

The British Isles



The British Isles Historic Society

Heritage, History, Traditions & Customs

A Tribute To The British Isles A Special Edition

A news column by Douglas Todd: The ethnic refashioning of Metro Vancouver

“Some ethnic groups have formed enclaves in Metro Vancouver, while others have spread themselves more thinly.”

“Douglas Todd, Vancouver Sun, in a article “The places we come from”. I quote: “Meanwhile, the number of people who are ethnically linked to the **British Settlers** who were heavily involved in building up the city’s infrastructure in the 20th. Century remains roughly the same at 760,000. But they’re shrinking as a percentage.”

“In other suburbs, such as North Vancouver and Langley, **Britons** continue to comprise about half the population.”

“The total number of people of **British** origin, meanwhile, has remained about the same.”

“It should be pointed out that Postmedia’s online ethnicity maps rely on census data based on “ethnicity,” which is different from that “visible minority” status. Residents of Canada are allowed to tell the Census they have three different ethnic origins, such as Scottish-German-Iranian.”

“And the real number of people of **British** origin has slightly dropped since 2006 in Coquitlam, Surrey, Delta and Richmond. Cont. page 2

Dear Readers:

This Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our lives forever. Any heritage, cultural or social festivals or events where we can meet as a society and share our customs and traditions are no more.

We had a very successful Heritage Festival in February. We now are looking for ways that we can celebrate our heritage, history, traditions and customs of the British Isles with the new guide lines that will be forth coming.

We are hoping that our newsletters are instilling pride in the heritage of our readers, but our future lies with new society memberships.

Therefore the reason for this special edition “a tribute to the British Isles”. I am hoping that the distribution will go beyond my mailing list.



“In the City of Vancouver, however, three in ten residents still come with **British** roots.”

“In other suburbs, such as North Vancouver and Langley, **Britons** continue to comprise about half the population.”

Douglas Todd’s referral to “**while others have spread themselves more thinly**” is those that have immigrated from the British Isles. There are areas in the City where those from Europe and Asia have gathered and have restaurants, grocery stores, pubs and other amenities that cater to their ethnic and cultural needs, not so those from the British Isles.

Young people are far less likely to feel proud to be English than older generations, a major survey for the BBC reveals. How do we revitalize pride in having a birth right to a country in the British isles?

One of the aims of the “**British Isles Historic Society**” is “**to create ways to help future generations understand their heritage**”.

Past issues of the British Isles Historic Newsletter recalls the contributions made by the early British Isles immigrants to British Columbia.

The purposes of this special edition of the newsletter “**a Tribute to the British Isles**” is to show who we are as heritage inheritors of the British Isles for the benefit of future generations.

Question is “how do we reach the hundreds of B.C. residents mentioned in Douglas Todd’s article that have a British Isles connection”?

Your opinions and suggestions are welcome.

Regards:

Steve McVittie, Editor



United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, respectively. Apart from England, the countries have their own devolved governments, each with varying powers.



England: England was named after a Germanic tribe called the "Angles", who settled in Central, Northern, and Eastern England in the 5th and 6th centuries. A related tribe called the "Saxons" settled in the south of England. That is why that period of English history is called "Anglo-Saxon". The Wars of the Roses were a series of English civil wars for control of the throne of England



The Royal Society of St George:

The Royal Society of St George is an English patriotic society established in 1894 to encourage interest in promoting and celebrating the English way of life, its heritage, customs, culture and traditions.

The society attained The Royal Charter of Incorporation by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1963



St. George:

was a soldier of Cappadocian Greek origins, member of the Praetorian Guard for Roman Emperor Diocletian, who was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith. The Red Cross was associated with the crusades, the red-on-white cross has its origins in the 10th. century.



English inventions and discoveries



1840: Postage stamp invented by Sir Rowland Hill (1795–1879)



1888–1895: Fingerprint classification method developed by Sir Francis Galton (1822–1911); a breakthrough in forensic science.



British Columbia

The first British settlement in the area was Fort Victoria, established in 1843, which gave rise to the City of Victoria, at first the capital of the separate Colony of Vancouver Island. Subsequently, on the mainland, the Colony of British Columbia (1858–1866) was founded by Richard Clement Moody and the Royal Engineers, Columbia Detachment, in response to the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush. Moody was Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for the Colony and the first Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia: he was hand-picked by the Colonial Office in London to transform British Columbia into the British Empire's "bulwark in the farthest west", and "to found a second England on the shores of the Pacific". Moody selected the site for and founded the original capital of British Columbia, New Westminster, established the Cariboo Road and Stanley Park, and designed the first version of the Coat of arms of British Columbia. Port Moody is named after him.

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



The British Isles:

consisting of the islands of Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland (Republic of Ireland, "Eire", North Ireland) the Isle of Man, the Hebrides, the Channel Islands and over six thousand smaller isles



Great Britain:

The 1707 Acts of Union declared that the kingdoms of England and Scotland were "United into One Kingdom by the Name of Great Britain.

England, Wales, and Scotland, make up Great Britain.



c. 1711: First blood pressure measurement and first cardiac catheterisation by Stephen Hales (1677–1761)

1867: Clinical thermometer devised by Thomas Clifford Allbutt (1836–1925)



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY OF CANADA

Royal Commonwealth Society,

The RCS engages with its youth, civil society, business and government networks to address issues that matter to the Citizens of the Commonwealth.



Isle of Man: The Manx name of the Isle of Man is Ellan Vannin: Manx is a word meaning "Island"; The flag of the Isle of Man or flag of Mann is a triskelion, composed of three armoured legs with golden spurs, upon a red background. It has been the official flag of Mann since 1 December 1932

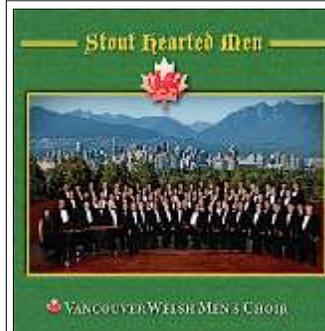


Morris Dancers: Traditional Morris dancing is a form of English folk dance usually accompanied by music. It is based on rhythmic stepping and the execution of choreographed figures by a group of dancers, usually wearing bell pads on their shins. Implements such as sticks, swords and handkerchiefs may also be wielded by the dancers.



Vancouver Welsh Society: Welsh identity

occurred after the Roman withdrawal from Britain in the 5th century, The red dragon was then included as a supporter of the Tudor royal arms to signify their Welsh descent. It was officially recognized as the Welsh national flag in 1959.



Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir:

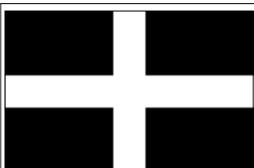
is made up of approximately one hundred members, led by professional musicians. They are a diverse group of individuals, all coming together from different cultures and backgrounds (not just Welsh people!). However, they all have one thing in common: a passion for singing. The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir presents a wide repertoire of traditional and contemporary choral music with the unique and powerful resonance of a large group of male voices singing in four-part harmony. Our performances reflect our Celtic musical heritage, evoking images of other places and other times from the solemnity of cathedrals to the comradery of the local pub.

<https://vancouverchoir.ca/>



Saint David:

The flag of Saint David, a yellow cross on a black field, is used in the emblem of the Diocese of St Davids and is flown on St David's Day. In recent times the flag has been adopted as a symbol of Welsh nationalism. Some organizations, such as the Christian Party use this flag instead of Y Ddraig Goch, citing their dissatisfaction with the current flag.



Cornwall Cornwall is the homeland of the Cornish people and the cultural and ethnic origin of the Cornish diaspora. It retains a distinct cultural identity that reflects its history, and is recognized as one of the Celtic nations The flag is attributed to Saint Piran, a 5th-century Cornish Abbot.



British Pastries

Empire Biscuits



Bakewell Tarts



Current Slices (Fly Cemetery)



Irish, Saint Patrick was a Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland". The Irish tricolour is the national flag and ensign of the Republic of Ireland. The word shamrock comes from the Gaelic word Seamrog, with each leaf representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Consulate General of Ireland,

The Consulate office promotes a strong relationship between Ireland and British Columbia. There to provide expanded consular and Irish community support, to promote trade, tourism and investment linkages. To work with the Irish community, to promote economic interests and strengthen the political and cultural ties between Canada and Ireland.



Republic of Ireland (Irish: Éire)

The state was created as the Irish Free State in 1922 as a result of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. It had the status of Dominion until 1937 when a new constitution was adopted, in which the state was named "Ireland" and effectively became a republic, with an elected non-executive president as head of state. It was officially declared a republic in 1949.



Northern Ireland

(Irish: Tuaisceart Éireann) Northern Ireland was created in 1921, when Ireland was partitioned between Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland by the Government of Ireland Act 1920. On 11 January 2020, legislators in Northern Ireland formed a government. The nation is part of the United Kingdom, along with England, Scotland and Wales.



George Massey Tunnel

In 1959, Queen Elizabeth opened the George Massey Tunnel to overwhelming support. The 629-metre long tunnel was considered an engineering marvel and was the first project in North America to use immersed tube technology. Six concrete segments, each measuring 344 feet long and weighing 18,500 tons, were constructed on a dry dock, connected, sealed and sunk into place.

Nehemiah George Massey

(September 5, 1903 – April 8, 1964) was a Canadian politician. He served in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia from 1956 to 1960, as a Social Credit member for the constituency of Delta.

Massey was born in Courtown near Gorey, **County Wexford, Ireland** and immigrated to Canada in 1922 to avoid threats by the Irish Republican Army. Massey lived in Regina and moved to Ladner, British Columbia in 1936. He worked at a logging camp, farm hand and mechanic.

Arriving in Ladner, Massey felt that the ferry service connecting Delta to Richmond and Vancouver was inadequate and unable to address future population growth. For nearly 20 years, Massey put his own time, energy, and money into making an improved south Fraser crossing a reality. George Massey passed away in 1964, and in 1967 the Deas Island Tunnel was renamed in his honour to celebrate his decades of hard work and dedication in improving Metro Vancouver infrastructure.



St Patrick Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", the primary patron saint of Ireland. When he was sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland, he lived there for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned Ireland. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.



Ireland Canada Monument

The Vancouver Park Board and the Ireland Canada Monument Society have agreed to a design for the monument at the entrance to George Wainborn Park, Vancouver. Walking into the site entrance we find ourselves in a bosque of 32 Ash Trees that have grown tall there for 32 years and surprisingly, complement the 32 Counties of all Ireland.



Irish In Vancouver & B.C.

- ♣ Irish Sporting and Social Club Vancouver
- ♣ The Vancouver Irish Céilí Society
- ♣ Irish Women's Network of BC
- ♣ The Irish Benevolent Society of B.C.
- ♣ Okanagan Irish Society
- ♣ The Irish Club White Rock
- ♣ Celtic Fest Vancouver Society
- ♣ Irish Heritage Club of Seattle



The B. C. Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums

The band, which is an all-volunteer band made up of civilian women, men and youth of diverse ethnic origins is based out of the Beatty Street Drill Hall in Vancouver. The 28-member band plays at various civic functions, charitable events, parades, and military functions, primarily in the Metro Vancouver Area. In June 2002, the Irish Fusiliers of Canada and the British Columbia Regiment were formally merged to preserve the Battle Honours and name of the Irish Fusiliers. With the merger, the BCR Irish Pipes and Drums have become a visible symbol of the Irish heritage of these two outstanding regiments.



The Irish Fusiliers of Canada

(Vancouver Regiment) was formed in Vancouver, British Columbia on 15 August 1913 as the 11th Regiment Irish Fusiliers of Canada. The regiment was re-designated The Irish Fusiliers of Canada on 12 March 1920 and reorganized as a two-battalion regiment with the 1st Battalion perpetuating the 121st Battalion (Western Irish), CEF and a 2nd Battalion on the Reserve order of battle. The reserve unit was disbanded on 14 December 1936.



Scotland The Kingdom of Scotland emerged as an independent sovereign state in the European Early Middle Ages and continued to exist until 1707. By inheritance in 1603, James VI of Scotland became king of England and Ireland, thus forming a personal union of the three kingdoms. Scotland subsequently entered into a political union with the Kingdom of England on 1 May 1707 to create the new Kingdom of Great Britain.



Stanley Park Seawall

The original idea for the seawall is attributed to park board superintendent, W. S. Rawlings, who conveyed his vision in 1918.

William Stanley Rawlings was the superintendent of Vancouver's parks from 1913 to 1936. He lived at 1155 Park Road (called Lagoon Drive after 1929) from 1915 to 1937. William Stanley Rawlings was born in **London, England**, on December 6, 1882

James "Jimmy" Cunningham,

stonemason. He was born in 1878 on the Isle of Bute, Scotland. Jimmy came from **Scotland** in 1910, then served in WWI with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He worked extensively as a stonemason, including work at UBC, Vancouver homes, pools at Lumberman's Arch, 2nd and Kitsilano beaches, the Empress Hotel, and the Banff Springs hotel. In 1917 he began work on the Stanley Park seawall. In 1931 he was named master stonemason for the Vancouver Parks Board with a special task: to secure Stanley Park's shores. He retired in 1955 but kept coming down (once in his pyjamas!) to keep an eye on the wall's progress until his death September 29, 1963.

A true Scotsman, Jimmy built a low stone wall around his home, later learned the improvement would raise his taxes \$4 a year. "My wife and I went out and tore the whole blooming thing down."

TRIVIA:

The manager of Vancouver's first Bank of British Columbia branch was **James Cooper Keith**, a native of **Aberdeen**. He later became president of the Board of Trade and reeve of North Vancouver. **Keith Road** in North Vancouver was named after him.

Dollarton Hwy. was named for **Captain Robert Dollar**, born in **Scotland** in 1844.



The Royal Banner of the Royal Arms of Scotland,

also known as the Royal Banner of

Scotland or more commonly the Lion Rampant of Scotland. The Royal Banner of Scotland is used officially at the Scottish royal residences of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, and Balmoral Castle, Aberdeenshire, when the Queen is not in residence.



The Scottish Thistle has been an important symbol of Scottish heraldry for over 500 years. It also represents one of the highest honours the country can give an individual. Founded by James III in 1687, the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle is an order of chivalry which is bestowed to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of Scotland and the greater United Kingdom.



The Saltire or the Saint Andrew's Cross.

The image of St. Andrew, martyred while

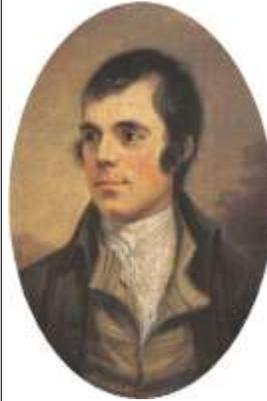
bound to an X-shaped cross, first appeared in the Kingdom of Scotland during the reign of William I. Since 1606 the saltire has also formed part of the design of the Union Flag. The Flag of Scotland is a white X-shaped cross, which represents the cross of the patron saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew.



The United Scottish Cultural Society

was formed by the prominent Scottish societies of Vancouver more than 50 years ago in an effort to create an amalgamated group of first and second generation Scots sharing a passion for perpetuating Scottish culture in all its forms.

Scottish Societies



- ✦ Centre for Scottish Studies, Simon Fraser University
- ✦ Sons of Scotland
- ✦ Vancouver Ceilidh Dance
- ✦ B.C. Highland Games & Scottish Festival Society



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

(RSCDS) Scottish country dancing is one enjoyed by a

large variety of people and cultures. Flourishing Scottish country dance clubs can be found all over the world, and not just in those countries which became the most important destinations for Scottish emigrants. It's colourful and lively, and the music is irresistible.

- ✦ B.C. Pipers Association
- ✦ B.C. Highland Dance Association
- ✦ Gaelic Society of Vancouver
- ✦ Moray, Nairn & Banff The Highland Association
- ✦ St. Andrews and Caledonian Society
- ✦ Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
- ✦ Scottish & Gaelic Society
- ✦ Burns Club



James Sinclair was born in **Crossroads, Grange, Banffshire, Scotland** the late federal fisheries minister, for whom Sinclair Centre in downtown Vancouver is named. He was also the father of Margaret Sinclair

(P.M. Justin Trudeau's Mother) and the son of James Sinclair of Caithness, Scotland, who came to Vancouver about 1910 and became the first principal of Vancouver Technical School., (March 9, 1879; Wick, Scotland – March 18, 1962; Vancouver) He was first elected to the House of Commons of Canada



representing the riding of Vancouver North in the 1940 federal election. A Liberal, he



was re-elected in 1945 in the riding of Vancouver North, and in 1949, 1953, and 1957 in the riding of Coast-Capilano.



Thomas Kilby was born in July 1868 in **Durham, England**. He immigrated at a very early age to a cousin's farm in the Ottawa Valley, and then traveled across Canada with his cousin's household goods

and livestock on the first trainload of "settler's effects" to use the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline. He eventually arrived in Sapperton, BC, where he met Eliza Anne Finlay, a widow from Manchester, England. Thomas and Eliza were married in 1889 and their son Acton, an only child, was born the following year.

Kilby Historic Site is a living history site bringing early life in the Fraser Valley to light. The heritage farm



includes the 1906 General Store Museum and Manchester House Hotel & Post Office.



Bangers & Mash

For the Sausages:

6 good quality Irish or British bangers / sausages

For the Gravy:

1 yellow onion, thinly sliced

Sausage drippings

1 tablespoon flour

1 cup beef stock

Salt and pepper, to taste

For the Mashed Potatoes:

2 large potatoes, quartered

¼ cup cream,

5 tablespoons butter

Salt and pepper, to taste

Prepare the Sausages

Preheat your oven to 350°. In a large pot, boil your potatoes for about 20 to 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook the sausages in a skillet over a medium-high heat lightly brown them, about 3 to 5 minutes.

Remove them from the heat, place them on a tray and pop them in the oven for 20 minutes.

To Make Your Gravy

Season onions with salt and pepper then fry in the sausage drippings over a medium heat until soft.

Dust with flour then slowly add in the stock. Allow liquid to simmer, reduce, and thicken.

Rosemary and thyme may be added for a bit of extra flavour.

Preparing the Mash Potatoes:

Once your potatoes are tender and easy to poke with a fork. Drain them and allow them to sit for about five minutes. Place your potatoes in a large bowl and begin to break them up with a potato masher.

Add in the butter, cream, salt, and pepper and continue to mash the ingredients together until the potatoes take on a creamy texture. A bit of chopped green onions, parsley or dill can be added.

Plate up and Eat:

To assemble your meal! Give yourself a helping of mash then lay the sausages over it. Pour the gravy and onions on top and enjoy..

Fresh baby peas or mushy peas may be added as a side.

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and Guinness Meat Pies,**



Welsh Cakes,

Eccles Cakes



**Pork Pies
(Melton Mowbray's)**



Scotch Eggs



Scotch Pies



James Cook



FRS (7 November 1728[NB 1] – 14 February 1779) was a British explorer, navigator, cartographer, and captain in the British Royal Navy. Early in March 1778, Capt. James Cook, Royal Navy, became the first Englishman since Francis Drake, two hundred years earlier, to see both coasts of North America.

He made detailed maps of Newfoundland prior to making three voyages to the Pacific Ocean. On his last voyage he unknowingly sailed past the Strait of Juan de Fuca and soon after entered Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. He anchored near the First Nations village of Yuquot. Cook's two ships remained in Nootka Sound from 29 March to 26 April 1778, in what Cook called Ship Cove, now Resolution Cove, at the south end of Bligh Island.

After leaving Nootka Sound, Cook explored and mapped the coast all the way to the Bering Strait, on the way identifying what came to be known as Cook Inlet in Alaska. In a single visit, Cook charted the majority of the North American northwest coastline on world maps for the first time, determined the extent of Alaska,

With him on the voyage were Mr. William Bligh as Master of the Resolution and Midshipman George Vancouver. The statue was commissioned by the Victoria Environmental Foundation and unveiled by The Honourable William Richards Bennett Premier of the Province of British Columbia. July 12, 1976.



Monument to Captain Cook
(Victoria BC)