

THE CENTRE FOR CULTURE, IDENTITY AND EDUCATION (CCIE)

<http://ccie.educ.ubc.ca>

presents a free

Two-Day Conference

BLACK BRITISH COLUMBIANS: Race, Space and the Historical Politics of Difference at the US/Canada Border

Wednesday-Thursday

APRIL 11-12, 2012

Registration 8 am
in Social Lounge

St. John's College Lecture Hall
2111 Lower Mall

RSVP

<http://tinyurl.com/EarlyBlackSettlers>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

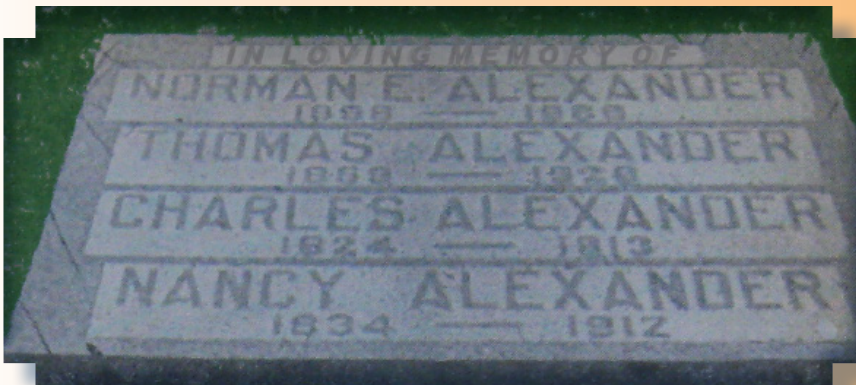
- Jean Barman
- Afua Cooper
- Cynthia Dillard
- Crawford Kilian

On April 18th, 1858 in response to an invitation from the Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island, Sir James Douglas, thirty-five Black women and men left San Francisco aboard the ship *Commodore* bound for Victoria. When they arrived at Victoria Harbour on April 25th, they became the first Black people in the new colony, soon to be joined by six hundred additional Blacks, all looking to escape the overt racism, lack of opportunity and in some cases informal servitude of California for the promise of freedom, economic opportunity and citizenship in the Colony of British Columbia.

This conference on Black British Columbians is a collaboration between The University of British Columbia's Centre for Culture, Identity and Education and the Promised Land Community-University Research Project. It brings together prominent community historians, youth activists and academics to address issues such as Black

trajectories including the links between movements within Canada, and historical and contemporary US/Canada border crossings; the lives and works of prominent male and female Black Pioneers; the significance of the African Rifles; interracial relationships, multiracial identities and the politics of difference in historical BC and the curious marginalization of the historical and contemporary presence of Blackness in present day

conceptualizations of British Columbia. This conference is intended to highlight the historical and contemporary presence of Blacks in British Columbia, a presence that tends to be relegated to being an "absent presence."



Plaque in Shady Creek Churchyard in memory of the Alexander Family. Charles and Nancy Alexander were among the first settlers of what was to become Shady Creek.



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education