not a success.

The fort was not without its share of tragedy. In April, 1830,



Provincial Archives,
Victoria, B.C.

John Work
(1776-1871)
Came with Chief Factor James McMillan in 1824 to locate the site for Fort Langley. Stave River was originally named Work's River in his honour.

John Kennedy, who was unwell but still able to work, dropped dead from an apparent heart attack. Then in August of the same year a worker by the name of Therien was accidentally shot by a gun on a sailing vessel out on the river. The graveyard where these men and many others were buried was among the trees just upriver from the old fort.

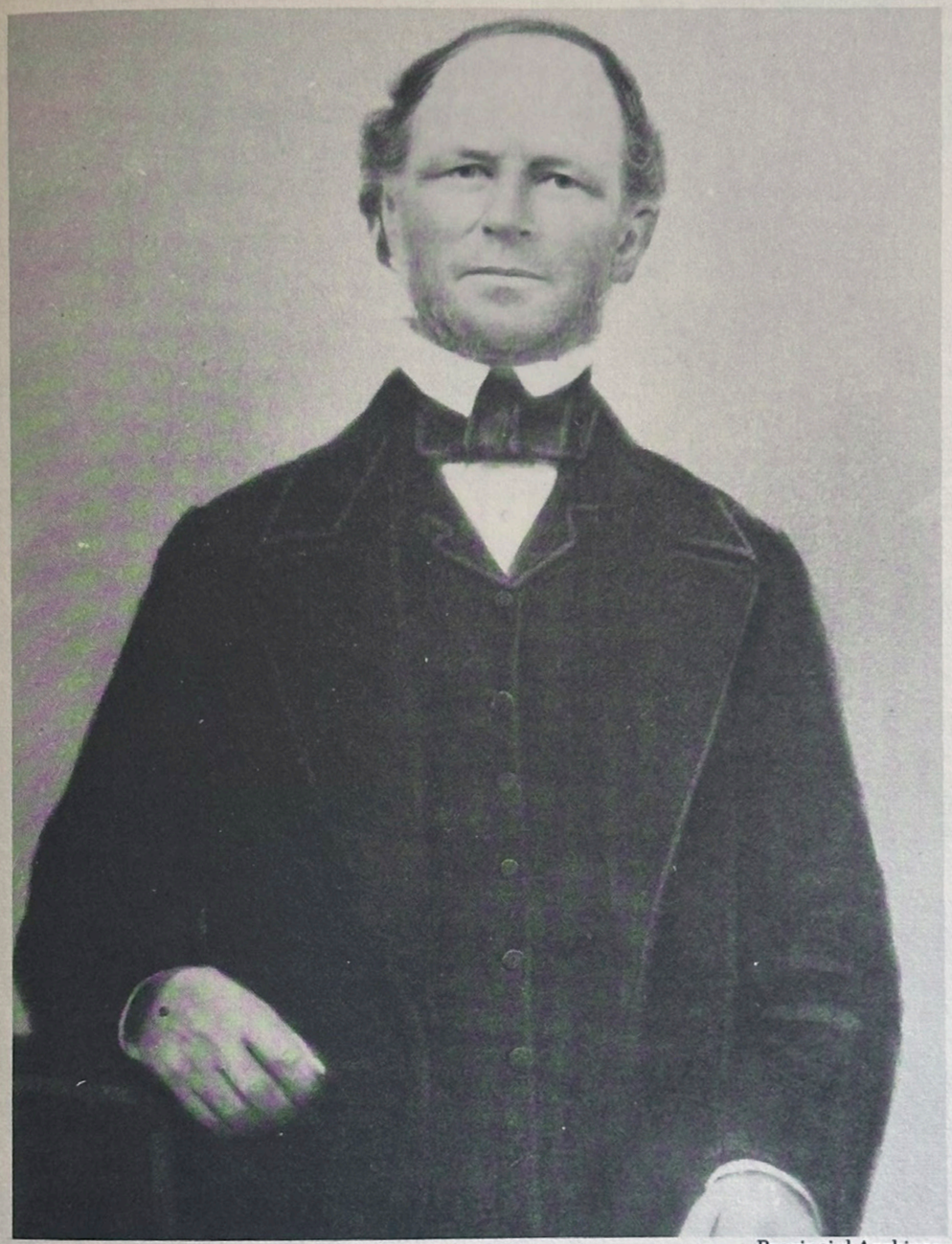
When the Langley Express arrived back from Fort Vancouver in 1833 it brought instructions for McDonald to report to Dr. McLoughlin. On February 20, 1833, McDonald left Fort Langley so his growing family could attend school at Fort Vancouver. He, soon afterwards, founded Nisqually House on the south end of Puget Sound. The following year he was put in charge of Fort Colville. He retired from the service in 1844 and died in St. Andrews, near Cornwall, Ontario, in 1853. On his gravestone is recorded: ''One of the pioneers of Oregon.'' Both Simon Fraser and David Thompson had retired to St. Andrews upon leaving the service.

With McDonald's departure Yale was left in charge of Fort Langley with 13 men. The following May the 13 were reduced to 8. Although McDonald was an able and keen worker his successor proved to be even more dedicated to the company. Yale was a very busy little man—in more ways than one. The company reckoned that inter-marriage between the whites and Indians would lessen hostile relations. Yale set a good example for his men. He married three Indian women within his first three years at the fort, and they each bore his offspring. His first wife was the daughter of Chief Whattlekainum of Kwantlen, his second the daughter of the Katzie Chief, and the third the daughter of Pal-hal-lak, the religious head of the Thompson Indians above the Fraser Canyon. A daughter from the third wife married George Simpson Junior, the son of the Governor. Yale still later married a relative of Chief T'soschia, of the Cowichan Confederacy.

By this time Kanaka labourers, like Yale, had also intermingled with the Indians and began raising families. The Kanakas were not permitted to bring their women into the fort so instead built homes across the river from the fort. Each morning these men paddled across the river to work and in the evening paddled back again to be with their wives and children. One of these labourers, upon leaving his home Island, promised his Grandfather to name something in the new country in honour of his people. A creek situated across the river from the fort was named Kanaka Creek as a result of this promise.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY FARM OR THE GREAT LANGLEY PRAIRIE

It was in the early 1830s that the Company's Board of Directors decided that Fort Nisqually should replace Fort Langley. The Board was concerned with the difficulties sometimes encountered by their overseas sailing vessels in attempting to navigate the Fraser as far as Fort Langley to collect the yearly take of furs and salmon. The Board also felt that Nisqually would be more easily accessible from Fort Vancouver. They sent Chief Trader Francis Heron, then in charge of Fort Colville on the Upper Columbia, to supervise the



Provincial Archives,
Victoria, B.C.

James Murray Yale
(1776-1871)
The third Chief Factor in charge of Fort Langley, he ruled the outpost's destiny for 25 years.

Falls on Kanaka Creek

move. Dr. McLoughlin stalled it, and before the Board could again intervene, steam vessels began appearing on the Pacific Coast putting an end to the need for a move. McLoughlin instructed Yale to commence farming operations at Fort Langley on a large scale. Yale found 2,000 acres of choice farmlands southeast of the fort capable of producing enormous crops. These fields became known as the Hudson's Bay Company Farm or the Great Langley Prairie. Etienne Pepin plowed the first furrow on the farm.

In 1836 Yale received a visit from the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer Beaver. As a floating post this vessel took away some trade from Fort Langley's doorstep. The Beaver was the first steam vessel on the Pacific Coast and was a familiar sight on the Fraser in the early days.

A YUCULTA ATTACK

It was in 1837 that the most exciting event took place at the fort. From time to time war canoes had been seen going up and down the river. An early entry in the Fort Journal read: "The war party of Cowichans returned this afternoon. They have murdered one man and a woman and taken several women and children prisoners, who as a matter of course, become slaves. The head of one of their victims was pendant on the bow of one of the canoes, presenting a spectacle as dismal and disgusting as can well be imagined; a spectacle most shocking to humanity that this land of savage Barbarism produces...."

Yale received word that the Yuculta from Quadra Island planned an attack on the Indian village near the fort. He felt an attack on these friendly Indians was the same as an attack on the fort. The constant attacks from the Yuculta kept the Indians in the vicinity of the fort in such turmoil that fur trading had seriously declined. Yale ordered his men to their posts. Patiently the gunners waited for the Yuculta armada to come within range of the death-crammed guns in the bastions. When the attackers did eventually come around the bend in the river within view of the fort the odds were unbelievable. The 25 men of the fort faced an enemy of 600.

When the word came to open fire the carnage was incredible. Canoes were blasted right out of the water. The muddy river turned red as the dead and dying fell from their wrecked crafts. Any that escaped the initial onslaught of heavy firing were soon dispatched by Kwantlen warriors who had hidden across the river from the fort. As their hereditary enemies swam to shore they ran out and cracked them over the heads with stone hammers. It was never ascertained how many Yuculta warriors died in that brief encounter. The raiders never recovered from the defeat.

The year following the Indian attack Yale moved the fort stockade. On October 14, 1838, he wrote Chief Factor James Douglas, McLoughlin's right hand man on the Columbia, that "we have abandoned the old fort which was in a dilapidated condition and removed into a new fort a few miles up the river." Douglas had earlier concurred with such a move.

Despite this Yale's work force the following year was reduced to 15 men. They were:—Ovid Allard, Basil Brousseau, Pierre Charles, Louis Delonie, Narcisse Fallardeau, Angus McPhail, Fredereque Minie, Joseph Peaennau, Etienne Pepin, James Rendall, Louis Satakarata, I Ta, Xavier Vautrin, Wivicari, and Zahowbalow.

Of these men Ovid Allard would be of great assistance to the peppery Yale in the building of the second Fort Langley. Born at Lachine, Quebec, in 1817 to French parents, he had joined the company looking for adventure. Stationed for five years at Fort Hall in the Snake River Country, he found the adventure he craved and fought Indians alongside Kit Carson and Jim Bridger. In 1839 he came to Fort Langley where his tact and charming manners facilitated his successful trading with the Indians.

While Yale and Allard were supervising the building of the new fort Sir George Simpson was in Hamburg, Germany, negotiating the lease of the Panhandle portion of the Russian Territory. The agreement was signed on February 6, 1839, by Simpson and Baron Wrangell. By its provisions the Hudson's Bay Company was to pay rental in farm produce for the territory involved.

Yale suffered a serious setback when the second fort was completely gutted by fire on April 11, 1840. He was assisted in the rebuilding of the third fort by Allard. This fort was built a few hundred yards upriver from the ruins of the second. James Douglas, now in charge of Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island, came over on the Beaver to offer help in the rebuilding. Yale told him that his Langley crew could manage on their own.

At the end of August, 1841, Father Modeste Demers reached the Hudson's Bay Company farm via the portage crossed by the fort's discoverers in 1824. Here he was met by one of the farm workers who got word back to Yale at the fort. Yale immediately sent men and horses to transfer the priest's baggage to the post, where he was given a royal welcome. By the time Demers reached the fort the message of his arrival had travelled up and down the river by moccasin telegraph to the Indians. Six hundred Indians greeted the 'man dressed in black women's clothing' at the fort.

The priest's message was primarily to the Indians. For several days Demers preached Christianity to them. Incredibly Kwantlen and Yucultaw adults, who a few years earlier had been deadly enemies, listened attentively and with good order to the gospel message. On one occasion the priest preached to 1,500-1,600 Indians just outside the gates of the fort. The visit from the Catholic missionary boosted the company's tradings with the Indians.

THE OREGON BOUNDARY TREATY OF 1846

It was in the 1840s that the company realized that the soon to be established boundary between British and American possessions could close off the Columbia-Okanogan brigade route from the interior to the coast. As early as 1825 the Company had informed McLoughlin that British claim would not extend south of the Columbia indefinitely.

As a result Simpson asked for a volunteer to search out a possible route from the interior to the coast by an all British route. Alexander Caulfield Anderson, Chief Factor in charge of Fort Thompson (Kamloops), took up the challenge and establish-

MAP
of the
UNITED STATES
TERRITORY OF OREGON
West of the Rocky Mountains,

Exhibiting the various Trading Depots or Forts occupied by the British Hudson Bay Company, connected with the Western and northwestern Fur Trade.

Compiled in the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, from the latest authorities, under the direction of Col. J.J. Abert. by
Wash: Hood.
1838.
M.H. Stansbury del.

W.J. Stone Sc. Wash.

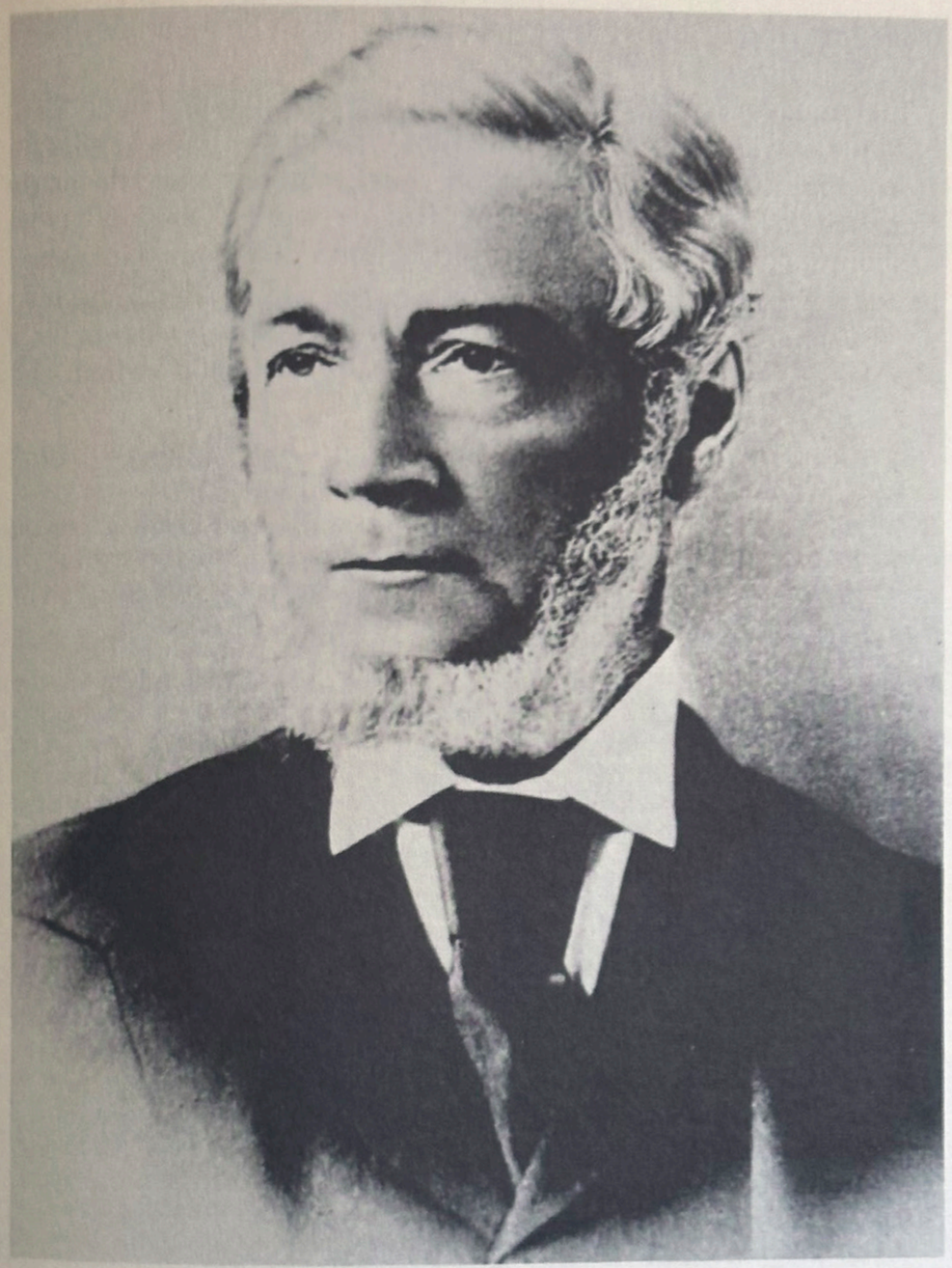
ed two possible routes. One was down the Upper Fraser and then across a chain of lakes—later to become the Harrison-Lillooet route to the Cariboo—and the other was the overland route through the Fraser Canyon and then overland to Kamloops. The boundary was set at the 49th parallel by the Oregon Boundary Treaty of 1846.

In 1848 Anderson brought the interior brigades out to the coast after a hazardous and exhausting trip through the mountains to the mouth of the Fraser Canyon. Here Allard had built a fort—named Fort Yale in honour of the Fort Langley commander—to assist the brigades coming out of the mountains. That fall he also built Fort Hope, the name of which breathed an inspiration and a hope, at the junction of the Coquihalla and Fraser Rivers. Bateaux capable of transporting three tons of cargo were built at Fort Langley to bring the brigades downriver

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

The Golden Ears from Fort Langley

From a water painting by James Alden at the time of the 1846 boundary dispute.



Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.

Alexander Caulfield Anderson

(1814-1884)

Discovered all British routes from the interior to Fort Langley in the 1840s.

from Fort Hope. Robert Robertson, a cooper at Fort Langley, was the Chief Boatsman.

Just up-river from Fort Langley the brigades would beach their bateaux on an island opposite the Whonnock Indian Village. Here the men would don their best clothes and decorate themselves with ribbons and finger woven sashes from Assomption, Quebec. The different bright colours in the sashes indicated the district in which the wearer was posted. The men would then return to their fur laden bateaux and begin firing their weapons. The fort cannons on the bastions would return the salute as the visitors pulled in to wharf.

It was a Robertson not related to the Chief Boatsman that assisted Allard in the construction of Fort Hope. Samuel Robertson was the only man that stayed with Allard to build the post. The other men deserted when they learned that the Indians in that vicinity were not friendly. Robertson had come to Fort Langley as a cabinet maker and boat builder in 1843. He had

Stephen Moore,
Albion, B.C.

Samuel Robertson
(1819-1897)

A cabinet maker at Fort Langley, he became the first white settler on the north side of the Fraser.

come out directly from Scotland in the employ of the company to Victoria where he met Julia Sanich, the daughter of a Cowichan Chief. She had accompanied him to Fort Langley.

As the salmon industry at the fort grew, the fur trade ebbed. In 1852 a prime beaver pelt sold for next to nothing due to the popularity of the Derby hat. The well-to-do Englishman no longer felt in style wearing a beaver hat.

Baling the 180 pound pieces of fur for transshipment overseas from Fort Langley.

Another method of baling fur.

The restored Fort Langley of the 1840s looking north-easterly.

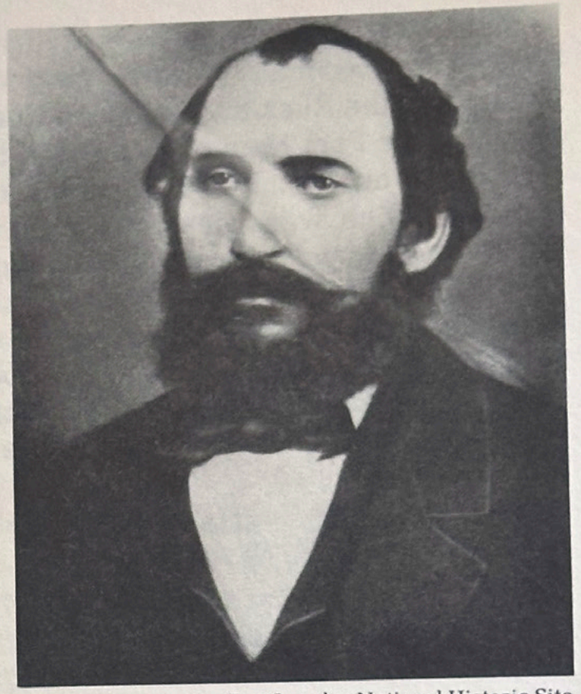
The growth of the salmon industry brought on the need for additional coopers. Two rather reluctant coopers at the fort were Kenneth Morrison and John McIver. In 1853 the two young men arrived at Fort Langley in rags with a brigade that had travelled via the Yellowhead all the way from Fort Carlton by snowshoe and canoe. By the time they reached Langley the fur trade had lost all its glamour and adventure. The two conspired to breach their four year contract with the company and escape to greener pastures. Yale had the pair caught and imprisoned for deserting. He then, not knowing what to do with them, put the two to work in the cooperage under Cromarty.

Both men were from the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland. Morrison's home was called Barvas while McIver came from Stornoway. The two men had left Scotland upon joining the services of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1852. The day they sailed for Canada Morrison's mother gave birth to a baby daughter. McIver promised her that he would some day return and marry the child. They were landed at Fort Churchill on Hudson's Bay where Morrison was saved from starving and freezing to death by friendly Indians. Their first winter was spent at Fort York. The following summer they helped build Fort Carlton on the Prairies and even roped a buffalo before joining the brigade bound for Fort Langley.

It was in October, 1853, that Russian expansionist pressures led Turkey to declare war; the following March England and France became allies of the Turks. Ironically, the war between England and Russia did not carry over to the Pacific Northwest. England made a special agreement with the Russians whereby the Hudson's Bay Company would continue to supply food to the Russians residing in the Panhandle. One commodity which was obtained at Fort Langley which was in great demand in the Crimean War was isinglass, a food preservative, made from the membrane of the float bladder of the sturgeon. Yale was able to obtain upwards of 800 pounds of this substance which fetched $14 a pound during the war years. The Fort Langley preservative was used by both the Russian and English armies at the front lines.

Kenneth Morrison
(1831-1900)

Early cooper at Fort Langley and the first pre-empter of land in Langley.



Fort Langley National Historic Site,
Fort Langley, B.C.

John McIver
(1831-1913)

Early cooper at Fort Langley and pioneer settler in both Langley and Maple Ridge.

Mrs. John McIver Jr.,
Maple Ridge, B.C.

The fort's importance as a fur-trade, salmon shipping depot, as well as exporter of farm produce, decreased with the expiration of the Russian American Company. It was the discovery of gold near Fort Kamloops in 1856-57 that gave Fort Langley a new lease on life. In 1858 major events mushroomed at Fort Langley which were beyond the belief of the fort's occupants. During a one year period 30,000 men passed up the Fraser and past the fort. Many of the miners passed through the fort's gates for outfitting. Supplying these men with food and clothing put Fort Langley back on the map. The events which followed earned Fort Langley an enviable position in history for all time.

2

FRASER RIVER GOLD RUSH

No history of British Columbia could ever be complete without some mention of the gold rush. One of the men credited with the first gold discoveries in British Columbia was afterwards a farmer just outside the walls of Fort Langley. Another took up a pre-emption across the river from the fort at Albion.

One man credited with the gold discovery which resulted in 30,000 miners swarming into New Caledonia in 1858 was James Houston. He originally came from Dunfermline, the ancient capital of Scotland, where his parents were wealthy ship manufacturers owning the White Star Shipping Line. As a youth Houston ran away from home with school chum Andrew Carnegie bound for the United States. Carnegie, upon his arrival in America, apprenticed to a Pennsylvania blacksmith and eventually built up the steel-works which brought him wealth and fame.

Houston was side-tracked from his original destination when his ship was wrecked off the coast of New Zealand. The survivors on landing were promptly taken prisoner by Maori warriors. Houston made an attempt to escape but was speared in the groin. He was then tossed back into prison. As soon as the wound healed Houston made a second escape bid. This time he succeeded by swimming out to sea to a passing ship. He persuaded this ship's crew to rescue his comrades.

From here Houston boarded another ship bound for South America where he had many adventures in Latin-American ports during political wars and among South Sea pirates and slavers. He was once shipwrecked along the coast of Mexico.

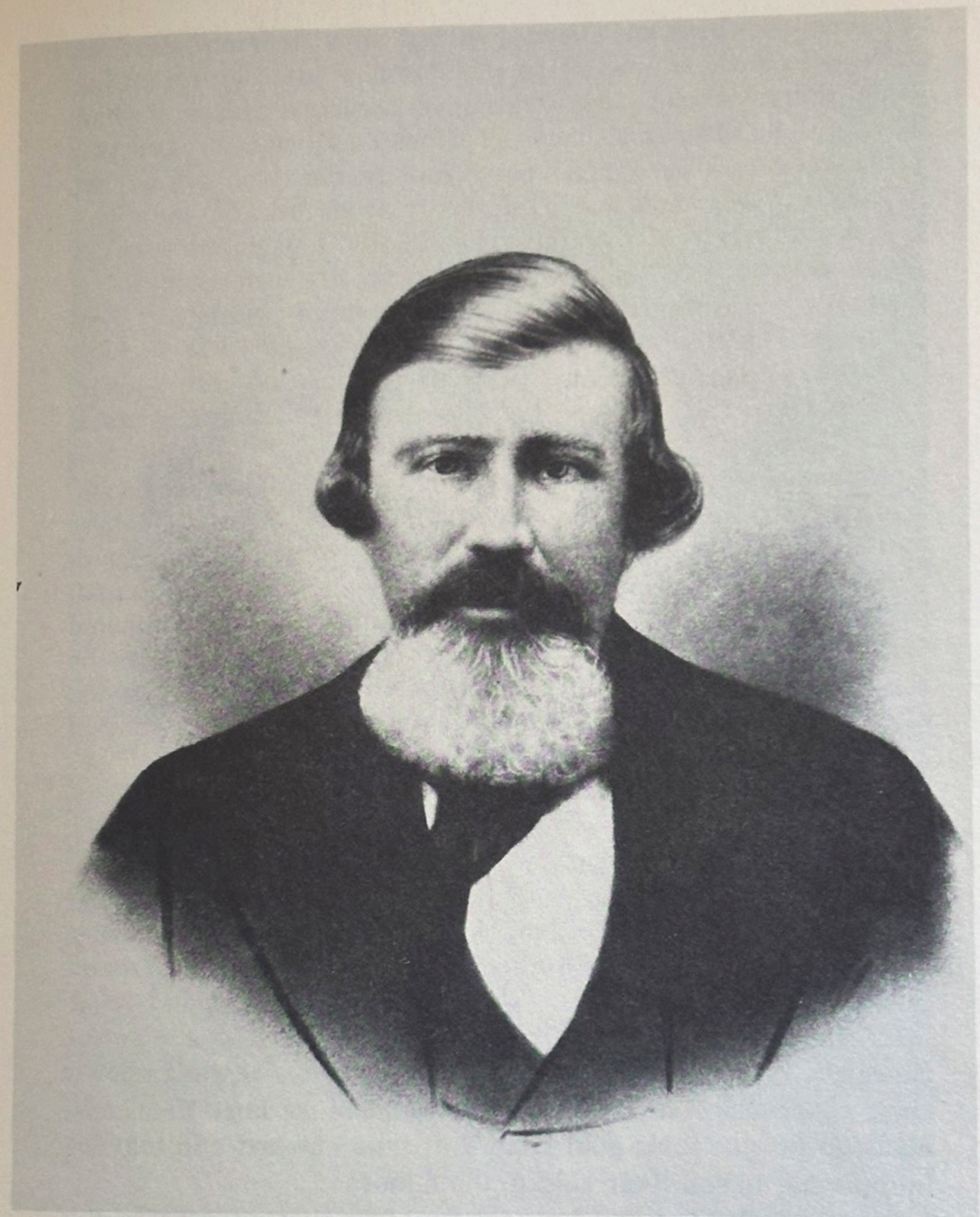
In 1849 Houston was in New York where he was surprised to be greeted heartily in the streets by more than one passer-by

who was quite unknown to him. The explanation was that his brother Robert, an engineer by profession, was there at the same time and these were friends of his who had been deceived by the close family resemblance between the two men. Houston left New York as a quartermaster on a sailing ship bound for California. Here he left ship to participate unsuccessfully in the gold rush.

Houston came to Puget Sound in 1856 as a second officer on another ship. Here he heard of the discovery of gold near Fort Colville on the Columbia. He deserted ship and with a partner named Eldridge bought a herd of cattle which they began to drive overland to the gold strike. Learning that the Indians were hostile Eldridge became disheartened and turned back. Houston went on alone and eventually reached Fort Colville where he disposed of the cattle to the miners for meat at a handsome profit. He then acquired a new partner and began prospecting along the Pend Oreille River. Their findings were promising and the pair had high expectations. Unfortunately Indians swooped down on their camp. They cut the ropes of the tent and let the canvas collapse on the sleeping men. With knives the Indians stabbed through the canvas killing his new partner. Houston managed to escape with a couple of arrows in the back. In the morning he buried his partner and loaded his pony with supplies intent on getting out of the country. He hesitated to make his way back through United States territory for fear of again encountering Indians so decided to go north into Hudson's Bay Company territory, where, under the rule of the fur traders, there was peace between the white men and the Indians.

He managed to work his way northward into the Okanagan Valley with the intention of connecting with the New Caledonia Brigade Trail. All went well until he got within two or three miles of the border. Here he was overtaken by a large party of Indians. He protested that he was a King George man, as the Hudson's Bay Company men were known to the Indians, but they did not believe him. Instead of killing him they robbed him of everything he possessed.

Houston was now in a grave predicament. He could not expect to cross the mountains to Fort Hope unarmed and without



James Houston Fort Langley Centennial Museum,
(1823-1902) Fort Langley, B.C.
Langley pioneer credited with making the first gold discoveries in British Columbia.

supplies. He had no alternative but to strike out for Fort Kamloops. Several weeks later he stumbled into the fort on the Thompson River more dead than alive. Luckily a prospector had found the lost Houston. Ironically Houston's troubles were still far from over as Donald McLean, Chief Trader in charge of Fort Kamloops, took him for a deserter from one of the New Caledonia forts of the Company. Eventually Houston managed to persuade McLean that he was a ship deserter and not a company deserter and was given genuine Hudson's Bay Company hospitality.

In the spring of 1857 Houston began panning the creeks about the fort for gold. He struck the yellow metal at Tranquille Creek and with it paid McLean for his board.

Houston was not the only prospector around Fort Kamloops. Another was Ferdinand Boulanger. He had left Alsace, Quebec, in 1849 to join the California gold rush, by working his way south down the Atlantic Coast on a sailing vessel as far as Panama. Here he jumped ship, changed his name to Peter Baker to avoid detection, and began footing it across the isthmus where he contracted and nearly died of scarlet fever. He then sailed up the Pacific Coast to the California diggings. After a short while at Sacramento he heard of the discovery of gold near Fort Colville. He made his way there. Here he met Houston who told him he had made a few dollars selling cattle to men in the north country. As a result Baker, accompanied by two other Quebecers and an Iroquois, began working northward mining around Rock Creek, Tranquille, and various other places along the Thompson and Fraser Rivers. He too found gold. He taught the Shuswap Indians in the vicinity how to pan for the yellow metal and then bought their findings for next to nothing with plugs of chewing tobacco. He might have become prosperous had not the Indians shown their discoveries to Chief Trader McLean at Fort Kamloops. McLean bought their gold from that time onward and told the Indians not to sell their gold to the miners.

The gold the Indians brought to McLean was sent to the Company's headquarters at Fort Victoria, and James Douglas, Chief Factor in charge of the Western Department of the Company, forwarded it to the San Francisco mint. It was the

Leslie C. Baker,
Albion, B.C.

Peter Baker
(-1897)

Early gold discoverer and afterwards pioneer settler at Albion. Baker, like so many other Fraser Valley pioneers, had his portrait taken in the S.J. Thompson studio in New Westminster. Many pioneers were photographed in this same chair against the same drapes in the 1880s and 90s.

Columbia; Mr. Lira and others, proceeded on board H.M. Ship "Satellite," Captain Prevost, on Wednesday morning by the Canal de Haro to Point Roberts, where his excellency and suite were conveyed by the Hudson Bay Company's screw steamer "Otter" to the Company's steamship "Beaver" which was lying moored within the mouth of the Fraser. Both vessels then proceeded in company as far as Old Fort Langley, where the "Otter" disembarked a party of 18 Sappers under the command of Captain Parsons who immediately embarked in the "Recovery" revenue cutter, joining the command of Captain Grant, R.E., who had previously reached the point with a party of the same corps. Both these gallant officers have recently arrived from England with small parties of men under their command. The "Beaver" then proceeded with His Excellency aboard to New Fort Langley, where preparations were made for the ceremonial of the following day.

"On Friday morning, the 19th instant, His Excellency, accompanied by Captain Grant disembarked on the wet loamy bank of the Fort and the procession proceeded up the steep bank which leads to the palisade. Arrived there, a salute of 18 guns commenced pealing from the "Beaver" awakening all the echoes of the opposite mountains. In another moment the flag of Britain was floating, or to speak the truth, dripped over the principal entrance. Owing to the unpropitious state of the weather, the meeting which was intended to have been held in the open air was convened in the large room at the principal building. About 100 persons were present.

"The ceremonies were commenced by His Excellency addressing Mr. Begbie and delivering to him Her Majesty's Commission as Judge in the Colony of British Columbia. Mr. Begbie then took the oath of allegiance and the usual oaths on taking office and then addressing His Excellency took up Her Majesty's Commission appointing him the Governor and proceeding to read it at length. Mr. Begbie then administered to Governor Douglas the usual oaths of office, viz.: Allegiance, Abjuration, etc. His Excellency being then duly appointed and sworn in, proceeded to issue the Proclamation of the same day, 19th instant, viz: one

proclaiming the act; a second, indemnifying all the officers of the Government from any irregularities which may have been committed in the interval before this proclamation of the act; and a third, proclaiming English Law to be the Law of the Colony. The reading of these was preceded by His Excellency's Proclamation of the 3rd instant setting forth the Revocation of Her Majesty of all the exclusive privileges of the Hudson Bay Company.

"The proceedings then terminated. On leaving the Fort, which His Excellency did not do until today, another salute of 17 guns was fired from the battlements, with even grander effect than the salute of the previous day. On leaving the riverside in front of the town a number of the inhabitants were assembled with whom His Excellency entered into conversation previous to embarking on board the "Beaver," and by whom he was loudly cheered in very good style as he was on his way to the steamer."

Thus was inaugurated, in the very heart of the Fraser Valley, the first Government of British Columbia.

In the early part of 1858 Victoria speculators decided to create a town on the site of the original Fort Langley. Named the Derby Townsite, in honour of Lord Derby, the speculators, at their own expense, had the town laid out into lots. In September, Douglas, without authority, issued a proclamation warning the public that no crown lands had been sold and followed this up by confiscating the work done by the speculators. By October 1 Douglas had a change of heart and announced the intended sale of town lots by the government at Derby.

It took Colonel Richard Clement Moody, the man in charge of the Royal Engineers, until the early part of 1859, to reach the temporary camp established by the advance engineers at Derby. Apparently Moody was not impressed with the site chosen by Douglas for the proposed capital of the new colony. He condemned the Derby Townsite since it was situated on the south side of the Fraser, and therefore vulnerable from attack by the Americans, and because it was subject to flooding. He did agree; however, that Derby should be used by his engineers for a temporary headquarters and as a result he gave the go ahead for the building of a courthouse, church, and gaol.

John Innes' painting of the inauguration of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. The event took place in the Big House at Fort Langley on November 19, 1858, when Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, the newly appointed Chief Justice, swore in James Douglas as the first Governor of the Crown Colony of British Columbia.

Native Sons of British Columbia Post #2