

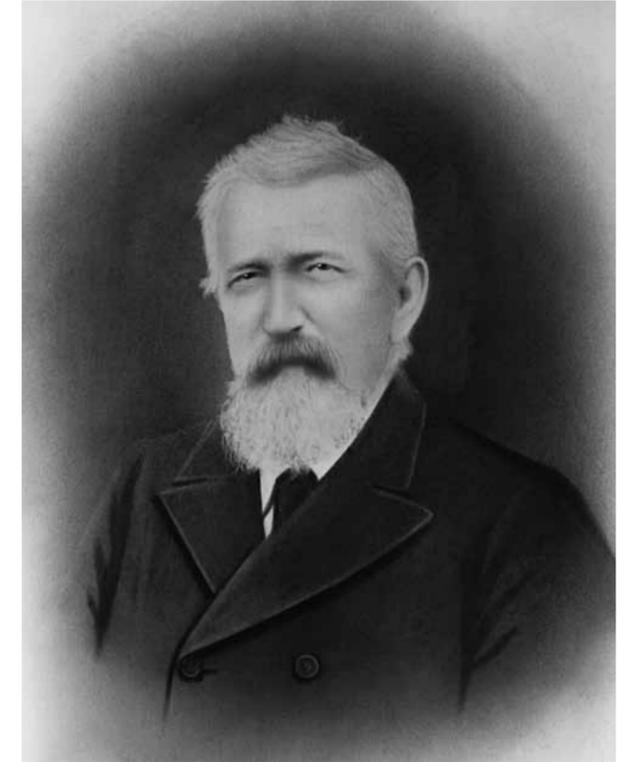


This view of Port Haney was taken from the Fraser River looking up Ontario Street (now 224th Street). The steamer is tied up at the wharf in front of the Charlton General Store. At the extreme left is the Carter Store and directly behind it is the Municipal Hall. At the right rear is Haney House. At the extreme right are the Temple F. Sinclair Ice Works.

Thomas and Ann Haney

THOMAS HANEY, the man for whom Port Haney was named, came out to British Columbia in 1876 with his father-in-law Daniel Callaghan and brothers-in-law Daniel Jr. and Jerry, to seek a new life in the west. The first eight years of Thomas Haney's life had been spent in Northern Cape Breton Island. He was the eldest of seven children born to Bridget and Dennis Haney. When tragedy struck in 1849 and Thomas's father was drowned, the family moved onto a farm near Paris, Ontario.

When Tom was 14 or 15 years of age, he quit school to learn the trade of brick making so he could contribute to the family income. Sometime later his brothers also got into the brick making trade, and by 1871 the brothers had established a brickyard in Paris. In 1873 Thomas Haney married Ann Callaghan at the Sacred Heart Church in Paris. The year 1875 brought both sorrow and joy to the young couple. In February Ann's mother died. A few months later Ann and Tom's first child, Mary Florence, was born. The death of Mary Callaghan created a void in the lives of her husband and sons, and lured by the news of great opportunities in the gold fields of

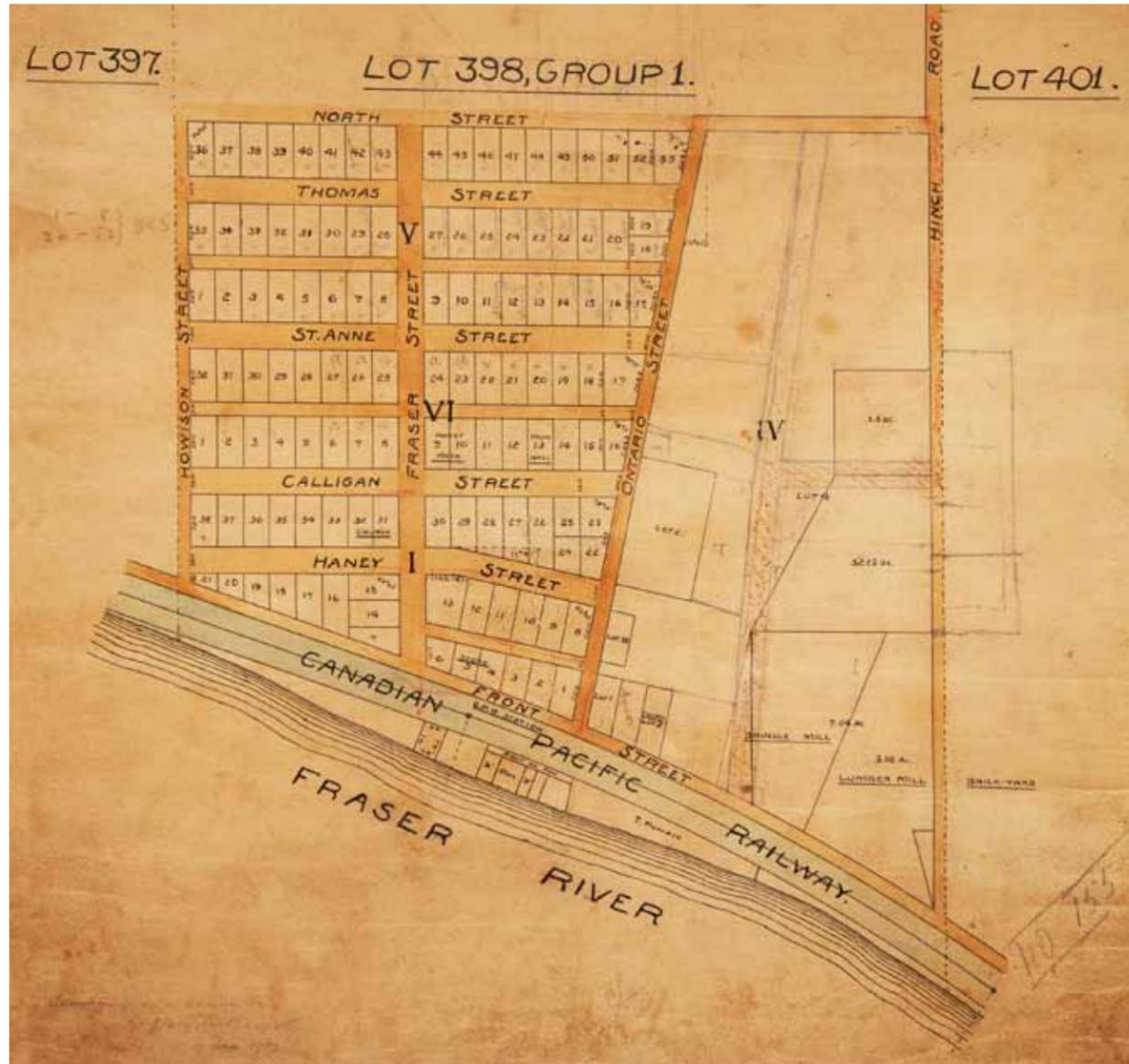


Haney's founders Ann and Thomas Haney.

California, they decided to pull up stakes and go west. It was decided that Daniel Callaghan with sons Daniel and Jerry, together with Thomas Haney, would take the train to California to seek a better life in the frontier. Ann and the baby would come out later under the protection of her brother John.

Thus in 1876 the men left by train from Paris, travelling by Union Pacific to California. They discovered that they were much too late to benefit from the California gold rush. They worked for a short time in Sacramento before taking a boat north to eventually reach New Westminster.

They took a river steamer up the Fraser River to scout out locations to establish homesteads. Thomas found good deposits of clay on the north side of the river opposite the first Fort Langley. He purchased the James Wickwire estate for \$1000, while the Callaghan family purchased land from the huge Emmeline Mohun property in Port Hammond. Thomas then sent for his wife and daughter. They travelled to San Francisco, then to New Westminster by boat, and then completed the final portion of their journey up the Fraser River on John Irving's steamer *Reliance*. At first the family lived in the abandoned manse of the St. John the Divine Anglican Church at



Thomas Haney's map subdividing his property. The map clearly shows the boundaries of his property for Lot 398, Group 1 – Howison Street to the west, Front Street to the south and river, Hinch Road to the east, and North Street to the north.

Derby. Mrs. Haney was shocked to discover that pranksters had left a human skull on the pulpit. Ann and Tom decided to build the family home on the brow of a hill that overlooked the river. Daniel Callaghan Jr. and Samuel Edge built the home in 1877 with the final moving-in taking place in late 1877 or early 1878. Tom would row across the river each day to help them with the work. The lumber for the home came from New Westminster since there were no saw mills in the district.

As the homestead land was cleared, the trees were hauled to the riverbank where they were cut up into cordwood for sale to the

steamers that plied up and down the river from New Westminster to Chilliwack and sometimes as far as Yale. The area came to be known as Haney's Landing.

Thomas soon began to take an active interest in civic affairs and in 1877 was elected as a councillor for the District of Maple Ridge. He also acted as the district's assessor.

Ann and Tom were well known for their generosity and hospitality, and since they were staunch Roman Catholics they always looked forward to a visit from a priest from St. Mary's Mission, some 15 miles upriver. The priest from the Mission usually arrived on a Saturday, returning the following Monday. A room in the Haney home was set aside for this honoured visitor and was referred to as the "Priest's Room." One event of the early years that Ann Haney well remembered occurred early in February 1880. Shortly after two o'clock in the afternoon the Haney family was startled by a rumbling sound that seemed to come from the river. They rushed outside and were horrified to see a

large part of the south bank of the W. Justus Howison 160-acre farm slide into the Fraser River. The slide was so large that it temporarily blocked the flow of the river causing a backwash that flooded any low-lying land both up and down stream. William Edge was clearing land on the Langley side of the river and was struck by some debris and died from his injuries.

At the time of the Haney Slide, the *Victoria Daily Colonist* reported: "The rush of land into the river caused the water to rise nearly twenty feet to the top of the Howison wharf, on the north side of the river and, also high at the brick yard of Mr. Haney, a little above on the same side...."

While working at clearing his land, Thomas fulfilled his dream and established a brickyard. He operated his brickyard business, the first in Port Haney, for eleven years. The site was on the north side of River Road just below their home, which was an ideal location to get his bricks to market by the paddle-wheelers plying up and down the river. Many of the chimneys in Port Haney

This view of Port Haney was taken before 1910. The large white building in the left foreground is the Raymond L. Carter General Store. The white house with the four large windows is the Robert Henry Beckett residence. The first St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, with two visible windows, is on the hill behind the CPR waiting room.



were made from brick from Thomas's brickyard. Initially he hired only a few employees but after the completion of the CPR he took on a number of Chinese. They lived in shacks on the brickyard property and worked at digging the clay and moving the finished bricks to the wharf. Cordwood was used to fire the kilns in the brick-making process.

By the early 1880s many western settlements were speculating that the CPR line might go through their properties. Thomas hoped that the route would follow the Fraser River despite the fact that the stability of the riverbank was questionable due to the recent landslide. Apparently an all-night debate took place at Haney House to make a final decision of just which route the rail line would follow, and in the end everyone agreed that the track would follow, along the Fraser River throughout the district of Maple Ridge. Andrew Onderdonk, the master contractor for the Pacific section of the railway, was present at the meeting, as were various engineers and railway officials. Included in the group was Michael J. Haney (no relation to Thomas), who was the construction foreman for much of the BC section of the CPR.

This was a very exciting time for the Haney family, for they could watch the preparation of the right-of-way for the laying of steel from their front porch. For a time Thomas worked as a construction foreman as the railway was built through the district. One day while work was in progress along the line a chimney fire occurred at Haney House but was quickly put out by railroad workers, resulting in very little damage. Stories were told of the time when a CPR paymaster stayed overnight at Haney House on his way up the line. He slept in a bedroom upstairs, locking the door and sleeping with a loaded shotgun by his side. It was reported that when one of the first passenger trains came through, Ann Haney was invited to ride as far as Port Hammond. She opted to decline the kind offer.

The early 1880s saw many changes as more and more settlers arrived in the district. Thomas Haney surveyed

and subdivided part of his property near the river. Some of the street names were chosen for his townsite because of an association with the Haney family. Ontario Street ran north from the river past Haney House; other streets were St. Anne Street, Thomas Street, Haney Street, and Callighan Street. This last street name was meant to be Callaghan Street but the error was never corrected.

In many ways the Fraser River was beginning to lose its importance as a means of travel. That change became more definite with the completion of the railway in 1885, even though the river steamers continued regular schedules for a number of years.

When planning the townsite Thomas decided that a Roman Catholic church should be built on his property. He donated the land for the building that was constructed by volunteer labourers and with material paid for by donation. Ann Haney recorded all donations both small and large in a little black book. Among those who contributed were Andrew Onderdonk, Michael J. Haney, and some of the labourers involved in the building of the CPR. The men built the church on a small knoll just southeast of the Haney home. The missionaries gave Thomas the privilege of naming the little church and he choose to honour St. Patrick, who was the patron saint of both Ann's and his own ancestors. The church was dedicated in 1883 and served the growing community until 1926.

Thomas Haney was generous toward other community projects and donated land for the first municipal hall, which was built on Callighan Street. He also provided the land for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. In addition he set aside an area for community recreation.

With the coming of the railway a small community sprang up near the wharf and the CPR train station, with newcomers establishing several stores on Front Street between Fraser and Ontario Streets. No doubt Thomas Haney felt great pride as he watched each step of progress in the town that he had founded.

The passing years saw an increase in the Haney family. J.



Frank was born in 1877, Daniel T. in 1879, Ann Beatrice, nicknamed 'Birdie' in 1881, Elizabeth or 'Lizzie' in 1883, and M. Maud in 1886. Just after Maud's birth, Mary, the eldest daughter, became seriously ill with diphtheria. Although the family made every effort to save her, she died in 1886. Since there was no Roman Catholic cemetery in Port Haney, Mary's pallbearers loaded the white coffin into a canoe and paddled upriver to St. Mary's Mission and there carried the coffin up the hill to the Order of Mary's Immaculate Cemetery on the mission grounds. It was a difficult time for the couple and their young family.

After a few years Thomas sold the brickyard business to establish a livery stable on Haney Street. He also involved himself in other pursuits and on one occasion purchased a hotel on Ontario Street with his brother-in-law Daniel Callaghan. Unfortunately, this enterprise came to a sudden end when Daniel, acting as bartender, sold a bottle of gin to a minor. They learned too late that they had been set up. The Women's Christian Temperance Union had sent in the youth to purchase the liquor.

The Haney family poses in front of their home, 1902. Built in 1876-77, Haney House has been designated a heritage building. Left to right: Daniel, Birdie, Lizzie, Maud, parents Ann and Thomas.



Haney House, 2008.

By 1895 changes were taking place in the family unit. Sons Frank and Daniel had both completed school. Frank took a course in telegraphy and soon started work as an operator, first in Nanaimo, and then later in Laggan (Lake Louise). Birdie completed her schooling and planned to become a teacher. Lizzie and Maud still attended Lillooet School, which was located at the corner of Dewdney Trunk Road and Lillooet (later 14th Avenue and still later 232nd Street). As the new century began it became apparent that the town of Port Haney would continue to grow. The business district on Front Street began to expand up the hill on Ontario Street. Thomas, along with his son Daniel, decided to turn their attention to another project. In the early years Port Haney residents often obtained water from wells, but this source was often unreliable as warm weather or a lack of snow in the winter lowered the water table. Thomas located springs

on his property on the hillside near the slide of 1880 and with his son's help set up a water system supplying clients with wooden pipes. Members of the Haney family maintained that system until 1941.

In 1909 Thomas attended a family reunion held at the home of his brother in Princeton, Ontario. He crossed the continent by rail and was able to see first-hand the engineering feats of the CPR officials in getting through the Fraser Canyon, the Selkirk and Rocky Mountains. At Revelstoke Thomas was able to have a brief meeting with son Frank, who was by then a train dispatcher. Also, his daughter Lizzie had been employed for a short time at Glacier House, the tourist hotel built by the CPR in the Selkirk Mountains.

Daughter Maud married Alex Morrison, the son of an ex-HBC employee at Fort Langley, and settled down on a farm adjacent to the Callaghan Ranch. It was during this period that Birdie became ill with tuberculosis. Her doctor recommended that she be treated at the sanatorium at Tranquille, near Kamloops, because of the dryer climate. When her condition failed to improve there, she returned home. The upper porch that opened from Birdie's bedroom was screened in to provide a sleeping area when weather permitted, but although her family made every effort to prolong her life, Birdie died in 1912.

By now Thomas was in his seventies and was himself beginning to slow down. He died in 1916. Most of the community gathered to honour the town's founder. Businesses and schools closed, and the church was so crowded that many mourners had to stand outside during the service. Thomas was buried in Maple Ridge cemetery beside his daughter Birdie. His grave marker reads: "A man of vision, kindness and generosity." Ann Haney continued to live in the family home with her daughter Lizzie. When the daughter married James Hawley in 1917, Ann lived alone in the house on the hill. Lizzie and Jim decided to make their home with her for her final years. Ann Haney passed away in 1931 at the age of 84. Daniel Haney's tragic death in 1927 was a heavy blow to Ann and all the family. He had taken a steamer into New Westminster to get a shotgun fixed so he could enjoy a few days pheasant hunting with his brother Frank. His lifeless body was found under a dock in New Westminster. The official cause of death was listed as drowning, but many members of the family were convinced that foul play was involved. With Dan's passing, the water works was taken over by Colin Genge, his brother-in-law. Genge was married to Maud Haney.

Alcohol and Worms

Tom Haney's namesake grandson Thomas John J. Haney had a story about his jokester grandfather:

A minister came into town and wanted to go around and preach to the people of Pitt Meadows about the evils of alcohol. He gave a demonstration and put a worm in a bottle of whiskey and of course the worm died. Tom spoke up and caused a bit of a commotion by saying, "I've got worms!"

Following Pages

Dockstader's General Store and Post Office, circa 1895.

The Dockstader General Store and Post Office was located on the wharf where the riverboat traffic tied up during the years of steamer transportation on the Fraser River. This image was taken from the wharf toward the northeast and clearly shows the Roman Catholic church in the middle right.

The man in the carriage is storeowner Arthur Dockstader, the man in the doorway with the white shirt and vest is Mr. Baltham, and the man seated on the horse is Tom Marshall.

On the wall immediately behind Dockstader's head is a circular advertisement for "Burdock Blood Bitters." A 1914 report of the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station reported: "This 'safe' remedy contains over 19 % of alcohol, with only 4.85 % of solids (nearly half of which is sugar), and alkaloids possibly derived from hydrastis. The amount of vegetable extractives is small, certainly not enough to give the results claimed. From the composition reported and also from the name of the stuff, it would appear to be one of the nostrums of the old 'blood purifier' type. Such products, as you know, are useless, as they do not purify the blood."

