

St. Andrew's, Courtenay

Prepared by Jesse Robertson (July 15, 2024)

Property Acquisition

Address	4680 Island Hwy North, Courtenay, BC, V9N 5Y6
Legal description	LOT A, SECTION 17, COMOX DISTRICT, PLAN 20213, EXCEPT THAT PART IN PLAN 24051
First private landholder	Settler Reginald Pidcock occupied the area by April 1863 but later abandoned his claim. Reverend John Booth Good applied to pre-empt Section 17 in July 1864 and received a Certificate of Improvement after installing a church and fence.
Diocesan acquisition	Rev. Good conveyed his Certificate of Improvement to Bishop George Hills sometime after November 1864. Bishop Hills received a Crown Grant for the 170-acre property in 1871, after paying the requisite \$1 per acre.

Narrative Overview

St. Andrew's is located in Courtenay in the territory of the K'òmoks First Nation and other Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples (Figure 1). Reverend John Booth Good (incumbent at St. Paul's, Nanaimo) visited the Comox Valley in June 1864 to identify a mission location and arrange for a catechist to be established near the settlement. He appears to have purchased the claim of settler Reginald Pidcock, including a small log cabin, where catechist Jordayne Browne-Cave made his residence in the following month.¹

Rev. Good visited the district again that August in company with the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition and later described his awe at the area's natural abundance: "The fern abounding on all sides stood as high as one's head. All kinds of natural flowers gemmed the meadows that were awaiting the hand of the mower. Coveys of grouse whirred around disturbed by our presence, and deer startled by our footsteps sprang away to the covert beyond, whilst mountain and woody slopes bathed in the flood of early sunshine, constituted a very Sabbath of stillness and delight."²

Good applied to pre-empt Section 17, Comox District—170 acres "of the very choicest and most central portion of the settlement"—in July 1864, stationing Browne-Cave there in his stead (Figures 2-3). The erection of a church, cabin, and rough fencing was sufficient for the reverend to obtain a Certificate of Improvement, which he conveyed to Bishop George Hills to hold on behalf of the

¹ John Booth Good to B.W. Pearse (Acting Surveyor General), 2 Nov 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, British Columbia Archives, Victoria, BC (hereafter BCA); Columbia Mission Society, *Sixth Annual Report of the Columbia Mission for the Year 1864* (London: Rivingtons, 1865), 31; Robert Brown, *Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition*, ed. John Hayman (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1989), 112–14.

² Rev. John Booth Good, "The Utmost Bounds of the West: Pioneer Jotting or Forty Years Missionary Reminiscences of the Out West Pacific Coast, AD 1861 to AD 1900," pages 25-26, E/B/G59, BCA; Brown, *Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition*, 112–14.

Diocese. Bishop Hills received a Crown Grant for the property in 1871 after paying the requisite \$1 per acre (Figure 4).³

By this means, the Diocese obtained “one of the best position [sic] [...] for all time to come.” The property was expected to serve as a glebe which could be farmed, leased, or sold to generate revenue as White settlement of the area progressed.⁴ Decades later, Rev. Good wrote with satisfaction that the property “has been steadily rising in value [...] and the land surrounding converted into a fine farm yielding to the incumbent a good portion of the necessaries of life.”⁵

The Diocese licensed several logging and mineral exploration operations in the glebe between 1889-1911.⁶ It began subdividing and selling portions of Section 17 in 1891 and had sold some 75 acres before 1913. A further 86 acres were subdivided into fourteen lots in 1913, all but one of which (Lot 5) were sold in 1920-21 (Figure 5).⁷ By one estimate, fewer than 9 of the original 170 acres remained in Diocesan hands at the end of this period.⁸ Lot 5 (4.2 acres) was sold for \$130,000 in 1981 (Figure 6).⁹ Two Anglican ministers appear to have been among those who purchased parts of the glebe for private use.¹⁰

Interpretive Summary

Decisions regarding future land use should bear the following considerations in mind:

⇒ The early date of Diocesan ownership contributed to the cumulative dispossession of K'ómoks and other Indigenous peoples from their territories. Anglican clergy were directly involved in pre-empting, clearing, fencing, and cultivating the original 170-acre church property, including lands near the Tsolum River where Indigenous people once lived. The clearing of land for church, cemetery, and glebe purposes reduced Indigenous access to forest and meadow areas used for hunting and harvesting. The delineation of Indigenous land into private property through land surveys, legal pronouncements, and physical barriers further restricted the ability of Indigenous peoples to move through their territory.

⇒ In acquiring title to the land, the Diocese benefited from discriminatory policies that preferentially enabled White settlers to acquire land through pre-emption. In 1866, Indigenous people were

³ Good, “The Utmost Bounds of the West,” page 26; Good, Applicant form, 14 Jul 1864; Good to Pearse, 2 Nov 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA; Crown Grant Image G00021252001, Section 17, Comox District, Government Access tool for Online Retrieval (GATOR): [https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/pls/gator/gator\\$queryforms.menu](https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/pls/gator/gator$queryforms.menu).

⁴ Columbia Mission Society, *Eighth Annual Report of the Columbia Mission for the Year 1866* (London: Rivingtons, 1867), 23.

⁵ Good, “The Utmost Bounds of the West,” page 26.

⁶ Comox Glebe Lands – Logging and Mineral Exploration Permits, 1889-1911,” 2001-23, Archives of the Diocese of British Columbia, Victoria, BC (hereafter ADBC).

⁷ “Particulars of Transfers made by the Anglican Synod of Portions of Section 17, Comox District,” text 277, ADBC; Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁸ Diocesan administrators arrived at different figures while trying to calculate remaining glebe lands in subsequent decades. In 1961, the Lay Secretary estimated that over 11 acres remained in Diocesan possession. See “Glebe lands donations, 1872-1909,” file 13; “Comox Glebe Lands – sale of,” text 277; Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁹ Copy of transfer of an Estate in fee Simple, Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia (ASDBC) to David Ernest Goodman, Allen Stewart Towne, Garry Rai, and Harbans Singh Sangha, Jun 1981, 2001-23, ADBC.

¹⁰ Conveyance, ASDBC to Rev. J.X. Willemar, 1913, text 277; Synod Executive Committee Minutes, 23 Apr 1963, text 209, ADBC.

explicitly banned from pre-empting land without the consent of the Governor. The prohibition remained in effect until 1953.

⇒ The alienation of land from the Crown has been a central factor limiting Indigenous access to land. Indian Reserve commissioners deferred to settler property rights and interests when determining reserve boundaries and generally considered private land exempt from their considerations.¹¹ In 1877, the Joint Indian Reserve Commission reported that they “would gladly have given a larger acreage” to the K'ómoks if the best lands were not “already in the possession of White farmers.”

⇒ Indigenous access to land was further curtailed by an 1887 grant that transferred almost 2,000,000 acres of Vancouver Island to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company. Today, private property is considered “off the table” for Aboriginal treaty negotiations, such as those currently being pursued by K'ómoks First Nation, We Wai Kai Nation, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, and Homalco First Nation. Arrangements and/or transfers from private landowners will likely be required for these and other nations to regain stewardship and/or ownership over a significant part of its traditional territories.

⇒ The property is located within the ecologically and culturally significant Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem. Anglican clergy and other White settlers benefited materially from the cultivation of rich soils that derived, in part, from historic Indigenous burning practices.

Historical Context

The Comox Valley has been home to different Indigenous groups over the past several hundred years. K'ómoks First Nation is an amalgamation of several distinct groups, including Coast Salish groups historically referred to as the Comox and Pentlatch. Both were present when settlers arrived in the 1860s. Many K'ómoks ancestors spoke Kwakwaka'wakw (Laich-kwil-tach, Ligwilda'xw) people through the early nineteenth century. We Wai Kai Nation and Wei Wai Kum First Nation are among the descendants of the Lekwiltok.¹²

The property is located within the Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem, the northernmost of its kind, and noted for deep, moist soils enriched by generations of Indigenous burning practices.¹³ Indigenous people lived near the Tsolum River on what became Anglican property into the early-nineteenth century and continued to gather cow parsnip from the area.¹⁴ Successive Anglican clergy wrote effusively about the area's rich soil and agricultural potential—often with a view to attracting White settlers—apparently unaware of its origin in historic Indigenous land management practices.¹⁵

Anglican missionaries played a direct role in the dispossession of this land. The land pre-emption application was initiated by Rev. John Booth Good in 1864 and completed by Bishop George Hills and

¹¹ See Cole Harris, *Making Native Space: Colonialism, Resistance, and Reserves in British Columbia* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002), 112, 170–73, 230–31, 244.

¹² ‘Cultures’, K'ómoks First Nation, accessed 15 July 2024, <https://komoks.ca/cultures/>; Robert Galois, *Kwakwaka'wakw Settlements, 1775-1920: A Geographical Analysis and Gazetteer* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1994), 233–35, 266–67; Dorothy I. D. Kennedy, *Sliammon Life, Sliammon Lands* (Vancouver, BC: Talonbooks, 1983), 16–17.

¹³ ‘Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem’, Canada's Historic Places, accessed 24 June 2024, <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14527#>.

¹⁴ Katherine H. Capes, *Contributions to the Prehistory of Vancouver Island*, Occasional Papers of the Idaho State University Museum 15 (Pocatello, ID: Idaho State University, 1964), 22–23, <http://archive.org/details/contributionstop0000cape>.

¹⁵ Good, “The Utmost Bounds of the West,” page 26; Columbia Mission Society, *Fourth Annual Report of the Columbia Mission for the Year 1862* (London: Rivingtons, 1863), 49; Columbia Mission Society, *Twenty-Fourth Report of the Missions of the Church of England in the Diocese of British Columbia for the Years 1884 and 1885* (London: Rivingtons, 1886), 28.

1871.¹⁶ Provincial legislation prohibited Indigenous peoples from acquiring land by this means from 1866 to 1953.¹⁷ Anglican priests personally fenced and farmed large portions of this land, further restricting Indigenous peoples' access to traditional lands and resources.¹⁸ In the 1870s, Rev. Jules-Xavier Willemar established a rectory and grazing grounds among mounds constructed by Indigenous people in the distant past.¹⁹

Clergy also encouraged White occupation of the Comox Valley. Bishop Hills appears to have accompanied the first expedition of settlers to the region in October 1862 and wrote positively about the valley's abundance in a subsequent mission report.²⁰ Rev. Good accompanied the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition to the area in August 1864, encouraging Chief Wacas to assist their efforts to find "gold, coal, good land and every thing [sic] of that sort."²¹ Rev. Willemar published letters in the 1880s promoting the region's suitability for settlement and cultivation: "there is plenty of unoccupied land available for cultivation and the soil is excellent. We want emigrants to take up the land, and turn our wilderness of forests and swamps into rich farm lands [...] I should like to welcome more people from England."²²

A central purpose of the Comox mission was the "Christianizing of Indian tribes, who may be reached from thence as a centre." With limited funds at his disposal, Bishop Hills replaced an Indigenous mission at Alberni with one at Comox where missionaries could benefit from a glebe and simultaneously minister to the growing White settlement.²³ Bishop Hills hoped to Comox would serve as a base from which Anglicans could reach Indigenous communities locally, to the north, and on the island's west coast.²⁴ Missionaries Jules Xavier Willemar and Harry Guillod joined the mission in 1871, ministering to an Indigenous settlement four miles from the mission where they later established a school chapel.²⁵ In 1877, Indian Superintendent Israel Wood Powell reported low school attendance owing to the fact that the "old people look with contempt upon it and take no interest in having their children attend regularly."²⁶

¹⁶ John Booth Good, Applicant form, 14 Jul 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA; Crown Grant Image G00021252001, Section 17, Comox District, GATOR.

¹⁷ Paul Tennant, *Aboriginal Peoples and Politics: The Indian Land Question in British Columbia, 1849-1989* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1990), 41–42, 121.

¹⁸ Eric Duncan, *Fifty-Seven Years in the Comox Valley* (J. Barrett Gilmer, 1967), 57, <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcbooks/items/1.0377567>.

¹⁹ Capes, *Contributions to the Prehistory of Vancouver Island*, 7, 13–18.

²⁰ Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1862*, 49; Ben Hughes, *History of the Comox Valley* (Nanaimo, BC: Printed by Evergreen Press, 1962), 11–12.

²¹ Brown, *Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition*, 112–14.

²² Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Years 1884 and 1885*, 28.

²³ Bishop George Hills to Rev. W.J. Bullock, 3 Dec 1871, text 57, ADBC; Columbia Mission Society, *Fourteenth Annual Report of the Missions of the Church of England in British Columbia for the Year 1872* (London: Rivingtons, 1873), 10.

²⁴ Bishop George Hills to Rev. W.J. Bullock, 23 Feb 1873, text 57, ADBC

²⁵ Guillod would later draw on his experience ministering to Indigenous communities in his capacity as an Indian Agent for the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Columbia Mission Society, *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Missions of the Church of England in British Columbia, for the Year 1871* (London: Rivingtons, 1872), 33; Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1872*, 10; Canada, Parliament, 'Report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the Year Ended 31st December, 1881', in *Sessional Papers for the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, Session 1882*, vol. 5, paper 6 (Ottawa: MacLean, Rogers & Co., 1882), xlii.

²⁶ Canada, Parliament, 'Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for the Year Ended 30th June, 1877', in *Sessional Papers for the Fifth Session of the Third Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, Session 1878*, vol. 8, paper 10 (Ottawa: MacLean, Rogers & Co., 1878), 49.

As early as 1873, Israel Powell observed that settlers had taken up the best soil in the Comox Valley to the detriment of Indigenous people in the area: “White settlers having been allowed from time to time to preempt even their little potatoe [sic] patches, until now, a very small piece of unproductive soil on which their camps are located is all they have left. The good lands in the vicinity have all been taken up and no recompense has ever been made them in anyway. [Chief] Hayquetou has a good claim in both justice and equity for redress by having sufficient land for each of his people laid aside for them - and this I promised in the fulness of time, to accomplish.”²⁷ In 1877, the Joint Indian Reserve Commission reported that they “would gladly have given a larger acreage” to the K’ómoks if the best lands were not “already in the possession of White farmers.” Some acres were added the existing reserve, but the K’ómoks Chief protested that his people had not been paid for their title to lands already occupied by White people.²⁸

K’ómoks and other Indigenous lands have been further reduced by a major land grant awarded for the construction of a railway on Vancouver Island. The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company secured the contract in 1883, agreeing to lay 113 kilometres of line in exchange for \$750,000 and a twenty mile strip extending from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows amounting to nearly 2,000,000 acres of land (Figure 7). The land grant was executed in 1887, following completion of the railway.²⁹

Indigenous Presence and Land Use

Languages	Island Comox / ayajusem / Éy7á7juuthem; Pentlatch (Coast Salish) Liq’wala (Kwak’wala) ³⁰
Governance	K’ómoks First Nation; Homalco First Nation; Tla’amin Nation; We We Kai Nation; Wei Wai Kai Treaty Society; Wei Wai Kum First Nation; Wei Wai Kum/Kwiakah Treaty Society
Land use	The property is located within the Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem, the northernmost of its kind in Canada. Many of the trees grown in deep, moist soils that have been enriched by Indigenous burning practices—a contrast to other Garry oak ecosystems found on shallow, dry, or rocky sites. The ecosystem is one of the last remaining woodland oak communities in Canada, containing Sitka spruce, grand fir, Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, and bitter cherry. ³¹ The first settler on what became Section 17 noted abundant local resources procured by Indigenous peoples when he arrived in 1862, including salal, salmon, deer, and elk. ³² Indigenous people gathered cow parsnip from the

²⁷ Israel Wood Powell to the Secretary of State for British Columbia, 25 Jun 1873, file 1794, vol. 3602, reel c-10104, Black Series, RG10 Department of Indian Affairs, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, ON (hereafter LAC): <http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2058830&lang=eng>

²⁸ Canada, Parliament, ‘Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for 1877’, lv, 47.

²⁹ Kelly Black, ‘An Archive of Settler Belonging: Local Feeling, Land, and the Forest Resource on Vancouver Island’ (PhD dissertation, Ottawa, Carleton University, 2017), 104–5.

³⁰ ‘Cultures’.

³¹ ‘Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem’.

³² Reginald Heber Pidcock, “Adventures in Vancouver Island, 1862-1868,” pages 69, 75, 78, 83, E/B/P59A, BCA.

	property near the Tsolum River, and lived near this site into the early-nineteenth century. ³³
Archaeological data	The Archaeology Branch of British Columbia has not recorded any archaeological sites on the current property. ³⁴ In 1959, archaeological excavations of former Anglican land near the Tsolum River and old rectory site revealed numerous artifacts (awls, points, abrading stones, blades) and faunal remains (shellfish, salmon, dogfish, herring, deer, elk, and seal). ³⁵
Historic treaties	None.
Modern treaties	The Tla'amin Final Agreement went into effect on April 5, 2016. K'ómoks First Nation, We Wai Kai Treaty Society (including We Wai Kai Nation), and Wei Wai Kum/Kwiakah Treaty Society (including Wei Wai Kum First Nation) are currently in Stage 5 of the BC Treaty Process (Final Agreement Negotiations). Homalco First Nation is in Stage 4 of the BC Treaty Process (Agreement in Principle Negotiations).

Timeline

Italicized text indicates contextual information. **Bold** text indicates information specific to the property.

Date	Details
<i>13 Jan 1849</i>	HBC awarded ten-year charter for the “advancement of colonization” on the Colony of Vancouver Island.
<i>1852</i>	Joseph William McKay visits the area on reconnaissance for the Hudson Bay Company. ³⁶
<i>12 Jan 1859</i>	Diocese of British Columbia established amidst global expansion of British Empire and Church of England (38 new dioceses established between 1814-1859). The Letters Patent creating the Diocese give the Bishop power to hold property on behalf of the church. ³⁷
<i>1862</i>	Smallpox spreads through the Strait of Georgia with devastating impacts on Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw populations. ³⁸

³³ Capes, *Contributions to the Prehistory of Vancouver Island*, 22–23.

³⁴ Email, Diana Cooper (Archaeological Information Specialist, Archaeology Branch) to Jesse Robertson, 19 Dec 2023.

³⁵ Capes, *Contributions to the Prehistory of Vancouver Island*, 13–43.

³⁶ Dick Isenor et al., *Land of Plenty: A History of the Comox District* (Campbell River, BC: Ptarmigan Press, 1988), 27.

³⁷ “Letters Patent of the Bishop of Columbia, 1859” (copy), 85.36, ADBC; G. Hollis Slater, ‘New Light on Herbert Beaver’, *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* 6, no. 1 (January 1942): 14.

³⁸ Robert Boyd, *The Coming of the Spirit of Pestilence: Introduced Infectious Diseases and Population Decline among Northwest Coast Indians, 1774-1874* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1999), 188–91.

	Settler Reginald Pidcock arrives in Comox by canoe, taking note of abundant resources procured by Indigenous peoples, including salal, salmon, deer, and elk. ³⁹
2 Aug 1862	<i>British Colonist</i> reports thirty men (plus women and children) registering themselves as settlers for the Comox District. ⁴⁰ Indigenous labourers assisted many of these settlers in clearing land, planting, and harvesting potatoes. ⁴¹
29 Oct 1862	Bishop George Hills visits the Comox District, observing with satisfaction the rich soil and “rank herbage and ferns.” ⁴²
Apr 1863	Reginald Pidcock registers his occupation of 100 acres in Comox Valley. ⁴³
22 Jun 1864	Rev. John Booth Good (incumbent at Nanaimo) travels to Comox in a canoe with a crew of five Indigenous crew, locating a location for a mission chapel and arranging for the permanent residence of a missionary catechist. ⁴⁴
29 Jun 1864	Pidcock certified as abandoning his claim to Section 17, Comox District, having evidently sold it to Rev. Good. ⁴⁵
8 Jul 1864	Catechist missionary Jordayne Browne-Cave leaves for Comox and occupies a small log cabin on the mission site. ⁴⁶
14 Jul 1864	Rev. Good submits pre-emption application for Section 17, Comox District—170 acres “of the very choicest and most central portion of the settlement.” ⁴⁷
20-21 Aug 1864	Good returns to Comox in company with the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition, holding services at a settler’s store and in the house of Chief Wacas, enjoining the chief to assist the expedition in finding “gold, coal, good land and every thing [sic] of that sort.” ⁴⁸
25 Aug 1864	“Foundation log” laid for St. Andrew’s. ⁴⁹
2 Nov 1864	Rev. Good renews his pre-emption application, having not received confirmation of his earlier application from the Acting Surveyor General. ⁵⁰

³⁹ Pidcock, “Adventures in Vancouver Island, 1862-1868,” BCA.

⁴⁰ *British Colonist*, 2 August 1862, 3.

⁴¹ Isenor et al., *Land of Plenty*, 31.

⁴² Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1862*, 49.

⁴³ Statement F “showing Improvements in the Comox District to Decr 1, 1873,” I.213, box 38, GR-1069, BCA.

⁴⁴ Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1864*.

⁴⁵ James Robb (Land Recorded) to the Surveyor General, 29 Jun 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA; Columbia Mission Society, 31.

⁴⁶ John Booth Good to B.W. Pearse (Acting Surveyor General), 2 Nov 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA; Columbia Mission Society, 31.

Brown, *Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition*, 112, 151n137.

⁴⁷ John Booth Good, Applicant form, 14 Jul 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA; Good, “The Utmost Bounds of the West.”

⁴⁸ Brown, *Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition*, 112–14.

⁴⁹ Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1866*, 31.

⁵⁰ John Booth Good to B.W. Pearse (Acting Surveyor General), 2 Nov 1864, file 70, box 5, GR-0766, BCA.

31 Mar 1866	Legislature of British Columbia removes Indigenous peoples' right to pre-empt land without the permission of the Governor. The prohibition would remain in effect until 1953. ⁵¹
1871	Anglican missionaries Jules Xavier Willemar and Harry Guillod relocate to Comox, ministering to an Indigenous settlement four miles from the mission, where they later established an Indigenous school chapel. ⁵² Willemar remained in the area until his death. He was credited with fencing all the church land "between the Upper road [Island Highway] and the river" and cultivating about half of it with vegetables and roots for his stock of sheep and cattle, by which means he supported himself and his family. ⁵³
7 Dec 1871	Bishop Hills receives Crown Grant for Section 17 upon payment of \$170. ⁵⁴
21 Dec 1871	Hills donates part of the glebe to Comox School District for school purposes. ⁵⁵
12 Jun 1873	Indian Commissioner Israel Wood Powell observes that settlers had been allowed to pre-empt Indigenous potato patches and had taken up all the best land in the Comox Valley, to the detriment of Indigenous people. ⁵⁶
8-13 Dec 1876	Joint Indian Reserve Commission visits the Comox area to consider reserve adjustments. The Commission later reports it "would gladly have given a larger acreage" to Indigenous Peoples if the best lands were not "already in the possession of White farmers." A K'ómoks Chief reminds the Commission that his people were never paid for lands already occupied by White people. ⁵⁷
Oct 1877	Bishop Hills visits settlement for the opening of a new church and consecration of a cemetery (Figure 8). ⁵⁸
13 Oct 1877	Hills conveys one acre to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for cemetery purposes. ⁵⁹
1881	Former missionary Harry Guillod appointed Indian Agent for the West Coast, based in Alberni. ⁶⁰

⁵¹ Tennant, *Aboriginal Peoples and Politics*, 41–42, 121.

⁵² Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1871*, 33; Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Year 1872*, 10.

⁵³ Duncan, *Fifty-Seven Years in the Comox Valley*, 57.

⁵⁴ Crown Grant Image G00021252001, Section 17, Comox District, GATOR.

⁵⁵ Copy of Indenture, between Trustees of Sandwick School District, Trustees of Comox School District and ASDBC, Jul 1906, text 277, ADBC.

⁵⁶ Powell to Secretary of State for British Columbia, 25 Jun 1873, LAC.

⁵⁷ Canada, Parliament, 'Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for 1877', lv, 47.

⁵⁸ Columbia Mission Society, *Nineteenth Annual Report of the Missions of the Church of England in British Columbia for the Year 1877* (London: Rivingtons, 1878), 22.

⁵⁹ Conveyance of Cemetery, St. Andrew's Comox to Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 13 Oct 1877, 2001-23, text 691, ADBC.

⁶⁰ Canada, Parliament, 'Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs for 1881', xli, 161.

Aug 1883	Federal government awards the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company a contract to construct a railway on Vancouver Island in return for \$750,000 and nearly 2,000,000 acres of Crown Land. ⁶¹
2 Aug 1885	Bishop Hills consecrates the enlarged St. Andrew's Church. ⁶²
1887	Grant lands are transferred to the E&N Railway Company following completion of the railway, thereby privatizing a substantial portion of K'ómoks and other Indigenous territories in the area of the Comox Valley. ⁶³
6 Apr 1889	Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia incorporated by Act of Provincial Legislature and empowered to acquire, hold, and sell property.
14 Nov 1889	Bishop Hills signs mineral exploration permit allowing coal prospecting on glebe land, one of several such agreements signed over the next two decades. ⁶⁴
14 Jul 1891	Hills conveys whole of Section 17 to Synod, except one acre previously granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for cemetery purposes. ⁶⁵
25 Jul 1891	Diocese subdivides and sells portion of Comox glebe to William John McQuillan, the first of many such transactions made of the next three decades. ⁶⁶
Jul 1906	Sandwick School District Trustees return unused plot of glebe land (previously donated by the Bishop) to the Diocese for the nominal price of \$5. ⁶⁷
1908	Diocese grants license for timber operations north of the Upper Road (Island Highway), excepting church, cemetery, and previously sold parcels. ⁶⁸
May 1913	Diocese conveys around 5 acres of glebe land to Rev. Willemar for \$250. ⁶⁹
31 Dec 1913	BC Land Surveyor J.B. Green subdivides portion of property into fourteen lots. ⁷⁰
1920-21	Diocese sells thirteen of the previously subdivided lots (approx. 74 acres) for around \$6400. By one estimate, sales reduce Diocesan possession of Rev. Good's original 170-acre pre-emption to fewer than 9 acres. ⁷¹

⁶¹ The land grant excluded lands that had already been pre-empted or otherwise alienated from the Crown. Black, 'An Archive of Settler Belonging', 104–5.

⁶² Columbia Mission Society, *Columbia Mission Report for the Years 1884 and 1885*, 34.

⁶³ Black, 'An Archive of Settler Belonging', 105.

⁶⁴ Agreement, Bishop Hills to S.M. Robins, 14 Nov 1889, 2001-23, ADBC. See also other permits in file.

⁶⁵ Register of Conveyances, text 290, ADBC.

⁶⁶ "Particulars of Transfers made by the Anglican Synod of Portions of Section 17, Comox District," text 277, ADBC. see also "Glebe lands donations, 1872-1909," "Comox Glebe Lands – sale of," text 277; Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁶⁷ Copy of Indenture, between Trustees of Sandwick School District, Trustees of Comox School District and ASDBC, Jul 1906, text 277, ADBC.

⁶⁸ Indenture, ASDBC to Alexander McEachern, 1908, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁶⁹ Conveyance, ASDBC to Rev. J.X. Willemar, 1913, text 277, ADBC; Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁷⁰ Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23, ADBC.

⁷¹ Notes regarding Comox Glebe Sec XVII, Comp Plan 3015, 2001-23; Copy of conveyance, ASDBC to Samuel Hopkins, 16 Dec 1921, text 277, ADBC.

1949	Department of Public Works purchases “the portion of the Glebe on which the well suppling the vicarage was situated” for \$750. ⁷²
23 Apr 1963	Synod Executive Committee resolves to sell part of Lot 7 on the Glebe land for \$500. ⁷³
Jun 1981	Diocese sells Lot 5, Section 17 (4.2 acres) for \$130,000. ⁷⁴

⁷² Report of the Finance Committee to 18 Aug 1949, Synod Executive Committee Minutes, text 209, ADBC.

⁷³ Synod Executive Committee Minutes, 23 Apr 1963, text 209, ADBC.

⁷⁴ Copy of transfer of an Estate in fee Simple, ASDBC to David Ernest Goodman, Allen Stewart Towne, Garry Rai, and Harbans Singh Sangha, Jun 1981, 2001-23, ADBC.

Figures

Figure 1. *Map (1:10,000) showing current extent of St. Andrew's and adjacent town lots.*

PMBC Parcel Cadastre 029547300, iMapBC, Province of British Columbia.

Figure 2. *Map (1:20,000) showing Section 17, Comox District, with the current property highlighted in red.*

Survey Parcel PIN 395580, iMapBC, Province of British Columbia.

Figure 3. *Detail of an official map of Comox District (1865) with Section 17 highlighted in red. The map shows the location of nearby Indigenous settlements and graves on Comox Harbour.*

"Official Map of Comox District. 1865." Land Title and Survey Authority of BC Maps, University of Victoria Libraries: https://vault.library.uvic.ca/concern/generic_works/6b6a5e11-c3bf-4d85-af90-88e3944d76f0

Figure 4. *Plan of 1871 Crown grant to Bishop George Hills.*

Crown Grant Image G00021252002, Section 17, Comox District, Government Access tool for Online Retrieval (GATOR): [https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/pls/gator/gator\\$queryforms.menu](https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/pls/gator/gator$queryforms.menu)

Figure 5. *Undated newspaper clipping (c. 1913-20) advertising sale of lands within the Comox Glebe. The plan shows Rev. Willemar's parcel (sold 1913) and Lot 5 (sold 1981), both along on what is now Muir Road.*

Newspaper clipping, n.d., text 277, Archives of the Diocese of British Columbia (ADBC), Victoria, BC.

Figure 6. *Undated plan showing subdivision of Lot 5 sometime prior to its sale in 1981. The unnamed cul-de-sac is today's Ashwood Place.*

Proposed subdivision layout, n.d., 2001-23, ADBC.

Figure 7. *Map showing extent of land granted to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company in 1887.⁷⁵ The grant measured approximately twenty miles from the eastern shore of Vancouver Island, from Muir Creek to Crown Mountain.*

"Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Crown Grant." In Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, *The Great Land Grab in Hul'qumi'num Territory* (2007), page 5.

Figure 8. *Plan of the cemetery conveyed from Bishop Hills to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1871. The plan shows the location of the church, cemetery, and mission house relative to the "Upper Road" (Island Highway).*

Conveyance of Cemetery, St. Andrew's Comox to Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 13 Oct 1877, 2001-23, ADBC..

⁷⁵ The date provided on the image (1884) indicates the year in the land was conveyed from BC to the Dominion of Canada. The E&N Railway Company received these lands in 1887 after completing the railway. See Black, 'An Archive of Settler Belonging', 105; Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, 'The Great Land Grab in Hul'qumi'num Territory' (Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, 2007), <http://www.hulquminum.bc.ca/pubs/HTGRailwayBookSpreads.pdf>.

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