

Mrs. Edith Rowe

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Mrs. Rowe, nee Edith Henderson, was born aboard the ship Largo Law (High Hill) in Hong Kong Harbour in the year 1892.

For thirteen years the family of four, mother, father and two daughters, sailed the world, aboard sailing ships.

During the summer of 1902 the family came to Steveston aboard the ship John McLeod to take on a cargo of canned salmon. In those days a cargo took 3 to 4 weeks to load.

Mrs. Rowe remembers her visit to Steveston because of the impression made upon her by the farmer and his family whose land adjoined the cannery property. While Mrs. Rowe and her sister were at Steveston they made daily trips to the farm to enjoy themselves playing with the horses, etc. The farmer for some reason or other gave each of the girls a piglet. This gesture of generosity was a surprise to Capt. O.D. Henderson (girl's father) and he questioned why a farmer unknown to him would give his daughters such a gift. The girls were not too impressed with the gift of pigs and sold them to their father, who in turn had them butchered for food. The girls pet dog Rover didn't like the idea of pigs aboard as they sort of took over his domain for a while.

Mrs. Rowe cannot remember who the farmer was that was so kind to the children. Names such as Steves were put to her, but she cannot remember. This was the only visit to Steveston although the various ships she sailed in put in to Esquimalt, Tacoma, Seattle, etc.

The rest of the tape goes on about her pet dog and the destruction of her father's ship Cromartyshire, set ablaze at an island off the Peruvian coast

It is of interest to know that her father's last command of sailing ships was the full rigged ship Cromartyshire which was in collision with the French liner La Bourgoyne in which the liner lost over 550 of her passengers while the Cromartyshire had no casualties. After a year ashore, Capt. Henderson took command of a shire line steamer which was captured by a German U. Boat. Capt. Henderson passed away in a German Prisoner of War camp through pneumonia.

J. Whittle