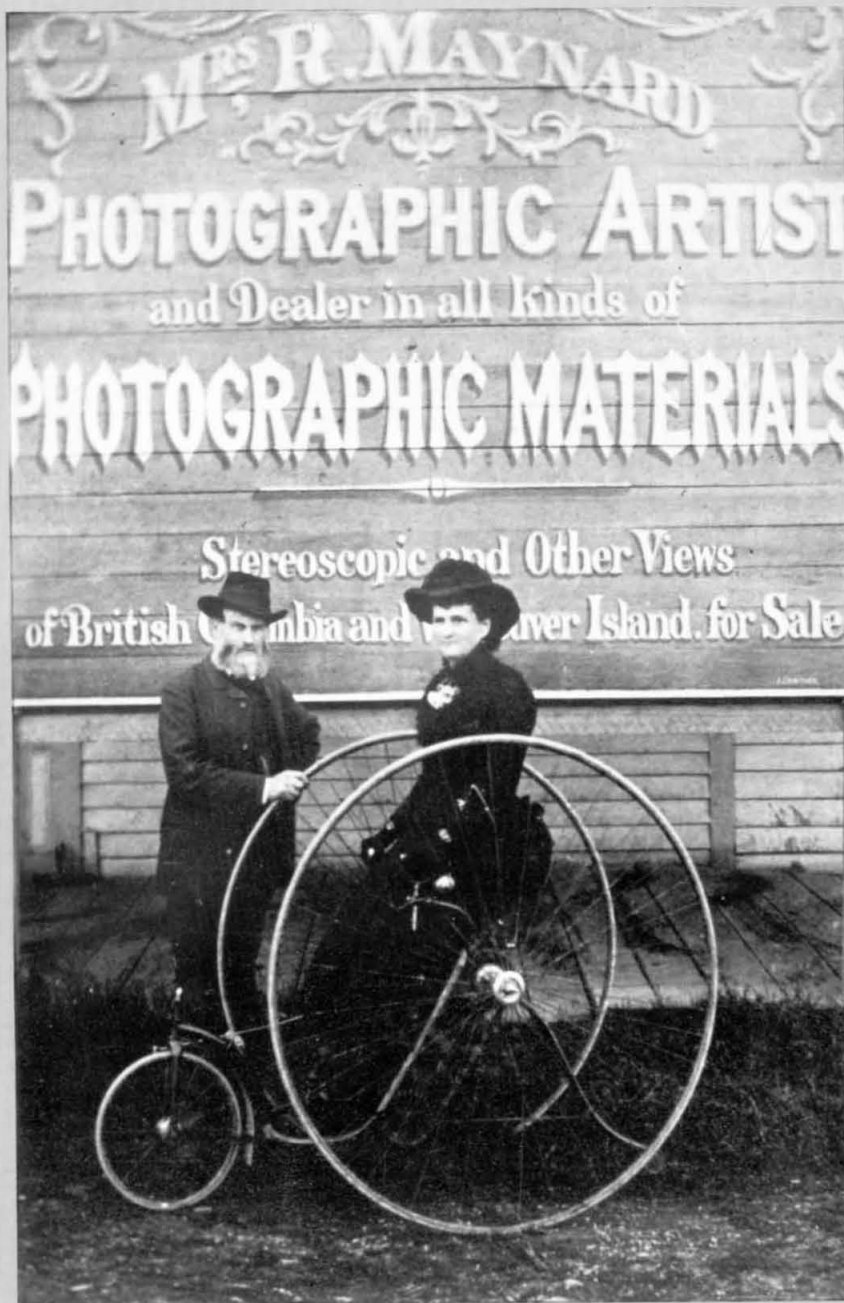


# PHOTOGRAPHIC CANADIANA

The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Volume 11, Number 5

March-April 1986



Hannah and Richard  
Maynard  
Victoria, B.C.  
(circa 1880's)

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## The Photographic Historical Society of Canada

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## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*Richard and Hannah Maynard outside their Douglas & Johnson Streets studio, ca. 1880's. Enlargement of a carte-de-visite. (Courtesy of Provincial Archives of BC photo no. 56736).*



## News and Views from the President

### FOR THE RECORD

To avoid further confusion, I wish to confirm that neither the P.H.S.O.C. or the P.H.S.M.T. were involved in any way with the camera show that was held in March, at the Holiday Inn (Hwy. 27) Toronto.

This show was a commercial venture run by a Mr. John Wootten of Hamilton, Ontario. He is not a member of either the National or Toronto Societies.

All camera fairs sponsored by either the P.H. S.O.C. or the P.H.S.M.T. are always clearly identified as such and proceeds resulting are used exclusively to support the activities of the National or Toronto Societies. As already publicized, the 12th Annual Photographica Fair of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada will be held at the Holiday Inn-Don Valley on Sunday, May 25th, 1986.

### WELCOME

During our fiscal year 1985-1986, P.H.S.O.C. was pleased to welcome over thirty new members. The following list is additional to one published in Volume 11, No. 1 (May-June, 1985) of Photographica Canadiana.

Name, Location	Interest
K.S. Allen, Vancouver, B.C.	Photographic History
Syd Lennox, Guelph, Ont.	Building Old Cameras
Beverley Luciani, Toronto, Ont.	
Doug Brown, Calgary, Alta.	Cirkut Cameras
Giles G. Rivest, Chambly, P.Q.	General
Ed Burlew, Richmond Hill, Ont.	General
Roman Spalek, Edmonton, Alta.	Magazines & Bulletins
G. Garnet Brace, Brampton, Ont.	Mostly Cameras
L.H. Engholm, Cobourg, Ont.	Travel Photography
Ernest May, Oakville, Ont.	Cameras
J. David Carveth, Willowdale, Ont.	Photo Trade History
Robert A. Cotton, Toronto, Ont.	Photographic History
Provincial Archives of Man., Winnipeg, Man.	

## PHSOC MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

The fees for the 1986-87 membership year are due on May, 1 1986. If you have not renewed your membership for the upcoming year, use the membership renewal form inserted in this copy of Photographica Canadiana and send your renewal to the address on the form. Please do it now. We need you.

Robert G. Wilson,  
Membership Secretary.

### IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathy is extended to P.H.S.O.C. Secretary Doug Dann and to his wife, Nesta, whose only daughter, Karen, was fatally injured in a tragic accident near Thornhill, Ontario on Monday April 7th. Karen had stopped on the highway to render assistance to an injured cat and was struck by a passing vehicle. She was just twenty-five years old. Donations to your local Humane Society, in memory of Karen, would be appreciated by the family.

# THE MAYNARDS A VICTORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC COUPLE

BY DAVID MATTISON

A great many errors of fact and judgment have accumulated since the *Colonist* announced Mrs. Maynard's retirement at the age of 78 on September 29, 1912. Even the elderly photographer, whose mind capriciously recalled events from a half century before, contributed to the legend that has crept up on the couple whose life work is matched by few other husband and wife photographers.

Richard James (1832-1907) and Hannah Hatherly Maynard (1834-1918) were English by birth, Canadian by emigration and eccentrically Victorian by choice. Married in England in 1852, they moved to Bowmanville, Canada West (Ontario), where four children were born over the next 10 years. Richard, who had apprenticed as a shoemaker in England, carried on in this trade in Bowmanville.

Seven years later, he was lured to British Columbia by news of the Fraser River's golden gravelbars. Returning to his family either at the end of the summer or in 1860, plans were made to settle permanently in Victoria. They arrived on March 6, 1862. Aboard the same vessel was another photographer, an amateur by the name of Francis George Claudet, who was returning from San Francisco with parts for the mint at New Westminster which he managed.

Mrs. Maynard, so the story goes, while her husband had been panning and sluicing his way to wealth in 1859, had learned photography, probably from a Bowmanville firm named R. & H. O'Hara. Now she too had a trade.

Photography was practiced by many women throughout its history, and when Mrs. Maynard learned the fine art of coating a piece of glass, commonly as large as 20 X 25 cm (8 X 10 in.), with a sticky substance known as collodion, photography was only 20 years old. As a portrait photographer, however, she normally worked with smaller pieces of glass.

Mrs. Maynard is supposed to have opened her Victoria photographic gallery shortly after the family's arrival, with Richard establishing a boot and shoe store. He, still bugged by gold, spent the first summer prospecting along the Stikine River with hundreds of other miners. Richard returned home and at some point between 1862 and 1866 Richard was taught photography by his wife. Nor were family affairs neglected, for one more child was born in 1866 or 1867.

Mrs. Maynard was a vigorous promoter of her photography. She frequently changed the design on the back of her photography mounts. The Victoria newspapers and the *St. Louis and Canadian Photographer* received many examples of her work. The September 1879 issue of the latter was unstinting in its praise:

Mrs. Maynard is one of the most industrious and persevering ladies we have in our business. She stops at no impediment, in our Art, but is a regular go-ahead, even beating our yankee girls two to one in photography.

Strong words, envious sentiment about a woman whose character is slowly being revealed. Aspects of the Maynards' career that are important to the history of the province and the medium are, for a start, their many years in Victoria.

Their travels, singly and together, are noteworthy alone for their frequency: Barkerville (1868); England (1870); Vancouver Island (circumnavigations and inland trips in 1873, 1874, 1879, 1880); San Francisco (1875); Alaska (1879, 1882, 1887, 1892);



*The third Maynard studio combined, as had the second, Richard's boot & shoe store with Hannah's portrait business; the latter was upstairs and the entrance was on the left. This building, shown here about 1892 shortly after its completion, is still standing. (Courtesy of Provincial Archives of BC photo no. 57186).*

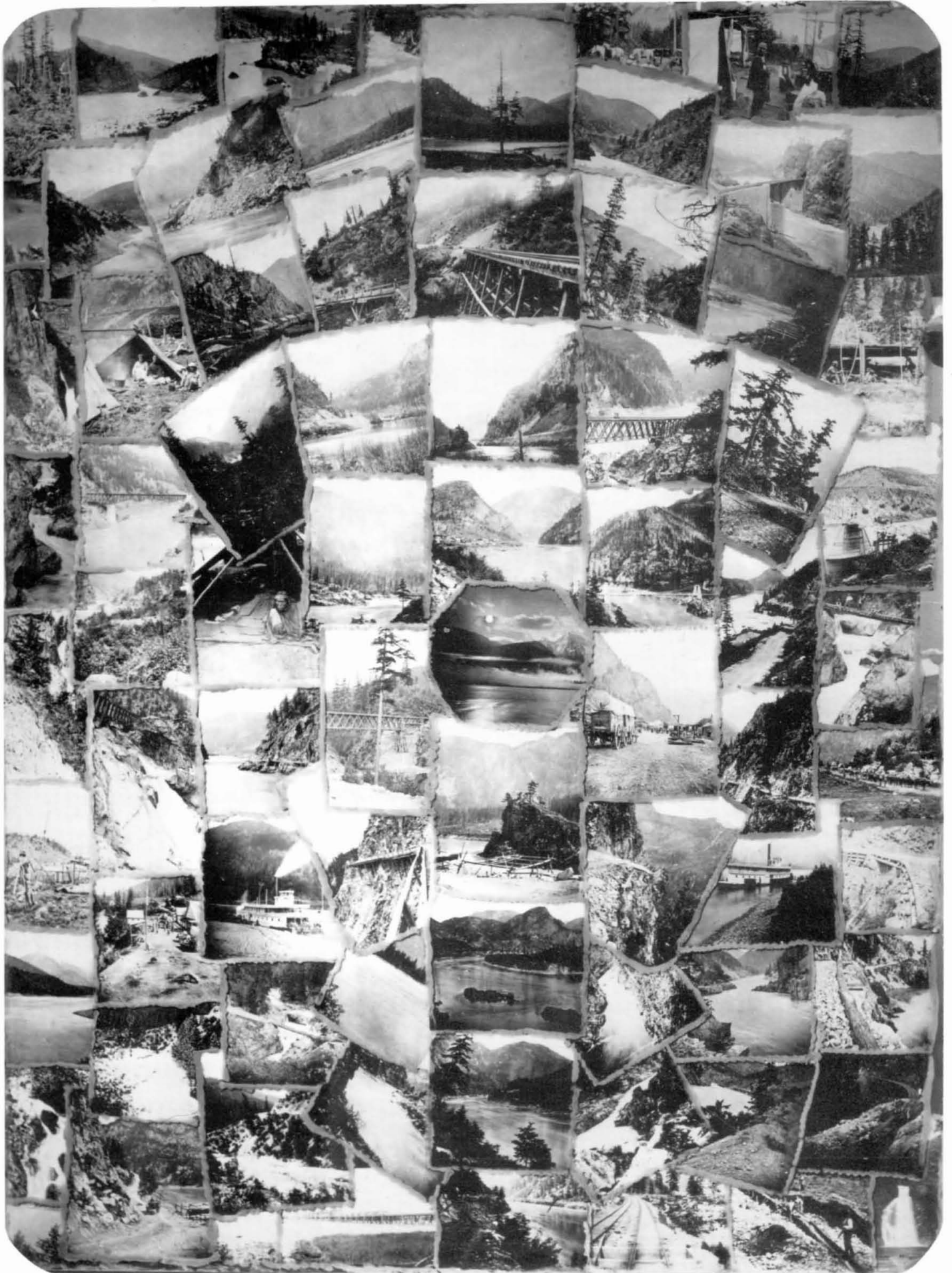
Queen Charlotte Islands (1884, 1888); and several trips along the Canadian Pacific Railway both before and after its completion.

Some of these voyages were made by Richard as a commissioned photographer. These include two trips around Vancouver Island and along the west coast of the mainland on HMS Boxer in 1873 and 1874 with Superintendent of Indian Affairs Dr. I.W. Powell; an expedition to the Queen Charlottes in April and May 1884 with the American explorer Captain Newton H. Chittenden; and a trip to the seal rookeries of the Pribilof Islands between July and September 1892. The following year these photographs were presented by the Canadian government as unofficial evidence to members of the Bering Sea tribunal of arbitration in Paris.

The Maynards were also responsible for preserving a valuable part of the province's visual history when they acquired glass negatives taken by Frederick Dally (1838-1914) between 1866 and 1870. Internal clues from studio portraits by Mrs. Maynard suggest they may also have bought negatives from their competitors, a common practice at the time.

Hannah's photography consisted mainly of portraits, but she too ventured into the field. Once, as if to upstage her important husband, she made a solo excursion on the *Princess Louise* to the Queen Charlottes in August 1884. Notebooks, with phonetic spelling, were kept by both Richard and Hannah during most of their travels.

Unfortunately, the business side of their careers is not very well documented. Few records have survived in this respect as to who was photographed, what type of equipment was used or





Richard posing with his field camera in a studio portrait, 1880's-1890's. The backdrop was probably painted by one of their daughters. (Courtesy of Provincial Archives of BC photo no. 93687).

where their supplies were purchased. We know, however, that they worked in a variety of formats, including stereographs (Richard's specialty), and kept up with photographic trends.

The Maynards operated three different studios over the course of their lives. The first, on Johnson Street, was closed in 1874. Some newspaper items before May 1874 refer to Richard as "the photographer of Fort Street." The *Colonist* and the *Daily Standard*, starting in October 1874, ran an ad which continued for the next two years notifying the public of "Mrs. Maynard's new photographic gallery corner of Douglas & Johnson Streets" (now 1405 Douglas St.; Toronto Dominion Bank building). Richard Maynard had, however, moved his Fort Street shoe store into this second building in May 1874.

The final move was made in March 1892 when Mrs. Maynard and her husband relocated to 41 Pandora Avenue. Many of her photographs after this date bear the address "41 1/2 Pandora Avenue near Douglas Street." It may have been in this latter studio that some of her most astonishing images were produced. These were comic and allegorical tableaux in

This spectacular montage of CPR and Cariboo Road views by Richard was assembled in the late 1880's. Some of the original photographs may have been taken by Frederick Dally whose negatives the Maynards eventually acquired. (Courtesy of Provincial Archives of BC photo no. 17979).

which she and a grandson, Maynard McDonald, appear several times through a multiple exposure technique known as "doubles" or "triples."

Very few examples from the 1890s as sophisticated as Mrs. Maynard's seem to have survived. Her purpose in producing these strange photographs, many of which bear hidden meanings due to her spiritualist beliefs, will probably never be known. On one level they were photographic amusements, on another they are reflections of her artistic imagination and psychology.

The Maynard photographs are a testimonial to their pioneer spirit and a tribute to a time, a place and the people who helped make them a success. One of Hannah's most famous boasts was that she had photographed just about the entire population of Victoria. The city and indeed the province is fortunate to have had such a talented and dedicated photographic couple.

R. MAYNARD,  
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST

And Dealer in All Kinds of

Photographic Materials

Microscopic and Large Views of British Columbia and Vancouver Island for Sale.

Cor. Douglas & Johnson Streets,  
Victoria, B. C.

David Mattison is a photographic and film historian who works as an archivist with the Sound & Moving Image Division, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Victoria V8V 1X4. This article is a revised version of an article originally published in the *Victoria Times-Colonist* (October 19-20, 1980). The author and the editor kindly thank the *Times-Colonist* for allowing it to be reprinted.

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Most of surviving textual source material by Richard and Hannah Maynard, consisting of notebook-diaries and correspondence, is found in the C.F. Newcombe manuscript collection (Provincial Archives of BC, Add. MSS. 1077).