
Acknowledgement

I am indebted to Barrie Humphrey for first alerting me to the newspaper articles mentioning the Canessa v. Nicol case and the database in which he found them.

Corrections to the earlier article in *SHALE* 19

EDITOR'S NOTE: A complete up-to-date list of corrections in all issues of *SHALE* can be found at: <http://www.nickdoe/pdfs/Webp211.pdf>

In the footnote 19 (42, fn.4), "Dennis E. Canessa" should have been "Dennis G. Canessa". Add at the end "Her daughter, Donna L. Wess, lives with her." "1840" 19 (43) should be "1850".

Change the sentence 19 (46), "They lived in the lower mainland..." to "They lived mainly in the lower mainland. However, Caroline in her later years lived with her daughter in Kamloops, where she died at 94 in 1972."

Add a comma 19 (46), "...my informant,".

Change 19 (46), "...Byron and Hogel ("Jack"), and a daughter Zelma" to "...Byron and Hogel ("Jack"), and a daughter Rosabel".

Newcastle Island and the US Mint in San Francisco

In Jenni's earlier article, *The origins of quarrying for sandstone on Gabriola, SHALE* 19, pp.3–9, she noted that commercial quarrying for sandstone in the local area began in 1869 with the signing of a lease between the Vancouver Coal and Land Company, who then owned the Nanaimo coalmines, and a contractor for the US Mint, Mr. Joseph Emery. The lease permitted the cutting of stone for the new Mint building in San Francisco.

At the time, there was a lively trade in coal between Nanaimo and California, and so it is not surprising that two businessmen, Emery and Mark Bate, the coalmine manager, met and were able to do a deal. However, as noted in footnote 13 of the article, it is a little surprising that the provision of sandstone from a foreign country for such a prestigious building was acceptable to the US government, especially given that sandstone is not the rarest of rocks.

According to published historical sources, because the stone from Newcastle Island was "foreign", it went through more severe tests than would normally be required, and only after the United States Inspector certified that the stone was of the highest character was it found acceptable (Bill Merilees, *Newcastle Island...*, p.56).

Rather curious as to the nature of these "severe tests", I started delving into the San Francisco archives. So far, I've not located a copy of the United States Inspector's final report; however, what has come to light is the following very curious letter.

The letter is dated October 15, 1869, and was written by the chief Architect of the new Mint, Alfred B. Mullet of the Treasury Department, and addressed to George Sewall Boutwell, who resigned from the US House of Congress in 1869 to accept the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury from President Ulysses S. Grant in 1869—not junior officials you'll note.

In part, the letter says, "...the stone offered by J.S. Emery, which is obtained from the Island of New Westminster in the San Juan Group, claimed and I believe owned by the US, is a beautiful blue free stone of extraordinary strength and durability and will I think present a beautiful and satisfactory appearance and give every satisfaction to the citizens of that material." (*my emphasis*)

Well, well! Bet you didn't know that Newcastle Island was once owned by the United States and that New Westminster was an island.

I'll try to find out more. ◇

Nick Doe