

Sapper John (Jock) Linn (also Lynn)



Undoubtedly North Vancouver's original sapper, John Linn came to the North Shore in 1863. Linn was born in Edinburgh in 1821 and joined the Royal Engineers in 1846. He served a total of 17 years, 221 days in such postings as Woolwich, Chatham, Halifax and British Columbia.

It was at Halifax in 1857 that he married Mary Robertson. From Halifax John and Mary moved to Chatham in 1857 and the next year sailed around Cape Horn to British Columbia. On route the first of two boys and four daughters was born on board ship.

Lynn was a skilled mason and worked with Colonel Moody's Royal Engineer detachment from 1858 until the detachment was disbanded in 1863. Upon disbandment members were given the choice of returning to England or receiving their discharge in British Columbia including a land grant of 160 acres.

Sapper Linn chose to be discharged and settled on his grant of land on the north shore of Burrard Inlet between what is now called Lynn creek and Seymour Creek.

Linn, a skilled tradesman, found work on both sides of Burrard inlet and also cut timber on North Arm and supplied poles for wharf construction.

In the 1860's the North Shore was mainly forested with no roads. Only logging trails and walking trails existed. One popular trail was the Linn trail to the Linn family home.

Sapper John Linn (Lynn) leaves his name in many places today. Lynn Valley, Lynn Lake, Lynn Peaks and Lynnmour are named for John Linn.