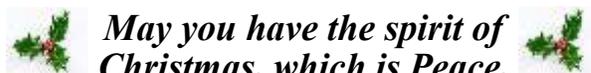




# The British Isles Historic Society

## Special Christmas Edition 2019



*May you have the spirit of  
Christmas, which is Peace,  
the gladness of Christmas,  
which is Hope,  
and the Heart of Christmas  
which is Love.*

*May your Christmas  
be joyous,  
filled with moments of love,  
laughter and goodwill.  
And may the year ahead  
be full of contentment  
and joy.*

*Wishing you a healthy  
and prosperous,  
Happy Christmas!!*

*The Officers and Members of the  
The British Isles  
Historic Society*



**Merry Christmas**  
**Happy Christmas**

Merry Christmas began as a saying in the 1500s. It was recorded in a letter as a wish that God would send the recipient a “mery Christmas”. It was solidified as a capitalized greeting by Charles Dickens in his great work A Christmas Carol.

Queen Elizabeth II, for whatever reason, did not use Dickens’ phrase. Instead, she used the phrase Happy Christmas in her broadcasts to her subjects. After her use, the term gained popularity and is still the most common form in Great Britain and Ireland.

# Christmas Day

**December 25, the date of the Nativity**



In the 3rd century, the date of the nativity was the subject of great interest. Around AD 200, Clement of Alexandria wrote: There are those who have determined not only the year of our Lord's birth, but also the day; and they say that it took place in the 28th year of Augustus, and in the 25th day of [the Egyptian month] Pachon [May 20] ... Further, others say that He was born on the 24th or 25th of Pharmuthi [April 20 or 21].

Various factors contributed to the selection of December 25 as a date of celebration: it was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar and it was about nine months after March 25, the date of the vernal equinox and a date linked to the conception of Jesus (now Annunciation).

The winter solstice, hiemal solstice or hibernal solstice, also known as midwinter, the winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year,

December 25 was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. They chose Jesus to be born on the shortest day of the year for symbolic reasons, according to an early Christmas sermon by Augustine: "Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the shortest in our earthly reckoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in length. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase."

Linking Jesus to the Sun was supported by various Biblical passages. Jesus was considered to be the "Sun of righteousness" prophesied by Malachi: "Unto you shall the sun of righteousness arise, and healing is in his wings."

The prominence of Christmas Day increased gradually after Charlemagne was crowned Emperor on Christmas Day in 800. King Edmund the Martyr was anointed on Christmas in 855 and King William I of England was crowned on Christmas Day 1066.

King Richard II of England hosted a Christmas feast in 1377 at which twenty-eight oxen and three hundred sheep were eaten.

However, in 17th century England, some groups such as the Puritans, strongly condemned the celebration of Christmas, considering it a Catholic invention and the "trappings of popery" or the "rags of the Beast". In contrast, the established Anglican Church "pressed for a more elaborate observance of feasts, penitential seasons, and saints' days.

The Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 ended the ban, but many Calvinist clergymen still disapproved of Christmas celebration. As such, in Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland discouraged the observance of Christmas, and though James VI commanded its celebration in 1618, attendance at church was scant. The Parliament of Scotland officially abolished the observance of Christmas in 1640, claiming that the church had been "purged of all superstitious observation of days". It was not until 1958 that Christmas again became a Scottish public holiday.

In the UK, Christmas Day became a bank holiday in 1834, Boxing Day was added in 1871.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas>





**Have you, your family or friends made plans for the week of Feb. 17th to 23rd. 2020 yet?**

**“Welcome to the British Isles”**

**Heritage B.C. Week  
“Bringing the Past into the Future”**

The British Isles Historic Society invites you to participate in our events and activities.

The Province, (British Columbia), the Cities (Vancouver, Victoria, Burnaby, Port Moody, New Westminster, etc.), streets, avenues, homes, buildings and Historic sites were built by and named by immigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and the Isle of Man. It is our intention of celebrating the Heritage of these first British Isles newcomers to Canada.

We would like to invite you to participate in a British Feis of music, dancing, singing and foods during Heritage Week, February 17th. to 23rd. 2020.

We plan on featuring British foods of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and Cornwall.

Use this as an opportunity for you to celebrate your British Heritage, your Traditions and your Customs.

Wear clothes, caps, badges and flags that will identify your country in the British Isles.

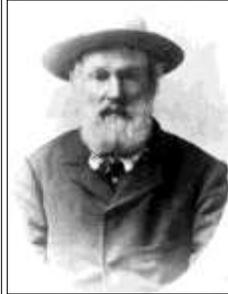
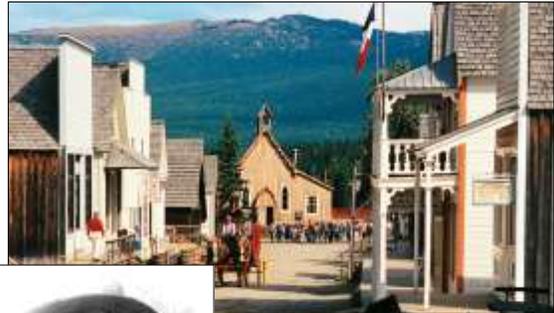
Won't you join the party?



Lions Gate Bridge built by Guinness Family of Ireland



## **Barkerville, B.C.**



**William "Billy" Barker** (1817–1894), was an English prospector who was famous for being one of the first to find a large amount of gold in the Cariboo of British Columbia. He also

founded Barkerville which is preserved as a historic town. Barker was born in 1817 in March, Cambridgeshire, England and was baptised on 7 June 1817 in St Wendreda's Church, March. As a child he worked as a waterman on the waterways of England.

He married Jane Lavender in Earith, Cambridgeshire in 1839 and had one daughter named Emma Eliza. Lavender died in the workhouse in Doddington, Cambridgeshire, in 1850.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Barker\\_prospector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Barker_prospector)



## **James Bowman Lindsay**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

James Bowman Lindsay (8 September 1799 – 29 June 1862) was a

Scottish inventor and author. He is credited with early developments in several fields, such as incandescent lighting and telegraphy.



**“May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,  
May the Christ Child light your way,  
May God's holy angels guide you,  
And keep you safe each day.”**

# British History In British Columbia



## Brock House

Brock House is an authentic Tudor replica heritage building on Jericho beach.

Philip Gilman, a mining engineer from England, purchased the waterfront lots in 1906 and 1909, making his estate two and a half acres with over 300 feet of sandy beach waterfront. In 1911, he engaged the noted architect, Samuel Maclure to design the house and in March 1912 contracted construction to the firm of Coffin & McLelland.



## Hastings Mill

Hastings Mill was a sawmill on the south shore of Burrard Inlet and was the first



commercial operation around which the settlement that would become Vancouver developed in British Columbia, Canada. Founded in 1865 by Edward Stamp, the sawmill operated until its closure in 1928.

In 1867, Captain Edward Stamp began producing lumber in Stamp's Mill at the foot of what is now Dunlevy Avenue after a planned site at Brockton Point proved unsuitable due to difficult currents and a shoal. Stamp's efforts in developing the mill are summarized by Robert Macdonald in Making Vancouver: Class, Status and Social Boundaries, 1863-1913:

In 1865 he formed a company in England, backed by capital of \$100,000, to produce lumber in British Columbia.

Edward Stamp (1814-1872) was an English mariner and entrepreneur who contributed to the early economic

development of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Born at Alnwick in Northumberland, England.

## The Orpheum

Designed by Scottish architect Marcus Priteca, the theatre officially opened on November 8, 1927 as a vaudeville house, but it hosted its first shows the previous day.



The old Orpheum, at 761 Granville Street, was renamed the Vancouver Theatre (later the Lyric, then the International Cinema, then the Lyric once more before it closed for demolition in 1969 to make way for the first phase of the Pacific Centre project).

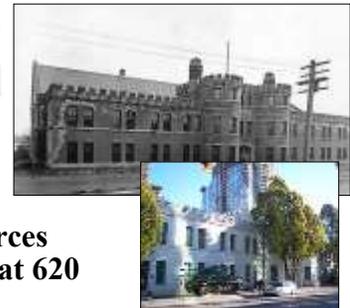
The New Orpheum, which was the biggest theatre in Canada when it opened in 1927, with three thousand seats, cost \$1.25 million to construct.

Benjamin Marcus Priteca FAIA (December 23, 1889 – October 1, 1971) was born in Glasgow, Scotland

Priteca met Seattle vaudeville theatre owner Alexander Pantages in 1910 and won from him a commission to design the San Francisco Pantages Theater (1911), the first of many so-named vaudeville and motion picture houses in what would become one of the largest theater chains in North America. He also built the Pantages theatre in Vancouver.

## The Beatty Street Drill Hall

The Beatty Street Drill Hall is a Canadian Forces armoury located at 620 Beatty Street in Vancouver, British Columbia. It is the home of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own),



Cont. page 6

... ... The Beatty Street Drill Hall an armoured reconnaissance reserve regiment, the oldest military unit in Vancouver, and the most senior militia in the province.

The building was designed by architect T.W. Fuller and opened on 30 September 1901 by the Duke of Cornwall (later King George V).

Thomas Fuller (March 8, 1823 – September 28, 1898) was born in Bath, Somerset (England), where he trained as an architect.



**Aberthau House**  
(previously known as Rear House)

This Tudor Revival was built for James S. Rear, General Manager, of American Life Insurance. Later bought by Col. Victor Spencer who called it Aberthau (Welsh for: place filled with light). Presently, it is a cultural and recreational center run by the Vancouver Park Board. Spencer, a co-founder of the football B.C. Lions, the indefatigable Mr. Spencer was always keen to highlight his hometown of Vancouver.

Mr. Spencer's family wealth came from a successful chain of B.C. department stores called Spencer's. His grandfather David Spencer, a Welsh immigrant, founded his first dry goods shop in Victoria in 1873.



**Hatley Castle**  
Colwood, B. C.

Hatley Castle was built as a private residence in the Scottish baronial style for James Dunsmuir. It is now Hatley Park National Historic Site, the location of Royal Roads University (formerly the Royal Roads Military College).

## The 15 Most Influential British People of All Time

### William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

William Shakespeare has not just conquered the English land, but all around the world. He is considered as the greatest writer of all time.

### Sir Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)

Winston Churchill spent his life serving the British people. He was also remarkable for his efforts of uniting European nations.

### Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

He was the man behind the ever-famous theory of the evolution of man. His contribution in the field of science is truly huge.

### Sir Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727)

He was an English mathematician, astronomer, and physicist. Apart from mathematics and physics, he also contributed in the fields of religion and optics.

### Edward Jenner (1749 – 1823)

Edward Jenner was an English scientist who was greatly known for his discovery of a smallpox vaccine. He was regarded by his contemporaries as the “Father of Immunology”.

### Sir Alexander Fleming (1881 – 1955)

He discovered the cure for certain diseases and disorders – the antibiotic. Fleming found out a mold he identified as “penicillin” which killed a number of disease-causing bacteria.

### James Clerk Maxwell (1831 – 1879)

Scottish scientist James Clerk Maxwell greatly contributed to the understanding of physics. His theory led to the discovery of radio waves which inspired telephone, radio, and more.

### William Wilberforce (1759 -1833)

William Wilberforce was an English politician and philanthropist who led the movement to abolish the slave trade. Through a collaborative effort, the Slave Trade Act of 1807 was signed.

### Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769 – 1852)

Arthur Wellesley was an Anglo-Irish soldier who rose to popularity for bringing peace and stability all throughout Europe. After his military career, he became a Prime Minister of UK.

Cont. page 8



## Hat Creek, B.C.

Historic Hat Creek is located on one of the few sections of the original Cariboo

Wagon Roads still accessible to the public. Hat Creek House, established in 1861 by former Hudson's Bay Company trader Donald McLean.

### Donald McLean (fur trader)

(1805 – July 17, 1864), also known as Samadlin, a First Nations adaptation of Sieur McLean, was a Scottish fur trader and explorer for the Hudson's Bay Company and who later became a cattle rancher near Cache Creek in British Columbia's Thompson Country. McLean was the last casualty of the Chilcotin War of 1864 and the father of outlaw and renegade Allan McLean, leader of the "Wild McLean Boys" gang. McLean was born in 1805 in Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Scotland

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald\\_McLean\\_\(fur\\_trader\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_McLean_(fur_trader))

### An end to the frozen British pensions?

I would like to thank the Victoria chapter of the St. George's society for inviting me to address their recent monthly gathering.

Our fight to end the frozen pension issue is growing in momentum in the UK, thanks to the excellent efforts of our London based lobbyists.

In October 2018, I was part of a delegation invited inside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition directly to the Prime Minister and the huge coverage in media write ups and TV discussions can be viewed on our website [www.endfrozenpensions.org](http://www.endfrozenpensions.org)

Please go to the site, add your name to the petition and join the fight through our Canadian association at [www.britishpensions.com](http://www.britishpensions.com)

The governments decision to continue indexation to pensioners in the EU post Brexit brings us so much closer to a worldwide resolution for all pensioners. Please join and help us as we feel we are so close to the end of this battle.

Ian Andexser, Chairman  
Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners

## An English Tradition

The Great British Pub  
by Ben Johnson



Renowned the world over, the great British pub is not just a place to drink beer, wine, cider or even something a little bit stronger. It is also a unique social centre, very often the focus of community life in villages, towns and cities throughout the length and breadth of the country.

It was an invading Roman army that first brought Roman roads, Roman towns and Roman pubs known as tabernae to these shores in 43 AD. Such tabernae, or shops that sold wine, were quickly built alongside Roman roads and in towns to help quench the thirst of the legionary troops.

It was ale, however, that was the native British brew, and it appears that these tabernae quickly adapted to provide the locals with their favourite tittle, with the word eventually being corrupted to tavern.

Inns also served military purposes; one of the oldest dating from 1189 AD is Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem in Nottingham, and is said to have acted as a recruitment centre for volunteers to accompany King Richard I (The Lionheart) on his crusade to the Holy Lands.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/The-Great-British-Pub/>

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**November 17, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.**

All your favourites from the U.K.  
**The Celtic Treasure Chest**  
5639 Dunbar St, Vancouver, BC



**Vancouver Branch  
Burns Supper**

**Saturday January 18, 2020**

**Bar 6:00 pm**

**Dinner 7:00 pm**

**At the Scottish Cultural Centre  
8886 Hudson St., Vancouver**

**Tickets - \$70 or \$60 for RSCDS Members**

**Traditional meal with haggis  
Performance by *Strictly Scottish*  
A dance programme to  
suit everyone to the music  
of the Tartan Players**



**Tickets will be available in November  
through local scd clubs or online through  
Pay Pal at [www.rscdsvancouver.org](http://www.rscdsvancouver.org)**



**Email:  
[burns@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:burns@rscdsvancouver.org)  
or phone Gill Beattie at  
604-224-6751**



**Learn to Golf  
Golf Club Sign**

**Here is an actual sign posted  
at a golf club in Scotland UK:**

- 1. BACK STRAIGHT, KNEES BENT, FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART.**
- 2. FORM A LOOSE GRIP.**
- 3. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!**
- 4. STAY OUT OF THE WATER.**
- 5. TRY NOT TO HIT ANYONE.**
- 6. IF YOU ARE TAKING TOO LONG, LET OTHERS GO AHEAD OF YOU.**
- 7. DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.**
- 8. QUIET PLEASE...WHILE OTHERS ARE PREPARING.**
- 9. DON'T TAKE EXTRA STROKES.**
- 10. WELL DONE.. NOW, FLUSH THE URINAL, GO OUTSIDE, AND TEE OFF!**

**... ... Influential British people**

**Thomas Paine (1737 – 1809)**

Thomas Paine was an English philosopher and political theorist who became an active American political activist and propagandist. He was actually one of the founding father of the United States.

**Alexander Graham Bell (1847 – 1922)**

Alexander Graham Bell is definitely one of the world's most popular inventors. This Scottish scientist and engineer has developed the first working telephone.

**Charles Dickens (1812 – 1870)**

Dickens was an English writer who was widely known for his fictional characters. He was considered as one of the best novelists of the Victorian era.

**James Watt (1736 – 1819)**

James Watt was a Scottish inventor who contributed his Watt steam engine to the world. His invention was vital to start the Industrial Revolution.

**John Lennon (1940 – 1980)**

John Lennon was probably one of the most popular British icons in the world. Lennon's inspirations in his music include political activism, peace, and life.

**Stephen Hawking (1942 – 2019)**

Stephen Hawking is one of the living legends honored as one of the greatest Britons by BBC. He has been paralyzed for decades but it has not stopped him to influence the world with his works in the fields of physics.

<https://www.historiansforbritain.org/15-influential-british-people-time/>



**Welsh in Alberta**

Historically, Alberta has had the highest number of people of Welsh descent as a proportion to population. In the 2016 Census, there are 80,455 people identifying as being of Welsh descent, which is around 2 % of the total population of Alberta.

**Earl W. Bascom** (1906-1995), artist, inventor, rodeo pioneer, "Father of Modern Rodeo" and of Welsh descent

**David Milwyn Duggan**, a Welshman, was the mayor of Edmonton from 1921 to 1923.

## British Columbia History British Expeditions (1790s–1821)

When European explorer-merchants from the east started to discover British Columbia. Three figures dominate in the early history of mainland British Columbia: Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser, and David Thompson. As employees of the North West Company, the three were primarily concerned with discovering a practicable river route to the Pacific, specifically via the Columbia River, for the extension of the fur trade. In 1793, Mackenzie became the first European to reach the Pacific overland north of the Rio Grande. He and his crew entered the region through the Rocky Mountains via the Peace River, reaching the ocean at North Bentinck Arm, near present-day Bella Coola.



**Sir Alexander Mackenzie** (or MacKenzie, Scottish Gaelic: Alasdair MacCoinnich; 1764 – 12 March 1820) was a Scottish explorer known for accomplishing the first east to west crossing of America north of Mexico in 1793, which

preceded the more famous Lewis and Clark Expedition by 12 years. The Mackenzie River is named after him, the longest river system in Canada and the second longest in North America. Mackenzie was born in Luskentyre House in Stornoway on Lewis



**Simon Fraser** (20 May 1776 – 18 August 1862) was a fur trader and explorer of Scottish ancestry who charted much of what is now the Canadian province of British Columbia (B.C.). He also built the first European

settlement in B.C. Fraser was employed by the Montreal-based North West Company. By 1805, he had been put in charge of all the company's operations west of the Rocky Mountains. He was responsible for building that area's first trading posts, and, in 1808, he explored what is now known as the Fraser River, which bears his name. Simon Fraser's exploratory efforts were partly responsible for Canada's boundary later being established at the 49th parallel (after the War of 1812), since he as a British subject was the first European to establish permanent

settlements in the area. According to historian Alexander Begg, Fraser "was offered a knighthood but declined the title due to his limited wealth"



**David Thompson** (30 April 1770 – 10 February 1857) was a British-Canadian fur trader, surveyor, and cartographer. Thompson has been described as the "greatest land geographer who ever lived." David Thompson was born in Westminster,

Middlesex, to recent Welsh migrants  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_British\\_Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_British_Columbia)

## "Welcome to the British Isles"



Sponsored by the  
**British Isles  
Historic Society,**

**Heritage BC Week  
Feb 22nd, 2020**

**Vancouver Art  
Gallery  
North Plaza**



**The English,  
Scottish, Irish,  
Welsh,**



**Manx and Cornish  
will be celebrating their  
History, Traditions,  
Customs and  
Heritage**



**British foods, merchandise and  
entertainment from England,  
North Ireland,  
Scotland,  
Wales, Isle of  
Man,**



The difference between a  
BEER & YOUR OPINION  
IS THAT  
I Asked For A Beer

If you enjoy good humour  
or love to dance visit  
**Vancouver  
Ceilidh Dancing**

<https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/>

A newsletter issued by Duncan MacKenzie

## The British Columbia Provincial Police Station



is a small, one-storey, wood-frame building with a hipped roof. The station was built in 1912 and stands in its original location at the northeast corner of Lakelse Avenue and Kalum Street in Terrace, British Columbia.

### British Columbia Provincial Police

The British Columbia Provincial Police (BCPP) was the provincial police service of British Columbia, Canada, between 1858 and 1950. One of the first law enforcement agencies in North America, the British Columbia Provincial Police was formed to police the new Colony of British Columbia in 1858, with Chartres Brew as the de facto Chief Constable.

The BCPP preceded the Canadian Confederation by nine years, the Northwest Mounted Police by fifteen years, and the Ontario Provincial Police by seventeen years. Brew, a former member of the Royal Irish Constabulary and officially British Columbia's Chief Gold Commissioner, was vested with the powers of a magistrate to maintain state security against possible rebellion by American migrants who came to British Columbia for its gold rush and the accompanying the risk of annexation.



### Chartres Brew, Chief Constable

Born, December 31, 1815, Corofin, County Clare, Ireland, Died, May 31, 1870 (aged 54) Richfield, British Columbia

Chartres Brew (31 December 1815 – 31 May 1870) was a Gold commissioner, Chief Constable and judge in the Colony of British Columbia, later a province of Canada. Brew's name was conferred on two mountain summits in British Columbia, both named Mount Brew.

The higher one at 2891m is located just south of the Fraser Canyon town of Lillooet, and which is the second-highest in the Lillooet Ranges after Skihist Mountain.

The other is just east of Likely, British Columbia in the Cariboo district, 2057m, adjacent to Quesnel Lake.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartres\\_Brew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartres_Brew)



British Columbia Provincial Police Station  
3224 Kalum Street, Terrace, British Columbia, Canada

## Vancouver General Hospital Thrift Store

Looking for a British collectable for that special person in your life  
Just arrived a large amount of English China and Royal Souvenirs



The results from your saleable treasures has resulted in us able to purchase life saving equipment that is helping those in need.

**PLEASE DONATE TO:  
VGH Thrift Shop.**

**2535 E Hastings St, Vancouver, BC  
Phone: (604) 876-3731**

## Historical dates in the history of British Columbia Our British Heritage



**1778 Great Britain's explorer, Captain James Cook**, reached Nootka Sound and became the first white man to set foot on British Columbian soil.

**1788 Frances Barkley, the young wife of Captain Charles William Barkley**, was the first white woman to set foot on Vancouver Island. Charles William Barkley (1759 – 16 May 1832) was a ship captain and maritime fur trader. He was born in Hertford, England, son of Charles Barkley.

His name is sometimes erroneously spelled Barclay due to the misspelling "Barclay Sound" (in what is now Vancouver Island, British Columbia) on early Admiralty charts, which arose from a mistake from Land District records. The misspelling originated in 1859 with the government agent William Eddy Banfield who issued certificates identifying the "Barclay Land District." The name was corrected to Barkley Sound in 1904. (Banfield's own name was misspelled in the name of the town of Bamfield, also on Vancouver Island.)

**1790 October 28: Treaty of the Nootka Convention** was accepted and signed by Great Britain and Spain.

**1792 August 28: Captain George Vancouver** reached Nootka. Vancouver was a British officer of the Royal Navy best known for his 1791–95 expedition, which explored and charted North America's northwestern

**1807 Geographer David Thompson** is credited with having recorded the first systematic meteorological observations taken in British Columbia. David Thompson was born in Westminster, Middlesex, to Welsh migrants

My appreciation to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia for many of the Bios in my research.



## My British Pride and Historic British Columbia connection

**Grand Father, Charles Edwin McVittie** born in Dublin, Ireland, a Surgeon General in the British Army who was Honorary Physician to Queen Victoria.

**Grandmother, born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Father, Reginald Francis McVittie, born and raised in Bedford England, who ran away to Canada in 1906 to join the Northwest Mounted Police. Was a British Immigrant of an Irish family, became a British Columbia farmer and raised a family of eight children in B.C.**



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

