

VICTORIA CITY ARCHIVES



City of Victoria
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C.
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(604) 385-5711, Local 372

Date: March 13, 1989
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Amelia Street Cluster

Research into the original ownership of the houses which are now numbered 1517, 1519 and 1521 Amelia Street and included in the "Amelia Street Cluster" on page 82 of "This Old House", has indicated that all three of these houses were built by Samuel Thomas Styles.

Earlier research by the Hallmark Society had linked the names of E.C. Bour with #1517 and Thomas Deasy with #1521, however, these names were likely taken from the City Directories of the time, as they do not appear in the Tax Assessment Rolls. S.T. Styles was a contractor who had a number of lots in the area and it would appear that he built these houses and rented them.

History of Property:

- 1862/63 Subdivision of Five Acres Number V. Bordered by Cormorant, Quadra, Pandora and Blanchard. Bisected by Farquhar and Amelia.
Owners: No Styles listed.
- 1863/64 Owners: Styles, George and Thomas. 1 lot on Amelia.
Admeasurement: 25 x 84. Property assessed at: \$250. No improvements.
- 1864 Owners: Styles, George and Thomas. 3 lots.
Admeasurement: 25 x 84. Property assessed at: \$200. } Improvements
" 80 x 45. " " " : \$300. } total: \$900.
" 30 x 80. " " " : \$250. } Tax: \$9.
- 1869 Owners: Styles, George. Amelia & Cormorant. Part of 5a.
Admeasurement: 80 x 84. Property assessed at: \$150. Improvements: \$800
Styles, Samuel T. Amelia & Cormorant.
Admeasurement: 25 x 84. Property assessed at: \$50. Improvements: \$150
Styles, Samuel T. Amelia and Farquhar.
Admeasurement: 50 x 70. Property assessed at: \$100. Improvements: \$100
- 1872/73 Owners: Styles, George. As above:
80 x 84. Property assessed at: \$150. Improvements: \$800
24 x 84. " " " : \$50. " \$150
- Note: There seems to have been some confusion over these lots, as Samuel's name is shown against the 80 x 84 one, but George's

"Of all national assets archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

THE CANADIAN ARCHIVES & ITS ACTIVITIES, ARTHUR G. DOUGHTY, 1924.

cont'd. /2

History of Property (cont'd.):

1872/73 (cont'd.) name was written in beside it.

Owners: Styles, Samuel T. As above:

50 x 70. Property assessed at;\$100.Improvements;\$200.

The Tax Assessment Rolls show a continued accumulation of property in this area by Samuel T. Styles, until in:the records for 1892 - 1905, he was listed as the owner for seven lots or parts of lots.

Note: Obituary for Samuel Thomas Styles:

PIONEER CONTRACTOR DIED THIS MORNING

S. T. Styles Was Formerly One
of Leading Contractors
in the City

Samuel Thomas Styles died at an early hour this morning at the family residence, 1519 Amelia street. He was one of the oldest pioneer residents of the city.

Mr. Styles was born in Eghan, England, 69 years ago and came to Victoria at about the age of 29. It was in the days of the sailing vessels and Mr. Styles often recounted tales of the stormy passage around the Horn. Shortly after his arrival he entered into partnership with the late John Kinsman and started one of the very first building and contracting firms in British Columbia. Mr. Styles undertook the construction of many of the oldest buildings in the province, among them the penitentiary at New Westminster, the naval buildings at Esquimalt and a number of others in Victoria.

While actively engaged in business he always took a great interest in civic affairs and was for a number of years an alderman in this city. After a very successful business career he retired twenty years ago.

The late Mr. Styles is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank Schl, of Victoria; three brothers, R. J. Styles, Victoria; J. H. Styles, of Oakland, Cal.; and William Styles, of London, Eng. His wife and one son were among those drowned some thirty-five years ago when the steamship Pacific went down. *

The funeral has been arranged to take place on Sunday at 2.45 o'clock from the house, and fifteen minutes later at the Reformed Episcopal church. The Rev. T. W. Gladstone will

*Nov. 4, 1875

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