

**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
1837-1842	William H. McNeill	SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER' History p. 11; B.239/k/2, p. 186, 207, 229, 258
1842-1843	William Brothie, 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 [W.H. McNeill appointed]	SF: 'SHIPS-BEAVER'; B.239/k/2 p. 362 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	J.L. Sinclair	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:** 1987/363-B-21 and others; Watercolour, 1858 by A.G. Dallas (E.36/4 fo. 6); H.P. Eldridge, 1915 (BCARS)

**REFERENCES:**

Log 1835 (published in E.W. Wright, *Marine History of the Pacific Northwest*, NY: Antiquarian Press, 1961 pp. 15-17)

C.1/207-210	Ships Logs	1847-1860
E.109	Ships Logs	1861-1870
C.7/14-17	Books, papers	1834-1872
	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:**

(2M1-2M2)  
 (4M44-4M45)  
 (2M135-2M136, 2M140)