

The British Isles



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Historic Society

History, Traditions & Customs

07-20 July Issue

The Tynwald, the Isle of Man's parliament, is of Norse (Viking) origin and has existed on the island for more than 1,000 years, making it the oldest parliament in the world with an unbroken existence.

Facts about the Isle of Man:

Flag of the Isle of Man: The Three Legs of Man

Population: 80,058

Capital: Douglas

Area: 572 sq km (221 sq miles)

Approximately 48 km (32 miles) long and between 13 and 24 km (8 and 15 miles) in breadth

Major languages: English, Manx

The island's name is believed to come from its ruler and protector, Celtic Sea God Manannan.

The native Manx Cat from the Isle of Man is tailless and its origins are subject to folklore. Legend has it a pair of cats were the last to enter Noah's Ark. The door was slammed, severing their tails.



Happy Tynwald Day

July 5th.

July 5th. Tynwald Day (Manx: Laa Tinvaal) is the National Day of the **Isle of Man**,

Tynwald Day is the National Day of the Isle of Man, an island in the Irish Sea, between Great Britain and Ireland. The island is not part of the United Kingdom or European Union but is a possession of the British Crown with an independent administration. Its inhabitants (known as Manx) are British citizens.

Each year on 5th July, the Members of Tynwald - the Manx parliament - meet on Tynwald Hill in St Johns, for a ceremony, a legal requirement established by the Island's ninth century rulers. The hill is said to have been built by the Vikings and to contain soil from each of the 17 island parishes. The July ceremony declares in Manx Gaelic and English, laws passed during the year and hears petitions from Manx citizens.



St. Swithin's Day, July 15,

a day on which, according to folklore, the weather for a subsequent period is dictated. In popular belief, if it rains on St. Swithin's Day, (also St. Swithun's)

cont. page 2 ...



it will rain for 40 days, but if it is fair, 40 days of fair weather will follow. St. Swithun was bishop of Winchester from 852 to 862. At his request he was buried in the churchyard, where rain and the steps of passersby might fall on his grave. According to legend, after his body was moved inside the cathedral on July 15, 971, a great storm ensued.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Saint-Swithins-Day>



Prince of Wales Island

On September 20, 1793, George Vancouver gave the name "Prince of Wales Archipelago" to all the islands of the southern Alexander Archipelago, which he suspected to have a single major island; the name referred to George, Prince of Wales (later Prince Regent and then King George IV). By 1825 the name "Prince of Wales Island" was being used for the largest of the islands in Vancouver's archipelago.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_of_Wales_Island_\(Alaska\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_of_Wales_Island_(Alaska))



Thomas Maltby Grindley

(November 8, 1864 –

October 20, 1929, was a politician

in Alberta, Canada and a municipal councillor in Edmonton. Grindley was born November 8, 1864 in **Laxey on the Isle of Man**. Died: October 20, 1929 (aged 64), Vancouver, British Columbia He was educated on the Isle of Man and immigrated to Canada in 1882. He moved to the country's west as a trading agent for the Chipman Brother of Halifax. He joined the military and took part in suppressing the North-West Rebellion in 1885, serving under Sam Steele.

In 1886, he left the Chipman Brothers and opened a general store in Fort Saskatchewan, where he also served as a school trustee. The following year, he became buyer and manager for Ross Brothers Hardware Company, co-owned by James Ross. In 1903 he left the Ross Brothers to join the Revillon Brothers, where he remained until 1905 when he established Gorman, Clancey & Grindley, a mercantile house in Edmonton. While residing in Edmonton, Grindley built a large mansion, now known as the Grindley Mansion, now houses the Edmonton Grads, an internationally successful women's basketball team.



Glendon Archives S83-4837



Frederic Edward Weatherly,

KC (Born: October 4, 1848, Portishead, **United Kingdom** – Died: September 7, 1929,

Bathwick Hill, Bath, United Kingdom) was an **English** lawyer, author, lyricist and broadcaster. He was christened and brought up using the name Frederick Edward Weatherly, and appears to have adopted the spelling 'Frederic' later in life. He is estimated to have written the lyrics to at least 3,000 popular songs, among the best-known of which are the sentimental ballad "**Danny Boy**" set to the tune "**Londonderry Air**", the religious "**The Holy City**", and the wartime song "**Roses of Picardy**".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederic_Weatherly



TRIVIA: "Once in Royal David's City" was written by **Irish** poet **Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander**. She also wrote "All things Bright and Beautiful".

We get letters:



Hi Steve,

Thanks for the article about the solstice. I have always been a fan of following the old world natural calendar.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the lucky few that got to experience sunrise inside the circle at Stonehenge exactly ½ a year before this summer solstice during my megalithic walkabout through Wales and Southern England.

I hit as many stone circles and dolmens as I could, including Avebury and Rollright. Magical places. (As is the Orkneys).

Cheers, Robert Greenslade



The Beatty Street Drill Hall is

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



Isle of Man "Manx Bonnag"

'Fruit' Bonnag

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup currants
- 1 tbsp margarine or butter
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 large tsp mixed spice (Pumpkin spices best)
- few drops vanilla essence
- 3/4 cup buttermilk

Method:

Rub butter into flour. Add other dry ingredients including currents. When well mixed, add and mix with buttermilk.

Note: if dough is sticky add 1 tbsp. of flour at a time until workable. Shape in 8" round on parchment or bake in 8" rd. pan. Bake about 45 – 55 mins. At 350 F. (175C) until a toothpick comes out clean and the bread has risen, is golden brown, and sounds hollow on the bottom.

[https://
www.isleofman.com/bonnag-recipes/](https://www.isleofman.com/bonnag-recipes/)



The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)

is an armoured reconnaissance reserve regiment and as such is tasked with providing qualified reconnaissance soldiers to assist the Regular Force in meeting Canada's military commitments.

<https://www.bcregiment.com>



William Addis

(1734–1808) was an English entrepreneur believed to have produced the first mass-produced toothbrush in 1780. Addis was born in 1734 in England, in **Clerkenwell, London.**

In 1770, Addis had been jailed for causing a riot in Spitalfields. While in prison, and observing the use of a broom to sweep the floor, he decided that the prevalent method used to clean teeth at the time – crushed shell or soot – with a cloth was ineffective and could be improved. To that end, he saved a small animal bone left over from the meal he had eaten the previous night, into which he drilled small holes. He then obtained some bristles from one of his guards, which he tied in tufts that he then passed through the holes in the bone, and which he finally sealed with glue.

After his release, he started a business to manufacture the toothbrushes he had built, and he soon became very rich. He died in 1808, and left the business to his eldest son, also called William, and it stayed in family ownership until 1996. Under the name Wisdom Toothbrushes, the company now manufactures 70 million toothbrushes per year in the UK.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Addis

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

Vancouver First Stagecoach



Women on porch identified (left to right): Mrs. W.H. Grassie, Mrs. T.J. Janes holding daughter (Mrs. Wm. Marshall) and unidentified. Man driving stage is Mr. T.J. Janes.

T. J. Janes' residence as well as a livery and feed stable. The Archives website says the photo was taken in 1886 and that the house and stable were on Lots 5 and 6 of Block 23 of District Lot 196.

<https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/>

Thomas John James, Stagecoach owner, driver b. April 16, 1855, **Cornwall, England**; d. Oct. 14, 1926, Vancouver. Worked as a butcher in Seaforth, Ont., arriving in Granville (later Vancouver) on Oct. 31, 1883. Ran a butcher shop, then began operating es Stage, the first stagecoach line to carry passengers between New Westminster and Vancouver along Westminster Avenue (now Kingsway).

According to the 1891 Canada Census, Feed and Wood Merchant Thomas John Janes was born in England and was Methodist. In 1891 he lived with his Kingston, Ontario-born wife Mary Jane Leatherland and their six children. Sons William J., Albert Thomas, and Charles R. Janes were all born in Ontario. Daughters Mary Levina (July 12, 1885) and Annie Florence (January 7, 1887) and son Roy Franklin Janes (January 14, 1890) were all born in Vancouver. Mary was born in 1885, the year before Granville was renamed Vancouver. Her brother was born in Ontario in 1881

<http://househistorian.blogspot.com/2013/02/>



Fairy Bridge, Isle of Man



(Manx: Ballalona - Glen Farm) is a small bridge over the

Santon Burn in the Isle of Man, located on the primary A5 Port Erin to Douglas road. A superstition is to greet the fairies (an English term for the Moonjor Veggey ("Little People")); historically never called fairies or ferrish by the Manx and not of similar disposition to the English fairies when crossing the Fairy Bridge; it is considered unlucky not to greet them. From the 1950s it was reportedly the custom to advise a visitor of the myth on the journey south from Douglas or north from the airport. That one was required to say, "Good morning Fairies!" just as a visitor crossed the Fairy Bridge.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_Bridge_\(Isle_of_Man\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_Bridge_(Isle_of_Man))

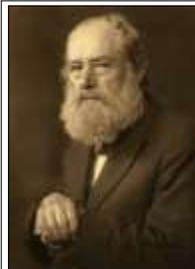


Castletown, Isle of Man,

is the historic Manx capital, and is located at the south of the island. It features an

excellent example of a medieval castle built in the 10th Century by the Vikings.

Castle Rushen (Manx: Cashtal Rosien) is a medieval castle, and the entrance to the keep is protected by a drawbridge and a fortified inner gatehouse entrance with two portcullises with a killing area between them covered by three so-called murder holes, through which the defenders could attack any intruders trapped between the two portcullises.



John Francis Bursill

(pen name Felix Penne)

Columnist, poet b. 1848, **London, England**; d. Feb. 8, 1928, Burnaby, B.C. From 1865, he worked as a Fleet

Street journalist. Nearing 60, he came to Vancouver in 1905 to join his eldest son in East Collingwood, a working class suburb of Vancouver. Founded Collingwood Free Library (1911-53); founder, The Vancouver Dickens Fellowship and The Shakespeare Society. Well-known Vancouver Sun columnist in 1920s under pen name Felix Penne. Wrote and staged the musical How a Forest Becomes a City. His best-known poem, I Shall Not Cease, began, "Tis infamy to die and not be missed." Bursill St. is named for him. https://www.vancouverhistory.ca/whoswho_B.htm

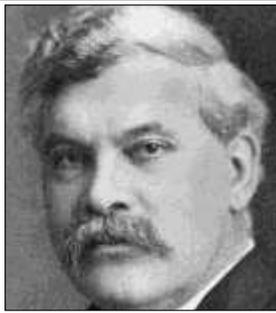


It's December 10, 1924, and the Vancouver Vagabond's Club

is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. The Vagabond's Club, remember, was started by Collingwood's very own John Francis Bursill, who was a well-known writer at the time. It was a typical Gentleman's Club, for men only.

The first library in the Collingwood area of Vancouver BC. It was named the Bursill Institute Library, and founded by John Francis Bursill

TRIVIA: The Cariboo Wagon Road was constructed from the town of Yale to the boomtown of Barkerville, which in its heyday was the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. Completed in 1865, the Cariboo Wagon Road opened up the British Columbia Interior, with mule trains and stagecoaches plying the route, and roadhouses and boomtowns dotting the roadside. Gold was discovered further north, placing Dawson Creek on the brink of the huge Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. <http://britishcolumbia.com/about-bc/history>



William Farrell

B.C. Tel's first president
b. c. 1854, **Huddersfield, England**; d. Sept. 12, 1922, Vancouver. With wife Jessie Maude and infant son Gordon,

he came to Vancouver in 1891 and together with associates, formed the nucleus of the B.C. Telephone Company, becoming its first president. Built 18 metre yacht Sheileena, named for his three daughters, Sheila, Kathleen and Nora. It was eventually renamed Kitchener and used in WWII by the Canadian army.

The first General Manger of the Yorkshire & Canadian Trust Ltd. for BC. With small private telephone exchanges springing up through BC in the early 1890's Farrell took a large interest in the New Westminster & Burrard Inlet Telephone Company. Working with the owner he worked to amalgamate it with smaller companies eventually forming BC Telephone Company Limited in 1904.



Gordon Farrell

(b. March 14, 1890, **Huddersfield, Eng.**; d. xx), served in the Royal Naval Air Force in WWI. He joined B.C. Telephone in 1919 as treasurer, rising to president (July 1928-58), and holding numerous directorships. In 1948, the William Farrell Building (Seymour and Robson) was built as B.C. Telephone's head office. In 1963, because of a by-law he introduced barring B.C. Telephone directors over 72, he was forced to retire as chair.

<http://www3.telus.net/99carton/william%20farrell.html>

William Farrell Building

555 Robson Street



The head office for the BC Telephone Company was built in 1948 and was named for pioneer business leader William Farrell, founder and first President of BC Tel.



He served from 1904 to 1922.

This plaque was set on May 9th 2007, in recognition of William Farrell's place in the history of TELUS and for his greater contribution to the growth and prosperity of British Columbia.



Editorial comment:

Historic Statues, Landmarks and Heritage Sites

The protester and rioters should not be allowed to take the laws into their own hands by destroying historic statues, landmarks and heritage properties.

"Gastown's "Gassy Jack" statue vandalized with red paint". "John A. Macdonald statue removed from Victoria City Hall".

"It is against the law for anyone to be caught defacing, destroying, or otherwise marking any statues, landmarks, or heritage sites. They shall be caught, arrested and face either prison time or fines or both." "Protesting and / or lawful assembly is legal but destroying or defacing public property is not."

"Should they feel strongly that a statue, landmark, heritage site, cities or towns name, or a street name is inappropriate they should either gather a petition or send a letter personally to the Government that is responsible for the care and maintenance of the site in question with their reasons why it should be removed or renamed."



PRINCE RUPERT

As the City of Prince Rupert has close ties to British Royalty as Prince Rupert of the Rhine, Duke of Cumberland, KG, PC, FRS (17 December 1619 (O.S.) / 27 December (N.S.) – 29 November 1682)

was a German-English army officer, admiral, scientist, and colonial governor. He first came to prominence as a Royalist cavalry commander during the English Civil War.

Prince Rupert, Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria, Duke of Cumberland, Earl of Holderness Rupert was a younger son of the German prince Frederick V, Elector Palatinate and his wife Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of James VI of **Scotland** , (James I of **England**). Thus, Rupert was the nephew of King Charles I of England, who made him Duke of Cumberland and Earl of Holderness, and the first cousin of King Charles II of England. His sister Electress Sophia was the mother of George I of **Great Britain**.

Rupert's Land was named in his honour, and he was a founder of the Hudson's Bay Company. He also played a role in the early Atlantic slave trade. Rupert's varied and numerous scientific and administrative interests combined with his considerable artistic skills made him one of the more colourful public figures in England of the Restoration period.

Died 29 November 1682 (aged 62), London, England. Burial: 6 December 1682, Westminster Abbey.

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

**Queen of
Prince Rupert
B.C. Ferries**



Prince Rupert, B.C.

Prince Rupert was incorporated on March 10, 1910. Although he never visited Canada, it was named after Prince

Rupert of the Rhine, the first Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, as the result of a nation-wide competition held by the Grand Trunk Railway, the prize for which was \$250.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Rupert,_British_Columbia



Wallace Island Marine Provincial Park

is a provincial park in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. The park includes almost all 72 hectares (180 acres) of Wallace Island. The island was named for Captain Wallace Houston of HMS Trincomalee who served in the area in 1853.

Captain Wallace Houston, Born: 1811, Died: 17 May 1891, (at Eaton Square, London).



HMS Trincomalee

In 1849, she was despatched to Newfoundland and Labrador before being recalled to Britain in 1850. In 1852 she sailed to join the Pacific Squadron on the west coast of America. Trincomalee is one of two surviving British frigates of her era. Trincomalee has become the centrepiece of the National Museum of the Royal Navy based in Hartlepool. Trincomalee holds the distinction of being the oldest British warship still afloat.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace_Island_Marine_Provincial_Park



Dawson Creek, B.C.

In 1793, Alexander Mackenzie and his companions journeyed up the Peace River on their historic overland trip to the Pacific. The journey of Mackenzie changed the economic picture of this vast hinterland. His report sent Simon Fraser in Mackenzie's tracks to establish trading posts in the area in 1805.

Dawson Creek was established to accommodate settlers about 1½ miles southwest from the centre of the present city. The late George Hart opened the first store on his homestead a short distance from the original hamlet. In 1919, Bill Bullen and Tom McRae opened a store. In 1920, Bullen built a hotel that burned down soon after it opened. He immediately rebuilt and it served travelers for a number of years. From 1919 to 1930 the old hamlet grew slowly, just enough to care for the needs of the sparse community.

The settlers during this time were mainly **British war veterans** who were filing claims on land in the Progress and Sunset Prairie districts, 20 to 30 miles west.

The city derives its name from the Dawson Creek that flows through the community. The creek was named after George Mercer Dawson by a member of his land survey team when they passed through the area in August 1879. Once a small farming community, Dawson Creek became a regional centre after the western terminus of the Northern Alberta Railways was extended there in 1932.



Sir Alexander Mackenzie (or MacKenzie, Scottish Gaelic: Alasdair MacCoinnich; 1764 – 12 March 1820) was a British 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.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawson_Creek

<https://www.dawsoncreek.ca/visitors/history/#gsc.tab=0>

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