

HARRY TRIM (1842 - 1922)

Harry Trim is known in Texada's history as the discoverer of the huge iron ore deposit in 1871.

A recent letter to our Historical Society from his great-grandson, Michael Trim, shines more light on the interesting life of this pioneer.

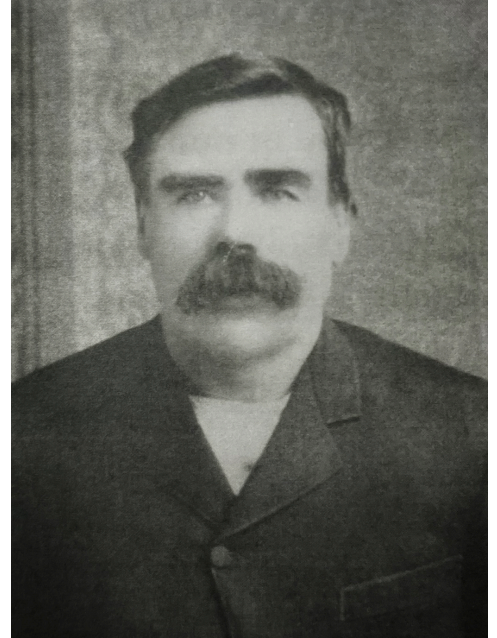
Harry (Henry) Trim was born to a farm family in England. At age 6 Harry's family immigrated to Perth, Ontario to take advantage of the promise of free land.

In 1862, lured by adventure and gold, 20-year old Harry hopped a steamer to Panama, crossed the isthmus and sailed to Victoria. From there Harry rowed himself over 200 miles to Boston Bar and the Fraser River goldfields!

After 6 years of successful prospecting his \$15,000 allowed him to finance future ventures which included whaling stations and, later, establishing a trading post at Gold Harbour (Haida Gwaii). He also worked as a pilot and captain for the "Indian Commission" for 4 years, commanding various steamers on the coast.

It was possibly during this time (1871) that Harry ventured near Texada and noted the rusty stain on the rocks at Welcome Bay which inspired him to take samples and stake a claim.

Two years later, while working at Sewell Moody's sawmill in Burrard Inlet, the Texada samples were finally assayed at Moody's office. Moody was amazed at the richness of the ore and the potential for profit. Moody, who was well-connected with politicians in Victoria, devised a scheme to sail with them to Texada to secretly claim the rest of the properties.



When the public discovered the scheme, BC's first Royal Commission was formed to investigate charges of political corruption.

Trim was cleared of wrongdoing and profited \$32,000 for his discovery but was cautioned by Commission Judge Matthew Begbie that, as a "trustworthy" fellow, he should not get mixed up with these schemers.

After 1873 Harry and his wife, Susan Quez, homesteaded on his Texada claim in a one-room cabin and tended their gardens.

Harry married twice more, giving up his seafaring life in 1881 to work on his farm on Westham Island (Delta) and, later, to raise Clydesdale horses at Walhachin (Ashcroft area).

As Trim's great-grandson states, he "squeezed a remarkable amount of life in the time allotted."

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society