

MR. GEORGE N. FENTIMAN

(St. Anne's Anglican Church)

INTERVIEWED:

March 7, 1975

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Mr. Fentiman came to Lulu Island in 1909 at the age of 11 years - 428 Garry Street, Steveston. All family of parents and 7 boys and 2 girls came from Ottawa. Father retired but went into municipal politics - councillor, school trustee, dykes commissioner and police commissioner.

Attended English (Anglican) Church of St. Anne's located Second Avenue and Chatham Street.

Church was built of wood on cedar bunks. Large stained glass window in nave; had large pot-bellied stove; pulpit on raised dais; hand-pumped organ. Lighting at time was electric - earlier had been oil lamps. Recalls colourful Harvest Thanksgivings.

Minister - Reverend Donaldson.

Congregation

Not too many young people, had a Sunday School, local people from many of surrounding cottages. Came by train serving Lulu Island from Marpole. On dark evenings used a lantern - but often young people went to United church, Steveston.

Wood shed at back. Large barn on west side for Reverend Donaldson's horses.

Manse

7th & Georgia - very large. Reverend Donaldson used a phaeton to go to other church - St. Jeromes - between No. 4 & No. 5 Steveston. Later this church was closed and split up by Mr. Fentiman and others in 1926, carried up in wagons and rebuilt as St. Annes Church Hall.

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Other Churches

- Catholic Church, corner of Chatham & No. 1 Rd. (no longer there)
- Steveston United Church.

Rev. Donaldson

Stayed until 1914-1915.

Rev. D'Arcy - 1915 -

Heavy set man, straightforward and to the point.

No women's groups, no youth groups.

Sunday School was later held in church hall.

Upkeep of church

Communal effort - grass cutting, repairing of fence, painting, and re-shingling of roof.

Rev. Holmes - 1922 - 1930

Rev. Williams - 1930 - 1942

Had been missionary in China, spoke fluent Chinese - but no Orientals in congregation. (Names of some of congregation families).

1914 - War

Many men joined army.

Depression

Anglican Diocese system helped out poorer churches, collection plates down.

Description of Steveston

Roads - Blundell was grass - Steveston was planked.

Drainage system of Island described, floods described.

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Mr. Fentiman went to Alberta in the 30's, when he returned after 3 or 4 years he noticed some changes. Describes two fires in Steveston - 1911 and later in 1915 - 1916. First one started in Chinatown - next one Omee's Store.

St. Anne's Church - moved to 420 Francis Road (under Rev. Patrick).

M. NOBLE