

# Hannah Maynard

## An Early Victoria Photographer

Hannah Hatherly Maynard (1834-1918) was a well known Victoria based photographer, artist and business owner. For 50 years, she ran a successful photography studio in Victoria called *Mrs. R. Maynard's Photographic Gallery*.

Hannah was originally from Cornwall England. She married Richard Maynard and immigrated to Ontario where she began her studies in photography. In 1862, she moved to Vancouver Island and opened her business.

Throughout her career, she created a record of the changing landscape of Victoria as it grew from a small fort settlement to an urban centre. When the studio opened, the Colony of Vancouver Island was barely over a decade old.

As a portrait photographer, she created images of early residences such as gold miners and sailors. During the early 1860s and 1870s, her business was one of the biggest creators of the popular "carte de visites" (small thin photographs mounted on a thicker paper card) of Indigenous people. Later on in 1897, Mrs Maynard became the official photographer for the Victoria city police force.



Hannah Maynard self-portrait  
created in 1878. BCA F-05027

In addition to her portrait photography, Hannah Maynard's portfolio included other styles of photography. During the 1870s and 1880s, Hannah and Richard took several working trips together practicing landscape photography. These trips included Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, Banff and Alberta.

Mrs Maynard was an artist as well as a photographer. She was known for producing experimental works such as composite and cut-and-paste montage imagery. She was also known for her unique autobiographical works that contain multiple exposure techniques along with photo sculpture.

Hannah received many acknowledgements and praise in Canada and the United States. In 1887 the *Seattle Weekly Pacific Tribune* described her as a "leading photographer of Victoria". In 1888, *The New West of Winnipeg* noted: "...her photographic work cannot be excelled for brilliancy of

expression and harmony of effect...she is recognized as one of the foremost representatives of the profession in the country.”

Hannah Maynard sometimes expressed important events from her personal and family life in her work. She featured her children and in many of her studio portraits, as well as in experimental works. When her daughter Lillie died in 1883, many of her photographs included pictures of her daughter and imagery of loss.

On September 29, 1912, the *Victoria Daily Colonist* announced Hannah Maynard’s retirement at the age of 78. Upon her retirement, Hannah is quoted saying “I think I can say with every confidence that we photographed everyone in the town at one time or another.” She died six years later at age 84 and is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria British Columbia.