

Frederick Whymper

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Frederick Whymper (1838 – 26 November 1901) was a British artist and explorer.

Whymper was born in London in 1838, the eldest son of Elizabeth Whitworth Claridge and Josiah Wood Whymper, a celebrated wood-engraver and artist. His younger brother Edward Whymper was a renowned alpinist who made the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865.

In his youth, Whymper was a talented artist working to produce engravings for publication and having his landscapes on exhibit at the Royal Academy of Arts in London from 1859 to 1861.

He travelled to Victoria, British Columbia in 1862 and to the Cariboo in the following year. In 1864 he joined road builders in the area of Bute Inlet leaving shortly before the Chilcotin War^{[1]:10}

Many of his early travels were by steamship; his drawings include volcanos on Kamchatka and Alaskan glaciers. While in the far north, Whymper served on the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition, the Western Union Telegraph Expedition (1865), spending the winter of 1866 at Nulato, Alaska with W.H. Dall and travelling up the Yukon River to Fort Yukon, where he witnessed the first American flag being raised over the new territory of Alaska.

In November 1867, Whymper arrived back in England where his account of his travels, *Travel and Adventure in the Territory of Alaska*, was published in 1868.

In 1869, he went back to the United States, by way of New York to San Francisco and supported himself as a journalist, an artist and a mining engineer. In 1871 he was a founding member of the San Francisco Art Association.

In 1869 he returned to San Francisco by way of New York and worked on the staff of the newspaper *Alta California*. City directories describe him as an artist and mining engineer, and in 1871 he was a founding member of the San Francisco Art Association. He returned to England at some point, publishing *The Heroes of the Arctic and their Adventures* and *The Sea: Its Stirring Story of Adventure, Peril and Heroism*, prior to his death in London on 26 November 1901 by what is listed as "failure of the heart, probably due to indigestion, arising from sedentary pursuits", in his obituary.

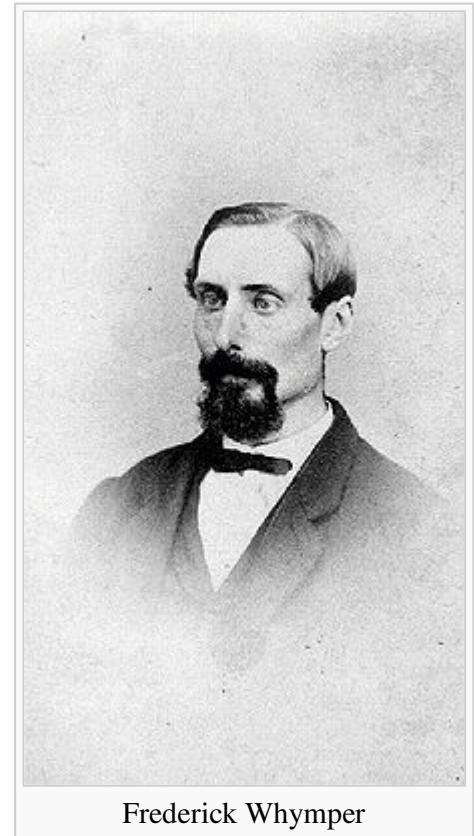
Mount Whymper north of Lake Cowichan, is named in honour of the early explorer, artist and writer.

References

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External links

- Biography at the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online* (http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?&id_nbr=7143)

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