

## Brown-John & Rumley photograph collection [graphic materials]

### COLLECTION NUMBER

VMM71

### DATE(S)

1937-1945

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

64 small b&w photographs.

### ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

There are two families involved with this collection of photographs: the Rumley and the Brown-John families. The Brown-John family became attached to the Rumley family by marriage when Doris Amelia Rumley married Clive George Brown-John.

The Rumley family originated in Ontario. Captain David Edward Rumley and his son Captain William Harold Rumley worked Great Lakes ships out of the port of Owen Sound, Ontario. In the 1920s, they both migrated to Lesser Slave Lake in Alberta and took skippering jobs. In the mid-1930s, they migrated further west to the British Columbia coast where David Rumley and his wife Emma Amelia established a boat-building and boat repair shop on the Secret Cove (or east) side of Turnagain Island. They apparently did not prosper.

William Rumley moved his family to Menzies Bay.

Clive Brown-John married William and Rachel Rumley's eldest daughter, Doris. Thereafter, and throughout the years before World War II, William Rumley, Clive Brown-John, and a friend named Johnny North (who died in World War II in Italy) scoured the coast with a small tug boat and barge scavenging for scrap metal.

After war broke out with Japan, William Rumley operated a small barge and tug servicing the repairs of cargo ships in Vancouver Harbour. Clive worked in shipyards in Vancouver. Their first son, Clive Lloyd Brown-John, was born in May 1940 and spent his first five years with his parents living aboard the *Mermaid*.

The *Mermaid* was a seized local Japanese-owned fishing boat from Steveston that Clive and Doris had purchased. Thereafter, they spent their spare time and vacations travelling the B.C. coast with an old bellows-type Kodak camera. Their wanderings took them to distant places including Hole in the Wall, Surge Narrows, Blind Channel and the Thurlow Islands, Quadra and Cortes Islands, and camping on Savary Island. Along the way they met numerous coastal inhabitants, including local small loggers Fred and Florence Benson with whom they stayed on several occasions in several different locations.

At war's end and shipyard cutbacks, Clive and Doris returned to a much earlier love, the Cariboo. William Rumley continued tug boat work in and around Vancouver and eventually became a boat captain with the Vancouver Tug Boat Company. In 1954, he attempted to recruit his grandson Lloyd Brown-John into the tug boat business by taking him on as a deckhand on his tug VT *LaVerne*. Lloyd chose instead to move east, where he retired from the University of Windsor (Political Science) and founded ElderCollege, which operates under the auspices of Canterbury College at the University of Windsor. He has received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for that project, as well as the Canada Year of the Volunteer medal. He still dreams of the British Columbia coast.

William Rumley passed away after his retirement at his home overlooking Vancouver Harbour's North Arm.

### SCOPE & CONTENT

Historical photographs related to the British Columbia coast, taken by Brown-John's family in their maritime travels.

### ARRANGEMENT

Collection has been arranged by donor. All titles supplied by donor.

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## Collection Contents

### Brown-John & Rumley photograph collection (64 records)

- Dock at Chemainus, Vancouver Island
- Florence Benson in front of their float house
- Florence and Fred Benson's floating house, Granite Bay.
- Florence and Fred Benson's float house, Granite Bay
- Benson's Tug Boat with boom in tow, Johnstone Strait
- Granite Bay, Union Steamship departing
- Seine Boat, Sunderland Channel

[Seymour Narrows]  
Seymour Narrows  
Seymour Narrows, looking south  
Fred Benson's logging camp, Deepwater Bay, Quadra Island  
Fred Benson's boat *Elin* in for repairs  
Welcome Pass, between North Thormanby Island and Sechelt  
Secret Cove, entering  
Exiting Secret Cove  
Oyster Bay, Vancouver Island  
Quinsome River (Campbell River)  
Ship loading lumber, Chemainus.  
Dock, Chemainus  
Dock, Campbell River  
Clay Anderson's Logging Camp leaving Granite Bay, Loading Donkey Engine  
Clay Anderson's Logging Camp floating out of Granite Bay  
Clay Anderson's logging camp moving out of Granite Bay  
Clay Anderson's logging trucks on a barge, Granite Bay  
Seaplane at dock, Granite Bay  
Ship loading lumber, Menzies Bay  
Entering Port Neville, B.C.  
Store, Port Neville, B.C.  
Salvaging old rails and logging railway stock, Port Neville  
Scow *Amigo* salvaging scrap iron, Port Neville  
Port Neville, B.C.  
Scene, Union Steamship *Lady Alexandra*, Canadian White Pine Company picnic, Bowen Island.  
Sunderland Channel, Hardwicke Island  
Port Alberni  
Union Steamship, *Lady Alexandra*  
Fred and Harry Benson, coastal loggers.  
Lloyd Brown-John rowing in front of Fred Benson's boom, Deepwater Bay, Quadra Island.  
Lumberman's Arch, Lions Gate Bridge under construction  
Vancouver Harbour from Wall Street (east Vancouver), looking north.  
Forest Fires on Vancouver Island  
CPR Pier D Fire  
En route to Secret Cove and Half Moon Bay (Sunshine Coast)  
En route to Secret Cove and Half Moon Bay  
Port Neville, Johnson Strait  
Granite Falls, North Arm, Burrard Inlet.  
Desolation Sound, Louis Channel  
Louis Channel, between Cortes Island North and West Redonda Island  
Looking up Fredericks Arm, Sonoro Island  
Vancouver Harbour, View of North Vancouver, Lonsdale Ave.  
Hemming Bay, East Thurlow Island  
Log Dump, Half Moon Bay, Sechelt  
Kanish Bay, Quadra Island, Fred Benson's logging camp, near Granite Bay  
Dave and Amelia Rumley boat-building business  
Topaz Harbour  
Topaz Harbour, near Hardwicke Island  
Brown-Johns' *Mermaid*  
*Mermaid*, Secret Cove.  
Bessborough Bay, northeast of Hardwicke Island  
[Desolation Sound]  
Fred Benson House & Logging Camp, Hemming Bay, East Thurlow Island  
Fred and son Harry Benson, Dock, Hemming Bay, East Thurlow Island  
Kelsey Bay General Store & Telegraph  
Kelsey Bay, fish inspector and his boat  
Kelsey Bay, Salmon River near Saywell (Johnstone Strait)

