



# Street Stories

## Taulbut Street

GPS: [49.145671,-122.305902](#)

“A keen little newsman” was how the Fraser Valley Record (August 24, 1949) described Anthony Taulbut.

But Tony Taulbut was much more than a newsman to Mission residents. Born on January 18, 1874 in Fareham, England, Taulbut joined the British Navy at 15 and served all over the world. After 19 years of service, he left the navy and came to Canada with his wife, Rose, and their children, Walter and Amy.



*Tony Taulbut with his wife Rozina seated in their study in 1949 - a room given up entirely to housing the many documents, photographs, and books collected for his yet uncompiled and authentic history of the district.*

*Fraser Valley Record fonds / Mission Community Archives*

The Taulbuts settled in Mission and in 1910 built a house on Stave Lake Road, then just a dirt track. In 1920, they bought a house on Second Avenue, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Taulbut tried his hand at several jobs including farmer, real estate agent, insurance broker, newsman, assistant fire marshall, justice of the peace, and building inspector. He helped form the Corporation of the Village of Mission in 1923 and was the first village clerk. He was also Mission’s municipal assessor and school board secretary for more than 25 years and helped establish our first public library in 1930. He is best known, however, as a local historian and museum curator.

Taulbut’s love of collecting artifacts and historical documents made his home Mission’s unofficial museum and archives for many years. His avid collecting and documenting provided the seeds from which our museum and archives have grown. He was especially intrigued by native relics and even had part of the canoe that carried Father Leon Fouquet up the Fraser River to establish the site of the Roman Catholic mission that gave the community its name. Another of Taulbut’s exciting artifacts was a fossilized dinosaur egg found in a gravel pit at Ruskin.

He began collecting long before he reached Canada. “Mrs Taulbut recalls with amusement that when they arrived in Mission...they were followed by 52 huge boxes of souvenirs and collectors’ items” (Fraser Valley Record, June 17, 1951). The Taulbuts were well-loved by Missionites of all ages.

Tony Taulbut died on August 18, 1949, after being struck by a bicycle. His death was felt by many, and Mission city commemorated him by naming a street in his honor. Taulbut Street runs from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, past the Leisure Centre and Centennial Park. Next time you drive down Taulbut Street, remember Taulbut’s love of life, people, and history.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on Taulbut, please call us at 604-820-2621.