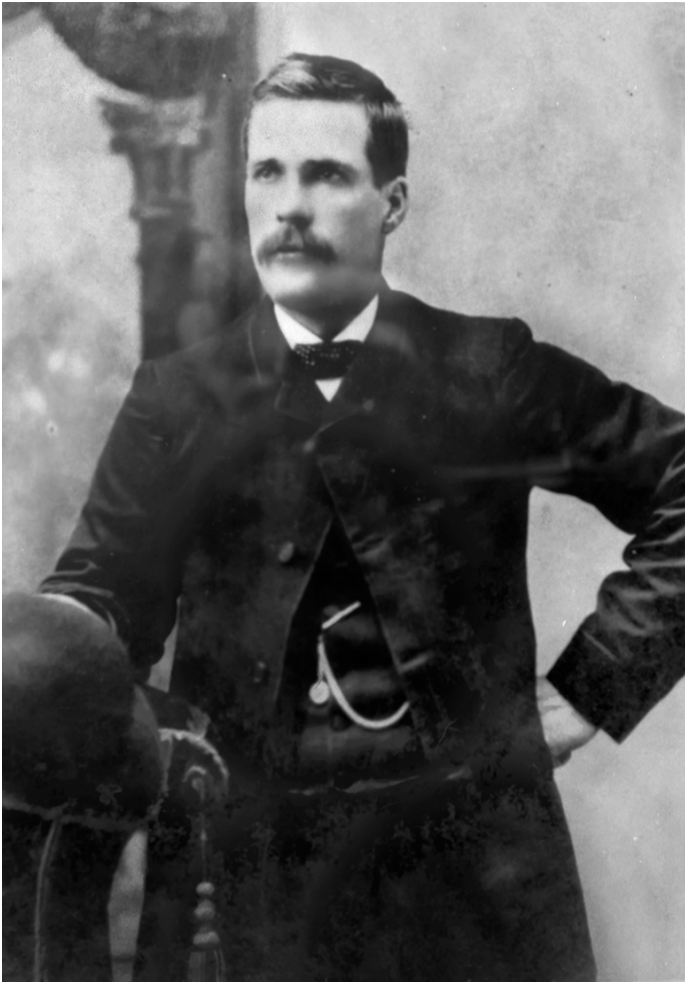




# Street Stories

## McLean Street

GPS: [49.1579968,-122.4027227](https://www.google.com/maps/place/49.1579968,-122.4027227)



*John McLean, Mission's first reeve, served two years on council.*

*Mission Community Archives DOM PR029-07A*

We know very little about John McLean, Mission's first reeve. The records from the 1891 Census simply stated he was born in Ontario, worked as a farmer and was a Baptist. We do know that in 1887 at age 28, he homesteaded in Silverdale and came to own more than 80 hectares (200 acres) of land.

We also know that he was Reeve of Mission from 1892 to 1894, as well as Vice-President of the Mission Board of Trade – the fourth one in BC. Yet the records tell us nothing more about him, such as what he was like, and when he died.

We do know a great deal about the year in which he was Reeve, though, and what the council he presided over was concerned about. As Reeve, McLean headed the first council in the newly created "Corporation of the District of Mission" on August 13, 1892. Its opening resolution was to appoint Mr. A.W. Peen as its clerk – his salary was later fixed at \$100 per year. The reeve and the four Councilors also decided to pay themselves \$2.50 per sitting.

For the next year and a half, the majority of Council meetings were held in McLean's house and primarily dealt with roadbuilding. One bylaw passed by the council decreed that all males between 21 and 50 who

did not pay road improvement tax would have to put in "two days' labor on the roads at \$1.50 per day."

Other resolutions of the council attest to some of the problems they had to deal with. On December 17, 1892, for example, the council agreed unanimously that "our [MP] be requested to call the attention of the Postmaster General to the very irregular service rendered by the CPR in regards to the delivery of mails..."

And on June 16, 1893, the council moved "that the collector, Henry Judd, be instructed by the clerk to go to each and every settler in the municipality and demand their taxes." In those days, the tax man had a face.

McLean's last council meeting as Reeve was held on January 15, 1894. The last act of the council was "That a vote of thanks be given to the Reeve for his liberality in giving his half year's indemnity on a bridge in Ward 2 [a central section of Mission]." On a note of thanks, John McLean bows gracefully out of history.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on McLean, please call us at 604-820-2621.

*by David Buss and Val Billesberger*