

O. C. Hastings.

Oregon Columbus Hastings was a prominent citizen of Victoria (B.C.), having first sailed into the harbour on his father's schooner when Victoria was only a Hudson's Bay post. This was in 1852, when he was a child of six. At the time of the Californian gold fever his father moved southward with his children from Pontoosue, Ill., where the subject of this sketch was born, and later on settled on a farm near Port Townsend. After working on his father's farm the son started business in Victoria as a photographer. In 1889 he sold out and became United States' collector of customs at St. Michael's, Alaska. As the business of this post occupied him only during the summer, he was enabled to devote the winter months to scientific pursuits, of which he was very fond. He possessed the first astronomical telescope made in the Province, to cover which he built an observatory at his house in Victoria; he was also keen on microscopic work. Mr. Hastings joined this Association in 1893, and was one of the original members of the Natural History Society of British Columbia, the subsequent usefulness of which was largely due to him. His death occurred on August 4, after an illness of only two days.

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