

THE STROMBERGS

The Stromberg name appears frequently in Texada's history and lives today at Stromberg Falls, a spectacular seasonal cascade south of Davie Bay.

William Stromberg was born in Finland in 1867 and made his way by steamer via Cape Horn to San Francisco, then Vancouver, where he became foreman at the BC Sugar Refinery. In Vancouver he met an 18-year old Finnish girl, Emma Peterson. They married in 1898.

In 1900 the couple with one-year old daughter, Edith, relocated to Van Anda where William was employed by the Van Anda Copper and Gold Company. He earned his engineer's ticket and was put in charge of the powerhouse at the Cornell and Copper Queen mines. A company house provided for married employees (still standing and occupied today) was their first abode.

In 1915 daughter Edith and her brother, Bill, travelled to Powell River to write the 3-day High School entrance exams. They were the first Texada kids to qualify, enabling them to attend King George High School in Vancouver.

Young Edith was adventurous. Bessie Banham, a friend Edith met at the Powell River exams, remembered joining Edith and Ethel Raper in an 8-mile cross-island backpacking trek to Gillies Bay. The girls camped on the "unspoilt stretch of sandy beach" and marvelled as seals followed their rowboat.



Father William had prospected a bornite-rich karst area south of Davie Bay and registered several mineral claims there (naming them after his children). The Strombergs built a summer cabin on the beach where the creek meets the sea (today's "Secret Beach"). The family would row there from Gillies Bay at the start of each summer.

Edith (later married as Edith Pooch) became a prominent and respected participant in Texada affairs, helping to establish TICS in 1930. She organized and helped out with numerous church-based community activities over the years.

Mrs Pooch retired to her beloved Gillies Bay beachfront where she hosted tea parties in her charming gardens. In 1980 at age 81 Edith sold her property to the McLeods with the proviso that she could remain there for the rest of her life.

Edith died 22 years later in 2002 at the age of 103!

Next month the reader will hear of father William's harrowing rowboat expedition to Haida Gwaii in 1903.

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