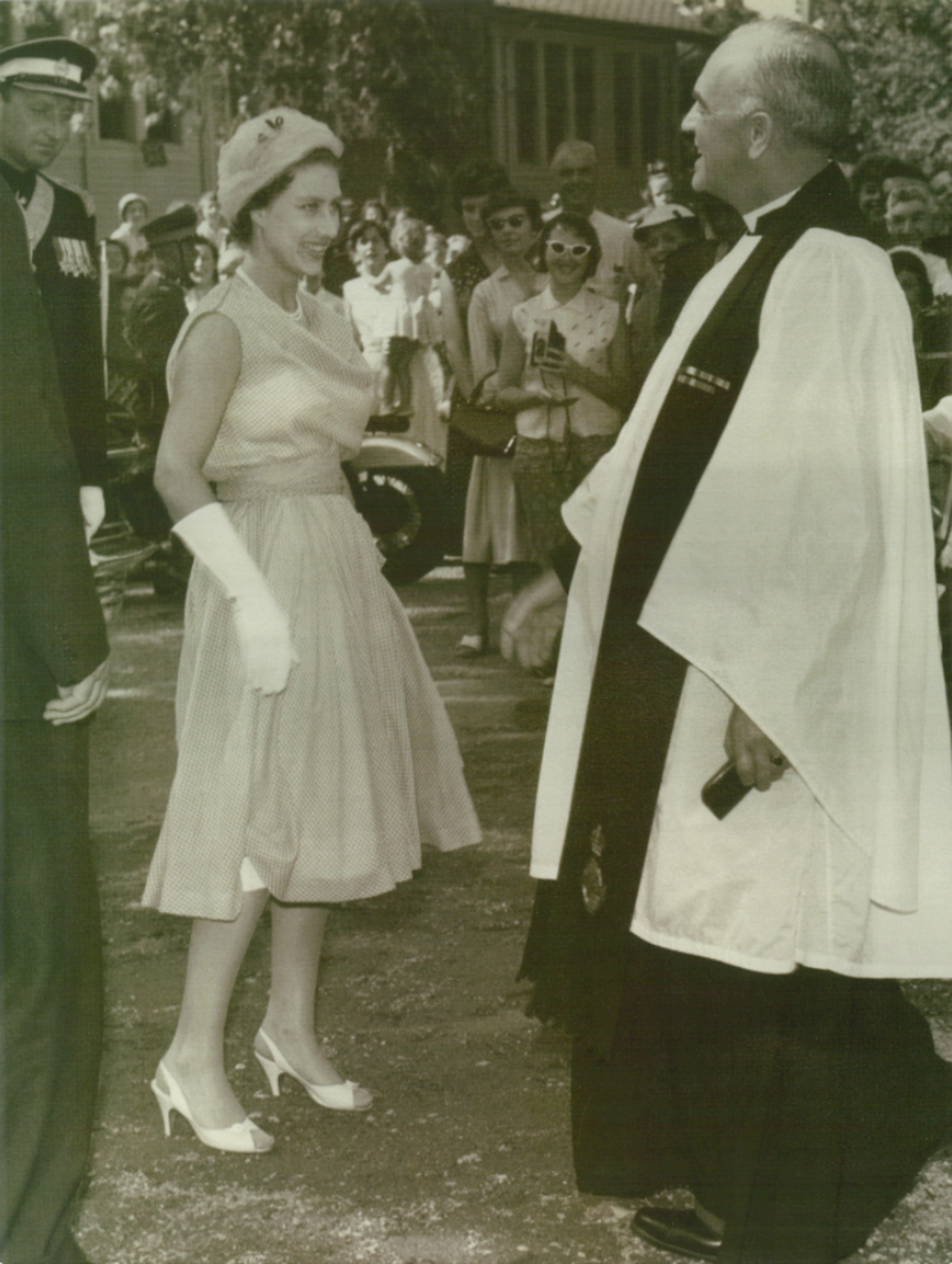




A popular rumour that was often told to children of Maple Ridge by their parents was that the good Anglicans from the north side of the Fraser River one foggy night stole the little church from the bad Anglicans living on the other side. The Anglicans living on the south side of the river told a somewhat different story.

When the church in Derby was abandoned, the bible originally used by Reverend William Burton Crickmer, its first minister, was given in trust to Sergeant John McKenney of the Royal Engineers. At his death, Mrs. McKenney turned it over to John McIver for safekeeping. In 1939 on the 80th anniversary of the church, the bible was returned to its rightful place.

On one of his many drawings, Reverend Crickmer made mention of a mountain—located about seven miles northeast of Haney and commonly referred to as Blue Mountain—as Mount Crickmer. While it was true that Mr. Crickmer had received assurance from Governor Douglas that the mountain across the river from Derby was to be named in his honour, it must be remembered that at the time, 1959, British Columbia was only a distant colony and many official acts were not properly recorded.

It September 1956, Major James S. Matthews, Vancouver City Archivist, saw the sketch made by Mr. Crickmer of the Derby church and rectory, with the mountain across the Fraser River in the background indicated by an arrow and marked Mount Crickmer. He immediately requested the BC Chief Geographer to apply to the department to have the mountain officially named and shown on its maps. A surveyor took panoramic pictures of the mountain three miles down river from the site of the fort, matched the pictures to the sketch and pinpointed Mount Crickmer on a neck of land between the Stave and Alouette Lakes north of the Fraser River. Mount Crickmer, 4,500 feet high, with rounded top and without an official name for nearly 100 years, now appears on all maps issued by the Department of Lands and Forests.

Padre Harry Moss greets Princess Margaret on a visit to St. John the Divine Anglican Church as part of her 1958 centennial tour of British Columbia.

Royal Visit

Excerpt from an article written by Constable D. E. Waite for the RCMP Quarterly October 1969

The most famous visitor to the St. John the Divine Anglican Church was Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth, who signed the guest registrar in July 1958 when Padre Harry Moss was the rector. The invitation was made by Reverend Philip B. "Tubby" Clayton, famed founder of Toc H, still working out of that fraternity's church, All Hallows', Tower Hill, London, Chaplain to the Queen. Clayton suggested the Princess should look in on the old sanctuary and his old friend from World War I days, old Harry Moss.

It wasn't that easy and after a frustrating series of comic events the Padre was ready to chuck the deal, much as he admired the Royal Family and wanted to see "Meg." Apparently the Princess's first visit to Maple Ridge consisted of an unscheduled highway stop at a wrong church that threw the police security system into a bit of a "tizzy."

The Princess, unable to see the church on that particular day, worked another date into her tight schedule and Padre Moss was able to show her around. After officially opening the National Historic Fort at Fort Langley, the Princess's plane taxied across the Fraser River to the Port Haney wharf where she was whisked away in a limousine to see the church. As the Padre told it, Margaret explained, "I just had to come after that special invitation. My Mother is very fond of 'Tubby.'"

No longer hidden in the forest the St. John the Divine Anglican Church is the sole remaining building in what might have been the first capital of British Columbia.