

# The British Isles



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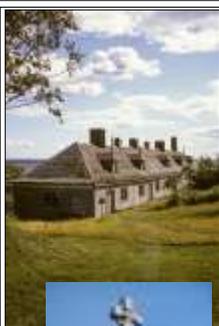
## Historic Society

History, Traditions & Customs

### 08-20 Supplement

### British Isles in Canada

### Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site



Grosse Isle and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site, the island was the site of an immigration depot which predominantly housed Irish immigrants coming to Canada to escape the Great Famine, 1845-1849. In 1832, the Lower Canadian Government had previously set up this depot to contain an earlier cholera epidemic that was believed to be caused by the large influx of European immigrants, and the station was reopened in the mid-Nineteenth Century to accommodate Irish migrants who had contracted typhus during their voyages. Thousands of Irish were quarantined on Grosse Isle from 1832 to 1848.

It is believed that over 3000 Irish died on the island and over 5000 are currently buried in the cemetery there; many died en-route. Most who died on the island were infected with typhus, which sprang up from the conditions there in 1847. Grosse Isle is the largest burial ground for refugees of the Great Famine outside Ireland. After Canadian Confederation in 1867, the buildings and equipment were modernized

cont. page 2 ...

### Editors Notes:

While on a Maritime / New England cruise, we found numerous statues, monuments and dedications to the British Isles in Quebec City.

One example was the commitment of the French to the Irish during the Irish Famine.

My newsletters are dedicated to all those British Isle's immigrants, traders and explorers in the past, the present and the future that left their homes in the British Isles to faced new challenges and hardships to make a new home in Canada. Due to the controversy now on about statues, monuments and markers that are devoted to the recognition of British Isles born citizens, this edition is dedicated.

I hope you understand and enjoy my research dedicated to all who have ties to the British Isles.

Regards

Steve McVittie, Editor



... to meet the standards of the new Canadian government's immigration policies. The island is sometimes called



Canada's Ellis Island (1892-1954), an association it shares with Pier 21 immigration facility in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grosse\\_Isle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grosse_Isle)



## Daniel Brenan,

land surveyor, merchant, banker, and politician, b. 1796 at Ballinakill, Queen's County (now **Leinster Province**), Ireland; d. 1 March 1876 in

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Daniel Brenan received his education in Ireland and at the age of 27 immigrated to Prince Edward Island. He immediately began work as a land surveyor, and a few years later became a merchant in Charlottetown. By the end of the 1820s he was one of the leading importers on the Island and was able to branch out into other fields – the carrying trade, real estate, insurance, and banking. Nonetheless, his main concern was his retail business; he built new brick stores in 1845 and 1866.

Daniel Brenan was one of the Island's best-known citizens throughout most of his life. When the Irish-Scottish relief fund was established in 1847, he was named treasurer. He was a prominent Roman Catholic layman, a successful businessman, and a frequent public lecturer at the Mechanics' Institute and the Catholic Young Men's Literary Institute. When he died in 1876, leaving a widow, Margaret, but no children,

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/brenan\\_daniel\\_10E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/brenan_daniel_10E.html)

## Scottish Immigrants, Sydney, N.S.

On 3 August 1802, the 242 ton ship "Northern Friends" arrived in Sydney Harbour with 415 settlers from **Scotland**. This marked the first emigration directly from Scotland to Cape Breton and formed the vanguard



of the great migration which gave this Island its Scottish character.

Erected through the co-operation of the Old Sydney Society and the Gaelic Society of Cape Breton, and unveiled by the Honourable Vincent J. MacLean, Minister of Lands and Forests, October 1977.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

[File:Memorial\\_cairn\\_to\\_Scottish\\_immigrants\\_Sydney\\_Nova\\_Scotia](#)

## Callery Cross

The Celtic cross that stands in Artillery Park on McMahon Street in Quebec City is the property of Irish Heritage Quebec. The cross is a gift from Ireland to the people of Quebec in memory of their

generosity and compassion during the period of the Great Migration of the 19th century. The Cross was donated by the Irish philanthropist James



Callery, founder of the Strokestown Park and Famine Museum in **County Roscommon, Ireland**. A recognized sign of Irish identity, the Celtic cross stands near what was the site of the first Irish parish in Canada. The monument is part of a larger plan to recognize and develop Irish heritage in Old Quebec.

<http://www.theirelandcanadastory.com>



# HERO OR VILLIAN?

## The future of Statues

**Sir John A. MacDonald**

**City of Charlottetown says Sir John A. Macdonald**

**statue is staying put — period!**

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. —

The City of Charlottetown said Thursday the bench statue of Sir John A. Macdonald isn't going anywhere.

The Guardian reported in Thursday's newspaper that council voted recently to leave the statue in place while discussions are held with key stakeholders in the Indigenous community.

However, there seems to be some confusion among members of council in regard to the issue. The city says there is no consideration being given to removing the statue – now or anytime in the future.

On June 25, council unanimously passed a resolution that the statue would remain in place. The resolution also went on to say that the city was to engage “appropriate stakeholders” to determine the next steps forward and tell the former prime minister's full story.

The stakeholders include L'nuey, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of P.E.I. and the Native Council of P.E.I.

Council then tasked the city's economic development, tourism and event management committee with executing the effort of talking to those stakeholders.

Coun. Kevin Ramsay, chairman of the committee, said the process of setting up meetings with stakeholders is underway.

“Council approved that the statue stays,” said Ramsay. “We are not removing it. We can't

displace history. We have to learn from our mistakes.”

Ramsay said the point of engaging the stakeholders is to see how everyone wants to see Macdonald's full story told.

There is a plaque next to the statue that briefly describes the country's first prime minister's role in Confederation, but there is no mention of his role as the architect of residential schools which separated Indigenous children from their parents and led to abuse and problems that have festered for more than a century.

<https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/local/city-of-charlottetown-says-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-is-staying-put-period-471524/>

NOTE: A statue of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, has been removed from the front steps of Victoria City Hall.



## The Controversy:

**Charlottetown PEI:** 'Leave as is:' Charlottetown council votes to keep statue of Sir John A. Macdonald. Charlottetown council votes to open dialogue with Indigenous groups.

**Regina, Sask.:** A new piece of signage is visible at the foot of the John A. Macdonald statue in Victoria Park in Regina, Saskatchewan on June 30, 2020. The sign indicates the city's knowledge that the statue represents a harmful legacy to members of the community.

**Winnipeg Man.:** Macdonald's legacy is fully entrenched in every inch of Canadian society, and its not going anywhere. It's up to us to figure out what his legacy means for us.

**Victoria, B.C.:** The removal of a statue in Victoria isn't about Macdonald. It's about the future.

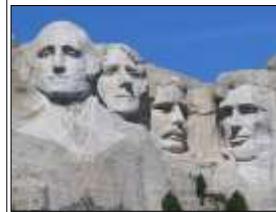
**Ottawa, Ont.:** Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, was an architect of Indigenous genocide whose name has no place on public schools in Ontario,

**Kingston, Ont.:** "Certainly the feedback we've gotten from the community is to add Indigenous history, to add Indigenous stories, and also to add context. Let's talk about not just the good of Macdonald's story, but let's talk about the context of the bad. Let's have that discussion."

The mayor said the city launched a very comprehensive consultation over year ago on the question of Macdonald's legacy in the city, in partnership with an Indigenous consultation team from Ottawa, First Peoples Group.

This is extreme left. Let's burn books too. And libraries and schools with names that insult you. Destroying historic images creates a void in our history. Let's learn from it not erase it.

YOUR OPINION?????



**Mount Rushmore** was designed by a sculptor who allegedly had ties to the Ku Klux Klan, and it was built on seized land.

## Statue of King George III (1776)

The first monumental statue in what was to become the United States of America was an equestrian statue of King George III. It was executed by the British sculptor Joseph Wilton. Commissioned in 1764 and cast in lead covered with gold leaf, the Neoclassical statue showed King George dressed in Roman garb astride a horse, the whole effect being reminiscent of the Marcus Aurelius statue in Rome. It was set up on a tall pedestal in Bowling Green Park in New York City and dedicated in August 1770.

On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first read in New York City, and to celebrate it a group of patriots pulled down the statue, and eventually melted it down to make bullets with which to fight the British.



Pulling Down the Statue of King George III, painting c. 1859

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



**Capt. John 'Gassy Jack' Deighton** was born in the port town of **Hull, England**, in 1830, though he spent his early years at sea. A voracious storyteller and lusty talker, the barrel-chested Deighton was given the nickname "Gassy Jack."

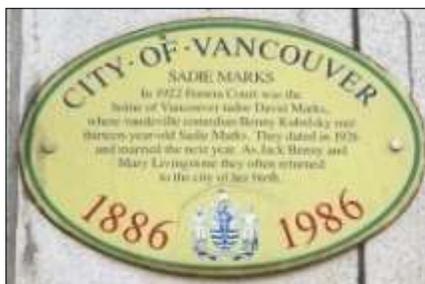
Gassy Jack worked on a clipper going to San Francisco during the Gold Rush, then spent time in Hong Kong and in England before returning to North America for good. After a fruitless search for gold, he ended up heading north to New Caledonia (now British Columbia). He had no luck there either but spent time piloting river steamships and dreaming of owning a bar.

In 1867, Gassy Jack opened the Globe Saloon to satisfy the thirsty workers of a mill, cleverly persuading them to build the shack in return for a sort of "happy hour" of free whiskey. Despite setbacks, Deighton was sure that the Burrard Inlet would become a harbor in time. So, with family and whiskey barrels in hand, he became the patriarch of the community that slowly built up here.

The area became known as Gastown after him, though it was officially named Granville in 1870. The town's official status meant Gassy Jack now had no formal land agreement for his bar, which wound up getting demolished. He then built the Deighton Hotel, a grand, two-story affair with a billiard room and large bar.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/gassy-jack-statue>

**Sadie Marks**  
**1886 - 1986**



### Carricks of Whitehaven Memorial

In 1900 the Memorial to the victims of the wreck of the Carricks out of **Sligo** was erected at Cap-des-Rosiers parish church. Later, in 1966, the ship's bell was found far away in Blanc Sablon and enshrined in a small monument next to the original one. A plaque, put in place in 1977 by the Canadian Parks Service, is located in the north sector of Forillon National Park.

<http://www.theirelandcanadastory.com>



### Memorial Rock

To preserve from desecration the remains of good immigrants who died of ship fever A.D. 1847-48. This stone is erected by the workmen of Messrs. Peto, Brassey & Betts employed in the construction of the Victoria Bridge A.D. 1859

When a pier of the Victoria Bridge (1853-59) in Montreal was constructed on a Famine graveyard, an estimated 6,000 victims were relocated to a nearby area. The largest rock removed from the river during construction was inscribed and erected near the Bridge by the **Irish** workers. This is believed to be the oldest memorial to Famine victims in the world.

<http://www.theirelandcanadastory.com>



### Carnegie Library

This eclectic 1903 building was one of 2,507 public libraries paid for by the **Scottish** industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the richest person in the world when he retired in 1901.

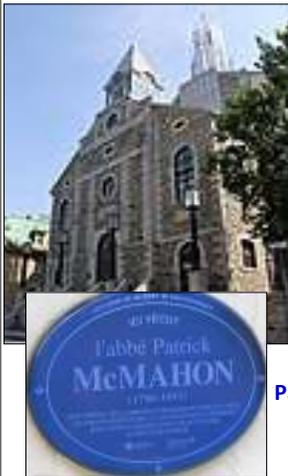




## Patrick McMahon,

a Roman Catholic priest;  
b. 24 Aug. 1796, probably in  
Abbeyleix (**Republic of Ireland**),  
d. 3 Oct. 1851 at Quebec.

After classical studies in  
**Ireland** , Patrick McMahon immigrated to Lower  
Canada in 1817 with members of his family. He  
taught English at the college of Saint-Hyacinthe while  
studying to become a priest. It is ordained on  
October 6 , 1822 in the Notre-Dame de Québec  
basilica-cathedral . He was appointed vicar for this  
parish where English speakers are more and more  
numerous. From 1825 to 1828, he was assigned to  
the Saint-Jean mission in New Brunswick .



On his return to Quebec,  
they set about building the  
first English-speaking Catholic  
church, Saint-Patrick's Church  
in Quebec . McMahon  
celebrated the first mass there  
on July 7 , 1833.

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
Patrick\\_McMahon](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_McMahon)



## HMS Egeria

HMS Egeria was a  
4-gun screw sloop of the  
Fantome class launched at  
Pembroke on 1 November  
1873. She was named after  
Egeria, a water nymph of Roman mythology, and was  
the second ship of the Royal Navy to bear the name.

After a busy career in the East Indies, Pacific,  
Australia and Canada, she was sold for breaking in  
1914 and was burnt at Burrard Inlet in British  
Columbia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Egeria\\_\(1873\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Egeria_(1873))



## Captain George Vancouver

The statue of George  
Vancouver is an outdoor  
sculpture by Italian-born artist  
Charles Marega, installed  
outside the Vancouver City Hall  
in Vancouver, British Columbia



George Vancouver was born in  
the seaport town of **King's Lynn**  
(**Norfolk, England**) on 22 June 1757  
as the sixth, and youngest, child of  
John Jasper Vancouver,

Captain George Vancouver (22 June 1757 – 10  
May 1798) was a British officer of the Royal Navy  
best known for his 1791–95 expedition, which  
explored and charted North America's northwestern  
Pacific Coast regions, including the coasts of what are  
now the American states of Alaska, Washington, and  
Oregon, as well as the Canadian province of British  
Columbia. He also explored the Hawaiian Islands and  
the southwest coast of Australia. In 1771, at the age  
of 13, Vancouver entered the Royal Navy as a "young  
gentleman," a future candidate for midshipman. He  
was selected to serve as a midshipman aboard HMS  
Resolution, on James Cook's second voyage (1772–  
1775)

Vancouver Island and the city of Vancouver,  
both in British Columbia, are named for him, as is  
Vancouver, Washington, in the United States, Mount  
Vancouver, on the border between Yukon and  
Alaska, and New Zealand's sixth-highest mountain,  
also Mount Vancouver.



H.M.S. EGERIA  
Memorial Plaque





## Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

The first Anglican cathedral to be built outside the British Isles was constructed

between 1800 and 1804. Designed by British Artillery officers and modelled on the famous church St Martin-in-the-Fields in **London**.

The King's Gift: an exhibition of the superb silver Communion Service given to the Cathedral by King George III

The Royal pew, with the Arms of King George III

Monuments to British officers and aristocrats, including the Duke of Richmond, who gave the famous ball before the Battle of Waterloo

A very rare English chamber organ, built in 1790 in London

The fine stained-glass windows, many of which were made in London

<https://www.quebec-cite.com/en/what-to-do-quebec-city/british-irish-heritage>



## Frederick Arthur Stanley

16th Earl of Derby, KG, GCB, GCVO, PC (15 January 1841 – 14 June 1908) styled as Hon. Frederick

Stanley from 1844–86 and as Lord Stanley of Preston between 1886–93, was a Conservative Party politician in the United Kingdom who served as Colonial Secretary from 1885 to 1886

and the sixth Governor General of Canada from 1888 to 1893. An avid sportsman, he built Stanley House Stables in England and is famous in North America for presenting Canada with the Stanley Cup. Stanley was also one of the original inductees of the Hockey Hall of Fame.



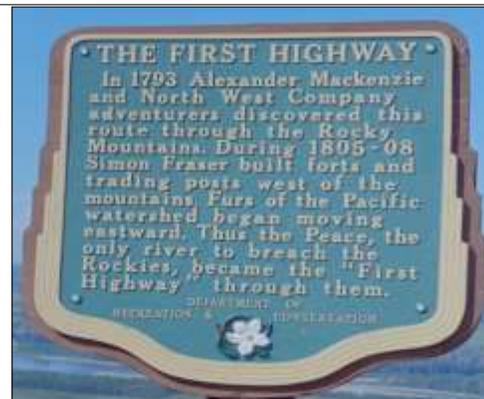
## Queen Victoria Memorial

The Queen Victoria memorial is a memorial to the Queen who ruled the British

Empire (and Canada) for many years in the 1800s. It was originally a drinking fountain that included two bronze cups which are not there now.

The bronze bas-relief was designed by James Blomfield and cast in **England**. The left facing cameo of Queen Victoria's head is the same image used on the 1897 Diamond Jubilee medals and medallions. Beneath the inscription is a lion with flowing mane that spouts water into a demi-lune basin. The original drinking cups suspended by chains are no longer present.

**James Blomfield** (born James Alfred Bloomfield) was born in 1872 in **Maidenhead, England**. He studied architecture and worked as a junior draftsman before emigrating to Canada with his family in 1887. In 1889, they moved to New Westminster, where he, his father Henry, and his younger brother Charles opened British Columbia's first art glass business. The Bloomfields designed, fabricated and installed numerous stained glass projects, including windows for the new Parliament Buildings, Government House and Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria. In 1898, they opened an office in Vancouver.





## Chehalis Cross

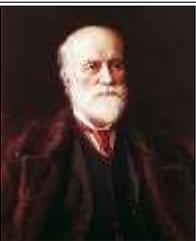
The Chehalis Cross, or Chehalis Monument, is a Celtic cross memorial commemorating the eight people who died when the tugboat Chehalis sank off Stanley Park. The monument is

installed west of Brockton Point in Vancouver, British Columbia.

### Sinking of the Chehalis

The 59.3 ft wooden steam ship Chehalis, owned by the Union S.S. Company of Vancouver, sank at about 2 p.m. July 21, 1906 killing 8 of the 15 people onboard, following a collision with the Canadian Pacific Railway's Princess Victoria, a 300 ft steam ship. The seven survivors were rescued by the keeper of the nearby Brockton Point lighthouse.

The Chehalis had been chartered to carry passengers to British Columbia's north coast and had just embarked from North Vancouver in fine weather, passing Brockton Point while heading out of Burrard Inlet. The Princess Victoria embarked from the Canadian Pacific Railway dock in Vancouver carrying 219 passengers. The Princess Victoria corrected its course for a small launch before running over the Chehalis. The official investigation blamed the Princess Victoria for the collision.



### Sir Sandford Fleming,

KCMG (January 7, 1827 – July 22, 1915) was a **Scottish** Canadian engineer and inventor. Born and raised in Scotland,

he emigrated to colonial Canada at the age of 18. He was a founding member of the Royal Society of Canada and founder of the Canadian Institute, a science organization in Toronto.



## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

The oldest congregation of Scottish origin in Canada (est. 1759).

Contains the official reproductions of Flags of the Fraser Highlanders

The First Organ (Harmonium) used in Worship over 100 years ago

The pipes and drums of the 78th Fraser Highlanders historical society, who rehearse in the church every Thursday night, carrying on a Scottish tradition

<https://www.quebec-cite.com/en/what-to-do-quebec-city/british-irish-heritage>



## The Robert Burns Memorial

is an outdoor memorial and statue of **Scottish** poet Robert Burns, located in Stanley Park in Vancouver, B.C. It was dedicated on 25 August 1928, becoming

the first statue erected in Vancouver.

Located at the southern approach to the park near Coal Harbour, upon a tall light-coloured stone plinth, a standing Robert Burns facing the south towards the southern entrance. A plaque appears on the front with his name, followed clockwise of reliefs of scenes from his poems, To a mountain daisy (1786), The cotter's Friday night (1785), and Tam O'Shanter (1790).



**TRIVIA:** Peterborough, Ontario was founded by **Irish** settlers who arrived from the North Cork area from 1823 to 1825. Peterborough was named by the settlers in honour of Peter Robinson



## 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**, Stamp served as the captain of a steam transport in the Crimean War in 1854.



In 1865, he formed the British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Lumber and Saw Mill Company to establish a sawmill and logging rights on Burrard Inlet. The company first attempted to locate the mill at Brockton Point in

what is now Stanley Park, but inshore currents and a nearby reef made the site impractical and the site was shifted about a mile farther east, on the south side of the inlet. Because of several business challenges, and perhaps his own difficult personality, Stamp's relationship with the company and his management position came to an end on 2 January 1869. In 1870 the mill was renamed Hastings Mill and eventually seeded the settlement from which the city of Vancouver developed.

Stamp had a minor career in politics, serving on the Legislative Council of British Columbia in 1867 and 1868. He died at Turnham Green, Middlesex, on 20 January 1872.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Stamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Stamp)

## Over 40% of the world's inventions and discoveries were made in the UK,



1667: Tin can telephone, a device that conveyed sounds over an extended wire by mechanical vibrations, invented by Robert Hooke (1635–1703)



## Shakespeare Garden

Stanley Park Rhododendron Garden Nestled between the Rose Garden and the forest in Stanley Park, the Shakespeare Garden pays homage to The Bard.

The garden is a diverse arboretum that includes trees mentioned in his plays and poems.

There are about 45 trees that form the arboretum that accompanies the monument. Trees designated from the works of Shakespeare have been affixed with plaques that display their appropriate quotes. These Shakespeare trees are integrated throughout the arboretum for visitors to find as they explore the garden.



The first tree was planted by Mrs. Jonathan Rogers in 1916 on the three hundred year anniversary of the Bard's death. Architect J.F. Watson designed and sculpted the Shakespeare monument in time for the garden's official opening in 1936 by the Governor General, Lord Tweedsmuir.

<https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/gardens-in-stanley-park.aspx>



1837: The first commercially successful electric telegraph developed by Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802–1875) and Sir William Fothergill Cooke (1806–1879)

1899: The world's first colour motion picture film produced by Edward Raymond Turner (1873–1903)



1931: Stereophonic sound or, more



commonly, stereo invented at EMI in Hayes, Middlesex by Alan Blumlein (1903–1942)

