



**TIMES
PAST**



**SALT SPRING ISLAND
HOUSES AND HISTORY
BEFORE THE TURN
OF THE CENTURY**



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and History before the turn
of the century**



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A SALTSRING BUCK.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 500 copies of an earlier version of this booklet were produced to accompany a photographic exhibition (in June 1981) of some of the earliest houses of the island, a project sponsored by the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council. I am grateful to all those who have given pictures, documents, information and advice, and to the C.A.C. Heritage House Committee: Olive Clayton, Patty Lawson, Gerry Layard, Marguerite Lee, Wyn MacLachlan, Sue Mouat and Morton Stratton. Part of the work of the Committee involved assisting the Farmers' Institute to acquire one of the Bittancourt houses as the island's first museum. The photographs from the exhibition are now on display in this museum. Members of the Committee then proceeded to found the new Salt Spring Island Historical Society, with whom information, photographs, documents or letters pertaining to Salt Spring Island history could be deposited.

With gratitude I acknowledge the encouragement and support of the Heritage Trust, which funded the enlargement of the photographs and also contributed toward the cost of printing the earlier booklet. The British Columbia Archives kindly supplied copies of the two documents reprinted here. The Caldwell family generously permitted the publication of the John Caldwell letter, a rare source of information concerning our first black settlers.

This new version has been enlarged by the inclusion of the Islands Farmers' Institute pamphlet of 1902, and is made eminently more interesting and attractive by the addition of the drawings of the houses contributed by Salt Spring artist Warren Langley. The small text illustrations are the work of Elma Rubright.

Deserving special thanks are the owners of the old houses here collected. Included are most of the surviving homes built on the island before 1900, but of course the list is not complete. Several owners did not wish their homes included in this project, fearing invasion of their privacy. The Rev. Wilson's BARNSBURY, Mr. Bullock's mansion and the Walter House have been added, although they were all destroyed many years ago.

The decision to publish this booklet was made at the request of the Salt Spring Island Historical Society, and because no other book is available at this time to tell the story of our early history, Bea Hamilton's delightful book being out of print. Hopefully this booklet will, at some future date, be replaced by a longer, more scholarly and detailed account.

Beth Hill,
Ganges,
British Columbia.
1983

INTRODUCTION

The first non-Indian settlers arrived in 1857. By 1895, the Victoria newspaper listed Salt Spring Island residents as:

- 160 English or Canadian
- 50 Scots
- 20 Irish
- 22 Portuguese
- 13 Swedes
- 4 Germans
- 2 Norwegians
- 34 Americans
- 90 half-breeds
- 40 colored
- 6 Sandwich Islanders
- 10 Japanese
- 1 Egyptian
- 2 Greeks
- 1 Patagonian *

From 1895 to 1961, as the population grew slowly to 2,000, the mosaic of race and nationality became, by intermarriage, a melting pot. The 1895 list reflects the prejudices and realities of its day. It ignores the Indians. Although Salt Spring Island was part of the resource territory of both Cowichan and Saanich Indians, and a photograph in Bea Hamilton's history of the island plainly shows Charlie Zalt's home on the reserve land at Beaver Point, the Colonist report fails to mention the Indians. These first owners, confronted by the technological superiority of the new arrivals in their land, decimated by white men's diseases and suffering the breakdown of their culture, were not a threat in 1895, although they had certainly been dangerous to the first settlers and were responsible for several murders. However, from the earliest days, a happier aspect of Indian-white relationships was the marriage of new settlers to Indian wives.

Bea Hamilton, arriving as a child in 1897, has described Indian canoes gliding up the Fulford Harbour on a duck drive. The

* the Patagonian was a boy named Jimmy, a servant of the Rev. E.F. Wilson at Barnsbury, the splendid house which once stood on the site of the present Golf Clubhouse.

canoes lined up, paddle to paddle across the harbour, slowly and silently driving the birds.....

"Alarm stirred thousands of ducks as one after another group rose with feet trailing the water as they flew farther and farther up harbour, their almost hysterical noise communicating an alarm to every marine bird within hearing. The very quietness of the approaching canoes sent a silent message of fear. The Indians closed in until the birds were massed together. At a signal, arrows sped from the bows of experienced bowmen. Ducks fell left and right in a well-organized drive. Many took wing only to meet death in the air. Some escaped by diving under the canoes and swimming toward the harbour entrance. Except for the ping of the bow string, death was silent and instantaneous, for the Indians were excellent marksmen. They hunted for food. Pick-up canoes came along behind the drive and gathered in the dead until the crafts were filled with birds."



In later years, guns were used. White settlers joined the hunt. Year by year the numbers of ducks diminished. We shall never hear again wrote Bea, "the awe-inspiring roar of thousands of ducks rising simultaneously, nor the early morning gaggles and quacks, gurgles and chuckles of pure joy as the birds awake to another dawn."

It is true that there were no permanent Indian villages on the Island at the time of arrival of the first non-Indian settlers, but the deep shell middens are silent proof that this island was well used seasonally, during the thousands of years of the Indian occupation of the coast. It is difficult to even imagine the wealth of food resources available to the Indians, for nowadays there are few ducks, or fish, or crabs. Only the clams seem to have withstood their human predators.



The first non-Indian settlers were thirty black people. Former slaves, they left the United States and were offered a place of refuge on this unoccupied island. Bea

Hamilton has described their arrival, when they camped at Vesuvius Bay on an August night just before the end of the summer of 1857. She pictures young Hiram Whims, about 23 years old, joining the singing of hymns around the fire, then leaping to his feet to shout "We are a free people! This is OUR ISLAND!" His exultation has been echoed by every new arrival since then. Although 30 black people came in 1857, another 30 in 1958, and 80 more the following year, by the 1880's there were only about 20 families on the island. When the North won the American Civil War, many former slaves returned to the South, believing that complete freedom was theirs. Others sought gold in the Yukon. Those who remained on Salt Spring Island became part of the melting pot. A letter written by John Caldwell in 1947, in the Appendix of this booklet, lists the names of these first settlers.

Two years after Hiram Whim's triumphant shout, a schooner named NANAIMO PACKET brought about thirty men to inspect the island with a view to homesteading. Following this visit on July 18, 1859, they met in Victoria to arrange a system for pre-empting land, the beginning of our first bitter wrangle with Victoria bureaucrats. On July 27th seventeen of this group returned to take up land, among them John Patton Booth (at this time age 21, later to be an M.L.A. and Speaker of the House), the famous Jones brothers (John Jones to become the honoured first teacher on the Island, a black man), Henry Lineker who built the first house in Ganges and had a narrow escape in the skirmish between local and northern Indians in Ganges Harbour, John Copeland, J.D. Cusheon, H. Sampson, Jonathan Begg.

Although the date of 1858 persistently appears in connection with the arrival of Estalon and Manouel Bittancourt, a newspaper tribute at the time of Estalon Bittancourt's death in 1917 gives his age as 74, which would indicate that his age in 1858 was only 15. Considering his adventures at sea and in Australia, it is more likely that he arrived at Vesuvius in the early 1860s. In 1861, four years after the first arrivals,

a Methodist preacher came to call. Rev. Robson noted that he visited seven houses along the East side (?) and twenty-one in the Ganges area, of which only four belonged to whites and the rest were occupied by black families. It was too long a hike for him to visit Joseph Kandruff, from Smyrna on the Turkish Coast, who had changed his name to King, said to have been the first Beaver Point settler, in 1860. The Colonist failed to add "1 Turk" to its list. The first settlers of Fulford Harbour were Joseph and Martha Akerman, arriving in 1863 (Martha Clay Akerman still chases the cougar on the wall of the Ganges Pub). By 1864 John Jones was teaching in two schools and being paid in neither, and S.S. FIDELITER had started making regular mail calls at Vesuvius. Small clearings were appearing everywhere, amid gigantic trees, and deer trails had become footpaths, and would presently be widened into roads.

Of these first homes little survives, not even pictures. According to Bea Hamilton, the log building behind Akerman's "Travellers' Rest" in the Burgoyne Valley is an original Joseph and Martha Akerman home. Most of the earliest surviving houses in our photographic display were not built until at least twenty years after the 1857 beginning.

Many of the dates are uncertain, but the table of events which follows gives a picture of the first forty years.

If these old houses had tongues, they would perhaps make the same remark so many old-timers do, when asked about the days when the Island was young: "In those days, we knew everyone". What they recall first, the most important ingredient of the past, has to do with scale, with relationships. What we sense now is our too rapid growth, our rootlessness, a lack of connection with the past and future of the land we only temporarily "own". We live as if there was nothing to be learned from history, doomed to repeat its errors. We live as if land was nothing but a profitable commodity. In 1961 we were 2,000 people here; ten years later our numbers had doubled. Will the '81 census reveal another 2,000? How

few of us can know anything about old island days and ways!

If these old houses had tongues - but they stand silent, staring with blank eyes, and it is only from scant memories of the children and grandchildren of their builders, from a few faded photographs, and documents, that we can speak for them.

DATES

- 1857 the first 30 settlers, Negroes, arrived.
1858 30 more blacks. Possibly Estalon and Manoel Bittancourt.
1859 80 more blacks. 17 white and black settlers (John Copland, J.D. Cusheon, Jonathan Begg, John Booth, Henry Lineker) stone quarry at Vesuvius.
1860 Indian battle, Ganges. John Maxwell, Theodore Trage, Joseph King arrived.
1861 Methodist Rev. Robson came to visit.
1862 Bride ship
1863 Martha Clay married Joseph Akerman.
1864 John Jones teaching. S.S. FIDELITER bringing mail to Vesuvius. Michael Gyves arrived.
1865 Petition to Governor to have mail ship stop at Begg's settlement every two weeks.
1866 Union of Vancouver Is. and British Columbia. John Maxwell complains about Indians stealing cattle.
1867
1868 Chemainus Indian hung for murder of Wm. Robinson and Giles Curtis.
1869
1870
1871 Kanakas arrive at Isabella Point.
1872 Henry Ruckle comes to Beaver Point. Henry Sampson appointed constable.
1873 Corporation of the Township of Salt Spring Island (dissolved 10 years later)
1874
1875 First post office, Central Settlement.
1876 RUCKLE HOUSE
1877 Fred Bittancourt born
1878
1879 Chas.Horel arrived
1880 Census, population 600. Burgoyne Bay P.O. established. St. Paul's built.
1881

(Dates continued)

- 1882 NIGHTINGALE HOUSE
1883 Incorporation dissolved.
1884 Samuel Beddis arrived. Beaver Point P.O.
established. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stevens arrived.
1885 Beaver Point School built. Mouats arrived.
1886 BITTANCOURT ANNEX built.
1887 STEVENS HOUSE
1888
1889 St. Mark's built. Leonard Tolson arrived.
1890 "TRAVELLERS' REST", MOUAT HOUSE, TAHOUNEY HOUSE,
PHILLIPS HOUSE
1891
1892 Henry Bullock arrived. OLD CREAMERY built before
this date.
1893
1894 Scovell & Westwood mine gold, Beaver Point.
Rev. E.H. Wilson arrived.
1895 J.T. Collins arrived. COLLINS HOUSE, SCOVELL HOUSE
1896 EDWARD AKERMAN HOUSE
1897 Central Hall built.
1898
1899
1900 Boer War. "IROQUOIS" began service to Islands.
1901 Queen Victoria died.

AKERMAN HOUSES

Joseph Akerman arrived on Salt Spring Island in 1863. In May of that year he married Martha Clay, a Leicestershire lady who arrived on the "bride ship" ROBERT LOWE in 1862. Martha lived to a very old age; her son Joseph Jonathan said she was 99 when she died, not 96 as is sometimes reported. Paying a dollar an acre for their land, Joseph and Martha established a homestead beside Fulford Creek, and with stout-hearted work made it into a showplace with many unusual trees and plants. For some years they made part of their house a store. Their home was also a hotel, named "Travelers Rest". When Martha was old she was interviewed by Margaret (Shaw) Walter, who wrote:

"She told of one evening taking poultry from their fowl house to another, some distance away. Her husband was also carrying some, and on the other side of the fence dividing what was probably a field from the road or trail where they were walking, a panther kept pace with them and the squawking hens in their hands. She cried out, "Joseph", if this beast follows us any longer I will drop the fowls!" But her husband's only reply was "Don't drop the fowls!" Another experience must have given her a great shock. While busy gardening near the

home, when her husband was elsewhere, she laid her baby girl on the ground while she went on with her task. Happening to lift her eyes later on she saw a panther walking down between the rows toward her little daughter. With no weapon at hand she ran screaming toward it, and it must have been fairly close for she spoke of lifting her foot as if to thrust it away. Whether it was the movement, however, or the sound of the frantic screams, the animal turned back and left them. She said little about her feelings in the matter, but her quiet remark, "I did not sleep much that night", told its own story".



Martha and Joseph had five sons and two daughters. Their eldest son, Joseph Johathan Akerman, married Georgina Marie Horel in 1893 at St. Mary's Church in Fulford Harbour. He then managed Broadwell's and Fernwood farms, at one time remarking "I have seen the change from ox team and home-made sleighs to ox teams with wagons, then to horses and wagons, and now to motor cars and trucks." But the heyday of the Island's agricultural economy was already over when he died in 1954. The second son, George

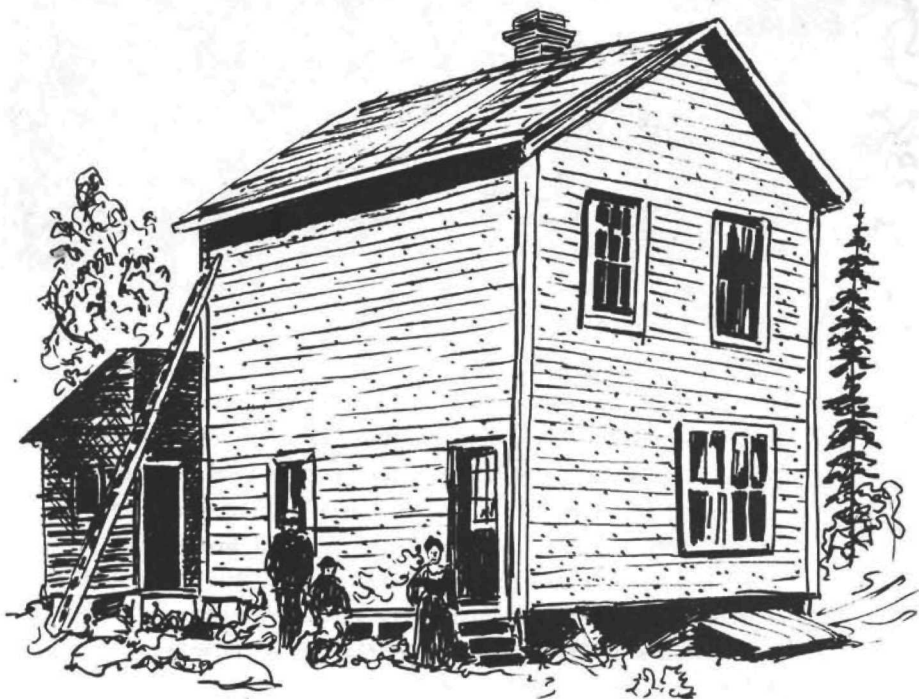


Edward (Ted) Akerman built the 1892 house now owned by Danny Akerman. The original house hidden behind a later addition. Ted Akerman married Ellen Gyves, shown in the older picture with daughters Molly and Dorothy.

The old log building behind "Travellers' Rest" may have been an earlier house built by Joseph and Martha. Standing amid fields and fruit trees, the old log structure reminds us of the days when the giant cedar trees had to be cleared, the great log piles burned and potatoes planted among the stumps. The work of removing stumps was back-breaking. Oxen were better than horses in those years, for they could plough among the stumps, patiently waiting when buried roots brought them up sharp, instead of rearing and breaking harness as horses would likely do.

BEDDIS HOUSE

Samuel and Emily Beddis left Bristol, England, on their honeymoon in 1871, when Samuel was 21. By the time they reached Victoria in 1884, after years in Nebraska and San Francisco, there were five children and household goods to be transported. So Samuel bought a sailing sloop and loaded it with staple foods, a tent and tools, all the household items, his family and his wife's brother Raffles Purdy, and set sail to homestead up the British Columbia coast. They did not get far. In stormy seas off the San Juans their dinghy was lost. They managed to get ashore on one of the islands, where they were just getting the billy can boiling for a cup of tea when two customs officers arrived and ordered them to leave at once. The bedraggled family sailed across to North Saanich where several families took them into their



homes for a week. It happened that Henry Ruckle arrived during that week, met the Beddis family and urged them to come to Salt Spring Island. Soon after, on a sunny day in August they anchored off the beach now bearing their name and rowed ashore: Samuel and Emily, sons John, Charles, Henry and Lionel and daughter Boadicea (Decie) and Raffles Purdy. They immediately put up the big tent and began the



task of unloading their belongings (including a cast iron stove) from the sloop. The next day they felled the first trees for a log house, working hard against the coming winter.

On cold nights a huge log fire was built in front of the open tent flaps to warm the sleepers. By November they had moved into the unfinished house. Other island settlers helped to cut a trail through to Ganges.

The next problem was a school. The following spring Samuel Beddis and son Charles helped build the Beaver Point School. The older children recall rowing a mile and a quarter to Cusheon Cove then walking over the hills to the school on a twisting trail through thick cedar forest. It is said that the Beddis family planted an orchard that first spring, using seeds saved from the fruit they had eaten on the voyage. Later on, Samuel Beddis grafted the young trees with scions from forty or more varieties of apples shipped from Ireland. Each of the little grafts had been sent safely embedded in an Irish Potato, travelling in the mails.



At first Emily, accustomed to living in a city or town, was desperately lonely. In later years she served many an isolated homestead as nurse and doctor, travelling by foot or rowboat. Perhaps it was fortunate that at first there was so much to be done, in caring for her large family and

helping with the work of establishing a farm.

Decie Beddis related that when their first garden was coming along well, her mother was horrified to see a party of Indians come ashore and begin to eat the carrots and peas. Little Decie, equally upset, dashed away from her mother and ran into the garden to kick at the leader's legs. Her mother was terrified, but the chief thought it a great joke and called his men back into the canoe.

In spite of this uncomfortable beginning, later relationships with the Indians were good. Decie remembered with pleasure that every year, after the hop-picking season in Oregon, the Indians, returning to various reservations on Vancouver Island, would gather on the beach below the house to exchange news and feast on clams. Such gatherings, Decie said, brought a welcome change to the homestead. The Indians were friendly and caused them no trouble whatever.

Nine years of hard work made a great difference in the homestead and Samuel and Emily were well satisfied with their life. Samuel wrote a poem:

I am looking back, it don't seem long
since wife and I first met
Those happy days when we were young
Sometimes I feel so yet
But ah, I heard the children say
at suppertime tonight
Why, father's hair is getting gray
and Mother's hair is white.

I call them children still, altho'
our Jack is six foot three
and Charlie has a girl in town
and Henry goes to see
our neighbour's girl across the bay
she's soon to be his wife
Ah, well, my hair is getting gray
and Mother's hair is white.

I don't see where the time has gone
since wife and I were wed
Our happiness seemed all our own
and all looked clear ahead
The sun shone out so bright that day
I had no care in life
But now my hair is getting gray
and Mother's hair is white.

Then came the terrible winter of 1893, which brought a six foot snow fall. Samuel Beddis caught a cold which turned to pneumonia and pleurisy. Desperate to get help for him, they wrapped him in layers of blankets and carried him to the rowboat, then rowed out to stop the steamer enroute to Victoria. Emily went with Samuel to the old Jubilee hospital, staying there until the following June when Samuel died. He was 43 years old. Emily returned to the homestead to give birth to their last child, Geoffrey. Now the sons had taken over their father's work and the sad family could only carry on. The orchards flourished. Decie related that at one time the hillside to the south, which is today overgrown with timber, was at that time in fruit trees. About 1900 some of the older boys built the new house, bringing the lumber by scow from Chemainus. In about 1895 when the Divide school was built, near Blackburn's Lake, the Beddis children attended it, travelling two and a half miles to the Purdy farm then trudging up the long, uphill trail to Blackburn's Lake. Sometimes, on Sunday, the family rowed from the Beddis farm down Ganges Harbour to the beach, then walked to St. Mark's Church at Central Settlement.

In 1898 Charles and Henry Beddis went to the Yukon, staying there for several years doing ship carpentry. When Charles came back to the Island, he built houses. After marriage to Hilda Bond (from Keswick, England) he built a small cottage on Edward Walter's farm where he was then working. Later this cottage was loaded on a scow and towed to Beddis Beach, where it was hauled up the bank and placed in the orchard.

At that time Charlie took over the farm work, giving his younger brother Geoff a chance to go commercial fishing for a few years.

Charles and Winnie Watmough's conversations with members of the Beddis family in 1959, from which some details of this account have been taken, were printed in the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Review. When Kay and Ernie Booth bought the old Beddis house, they discovered the half-burnt notebook which contained Samuel Beddis' poem. He had carefully drawn diagrams of the orchard, and compiled a list of the fruit trees. The following list is incomplete, and perhaps some names are misspelled, but it is reprinted to give some idea of the old varieties of apples, peaches and pears no longer being grown.

Blenheim Graft	Keiffer Pear	Dumelows seedling
Lord Derby	Golden Russet	Pear Jargonelle
Warners King	Island greening	Montmorency Cherries
Irish unknown	Wealthy	Shropshire Damson
Irish peach	Passe Colmar	White Winter Pearmain
Golden Noble	Winter Nelis	Early Richmond Cherries
Flemish Beauty	Glout Morceau	Duchess de Angouleme
Beurre de Anjou	Russian Apricot	Josephine de Malines
Easter Beurre	Queen of Hearts	Red Bitigheimer
Westfield	Blue Pearmain	
Le Conte	Andersonian	
Kelsey's plum	King of Timpkins	
Japan plum	County	
King of Pippins	Brandy pippin	
Norfolk Beaufen	Willbridge	
Swaar	Red Delaware	



BITTANCOURT HOUSES

A newspaper account written at the time of his death states that Estalon Joseph Bittancourt (1845-1917) born in the Azores, arrived on Salt Spring Island because he had "a roving disposition" and "a longing to go to sea"; another article explains that Estalon and his brother Manoel swam out to a

sailing ship and climbed aboard to avoid conscription in 19th century Portugal. They sailed first to Australia, where they worked for a short time in the gold fields. Their next sailing voyage brought them to British Columbia where they jumped ship off Royal Roads, again swimming ashore. Estalon bought a sloop and began carrying sawdust from Sayward's Mill at Mill Bay to sell as fuel in Victoria. This business ended abruptly when a fierce gale drove the sloop on the rocks off Ten Mile Point, and Estalon Bittancourt again found himself swimming ashore.

Shortly after this narrow escape, Estalon met, on the streets of Victoria, a Mr. Norton, a fellow Portuguese, who urged him to homestead on Salt Spring Island. So Estalon and Manoel Bittancourt came to Vesuvius, probably in the 1860s. Certainly Estalon was on Salt Spring Island well before 1880, when his name is mentioned in connection with the building of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church at Fulford Harbour, built between 1880 and 1885. Estalon had two sons and six daughters, for whom he built the impressive house which later became the Vesuvius Bay Lodge (destroyed by fire in 1975). Five other Bittancourt houses survive:

1. The house occupied by Estalon's son Fred, which has now been moved from its Vesuvius site (at the dock) to become the new Salt Spring Island Museum.
2. "The Ark", built about 1898 or 1899 and consecrated as a small Catholic Chapel, Vesuvius.
3. Three "dowry" houses, which Estalon constructed for three of his six daughters. Two houses are still in their original locations and the third has been moved up the road a short distance.

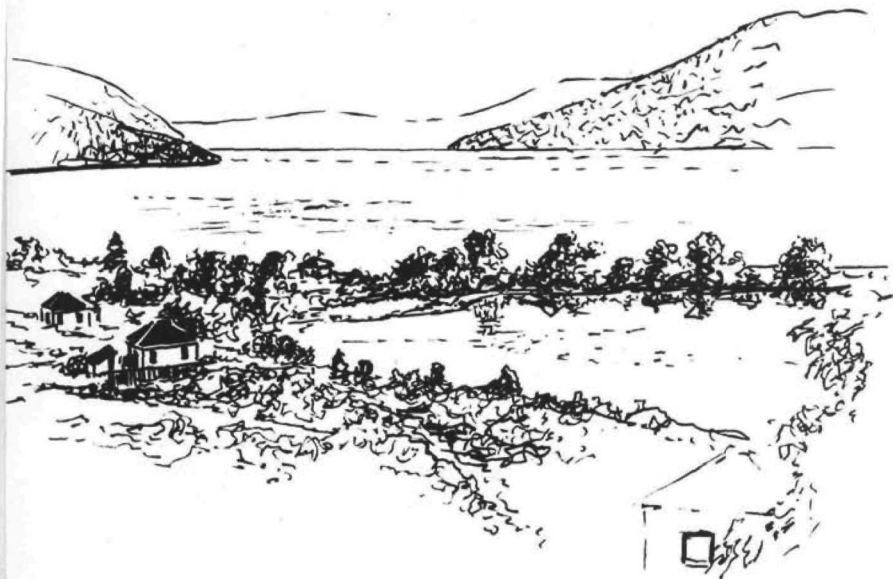
Estalon continued the operation of a sandstone quarry, the island's first industry, started in the 1860's by five men headed by John Lee of Victoria, a building mechanic. The Esquimalt dry dock, built by Larkin & Connelly from Montreal

was made of Vesuvius stone, quarried by 160 French Canadians. The remains of their stone ovens may still be found along the ridge above the quarry site.



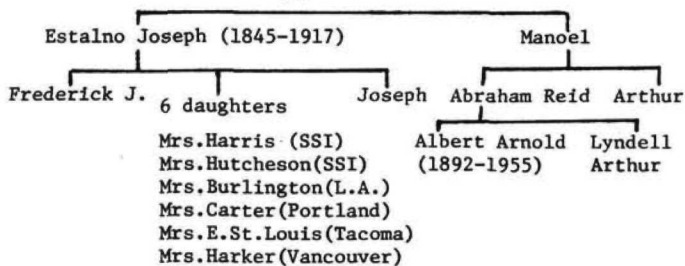
Coal was also mined by the Bittancourts. Bea Hamilton reports that it retailed for twenty-five cents a bag. Interviewed in 1950, Fred Bittancourt recalled that he and his brother had mined coal at Duck Bay and Vesuvius Bay, sacking it for sale to ship captains.

After Estalon's death in 1917, Fred departed to live in San Francisco. In the 1950 interview he related that during the early part of his life he "was associated with the



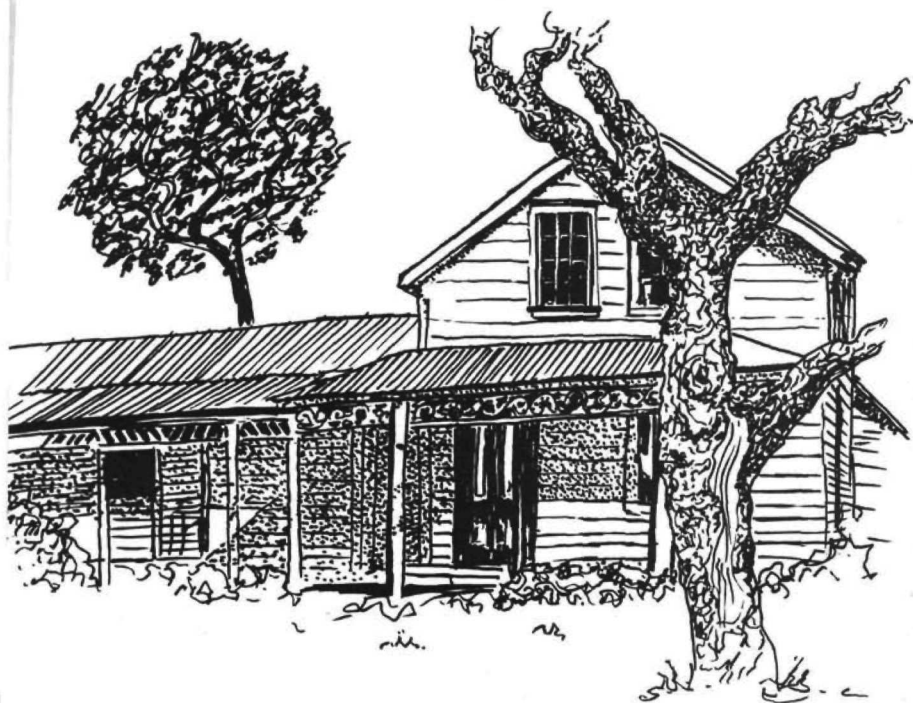
auctioneering trade". Later he worked for the Forestry Branch until his move to San Francisco. He remained in California until his wife's death in 1947 when, at the age of 70, "left on his own", he decided to return to the area he knew as a boy and to inspect some of the property he still owns on Vancouver and Salt Spring Islands".

Abraham Reid Bittancourt, Estalón's nephew, was an outstanding craftsman and builder, whose name is frequently mentioned in connection with the early homes. Reid Bittancourt also operated a general store and feed business, in 1904 moving his store to a new building which became familiar to later islanders as the Dr. Francis Hospital (demolished 1967). Reid Bittancourt brought supplies from Victoria in his own boat, which also served for deliveries around the islands. In 1910 the business was sold to Mouat Bros. who had succeeded Malcolm & Purvis as Mr. Bittancourt's competitors. Subsequently Reid Bittancourt chartered his boat to the Government and entered the Customs Service, patrolling the islands in search of smugglers.



THE BROADWELL HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Broadwell and their daughter Anna came to the island in 1882. Joel Broadwell was postmaster from 1885 to about 1900. The Post Office, the first on Salt Spring Island, had been established in 1875 in a small one-

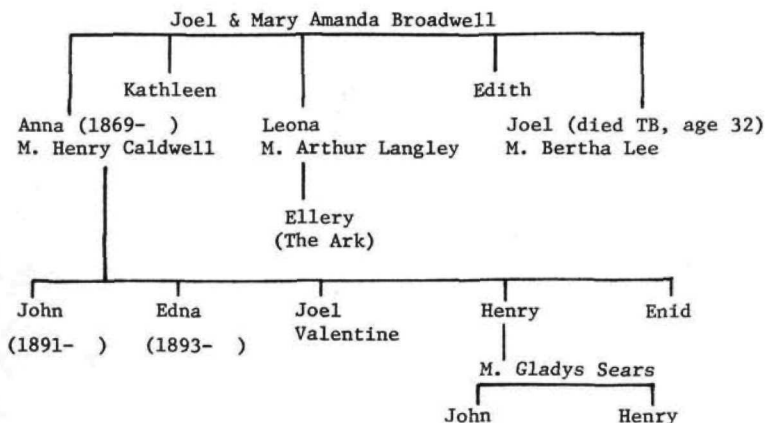


roomed shack at Central Settlement, the first Postmaster being T.C. Parry who made mail deliveries with an unpredictable mule. It is said that if the mule refused to stop, Parry threw off a prepared note which read, "owing to circumstances beyond control the mail cannot be delivered today". It is not recorded how Mr. Broadwell dealt with this problem. Joel Broadwell seems to have done well by buying old farms and putting them into working order before selling them. Before 1900 he sold a farm at Vesuvius for \$12,000.00. "The Mountain", later to become Gavin Mouat's property, belonged to Joel Broadwell originally. He purchased the Fruitvale farm from Willis Stark and there built the big barn still standing on the Long Harbour Road (now being repaired by its newest owners). The Parsons Farm on Mansell Road was also a Broadwell farm



at one time. In 1894 Joel Broadwell was named Justice of the Peace.

The fine old house at Central was sold in 1902 by the Broadwells to Ernest Crofton, who had married Mr. Bullock's sister Mary.



COLLINS HOUSE

The Collins family, consisting of Mr. Collins, his wife and her sister and his three sons and a daughter, left Buckinghamshire in 1895, sailing from Liverpool aboard the old "Lake Winnipeg", crossing Canada by train, finally arriving on the C.P.R. steamer "Joan" at Vesuvius. Almost immediately they purchased one hundred acres near the Central Post Office from a negro, Levi Davis. They were able to hire Japanese workers at 50 cents a day to begin cutting down the trees on their new land. Within a short time they had built their house and established herds of sheep. Soon they were selling hogs, fruit, vegetables and wool in Victoria. Later they started the English Creamery Co. to sell cheese and butter. The oldest son Ernest pre-empted land in the Cranberry, where he lived for many years. Later

he retired to Southey Point, and bachelor brothers, Bob and John, joined him, after the deaths of the older members of the family.



The three Collins sons were interviewed in 1953. The article describes their plight at the time of the sale of the old home when they were faced with the problem of getting all their possessions into their new house at Southey Point:

"When one sees the vast assortment of items to be moved to their new home it is easy to understand their dilemma. There are boxes of fine old china, made by well-known English firms of over a century ago. There are over eighty rifles dating from



the old flintlocks and muzzle loaders, and boxes of ancient pistols, swords and poniards. In old trunks and on the walls are oil paintings, and several original sketches by Landseer. Among the hundreds of old books is a family Bible nearly three feet long by two feet wide and six inches thick, and early editions of Izaak Walton, Pilgrim's Progress and Arabian Nights. Besides these are first editions of Uncle Tom's Cabin and Joe Miller's "F(J)ests", published in 1739 and a Book of Common Prayer, with the preface dedication to King George-Lewis, dated 1719. Carefully wrapped in chamois are bundles of old Stuart silver. Among them are huge teaspoons, larger than our present tablespoons which were used to drink "dishes of tea", and a set of small Apostle spoons popular when tea was first served in cups. There are silver candle snuffers, quill-makers for shaping the old quill pens, and silver wine strainers and meat skewers. Packed in boxes are many lovely pieces of cut glass, Elizabethan goblets, and many other rare and beautiful pieces".

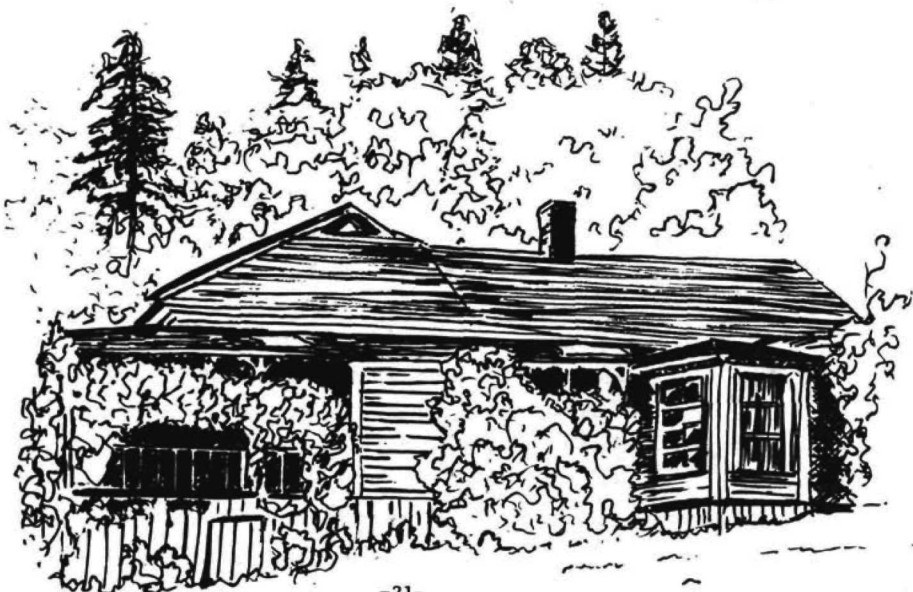
The owners of over 80 rifles, Ernest, Bob and John Collins are shown in a photograph taken in 1913. They are seated on the floor and above them on the wall is a stuffed Cougar and eleven antlered deer heads. They are lean, casual, handsome young men with large black moustaches.

MAHON/SCOVELL HOUSE

It seems reasonably certain that this house was built by Ross Mahon, perhaps in the 1880's. The two brothers, Henry Louis and Ross Mahon, arrived on Salt Spring from Ireland at that time. Handsome, aristocratic, energetic young men, they were grandsons of Sir Ross Mahon, first Baronet of Castlegar, Co. Galway. They bought land at Long Harbour and on Beddis Road in Ganges, and became involved in selling lumber. In 1901, Henry Louis Mahon, the elder of the two, succeeded his uncle John King of Ballylin, assuming the

surname of King. Before returning to Ireland the brothers gave the money for Mahon Hall to the community of Salt Spring Island. Henry remained in Ireland, but Ross returned to Salt Spring and died here, a bachelor.

The Mahons may have sold the Ganges Harbour House and farm as early as 1890 to Jack Scovell. There are two pictures in Dick Toynbee's book, the first (dated ca 1890) showing Ross Mahon with Hugo Robershaw in front of a house labelled "Mahon home near the head of Ganges Harbour". A second picture, giving the same date, shows John Norton, Charlie Tolson, Jack Scovell and Nels Nelson haying at Scovell's farm in Ganges. Jack Scovell lived in the house for about 30 years, until his death. Bea Hamilton names him as one of two experts in the mining field, from Nanaimo (Scovell and Westwood) and states that he discovered gold in the Beaver Point area, took out claims on some parts of the Henry Ruckle property and dug out a ton of quartz for shipment by scow to Tacoma. The quartz was found to yield \$16.00 per ton and the mine was closed down after about a year of work.





In spite of the failure of his mining hopes, Scovell stayed on in the Ganges house, planting apples, filberts, pears, prunes, cherries and peaches. A number of holly trees were set out. He also added a wing to the house for one of his sisters and built a small structure near the house which in 1932 was converted to a private school, operated by Mrs. Moorhouse until it closed in 1937.

About the turn of the century, Scovell sold 100 acres of this land, with the house which became known as "Harbour House", to Fred Crofton. The Rev. Wilson journal records that "our daughter Francis Nona married Alfred Gerald Crofton (Fred, we usually called him) September 17, 1903. They have a farm of 100 acres which Fred purchased of Mr. J.C. Scovell". The Rev. Wilson goes into details of Fred Crofton's aristocratic family origins in Kingstown, Ireland and the journal includes a photograph of the Castle of Mote which was their home. Rev. Wilson reports that Fred was educated at Corrig School, Kingston, that he departed in 1897 to live on Salt Spring Island with J.C. Stovell, from whom he purchased his farm. At the time of this entry Fred owned "a good team of horses, a colt, 14 cows and a lot of pigs and chickens. The family consists at present of himself, wife and 2 little boys".

THE MOUAT HOUSE

In May, 1884, a group of six Shetland Islanders left their homes in the village of Cullester to begin a new life in Canada. The group consisted of Thomas and Jane Mouat, their small daughter Margaret, young Tom, (Thomas's son by a former marriage) and Jane's sister Barbara. The other member of the group was young Tom's maternal grandmother.





After a brief stop in Toronto to visit relatives, the group travelled to Spokane where Thomas Mouat had an elder brother living. The C.P.R. had not been completed at this time or they would have proceeded directly to Nanaimo where Jane Mouat had relatives. Rather than impose on his newly-married brother and bride in Spokane, Thomas bought a small house there, where Jane bore a son, William Manson, in August of 1884. As soon as mother and child were strong enough the group of seven moved up to Nanaimo.

Thomas had been a stone mason in Shetland but the dust was said to have affected his lungs. On arrival in Nanaimo he went to work almost at once for Mr. Joel Broadwell, working in a grocery store. However, the coal mines in Nanaimo bothered his lungs and the doctor advised leaving

this industrial town. Mr. Broadwell told Thomas about a farm that was for sale on Salt Spring Island. After viewing the property, Thomas quickly bought the farm and moved the family once again. The Mouats sailed from Nanaimo on the Amelia, landing in Vesuvius on February 4, 1885 to take up residence on St. Mary's Lake.

In the land registry files in Victoria there is a Crown Grant made out to Thomas William Mouat in 1885 for 153 acres lying on both sides of St. Mary's Lake. The cost of the Crown Grant was \$153.00. The area had been partially cleared and a log house built by a coloured couple, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland. There is no record of the amount paid for the house but the Copelands wished to move to Victoria.

Little is known of the first house that the Mouats moved into, although the logs were covered with clapboard and it was a storey-and-a-half in size. Mr. W.M. (William born in Spokane) recalled in later years a sad tale of his mother losing all of her wedding china but one plate, when a shelf collapsed in this early home. The house was nearer to the road and slightly further along Tripp Road than the present house. A new house was soon built and it is owned and occupied by Phyllis and Matthew Coleman. It was built by Mr. Herd of Somenos and the Mouat family moved into it in 1890. The log house was used for farm purposes for some years and eventually burned one Guy Fawkes night, after it became unsafe.

The farm was a productive one and all the family worked hard to make the venture a success. All surplus produce from the farm was shipped to Nanaimo where it was sold in Manson's store, owned by Jane Mouat's cousin, Laurence. The children had plenty to do to help on the farm. Tom recalled that by the time he was eleven he would walk out to Vesuvius with two gallons of milk for the stone cutters at the quarry

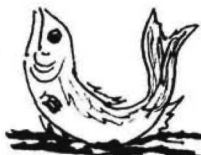
before going to school at Central. W.M. was proud that he was able to milk some of the cows by the time he was eight years old. The Mouats had a mixed herd of Jerseys and Holstein cattle. Both these brothers as teen-agers, hired out by the day with their team of oxen. The fee was one dollar a day plus dinner. W.M. Mouat recalled



plowing much of the area that is now downtown Ganges when it was the Ward Farm. He also recalled that he had to deliver the milk to Mr. John Collins' Creamery by seven A.M. This creamery is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cornwall. During the severe winter of 1893 the boys took the oxen onto the frozen lake to get water for the stock.

Thomas Mouat died at the early age of 45 in 1898 leaving his young widow with eleven children. The oldest son, Tom, had already left home and was working in Nanaimo in the mill operated by Mr. Haslam. Young Mrs. Mouat with the help of her children, especially William, who was now fourteen, continued to operate the farm until 1907. At that time she purchased the business operated by Malcolm and Purvis in Ganges, and rented the farm for a number of years. She finally sold it for Soldier Settlement Land after the First World War.

Although the work was never-ending, all the Mouat children look back on their childhood on Salt Spring Island as a time of great happiness and close family ties. There were picnics and Sunday School, church suppers and school concerts. There were visits to Nanaimo, where Jane's parents had come in 1891 and relatives came to Canada from United States and New Zealand for holidays. There was plentiful duck shooting on the lake,



and the creek that ran through the property from St. Mary's Lake to Duck Bay was a constant source of fine trout. Wild berries were so numerous they were shipped to Nanaimo for sale. Sometimes young William saw the Indians down at the lake edge, picking the reeds which they took home to Duncan in their canoes. These were used by the Cowichans to make their baskets.

(Sue Mouat)

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE

Leonard Tolson, when an old man, remembered Joe Nightingale, who was on the Island when Leonard, age 19, arrived in 1889. Joe Nightingale, he said, had worked on the construction of the C.P.R. and was a very strong man. "The muscles on his back



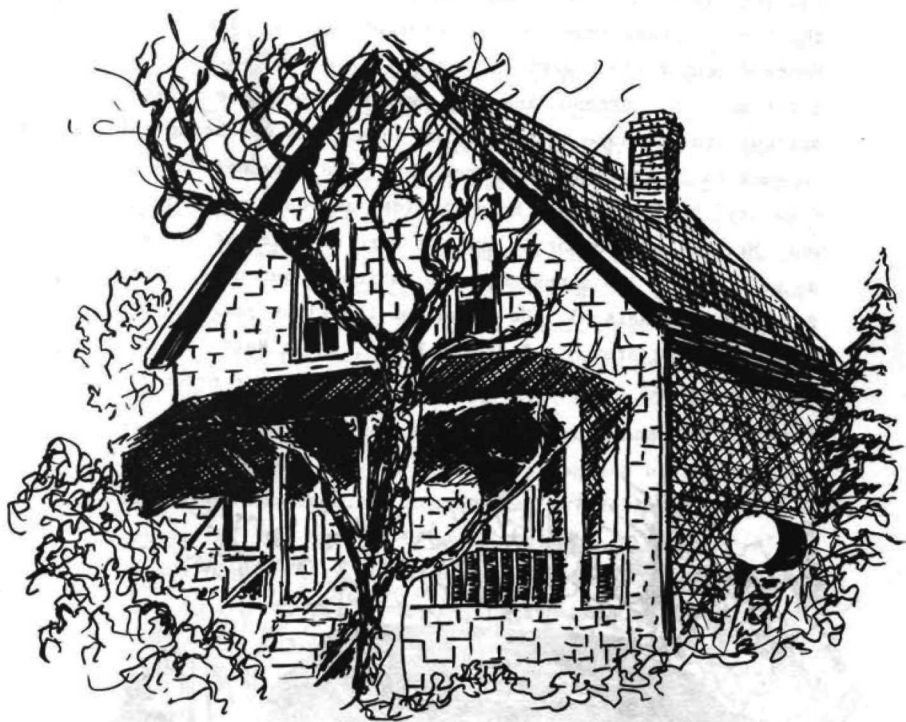
stood out like a piece of rope. He was also a fine horseman and once did a very difficult thing and saved what might have been a very bad accident. The old Divide Road was very steep and a man was driving a loaded wagon down the hill without brakes. The load was too heavy for the horses to hold back and they got out of hand. Joe galloped up from behind and bending down held a spoke on one of the wheels, thus putting on the necessary brake until the road levelled out. Joe was later killed on the same road when his horse and sleigh ran away.

A picture in Bea Hamilton's book shows Jim Horel and Joe Nightingale standing on springboards and using a cross-cut saw to cut trees on the Bullock property. Joe became road foreman in 1903, when it is recorded that he allotted the sum of \$150.00 to cover expenses for building a road from Burgoyne Bay to Beaver Point, a good twelve miles of twisting cattle trail.

About 1890 Joe Nightingale brought in the first threshing machine on the Island, a sweep-driven one, which took care of the island threshing for many years. Joe Nightingale was said to have been cousin of the famous nurse, Florence Nightingale. A picture in Dick Toynbee's book (p.24) shows us the Nightingale farm in the Burgoyne Valley about 1890, with Joe and his wife Frances (Akerman), daughter Isabella (Mrs. Gilbert Mouat) and son George.

NORTON HOUSE

This house is owned by Marion McNeil, daughter of Mildred and Walter Norton, granddaughter of John Norton. A Victoria newspaper from May 8, 1917 reports that it was a Portuguese countryman, John Norton "who had seen something of Salt Spring Island" who convinced E.J. Bittancourt, "of the charm of that neighborhood". As Mr. Bittancourt came to the island in the 1860s, we may assume that John Norton was another early arrival.



It is said that he watched the Indian battle at Lineker's from a safe vantage point in a tall tree. Although he may have owned Scott Road property at one time, John Norton appears to have farmed the area North of the Lady Minto Hospital. The present Vesuvius Road was first called Norton Road, and John Norton may have owned land near Central Settlement. Rev. Wilson's 1906 map shows the Norton House and a house near Greenwoods labelled A. Smith. The large Smith house was also built by Nortons, probably in 1903.



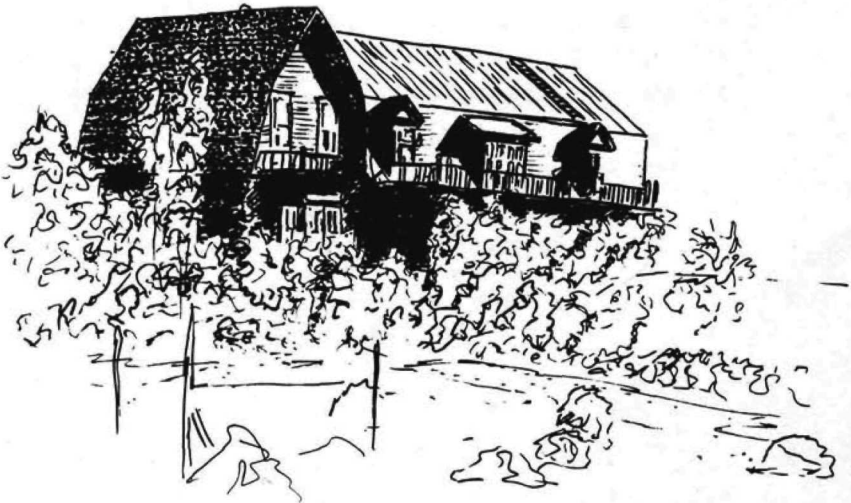
OLD CREAMERY

The arrival of the first immigrants, the black settlers, was thirty-five years (one whole generation) in the past when Henry Wright Bullock arrived, signalling a new era. The first small wilderness clearings were now extensive farms. Agricultural produce in astounding quantities was being shipped to markets in Victoria and Vancouver. The original "old Creamery" building was a barn (builder and date unkown) when Mr. Bullock bought it and the acre on which it stood, as well as the 300 acres adjacent (which he purchased from Eric and Nels Nelsen). He lived for the first years of his island life at Steven's Boarding House, while Reid Bittancourt built his twenty-room mansion at a contract price of \$2,000.00.





The story of wealthy, eccentric Harry Bullock has been told many times. His home became the centre of the upper-class social life, with a succession of dinners, lunches, tennis parties, picnics and balls. Mr. Bullock deplored careless attire. Not only did he bribe the ladies to have their ears pierced by presenting them with dangling earrings, but he also supplied them with white gloves. Bea Hamilton reports that he sent for Eton suits and caps so that small boys could come to church looking like little gentlemen; but when he even provided the workmen's sons with such outfits, some of the "better" families were insulted to have their sons made so common! All this seems a far cry from the struggles of the earlier pioneers. Bea Hamilton states that Mr. Bullock paid the boys ten or fifteen cents to wear the suits. In his role of Island "Squire", Mr. Bullock would send food anonymously to anyone in need. He brought orphanage boys to grow up on his farm, serving him at table in their suits with three rows of buttons. His extensive farm was soon the model of the English country estate. In a good year, between two and



three thousand boxes of apples would be shipped to Victoria and Vancouver. In his fertile land the corn grew as much as seventeen feet high. It is reported that he had two acres of asparagus. The farm work was partly done by Japanese, paid about 50 cents per day.

The "old Creamery" barn was extended by Mr. Bullock and made into a creamery. However, left in the hands of the Collins family while Mr. Bullock went to England on a long visit, the Creamery did not prosper. On his return, he closed it and converted the building into a residence rented to Mr. and Mrs. Houle, adding kitchen, bathroom and fireplace. The mantelpiece in the house was brought from Mr. Bullock's own mansion. In 1929 the well, which is reputed to supply the finest water on the island, was fitted with a concrete lining.

When Mr. Bullock died, the key to his safe could not be found. Finally, it was located inside an old sock in a hat box and the safe door swung open. Inside was a large quantity of money, but also drawers full of white gloves, veils, and pearl earrings. Willie Palmer kept the safe.

After Mr. Bullock's death in 1946, at the age of 78, the estate passed to his nephew Gerald, who soon sold it. It has not been extensively farmed since Mr. Bullock's time, and when the great house was destroyed by fire little was left of former glory, except the circular sweep of the hedge-enclosed entrance driveway.

Fortunately the Old Creamery has been lovingly restored to remind us of the Bullock era.

PEAVINE HOUSE

A Kanaka family, whose name was corrupted to "Peavine", built the log house now occupied by Dave Beck. Gladys King remembers a strange story her mother told her about the death of Mrs. Peavine. (The King family is one of the earliest island families. Leon and Gladys are still living on land which has been in the family since 1860s. Joseph Kandruff came from Smirna, Turkey, changing his name to King. Joseph married Emily Murphy. Their three children were Constantine, who was drowned when TRIUMPH, a sealing ship, went down with all hands off Japan in 1904, Alexander and Leon. Leon married Sophie Purser, who told her daughter Gladys the story). When Mrs. King was a young girl she went on an errand to Pappenberger's (now the Brown property next to Ruckle Park). As it was getting dark when she started back, Mrs. Pappenberger



offered to walk part way with her. When they reached the area which is now the Unger's orchard, Mrs. Pappenberger would go no further, saying that the orchard was haunted by Mrs. Peavine. It seems that Mr. Peavine, a man of uncertain temper, had beaten Mrs. Peavine prior to the



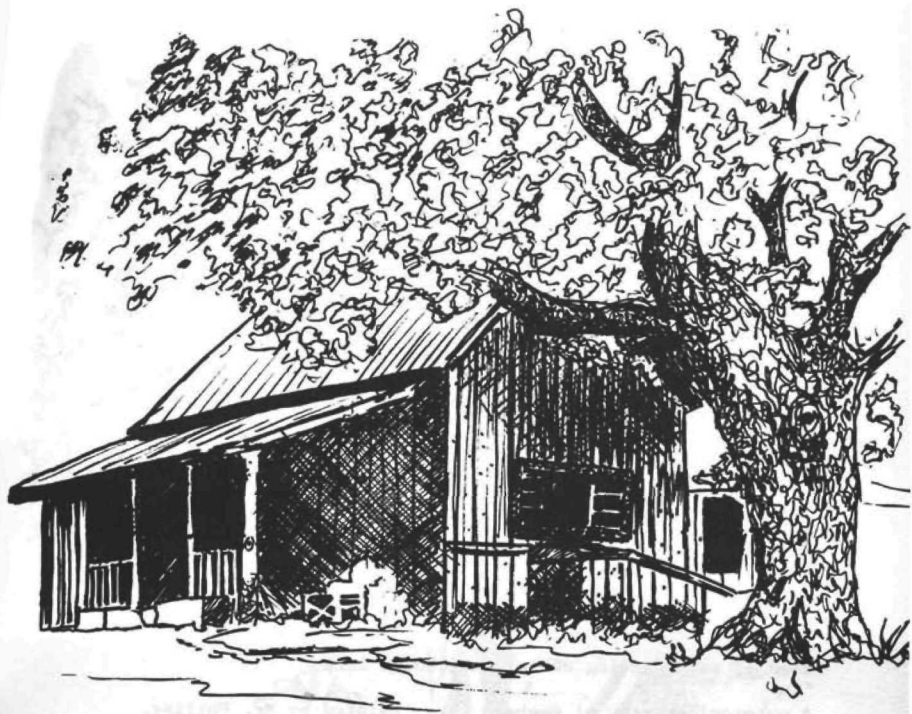
birth of twin babies, and possibly as a result of this, Mrs. Peavine and both infants died. During the funeral in the orchard, thunder and lightning struck such terror into the guests that the place was considered haunted from that time on.

The Peavine House was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Symons, when Mr. Symons was the teacher at the Beaver Point School. One stormy night in January 1910, Mrs. Symons went into labour. Mr. Symons hitched up the wagon, then found to his dismay that there were eight trees down across the road in the first half mile. He then borrowed Mr. Ruckle's rowboat and rowed Mrs. Symons from Beaver Point wharf to the Beddis house. Decie Beddis was known for her skills as nurse and midwife. It is reported that Mrs. Symons was delivered of a son on the kitchen table of the Beddis house, the baby boy living to become the headmaster of St. Michael's University School in Victoria.

(report by Sue Mouat)

MISS PEDDER'S HOUSE

Walter Joshua Dukes acquired, in 1887, the property now owned by Walter and Effie Twa, on Blackburn Road. He and two brothers (another brother was named George Joshua Dukes) seem to have owned, by crown grant or purchase, most of the land in the



valley of Blackburn Lake. However, by 1891 this particular piece of the valley was mortgaged to Isabella Grace Peters, who legally took possession of it in 1895. She then sold to Alfred Few (Walter Few's father) but she still held a mortgage. There is nothing on the legal documents to indicate exactly when the house was built, but it is thought to have been constructed by Mr. Dukes. In 1899 Mrs. Peters again sold the property, this time to John Topham Collins, who had built a house near Central Settlement in 1895. Finally, in 1902, the house passed to Ellen Mary Pedder, Mrs. Collins' sister. Ernest and John, two of the Collins sons, lived here with their aunt, and in 1923 they held title to the land, probably after Miss Pedder's death. The property was sold to Hart Bradley, for timber, in 1950. In 1956 the Twas purchased the place giving the house its new siding.

Mary (Purdy) Inglin remembers going with Decie Beddis to take flowers to Miss Pedder in the early 1920s. At that time Miss Pedder was always resting, as she had dropsy, but she was jolly and talkative and seemed pleased to see the children. She would permit them to peek into the room which is now the Twa's living room. When Miss Pedder owned the house, this room was full of stuffed animals. As the girls entered the room they confronted a snarling cougar, poised to attack. There was a coon walking through salal branches, fighting pheasant cocks with brilliant plumage, a white owl and many other animals.



PHILIPS' HOUSE

Built in 1890 by a Mr. Philips, this small log house on Cusheon Lake was soon owned by Charles and John Tolson, who used it as a fishing cabin, on Cusheon Lake.

A watercolour view of Cusheon Lake, painted by Mr. Philips, survives in the possession of Mrs. Jessie Toynbee, who recalls many happy picnics at the cabin. Other watercolours done by Mr. Philips are owned by Nora Nixon and Jessie Toynbee.

The Tolson brothers sold the Cusheon Lake log cabin to Herman Shade, whose grandfather Mr. Carter, had the mill at Cusheon Cove. Shortly after its construction, at a time when the cabin probably consisted of log walls and a dirt floor, the crew of H.M.S. ACORN used it for shelter on a fishing trip to Cusheon Lake. When two sailors were throwing firewood, they accidentally hit and killed their mascot dog named Joe. A wooden cross was made by the ship's carpenter to mark Joe's grave and a cross near the log cabin marks it still, although the present cross is probably a replacement for the original.





When the Tolsons owned the cabin, it stood in a clearing in the sunlight, but rapidly growing trees led the Shades to name the place Shady Acres. They used it for holidays and picnics, when Mr. Shade could indulge his passion for fishing.

A trail from Fulford Harbour to the Shade's cabin was cut through in June of 1917. Mr. Shade has recorded in an illustrated journal owned by the present property owner, Mr. Simpson, that Messrs. Robinson-Roche and White put the trail through on his suggestion. He adds "it should only require forty minutes but the above parties used up five and a half hours before they reached the soft beds of the cabin.

THE HENRY RUCKLE HOUSE

It was the 31st of August, 1872, when Henry Ruckle (born in Ireland of German parents) came from Ontario to British Columbia and pre-empted twenty-seven acres at Beaver Point. The price, at that time, was one dollar per acre.

On September 16, 1880, an additional three hundred and thirty-eight acres was purchased and registered at the same price. Later, on February 22, 1881 another parcel of one hundred and seventy acres was also purchased and registered. This was added to later. When the property became the Ruckle Park in 1973 there were one thousand, one hundred and ninety-six acres altogether.

The first Ruckle house was built in 1876. Henry married Ella Anna Christensen and together they raised four children, namely - Alfred, Agnes, Ella, Daniel Henry. Alfred and Daniel Henry stayed on the farm. After their marriages, Alfred had no children but Henry had four - Gordon, Norman, Ella Anna (called Nan) and Helen. Gordon and his family still live there as does Nan.



The original Henry was involved in the development of the district. On August 13, 1877, he was appointed to form a Court of Revision for the Polling Division of Salt Spring Island and the Island. He was also road foreman and school trustee in 1892 and quite possibly longer. He was the postmaster for Beaver Point for several years.

During those early years all supplies and produce were transported by rowboat to and from Sidney but from New Westminster by whaler.

By 1895 mixed farming was well underway. This consisted of cattle, sheep, pigs, turkeys and chicken along with crops of wheat (250 Bushels); oats (100 Bushels); peas (200 Bushels); hay (20 tons); turnips (60 tons); and potatoes (6 tons). There was also an orchard of approximately 600 trees-apples, pears and plums.

It was not until 1895 that goods could be shipped to Victoria and Nanaimo via the steamship "Joan" since a wharf had been built at Beaver Point.

The Ruckle family had to hire help to clear the big timber in the beginning and either hired help or day labour worked in the fields. Alfred and Daniel Henry worked the farm together after their father's death in 1913 with some hired labour to aid them until Henry's boys, Gordon and Norman were old enough to do their share with their father and uncle.



It was in 1943 that Alfred sold his half-interest to the family though he continued to live on the farm and to help with the planting and harvesting. However, he spent most of his time in woodworking and violin making.

The same general crops were grown over the years with additional emphasis on cattle and sheep and only enough grain and hay to supply the necessary feed. For a long time they kept dairy cattle but in 1940 switched to beef cattle. With the development of the Okanagan apples the sale of Salt

Spring apples and pears decreased. However, the Ruckle Bartlett pears continued to be sold in Sidney until the Sidney cannery closed. The last beef cattle were sold in 1975.

As well as carrying on their farming Henry Ruckle and his sons, Gordon and Norman, did custom butchering of cattle, pork and lamb for the Victoria market. They grew seed potatoes for Ladner potato growers. These amounted to thirty-five ton, annually, as a general rule. One year the crop sold was seventy-three ton. Gradually the number of sheep increased while the amount of potatoes decreased with only enough grain and hay grown to supply feed.

It was until the late 1940s that horses were used for all the field work when the smaller tractor was purchased. A large tractor had been used as a stationary engine for many years in order to run the threshing machine, ensilage cutter, feed mill and so on. The large tractor was too cumbersome for field work.

The successful and very lovely Ruckle farm became a park in 1973. Two hundred acres were set aside for a farming reserve with plans to keep it always as a farm in some form. At present there are 150 sheep which supplied 144 lambs to a Salt Spring Island butcher shop this year of 1980. The hay crop was over 2,000 bales but the potatoes gathered were less than 5 ton. Of the remaining 996 acres only about 100 have been developed for the campsite and picnic area and, in time, more hiking trails and camping space is planned.



SIMPSON HOUSE

Rapidly rising land values and land speculation are as old as the first settlers. The Crown Grant taken up for the Simson House land by Richard Percy Elliot Roberts in 1896 cost him \$157.00 for 157 acres. Eight years later he sold to John Owen Halliwell Walcot for \$1,600.00. Mr. Walcot sold to General Lewis F. Green-Wilkinson three years later for \$5,000.00.



It is not known whether Mr. Roberts constructed any buildings on the land. Mr. Walcot in the year of his purchase of the property, moved from Stonecutter's Ridge a house which now forms the middle section of the existing structure and which is thought to be earlier than 1900. Mr. Walcot employed either Mr. Beddis or Mr. Bittancourt to build a second section of the house and the third owner, General Green-Wilkinson, made a further addition during his tenure, 1907-1934. Mr. Walcot had laid out extensive orchards and gardens, which were of necessity, neglected when General Green-Wilkinson was away on military duties.

The house passed in 1934 to the Simson family. Harry Simson, one of three brothers, has stated that there was a murder in the original house, before it was moved to its present location. A letter in the British Columbia Archives from J.B. Acland related that there was a house at Stone Cutter's Lake occupied by a Mr. Johathan Leigh, a member of the Stone Cutting Co. "Legend has it that he was raided and killed by Indians" stated Mr. Acland.

STEVENS' BOARDING HOUSE

Ever since the Stevens' Boarding House was built many years ago, presumably in 1887, it was a very "special" place as it was the focal point for all the comings and goings of nearly everyone who came to this end of Salt Spring Island in the early days while looking for land, or for other business or pleasure reasons. In its heyday it had to be - there was nowhere else to stay on the island except at the "Traveller's Rest" in the Burgoyne Valley, with no good connecting road as we know it today between the north and south settlements..... Ganges did not develop to any extent until after the stores moved there in 1905 from Central and Vesuvius. In this early era the boat service ran from Victoria to Nanaimo, stopping at the Fulford Harbour,



Burgoyne Bay and Vesuvius wharves (not the present ferry wharf) on the west side of the island, and returning on the east side at Fernwood, Fulford (and somewhat later to Beaver Point) the following day, and reversing the procedure the following week going up on the east side and returning on the west.

Now that the former Stevens' Boarding House is nearing its one hundredth year and I have been thinking a great deal about its early history, two extraordinary things suddenly

came to my attention. First, I had always been aware that my father, Raffles Purdy, had boarded with the Stevens from the time they first arrived on the Island. He had been a school teacher from London, England, and almost immediately resumed his profession on reaching here, teaching at the school house at Central, known then as Vesuvius school, from 1885 until 1897. Second, I suddenly realized that I had become the one connecting link between the two families of Stevens and Cunninghams (and their various relatives) who had either owned or lived in this house continuously for a period now approaching 100 years, when I married Guy Cunningham in September, 1936 and came here as a bride to live in the very house where my father had boarded as a bachelor teacher forty-nine years earlier, when it was first built in 1887!!

I might also add that my father considered the large Ruckle farm, Beaver Point, a choice piece of land, and apart from that the other three properties he liked were the Stevens', the "spit" property facing up into Ganges Harbour (which Edward Walter had bought) and the 123 acres he bought along Beddis Road, to be near his sister, Mrs. Emily Beddis. On retiring from teaching, he cleared the land on his property, planting 500 fruit trees in two orchards. Unlike most settlers he remained a bachelor until he married in his 50th year, becoming that age one month later! By a strange turn of fate, over the years his dreams were realized by his three daughters, Mary Inglin inheriting his home property, Hilary Holmes and her companion Thelma Rose buying twenty acres of Edward Walter's "Spit" property, and the writer marrying into the Cunningham family and coming to live at the former Stevens' Boarding House!

To explain further about my Stevens-Cunningham connection, this came about not only through marriage, but adoption as well. At the time the Stevens' couple ran the Boarding

House in the early days, among their friends was the young Jenkins couple and their family of seven children. Unfortunately the young mother died at the birth of her seventh child, a girl baby named Myrtle. Mrs. Stevens promptly took Eva who was the next youngest child and raised her, while my aunt, Mrs. Emily Beddis, adopted the baby Myrtle and raised her with my Beddis cousins. In that way, through adoption of Myrtle whose sister Eva Jenkins eventually married Walter Stevens, a nephew of Henry Stevens, I became connected with the Stevens' family. When the elderly Stevens couple left their property to Walter and Eva, Mrs. Stevens' nephew, Frank Westcott, moved from the Boarding House to live with another aunt Mrs. Broadwell, whose property (the recent Westcott Subdivision) is about two miles north of here. Mrs. Broadwell was Mrs. Stevens' sister and had been known as "Nursie" Smith in Ontario, but on coming out to join her sister she soon met and married Mr. Broadwell. He ran the Broadwell General Merchants' Store at Central, and several years later his daughter, Mary, married Harry Caldwell, Sr., hence, this brings together a Stevens-Westcott-Caldwell relationship.

It is no wonder that many years later newcomers were warned to be careful what they said as so many people on Salt Spring Island were related!! Upon inheriting their property Walter and Eva Stevens no longer ran the house as a hotel, as they were too busy raising their own family of five daughters and one son, Jim Stevens, who still lives on the island, at Atkins Road, Ganges. They named their property "Church Hill Farm" instead. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stevens had given an acre of ground at the top of the hill above the house for a site for St. Mark's Anglican Church in 1889, and as the church was commenced that year (Mr. Sam Beddis being the builder) it seemed an appropriate name.

report by Margaret K. (Purdy)
Cunningham

TAHOUNEY HOUSE

As early as 1812 the first Kanakas arrived in British Columbia, brought from Hawaii by the Hudson's Bay Company to work at the post in the Okanagan. They were on three year contracts at seventeen pounds per year, plus rations and lodgings, their wages being paid to their respective tribal chiefs. When their contracts terminated, many chose to remain in the new land. Tall, capable William Naukana was recruited by Hudson's Bay Company Factor James Douglas in 1840, while the Company was building a fort in Hawaii. Naukana served Douglas for more than ten years, sometimes travelling in northern Canada by dog-sled, horse or canoe. He owned land in Victoria, where the Empress Hotel now stands. About 1859, when he returned to Hawaii and found that his land had been turned into a sugar plantation, he brought



seventeen of his people back to Canada.

With the help of James Douglas, he settled on Portland Island where he built a large house. A few years later Naukana sold Portland Island and moved to Salt Spring, purchasing land at the end of Isabella Point.



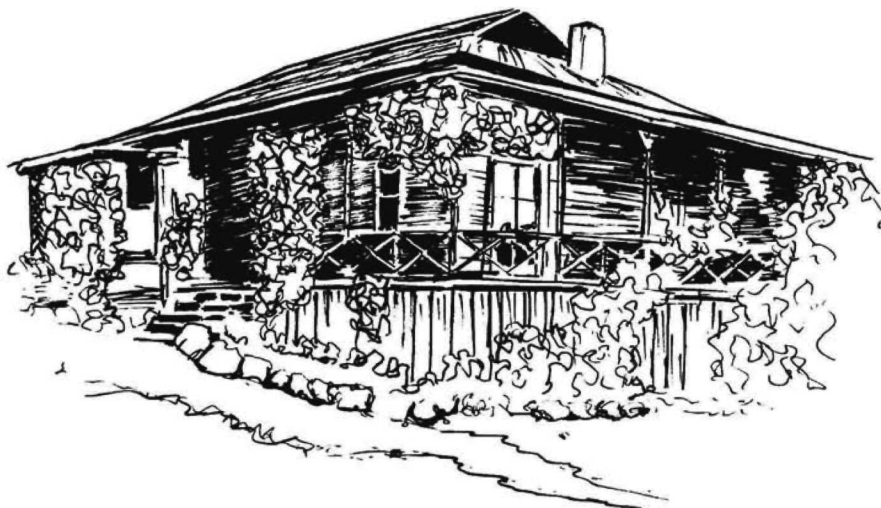
One member of this group, Joe Tahouney, built at Isabella Point also. Next door, across the creek, lived William and Mary (Nawana) Lumley. Descendants of these families, of the Paluas and Kamaheles and others remain on Salt Spring Island, many of the names anglicized. William Naukana and his friend John Palua started what was the first ferry service to the islands, using canoes. William Naukana died in 1909, at the age of 96, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Fulford Harbour.

TOLSON RANCH

The three Tolson brothers were from Staffordshire, part of a family of ten. Their father owned cotton mills. Charles and John Tolson arrived on Salt Spring Island several years before their younger brother Leonard. John Tolson did not stay, but Charles and Leonard were responsible for two houses which date before 1900. The building that is now Goodman's Funeral Home was built for Charlie Tolson by Samuel Beddis. The Tolsons called this "The Ranch". A picture in Dick Toynbee's book shows the empty fields stretching from the Mahon Hall to the Tolson Ranch.

When Leonard came from England in 1880, at age 19, to join Charles and John, he arrived at Vesuvius on Captain Butler's small boat, the "Amelia". "Charles met me there with an ox wagon and two friends, Jack Scovell and Thomas Mansell"

Leonard wrote in 1941. "Charlie collected two gallons of scotch, Scovell, two gallons of rum and Mansell two gallons of rye, all of which had been ordered for Christmas... It was very cold that winter and I had one pair of blankets, a hard board bed and a cat. I can distinctly remember weeping under my blankets that night". Charlie at that



time lived in an old log house, through the roof of which the snow drifted.

In 1897 Leonard bought "The Ranch" from his brother, but in 1903 it was sold to a Mr. Ward for \$6,000.00, when Leonard Tolson and his wife and daughter Nora departed for Jersey (Channel Islands) where Leonard began a career as a teacher. When "The Ranch" was sold Leonard had kept three acres at the bottom of Ganges Hill. Three years later Leonard was coaxed back to the Island by the Rev. Wilson, who convinced him that the Island could support a private school. However, when the Tolsons came back in 1906, moving into a

two-room cottage on their land while their house "Fairacres" (now Fernhill) was being built, they discovered that Arthur Cartwright had just opened a school in the Creamery shed at Ganges. Leonard opened a rival school with four students; the school survived until the construction of a public school in 1917.

TOLSON/BORRADAILE HOUSE

A bluebell lane leads up to an old house gently dying, next to the modern Best residence on Ganges Hill. The first part of the crumbling house was built for Charles W. Tolson after he had sold "The Ranch" (now Goodman's Funeral Home) to his younger brother in 1897. Charles Tolson married Evelyn Wilson, one of the Rev. E.F. Wilson's daughters, in September of 1895 in St. Mark's Church at



Central Settlement, with a splendid wedding breakfast at "Barnsbury" and a honeymoon in San Francisco. Returning from their honeymoon, they lived in "The Ranch" for two years, then sold it to Leonard and moved to Victoria. They returned to Salt Spring Island in 1898 to build the older half of the Tolson/Borradaile house, but very shortly after moving into the new house, Charles' illness was diagnosed as consumption. For the sake of his health, Evelyn and Charles and two children, Mary and Charles, moved to Denver. In December of 1899, when Charles' health declined, they went to England and there Charles died.

The house was then purchased by E.G. Borradaile. In 1904 E. George Borradaile married a second Wilson daughter, Florence Muriel. In the E.F. Wilson Journal there is a drawing of the house and a floor plan, with the note: "Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Borradaile's house." Four children - Phyllis, Jack, Ted and Gladys, were born there. Claire Buttersfield of Ganges remembers the house well, and recalls that Borradailes first owned a large tract of land at Long Harbour where they had a log cabin. Mr. Borradaile was a small, wiry man, a builder. Once, during the construction of the Trading Company in Ganges, he fell off the roof but miraculously was not injured. He probably added the two-storey addition which totally changed the appearance of the house. When the Borradailes moved to what is now the Day Care Centre on Ganges Hill (where George Borradaile built the summer cabins for the resort) they sold the Tolson/Borradaile house to George Halley.

THE WALTER HOUSE

Margaret (Shaw) Walter, in her booklet "Early days among the Gulf Islands of British Columbia" described her family's surprise arrival in 1877 at the home of her uncle, Edward Walter, on Ganges Spit, when "the EMMA'S whistle roused my

uncle in the very early hours of an exquisite June morning - this first little trip ashore in Uncle's rowboat remains a clear memory after between sixty and seventy years. We landed in the little bay where Uncle's home stood and all around the scenery was beautiful. Otherwise things were not as we had thought they would be. The house was a one-room



cottage with a little verandah,
also a good stone fireplace, very
comfortable - for a bachelor; a
small fowl house for a few hens -
the only stock on the place, except
a dog; and a sort of hut for the



transient occupant. Near the house about a dozen young fruit trees had been planted. Otherwise among the 160 acres of forest there was perhaps one of roughly cleared land - no fencing, no crops or garden. My uncle had written home such glowing accounts of the new country, its prospects and opportunities, advising us frequently to come out and perhaps take up land for ourselves... To my father the situation gave such grave discouragement that he thought the only thing to do was to go back to Scotland again."

REV. E.F. WILSON'S BARNSBURY

One of Salt Spring Island's most interesting unpublished historical documents is the Rev. Edward Francis Wilson's illustrated family record: "From Barnsbury England in 1868 to Barnsbury Canada 1908". A xeroxed copy is owned by one of his descendants, Doreen Morris. The Rev. Wilson arrived at Vesuvius on Sunday Feb. 4, 1894, at 10:20 A.M.

"I first set foot on Salt Spring Island having come over in a small boat from Kuper Island. Directed by the Bittancourts (of whom there seemed to be a large family) I wended my solitary way from Vesuvius Bay up through the woods to Mrs. Stevens' Boarding House. There I had dinner."

Offered the parish of Salt Spring, with a stipend of \$500.00 from the mission Fund and about \$400.00 from the parishioners "I gladly accepted".

The journal notes the major events of family life... the marriage of daughter Evelyn to Charles Tolson in 1894, the building of Central Hall in 1896 and the first Agricultural show held there

in the same year, the marriage of daughter Kathleen to Frank Scott in 1898, the marriage of daughter Winnifred to Frederic Henry Walter (an officer on the naval vessel "Egeria") and so on.

The fine house named Barnsbury was built, and with so many children and their friends, became a centre of social life at the north end of the Island. Many of his children, after marriage, settled down to farming on the Island. In 1906 he drew a map of the central valley, showing the location of his childrens' homes as well as marking the houses of friends and neighbours.

In the appendix to this booklet we have reprinted Rev. Wilson's detailed and well-written account of Salt Spring Island. Intended to attract new settlers, this document gives a glowing account of island activities.



N. M. S. No 1.
 Ganges B. C.
 March 4, 47

Dear Madam:

Rather like treading on Holy Ground
 to try to discuss our Coloured Folks
 here on Salt Spring although at present,
 like the white young folks, they are looking
 to those far fields - far fields look green.

We have no Coloured problem here because
 our coloured neighbors prove cooperative, willing,
 and congenial; they share in all local
 doings: Agricultural Shows, Political doings,
 Road Work and other Government Work;
 work in harmony with the Whites in School
 and Church, and in general, with honor
 and integrity carry their share of local
 undertakings. For instance John Harrison
 for many years was Treasurer of our
 Agricultural Society; Ormer Harrison his brother,
 was active in Church, worked on the Board,
 sang in the Choir, and later in Victoria
 taught athletics in the Y. M. C. A and now,
 at 79, has a picked group of young

students studying Athletics under him here on Salt Spring. Many of the great British Columbian Athletic coaches learned the fundamentals of sportsmanship, truth, and honor from him. John Whinnie, another of our boys, now along in years for many years was a logging contractor taking out timber for Coloured and White alike and hiring both. He is celebrated as the leading light on Logging Procedure here and still superintends for novice contractors as well as giving advice to all asking. Willie Stark, who died in his 87th year, a year or so ago, was a noted Hunter and a grand Sportsman. He kept a fine kennel of hounds and was known by his friends as 'Cougar'. Seldom did he allow one to escape him. Today, Mount Brothers, the leading store owners here employ a young man named George Woods as one of their drivers and a good dependable man he is. His father is head Butcher for the same firm and enjoys a fine reputation here.

Getting down to dates and places when Governor Douglas, a Hudson Bay Factor, the first Governor of British Columbia, heard that the Admiralty had surveyed Salt Spring he called for settlers and the first 18 who he sent over in 1857 contained nine coloured men:

Mr. Buckner

Mr. Shore

Mr. Isaac

Mr. Fred Lester

Mr. Thompson

Mr. Robertson

Mr. Robinson

Mr. Davis.

and Mr. Whim's Grandfather of the John Whim's mentioned.

Later, around 1859

Mr Frank Wall,

• John Startes

• Fredrickson

• Shouder

• Curtis

• Citee

and others came while others came and went. It was sixty miles from Victoria, the Capital and chief town, transportation was mostly by canoe, roads were naught and you packed your goods first on your back later when Starks imported long horn burhams, most of them acquired or came with home made carts and yokes with tracer from Deerhide. The first schools at this end of the Island were opened about three miles apart and a Mr. John Jones who came in 1857, was the first school teacher and taught one day at one school, next day at the other. The students attended both often walking through deer trails as much as ten miles. Three and five were quite common. Their parents hunted, cleared land, raised cattle, sheep and poultry, and were self supporting. They traded their produce for Sugar, Flour, etc. in Victoria making the sixty mile trip by canoe. Most of

These first coloured Pioneers were slaves who had bought their freedom and trekked over-land or came via the Isthmus of Panama. John Stark, son of John Stark, was the first child born on the Island 1860; Geo Anderson in 1862, Alfred Anderson in 1866; Ernest Harrison in 1867. Ernest Harrison is now the oldest living man born on the Island and to him we are indebted for our information. Willis Stark, the great hunter died at 87 years of age and a couple of years after, his mother died at the age of 105 or 107. Some of the early settlers claimed she was married at fourteen, she said seventeen; her monument says 105. Other noted Coloured men were Wm Anderson, a samson among men; Mr. Gwynne, one of our first Archdiots from whom many of our first settlers learned their art; etc. Ernest Harrison feels that a certain amount of hard knocks strengthens a man, like tempering steel and feels that intolerance is not shared only by White and

Coloured but by all peoples. He is sorry about it but is not discouraged by it. He sees the time when all Nations and Colors will work harmoniously together. Speaking for ourselves as white neighbors, we have nothing but respect for our Coloured Brethren and in our fifty years association with them admire them as Good Neighbors. It is our opinion, that given equal opportunity, as they are here, there would be no Negro problem.

When your Book is published I feel Mr. Ernest Harrison, Lake Marie, Salt Spring Island, B.C. would welcome an autographed copy. The University of British Columbia has a History of the Coloured Pioneers of Salt Spring prepared by Reverend White, the first preacher here, from material furnished by Mr. Harrison in cooperation with other Coloured pioneers. It might prove more specific than this.

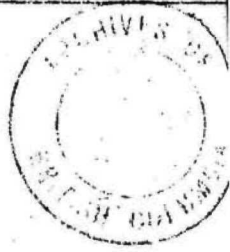
Yours Truly,

John Caldwell

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cop. 2



Salt Spring
Island
British Columbia

1895



SALT SPRING ISLAND,

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SINCE the Canadian Pacific Railway pierced the Rocky Mountains in the year 1885, Victoria, situated on Vancouver Island, and capital of British Columbia, has become well known to travellers, both from the eastern parts of Canada and from England and Europe. People coming from the cold, bleak prairie regions of Manitoba and the Northwest, where, in the winter time, the glass often registers 30 and 40 degrees below zero, and the ground is buried up in snow and unworkable for at least five months out of the twelve, are generally delighted to find in Victoria and its neighborhood a genial English like climate, ploughing and other field operations being carried on more or less through every month of the winter, and the farming population, instead of complaining of their hard lot and the difficulty of making both ends meet, as is so often the case on the other side of the Rockies, contented, cheerful and well satisfied with their choice. Just in the immediate neighborhood of Victoria, that is, within a radius of four or five miles from the city's centre, farm land is expensive and not easily procurable for a less sum than \$200 or \$300 an acre, but for persons who desire to make a living by agriculture and have but small capital to start with there is the choice open to them of a broad tract of land, the Cowichan District, through which the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway runs a distance of 78 miles from Victoria, or, if they prefer it, they may take up land on one of the many islands which lie immediately north of the city in the Strait of Georgia. It is of one of these islands that we have now to speak, Salt Spring Island, the largest and most attractive of the group, lying just north of the Saanich Peninsula, and occupying a most central position as regards steamboat communication and market facilities,—having the City of Vic-

SALT SPRING ISLAND,

toria, 40 miles to the south of it, Nanaimo, centre of the coal district, 30 miles to the north,—and the cities of Vancouver and New Westminster a few hours distant across the water to the East. Victoria and Nanaimo may also be reached easily by rail, a few miles pull in a small boat taking one to the Railway Station either at Chemainus or Sidney.

NAME AND AREA.

Originally marked on the naval charts of 1858 as "Admiral Island," it has of late years altogether dropped that name, and is now known both popularly, and also in the more recently published maps, as *Salt Spring Island*,—the saline springs, of which there are some 14 or 15 on the island, being sufficient reason for its present name. In length it is about the same as the Isle of Wight, viz.: 18 miles, but in area it is less, owing to its being indented by several deep bays and harbors, which cause its breadth to vary from nine or ten miles in the widest parts to less than two in the narrowest. The entire surface measure of the island is about 45,440 acres, of which from ten to fifteen thousand acres are, perhaps, suitable for cultivation, the rest being for the most part rocky and fit only for sheep ranching. At present there are 105 farms occupied, about 6 per cent. of the acreage of each being on the average cultivated.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Vancouver Island and the small islands which surround it, of which Salt Spring is one, are doubtless the remains of a submerged mountain range, and are described geologically, in a recently published Government Report, as "a group of upturned gneissic rocks, embracing certain tertiary areas and worn down by glacial action, so that in one place extensive gravel moraines, in another beds of boulder clay are to be found, while in a third a regular series of late sandstones alternate with the barren cliffs of trap." On this unpromising surface generations of fir trees have flourished and, decaying, have furnished a mould of increasing thickness, into which various forms of vegetation have struck their roots, so that the country is now covered for the most part by a dense forest:—Douglas pines and white spruce, many of them upwards of 200 feet in height and more than 20

SALT SPRING ISLAND.

feet in circumference at the base, grow on the ridges and slopes; cedars (*Thuja gigantea*) of equal height and girth, and hemlock in the lowland and swamps; alder (*Alnus Oregona*) and willow on the boulder clay land; while here and there, scattered among the other trees, is a soft maple, its broad fingered leaves green and beautiful in summer and golden in autumn. Besides these are here and there, on dry gravelly soil, clumps of oaks, their branches gnarled and knotted and their stems of no commercial value; and, along the sea shore or fringing the banks of streams, rise the red naked limbs of the arbutus, their bark all peeled or peeling off. On Salt Spring Island all these denizens of the forest are fully represented, Douglas pine, balsam and cedar taking the lead. Of the first named tree large quantities are cut each year to supply the saw mills, and thousands of the smaller trees are shipped away to Mexico, Australia and Africa, to be made use of as props in the mines, there being no other wood in existence so tough and durable and suitable for the purpose. Indeed the Douglas pine of the Pacific coast has a world-wide reputation for its flexibility and tenacity of fibre, and is perhaps more sought after than any other timber for the manufacture of masts and spars. It grows only in the northern part of Oregon, Washington Territory and British Columbia, and attains its full size only near the coast.

The surface of Salt Spring Island is a succession of hills and valleys, for the most part densely wooded. Its highest mountains are Mt. Erskine, south of Vesuvius Bay, 1,599 feet in height; Mt. Baynes, a precipitous rock towering over Burgoyne Bay, 1,953 feet high; and on the Musgrave estate, in the southern part of the island, Mt. Sullivan and Mt. Bruce, whose altitudes are respectively 1,972 and 2,329 feet. Of fresh water lakes there are eleven, the largest being St. Mary's lake, at the north end of the island, nearly two miles in length; Cusheon lake, about the centre of the island, a favorite resort for anglers, being well stocked with large-sized speckled trout; and Maxwell lake, up in the mountains and not much visited. Of the smaller lakes, Foord's, Robert's and Brown's, each about ten acres in extent, are noted for their good fishing. The whole island is well watered with springs and trout brooks, the principal stream being that running from Foord's lake into Fulford

harbor. Of mineral deposits there are indications of iron ore, gold and silver, the two latter having been mined to some extent a few years ago in the southern part of the island. At the northern end of the island there are thin seams of coal shewing themselves on the surface. Whether this latter mineral will be found hereafter in paying quantities is at present a matter of speculation, but the Vancouver Coal Co. have secured to themselves some 500 acres of the most promising looking of the land, evidently with a view to working it at some future day. Coal has also been found on the adjacent island of Mayne and a shaft is at present being sunk on that island. Around Vesuvius Bay and at the north end of the island is to be found a very good quality of building stone; the Esquimalt Graving Dock was largely constructed of this stone; and it is said that some 30 years ago large quantities of it were exported by an American firm for the building of the mint at San Francisco. No lime has as yet been found on the island. Brick clay exists of the finest class.

Following is a list of the principal shrubs, ornamental trees, ferns, grasses and flowers growing wild on Salt Spring Island:—

ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

Spiræa discolor and *Spiræa Douglasii*, both very common, the one producing a white plume of flowers and the other red, wood very tough and good for making ramrods, vulgarly known by the Indian name of "Hardak"; *Sallal*, or salal, (*Gaultheria shallon*), a low laurel like shrub with bright, glossy, evergreen leaves and clusters of dark blue berries, peculiar to the Pacific Coast, and grows everywhere under the trees where the land is not cleared, roots shallow and not difficult to eradicate. Dogwood, two kinds, *Cornus Nuttallii* and *Cornus Pubescens*, both fairly common; the former is a large tree covered in spring with a blaze of sparkling blossoms; hawthorn, dog-rose, crab-apple, snowberry (very common), blackberry, raspberry, huckleberry, salmonberry, cranberry, flowering currant (*Ribes Lobbii*), barberry (*Berberis Nervosa*), Oregon grape, or holly-leaved barberry (*Berberis Aquifolia*), mock orange, or syringa (*Philadelphus multiflora*), juniper.

SALT SPRING ISLAND,

FERNS. —Very common are the *Pteris Aquilina* (common bracken), growing here to a prodigious size, the plants being 8½, 10 and even 11 feet in length from the base of the stalk to the tip of the frond, roots two to three feet in depth and difficult to eradicate; *Aspidium Munitum* (shield fern), green all through the winter; and *Asplenium filixfemina* (lady fern). Common are the *Adiantum pedatum* (maiden hair); *Polypodium vulgare* (common polypody), and *Botrychium ternatum* (moon-wort). Rare are the *Blechnum spicant* (hard fern); *Asplenium trichomenes* (black spleen wort), and *Cheilanthes gracillima*.

FLOWERS. —*Lilium Columbianum* (lily), found everywhere in the early spring; *Collinsia*; *Campanula* (two varieties, one white, the other white with blue tinge); *Clarkia*; Violet; Michaelmas daisy; *Sedum stenopetalum* and *Sedum spathulifolium* (stone croft); *Erythronium*; *Camassia* (blue-bell); *Calypsoborealis* (lady's slipper) and other orchids; *Lupin*, several varieties; *Dodecatheon meadia* (American cowslip); *Mimulus moschatatus* (musk); *Mimulus nasutus* (monkey flower); *Saxifraga*; *Fritillaria*; *Aster*; *Begonia* (pink color); *Agalea alba*; *Trillium* (with hay-scented leaves), etc.; also a species of Cactus.

GRASSES, &c. —The island being for the most part thickly wooded, natural grasses grow only in patches on the ledges or "benches" of the mountain sides, or lower down in the marshes adjoining or surrounding the small lakes. In the cranberry marsh the 'chete' grass grows so strongly as to cut two tons to the acre. Formerly a wild pea and a wild vetch grew luxuriantly, affording a rich pasturage for the deer, but since sheep ranching has been introduced on the island comparatively little of it is left. In the early summer wild strawberries are plentiful.

WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS.

The larger wild animals of Vancouver Island are the black bear, the panther, the grey wolf, the beaver, the otter, the racoon, the elk, and the black-tailed deer. Of these none of the first mentioned savage animals are to be found on the Island of Salt Spring, having been all rigorously exterminated; but deer, racoon, mink, beaver and sea otter still abound, and of game birds there is an abundant supply of English pheasants, blue

grouse and willow grouse, and a few California quail and snipe. The deer season commences September 1st and ends February 1st, subject to change each year. Pheasants and grouse begin October 1st and end February 1st. Of deer the bucks only are allowed to be killed and sold, and the same rule applies to the killing of cock pheasants and sparing the hens. Driving deer with dogs is forbidden, but stalking them is permitted, and they are generally killed without much trouble either with a rifle or with a shot-gun and buckshot. Every farmer on Salt Spring has his butcher-shop at his own back door, and it is seldom that his larder is not well stocked with venison and birds. If he has more deer meat than he needs for his own use he can usually sell it to a neighbor at five cents a pound. Grouse sell in the city for from 75 cents to \$1 a brace. Pheasants may not be sold. Deer skins are a drug on the market and will only fetch about six cents a pound. There is a great dearth of singing birds in the territory, and it were well if some could be imported, for doubtless they would thrive and do as well here as in England. Of wood-pigeons there are plenty, and they are big, meaty birds. The most ubiquitous and the most mischievous of the winged tribe are the blue jay and the American robin (a species of thrush). They consume the cherries and the strawberries, turn the early peas out of the rows, pick the apples off the trees and the potatoes out of the ground, and do all the damage they can to the grain crops. A few doses of strychnine is the best, if not the only way of checking their depredations. Of reptiles there are a considerable number of the common garter snake (*Eutania*) which is quite harmless, several kinds of frogs and lizards, and a huge species of toad (*Bufo boreas*) which is found in all parts of the island. The fish inhabiting the lakes and streams are the speckled trout and salmon trout; and in the salt water bays are caught salmon, rock cod, black cod, dog-fish, and candle fish (both valuable for their oil), perch, herring, smelt, sardine, &c. Whales are occasionally seen spouting and hair seals lifting their heads in the bays and inlets which surround the island. During the winter and early spring the same bays and inlets are alive with water fowl of all descriptions, wild geese, mallards, butter-balls, black duck, teal, brant, blue-bills, canvas backs, saw-bills, wood duck and wid-

geon ; also loons. Salt Spring Island is certainly an *El Dorado* for the sportsman.

FARMING.

Extensive wheat fields, large areas planted with oats, or barley, or peas, or roots, are not to be found on the Island of Salt Spring, nor indeed on Vancouver Island. When once the Rocky Mountains are crossed the great wheat region of the Northwest, and the big prairie farms are all left behind, and in their stead we find small fields of grain and roots, and apple orchards, and poultry yards, with hay fields in the bottom lands and pasture for sheep and cows on the side hills. But although the homesteads are so much smaller, and a considerable portion of each farm seems to be the side or base of a timber covered, stone spattered mountain, yet for all that there appears to be an air of comfort and content about the place, which is too often wanting on the great prairie farms. Here in these islands on the Pacific coast the climate is mild and genial, there is no dread of an intense cold winter, there is no fear of drought in summer and no lack of fuel for the cold months. Whatever is put into the ground is sure to grow and to grow well. No Colorado bug will attack the potatoes, no summer or early autumn frosts will injure the cereals, hay time and harvest time is always dry and warm so that the crops can be gathered in almost invariably in good condition. Autumn work has not to be hurried over as ploughing can be done at almost any time in the winter. There is no anxiety about housing stock during the cold weather ; sheep will generally find their living all the winter long in the open, and cattle need housing and feeding for a short time only. A farm on the Pacific coast may, perhaps, not yield its owner a fortune, but it will at any rate enable him to make a living and to bring up a family with comparative ease and comfort. Ten or fifteen acres with an orchard and a poultry yard and a cow or two, in British Columbia, has probably a greater sustaining power than a hundred acres of land in the prairie regions of the Northwest.

The largest land owners and farmers at present on Salt Spring Island are Mr. Joel Broadwell, who owns 1,260 acres. He farms the land immediately around his house, and keeps a

SALT SPRING ISLAND,

number of sheep on his mountain range. Mr. A. Walter owns 1,000 acres, and goes in chiefly for dairying and sheep farming. Mr. H. Ruckle owns 1,000 acres, of which about 40 are at present under cultivation. He believes in mixed farming and has cattle, sheep, pigs, turkeys and chickens. Last autumn he thrashed 250 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of peas, and put up 20 tons of hay, 60 tons of swedes, and six tons of potatoes. Mr. W. E. Scott owns 700 acres, of which about 60 are under cultivation. He has cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry; and, besides raising grain and potatoes, put up last year about 50 tons of hay. Mr. Edward Lee owns 400 acres, and with the aid of his brother, Mr. T. Lee, cultivates 150. Last year he raised 700 bushels of wheat, 50 tons of hay, and 75 tons of potatoes. Mr. W. Robertson is owner of 2,500 acres, the most of it being mountainous and suitable only for sheep ranching. Capt. Trench, a non-resident, has also an extensive sheep-ranch of about 4,000 acres in the southern part of the island, known formerly as the Musgrave estate; it is nearly all mountain. Mr. J. P. Booth owns 350 acres, of which about half is now under cultivation. He has a considerable number of cattle and sheep and about 300 chickens. Mr. Jos. Akerman owns 355 acres, and also keeps cattle, sheep and poultry. Mr. Fred. Foord owns 410 acres bordering on a picturesque little lake which bears his own name. About 60 acres of his land is now cleared and more or less under cultivation, and he keeps cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. Mr. T. W. Mowat owns 350 acres, and cultivates about 50. He goes in especially for dairying and raising poultry, having 10 well-bred cows and about 200 chickens. Mr. J. Maxwell owns 400 acres, cultivates 50, and has about 600 sheep. Mr. Ed. Walter, assessor for the district, has about 400 acres, Mr. C. Tolson, 300, both valuable properties bordering on Ganges Harbor. Messrs. Tregge and Spiker-man own 839 acres, most of which is a sheep run, but they make a living chiefly by raising fruit. Mr. A. McLennan owns 410 acres, and with the help of his young sons cultivates about 17. He believes in mixed farming and poultry raising.

There are other farmers who have not quite so much land, but are nevertheless very successful in their farming operations; among these are Mr. H. Stevens, owner of 100 acres, and one

of the handsomest teams on the island. Mr. John Norton who owns 200 acres, and has about 40 under cultivation. He raised last year about 200 bushels oats and peas and about 30 tons of hay, besides 16 or 17 tons of potatoes, carrots and mangold. Mr. S. Connery, owner of 160 acres, of which about 40 are more or less under cultivation. He has 12 head of cattle, and raised last year about 35 tons of hay and 20 tons of roots.

Among the most successful fruit growers are Messrs, Trege & Spikerman, who have an orchard of 1,600 trees. Some of their "Canada Reinettes" are a sight to witness when loaded down with fruit, the bending branches supported by a double circle of strong posts and rails; 24 boxes (of 50 lbs. each) is not an unfrequent yield from a single tree. They consider the Canada Reinette and the Blenheim Orange their two best apples. Mr. W. E. Scott has 1,200 orchard trees, a large proportion of them but recently planted. Mr. Ruckle has a well grown orchard of about 600 trees. Mr. Booth has about 300 trees. Mr. McLennan 350. Mr. Akerman 300. Mr. Lee 250. Other farmers have from 50 to 200 trees or so in their orchards. Mr. A. A. Berrow keeps a nicely ordered nursery garden, where fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs of the choicest description may be purchased at very moderate prices. It is to Mr. Berrow that the compiler of this pamphlet is chiefly indebted for the names of the flowers, ferns, etc., growing wild on the island.

The general opinion as to the style of farming best adapted to the island may be gathered from the following notes:--

1. AS REGARDS FRUITS.--The island is peculiarly suited for the growth of apples, pears, plums and cherries. Apples and pears do well on the red alluvial loam with marl sub-soil; cherries better if the sub-soil be "hard-pan"; plums best on the black "bottom lands." Apples and pears also do well on the lowlands if thoroughly drained. The favorite fruits are *Apples*:--Baldwin, Canada Reinette, Blenheim Orange, Wealthy (for winter keeping), and Duchess of Oldenburg and Gravenstein (summer apples). *Pears*:--Bartlett and Vicar of Winkfield. *Plums*:--Yellow Egg, Greengage, Magnum Bonum; and Mr. Trege recommends also his "Pawm-seedling," which grows twice the size of an ordinary egg-plum, and is probably the

largest plum in existence. Prunes, for preserving, are also grown by some. *Cherries*:—The favorite seems to be "Governor Wood." Mr. Foord has some fine cherries that ripen in September, and, coming in so late, they fetch a high price. He calls them "September Morellos." Peaches, apricots and grapes will ripen only in warm, sheltered positions. All the small fruits grow luxuriantly and yield large crops; red and white currants, black currants, gooseberries, raspberries, black berries, strawberries. Raspberry canes attain a height of over eight feet and bear particularly fine berries. Black currants and gooseberries are the favorites with most as they are the easiest to market without risk of spoiling. Strawberries have been grown on the island by the ton, but the difficulty about marketing them just at the right time proved a drawback. Quinces, chestnuts, walnuts, filberts, all grow well.

2. CEREALS.—All kinds will grow well with good cultivation and drainage. Wheat does not pay at present prices, and is grown generally only in small quantities for chicken feed. Barley not in demand. Oats do well. Peas, the favorite crop, suitable especially for newly broken land, and grown principally for pig-feeding. Indian corn grows and ripens well. Many cut it green as a fodder-crop.

3. ROOTS.—Potatoes grow well and are a paying crop. Yield from four to ten tons per acre. Swedes will produce 12 tons to the acre. Mangolds not much grown at present. Garden vegetables of all kinds do well and yield large crops. The "clam-shell soil," of which there are large patches here and there, chiefly near the shore, produces particularly fine vegetables and fruit.

4. THE HAY CROP is almost invariably a success. Grass and clover cut from two to three tons to the acre. On new land "Cocksfoot" is generally sown, as it is strong and holds its own against the bracken and weeds; but after the land is well under cultivation "Timothy" is preferred. The favorite clovers are the Red, White Dutch and Alsike.

5. STOCK RAISING.—Both hay and roots being so easily grown, and the winters being as a rule so mild and open, it

stands to reason that both cattle and sheep will pay well for raising. Dairying is very profitable, some farmers marketing as much as 1,000 lbs. of butter in a year. Pigs pay particularly well. The favorite breeds are for dairy cows, Holstein and Jersey; sheep, Southdown and Shropshire; pigs, Berkshire.

6. POULTRY.—Turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, guinea-fowl, are all kept on the island. The farmers' wives all say that chickens pay well, but that more is made by selling the eggs than by raising young birds. A good hen is worth to its owner from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a year. The favorite breeds are Leghorns, Spanish and Plymouth Rock. Several persons have had great success with Turkeys. Geese are kept by those whose farms border on the seashore, and are very profitable as they find their own living on the sands. Both cattle and poultry are particularly free from disease on Salt Spring Island.

Mr. Jos. Akerman says:—"I have been over 30 years on the island. The winters are milder here than on Vancouver Island. Often they have three or four feet of snow when we have a mere sprinkling. Any one with a family, coming from the Old Country, could not strike an easier place to live in. Crops are always sure. I have never known the fruit crop to fail. Two years out of three the trees are overloaded and break the branches down. It is an advantage, too, having deer meat so handy. A fair shot, accustomed to the woods, can easily average a deer a day."

Mr. Theodore Tregre says:—"I have been 30 years on the island. The climate is good. Every man on this island who was able and willing to work has got along well. Fruit trees grow much faster here than in the Old Country. They will bear here at four years old, whereas in the Old Country they will not begin bearing until seven or eight years old."

Mr. Fred. Foord says:—"I came to Salt Spring Island in 1864. For fruit growing I consider there is no place in British Columbia to equal it. The sea breezes keep the trees healthy and make the winter mild. Snow never lies here, and I have scarcely ever known the thermometer to be down to zero. There is seldom any winter weather earlier than January 1st, and then it only lasts a short while."

Mr. T. W. Mowat says:—"I consider my farm of more value to me than a salary of \$80 or \$85 a month in the city. My poultry alone pay their own cost and find us in flour and groceries, which is pretty well for a family of ten. Poultry raising and dairying I consider to be the most profitable line. We have Jersey cows and Leghorn and Spanish fowls. I dispose of my produce chiefly in Nanaimo."

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Mr. H. Ruckle says:—“A man who understands farming and has a little capital will do as well or better here than any place in North America. We hold a very central position as regards markets. Dairying and poultry I consider pay the best, and fruit growing is also very profitable. I lived formerly in Ontario, and consider there is more to be made off a farm here than there. The chief trouble is the clearing.”

Market prices obtainable for farm produce in Victoria or Nanaimo (shipped by S. S. Joan) are about as follows :—Wheat, \$25 a ton ; oats, \$28 a ton ; peas, \$30 a ton ; hay, \$14 a ton ; potatoes, \$17 to \$20 a ton ; turnips, \$6 a ton ; calves (6 weeks old), \$8 to \$10 each ; lambs (early), \$4.50 each ; young pigs (6 weeks old), \$2.50 each ; turkeys, \$1.50 to \$2.50 each ; geese, \$1 to \$1.50 ; ducks, \$7 to \$8 per dozen ; chickens, \$5 to \$6 per dozen ; eggs, 20 to 40 cents a dozen (shipped in cases containing from 30 to 36 dozen) ; butter, 25 to 35 cents per lb. ; wool, 10 cents per lb. ; apples, 2 cents per lb. ; pears, 2 cents per lb. ; plums, 2½ cents per lb. ; cherries, 4 cents per lb. ; strawberries, 5 to 8 cents per lb. ; red or white currants, 8 to 10 cents per lb. ; black currants, 7 to 10 cents per lb. ; gooseberries, 10 cents per lb. ; raspberries, 8 to 10 cents per lb. ; blackberries, 8 to 10 cents per lb.

GENERAL HISTORY.

The first white settlers to arrive on the island were Mr. J. P. Booth, the present member of parliament, and Mr. H. Sampson, formerly an employe of the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Rupert. These two gentlemen, together with several others who have since died or left the island, arrived in August 1859, and are still resident there with their families. They came in a schooner which was at that time plying between Victoria and the newly discovered coal mines at Nanaimo ; they found the island quite uninhabited except for the occasional visit of wandering and marauding Indians. Under the proclamation of Governor Douglas, any intending settler was permitted to choose land for himself in any desirable spot, and was guaranteed that whenever the land so selected and occupied came to the market he should have the right to pre-empt it at a sum not exceeding \$1.25 per acre. Under this understanding Messrs. Booth and Sampson and others who were with them each selected and marked out their ranches. For a long time life on the island

was of a very rough character, and they had much to contend with ; provisions all had to be brought from Victoria (a distance of 40 or 50 miles from where they were located) by canoe or small boat. The Indians were dangerous and could only be kept in check by frequent visits of the gunboat "Forward." Many were the robberies and even murders that were committed, and no unfrequent thing was it to see a miniature naval battle going on between the war canoes of opposing tribes. Panthers and wolves in those days swarmed on the island and prevented any attempt at keeping cattle or sheep. One man relates how he and his father shot nine panthers between them within a few weeks one autumn, and the howling of wolves was a constant source of disturbance at nights. There were also a few bears at that time on the island, and they would come around the ranchers' log huts and kill their pigs at their very doors. One day a settler shot a bird from his door sill, his little dog ran to pick it up, a panther pounced on the dog, the settler pounded the panther with the stock of his gun, but it would not let the dog go and escaped with its prey into the woods. But panthers, wolves and bears are no longer a terror now ; a determined war was waged against them by owners of live stock, and by shooting and trapping and the use of poison they were after a while exterminated, and if ever one has the audacity to swim over from Vancouver Island, a collection is at once made among the settlers and a premium set on his head, which with the Government reward of \$7.50 is sufficient inducement to call out the best hunters in immediate pursuit, and he is very soon dispatched.

About the same time that the first white people came on the island there arrived also a number of colored people from the States, and many of them still remain as residents. Some of the first white settlers intermarried with the Indians, and thus has arisen quite a little colony of half-breeds. One of the residents tells how twenty years or so ago it was no strange thing during the months of May or June to see the shores of Ganges harbor swarming with Indians—500 or more in number—their long, curiously shaped canoes drawn up on the beach, the object of their visit being to dig, roast, and preserve the clam-fish. That these visits must have been made to the

same spot for centuries past is evidenced by the great depth of the clam-shell soil, three four and even in places as much as seven feet in depth, with trees 200 years old or more growing in it; indeed the theory of our informant that "Indians were roasting clams here in Ganges harbor while Moses was writing the Pentateuch on Mt. Sinai," may not be altogether without foundation. According to his description the process of preserving clams was as follows:—Along the shore, on land now owned by Messrs. Scovell, Mahon and Scott, they would dig the "clams," getting them up out of the wet sand and shingle with a piece of scrap iron or a 'hardak' stick made hard in the fire. Then they would make a number of holes in the beach, each from a yard to a yard and a half wide and about 18 inches deep. In these holes they would place wood and kindle fires, then throw rocks in and make them hot. On the heated rocks they would empty the clams they had dug, bushels and bushels of them, and cover them all up with mats and bags. When the mats were removed the shells were all open and the clams partly cooked. Then came the operation of "scaling clams"—scooping them out of the shell. Long, slender sticks, were then procured, and the clams being threaded on them, the sticks were bent into a hoop and hung up before the fire for the fish to brown. Then they looked very tempting and were ready for market. What the Indians did not require for home use they sold or traded to the Indians of the interior. In Ganges harbor the Indians also used to catch enormous quantities of herring during the season. They would go out in their canoes, and with long flat sticks, 12 or 13 feet in length and shaped like paddles, with nails sticking in the edges, they would scoop up the herrings by the hundred and dump them into their canoes. Then, on reaching shore, they would make a long frame-work of poles, four or five tiers high, and hang the herrings to dry in the sun. They would also place cedar boughs in the water for the herrings to spawn on, and the herring spawn after being dried in the sun was with them an important article of commerce with which to trade with the Interior Indians. About the month of August the smelt would come into the harbor in immense numbers, and during the spawning season would be so thick in the shallow water that they could easily be caught with the

hand or drawn on shore with an ordinary garden rake or hoe. Indeed they are still caught in this way, by those who care for them, during the season. The point owned by Mr. Ed. Walter, and called "the spit," used to be a great place of rendezvous for the Indians. One night there was such a yelling and hollering and firing of guns on the spit that the settlers in the harbor were in considerable alarm fearing that some Northern Indians had arrived, and that a fight was going on. It turned out, however, afterwards, that a pack of hungry wolves had attacked the Indians' dogs and that that was the cause of the disturbance.

Among the earliest white settlers on the island, who are still living there, and whose names have not yet been mentioned, are Mr. Norton and Mr. Robinson, who came in 1860, and Messrs. Maxwell and Akerman, who arrived a few years later.

The first school house erected on the island was that situated at what is now called the Vesuvius settlement; the original one was built soon after the first settlers arrived; another one subsequently took its place, built on the same spot; both these were log buildings. The first school teacher was a colored man named Jones. He taught six days in the week, three days at the Settlement and three days in a log house at the North End. The second school house mentioned has now been replaced by a modern looking frame building, but the old log one still stands close beside it, and is occasionally used for public meetings or Sunday services. There are now four Government schools on the Island, Vesuvius school, 28 pupils, teacher Mr. R. Purdy; North End school, 18 pupils, teacher Miss McKinnon; the Valley school, 24 pupils, teacher Mr. A. W. Cooke; Beaver Point school, 17 pupils, teacher Mr. Geo. Kirkendale. The pupils at these schools are, many of them, well advanced, quite a number having passed successfully the High School Entrance Examinations. The teachers' pay is \$50 a month.

The first minister to hold a religious service on the island was the Rev. Ebenezer Robson, of the Methodist Church. He preached in the old Vesuvius schoolhouse thirty years ago. After him came the Rev. Thomas Crosby and the Rev. Mr. White, Methodist ministers. They resided on Vancouver Is-

land, and paid monthly visits to Salt Spring. The first Church of England clergyman to conduct services on the island was the Rev. Mr. Reece, a married man, who lived at Maple Bay on Vancouver Island, and came over to Salt Spring once a month. He commenced his duties 26 years ago, and remained four or five years. After him the Rev. Mr. Holmes used to visit the island; and nine years ago the Rev. Canon Dwyer was appointed to the post. He used to come over from Chemainus, on Vancouver Island, and hold fortnightly services. The Rev. H. Kingham was appointed to take charge of the Mission, in connection with other work on Vancouver, in 1887, and during his pastorate the pretty little frame Church of St. Mark's was built (1889) on land donated by Mr. H. Stevens; it stands high up on a rocky bluff and is a picturesque object; its cost was nearly \$800, about half of which amount was raised among the settlers. In 1887 a "Union Church" was built in "the Valley," the intention being that it should be used by Methodists, Presbyterians and the Church of England alike. The members of the latter church elected, however, to worship in the Valley schoolhouse, and during the past year, 1894, they have erected a handsome little frame church, about a mile from the school, at Fulford harbor, which is called St. Mary's. On the other side of Fulford harbor stands the Roman Catholic Church, a frame building, erected in 1884. A priest comes over from Vancouver Island once a month to hold service, the congregation consisting almost entirely of half-breeds. The Methodists usually have service in the Union Church and at the old Vesuvius schoolhouse once a fortnight. The Church of England is the only church that has a resident minister on the island. The first to come and reside was the Rev. J. B. Haslam, about three years ago; and, when he left in January, 1894, the present incumbent, Rev. E. F. Wilson, took his place. Church of England services are now held regularly at St. Mark's, St. Mary's and the North End schoolhouse, and occasionally at Beaver Point.

Salt Spring Island is within the Electoral District of North Victoria, and has the satisfaction of having a resident of the island for its representative, Mr. Booth having been re-elected to serve in the House at the last general election in July, 1894. There are two Justices of the Peace on the island, Mr. A. Wal-

SALT SPRING ISLAND,

ter and Mr. Joel Broadwell, and one constable, Mr. W. McFadden. The gaol, a small square white building, containing a hall and two cells, was built nine years ago, but has only been occupied about five times, once for cattle stealing, twice for killing game out of season, and twice for fighting; this speaks well for the peaceable condition of the community. The keys of the gaol are kept by Mr. Broadwell, and trials are held in the narrow hall within.



JOHN P. ROOTIE, M. P.

The present population of the island is estimated to be 450. A large number of different nationalities are represented. There are approximately, old and young, 160 English (or Canadians), 50 Scotch, 20 Irish, 22 Portuguese, 13 Swedes, 4 Germans, 2 Norwegians, 34 Americans, 90 Halfbreeds, 40 Colored, or partly colored people, 6 Sandwich Islanders, 10 Japanese, also 1 Egyptian, 2 Greeks, 1 Patagonian.

Religious connection is about represented as follows:— Church of England, 220; Presbyterian, 30; Methodist, 60;

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Roman Catholic, 80; Baptist, 2; Lutheran, 13; Greek Church, 2; Congregational, 3; Salvation Army, 2; leaving about 40 whose religion is unknown.

There are about 62 married couples on the island, 35 single men or widowers, 7 single women or widows, 50 young men, 20 young women, 85 boys, 80 girls, 16 babies.

Trades and occupations are represented as follows:—Carpenters and builders, 4; engineers, 2; blacksmiths, 3; bricklayers, 1; tavern-keeper, 1; boarding house keepers, 2; stonecutters, 2; hunters, 2; fishermen, 1; seal hunters, 10.

There is an Odd Fellows' lodge with a membership of 38. Noble Grand, P. Purvis; Secretary, Jos. Akerman, Jr. They meet once a month. There are five Post Offices on the Island, viz.: Vesuvius (Joel Broadwell); North End (Levi Lakin); Burgoyne Bay (S. Maxwell); Fulford Harbor (H. M. Rogers); Beaver Point (A. McLennan). Five steamboat wharves, viz.:—Fernwood, Vesuvius Bay, Ganges Harbor, Burgoyne Bay, Fulford Harbor. Two boarding houses, (1) by Mrs. Stevens, at Vesuvius, roomy and home-like, with accommodation for 12 guests; charges by the day, \$1, by the week, \$5. (2) by J. Akerman, in the Valley, charges the same. One tavern, with barroom at Fulford harbor, by H. M. Rogers. One general store, Vesuvius Bay, by E. J. Bitancourt.

Quite a number of the Half-breeds on the Island still gain their livelihood to a considerable extent by hunting; others go to the Mainland for the salmon fishing in the Fraser River during the season, and among those living on the Island are several professional sealers, who, at the beginning of each year—about January—join a sealing vessel in Victoria and sail away 3,000 miles across the ocean to the coast of Japan, a voyage of about 60 days, not expecting to be home again before the following September or October. It seems a long way to go, but as they will often bring back from \$1,000 to \$1,200 in their pockets, they find it well worth their while to make the trip.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

A glance at the map inside of the cover will show the geographical position that Salt Spring Island holds as regards the rest

SALT SPRING ISLAND,

of the world. It will be noticed that its longitude is 123 degrees 30 minutes West of Greenwich, and that its latitude is very nearly 49 degrees North of the equator. It is separated from the large Island of Vancouver on the West by a narrow but navigable sea channel, and to the East and North of it are numerous other smaller islands, all lying within the Strait of Georgia. On Kuper Island, just North of Salt Spring is an Indian settlement. Moresby Island to the South is the domain of Captain Robertson, who owns the whole island and resides upon it with his family. Plumper Pass has quite a settlement of white people, and steamboat connection with Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, as well as with Victoria. Saanich Peninsula to the South, is a part of Vancouver Island, and there a railway, only just opened, connects with the City of Victoria—two trains daily each way. The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway runs Northward from Victoria to Nanaimo and Wellington, some few miles back from the sea channel to the left of the map, and is shortly to be extended to Comox. To "catch the train," a boat must be hired either at Burgoyne Bay or Vesuvius Bay, to reach the opposite shore (the charge being \$1.50) and then there is a walk of a few miles to the railway; or a boat may be taken from Fulford Harbor or Beaver Point to Sidney, the railway terminus on the Saanich Peninsula. But the usual way of getting to Victoria or Nanaimo, and also of sending produce to or receiving stores from the city, is by steamship "Joan,"—a very comfortably fitted up passenger vessel of 544 tons register. The charge for single passage to or from Victoria is \$2.00, return ticket \$3.00; to or from Nanaimo, \$1.50, return \$2.25. Freight to Victoria \$2.50 a ton; to Nanaimo \$2.00. Meals on board, very good and well served, 50 cents. Stateroom for the night, extra 75 cents. A trader on board, named J. Wilson, does a good deal of business with the Salt Spring farmers. The "Joan" arrives up from Victoria on Tuesday, in the forenoon, calling at Burgoyne Bay at about 11 a.m. and Vesuvius Bay 12 noon, and thence proceeding on her northern course 35 miles to Nanaimo, and on 56 miles further to Comox. She returns on Saturday, taking the other side of the Island on her down trip, and calling at Fernwood (North End), Ganges Harbor about 9.45 a.m., and Fulford Harbor

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about 10.45 a.m. The following Tuesday she goes up on the East side of the Island and down on the West side on Saturday, thus changing her course every week. There is always a great gathering at the wharf on "steamboat day;" some are perhaps going on board and some have come to meet friends; others have farm produce to ship or stores to receive; there are crates of poultry, boxes of eggs, cases of butter, lambs or sheep lying uncomfortably on their sides with their legs pinioned, little pigs carefully boxed up, and great old hogs with their feet tied firmly to a pole by which they will be carried, yelling and struggling but incapable of resistance, on board. All around the wharf under the trees are picturesquely grouped the settlers' saddle ponies and conveyances, ox-teams, one-horse carts, heavy waggons with horses, spring buggies, etc. The boat comes, ropes are thrown--all is bustle for awhile--then a deep whistle, plank drawn in, and off she goes again. Settlers crowd around the little Post Office window to get their mail and their freight bills, then all disperse, and the wharf is left empty and deserted.

It remains now only to add that the chief wants felt by the settlers, and which they hope will ere long be supplied, are:--

1st. A doctor. Not that there is much sickness--far otherwise. The island seems to have a wonderful immunity from disease of all kinds, whether as affecting man, beast or feathered fowl. But there are occasionally cases when a doctor's presence is most urgently and promptly needed, and none is to be found nearer than Maple Bay; it is hard also on a poor settler to have to pay \$15; \$20 or \$25 for the single visit of a medical practitioner. A doctor who would make his living partly by farming, with the annual grant from the government of \$200.00, and the fees he would collect from his patients on Salt Spring and the adjacent islands, might pass a very easy and enjoyable life.

2nd, A family hotel, built on some pretty spot overlooking the sea.

3rd. A good general store in some central spot.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

4th. A shoe maker.

5th. Telegraphic (or telephone) communication with Vancouver Island.

6th. More frequent steamboat service, especially in summer when small fruits are liable to spoil, if not shipped at once. A daily ferry to Sidney, to connect with the Saanich train would be very advantageous.

7th. More settlers. That the land is worth having is proved by the rapidity with which it has been all taken up. No government lands remain now on the market, with the exception of some mountain ranges and a tract near the centre of the Island, called the Cranberry Marsh. But owners of large farms are, many of them, willing to divide up and dispose of a portion of their property, provided they can obtain a fair figure. As clearing land is expensive, there is a vast difference between the price of cleared land under cultivation, and that which is still primeval forest. The market value of the former is from \$50.00 to \$125.00 per acre, according to situation and character of soil, while the latter may be purchased at from \$7.00 to \$15.00 per acre.

The parties in Victoria and Nanaimo with whom the Salt Spring Island farmers for the most part do their trading are :—

VICTORIA.

Henry Saunders, Wholesale and Retail Grocer, Johnson Street.

Simon Leiser, Wholesale Grocer, Yates Street.

T. G. Raynor, General Grocer, 19 City Market.

S. Schoen, General Grocer, 177 Douglas Street.

L. Dickinson, General Grocer and Feed, 113 Douglas Street.

T. Porter & Sons, Butchers, Johnson Street.

Erskine & Will, General Grocers, corner Government and Fort Streets:

Fell & Co., General Grocers, Fort Street.

Brackman & Ker, Feed, Government Street.

Fred. Carne, Jr., Grocer and Provisions, Yates Street.

W. J. Mitchell, Butcher, Douglas Street.

Lawrence Goodacre, Butcher, Government and Johnson Street.

Van Volkenburgh, Butcher, Yates Street.

SALT SPRING ISLAND.

NANAIMO.

Lawrence Manson, General Grocer.

D. H. Beckley, Butcher.

Co-operative Store Grocery and Butcher Departments.

Bevilockway, General Grocer and Fruiterer.

Ed. Quennell, Butcher.

A. R. Johnson & Co., General Grocer and Feed.

Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from the compiler,
Rev. E. F. Wilson, Salt Spring Island, B. C. Price, 25 cents
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APPENDIX C



GANGES HARBOUR.

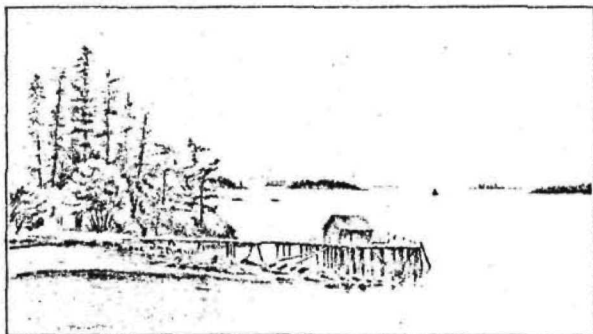
This Pamphlet is published with the authority of the **Islands Farmers' Institute of British Columbia**, in the belief that there are many, having but a moderate income coupled with a love of a country life, who would be glad, untrammelled by conventions, to make a home for themselves by work, bring up their children to a healthy independent life, and gratify those tastes for shooting and fishing which their means will not permit in the Old Country.

EDWARD WALTER,

Sec'y Islands Farmers' Institute,

August, 1902.

Ganges Harbour, B. C.



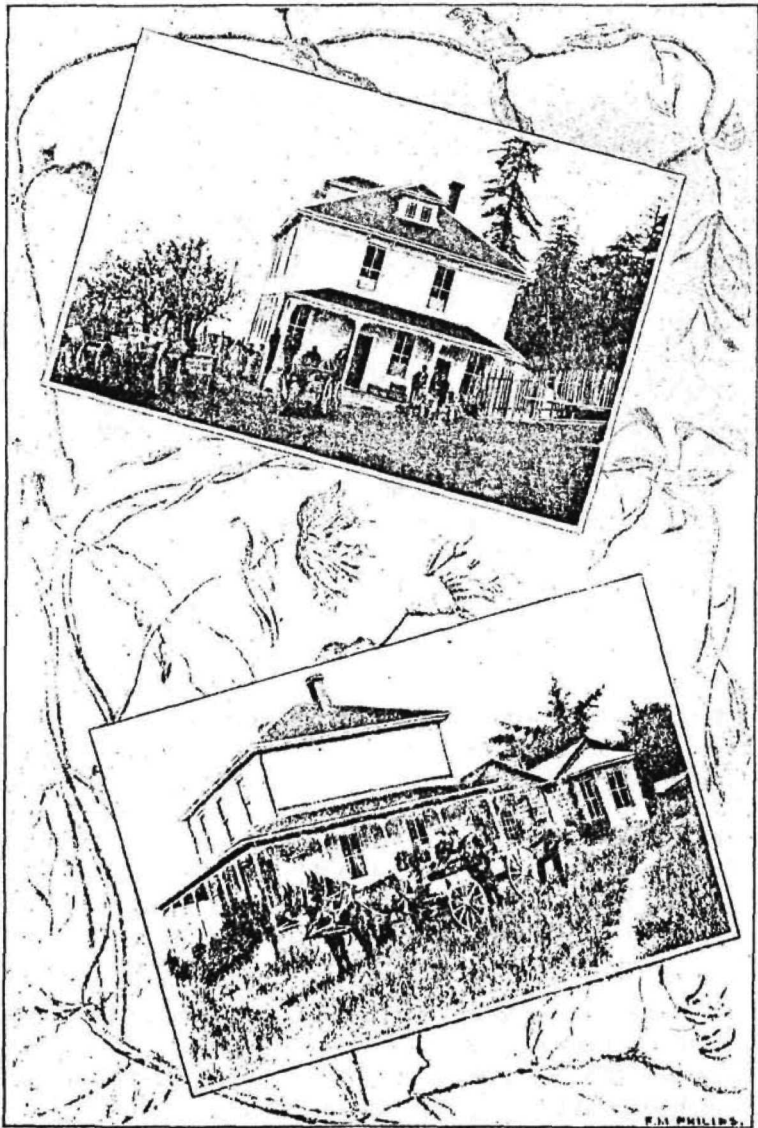
FULFORD HARBOUR.

Saltspring Island—Admiral Island on the old charts—in the Province of **British Columbia**, in the Dominion of Canada, lying immediately south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, sheltered from the Pacific storms by the large island of Vancouver, and protected on the east by many smaller isles which dot the surface of the Gulf of Georgia across to the mainland of the North American continent, is probably as regards position and climate the most favoured of all the British Columbia islands.

In the centre of the triangle formed by the three chief **ports** of the Province—Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo—it is on the direct route of steamers plying between the capital, Victoria (pop. 21,000), and Nanaimo, the Coal City of the North Pacific (pop. 6,000), giving the Island daily connection with both places. It is about 50 miles by water from Victoria to Ganges Harbour, and rather less *via* the Victoria and Sidney railway; 26 from Nanaimo—both places on Vancouver Island—and 30 from Vancouver City (pop. 26,000) on the mainland, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The Island is about 17 miles in length from north to south, with an extreme width of nine miles, and contains roughly 45,000 acres, the greater part of which is mountainous, the highest point being 2,329 ft. above the sea.

The **climate** is mild and very similar to that of the south of England. The temperature in summer seldom exceeds 86° Fahr. in the shade and the nights are invariably cool. Cold weather for



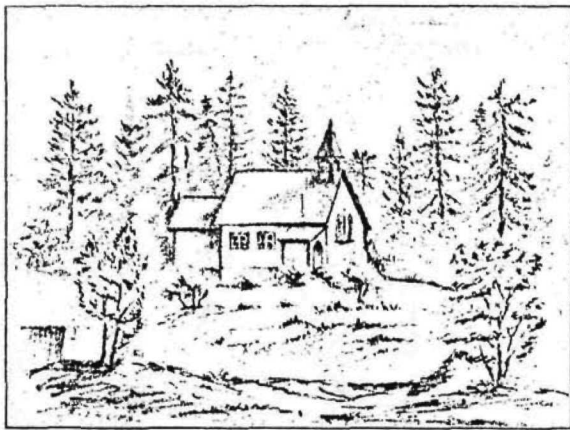
STORE, VESUVIUS.

H. STEVENS' BOARDING HOUSE.

a week or so may be expected in November and January, when the temperature may fall to 20°, or once in ten years, perhaps, to within two or three degrees of zero. The average annual rainfall for the district is 39 ins. and rainy days 172. The snowfall is light, and thunder storms very rare.

Dr. Gerald Baker, Ganges Harbour, says: "I consider the climate of Saltspring Island to be extremely healthy. Children thrive well, and we are particularly free from all zymotic diseases."

Although the Island takes its name from salt springs found near the north end, there is an abundant supply of sweet **water**, good springs are plentiful and there are eleven lakes.



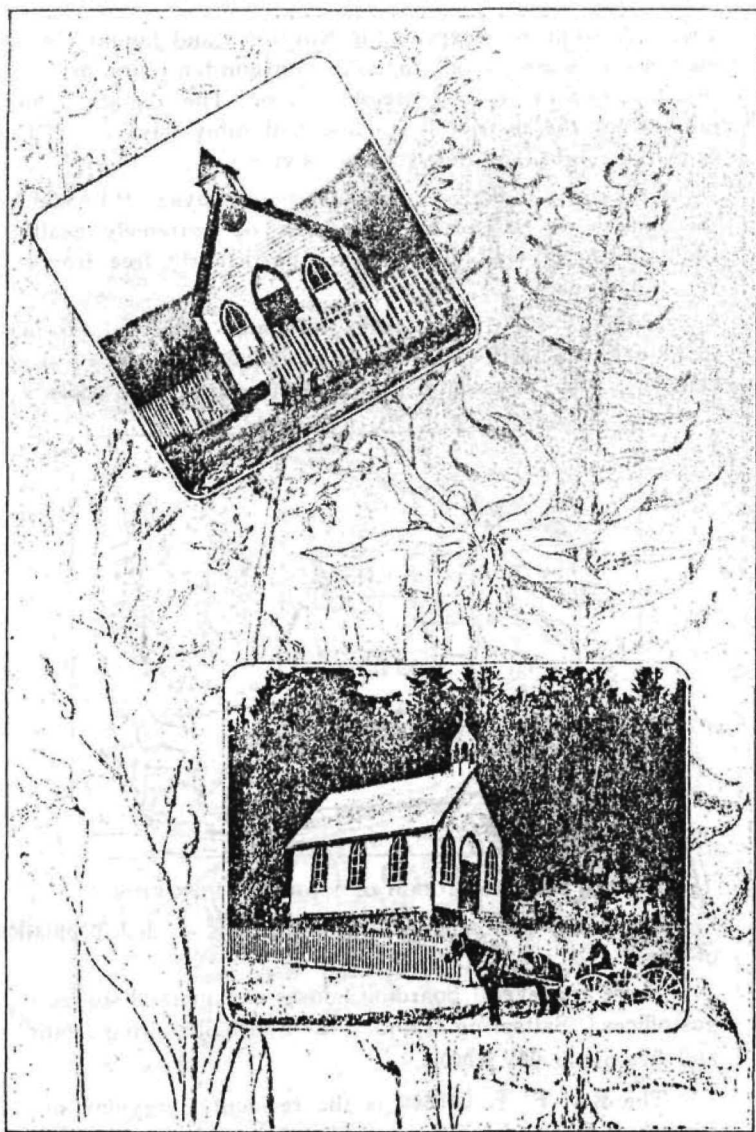
ST. MARK'S, CHURCH OF ENGLAND, VESUVIUS.

There are 100 occupied farms with a settled **population** of 430.

There are several boarding houses and general stores, two postoffices ("Saltspring Island" and "South Saltspring Island"), and five public **day schools**.

The **Rev. E. F. Wilson** is the resident clergyman of the Church of England and has two churches, and there is a Roman Catholic and also a Methodist church.

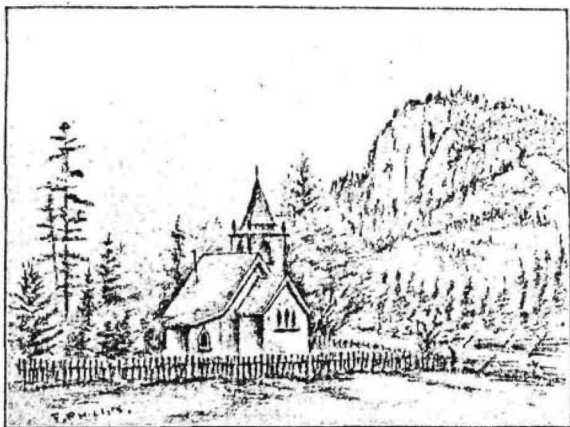
There is a resident English **doctor**, and a telephone line extends over the greater part of the Island and is connected from Burgoyne Bay with the Victoria-Nanaimo line.



METHODIST CHURCH,

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,

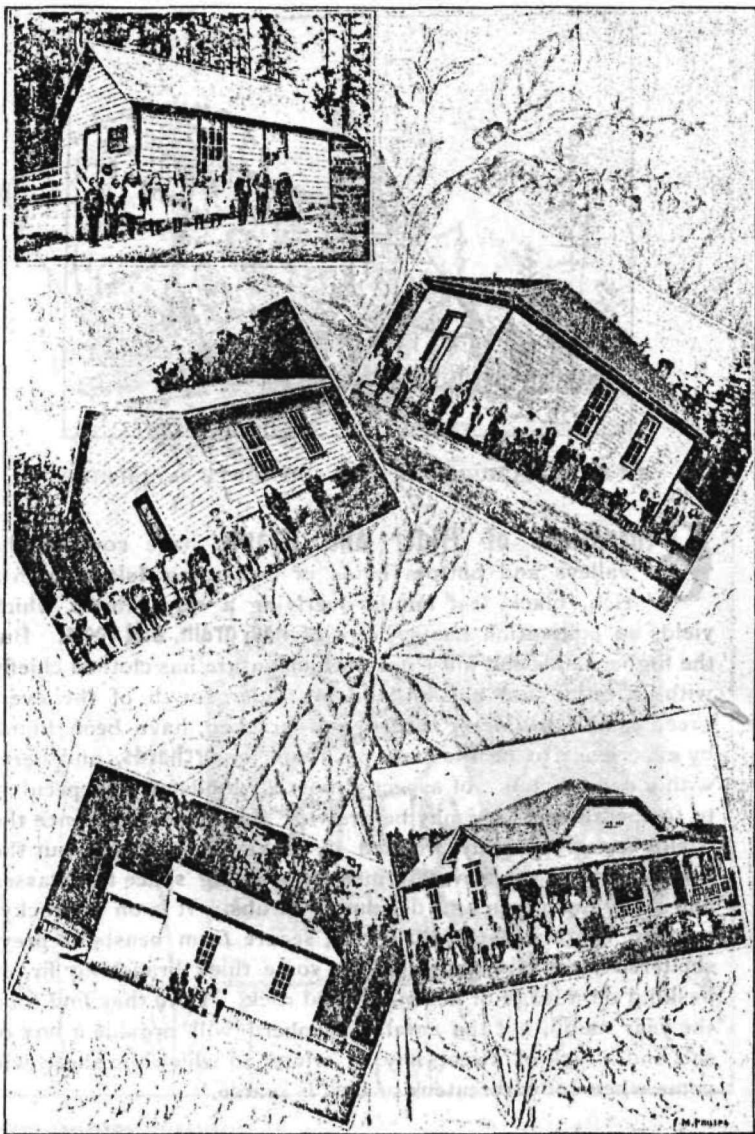
SOUTH SALTSRING.



ST. MARY'S, CHURCH OF ENGLAND, SOUTH SALTSRING.

Generations of Alder and Maple have covered the valleys and bottom lands of Saltspring Island with a rich, black, leaf mould overlying a clay subsoil, which yields on cultivation heavy crops of **hay, grain, and roots**. But the higher lands and hill slopes, which nature has clothed chiefly with fir, cedar and balsam, and an undergrowth of the evergreen salal (*gaultheria shallon*) and bracken, have been found by experience to be the best positions for **orchards**, and here, with a careful choice of aspect almost all kinds of fruit peculiar to temperate climates may be grown. Seen from a distance the island appears densely wooded to the mountain tops, but the timber thins as the elevation increases, giving space for grasses and many evergreen and deciduous shrubs. It is on the rocky, wooded heights that **sheep** thrive, secure from beasts of prey, sheltered from rain and wind by some thick branching fir, or basking on a ledge of lichen-covered rock. Here they find food the year round, but the careful shepherd will provide a box of salt and a rack of sweet hay in winter to which the sheep will come when snow threatens or feed is scarce.

Dairying, fruit growing, sheep raising for lamb and mutton, and **poultry keeping** are all carried on with profit, and a ready sale for first class produce is found in Victoria and Nanaimo.

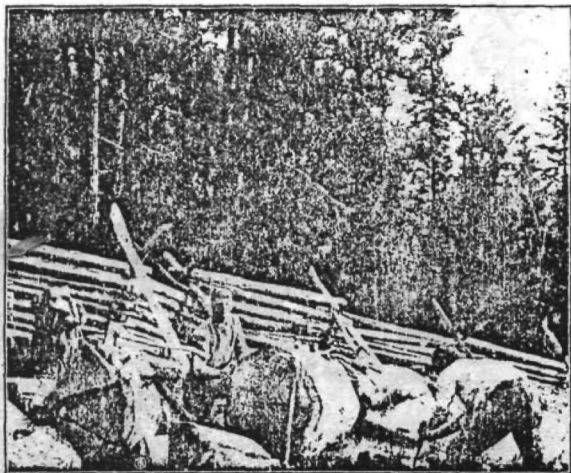


THE SALTSRING ISLAND SCHOOLS.

Some prices of **farm produce**: Apples average 75 cents a box of 40 lbs., eggs 15 cents to 50 cents per doz., butter 20 cents to 35 cents per lb., lambs (live) \$3.50 each, fowls (live) \$6 per doz., broilers (live) \$4 per doz., ducks (live) \$6 per doz., and pigs 7 cents per lb. live weight.

Freight to Victoria and Nanaimo \$2.50 per ton, 25 cents for single packages and lambs (1 cent = $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, \$1 = 4/2).

Prices of **supplies**: Flour \$5 a bbl. of 200 lbs., sugar 6 cents per lb., wheat $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb., potatoes \$1 per 100 lbs., meats 10 to 12 cents per lb.



CUTTING FIREWOOD.

The price of land varies with quality, situation, distance from a wharf, etc. Ranches of 100 to 160 acres are worth \$1,000 to \$5,000 (£200 to £1,000) according to amount of improvements, and a man should be able to make a living at once on a \$5,000 farm.

Labourers and **house servants** are scarce and expensive, but during winter Japs can be had at 75 cents a day, boarding themselves.

The felling of the timber on new land costs \$6 to \$8 per acre. This is done in winter and the trees being left to dry

through the summer, a fire is run over them in the fall; the logs that remain being cut up, piled and burnt, the land is then seeded down to grass or broken up for a first crop of potatoes.

A six-roomed cottage will cost from \$400 (£80), and a cow \$40 (£8).

There are many kinds of **wild fruits**, strawberries, blackberries, and cranberries being the most useful.

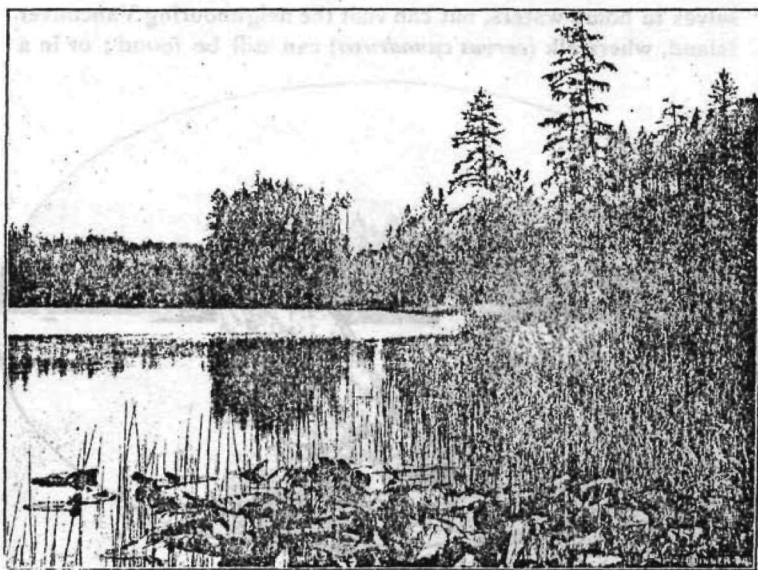
The chief **exports** besides agricultural products are pit props, cordwood, charcoal, and sandstone.



THE OLD STYLE.

Lovers of the **Rod and Gun** should find on Saltspring an attractive home, and from year's end to year's end ample occupation for leisure hours. From March to October **the lakes**, which abound in trout, furnish excellent sport to the fly fisher, their different altitudes extending the season well through the summer; as the higher lakes will often reward a visit when one might flog in vain the surface of those at a lower level. **The trout** (*salmo mykiss*) are usually from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs., but have been taken of much heavier weights.

With September **the gun** begins to take the place of the rod, and throughout the fall and winter months the rancher may well provide his larder with venison (blacktail deer, *cariacus columbianus*), blue and willow grouse, pheasant (introduced), snipe, and a varied assortment of waterfowl. And in the quiet pursuit of game, the hunter will meet with many lovely prospects, of purple hill and placid sea, of a distant jagged ridge of snow-capped mountains, or of some giant peak, cone-shaped, solitary and glittering, above the blue haze of many miles of intervening forest; or, from a tall cliff look down over the



AN ISLAND LAKE.

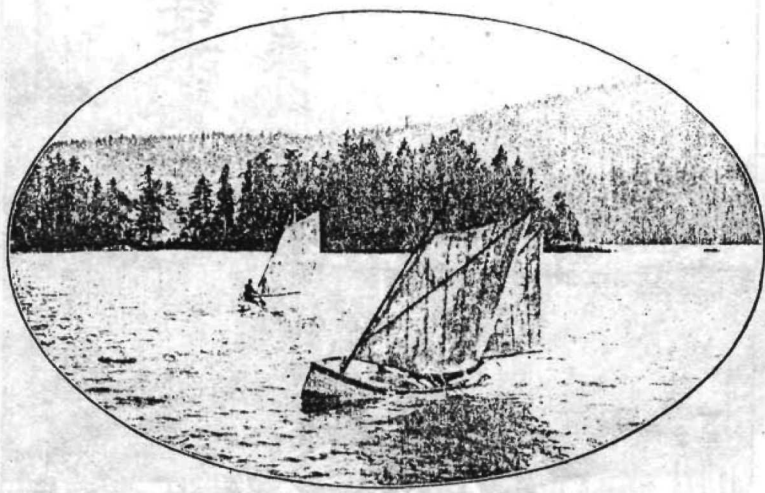
needle tops of a sea of dark firs, flecked here and there with a golden maple, on some quiet lake set in green meadows and reddening orchards, with a curl of blue smoke rising from the hidden homestead.

The **game laws** of the Province are stringent, and legislation tends towards preserving the game for the occupier of the soil.

The bays and inlets of the sea offer safe **boating**, and a cruise among the many surrounding islands, making visits and

fishing, and camping at night in some sheltered cove, is a most agreeable way of spending a week or two in the summer months. **Salmon** (July to November), sea trout (throughout the summer), and rock cod and ling (May to July) can be caught trolling with rod and spoon bait. **Halibut**, cod, and mackerel (so called), can be taken with bait from January to May in deep water, and flounders, herring and smelts are plentiful in season. Oysters are found in certain places, and clams everywhere along the shore.

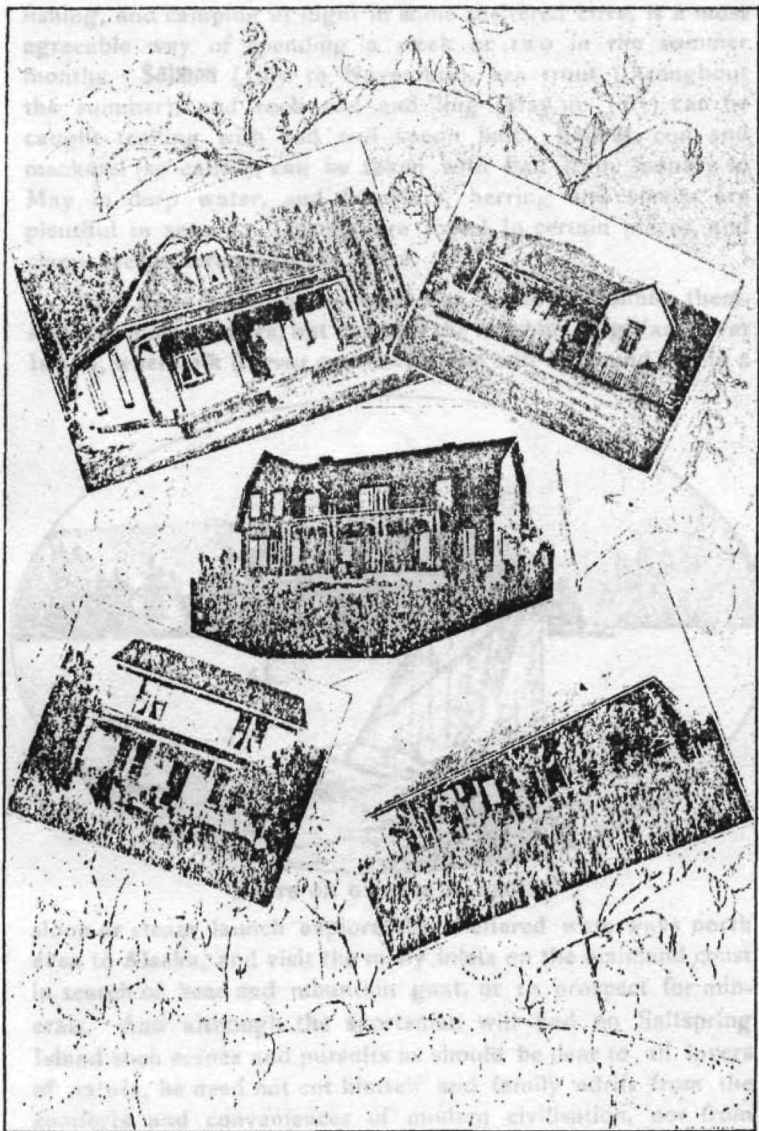
The more adventurous need not, however, confine themselves to home waters, but can visit the neighbouring Vancouver Island, where elk (*cervus canadensis*) can still be found ; or in a



BOATS ON GANGES HARBOUR.

sloop or steam launch explore the sheltered waterways north even to Alaska, and visit the many inlets on the mainland coast in search of bear and mountain goat, or to prospect for minerals. And although the sportsman will find on Saltspring Island such scenes and pursuits as should be dear to all lovers of nature, he need not cut himself and family adrift from the comforts and conveniences of modern civilisation, nor from social intercourse ; and those looking for a home will appreciate the Island's freedom from beasts of prey, poisonous snakes, malaria, and last but not least, from mosquitoes.

F. M. PHILIPS.



SOME SALTSRING ISLAND HOMES.

F. M. PHILIPS.

