

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.

About the 2011 Edition

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[photo annotations:]

Road to North Arm, 1888, now Granville st south, Shaughnessy Heights, looking north from [text obscured].

12 JANUARY 1936 – FITZPATRICK MCCLEERY AND SAMUEL MCCLEERY OF NORTH ARM.

Miss Margaret Elizabeth McCleery told me that the two McCleerys landed on D.L. 315 in 1862, and that the spot where they landed was—I should say by the photograph—half a mile or more above the Celtic Cannery; half a mile above Macdonald Street produced. The front of the old homestead which is still standing in 1936, and now the oldest building in Vancouver, was built in 1873, and the back in 1883. Mrs. H. Logan, daughter of Fitzgerald McCleery, was born there 7 May 1878, lives there still, has lived in it for fifty-eight years. The number of the house is 6750 Macdonald Street. The well-known “Clay Hill” was just behind their place some short distance. There is a photograph extant of the old homestead with a number of people scattered about the strawberry patch—ten or a dozen, young and old, and horse with two children on its back—that photo was taken in 1886 or 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald McCleery are together on the left of the photo, beside a stump. (It is a framed photo.)

CLAY HILL.

The photograph of “Clay Hill” (photo P. Str. 46, N. Str. 8), a forest trail with a bridge at the bottom, a buggy at the top, was taken about 1891, west of Marpole, close to the McCleery Farm. Miss M.E. McCleery says: “Gordon Farrell has his home beside it, so did the late Blake Wilson. The River Road” (now Marine Drive) “was a trail in 1870; that is how I know the photo must be about 1891. There is a little bridge over the same spot now, in Gordon Farrell’s garden at 1890 South West Marine Drive.”

D.L. 315, 316, 317, 319, 323.

North Arm, Fraser River; City of Vancouver.

These preemptions all bear to each other a certain relationship due to the fact that Hugh McRoberts, early preemptor, was the uncle of Samuel and Fitzgerald McCleery, and that the McCleerys were related by marriage to Christopher Wood and his cousin Robert Wood. Fitzgerald McCleery, the elder of the two, married Miss Mary Wood; Miss Margaret E. McCleery is their younger daughter, born 17 May 1880.

On 28 January 1938, Miss Margaret Elizabeth McCleery said: “This is the first time I have known that Mr. McRoberts preempted D.L. 315 before my father, but I can understand it, because Mr. McRoberts had the contract to build the trail down the North Arm from New Westminster, and my father and uncle worked for him, but they were not paid in money; they were paid in” (land) “scrip.”

GENEALOGY OF MCCLEERY OF NORTH ARM, FRASER RIVER.

SAMUEL MCCLEERY of the Toy, Killyleagh, near Belfast, Co. Down, Ireland, had a family of nine children of which John Bailey was the eldest, and Fitzgerald and Samuel the two youngest sons; of these two, Fitzgerald was the older.

JOHN BAILEY MCCLEERY, eldest son of Samuel, married Miss Margaret Henderson, and had four children.

ELIZABETH MARGARET (unmarried.)

AGNES MARY (Mrs. Donald McArthur), deceased.

SAMUEL, living, 3115 49th Avenue West.

CATHERINE JANE, living, Mrs. S.F. James, Macdonald Street.

FITZGERALD MCCLEERY, second-youngest son of Samuel, married Miss Mary Wood, sister of Robert Wood—a cousin of Christopher Wood—in 1873, and their children were:

EDWARD FITZGERALD, died in infancy.

ERNEST, died in infancy.

THEODORA MARIAN (Mrs. Harry Logan), born 7 May 1878, who lives at 6750 Macdonald Street in the oldest existing building now, 1938, in Vancouver, built in 1873, addition made in 1883, and whose only child is Harry Fitzgerald McCleery Logan, now going to the Magee High School.

MARGARET ELIZABETH, unmarried, born 17 May 1880, and who lives on the “farm” in another house built in 1891. (*NOTE ADDED LATER:* Now Mrs. Robert Mackie.)

SAMUEL MCCLEERY, youngest son of Samuel McCleery, married Jane Anne Evans, a daughter of Richard Evans and Elizabeth Pyke of Ontario, and their children are **EVELINE ELIZABETH**, born 2 April 1881 (Mrs. H.B. Barton), who has three children, **BERENICE EVELINE**, **DORIS JANE**, and **EDWARD SAMUEL**. Doris is now Mrs. John Ferrier Ross, who is son of William Ross and grandson of John Ferrier Ross who came to Vancouver in 1889 (Ross and Howard).

There are other descendants of the McCleery family of North Arm, Fraser River.

As narrated by Mrs. H. Logan and her sister Miss McCleery at City Hall, 2 March 1938. J.S.M.

Approved by Miss M.E. McCleery, 15 December 1939.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH MISS MARGARET ELIZABETH ("GRETA") MCCLEERY, DURING A HURRIED VISIT TO THE CITY ARCHIVES, WHEN SHE BROUGHT ME AN OLD 1890 MAP OF VANCOUVER, IN BAD SHAPE, AND WHICH I HAVE SENT TO BE MOUNTED, 6 MARCH 1938.

POINT GREY MUNICIPALITY. SHAUGHNESSY HEIGHTS. HENRY MOLE. FITZGERALD MCCLEERY.

Miss McCleery, who is distressed due to her financial affairs, i.e., the heavy taxes which are taking her property from her, the old farm, and has been to see the Mayor about it, said:

"I just ran up to see you."

(And then later) "The C.P.R. were putting on the new Shaughnessy Heights, and they wanted to have a separate municipality from Point Grey; they wanted to have everything to themselves, and Frank Bowser came to Father" (Fitzgerald McCleery) "and wanted him to go to Victoria to see Sir Richard McBride, the premier, and protest. I heard the whole thing, the whole conversation; I was just a girl. Mr. Bowser said to Father, 'Fitzgerald, you are the only man who can stop this; will you go to Victoria with us.' So Father said he was willing to go if Greta, that's me, would be taken along; he said she" (Greta) "is my right bower. He was deaf, and I told him what people were saying.

"So with Henry Mole, Father and myself, we got on the boat, and when the other people saw us going down on the boat, I suppose they wondered what we were going down to Victoria for; they were on the boat, too. I remember it all so well. We went into the big room, and all the what do you call it, the cabinet, I suppose, were sitting at the big table, and Sir Richard McBride was at one end, and Frank Bowser's brother was there, too." (W.J. Bowser, attorney general.) "And they talked.

"The C.P.R. wanted to have Shaughnessy Heights all to themselves. They did not want to have the rest of Point Grey tacked on. Nice thing for us who had been there, the pioneers, all those years, to be left out in the cold to do for ourselves as best we could."

Major Matthews, City Archivist: Well, perhaps in view of what has happened since, it would have been better if you had been; you would not have had to pay the frightful land taxes.

Miss McCleery: "I don't agree. The C.P.R. just wanted Shaughnessy Heights to have to do what they liked with, and Henry Mole and Father stopped it. Sir Richard said to Father, 'Oh, I remember your place down the North Arm when I was a boy; I used to go down there. I remember the old farm,' and he seemed to [be] pleased with his recollection of our old farm."

J.S. Matthews.

Note: see explanation and elucidation of Shaughnessy Heights in conversation with Newton J. Ker, for a quarter of a century Land Agent, Canadian Pacific Railway, conversation, 9 March 1938, Newton J. Ker file.