



Street Stories

Rolley Lake Street

GPS: [49.2244964,-122.3936809](https://www.google.com/maps?q=49.2244964,-122.3936809)



Fannie and James Rolley settled north of Mission in an area known as Stave Falls.

Mission Community Archives 0125-002

James Rolley was born in Manchester about 1848. He immigrated to the New World sometime in the 1880s, coming to B.C. to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

His job involved taking the train from Port Moody to Banff, watering the steam engine from the water tanks along the route, and doing necessary repairs. Soon after he began this job, he met and married a young woman in New Westminster called Fannie Jones, who had come from Ontario on one of the first CPR passenger trains in 1885.

The couple obtained a homestead by the shores of the lake that now bears their name. The only access to this remote place in the northern end of Stave Falls was by way of trail, about 10 kilometers from the steamer landing at Whonnock. The Rolleys had to carry every- thing up to their homestead: building materials, furniture, food, a sewing machine, and a stove. Eventually they even led a cow to their home!

The house they built at the southeast end of the lake - somewhere between where the picnic tables and

the boardwalk are today - was quite handsome and appeared out of place among the virgin forest.

Here the Rolleys had a daughter, Ruth, in about 1891. Eventually they left their remote home when Ruth turned six because they wanted her to go to school. So they moved to Whonnock where their son, Fred, was born sometime after 1897.

Rolley then served several terms as a councillor for his ward in Maple Ridge. When he died in 1913, almost every family in the area attended the funeral.

Today the lake that bears his name is a provincial park. The street named after him does not lead directly to the lake because the northern portion of the old road has been allowed to revert back to forest.

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 the Rolley family, please call us at 604-820-2621.

by David Buss and Val Billesberger