

History Project  
of

Richmond  
Municipality

by

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class 7.

1923.

## Richmond Municipality

Lying between the North Arm of the Fraser River and its main channel and bounded on the West by the Gulf of Georgia, Richmond is separated from the municipalities of Burnaby, South Vancouver and Point Grey by the North Arm of the Fraser River. The eastern portion of Lulu Island however is within the city of New Westminster and the nearest point on the Island to the city of Vancouver is only three and one-half miles distant.

This municipality

includes many islands  
 the more important of  
 these being Lulu and  
 Sea Islands. The smaller  
 Islands are Twiggs,  
 Mitchell, Dinsmore  
 and Duck.

The outline of these  
 Islands show a close  
 approach to the form  
 of the Greek letter  
 delta, thus its name  
 has been given to  
 formations such as  
 these at the mouths  
 of other rivers. These  
 Islands have been  
 built up by the  
 alluvial matter carried  
 down principally by  
 the Fraser River and  
 this same process is  
 still going on and  
 adding area to the

lands. About one-third of Lulu Island is covered with peat bogs. In early years there was a growth of timber along the water front while the remainder of the Island was covered with grasses of different kinds and hardack with here and there willows etc.

Wild roses grew in great profusion and to a great height garlanding the bushes and festooning the trees whose beauty in June was indescribable. At that time the Island abounded in beavers, deer and bears, and as late as thirty years ago a bear was killed near number 6 road on the South side of the Island.

Conditions on Sea Island were very similar to those already described on Lulu Island.

It is generally believed that the Island was named Lulu by Colonel Moody who did so in honor of a young actress, Lulu Sweet, who visited New Westminster in the early days. No account is given for the naming of Sea Island. Mitchell's, Twigg's and Dinsmore's Islands were named after men of that name although these men were not the first settlers on the respective Islands. Duck Island was so called from the

fact that large flocks of ducks inhabited it. This Island is very small containing less than ten acres. The Island lies between Lulu and Sea Islands and is not inhabited. At one time it was dyked in and chinamen tried to grow rice there but this proved unsuccessful.

In 1858 about the time Colonel Moody had started to lay out the city of New Westminster, Mr John Trutch, brother of Sir Joseph Trutch, the first governor of British Columbia after confederation, surveyed these Islands dividing them into blocks, ranges and sections as they are now

described except that portion known as Block 3 North Range to West and being a part known as the Slough District

Lulu Island is about eighteen miles long and four miles wide at the widest place.

Approximately thirty five thousand fertile acres extending over practically all of Lulu and Sea Islands especially adapted to intensive agriculture, comprise this district.

I shall now give the names of some of the pioneers of the municipality.

Hugh Mc Roberts was the first person to make permanent improvements

on the Island. To him is due the honor of being the first to dyke in and cultivate a piece of alluvial overflowed land at the mouth of the Fraser River. At one time he owned more than one-half of Sea Island. The upper end of this is now owned by J. Grauer. H. Mc Roberts died in 1883 leaving a long and interesting record as a pioneer, a good sturdy man of the best type.

Other pioneers worthy of note were Henry Mole J. Betts and Hugh Magell who came in 1864. These men were partners and in 1865 sold property known as Rose Hill to



J. W. Scratchley, who died in 1921 at the age of 78 years. One of the Magee brothers is still living on their homestead.

W. H. Rowling was an early owner of land on Lulu Island and was a member of the Richmond Council.

Wm Mc Neely owned a tract of land on the South side of Lulu Island now known as the London Property. His was the first land to be dyked and ploughed on Lulu Island.

Wm. Shannon and Wm. Parson bought land from the Government on the North side of Lulu Island which they sold to Sam Brighthouse

In 1866 W. D. Ferris moved to the Island but in 1867 sold his holdings to J. W. Seasmith.

Hugh Boyd and A. Kilgour settled on South side of Sea Island in 1866 and their farm was sold to the Mackie Bros. in 1900.

Sam Brighthouse was joined by his nephew M. B. Wilkinson in 1888. S. Brighthouse died in 1913 leaving about 700 acres to his nephew who added Brighthouse to his name. It is on this 700 acres that Brighthouse Park is situated.

Later pioneers were;  
 J. G. Smith, D. Robson,  
 Mc Myn Bros., J. Vermilya,  
 Walker, Howard De Beck,  
 J. Bell, Duncan and Hugh  
 Mac Donald, Fraser,

J. Brough, Errington,  
Hood, W. + J. Wilson and  
Sir Philip Clark.

Early in 1875 Thomas  
Kidd and Walter Lee  
landed on Lulu Island.  
Mr Kidd has seen it  
converted from morras  
to the fertile land that  
it now is. He was one  
of the first councillors  
and warden. He served  
a term as a member  
of the Provincial  
legislature parliament  
and was a member  
of commission on  
taxation in 1919. He  
has always taken a  
very active part in  
the welfare and  
prosperity of the municipality.  
Other pioneers are  
John Green, Read, McIvor

S. Pearson, J. Parkers,  
 Simpson, H. Mc Donald  
 N. Woodward, J. Knox  
 J. Featherston, N. Lee,  
 T. Tiffin, J. Cochrane,  
 J. Quigley, Harry Osborne  
 D. Daniels, Miller, Ferguson  
 J. Mc Myn, A. Sharpe,  
 M. Steves, Wm Beckman  
 O. Sweet, Doc Forster,  
 J. and A. Blair, Dr. Parkins  
 and David Reid.

The first meeting of  
 the council was held  
 at the home of Boyd  
 and Kilgour January 12,  
 1880, the municipality  
 having been incorporat-  
 ed in 1879. A. Sharpe  
 was returning officer.

The Results were;

Warden - Hugh Boyd  
 Councillors - A. Kilgour, R  
 Hood, J. Miller, Scratchley

M. Steves, J. Smith, W. Lee.  
Clerk - S. Miller who was  
paid eighty dollars a year.  
Architect - Bonson.

On May 17 of same year  
by-laws were passed  
for the levying and  
collecting of taxes.

In 1881 the municipality  
was divided into A, B,  
and C wards. The roads  
were gazetted at time  
as numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,  
8, 9, 12, 13, 14. The surveyor  
of roads was George  
Turner. At this time  
these roads were merely  
trails but have been  
very greatly improved  
since as there is now  
a paved road running  
across the Island and  
many other good roads  
The first bridges were

built in 1889-90. Before this time canoes were used. At present there is a bridge at the upper end of Lulu Island connecting it with the city of New Westminster. another bridge called the Fraser Avenue crosses from number five road to Twigg's Island and from there to the mainland, these bridges have just been repaired and are the only means for auto transportation from the Islands at present as the Sea Island bridge was torn down and a new bridge is being erected in the same place. A new bridge is being also erected between Lulu and Sea Islands. The

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fourth bridge is for the B.C. Electric alone and it is here that the interurban cars cross in going from Steveston to Vancouver.

There is ferry transportation from Woodwards to Ladner

The first school on the Island was the North arm. A few years later Lulu School was built and is in use at present. The first teacher on the Island was Miss Sexsmith.

Trustees were, G. Garrypie McCleery, Kilgour and Sexsmith. In the first school there were fourteen boys and twelve girls. At present there are seven Public

Schools and one High School.

The early missionary work was done among the Indians in Steveston. The first church was erected in 1886 on Sea Island by the Presbyterians. It is still standing but is not in use at present. The second church was built by the Methodist on Lulu Island in 1891. There is Sunday School and church held here every Sunday morning.

Pioneer ministers were Rev. R. Jamieson, T. G. Thompson, A. Dunn, James Turner, and Bryant, S. Derrich and J. Thompson. These ministers travelled by boat from New Westminster.



At one time the Steveston Fisheries were the most extensive on the Pacific coast but owing to the many fires there now only remains two canneries there.

There is a cannery at Terra Nova which is exceptionally well equipped.

A number of years ago the municipal Hall was burned thus many records were lost. For some years after this the work was done in a room at Bridgeport School. However, there is now a municipal Hall at Brighthouse.

I shall now further describe by pictures.



Woodward's Landing  
The ferry seen in  
the above has just  
come from Ladner  
and is awaiting the  
arrival of the busses  
from Vancouver which  
carry passengers to and  
from the ferry.



The home of R. Rees,  
 the councillor for  
 Ward 4, an old-time  
 residence.



An early home built on Lulu Island and owned by J. Mc Myn. Since this house was built many alterations and improvements have been made on the inside.



English School, one  
of the older schools  
on the Island,  
situated near  
Woodwards. In the  
front the paved road  
can be seen.



An old house on the  
Island, the property  
of Mr. Fairman  
This is a picturesque  
place, especially in  
the Summer.  
This is on number 9  
road.



South Arm Presbyterian  
Church on the corner  
of nos. 9 and 3 roads.  
The last few years the  
part to the left has been  
added. This is a  
gymnasium and  
kitchen.



Home of Mr. Bridge  
who was Reeve of the  
municipality for some  
years. This house was  
built many years ago.





a house which was  
built but a few  
years ago, owned by  
Mr M Kinney



*Old house*



*Orange Hall No 9 road  
which is used for  
festivals, concerts and  
dances.*



Old houses



Home of Mr Branscombe

The  
which  
owned by  
Captain  
Atkinson



house  
was



Fisherman's Hospital

Steveston



Roman Catholic Church  
Steveston

There is also an  
Anglican, Presbyterian  
and Japanese Mission  
Church in Steveston

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85-34-130  
85-39-131



*Steveston*



*B.C. Electric Station Steveston*

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*Steveston Cannery*



*Steveston*



Principal Block in  
Steveston showing  
corner Drug Store.





This is called the Steveston Opera House. It is the only large building in Steveston to hold a gathering and this it does on many occasions.



Methodist Church  
Steveston, which has  
the same pastor as  
the Richmond Methodist  
Church on corner of  
nos 3 and 17 roads.



85-29-137  
85-29-138



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Steveston Public Schools



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The new home of  
Mr D. M. Webster  
He was a member  
of the council for  
a number of years.



Municipal Hall,  
Brighthouse. In the front  
is the War-Memorial.  
To the left are the  
tennis courts and  
the B. & O. Electric car-tracks  
To the right is Brighthouse  
Park.



The new block at Brighthouse  
 owned by H. Barker. In  
 the background is the  
 station and to the left  
 of it a block owned  
 by Stirton.



Richmond Methodist Church built in 1891. To the left is the parsonage. To the right is the shed which was used for horses and rigs and is now used by cars.

Besides churches mentioned there is one at East Richmond



New barn and dairy  
owned by Doctors which  
is to produce certified  
milk



H. T. Easterbrooks. flour mill.  
The elevator was built recently





In the background  
Bridgeport Public + High  
School may be seen.  
These were in the same  
building until this year  
now the High School is  
in three buildings at the  
back. When the school  
was changed from a  
Superior to a High School  
one of the first principals  
was Mr. J. A. MacIntosh.



This house was built eighteen years ago and is the home of James Thompson. It is situated about one and one-half miles from Terra Nova.



J. Thompson's barn and cattle.



A view from my home. Across the river is Sea Island. In the background are mountains which can be seen in every direction.



This block at Eburne is owned by Mr. Grauer. There is in it the Post-office, grocery store, hardware, gas station and most farm implements. This is on Sea Island.

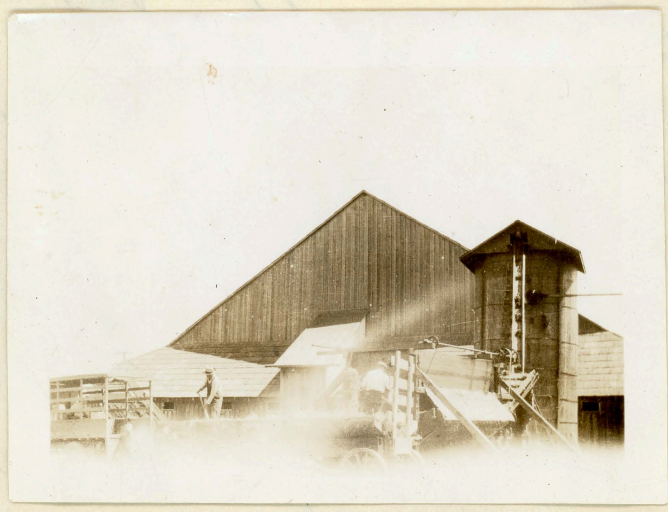


These barns which have just been completed are owned by Mr. Grauer. The silos are on other side.

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Japanese school on Sea Island.



Pea-threshers on Lulu Island a very interesting process.



48.



A Good Crop  
Lulu Island.

85-39-154

47



A Load of Hay





48.



*Grain-threshers.*

*Wagon and horse*

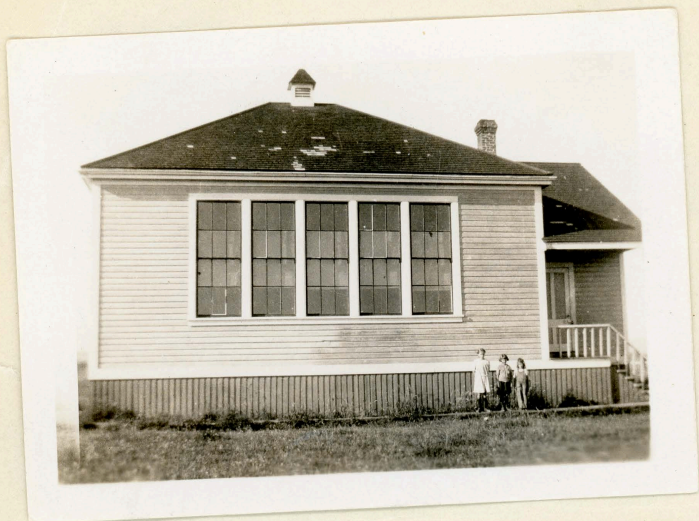


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*A Real Farm yard.*



Trites School at the  
upper end of the Island.