

## ST MARY'S INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, MISSION, BC

21 students were listed on the NCTR website in 2021 as having died at the former St Mary's Indian Residential School:

<https://nctr.ca/residential-schools/british-columbia/st-marys-mission/>

<b>Amy Abraham</b>	<b>ca. 1939-01-01</b>
<b>Anastasia William</b>	<b>ca. 1934-01-01</b>
<b>Bradley Thomas Smith</b>	<b>1959-10-14</b>
<b>Catherine Williamson</b>	<b>1929-03-13</b>
<b>Clara Mae Rush</b>	<b>1966-03-12</b>
<b>Daniel Harry Billy</b>	<b>1928-07-28</b>
<b>Earl Paul</b>	<b>1978-06-29</b>
<b>Edward Cassabalt James</b>	<b>1965-12-26</b>
<b>Francis Johnson</b>	<b>1924-01-01</b>
<b>Harry Frederick James</b>	<b>1965-12-26</b>
<b>Harry James</b>	<b>1966-02-04</b>
<b>John Rayfiel Peters</b>	<b>Not known</b>
<b>Kenneth Mallaway</b>	<b>Not known</b>
<b>Lena (St. Mary's Mission)</b>	<b>Not known</b>
<b>Leonard Julian</b>	<b>1935-05-18</b>
<b>Lloyd Leon</b>	<b>1936-01-06</b>
<b>Mabel Paull</b>	<b>Not known</b>
<b>Myrtle Richardson</b>	<b>1928-10-19</b>
<b>Robert Wells</b>	<b>1934-02-12</b>
<b>Virginia Fidele</b>	<b>1931-01-16</b>
<b>Mary Jane Indian</b>	<b>1907-02-14</b>

*The above-referenced 21 students are not 'missing'. They are listed below in the order in which they appear on the NCTR website with the following indications as to source material concerning the date of death, cause of death, and place of burial for each student.*

**(1) Names followed by an asterisk** are students for whom the BC Archives has an online death record, although a microfilmed copy of the full death certificate is not available for viewing online. Where a BC death record exists, a copy of the full death certificate also likely exists, and can be ordered at a cost of \$50 per certificate. BC Archives death records can be searched for here:

<http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>

**(2) Names followed by the letter [C]** are students for whom the BC Archives has a full copy of the death certificate which can be viewed online at the link above.

**Amy Abraham** (ca. 1939/1/1) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]  
 However see Maass, Alex, 'Finding the Missing Residential School Cemeteries for Indigenous Children in Canada: A National Strategy for Identification, Recording, Preservation and Commemoration', Ph.D thesis, University of Southampton, 2018, pp. 101-2, <https://eprints.soton.ac.uk/422128/>:

*Although the majority of residential school graves are unmarked, Figure 4 shows a rare marked grave in a well maintained Oblate cemetery in British Columbia. The grave of a young girl, a student at St Mary's IRS who died in 1938 at the age of eight, it shows her name and age inscribed by hand in the wet cement. The edges of this homemade headstone have been inset with children's marbles.*

[NB: headstone states she died **1 March 1938**]

**Anastasia William\*** (ca. 1934/1/1), 14 yrs old; d. Mission City [NB: death record states name was Anastasia **Williams**] [NB: death record states date of death was 1934/3/30]

**Bradley Thomas Smith** (1959/10/14), [C]; 11 yrs old; Mount Currie Band, Samahquam Indian Reserve; d. Mission City Hospital; acute meningomyelitis (other contributing causes listed); coroner's inquiry held; autopsy; death certificate signed by coroner; buried Mount Currie Band Cemetery

**Catherine Williamson\*** (1929/3/13), 16 yrs old; d. New Westminster

**Clara Mae Rush** (1966/3/12), [C]; 18 yrs old; d. St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver; encephalitis; autopsy; death certificate signed by father and doctor; buried Port Alberni (name of cemetery unknown) [NB: death certificate states name was Clara **May** Rush]

**Daniel Harry Billy** (1928/7/28), [C]; 8 yrs old; d. Maria Slough, Agassiz (corner McDonald and Tranmer Roads), Seabird Island Indian Reserve; drowned; coroner's inquiry held; autopsy; death certificate signed by father and coroner; buried Seabird Island Cemetery [NB: death certificate states date of death was **1958/7/28**]

**Earl Paul** (1978/6/29) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Edward Cassabalt James** (1965/12/26), [C]; 7 yrs old; d. North Bend; burned to death, overheated furnace; death certificate signed by father and doctor; buried Chaumox Indian Cemetery, North Bend [NB: died in same house fire as Harry Frederick James below]

**Francis Johnson\*** (1924/1/1), 10 yrs old; Katzie Band; d. Katzie Indian Reserve, Port Hammond; death certificate signed by Indian Agent [NB: death record states date of death was **1922/11/13**] [NB: full death certificate not available online but copy of Act to Amend Vital Statistics Act available]

**Harry Frederick James** (1965/12/26), [C]; 12 yrs old; d. North Bend; burned to death, overheated furnace; death certificate signed by father and coroner; buried Chaumox Indian Cemetery, North Bend [NB: died in same house fire as Edward Cassabalt James above]

**Harry James** (1966/2/4) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: almost certainly same person as Harry Frederick James above]

**John Rayfiel Peters** (date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Kenneth Mallaway** (date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Lena** (surname unknown, date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Leonard Julian** (1935/5/18) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Lloyd Leon\*** (1936/1/6), 10 yrs old; d. Mission

**Mabel Paull** (date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

**Myrtle Richardson\*** (1928/10/19), 10 yrs old; d. Mission City

**Robert Wells\*** (1934/2/12), 11 yrs old; d. Mission City [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1934/2/8]

**Virginia Fidele\*** (1931/1/16), 12 yrs old; d. Victoria [NB: death certificate states surname spelled **Fidelle**]

**Mary Jane Indian** (1907/2/14) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Compiled by Nina Green 9 November 2021; updated 22 November 2022.