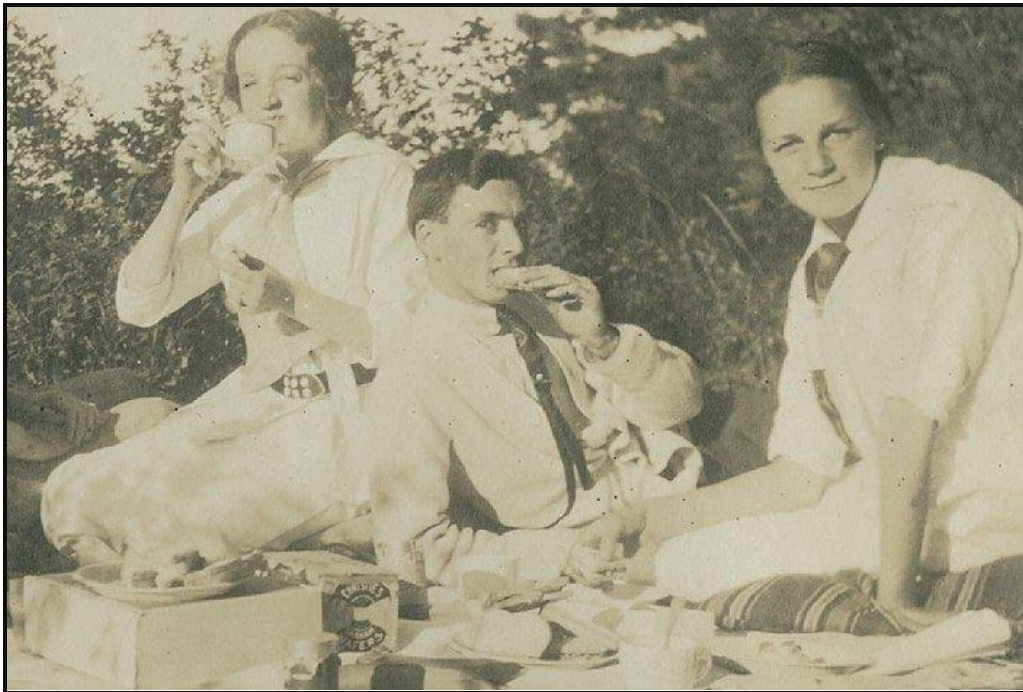


Saanich Archives

Newsletter | Autumn 2022



[New Photo Exhibit - Sports and Recreation in Saanich Archives](#)

Saanich Archives is happy to announce our latest online photo exhibit *Sports and Recreation in the Archives*. Celebrate just some of the activities that residents of Saanich, both past and present, have been able to enjoy, such as fishing, swimming, and picnics. Even as we move into the cooler weather of fall and winter, we can always look forward to the warmer weather getting us back outside to play!

Sports and Recreation in the Archives can be viewed on our website [here](#) along with all of our previous online exhibits.



[New to the Archives: Lawrence Lindberg Collection](#)

Showcasing memories from the Gorge and other parts of Greater Victoria, this new collection spans from the 1940s into the 1960s. From May 24th celebrations to pictures of the Gorge regatta, enjoy one of the latest additions to our online photo search site. And while you're there, feel free to explore the rest of our vast collection and see what else you might discover today!

Special Myths and Legends Edition

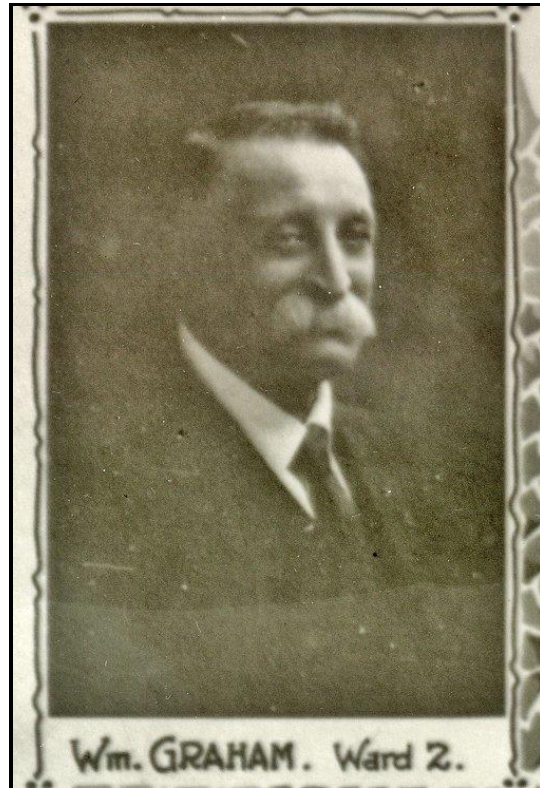


Cadborosaurus

The evidence for Cadborosaurus, or Caddy for short, comes mostly from eyewitness descriptions. Caddy is usually described as a large sea-serpent, dozens of feet long, with an immense dark body, a long neck, and a head like an eel. The first recorded account of an unidentified sea-serpent around Vancouver Island was by Frank Stannard, who in 1881 at the age of 12, saw “a monster of unknown habits” while canoeing off William Head.

Sightings of an unidentified sea-serpent occurred along the coast of Vancouver Island, Washington State, and as far north as Haida Gwaii, but it was not given a name until October 1933 when the Victoria Daily Times published a story of two yachtsmen who described seeing a giant reptile-like creature near Chatham Island. After this story was published on October 5th, others came forward claiming similar sightings in Cadboro Bay. On October 11th, the Times reported that the name Cadborosaurus was chosen in honor of the place where the creature was most frequently sighted.

While many provided hand-drawn sketches of what they saw, and sightings continued up to the 21st century, no concrete proof of the sea-serpent has ever been produced.



Councilor Graham's Haunted House

Long before William Graham was elected to Saanich Council in 1925, he and his wife Agnes (nee Mitchell), spent the spring of 1886 terrorized by ghosts, or so claimed Councilor Graham in a 1924 newspaper interview. According to Graham, he and his wife began to hear strange knocking at all times of day in the house they were renting near Swan Lake. At one point the knocking under the floorboards was so hard that it shook the dishes on the table and nearly caused the stove to fall over. The morning after this particularly frightening episode, Graham climbed under the house to see if he could find evidence of a natural cause for the knocking but found no trace of anything having been there; "not even the dust being disturbed." He later invited 3 men to the house who stayed up until midnight with him, but they could not uncover the source of the knocking either. Mr. and Mrs. Graham moved to a new home as soon as possible, and the source of the

mysterious knocking was never found. The house later burned down so this spooky mystery remains unsolved.

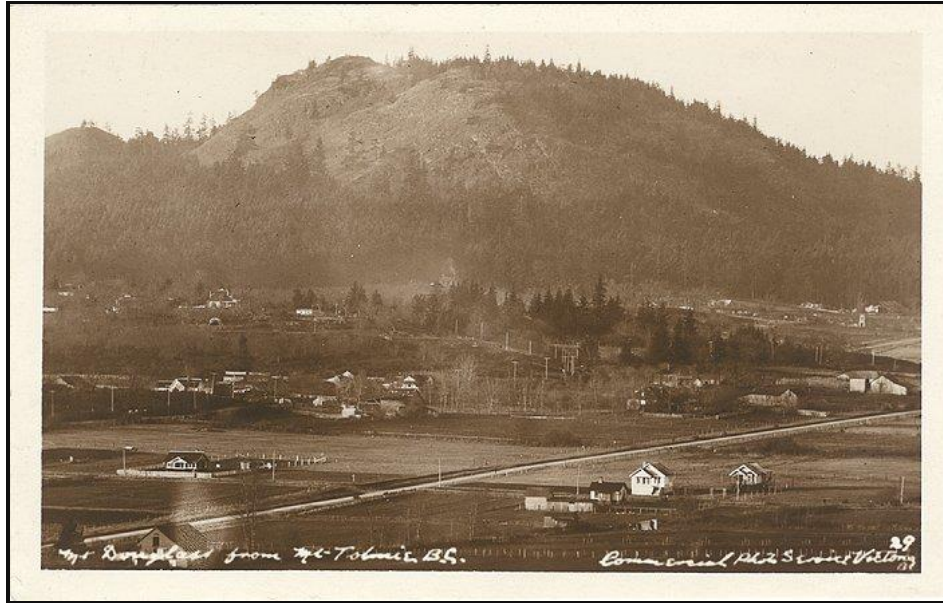


Mystic Spring

The story of Mystic Spring probably originated with newspaperman David Higgins in the 1890s. The story goes that in 1860, he was picnicking in Cadboro Bay when he noticed a stream filling a pool by a large maple tree. He told the girls he was with that if they gazed into the pool, they would see their future husbands. Apparently, no one saw their future husband, but one girl became terribly upset by what she did see. And so began the legend of the magical waters of Mystic Spring. In 1868, 18-year-old Julia Booth, jumped into the sea and drowned very near the pool. Perhaps to justify such a tragic incident, a story was circulated that she must have seen something terrible in the pool, and so the legend continued. Other versions of the legend stipulated that the pond would only show visitors the face of the person who loved them under a full moon. This apparently led many young people to make the journey to Cadboro Bay on summer evenings in the hopes of seeing the face of their future husband or wife. One such account tells of a young woman named Annie who fainted after gazing into the pond. She said afterward that she saw the image of an evil-looking monster.

The legend of Mystic Spring also included the warning that the maple tree which grew next to the spring was its guardian spirit, and if the tree were ever cut down, the spring would disappear. Apparently in 1888, the large maple tree that marked the location of the spring was cut down, and some

claimed that within a few days the spring had dried up as the legend foretold. While the magic of the spring seems to have disappeared, the legend has persisted.



The Lost Gold Mine of Mount Douglas

On September 2nd, 1870, the [British Colonist](#) reported that Peter Cargotitch and A.W. Piper had discovered **gold** while grouse shooting on Mount Douglas, and with the help of a few friends, the pair had returned to town hauling several pounds of rock. The Colonist reported that “some of the specimens show the gold plainly.” In total, they had unearthed 81 grains of “average” gold. Following this news, many other prospectors staked claims of their own, but no more gold was ever found. By September 20th, although hopes remained high for another gold discovery, much of the miners’ attention had turned to the possible presence of silver. The Independent Quartz Mining Company of Mount Douglas kept trying well into 1871, but the promise of a gold rush never came to pass. Copper and zinc were also mined on Mount Douglas into the early 1900s, but eventually the mine shafts were abandoned and the hopes for a “mountain of gold” were forgotten.



Shelbourne Vortex

Multiple reports exist of a time warp or vortex along Shelbourne Street. According to stories, drivers suddenly discover that the landscape has changed to rural countryside; they find that they are surrounded by fields and are travelling on an unpaved country road. Many, though not all, of these occurrences have taken place on Sundays in October between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 am near Pear Avenue, to drivers who are the sole occupants of the vehicle. While this story is often shared and repeated online, its origins remain a mystery.

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