

## **Addendum Concerning DR. GEORGE HERBERT MANCHESTER**

George Herbert Manchester, M. D., was the third son of David Smiley Manchester and Mary Ann Taylor. He was born at Ottawa, May 13, 1872. His biography<sup>1</sup> is available on line and as an e-book but contains a major error concerning his origins which were either fabricated by the subject or his biographer. His great grandfather is renamed and made an English immigrant to Philadelphia.

I quote some of the biography for interest's sake.

"Dr. George Herbert Manchester, medical superintendent of the Public Hospital for the Insane in the province of British Columbia, has proved himself the right man in the right place, and as the medical head of a great humane institution has been a public benefactor and a power for individual betterment and uplift in the case of the patients under his charge. ....

Dr. Manchester, a descendant of an old and prominent English-Canadian family, was born in the city of Ottawa May 13, 1872. His great-grand-father, William J. Manchester, a native of England, emigrated to Philadelphia, thence to the province of Quebec, where he had large interests as a lumberman. William Jacob Manchester, the grandfather, was born in the latter province at Rawdon, near Montreal, but has spent most of his life in western Ontario, where he still lives; being in his eighty-seventh year [i.e. this was written in 1905.] His son, David Manchester, the father of the doctor, was born at Rawdon in 1840, and married Miss Mary Ann Taylor, who was born in 1839 in Napean [sic], Ottawa. The father has followed merchant tailoring a large part of his career, being now the oldest merchant tailor in Ottawa. He has also been a very successful man in other lines. He was one of the first white men to locate on the Manitoulin Island, Ontario, where he had a large amount of government land and was engaged in lumbering, employing several ships in this business. He is now sixty-five years of age, and his career has been honorable and successful throughout. His son, David L., is now in the merchant tailoring business at Montreal. Dr. Manchester was a child when his mother died. She was also of Irish ancestry, and her father, Richard Taylor, Esq., was for many years an Irish justice of the peace.

Dr. Manchester received his literary education at Ottawa, in the Ottawa Collegiate Institute and in Albert College, where he took the liberal arts course. His medical course was taken at the famous McGill University, where he received his degree of M. D. in 1894. His standing as a student had been high, and at his graduation he was appointed house surgeon in the Montreal General Hospital, where he remained one year. He then became assistant superintendent of the hospital for the insane at Verdun, a suburb of Montreal. He later spent a year of

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<sup>1</sup> R. E. (R. Edward) Gosnell, of Victoria, BC, 1860-1931, was the author of An Illustrated History of British Columbia compiled by the Lewis Publishing Co. and published by the Hill Binding, Co., 1906. Pages 366 -369 of his book is the biography of George Herbert Manchester, M. D.

study in general medicine in London, England. While he was abroad the British Columbia government seemed to be on the point of losing their superintendent of the hospital for the insane by death from blood poisoning, and Dr. Manchester was accordingly called to take his place. On his arrival in the province he found the superintendent already recovering, but he was retained for two years as assistant superintendent .....

Dr. Manchester was married in 1899 to Mrs. Victoria Orr, who was born near Picton, Ontario, a daughter of William Keys, Esq., and she has two sons. The doctor and his wife are members of the Methodist church, and are held in high esteem in the social circles of New Westminster. "

He resigned his position in 1905 (Dictionary of Canadian Biography). He then undertook the commencement of Riverview Hospital, Colony Farm, Woodlands and the Forensic Services on 1000 acres of land at the junction of Coquitlam and Fraser Rivers, on the west bank of the former and extending up it for about two miles near New Westminster.

"On July 10th, 1905, a start was made in clearing land and erecting temporary buildings at the Colony Farm site. .... Dr. Manchester left the hospital at the end of February [1909] after four years of sterling service. Although far less popular than either the predecessor or successor, through his wisdom, foresight and meticulous record-keeping, we can see with great clarity the origins of our Mental Health Services and learn much that might otherwise have been lost through the passage of time." <sup>2</sup>

"During World War I he was psychiatrist to the Third Imperial Army in France. He was appointed to the Canadian Pensions Board, and served on the staff of Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver for eight years, before returning to New Westminster" (Canadian Medical Association Journal; January 15, 1957, volume 76).

George Herbert Manchester passed away on Nov, 22, 1956 at the age of 83, in New Westminster.

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[http://west-lawn.blogspot.com/2008\\_12\\_01\\_archive.html](http://west-lawn.blogspot.com/2008_12_01_archive.html)