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NEWS RELEASE

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New publication announcement: Veterans Cemetery, Esquimalt.

The **Victoria Genealogical Society** is proud to announce the release of their latest publication titled The Veterans Cemetery, Esquimalt, British Columbia - Revised and Updated 2014 Edition by Harvey A. Buckmaster, Compiler & Editor. It replaces the original edition published in 2000.

Veterans Cemetery has been an honoured final resting place for those that served in Canada's military since 1868 when Rear Admiral George Fowler Hastings of the Royal Navy purchased one acre of land for use as a cemetery from the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. The sailors knew this piece of land, which was once a turnip field, as "God's Acre" but officially it was the Royal Navy Cemetery. The cemetery was consecrated by the Right Reverend George Hills, the first Anglican Bishop of British Columbia, on July 14, 1868. In 1927, the Gorge Vale Golf Club acquired 150 acres of land surrounding the cemetery from the Hudson's Bay Company. When the Department of Veterans Affairs took over the cemetery in 1947, it became known as the "Veterans Cemetery". The cemetery was designated as a National Historical Site by the Government of Canada in 2006.

“It has been an privilege to be involved with this project because of its historical importance and its recognition of the important role that many Canadians and their families have played by serving in our military forces” said Harvey Buckmaster, the compiler and editor of the new edition. Buckmaster, a retired university professor from Calgary, has been compiling and indexing the cemetery's grave marker inscriptions for the Victoria Genealogical Society since 2004. “Ron Demaray was the driving force for the 2000 edition” said Buckmaster, “and I have worked diligently to ensure this important work lived on, by adding the information for the new burials from 2000 to 2013, and improving the contents of the 2000 edition by reformatting existing files and providing additional genealogical information whenever possible”.

The 2014 book has 230 pages and contains the complete inscription for each of the 2888 burial marker records. The book also includes the names on the 7 plaques located in the chapel at the cemetery and the 91 names for those with scattered ashes. All names in the book are indexed for easy searching using the included plot map.

The Victoria Genealogical Society is grateful for the financial support received for this project from the following donors:

- Naval Association of Canada – Vancouver Island
- Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria
- Royal BC Museum
- Royal Canadian Legion Esquimalt Dockyard 172
- Township of Esquimalt
- Victoria Historical Society

The book is available for sale for \$30 at the Victoria Genealogical Society Resource Centre at 947 Alston Street in Vic West (phone 250-360-2808) and can also be purchased online using credit card or PayPal account – simply visit our publications page at <http://victoriags.org/publications.php#vets>, select the book and click on the ‘Add to cart’ button.

Note: Media Backgrounder with information about the Victoria Genealogical Society is available upon request.

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