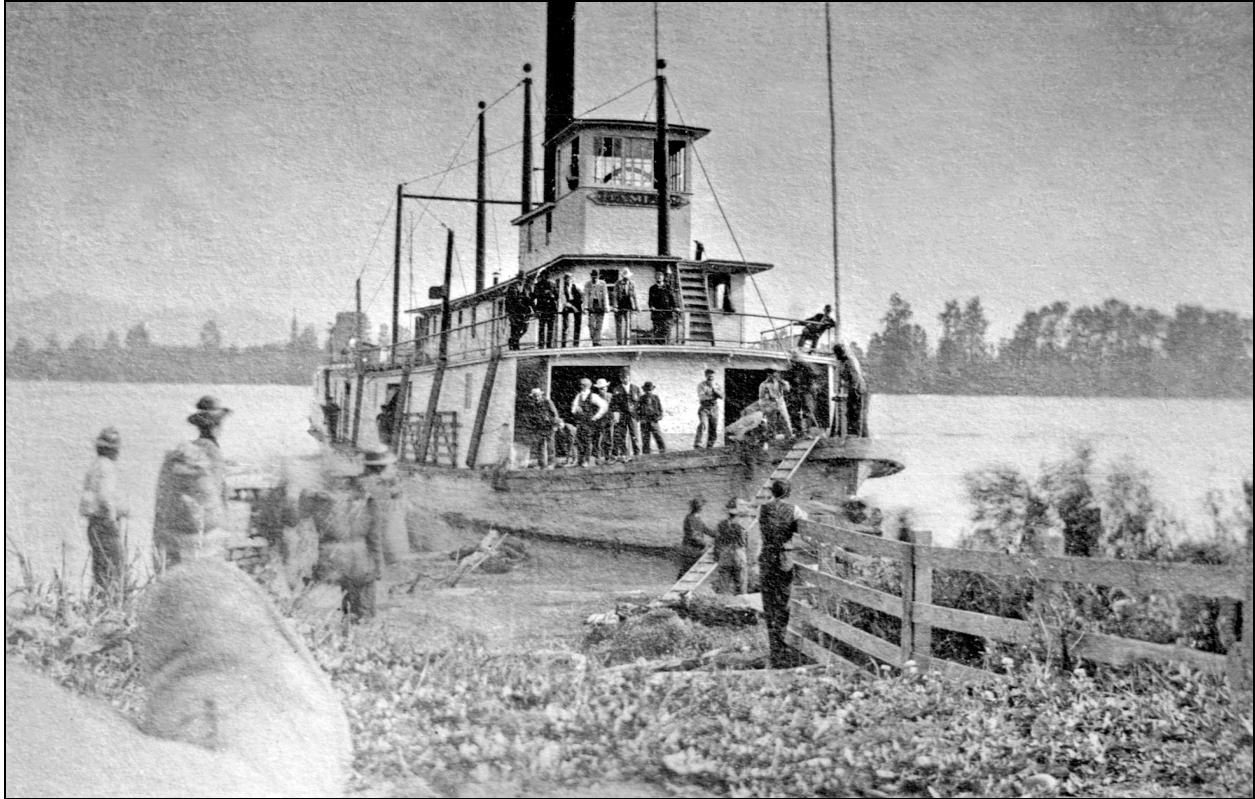


**Stories from the Archives —
A Brief History of the 'S.S. Hamlin' on Indian Arm**

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The wooden sternwheel steamer 'S.S. Hamlin' was built at False Creek, Vancouver, in 1898 by Thomas J. Bulger, was 146.2 feet long and 30.8 feet wide, with a draft of 4.5 feet. ⁽¹⁾ She was launched on April 21st, 1898, ⁽²⁾ and was named for Charles Sumner Hamlin (1861–1938), the U.S. delegate to the 1897 'Anglo–American Fur Seal Convention'. ⁽¹⁾ In 1898–1903, the vessel was owned by the 'Canadian Pacific Railway Co.' and was one of three C.P.R. sternwheelers put into service on the Skeena and Stikine Rivers during the 'Klondike Gold Rush'. ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾



Mission Community Archives (MCA-GPC021-006).

**Sternwheeler 'Hamlin' at 'Hatzic Landing' on the Fraser River, *circa* 1903 —
the wooden freight and passenger vessel was built at False Creek in 1898 by
Thomas J. Bulger, and was 146.2 feet long, 30.8 feet wide, with a draft of 4.5 feet. ⁽¹⁾**

In 1903, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was purchased by Captain John Bonser, ⁽⁴⁾ H.M. Callum and Captain Reedor. ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ The sternwheeler was taken to Victoria for a refit and was to return to service on the Skeena and Stikine Rivers. ⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾ Instead, her owners took a contract to raise the steamer 'S.S. Ramona' which had sunk at Sumas on the Fraser River. ⁽⁹⁾⁽¹⁰⁾

In June 1903, the sternwheeler 'S.S. Hamlin' was placed on the Vancouver to Chilliwack run on the Fraser River. ⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾⁽¹³⁾ However, due to pre-existing competition from other steamers hauling freight between New Westminster and Chilliwack, the steamer 'Hamlin' was denied wharfage at New Westminster. ⁽¹⁴⁾⁽¹⁵⁾ As a consequence, wharfage facilities for the 'S.S. Hamlin' in connection with the Vancouver–Chilliwack ferry service were granted at Vancouver's Gore Avenue slip. ⁽¹⁶⁾



British Columbia Archives (BCA B-06092).

Sternwheeler 'S.S. Hamlin' at dock in 'New Westminster', circa 1910.

Throughout June and July in 1903, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was engaged in the excursion trade on Burrard Inlet, primarily taking large picnic groups to 'Judge Bole's Ranch' (today's 'Belcarra' picnic grounds) and other popular destination sites on the North Arm (Indian Arm) such as 'Indian River' and 'Granite Falls'. ⁽¹⁷⁾⁽¹⁸⁾⁽¹⁹⁾⁽²⁰⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²²⁾⁽²³⁾⁽²⁴⁾

On July 21st, 1903, the sternwheeler 'S.S. Hamlin' made her first trip on the Vancouver–Chilliwack run. ⁽²⁵⁾ Temporary arrangements were made with the C.P.R. for passengers at the steamer dock in New Westminster, but not for freight. ⁽²⁶⁾ There were allegations of a freight war ⁽²⁷⁾ between the competing companies, but by the end of August 1903 both companies were competitively operating on the Fraser River run. ⁽²⁸⁾

In December 1903, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was seized by the Sheriff due to alleged wages owed to the crew ⁽²⁹⁾ and, as a result, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was sold in February 1904. ⁽³⁰⁾

In 1910, the steamer 'S.S. Hamlin' was fitted with oil burning apparatus. ⁽³¹⁾

In 1911, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was the first steamer in 15 years to reach the town of 'Hope'. ⁽³²⁾⁽³³⁾

In 1918, the 'S.S. Hamlin' was reported as lost in the Fraser River. ⁽¹⁾

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