BEAVER

AREA OF SERVICE: LONDON-COLUMBIA (1835-1836) COLUMBIA DEPT. (coasting trade) (1836-1858) VICTORIA-FORT LANGLEY (1859-1860)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:
Described as schooner rigged (A.7/1, p. 101) or brigantine rigged

Construction: Paddle wheel (side) steamer; 2 masts, 1 funnel
Designer and builder: 1834-1835 by Green, Wigrams & Green, Blackwall Yards
Dimensions: 100' 9" long, 20' wide, 11' deep
Draft: 8 1/2' when loaded
Number of passengers: Number of crew: 13 (1835)
Plans: Plan of seacock for hand pump. 1853 (A.11/94, fo. 177); [Drawing of Pistons…] (G.1/185)
Power: 2-35HP Engines by Boulton, Wall & Co. (Boulton, Wall & Co. Collection, City of Birmingham, Public Libraries Dept., Reference Lit., Birmingham BC 3HP)
Speed: 9 3/4 mi. per hr. (30 mi. per day)
Tonnage: 187 T. (builders measure); 109 12/94 T (old tonnage)

HISTORY:
1835, 2 May Launched, built for NW coastal commerce
1835, 29 August Left Gravesend with Columbia under sail (SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER'; A.6/23, p. 238)
1836, 10 April Arrived at Fort Vancouver (SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER')
1851, November Seized by U.S. Government in Oregon for alleged Breaches of Revenue Laws (A.8/7)
1853 Relegated to transporting general freight and passengers between B.C. outposts
1857 Her engines were in very bad state and were thoroughly overhauled (SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER', History p.11)
1858-1860 Ran from Victoria to Fraser River during the gold rush
1860-1862 Laid up, Victoria Harbour (B.226/b/20, p. 163)
1863-1870 Chartered by H.M. Government to survey coast (C.7/15)
1870-1874 Laid up in Victoria Harbour (B.226/b/45)
1874, August Sold for $15, 700 to John Stafford and Capt. George Rudlin as towboat and tramp freighter (SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER' History p. 11)
1888, 26 July Ran ashore at entrance to Vancouver Harbour on Prospect Point
1892, 26 June Wake from Yosemite washed over hulk and it disintegrated

MASTERS:
1835-1837 David Home, Captain B.239/k/2, p. 139, 163
1842-1843 William Brotchie, Master B.239/k/2 p. 258, 281
1843-1844 Alexander Duncan SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER'; B.239/k/2 p. 333
1844-1845 Charles Humphreys SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER'; B.239/k/2 p. 362
[W.H. McNeill appointed] B.239/k/2, p. 333
1845-1851 Charles Dodd, Master B.239/k/2, p. 362, 392, 413, 439, 465, 488
1851-1852 Charles E. Stuart [Stewart], Master B.239/k/3, p. 15
1852-1856 Charles Dodd, Chief Trader, Master SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER'; B.239/k/3, p. 40, 60, 84
1856-1858 John Swanson SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER', History p. 12
1859-1860 Herbert Lewis SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER', History p. 12

BIBLIOGRAPHY: ... see bibliography in SF: 'Ships-BEAVER'

PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART: 1873/187-21 and others; Watercolour, 1858 by A.G. Dallas (E.36/4 fo. 6); H.P. Eldridge, 1915 (BCARS)

REFERENCES:

C.1/207-210 Ships Logs 1847-1860 (2M1-2M2)
E.109 Ships Logs 1861-1870 (4M44-4M45)
C.7/14-17 Books, papers 1834-1872 (2M135-2M136, 2M140)
Provision and Stores Book 1839-1840 (in Oregon Historical Society)
B.201/z/1 Crew List 1836
Search File: 'Ships-BEAVER' includes 15 pp. history

MICROFILM REELS:

C1/207-210
E.109
C.7/14-17
B.201/z/1

Filename: Beaver JHB 1989/03 (Revised DA 1991/05; JHB:kgm August 1998); mhd/April/99; th 05/00