British Columbia HISTORY

Journal of the British Columbia Historical Federation | Vol.39 No. 3 | $5.00

This Issue: 2007 Conference | Russians | Naramata History | Books | and More

British Columbia History

Journal of the British Columbia Historical Federation Published four times a year.
ISSN: print 1710-7881 online 1710-792X

British Columbia History welcomes stories, studies, and news items dealing with any aspect of the history of British Columbia, and British Columbians.

Please submit manuscripts for publication to the Editor, *British Columbia History*,
John Atkin,
921 Princess Avenue, Vancouver BC V6A 3E8
e-mail: johnatkin@shaw.ca

Book reviews for British Columbia History,
Please submit books for review to:
Frances Gundry
PO Box 5254, Station B., Victoria BC V8R 6N4

Subscription & subscription information:
Alice Marwood
8056 168A Street, Surrey B C V4N 4Y6
Phone 604-576-1548
e-mail amarwood@telus.net

Subscriptions: $18.00 per year
For addresses outside Canada add $10.00

Single copies of recent issues are for sale at:

- Arrow Lakes Historical Society, Nakusp BC
- Book Warehouse, 4th Ave & Broadway, Vancouver
- Books and Company, Prince George BC
- Gibson Coast Books, Gibsons BC
- Galiano Museum
- Gray Creek Store, Gray Creek BC
- Royal Museum Shop, Victoria BC
- Otter Books in Nelson
- Caryall Books in Quesnel

This publication is indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index, published by Micromedia.
ISSN: 1710-7881

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE

Production Mail Registration Number 1245716
Publications Mail Registration No. 09835 Member of the British Columbia Association of Magazine Publishers

While copyright in the journal as a whole is vested in the British Columbia Historical Federation, copyright in the individual articles belongs to their respective authors, and articles may be reproduced for personal use only. For reproduction for other purposes permission in writing of both author and publisher is required.

British Columbia Historical Federation

A charitable society under the Income Tax Act Organized 31 October 1922

PO Box 5254, Station B., Victoria BC V8R 6N4
Under the Distinguished Patronage of Her Honour
The Honourable Iana Campagnolo. PC, CM, OBC
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Honourary President
Naomi Miller

Officers

President
Patricia Roy - 602-139 Clarence St., Victoria, BC, V8V 2J1
proy@uvic.ca

First Vice President
Tom Lymbery - 1979 Chainsaw Ave., Gray Creek, BC V0B 1S0 Phone 250.227.9448
FAX 250.227.9449
lymbery@netidea.com

Second Vice President
Webb Cummings - 924 Bellevue St., New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 Phone 250.358.2656

Secretary
Pam Welwood - 1383 Mallard Road, Parksville BC V9P 2A3 Phone 250.752.1888
kpwelwood@shaw.ca

Members at Large
Tony Cox - Box 571, Lions Bay, BC V0N-2E0 Phone 604.921.9496
coxtony@shaw.ca

Lorraine Irving - 1131 East 23rd Ave., Vancouver, BC V5V 1Y8 0 Phone 604.874.8748
Loir1824@aol.com

Ex-Officio

Past President
Jacqueline Gresko - 5931 Sandpiper Court, Richmond, BC, V7E-3P8 Phone 604.274.4383
jgresko@telus.net

Committees

Historical Trails and Markers
Charles Hou - 3378 West 39th Ave, Vancouver BC, V6N 3A2 Phone 604.266.2214

W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarships Committee
Marie Elliott - c/o BC Historical Federation, P.O. Box 5254, Station B., Victoria, BC V8R 6N4

Writing Competition Lieutenant-Governor's Award
Barbara Hynek - 2477 140th St., Surrey, BC V4P 2C5 Phone 604.535.9090
bhynek@telus.net

Book Review Editor

The British Columbia Historical Federation greatly regrets that Anne Yandle has had to resign as book review editor because of illness. We thank Anne for her great devotion to British Columbia history and especially to our magazine. She and her late husband, Phil Yanlde, were co-founders of the *British Columbia Historical News* which they edited, typed, mimeographed, collated, and mailed themselves. For many years she has also been our book review editor and a faithful attendee of our annual meetings where latterly she has represented Marco Polo Books.

Frances Gundry, who many of our readers will know from her work at the B.C. Archives and her attendance at BCHF conferences, has agreed to take on the responsibilities of the book review editor. She may be contacted through the BCHF mail box: P.O. Box 5254, Station B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6N4.

www.bchistory.ca the Federation's web site is hosted by Selkirk College in Cast/egar, BC

British Columbia **HISTORY**

The Journal of the British Columbia Historical Federation | Volume 39 Number 3 2006

Banks Island
R. E. Wells 2

Carroll Aikins: Poet, playright & theatre founder
Berte Berry 4

Emory Creek: The Environmental Legacy of Gold Mining on the Fraser
Alan Long 8

British Columbia: Russian America's Legacy
Alice O Grady 11

A Note: One of the "Ifs" in BC History
V.C. Brink 17

Johnson Street Ferry: Token History
Ronald Greene 18

Archives and Archivists 27

Book Reviews 29

Miscellany 40

2007 BC Historical Federation Conference Information and Registration Forms on page 21.

From the Editor

In this issue we have the 2007 BCHF Conference package on page 21. The program looks outstanding with a number of very good presentations. As well, the range of walking and bus tours of the garden city looks impressive. Take the time to register now for this conference.

Our past president Jacquline Gresko has passed on the news of the deaths of Nester John Romaniuk and Margaret Semple Stoneberg. Nester, who was born in Manitoba in 1930, came out west to pursue an electrical career and in later life was the founder of the Electrical Heritage Society of BC. Margaret worked for the Spotlight newspaper for many years but her main interest was history and paleontology. She was dedicated to the museum in Princeton and her name has been attached to many fossil finds from the area.

In this issue you'll also see that your Council has been active with letters to the federal goverment on cuts to the Museums' Assistance Program - your own letters to the government on this issue would be a help. As well, you'll see an item from Rick Goodacre of the heritage Society of BC asking for your signatures on an online petition regarding the elimination of the Canadian Historic Places Initiative by our federal government. Do take the time to check it out on line at www.heritagecanada.org.

The very best of the season to all of our readers.

BCHF Prizes | Awards | Scholarships

"Any country worthy of a future should be interested in its past"
W. Kaye Lamb, 1937

W. KAYE LAMB Essay Scholarships
Deadline 15 May 2007
The British Columbia Historical Federation awards two scholarships annually for essays written by students at BC colleges or universities on a topic relating to British Columbia history. One scholarship ($500) is for an essay written by a student in a first-or second-year course: the other ($750) is for an essay written by a student in a third-or fourth-year course.

To apply tor the scholarship, candidates must submit (1) a letter of application: (2) an essay of 1,500-3, 000 words on a topic relating to the history of British Columbia: (3) a letter of recommendation from the professor for whom the essay was written.

Applications should be submitted to: Marie Elliott, Chair BC Historical Federation Scholarship Committee, PO Box 5254, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6N4.

The winning essay submitted by a third or fourth year student will be published in BC History. *Other submissions may be published at the editor's discretion.*

BC History Web Site Prize
The British Columbia Historical Federation and David Mattison are jointly sponsoring a yearly cash award of $250 to recognize Web sites that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past. The award honours individual initiative in writing and presentation.

Nominations for the BC History Web Site Prize must be made to the British Columbia Historical Federation, Web Site Prize Committee, prior to ***31 December 2006****. Web site creators and authors may nominate their own sites. Prize rules and the on-line nomination form can be found on The British Columbia History Web site: http://www.victoria.tc.ca/resources/bchistory/announcements.html*

Best Article Award
A Certificate of Merit and fifty dollars will be awarded annually to the author of the article, published in BC History, *that best enhances knowledge ot British Columbia's history and provides reading enjoyment. Judging will be based on subject development, writing skill, freshness of material, and appeal to a general readership interested in all aspects of BC history.*

Banks Island

A coastal name with an interesting connection to the famous British naturalist & Maori warriors of New Zealand

by R. E. Wells

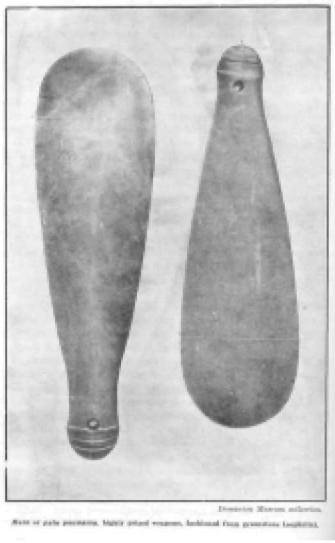
R.E. Wells is the author of *Calamity Harbour, The Voyages of the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal on the British Columbia Coast 1787-1788*

The name, Banks Island, on our north coast has a fascinating origin. Indeed, the name of the famous British naturalist, traveller, and President of the Royal Society we see designated to islands in our Arctic, through the Pacific, to the southern shores of Australia and New Zealand. But how did his name become applied to that approximately seventy kilometre long and still rather remote and uninhabited, somewhat barren isle bordering the eastern side of Hecate Strait not far south from Prince Rupert?

The story is both coincidental and fascinating and it starts with the voyages of Capt. Cook back in the 1770s

Mr. Banks, later to become Sir Joseph, had gone on the first of the Cook voyages to the southern waters of the Pacific as the head of a scientific group including artists and assistants. He was a young and wealthy man, keenly dedicated to further botanic knowledge and he made extensive collections of flora and fauna far and wide, particularly at New Zealand.

The first sighting and then landing on the east coast thereof took place in late October 1769 at the place now known as Gisborne. There, the first encounter with the Maori people was recorded - it was not entirely peaceful - the native warriors threatening the newcomers. One of the artists on board, Parkinson, made some beautiful sketches at that time and Mr. Banks wrote in his journal - both showing and describing implements (spears and weapons) that the Maoris waved and threatened with. Banks, and others thereafter, in their sojourn along the coasts of New Zealand~ collected many such examples. Banks was obviously particularly interested in the type of hand weapon which was so common among the warriors. Called a patu[1] - a short blade made from either stone, wood or whalebone, it was used in close hand-to-hand combat. There are three different types of this instrument, the most prestigious being the pendulant type made from green stone - usually the possession of a Chief, called a 'mere' (pronounced 'merry').



When Banks returned to England he decided to have some replicas of the stone variety of the 'mere', called 'patu onewa', cast in bronze with his name and family crest engraved upon them along with the date 1772. The replica was approximately fifteen inches long and weighed five pounds. Banks paid roughly the equivalent of a seaman's annual wage to have them made. The forty patu were to be used as special trade items on Cooks' second voyage.

But Banks did not go on that voyage after Cook refused him the additional men and shipboard accommodation he wanted for his scientific work. However, some of his newly made bronze 'meres' did go as he had entrusted some of them to his friend and ship's officer, Charles Clerke.

It is known that some of the replica patu were traded at New Zealand but their number is unknown and no examples have been found. Although Cook's journals make much mention of the 'Resolution and Adventure' medals Banks had cast specially in England for the second voyage, it does not mention the trade of the patu.

And so to Cook's third voyage.

After another visit at New Zealand, Cook came northward through the Pacific to land at Nootka on Vancouver Island in 1778. Clerke was also with that voyage as captain of the consort vessel *Discovery*. But nothing was recorded to indicate if any remainder of the Banks patu were aboard or traded. Cook's voyage to our coast eventually resulted in the commencement of the fur trade voyages and the era from the late 1780's through to the 1820s saw many ships sailing to this coast from India, China, England and America all in quest of the pelts of the sea otter.

Meares, in his 1788/89 voyages from China to the North West Coast, mentions having seen three bronze type implements among the natives at Nootka and they had the name and crest of Mr. Banks engraved upon them! Clearly then, some of the Banks bronze patu had come out from England on one of Cook's voyages!

Capt. Colnett with two vessels of the King George Sound Company, organized by a group of London merchants, came out to the coast in 1787. On board as ship's surgeon (but also as a botanist) was one Archibald Menzies. He was actually well connected to Banks who had arranged for him to go out on the Colnett voyage and 'botanize' on his behalf. Menzies' journal has not been located but one of his letters to Banks after his arrival back in England in the summer of 1789, clearly describes an encounter with natives who had in their possession one of the Banks' bronze patu.[2]

To commemorate this, Menzies gave the name Banks to the 'cluster of islands' where the patu was found. This was at the southern end of the now named Banks Island where the ships had gone to refit before their intended voyage back across the Pacific to China.[3]

What a coincidence that a disciple of Banks, indeed a botanist working on his behalf, should come upon this item in such a far away place.

It was obvious that such an implement, crafted in bronze, had to have been of European origin and could only have been brought to the coast on Cook's voyage to Nootka, and in the intervening nine years had reached that northern location via native trade. Since Menzies sighted the Banks patu a year before Meares observedthree patu at Nootka, it is likely that at least four patu were left in trade on the coast.

Menzies returned to this area of the coast with Capt. Vancouver in 1793 and recorded in his journal, in great detail, the discovery of the Banks patu six years previously on the Colnett voyage.[4]

The location of that patu is a mystery like for those known to have been left and seen in New Zealand. But it is fortunate that four patu survive in England; two at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford having been acquired from collectors; one at the British Museum, London; and a fourth at the Museum of London, the latter reportedly having been recovered from the Thames River mudflats near London.

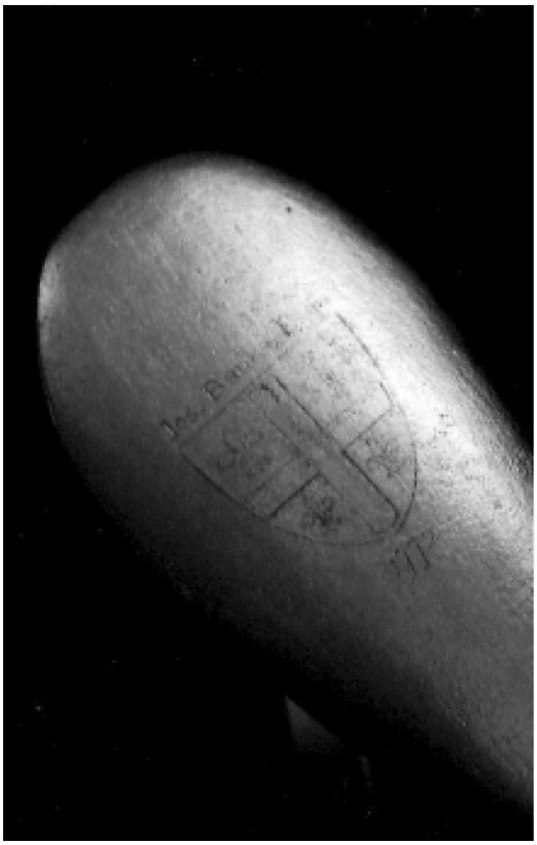
In North America, during excavation for a dam site on the Columbia River in 1895, some 250 miles from the ocean, a native burial ground was uncovered. One of several artifacts unearthed there was a Banks patu! It took some time before proper identification was made, the item passed into the possession of a collector but was ultimately sold to the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. It represents the only Banks patu found in all of North America, New Zealand or Pacific Oceania. According to the Summer 2005 issue of the *Newsletter of The Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History* this example was recently repatriated to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon because of its cultural significance as a funerary object. It is currently being stored at the tribe's Tamastslikt Cultural Institute.

Another example is supposed to have passed from a British collector to one in California but this has not been confirmed.

Joseph Banks died in 1820 and as late as 1816 one of his patu was seen in the possession of a Maori Chief on New Zealand's North Island by a missionary when the Chief had come to visit. Like here, at Banks Island, the native who carried it would not part with it for any exchange. Such an artifact was obviously held with esteem by the owner and as such, such 'taonga' or treasure were usually buried with the individual.

The several other references in New Zealand plus those of North America and the ones known in England, may account for fifteen of Mr. Banks production. That all forty will ever be accounted for seem very unlikely. The example seen here at Banks Island in 1787, may still be in Tsimshian territory, but buried somewhere with its owner.

All in all, it is a fascinating background to one of our coastal names •



Notes:
1. 'patu' - spelled the same whether s1ngular or plural

2. Letters: Menz1es to Banks; British Columbia Archives

3. R. E. Wells, Calamity Harbour (Sooke: 2003) a description of the Colnett voyage and in particular the time at Banks Island, including in Appendix 4, this 'patu' story

4. Journal: Menzies, 1793; British Columbia Archives

Illustration from The Maori, vol. IIXIV The Art of War *by Elsdon Best Wellington*
(opposite)

A replica of Joseph Banks Patou, made by author of yellow cedar, painted to emulate bronze and showing the engraving
photo courtesy of the author (top)

Carroll Aikins

Poet, playright & theatre founder put Naramata on the map

by Berte Berry

This article comes from the Naramata Heritage Museum, new members of the BC Historical Federation.

Carroll Aikins' daughter, Mrs. Arnold Beichman still lives in the community and is involved as one of their historians.

Carroll Aikins, poet, playwright and drama director, was a romantic, looked liked one and lived like one. He was one of the most distinguished citizens of the Okanagan, and for a while, put Naramata on the map in the minds of people in eastern Canada, England and the United States. Born in 1888 into a distinguished family, Carroll Aikins might have been expected to follow a successful business or political career. His maternal grandfather, the honorable Charles Carrol Colby, represented Stanstead, Quebec, in the House of Commons from 1867 to 1891. Described as one of the ablest debaters ever heard in the house, he was president of the Privy Council under Sir John A. Macdonald and author of *Parliamentary Government in Canada*. Atkins' uncle, C.W. Colby, was a professor of history at McGill University and author of *Canadian Types of the Old Regime* and *The Founders of New France*. Later, he became a very successful businessman. On his father's side, his grandfather, James Cox Aikins was Secretary of State under Macdonald and became Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, a position which his uncle, Sir J.A.M. Aikins, held later. Carroll's father, Somerset Aikins, briefly sat in the Manitoba Legislature.

Carroll was educated in Winnipeg at St. John's, a private school run by the Anglican Church. He later spent some time in Europe with a tutor,[1] where possibly he acquired his love of the theatre. For one or two winters, he went to school in Dijon, France, he travelled in Germany with his mother and acquired sufficient knowledge of German to translate into English a German book on Buddhist thought, and he spent one term at McGill University. He may not have liked formal academic studies but his health may also have been a problem. Because of a spot on his lung, he spent several years in Sicily and Tunisia. Then in 1908, when he was 20, his father bought him orchard land at Naramata. He gladly left his Winnipeg environment and came west for adventure. He started to clear and plough the land with the help of Chinese workers. Eventually, he owned 100 acres of orchard. "I took to the whole thing like a duck to the water, " he told a neighbour, "It was an adventure." In 1913, he married Katherine Foster, daughter of the American Consul-General in Ottawa and brought his cultivated bride, a graduate of Vassar College, to the raw young community of Naramata, with its lack of electricity and other amenities. Mrs. Aikins later spoke of their honeymoon in Windermere where their car was a novelty to residents who had never seen one and for which they had to have gas brought from Golden, in

four gallon cans which cost one dollar each.

During the 1914-1918 war, Carroll tried to enlist in the ambulance corps but was rejected because of his health, so with imagination, ingenuity and enthusiasm, he continued to develop his orchard. For instance, one scorching summer a lot of the young trees were suffering, so he rushed to Vancouver, and not finding a diesel engine to serve as a pump, he quickly bought a fire engine.

Obviously enjoying its dramatic effect, he recalled, "It had a superb lot of brass and a bell which was worked by a foot pedal. It arrived on a flat car at Arawana and was driven down triumphantly, the bell clanging all the way." In the meantime, the Chinese workers had assembled lengths of pipe up the cliff from the lake to provide water, and they busily stoked the fire engine with coal night and day until the weather changed and relieved the distress of the trees. A few years later, in 1920, Aikins again demonstrated his ingenuity when, to provide electricity for his theatre, he attached a generator from an abandoned mine to his tractor.

His little theatre represented his long interest in the literary arts. His poem, "A Prairie Cabin,"

originally published in 1917 in a book of his poems, was later included in an anthology of Canadian poetry for use in British Columbia Schools. He also wrote plays. In 1919, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in England produced his play, "The God of Gods" which deals with a romantic subject; a pair of tragic North American Indian lovers caught in a web of superstition. It is doubtful if the customs described ever existed, but the situation is full of drama and colour. A Birmingham reporter described it as "one of those rare artistic delicacies reserved for the favor of the comparatively small band of enthusiastic people who delight in "art for art's sake." The play was revived in 1931, playing at the Everyman Theatre in Hampstead, England.

As the following article notes, Aikins hoped to found a Canadian theatre with Canadian playwrights and actors. Aspiring young students would come to Naramata to pick fruit in the daytime and to study and rehearse plays in the evening. In recording the early history of the theatre, Mrs. Aikins recalled how her husband, frustrated because he could not go to England to see the production of "The God of Gods," began to think in terms of having his own theatre to produce plays by himself and other young Canadian authors. [2]

He designed the building himself but secured the assistance of "Lee Simonson, dean of New York theatre architecture and lighting to help with all the details" in creating this "first 'Little Theatre' in western Canada or [western] United States to have a cyclorama, or sky dome, that received all the sight lines from the audience, the stage was not raised at all but all the seats were raised and were 20 feet from the proscenium. This gave an unexpected sense of distance and illusion of reality and intimacy." Mrs. Aikins paid particular attention to the lighting system, "a fascinating innovation," that Simonson designed. "The dimmer box with flexible levers for changing and lowering lights, was in a platform in the floor just in front of the seating and was raised or lowered from the packing house below by a jack system. Spotlights and larger banks of lights were used both on the beams, high above the stage, and from the wings on both sides."

Above the stage were dressing rooms and on the side a scenery workshop with a large paint table described by Aikins himself that included "compartments for different colors of calciums, brushes and all painting requirements" as well as "tools for making scenery flats, covered with burlap, beaverboard for silhouettes of mountains or houses and towns, and lumber for simple platforms and steps for interiors." They also had on hand material for costumes. All of the students had to learn about sets and lighting.

After Prime Minister Arthur Meighen formally opened the building, Aikins "had a trial production of 'The Tinkers Wedding' using boys working on the farm and other locals, including Gladys Robinson who was a steady and charming recruit to our group. Dorothy Robinson became a skilled manipulator of the lights and dimmer box." The play, Mrs. Aikins admitted, was a "ridiculous" one "to attempt as a FIRST. We played it just once to a farm audience and friends and there wasn't a smile to encourage us. We knew how terrible it was but learned a lot from it. That was the early fall of 1920. That winter we worked recruiting a group of students and a teacher of dancing from the New York Neighborhood Playhouse, also a brilliant pianist Henrrietta Micchelson. Students came from Vancouver, Toronto, London, Ontario, Hamilton and Calgary."

Mrs. Aikins continued: "After a busy winter of organization, including turning the old barn into a communal dining room which continued to have a slight "horsey" odor, in spite of much scrubbing and calcimining, we found ourselves with a local group that wanted to help, both with the technical side and acting and proceeded with our first public production of two

short plays "Neighbours" by Zona Gale and "Will O the Wisp" by Doris Halmcln. Taking part in the first were Mrs. Ruth Rounds, Miss L. Young and Mr. and Mrs. Alex McNicoll of Penticton. Others were Mrs. Gwen Robinson, Miss B. May, Mrs. Miller and behind the scene music was provided by Mr. Keith Whimster on violin and myself on the piano. These two plays went very well and we had a good audience. Harold Mitchell was a tower of strength behind scenes, changing scenery and adjusting lights. I remember "fluffing" some lines in one of the plays, to my horror but the rest of the cast carried on nobly and no one knew that I had skipped sorne lines." As Mrs. Aikins observed, "The whole Little Theatre was a distinguished achievement. There were write ups in papers and magazines in the east and west and a call went out for students who might like to earn their way picking fruit and the result was astonishing. It appealed strongly to the mood of the 20's."

Alas, the ambitious plans made by the Aikins and their enthusiastic students were not fulfilled. The demise of the little theatre must have disappointed the residents of the valley who had enthusiastically supported it. The company never went on tour and the theatre had to be abandoned. The packing house was later torn down and only the first floor, which was used for storage, can still be seen from Aikins Loop. Who knows if the plans might have been carried out if the fruit industry had not gone into a decline and Carroll had not found himself heavily in debt. Finances had been very difficult for some time even before the decline in the fruit industry. His daughters tell the amusing story of an example of his aristocratic contempt for the mundane matter of money. A representative of the family in Winnipeg had been sent to warn him to stop pouring so much money into the theatre. In fact, that gentleman told him if he continued such extravagance his children would be going without clothes. "In that case" said Carroll magnificently, "they shall grow fur!" He told a neighbour that he never opened bills or letters from the bank but threw them instead into an old top hat (his older-son thinks into a wire basket) When a little money came in he would pick one bill at random and pay it. One day he went into the bank to see about his usual overdraft, but a cheque from Winnipeg had covered it but Carroll had not opened the bank's letter telling him of this. Asked by Charlie Bennett, the bank manager, how he knew when he had an overdraft, he replied, "I get a burning feeling in the seat of my pants!"

To earn a living after the fruit industry declined, Carroll taught drama in Vancouver for a winter or two. Then in 1927 he accepted Vincent Massey's offer to direct the Hart House Theatre in Toronto where his productions were well reviewed but after two seasons a difference with Mr. Massey over programming resulted in his departure for New York where he failed to find employment. He turned next to Hollywood, hoping to have a play he had written about Paul Bunyan filmed. However, he refused to abandon his artistic standards in commercially minded Hollywood and returned home though not before giving their daughter Katherine a chance to go to school with Jackie Cooper and other child actors.

After 1929, Carroll directed his talents and energies into building a new home on the lake. Not having money for the house, he began with the extensive walls, which his elder son, The Honorable Mr. Justice John S. Aikins of the B.C. Court of Appeal remembers working on it in the summers. As money came in from time to time, Aikins planted the stately pyramidalis trees that line the driveway and the large gardens along Arawana Creek. He also built a large, attractive cabin on Beaconsfield Mountain where he could get away from it all on occasion. Not until after the Second World War, when they received an inheritance, did the Aikins complete their beautiful home. They were able to spend their winters in the southern United States, Mexico, or in Europe, where Mrs. Aikins died while on a cruise in the Mediterranean. She is buried in Aden. Carroll died in Vancouver in 1967 and is buried in the Naramata cemetery.

Mrs. Arnold Beichman (Carroll), his younger daughter, who now owns the family home, describes him as very western in sentiment, particularly enjoying the tales of pioneer times told by his rancher friends. He was a cultivated man with a charming manner, who enjoyed living in gracious surroundings with all the luxuries he could afford. Carroll Aikins has left a memory of himself as a man of artistic talent and vision, many years ahead of his time in his attempt to found a national theatre. He is also remembered for his generosity in lending books from his extensive library that a newspaper described as perhaps the most comprehensive collection of books in Canada. His poems, though few in number, deserve to be remembered. Perhaps his romantic spirit can be felt best in his poem "In The Orchard"

I see God in my orchard every hour
And in the downward pulses of the sun
I feel his heart beat
And in the vast unventured hills I see
The awful measure of his majesty.

The following was originally published in Saturday Night Women's Edition, December 1921. It was written by Gertrude E.S. Pringle.

THE HOME THEATRE IN THE OKANAGAN

It is surely unique to find a perfectly appointed little theatre in the midst of a huge orchard, far removed from the din and surging crowds of city life with which theatres are usually associated. A theatre that starts out by being so original must perforce possess strong reasons for existing. In this case, The Home Theatre at Naramata , B.C., in the heart of the famed Okanagan fruit producing district , is the outcome of a poet's idealism and far seeing patriotism. The exquisite beauty of the surroundings, the blue Okanagan Lake, the purply blue mountains reflected in its depths, the primeval pines and sloping orchards must be so much more inspiring to the seeker after beauty than the crowded city.

Mr. Carroll Aikins, the founder is the author of a book of poems and a play entitled, "THE GOD OF GODS", which was recently produced with great success in Birmingham, England. In building the Home Theatre he had two aims. One was to enlist talented votaries, both young men and women, and after trying them out to find ten of outstanding ability to form a company of professional Canadian players to tour Canada. The other aim was to produce plays by Canadian writers. Hitherto, all young Canadians who have felt drawn to the stage either as actors or playwrights have been impelled to market their gifts across the border where gradually they were absorbed by the American stage and so lost their identity as Canadians. By providing opportunities to employ such talent in Canada, this loss could be prevented, Mr. Aikins believes, and our national life strengthened and unified.

To talented young men and women, Mr. Aikins offers free training for the stage in a thorough way, involving an all around knowledge of the working operations of a theatre. They even learn to paint the scenery and operate the lighting effects. Young people from any part of Canada are invited to take the training which is absolutely free of charge. The season of the Home Theatre opens in mid-April and lasts until October. Board can be had at neighbouring homes for $8.00 per week, and during the fruit season of about fourteen weeks the students can earn the amount weekly by picking fruit four hours per day. It is planned to produce three complete plays each season. Although a considerable amount of money must have been expended to bring about such a gem of a little theatre, the scheme is not a money making one. No returns are looked for until such time as the Canadian Players are an established fact. The Home Theatre was formally opened in June 1921, by Hon. Arthur Meighen, Premier of Canada. On that occasion, Mr. Aikins gave concrete expression to his aims, stating that in part: "We feel that we have reached a point in our history where we may look for a Canadian literature to record Canadian achievements, and it is in this faith that we have built this theatre for the giving of Canadian plays by Canadian actors. We hope that it will be used by the young actor as a training ground for his abilities, and by the young poet as a testing ground for his work; and we have great pleasure of offering it to them for the service of beauty and for a true expression of the Canadian spirit." The plays given on that occasion by the Canadian player, students were "THE NEIGHBOURS" by Zona Gale and "WILL 0 THE WISP" by Doris Halnian. The second series of plays took place in September last, when " THE MAKER OF DREAMS" by Oliphant Down, was produced and also in part, "THE TROJAN WOMAN" by Euripides, which was impressively beautiful in colour, grouping and the classic spirit. Indicating the spirit underlying the productions is the printed notice on the back of the programs, requesting a candid anonymous criticism of the plays, the settings and the manner of production

Although this little theatre is on the top floor of a large fruit packing house, it is one of the best appointed in Canada. Indeed its lighting effects are not surpassed in any theatre on this continent. The colour organ or dimmer box was made specially in New York and by its use, exquisite and beautiful colour effects are produced. The dome sky, the only one of its kind in Canada is the result of much persevering work, the beautiful back curve being established as a result of many experiments. A 1000 watt lamp gives brilliant light when needed and when transfused into marvellous colours and thrown on the soft stage curtains made of grey flannelette, they are made to look like richest velvet, or like dim distance on the darkest night or flame in orange hues of a stormy sunset. The 100 seats are stained green in Mission style, each one numbered. The curtains and carpeting are also green. One end of the theatre is furnished charmingly with a large oriental rug and quaint old English furniture as a little foyer where the play can be discussed between acts. A concert grand piano is part of the equipment and in the girl's dressing room, a shower bath has been installed.

Mr. Carroll Aikins, who was a nephew of Sir. J. Aikins, Lieut. Governor of Manitoba, has a beautiful home on this 100 acre orchard, where some years ago he planted nearly all the trees himself. His living room is an inviting place to work in, with its huge log burning on the open hearth, Oriental rugs, antique furniture and a deep chesterfield, and a view of surpassing beauty looking on lake and mountains. One noted also a business-like typewriter, which Mrs. Aikins, who is deeply interested in her husband's work, has learned to operate. She also takes an active part in the production of the plays. Mere description fails to bring about the realization of the beauty of the scenery in that glorious Okanangan country. Talented young aspirants for dramatic fame who journey to Naramata to become students at the Home Theatre are to be envied for a combination of fruit picking and rehearsals, interspersed by study, and music, in such inspiring settings must needs prove a life of great fascination. Then too, Mr. and Mrs. Aikins are both young and enthusiastic and live for the finer things of life. On asking Mr. Aikins if he had any difficulty in finding talented students, he replied that there were plenty of clever girls, but he particularly wanted young men who were not too proud to act. •

Emory Creek

The Environmental Legacy of Gold Mining on the Fraser River

by Alan Long

Alan Long holds a BA honours in history and drama, and a BFA in acting, both from the University of Saskatchewan. Alan is currently pursuing his Masters of Arts degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Interdisciplinary Studies, where he teaches acting and facilitates history seminars. Alan was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Scholarship in 2006, and will complete his MA in the fall of 2007.

Visitors entering the Emory Creek Provincial Campground on the Fraser River between Hope and Yale receive a leaflet telling them: "As no trace of the town, or the many attempts at gold mining remain, one must try to imagine all of the activities that took place here over the past century."[1] Ironically, near the entrance to the campground and its display of historical pictures and information, the remains of a large water diversion ditch are quite visible. It is one of many significant traces of gold mining in the Emory Creek area. Closer examination reveals ditches between the campsites themselves and adjacent to trails leading to towards Emory Creek. Less visible artifacts of mining are the effects of the repeated damming and diverting of Emory Creek on fish populations, the remnants of the thousands of pounds of mercury also used in the gold mining process, and the scarring of the bottom of the Fraser River by dredges. The negative environmental legacy of gold mining continues to affect fish, wildlife, and Stó:lô and non-Native communities; it is a legacy that has hardly been discussed, let alone critically examined. Without knowing the environmental history of the region a meaningful dialogue on issues facing residents of the region is not possible.

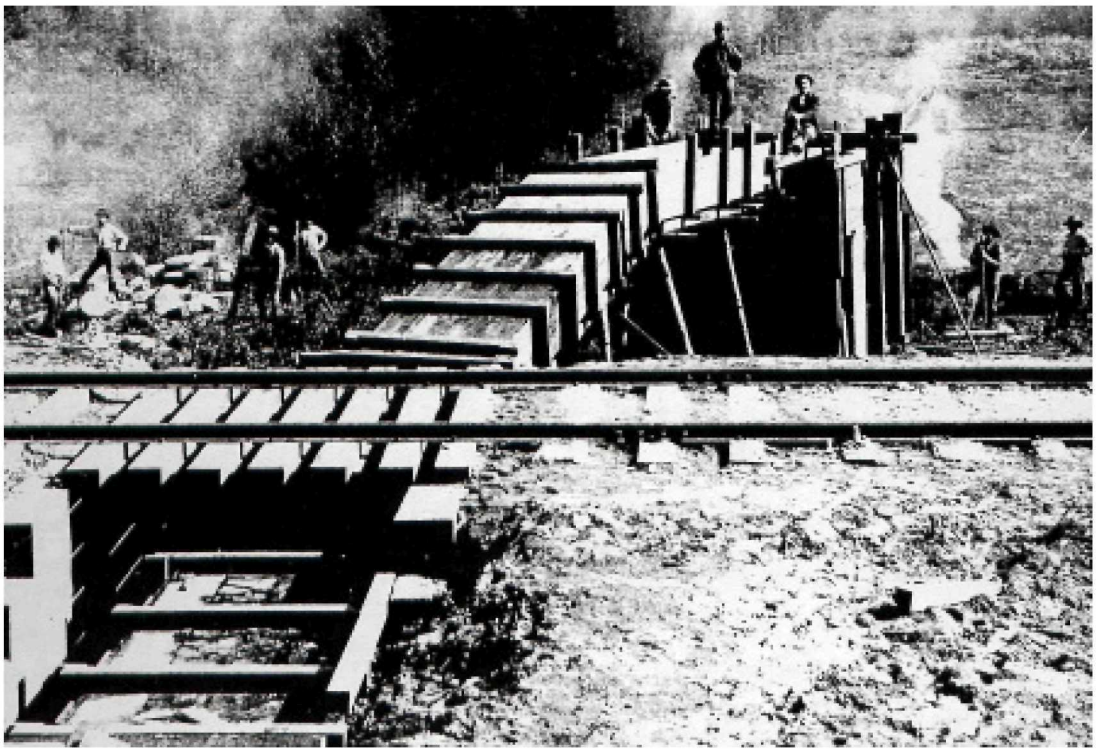
Environmental history really began in the 1970s along with the environmental movement and interest in social history. A leader in the field, the American scholar Donald Worster, notes that it is no longer acceptable to separate man from nature, and argues that if we are truly a part of this planet then the ecological ramifications of past practices can no longer be ignored.[2] Unlike Californians who have studied the environmental legacy of the '49 Gold Rush,[3] British Columbians have concentrated their studies of gold mining on the Fraser River to its economic effects or the human conflicts arising from it.[4] In the spring of 2002, however, a team helped and encouraged by members and employees of the Stó:lô Nation and history Professors Keith Carlson and John Lutz took a step towards filling this gap. By reviewing the existing literature, searching government records and maps, and doing fieldwork, the team discovered much information. Their most valuable resource, however, were Stó:lô elders knowledgeable on environmental issues, and long time residents of the Emory Creek area.

Emory Creek was a good place to start a study of the environmental history of the Fraser River gold rush. Mining began there in 1858 and continued intermittently well into the twentieth century. After nearby Hill's Bar, Emory Bar was the second highest producing bar on the Fraser River. Not only was there plentiful gold but the high flow rate of Emory Creek meant an abundant clean water supply which meant more material could be washed with the heavier gold left behind in the rifles of sluice boxes and the bottom of rockers.[5] Miners at Emory Creek formed ditching companies and began diverting water to supply their sluice boxes and by 1859 at least two of the thirty major water diversion ditches in use between Hope and Yale were at Emory Creek.[6]

Traces of these ditches remain and they can be followed for approximately three kilometers north, and four kilometers south of the junction of Emory Creek and the Fraser River (see page 10). Flumes made of wood were tapped into the ditches at regular intervals to supply as many as eighty sluice boxes, each operated by four to five men. Working together allowed them to move about twenty yards of gravel and clay per day, which would have required approximately one hundred gallons of water per minute. [7]

At Emory Creek this type of mining as well as small scale placer mining continued intermittently into the twentieth century with each successive operation further disturbing the flow of Emory Creek and washing away more of the natural landscape. In the late nineteenth century, Chinese people in "great numbers" worked the ground on several gravel bars between Hope and Lytton.[8] In 1893 a hydraulic mine operated briefly on Prince Albert Flat, just north of Emory Creek. Hydraulic mining requires a much greater supply of water and for this the north ditch was expanded. The company spent $8,000 on the ditch, steel pipes, and a flume that was over one mile long, three feet deep, and capable of moving 3500 inches of water, or eighty-eight cubic feet of water per second. This water was concentrated into a narrow nozzle and entire hillsides and benches were washed down hill into one giant sluice box.[9]

After restoring and shoring up the ditches, during the Depression of the 1930s and in the late 1940s,[10] the province operated placer mining training camps at Emory Bar. Although placer mining eventually faded, residents of Emory Creek continued to use the ditches for a fresh water supply and for irrigation. When a campground was established in the 1950s the flumes were rebuilt on the south side of Emory creek to supply an ornamental stream, a vegetable garden, a swimming pool and fresh water



Prince Albert Hydraulic Gold Mine near Emory Bar, four miles below Yale 1893
Bailey Brothers photo

for a store. According to a former resident, who was in charge of keeping the ditch and water supply operational, lost water due to leaks and seepage was a never-ending problem.[11] It can readily be concluded that the result of so much water being taken from Emory Creek has undoubtedly devastated it as a viable fish habitat, devastation that was repeated at several creeks and streams emptying into the Fraser.

The loss of water was not the only environmental problem arising from mining. Beginning in 1895, floating dredges operated extensively on the Fraser River around Emory Bar and Hill's Bar. These dredges scarred the bottom of the river, processing approximately 3500 hundreds of yards of river gravel every twenty-four hours.[12] This greatly affected fish habitat and caused untold amounts of damage to the world's most prolific salmon run.

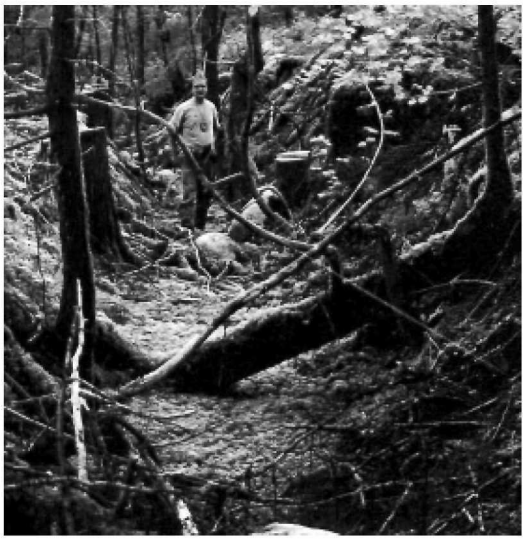
A third environmental problem arising from gold mining was the use of mercury, a toxic agent. Both small and large scale mining operations used mercury in progressively larger amounts to amalgamate fine gold. While only a few ounces were used in a gold pan, placer miners used hundreds of pounds in their sluice boxes, dredge tables covering up to ten thousand square feet could be charged with as much as 3,000 pounds of mercury. Each operation that used mercury potentially lost increasing amounts of it, up to twenty five percent on old and leaky large sluices.[13] Although more research is needed to ascertain how much of this mercury was lost, several individuals in the Emory Creek area report that at low water one need only dig down three to four feet in the gravel of many of the abandoned gold mining bars on the Fraser to find mercury.[14] Stó:lô elder Clem Seymour noted that sturgeon, which are bottom feeders and burrow into the mud to hibernate over winter, are probably the most affected by the mercury. The once plentiful sturgeon is at an all time low and fishing for them is banned.[15]

The mercury in the gravel bars, benches and mud of the Fraser River and in nearby creeks will not go away any time in the foreseeable future. The millions of tons of soil and gravel washed from the gravel bars and benches of the Fraser through sluice boxes are gone forever. Salmon and sturgeon populations have been irrevocably damaged by mining practices, particularly dredges, which greatly disturbed fish pathways and potentially left behind thousands of pounds of mercury. All of these things

Notes:
1. BC Parks brochure, "The Inland Sentinel," compiled and written by Jude Grass and Glennis Taylor. Available at BC Parks, Fraser Valley District, Box 10, Cultus Lake BC V0X 1H0. This brochure is available to campers who camp at Emory Creek Provincial Campground.
2. Donald Worster, "Doing Environmental History," in Donald Worster ed., *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988) 289-293.
3. For an example, see The Oakland Museum of California website, www.museumca.org/goldrush/fever19.html.
4. For example see: Margaret Ormsby, *British Columbia: A History* (Toronto: Macmillan, 1958). Also: Daniel P. Marshall, "Claiming the Land: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to British Columbia," (University of British Columbia: Ph.D. dissertation, 2000). Ormsby particularly focuses on the nation building aspects of the gold rush, and its role in the founding of British Columbia.
5. William F. Boericke, *Prospecting and Operating Small Gold Placers*, 2nd edition (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1957) 31,32.
6. A. C. (Gus) Milliken "Gold, Nickel, Prospectors and Con Men All Found Around Hope," *The Hope Standard*, 27 January 1971: 3; Frederick W. Howay, *The Early History of the Fraser River Mines* (Victoria: King's Printer, 1926) 5.
7. Garnet Basque, *The Fraser Canyon and Bridge River Valley* (Langley: Sunfire, 1985) 15.

have severely affected the ability of the Stó:lô to make a living on their limited land base which is often located far from the strategic locations selected by their ancestors. A lack of understanding of the magnitude of this loss by the greater community has helped fuel the division and tension present between Stó:lô and non-Native fishers.

A more intense scrutiny of Emory Creek and other creeks would undoubtedly yield more valuable results, and serve everyone who calls this area their home and wants a more sustainable future. The Fraser River Valley's relatively constricted environment makes it vulnerable, and the degree to which its rich resources have been assaulted over the past century and a half make it worthy of further inquiry. •



Figures One and Two
courtesy of the author

8. British Columbia, Minister of Mines, *Annual Report*, 1898. 1109.
9. T.W. Paterson, *Encyclopedia of Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of BC*, vol. 1 (Langley: Stagecoach, 1977) 136.
10. Minister of Mines, *Annual Report*,1935, A 31, 32 and *Annual Report*,, 1946. A 47.
11. Curtis Virteau in conversation with Alan Long, May 2002.
12. Minister of Mines, *Annual Report*, 1895, 699. Other reports on dredging in this area are found in the reports of 1898 (p. 1108), 1906 (p. 206), 1911 (183), and 1913 (p. K186).
13. British Columbia Mining Department Bulletin 15. *Hydraulic Mining Methods* compiled by Stuart S. Holland (Victoria: King's Printer, 1942): 60,61.
14. Bruce Mason, Curtis Virteau and Reg Harding in conversation with Alan Long, May 2002. Keith Carlson also states he found mercury at Emory Creek when panning in 1995.
15. Clem Seymour in conversation with Alan Long and John Lutz, 30 May 2002. Transcript on file at Stó:lô Nation Archives.

Bibliography

Basque, G. *The Fraser Canyon and Bridge River Valley* Langley: Sunfire, 1985.

Boericke, William F. *Prospecting and Operating Small Gold Placers, 2nd edition*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1957. First edition published in 1933.

British Columbia Mining Department Bulletin 15. *Hydraulic Mining Methods* compiled Stuart S. Holland Victoria: King's Printer, 1942.

Keith Thor Carlson, "The Fraser River Gold Rush, 1858," in Keith Thor Carlson ed., *A Stó:lô Coast Salish Historical Atlas* Vancouver: Douglas and MacIntyre, 2001.

Carlson, Keith Thor (ed.), *You Are Asked to Witness*, Chilliwack: Stó:lô Heritage Trust, 1997.

Hoos, Lindsay M., & Packman, Glen A., "The Fraser River Estuary: Status of Environmental Knowledge," Environment Canada, 1974.

Howay, Frederick W., *The Early History of the Fraser River Mines*, Victoria: King's Printer, 1926.

MacDonald, Donald D. et al., "Contaminants in White Sturgeon (Acipenser Transmontanus) From The Upper Fraser River, British Columbia, Canada," *Environment Toxicology and Chemistry, Bol. 16, No.3*, 1997.

Macfie, Mathew, *The Far Western Frontier: Vancouver Island and British Columbia, Their History, Resources and Prospects* New York: Arno Press, 1973. First Edition published in London, 1865.

Marshall, Daniel P. "Claiming the Land: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to British Columbia", Vancouver: University of British Columbia: Ph.D. dissertation, 2000.

Myllyntaus, T. & Mikko, S., (eds.) *Encountering the Past in Nature: Essays in Environmental History* Athens: Ohio University Press, 1999.

Ormsby, Margaret *British Columbia: A History* Toronto: Macmillans, 1958.

Paterson, T.W., *Encyclopedia of Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of BC, Volume 1* Langley: Stagecoach, 1977.

Ramsey, Bruce, *Ghost Towns of British Columbia* Vancouver: Mitchell Press, 1963.

Reid, D.S & Morley, R.L., *Mercury Contamination of Fish from Pinchi Lake, B.C.* Victoria: Habitat Protection Section Fish and Wildlife Branch Department of Recreation and Conservation, October 1975.

Report of the Fraser River Sockeye Public Review Board. "Fraser River Sockeye 1994: Problems and Discrepancies," Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1995.

Roos, John F., *Restoring Fraser River Salmon: A History of the International Pacific Salmon Commission 1937-1985* Vancouver: Pacific Salmon Commission, 1991.

Simmons, I.G., *Environmental History: A Concise Introduction* Cambridge: Blackwell, 1993.

Taylor Joseph E. III, *Making Salmon: An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999.

Vernon, E.H., "An examination of the Factors Affecting the Abundance of Pink Salmon in the Fraser River," Progress Report of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, New Westminster British Columbia Canada.

Wilson, Eugene B., *Hydraulic and Placer Mining, 3rd Edition*, New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1918. First edition 1898.

Worster, Donald (ed.), The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

British Columbia:Russian America's Legacy

by Alix O'Grady

Over two hundred and fifty years have passed since the Russian Second Kamchatka Expedition under the command of the Danish Captain Vitus Bering set off from Siberia to Northwest America's Pacific shores on a voyage of exploration (1741-42). Although the venture ended in tragic shipwreck at Bering Island, the surviving crew managed to return to Kamchatka on a vessel reconstructed from the wreckage, carrying with them a goodly number of otter-pelts. The news of this unexpectedly precious cargo attracted international attention, giving impetus to competitive scientific exploration, commercial development and political events which were to exert considerable influence on Canada.[1] This paper will examine some of the legacies still evident - but mostly ignored - in today's British Columbia and the Yukon.

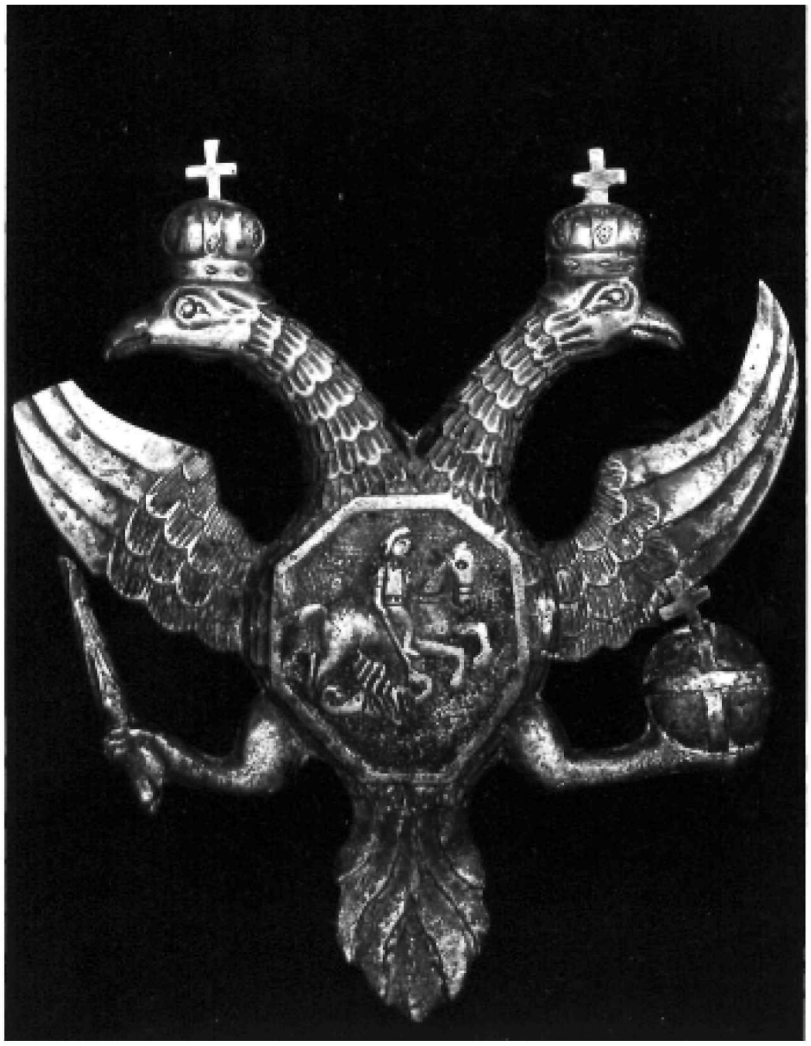
Early Russian Ambitions

Many Russian plans concerning parts of the coastline that is now Canadian were formulated well before the establishment of Fort Victoria (1843) on Vancouver Island. Captain Chirikov, second in command of the Russian Expedition, was the first to approach the present Canadian littoral when seeking shelter at latitude 55°36'N. near Cape Addington, Lulu Island, approximately 150 miles northwest of Prince Rupert. The ambitious plans of the Russian merchant Shelikhov extended even further south, when he issued instructions (1780) to "establish Russian artels in sundry places...and to spread the Glory of Russia into the unknown lands of America and California as far as the 40° parallel."[2]

Catherine the Great (1762-96) ordered the Governor General of Siberia I.B. Iakobii to send plaques to the Russian American colonies embossed with the copper crest of the Russian Empire, as well as plates bearing the inscription: *Zemlya rossiskogo vladeniia* [Territory under Russian power]. The markers were to be affixed to secret places along the coast down to San Francisco Bay. One of the charts is kept at the University of Washington, Seattle indicates that Plate #18 was placed on Dundas Island (B.C.)[3]

The feisty Chief Manager of the Russian - American Company A.A. Baranov (1790-1818), expressed his ambitions clearly in the following song (1799):

Buildings are raised on New World ground
Now Russia rushes to Nootka Sound
The Peoples wild are Nature's child,
And friendly now to Russian rule.[4]



He was, however, more successful in establishing Fort Ross (1812), some 60 miles south of San Francisco, which was to serve the Russian colonies as an agricultural entrepot for thirty years (and now functions as a museum). One wonders what the effect on international boundaries might have been, had the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) not declined Governor Arvid Etolin's offer to purchase the settlement (1841) for $30,000.[5]

The Spaniards

Rumors seeped to Madrid that Russia was secretly establishing a colonial empire. Conde de Lacy in a letter of February 3, 1773 warned that "*los Rusos formaron un establecimiento en la costa americana por los*

Alix o'Grady has published and widely lectured on the subject of Russian America. Her book *From the Baltic to Russian America* was reviewed in issue 39.1 of *British Columbia History.*

Notes:

1. Orcutt Frost, *Bering: The Russian Discovery of America* (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2003 and R.H. Fisher, *Bering's Voyages: Whither and Why* (Seattle University of Washington Press, 1977).
2. A.I. Alekse'ev, *Osvoenie ruskimi liud'mi Dalnego Vostoka I do konza IX veka* (The mastering by the Russian people of Siberia's Far East to the end of the 19th century] (Moskva: Nauka, 1982), 103-04.
3. R.A. Pierce and A. Doll, "Russian Alaskan Treasure - Our Search for the Russian Plates" *Alaska Journal, 1,* (1971), 5.
4. K.T. Khlebnikov,. *Novo-Archangel'sk* [Sitka] , ed. A.B. Aleksan drov (Moskva: Nauka, 1985), 221
5. James Gibson, "The Russian Contract: The Agreement of 1838" in *Russia in North America*, ed. R.A. Pierce, (Kingston: The Limestone Press, 1990), 157
6. See Vila Vilar, *Los Rusos en America*, (Sevilla, 1966).
7. Glynn Barrett, *Russia in Pacific Waters, 1715-1825* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1981), 93.

View of the Russian Colony at "Novo Archangelsk", 1827 lithograph of a drawing by F. H. von Kittlitz, Litke, atlas to "Voyage" p.7
Courtesy of Lilly Library, Indiana University (above)

From 1787 onward, the Russians systematically deposited numbered metal plates proclaiming "Russian Territory" and crests of the Imperial eagle along the North American coast. This example is at the Alaska State Museum at Juneau.
Cat. No.III-R-150 (previous page)

64 °, los cuales se empleaban en pieles a Emperatriz y ultimamente tenan minas mucha importancia".[6] Suddenly, former Spanish apathy toward the cold and uncharted northern regions evaporated and was galvanized into instant action. How could anyone question, nay, threaten Spain's indisputable right to this part of the world granted them by favour of a Papal Bull issued in 1493 by Pope Alexander VI? Within a year the first Spanish vessel commanded by Captain Juan Perez (1774) sailed north as far as Pt. Langara, Queen Charlotte Islands. Spanish place names along the coast bear witness that others followed. Their intention was to make a show of the flag, to engage in navigational exploration and to investigate Russian intentions.

Spanish apprehensions were put to rest when contacts with *'los Rusos'* confirmed that the latter had little interest in anything but furs, a commodity for which the Spaniards rarely showed any appreciation. Yet these reassurances were short-lived when new rumors surfaced that Catherine the Great was outfitting two expeditions to the Pacific Northwest coast. One was to sail from the Baltic and the other from Okhotsk, Siberia, under the command of the British naval officer Joseph Billings. This expedition, (which was subsequently cancelled), was supposed to sail to Nootka Sound "from the latitude where Chirikov had sighted land almost fifty years before, and possess himself "of the whole littoral in Russia's name."[7]

In an effort to forestall Russian expansion and to assert Spanish sovereignty by establishing a *'fingido establecimiento'* (feigned settlement) at Nootka Sound, the Spaniards despatched Captains Esteban Jose Martinez and Gonzalo Lopez de Haro (1789) One consequence of the infamous 'Nootka Sound Controversy' was the withdrawal of the Spaniards (1795) from the Pacific Northwest coast. That marked the first step to the end of Spain as a colonial empire. Two formidable rivals remained to challenge Russian sovereignty: Britain and the United States.

The King George's and the Bostonmen

To most Canadians the name of Captain James Cook is synonymous with Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island where the *Resolution* and *Discovery* stayed nearly all of April 1778, and where evidence in the form of three silver spoons pointed to Spanish precedence. Cook was the first to inform the Western World of the existence of a Russian settlement at Unalaska, Imperial Russia having subscribed to a

policy of secrecy. Unaware that one day his expedition and the official publication of his journals (1784) would parallel that of Bering by unleashing a stampede of fur traders, Cook paid tribute to his Russian precursor:

"The [fur] trade in which the Russians are engaged is very beneficial and it is being undertaken and extended to the eastward of Kamchatka. It was the immediate consequence of the Second Expedition of that able navigator [Bering], whose misfortune proved to be the source of much private advantage to individuals and public utility to the Russian nation. And yet, if his distress had not accidentally carried him to die on an island which bears his name and from whence the miserable remnant of his ship's crew brought back sufficient specimen of his valuable furs, probably the Russians would never have undertaken any further voyages which could lead them to make discoveries in this sea, toward the coast of America."[8]

With the arrival of the British fur-trader Captain James Hanna (1785), the Pacific Northwest coast ceased to be an exclusively Russian sphere of operation. Poaching on Russian fur-trading grounds became a regular feature and, worse for the Russians, foreign powers questioned their territorial rights based upon first discovery.

Among the participants of Captain Cook's last voyage was the young American John Ledyard, who described in glowing terms the "beaver" which were found in great numbers along the Northwest coast. Six years later at a meeting with Thomas Jefferson in Paris, Ledyard pointed out the potential of a lucrative market in China. Already American vessels had invaded the Northwest coastal waters, taking their share of the plentiful bounty. Since the Bostonmen showed no interest in permanent settlement, their relationship with the Native Indians was less restrictive and they flagrantly traded in arms, ammunition and liquor to the detriment of the Russians and the British, whose official protests were of no avail.

Persistent shortages of supplies made the Russian colonies heavily dependent on foodstuffs bought from the local Natives. Moreover, in spite of the Russian Motherland's stringent rules, they obtained much needed American provisions in exchange for peltries and the occasional loan of skilled Aleut hunters. Keenly aware of the Russians' shortcomings, the astute Sir George Simpson, Governor of the HBC, watched these transactions with a jaundiced eye and planned to eliminate American trading opportunities.

Two major factors contributed to the HBC's growing presence in the Pacific Northwest. A turning point in favour of Britain was its merger in 1821 with its arch rival, the Montreal- based North West Company. That union infused the Honourable Company with rejuvenated vigour. To the enormous territories of Prince Rupert's Land, the new coalition added New Caledonia, west of the Rockies. That facilitated westward expansion from the Mackenzie River waterway system; the acquisition of the Columbia Department provided an opportunity to introduce agriculture.[9] The British now threatened the Russian colonies simultaneously from the south and from the east. By 1837, George Simpson, the "Little Emperor" of the HBC reported that "coastal waters were (virtually) freed of American competitors."[10]

Secondly, by treaties signed in 1824 and 1825 respectively with the United States and Britain, Russia relinquished territorial rights south of the new boundary at 54° 40′ N. Navigational restrictions on foreign vessels set by the ukaz (1821) were relaxed and foreign ships were permitted to trade along the coast of Russian America. Citizens of the United States were granted a ten-year concession to trade and fish in Russian colonial waters, while British subjects were permitted to navigate the rivers, inlets and creeks along that part of the coast. However, the interdiction of establishing British settlements on Russian possessions remained in force[11] and Russia secured complete sovereignty over the islands north of 54"40° and over the coastal strip (today's Alaska Panhandle), which was to become a lasting bone of contention between the United States and Canada.

Fracas over the Lisière

Setting up the coastal strip denied the HBC direct access to the sea and prevented its further encroachment upon Russian territories.[12] The strip extended from the head of Portland Canal at a distance of 10 marine leagues around all the inlets of the sea as far as Mount St. Elias. The wisdom of its boundaries was justified by the 'Dryad Affair' (1834), a confrontation between the Russian American Company and the HBC at the mouth of the Stikine River. The British had wanted to ascend the river in order to garner the inland trade previously enjoyed only by the Russians. The latter, by erecting Redoubt St. Dionysius at the entrance, had quickly forestalled this move. According to the treaty no foreign vessel was supposed to pass a foreign fort without permission. Governor Simpson admitted precisely what Baron Ferdinand von Wrangell, Governor of the

8. J.C. Beaglehole,. ed. *The Journals of Captain James Cook on His Voyage of Discovery:The Voyage of the Resolution and Discovery, 1776-1780.* (Cambridge: Hakluyt Society, 1967), 371-372
9. Donald D. Davidson, "Hudson's Bay and Russian American Relations," *British Columbia Historical Quarterly, 5,* (1941), 33-51
10. Frederick Merk, *Fur Trade and Empire"* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, l967), xxvii
11. *Alaskan Boundary Tribunal: The Case of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, l903), 68
12. Wilhelm von Wrangell, ed., *Ein Kampf um Wahrheit: Leben und Wirken des Admirals Baron Ferdinand von Wrangell* (Stuttgart, Quell Verlag, l940), 80
13. E.E. Rich, *The Letters of John McLoughlin from Vancouver to the Governor and Committee, First Series,* 1825-38 (Toronto: Champlain Society, 1941), civ
14. James R. Gibson , *Imperial Russia in Frontier America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976), 23,204
15. Margaret A. Ormsby, *British Columbia: A History* (Toronto: MacMillan, 1958), 76
16. Gibson, "The Russian Contract:The Agreement of 1838,"178
17. *Ottawa Citizen,* 27 October 1903.
18. Norman Penlington, *The Alaska Boundary Dispute: A Critical Reappraisal* (Toronto: McGraw, Hill & Ryerson, 1972), 20; *Alaskan Boundary Tribunal,* 540
19. *Alaskan Boundary Tribunal,* 547
20. In 1965 the Tahltan word for "whale" in northern B.C, (Wonone) was recorded as the Russian word 'kit' G.N.O'Grady). At a linguistic workshop held at Dawson City, June 1991, a Yukon Han speaker addressed me in a few words of Russian.

Russian American Company flag.
courtesy of the author

Russian-American Company, had suspected, namely "that the purpose of the 'projected' settlement was to cut off from the Russians the valuable trade they have hitherto enjoyed without interruption from the British Territory in the interior ….. as we are now striking at the very root of their trade."[13]

Thanks to the diplomatic skills and amicable relationship between the two dynamic governors an agreement favourable to both parties was eventually worked out in Hamburg (1839). One of its more far-reaching settlements was an agreement whereby the HBC would supply Russian America (and Kamchatka) with shipping and with provisions from Fort Vancouver and later from Fort Victoria and Fort Langley through its affiliate, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. The HBC offered goods of superior quality at prices more favourable than those obtained from the Americans previously.[14] At Fort Vancouver, where agriculture and settlement were still considered anathema, the reaction was cataclysmic as vociferous conservatives protested against having a fur-trading centre changed into a Mutton Company – composed of farming and colonial settlements.[15]

Part of the Hamburg agreement spelled out that the HBC would drop indemnity charges against the Russians in return for a ten-year renewable lease of the coastal strip. This meant that the Alaska Panhandle was transferred temporarily to the HBC but it never became a British possession. When the final lease expired June 1867, the British rejected offers to buy the area outright because the fur-bearing animals in the area had been over-hunted. Consequently, the lisière reverted to its original Russian owners and, with the purchase of "Seward's Ice-box" it became American territory.[16] The fracas over the Alaska Panhandle was not settled until the conclusion of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal in 1903. Ironically, Great Britain arbitrated in favour of the United States against Canadian claims for the "desirable territory."[17]

Borderline Effects on First Nations

British Columbia's attention to a boundary problem was alerted when, barely five years after the sale of Russian America, gold was discovered in the Cassiars. A more favourable demarcation line was contemplated, but not established.[18] By the time the Klondike Gold Rush burgeoned into full swing in 1897-98, objections emanated no longer from a provincial but also from a national level, especially so since the bonanza permitted sundry economic benefits to slip into American coffers.

Such grievances, however, seem trivial compared to the hardships imposed by international boundaries on our Peoples of the First Nations – the First Americans, as the Russians referred to them. From Mount St. Elias the intersecting meridian longitude 141° W. leads straight up to the Arctic, straddling Upper Tanana, Han and Kutchin (and a slice of Ahtna) territories. Not only did this affect trading routes, hunting and fishing grounds but that families and tribal members also found themselves –

21. Catharine McClellan, "Intercultural Change in the Cordilleras" in *Handbook of North American Indians*, ed/ W. Sturtevant (Smithsonian Institution Press, l981), 6:387-401; and verbal communication by Daniel Tlen, Yukon College, and David Young, Outfitters Ltd,Whitehorse, Yukon.
22. See *National Geographic* (1898)
23. Penlington, *The Alaska Boundary Dispute*, 12-13
24. Thomas W. Balch, *The Alaska-Canadian Frontier*, 2nd ed.(Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1902), 23
25. Ormsby, *British Columbia*,129; Glynn Barratt, *Russian Shadows on the British Northwest Coast of North America, 1810-1890* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press,1981), 42-73
26. Richard A. Pierce, "Russia and British Columbia"in *Western Perspectives 1*, ed. David J. Bercuson (Toronto and Montreal: Holt, Rinehart & Winston of Canada),72.

and still do – on opposite sides of the border, where they were subject to different rules. Regrettably, infractions against Natives prevailed on both sides of the boundary as Canadian intransigent rules and customs, and American lawlessness and disorder became proverbial – factors, of which the two 'peace-loving cousins' liked to remind one another. The governments of the United States and Canada consistently ignored the petitions of the Native Peoples for the guarantee of former rights and privileges.

Testimony of Skin-Ya:

Depositions received in Skagway (1899) showed that ties with the Russian administration were clearly remembered:

My name is Skin-Ya. I do not know my age - I am now over 50 years old. The name of my tribe is Chilcat. I live at Haines Mission. I have always lived in this vicinity. I am one of the sub-chiefs of the Chilcat tribe, and when De-na-wak dies, who is now head-chief of the village Yen-de-sta-key at the mouth of the Chilcat River, and who is also the chief of Dyea and Skaguay and Haines Mission, I will take his place....I remember the Russians. They claimed this portion of Alaska at the head of Lynn Canal. The Russian claim extended as far as the claim now made by the United States.

I recognized the Russians as the owners of this country and have always considered myself a Russian subject until the transfer to the United States. We and our fathers recognized the Russian authority over this country for a longer period than fifty years ago.

My ancestors lived between Dyea, Haines Mission and Yen-de sta-key. For many years they made a trail from Dyea into the interior - a long time ago - and since Americans have settled at Dyea, since the gold excitement, every time our people go into the interior to trade goods, the Canadian police stop them and make them pay duty before they can go any farther. They have been doing this for about a year. It makes us all feel bad that we have to pay duty to the Canadian police and I hope that the Big Chief at Washington {sic] will make them stop doing that.
Witnesses: George Kostromitinoff and F.B. Bourn

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Skaguay, Alaska, this 4th day of July, .D. 1899.

JOHN TWEEDALE
Major, U.S. Army [19]

Other manifestations of the Russian influence

A Map of the discoveries made by the Russians on the Northwest coast of America. Published by the Royal Academy of Sciences, Petersburg ***(above)***

St. Saviour's Church, Carcross
photo courtesy of the author

on the native population of Yukon include the absorption of Russian loanwords into Indian languages that are still remembered as far south as northern British Columbia.[20] Acceptance of Russian trading goods created an eager demand for European materials, and a new technology brought inevitable changes into the economy, cultures and eating habits. Fort Yukon, established well inside Russian territory (1847-69) essentially stimulated a lucrative market. Items of Russian provenance also found their way to the McKenzie River Landing, B.C. where Russian Orthodox crosses adorn the tops of Indian grave houses. The cremated bodies, wrapped in blankets, were stored in Chinese tea chests (huçay) evidently obtained from Russian America.[21]

Maps and the Contested Border

The first official Russian demarcation lines appeared in a publication by the St. Petersburg Admiralty (1826). They were superseded by a map (in French) drawn by the Baltic Admiral, Adam J. von Krusenstern (1827) whose delineations were internationally recognized and to which the British raised no objection.[22] They were essentially the ones pertaining to the decision made by the Alaska Boundary Tribunal.[23] In fact, the ever-critical Sir George Simpson found no fault with them when, at an inquiry in 1857, he added: "There is a margin of coast marked yellow on the map from 54° 40′ up to Cross Sound which we have rented from the Russian Company. This map shows that the strip of land on the continent extended far enough inland to include all the sinuosities of the coast so as to exclude - according to the United States claims - the British territories altogether from any outlet upon salt-water above 54° 40′." However, the chart most damaging to Canadian aspirations at the Boundary Tribunal was produced by F.J. Evans, R.N. of the British Admiralty (Chart #787, 1876). It "acknowledged the frontier of the United States descending longitude 141° W., and then advancing on the continent but passing around the sinuosities of the coast so as to give a continuous lisiere of territory, cutting off the Dominion of Canada from all the contact with any of the fjords between Mount St. Elias and Portland Canal, and showing the frontier at altitude 54° 40′."[24]

Diversification and New Links

During the Crimean War (1854-56), Russophobic hysteria had erupted in Victoria. The Royal Navy Governor took precautions to strengthen its base at Esquimalt in spite of the neutrality pact signed earlier between the HBC and the Russian American-Company.[25] Ironically, it was Russia who suffered an Anglo-French attack (1854) on Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka, launched in flagrant contravention of the Neutrality Agreement. This contributed to corroding Russian trust in British promises, impressing the Russian Motherland once more of the vulnerability of her distant colonies.

Then, the Western Union Telegraph Company, -which planned in 1865 to establish closer communications between this continent and Europe by running a telegraph line along the west coast and thence across Bering Strait to Siberia – envisioned Victoria as a supply base. The successful laying of the Atlantic Cable (1867) ended joint efforts in Russian America, British Columbia, and Siberia.

The continued depletion of fur-bearing animals and the declining popularity of beaver hats in Europe resulted in a diversification of new three-cornered commercial activities. Since 1835, American whalers extended their hunt to Pt. Barrow. Ice, cut at Kodiak and on Woody Island, was shipped to San Francisco from 1852 onward. The Russian -American Company imported coal and bricks from the British colony of Vancouver Island. Especially during the early 1860s under Prince Maksutov's governorship, Sitka found trade with Victoria was more advantageous than with San Francisco.[26]

But, in 1867, Alaska became American rather than Russian territory; three years later, the HBC completed the transfer of its domain to Canada. Today, but for a plaque in Victoria's Inner Harbour commemorating those days of trade, there exists surprisingly little awareness in British Columbia of former Russian America and of an era that contributed so significantly to British Columbia's history. •

A Note

One of the "Ifs" in B.C. History

by V.C. Brink

Why in all the media attention given the Bedaux expedition no mention is made of the role of Lemarque D.L.S. who plotted the route the expedition was to take across Northern B.C.? He blazed the route and surveyed it and also sketched each reach on a scroll map as he traveled. He was a professional surveyor one of two in the Bedaux expedition. Swannell was the other but he remained in camp as an advisor. Lamarque was at one time manager of Fontas Trading Post southeast of Fort Nelson and for many years urged that the natural resources of northeastern B.C. be given attention. I believe he had some idea of the geology and the probable petroleum structures from an exploratory party sent by a company in the late 1920's into the area south of Ft. Nelson. Apparently Lemarque reached the settlement of Telegraph Creek where he wired Bedaux stating that crossing was feasible but Bedaux did not get the message until after he decided to turn back. The route was quite good and certainly could have been made by the Bedaux pack team.

Lamarque, as I knew him was a man of great physical strength even in retirement in Vancouver and knew his country. He gave his scroll map - several meters long - to Tommy Walker known best for his hunting camp on Coldfish Lake in the Spatsizi Country.

R. S. Silver of the B.C. Wildlife Branch made four copies of the scroll map; I placed my copy in the map library at UBC.

Until the late 1930's the land between the Peace and Liard rivers was not mapped and was a large white blank on the maps of Canada. •

The 1934 Bedaux Expedition established its leader as one of the most flamboyant explorers in Canadian history: champagne, caviar, mistress and ladies maid; over-equipped, ill-equipped and peppered with staged mishaps, directed by Hollywood cinematographer Floyd Crosby. Bedaux was convinced that his party could locate a route and drive a fleet of automobiles from Edmonton through the unmapped northern Rocky Mountain Divide, thence by way of Telegraph Creek to Alaska, a distance of 2400 km. The advance party, led by Ernest Lamarque, blazed a trail through to Telegraph Creek, proving the concept, but the main party turned back at Sifton Pass, 320 km short. Bedaux began planning a return trip in 1936, but events in Europe diverted his interest: in 1937, the former Edward VIII married American divorcée Wallis Simpson at Bedaux' chateau in the French countryside; by 1940 he had aligned his European businesses with Nazi interests. Bedaux committed suicide in Florida in 1944, reportedly as US authorities were preparing to arrest him for espionage.

Source: BC place name cards from BC Geographical Names Office

V.C. (Bert) Brink is a frequent contributor to BC History

The Johnson Street Ferry of Victoria, B.C.

Token History

by Ronald Greene

Prior to the 1858 Fraser River Gold Rush, Victoria was a rather sleepy outpost of the British Empire. Suddenly the town expanded, flooded with thousands of Argonauts [1] who were on their way to the gold fields. Many of these men would return to spend the winter in the more comfortable clime of Victoria, while others returned to Victoria disappointed in their search for gold. The miners came and went by ship or canoe. Sailing ships brought in the many tons of goods and supplies required by the miners and residents. The harbour which had heretofore served the community adequately was suddenly very cramped and far too small.

The Victoria Bridge had been built in 1854-55 [2] across a narrow throat of the harbour at the foot of Johnson Street. The bridge served to connect the settlement to the Songhees Indian village on the other side of the harbour and to the Royal Navy station at Esquimalt, some five kilometers (three miles) to the west. A March 1859 editorial in the *Victoria Gazette* [3] advocated the need to remove the bridge to allow vessels to reach the upper harbour and increase the area available for commerce. Two days later the *Gazette* ran a letter from "Neptune" which reads in part:

> *"Editors Gazette: — I would suggest, as a means of* at once *obtaining the advantage which would result from the removal of Victoria Bridge, and which would be deferred by building another across the estuary farther up, that the present bridge be taken down, and a ferry privilege be granted to a company ... the proposition for a drawbridge is an absurdity. The delay and annoyances incident to passing through it would entirely destroy its usefulness. And if, as I am informed, the piles of Victoria Bridge are already worm-eaten, that structure would not stand the working of such a piece of machinery."* [4]

This letter, which is the earliest found to discuss a ferry, and to mention the already unsafe condition of Victoria Bridge, anticipated the final solution. Within the month it was announced that *H.M.S. Plumper* was to make a thorough survey of Victoria Harbour [5] with the view to rock removal and studying the practicality of enlarging the harbour. This is not to say that all went smoothly, for in the colonial House of Assembly a proposal by Dr. Helmcken for the removal of the Victoria Bridge was lost for want of a second.[6] The *Gazette*'s reaction was quite vitriolic, grumbling, "..Victoria Bridge is a public nuisance, therefore Victoria Bridge must be preserved and if possible perpetuated..." [7] Another editorial in the *British Colonist* over a year later pointed out the need to have access to the upper harbour to relieve the currently inadequate wharfage and accepting the argument that the route to Esquimalt would be a mile longer via the proposed Rock Bay and Ellis Point bridges. [8]

Finally in October 1860 the House of Assembly gave approval to the removal of Victoria Bridge with a proposal for two more bridges to be built at Rock Bay and Point Ellis. [9] In February 1861 it was reported that, "the two new bridges ... are fairly under way ... The distance traveled in order to reach the other side of the harbour is very great, and to our mind, it seems as if the new bridge will be but little traveled by pedestrians for some time to come, and that employment will be had by one or two ferry-boats in plying between town and the road leading past the Songish village. [10] By June 1, 1861 the new bridges were open and the old bridge was closed. [11]

It was to be almost another year before the old bridge was removed, the *Colonist* of May 14, 1862 mentioned its passing and that the steamer, *Emily Harris*, was the first to venture into the upper harbour. The City of Victoria was incorporated on August 2, 1862 and almost exactly a year later at the City Council

Detail from D.R. Harris map of the City of Victoria, 1884
(top right)

Victoria Harbour, 1883. White building is marked "ferry" on the Harris map [26]
Photo courtesy of the City of Victoria Archives
(opposite, top)

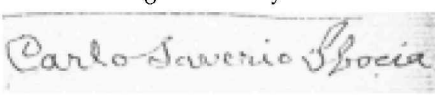
The signature on his will of Oct. 11, 1880
(opposite page, middle)

The entry in the Register of Deaths of the St. Andrews Roman Catholic Cathedral
(opposite page, bottom)

meeting of August 3, 1863, "The following resolution was moved by C. Stronach Seconded by C. Reid & carried, that the clerk be instructed to advertise that the privilege of conducting the ferry at the foot of Johnson St., will be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder Monday next at 11 o'clock A.M. for the term of 12 months from the 1st September 1863. That the ferryage or tolls for foot passengers should not exceed 6-1/2 cents for every passenger each way and rent to be paid Quarterly and in advance." [12]

Apparently the City did not have the power to sell the privilege for the next meeting saw a letter from the Mayor deferring the public sale [13] and two years later a motion to, "appoint a Committee to wait upon His Excellency the Governor for the purpose of obtaining a proper transfer of [the] ferry at the foot of Johnson St. to the City Council." [14] Whether a ferry had started by then is not clear, but by September 1867 the *Colonist* printed the following article:

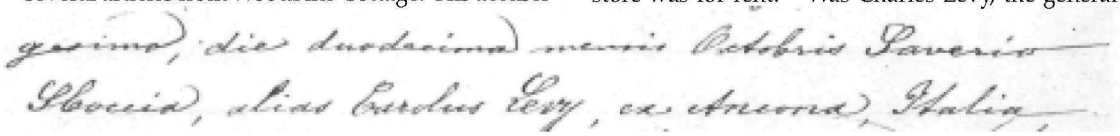
"Aiding a Criminal to escape – Charles Levy (ferryman) and D.W. Chauncey, carpenter are held to answer a charge of aiding and abetting the escape of Charles Schlessinger, the alleged forger, when he fled to Washington Territory. Two other men are accused of complicity in the same offence. Schlessinger having divulged the names of the parties who ferried him across the, 'dark and angry water'." [15]



Charles Levy had one more brush with the law. In 1875 he was brought up on a charge of stealing several articles from Woodbine Cottage. His accuser was R. Plummer of Plummer & Pagden, who were holding a sale at the cottage.

"...After hearing Mr. Plummer's evidence, the magistrate said there could be no doubt that the goods were found in the defendant's house, and that they had no business to be there, at the same time he had known Levy for some years and could scarcely think he would be guilty of such conduct....at his Honor's suggestion [the] prosecutor withdrew the case, on condition that defendant should furnish a new key for the front door, all the other articles having been recovered." [16]

And who was this Charles Levy? The only Charles Levy to appear in any city directory between the first one published in 1860 and that of 1882 was an importer at 21 Wharf Street in the 1863 issue. He was a regular advertiser in the *Colonist* about then. On October 17, 1862 he inserted four advertisements offering gold and silver watches, gold chronometers, watches made by well known makers in London and Liverpool and London-made gold jewelry, [17] which appear to have been his first ads. In March of 1863 his stock seemed more varied, including Marrian's No. 3 Burton Ale in hogsheads, coal oil lamps, clothing, boots and shoes, a large selection of hardware, Meerschaum pipes in addition to the jewelry and watches. [18] There was a severe depression in the Colony from the latter end of 1863 and many businesses suffered and closed. Apparently Levy was one of these, for in December 1865 he announced that he had leased his store, although in January 1866 his store was for rent. [19] Was Charles Levy, the general



Notes:

1. Catherine B. Avery, *The New Century Classical Handbook*, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1962. The Argonauts were the Greek heroes and demigods who sailed with Jason on the *Argo* to fetch the Golden Fleece from Colchia, hence seekers of gold.
2. Dr. Dorothy Blakey Smith, footnote 13, p. 5, of *Lady Franklin Visits the Pacific Northwest*, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Memoir No. IX, Victoria, 1974. She refers to James Douglas' correspondence outward to A. Barclay, August 26, and December 20, 1854.
3. *The Victoria Gazette*, March 8, 1859, p. 2 (hereafter *Gazette*)
4. *Gazette*, March 10, 1859, p. 2
5. *Gazette*, March 31, 1859, p. 2
6. *Gazette*, April 2, 1859, p. 1
7. *Gazette*, April 2, 1859, p. 2
8. *The British Colonist*, October 10, 1860, p. 2. [hereafter *Colonist*] Note the spelling of Point Ellis, which today is spelled as Point Ellice. According to Walbran, the point was named by officers of the HBCo for the Deputy Governor, the Right Hon. Edward Ellice. Captain J.T. Walbran, *British Columbia Coast Names 1592 - 1906*, Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1909, p. 168
9. *Colonist*, October 30, 1860, p. 3
10. *Colonist*, February 15, 1861, p. 3
11. *Colonist*, June 1, 1861, p. 3
12. *Victoria City Council Minutes*, August 3, 1863, p. 155, [hereafter *Minutes*]
13. *Minutes*, August 17, 1863, p. 157
14. *Minutes*, August 21, 1865, p. 250
15. *Colonist*, September 21, 1867, p. 3
16. *Colonist*, August 17, 1875, p. 3
17. *Colonist*, October 17, 1862, p. 2
18. *Colonist*, March 18, 1863, p. 2
19. *The Chronicle*, Dec. 10, 1865, p. 2; and *Colonist*, January 16, 1866, p. 3
20. Since Levy is a common Jewish name we consulted the Congregation Emanu El minutes books for 1862 to 1866 (MSS 059, microfilm A0269), the list of subscribers in August 1862 when the Congregation was formed (GR1865, microfilm B13929) and works by two authors who have written on early Jewish merchants of Victoria, David Rome and Cyril E. Leonoff, but none of these mentions a Charles Levy. On August 9, 2006 I spoke

with Mr. Leonoff but he had no references to a Jewish Charles Levy, nor did Chris Hanna, who has done considerable research on the Jewish community of the period. The conclusion is that the merchant probably was not Jewish and therefore might be the ferryman

21. Conversation with B. Magliocchetti, September 10, 1987. When I spoke to him I was not aware of the spelling of Iboccia in the Probate files.

22. Emidio De Felice, Dizionario dei Cognomi Italiani, Arnoldo Mondaderi Editore, 1978, Milano. Of the name Saverio he says, "Savèri - varianti Savèrio, Saveriano. Diffuso sporadicamente nel Centro-Sud, ba all base il nome Savèrio"

23. Canada411 is an on-line telephone directory. We tried, Ibocia, Iboccia, Shoccia, Sloccia, Stoccia, Sboccia

24. by Del Rosario, Librarian at the B.C. Archives, a native Italian speaker. She suggested a few on-line sources of Italian names, but no where could I find any of the reported names.

25. A Bascule Bridge is a drawbridge with a counterweight that balances the span so that relatively little power is needed to raise the span

26. City of Victoria photo 96609-01-6537, dated 1883. The view is from the west looking east. The large vessel at the Johnson Street wharf appears to be the 180 foot tug *Alexander*. See Lewis & Dryden's *Marine History of the Pacific Northwest*, E.W. Wright, Editor, Portland, Oregon, 1895, p. 244

The cardboard ticket or scrip is printed in black on yellow card. It measures 55 x 25 mm and is in the collection of the British Columbia Archives.

merchant, the same person as Charles Levy, ferryman? It is possible that Charles Levy had been supplementing sales in his business, located on Wharf Street, close to the foot of Johnson Street, by acting as the ferryman, but there is no evidence to connect the two. [20]

We know, however, that Charles Levy, ferryman, died October 12th, 1880. The funeral started at the ferry at 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. from the Roman Catholic Cathedral on October 14, 1880. The *Colonist* gave his name as Chas. Levy Saveria Shoccia, which cannot be correct, but more on that below. Information on the death certificate, supplied by his assistant, Reynold Pasquelle, who was present at Levy's death and confirmed by a statement in his will, stated that he was a native of Ancona, a city located on the Adriatic (eastern) coast of Italy in the northern half of the country. Aged 61 years he was reported to have been sick for a long time. There was no mention of any family.

The man's name is a problem and it is the kind of problem that leads researchers to dismay. In death his name was recorded in six places, each time spelled differently. The Register of Deaths of St. Andrews Roman Catholic Cathedral, on page 44, written in Latin, gives the name, "Saverio ?occia (alias Carolus Levy)." This could be read Sboccia or Hoccia. The Ross Bay Cemetery Burial Register gives the name as, "Saveria Stoccia (Chas. Levy)." The plot register spells the name, "Saveria Sloccia," the *Colonist* as "Saveria Shoccia." No head stone survives, and there may never have been one. The probate files (and associated ads) give the name as "Carlo Saveria Iboccia, alias Charley Levy." And finally the will was signed "Carlo Saverio Ibocia" although the name was written "Iboccia" in the body of the will.

Some years ago we consulted a senior tutor in Italian at the University of Toronto [21] who stated that neither Shoccia or Hoccia could be correct as they are combinations of letters that do not exist in the language. He also confirmed that Saverio would be more likely correct rather than the feminine variation Saveria. Consulting a dictionary of Italian surnames [22] was of no help as none of the variations given in the sources was listed as an Italian surname. Similarly, at the time, none was listed in the Toronto phone-book in what is said to be the largest Italian community outside of Italy. A recent check of Canada411 fails to show a single listing of any of the names [23] anywhere in the country. Whatever Charles Levy's real name was remains a mystery, but if it was an Italian name it is not a common one. It has been suggested [24] that maybe Mr. Levy had a past to hide and adopted an Italian sounding name prior to adopting the Charles Levy name.

Following Levy's death a Nicholas Bertucci became the proprietor of the ferry for the remaining years that it was needed, i.e. until 1888 when the second Johnson Street bridge, a swing span, was opened to allow the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway to enter into the City proper. Today's third Johnson Street bridge, a Bascule Bridge, [25] was opened in 1924 and was built beside the old swing span.

The cardboard ticket or scrip is printed in black on yellow card. It measures 55 x 25 mm and is in the collection of the British Columbia Archives. Tickets were advertised at three for 25 cents in September 1873. It is the earliest surviving scrip used in British Columbia. •

BCHF Victoria Conference 2007

Conference Venue: Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites, 345 Quebec St., Victoria, B.C.

Program Schedule

THURSDAY (May 10, 2007)

Registration & Information	**08:00 - 10:45** **15:30 - 17:30**

Symposium
Heritage & Tourism - Compatibility or Conflict?
(Symposium is open to conference delegates at no charge, but they must register.
BCHF will be offering two workshops concurrently.)

Morning Session	09:00 - 11:45
Own Lunch	11:45 - 13:00
Afternoon Session	13:00 - 16:30

Welcoming Reception at the Maritime Museum of BC	**18:00 - 20:00**

(The Maritime Museum is a 15-minute walk or short cab ride from the hotel.
No official transportation will be provided. Light refreshments will be served.)

FRIDAY (May 11, 2007)

Registration & Information	**08:00 - 12:00**
Advocacy Session (with no-host breakfast)	**08:00 - 09:00**

(Please indicate your intention to participate)

Booksale	**08:00 - 16:00**

Presentations

A1 - The Dunsmuirs	09:00 - 09:45
A2 - Our Aboriginal Heritage	09:00 - 09:45
B1 - Our Chinese Heritage	09:45 - 10:30
B2 - The Hudson's Bay Company & the Colonial Era	09:45 - 10:30
Coffee Break	10:30 - 11:00
C1 - Victoria's Heritage Architecture	11:00 - 11:45
C2 - The Military Presence	11:00 - 11:45

Field Trips

Chinatown Lunch & Tour (lunch provided, numbers limited) (Bus to Chinatown. Return to hotel on foot)	**12:15 - 15:00**
Fort Rodd Hill & Naden Military Museum (box lunch provided) (Bus transportation provided)	**12:45 - 16:30**
Craigdarroch Castle Visit and	**17:15 - 18:45**
Government House Reception and Presentation (Bus transportation provided) (Food served at reception should be sufficient to be considered dinner.)	**19:00 - 21:00**

SATURDAY (May 12, 2007)

Registration & Information	**08:00 - 09:00**
Booksale	**08:00 - 13:00**
BCHF Annual General Meeting (coffee break at 10:15)	**08:45 - 12:00**
Own Lunch	**12:00 - 13:00**

Field Trips

Uplands & Chinese Cemetery (talk followed by bus tour)	**13:00 - 16:45**
Architectural Walking Tour	**13:30 - 15:30**
Awards Ceremony & Banquet	**18:00 - 21:00**

SUNDAY (May 13, 2007)

Ross Bay Cemetery Tour (offering is dependent on sufficient registrations) (Bus transportation provided)	**10:00 - 12:00**

Speakers and Tour Guides

A1 (The Dunsmuirs) - Clarence Karr is a recently retired Professor of History at Malaspina University College. His research interests have included James Douglas and the Dunsmuirs but his current interest builds on his *Authors and Audiences: Popular Canadian Fiction in the Early Twentieth Century* with a book on Lucy Maud Montgomery as a reader.

A2 (Our Aboriginal Heritage) - Grant Keddie is Curator of Archaeology at the Royal BC Museum and has written numerous articles on archaeology and ethnohistory in British Columbia. He is the author of *Songhees Pictorial, A History of the Songhees People as Seen by Outsiders, 1790-1912.*

B1 (Our Chinese Heritage) - Charlayne Thornton-Joe is a third generation Victorian, a University of Victoria graduate in Pacific and Asian Studies, an active community volunteer and a Victoria City Councilor. She has been employed in the Hospitality Industry since 1979. Charlayne also is one of our guides for the Chinatown tour.

B2 (The Hudson's Bay Company & the Colonial Era) - Sylvia Van Kirk taught Canadian History at the University of Toronto for almost 30 years. She pioneered courses in women's history and aboriginal/non-aboriginal relations and her book *Many Tender Ties: The Role of Women in Fur Trade Society in Western Canada 1670-1870* is a classic in its field. Her current research focuses on the experience of HBC/native families as they settled in colonial Victoria in the mid-19th century. She also develops heritage programming for Victoria's Church of Our Lord.

C1 (Victoria's Heritage Architecture) - Architectural Institute, speaker TBA.

C2 (The Military Presence) - Barry Gough is Professor Emeritus of History, Wilfrid Laurier University, Archives Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, and Adjunct Professor, Royal Military College of Canada. A patriot for Canadian history and a champion of maritime history, he has authored 15 books and received numerous awards. He lives in Victoria.

Uplands Talk & Tour - Larry McCann is a Professor of Geography at the University of Victoria. He has published widely on the history of Canadian cities and is the editor of *Heartland and Hinterland: A Geography of Canada*. A winner of numerous awards, in 2006 both his research on Oak Bay and teaching of students the value of heritage conservation were honoured by the Heritage Society of B.C. and Victoria's Hallmark Society. He is crafting a book that examines how the famous landscape architect, John Charles Olmsted, designer of *The Uplands* in Oak Bay, influenced the planning and social make-up of Oak Bay and other western Canadian suburbs.

Chinatown & Chinese Cemetery Tour - John Adams is an historian and heritage enthusiast, well known for his "Ghostly Walks" tours in Victoria. He was the regional manager for BC Heritage, and lectures in museum studies at the University of Victoria. He recently authored the book *Old Square-Toes and His Lady, The Life of James and Amelia Douglas*.

Ross Bay Cemetery Tour - The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria
The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria is dedicated to researching, preserving and encouraging the appreciation of Victoria's Heritage Cemeteries. Its more than 300 members are involved in many volunteer activities, mainly at Ross Bay Cemetery, including cataloguing, cleaning and restoring monuments, computerizing burial records, combating vandalism, conducting historical research and giving walking history tours.

Symposium

Heritage and Tourism — Compatibility or Conflict?

Thursday, May 10th, 2007, the day prior to the conference:

The symposium will address the above theme from various perspectives. While taking Victoria as a case study, it will offer relevance to communities throughout the province. Many already face, or are about to face, the same question – how can the preservation of heritage best co-exist with increased tourism?

Communities can anticipate that well-managed enhanced tourism will show both intangible and tangible benefits: the community will gain in self-esteem, civic awareness and volunteerism, as well as financially. The potential for new or enhanced tax base, jobs and commercial revenues to be derived from encouraging tourism are all highly attractive to municipal councils. This is particularly so for communities whose traditional economies are in decline. However, to encourage and service a viable, continuing tourism-related economy requires appropriate infrastructure – accommodation, transportation, restaurants, retail etc.; many of which will call for development and architectural modification. Victoria provides many such examples: James Bay, Humboldt Valley and Cook Street Village, among them.

The 2007 symposium will provide a forum for discussion where various aspects of this issue can be aired and considered. The intent is not to have a high-level academic debate, but an exchange of views by people with experience in the "front line" of heritage conservation. We aim to stimulate and encourage participants to examine their own communities from these perspectives and to correlate the discussions to their own context. We would want participants to acquire ideas and useful tools to help them understand the pitfalls of expanded tourism and how to work towards countering the adverse effects.

Registration for the symposium is open both to conference delegates and to interested members of the greater Victoria community. It will be held at the Harbour Towers Hotel, Salon B.

The Symposium program (Panelists & presenters indicated are confirmed)

Session 1	**9.00—10.30**	**The Museum Perspective**
	Panel:	the directors of The Royal BC Museum, (Pauline Rafferty) The Maritime Museum of BC, (Greg Evans) Sooke Region Museum (Elida Peers)
	10.30—10.45	**Refreshment break**
Session 2	**10.45—11.45**	**The Tourism Perspective**
	Panel:	VP Communications, Tourism Victoria (Melissa McLean) Heritage BC (Jennifer Iredale)
	11.45—1.00	**Lunch break (not provided)**
Session 3	**1.00—2.00**	**The Ethnic Perspective**
	Panel:	David Dick (Songhees First Nation) Dr. David Lai (The Chinese Benevolent Association)
	2.00—2.15	**Refreshment break**
Session 4	**2.15—3.00**	**The Architectural and Land-use Perspective**
	Panel:	Councilor Pam Madoff (Victoria City Council) Dr. Nick Russell, President, The Hallmark Society Roger Tinney (Urban planner, developer)
	3.00—3.15	**Refreshment break**
Session 5	**3.15—4.30**	**Summation and concluding discussion**
		Panelists from earlier sessions

British Columbia Historical Federation

Under the Distinguished Patronage Of Her Honour
The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

2007 ANNUAL BCHF HISTORICAL CONFERENCE
MAY 10 - 13, 2007 - VICTORIA, BC

Co-hosted by VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY and THE OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY

REGISTRATION FORM *(one form per person please)*

Name _____ **E-mail** _____

Street Address _____ **City** _____

Postal Code _____ **Phone** _____ **Organization** _____

REGISTRATION FEE OPTIONS	COST PER PERSON	AMOUNT
Full Conference Registration Fee	Early Bird - Register by March 15 **$160**	
	After March 15 until April 15 **$175**	
Thursday Symposium **Only** (includes Thursday Evening Reception)	**$30** General Public / **$25** BC Seniors & Full-time Students (all must pre-register)	
One Day **Only** Fee: FRIDAY ☐ (*check applicable box*)	**$110**	
SATURDAY ☐	**$90**	
Additional Friday Reception Ticket(s)	Number of tickets ☐ X **$30 each =**	
Additional Saturday Banquet Ticket(s)	Number of tickets ☐ X **$40 each =**	
Sunday AM - Ross Bay Cemetery Tour	(extra, not included in Full Registration Fee) **$10**	
	TOTAL PAYABLE	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Thursday Symposium: If you are a Full Registration Fee Payer, do you plan to attend the Symposium? Yes ☐ No ☐	
Friday AM Sessions: (*refer to Programme Schedule for details and then indicate choices in the applicable boxes*) **8:00** Advocacy ☐ **9:00** A1 ☐ or A2 ☐ **9:45** B1 ☐ or B2 ☐ **11:00** C1 ☐ or C2 ☐ Friday PM Tours: Chinatown Tour *(limited space)* ☐ or Fort Rodd / Naden Museum Tour ☐	Included in 'Full' and Friday 'One Day Only' Registration
Saturday Events: (*refer to Programme Schedule for details and then indicate your choice in the applicable box*) 1:00-4:30 (Uplands Bus Tour) ☐ or 1:30-3:30 (Architectural Walking Tour) ☐	Included in 'Full' & Saturday 'One Day Only' Registration

PAYMENT IN FULL MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15, 2007
Please make cheque payable to "*BCHF 2007 Conference*" and mail completed form and cheque to:
BCHF 2007 Conference Registration, 4361 Northridge Crescent, Victoria, BC V8Z 4Z4

* For additional general information regarding the **CONFERENCE** please contact the Registration Co-ordinator:
  Joyce Mackie e-mail: *joyus @shaw.ca* Phone: 250-598-7844
* For information on booking a table, sales or display space for the **BOOK SALE** please contact the co-ordinator:
  Sylvia Van Kirk e-mail: *sylvansea@shaw.ca* Phone: 250-385-0894
* For information regarding the **THURSDAY SYMPOSIUM** please contact the Symposium Co-ordinator:
  Michael Layland e-mail: *baytext@islandnet.com* Phone: 250-477-2734
* If you are an out-of-town visitor and wish to receive a **TOURIST INFORMATION PACKAGE** (*check this box* ☐)
* I do not wish my personal information to be used for other BCHF Conferences/Activities (*check this box* ☐)
* Most Conference Venues are wheelchair accessible.
* Please note any special dietary or other requirements below:

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

10 MAY 2007—9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

WORKSHOP 1: **CULTIVATE MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR ORGANIZATION**

Want to increase your membership and keep your volunteers active? This workshop will interest anyone who develops membership and works withvolunteers in non-profit organizations.

Topics: Attract New Members, Maintain Active Membership, Get Members Involved in the Operations of Your Organization, Build and Maintain Membership in the Electronic Age.

Location: Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria

WORKSHOP 2: **LOOK AFTER YOUR ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS**

Whether you have family photos in a shoebox, Uncle Jim's memoirs in a suitcase, or ledgers filled with ancient business records, this workshop is for you. Explore the basic methods and supplies for taking proper care of your precious papers.This day includes behind-scenes tours of the British Columbia Archives and Royal British Columbia Museum.

Location: Newcombe Hall, Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria

Cost for each full-day program: $25 for members of BCHF member organizations $35 for non-members

To qualify for the lower fee, please authenticate membership status by providing the signature of an officer of your member organization, or the BCHF membership secretary. Registration will be confirmed by email or post. Space is limited. Register early.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please use a separate form for each registrant.)

NAME:
MAILING ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE:
EMAIL:
I want to attend ____ WORKSHOP 1: MEMBERSHIP ____ WORKSHOP 2: DOCUMENTS
I enclose $_____ paid by cheque ___ money order ___ (payable in Canadian funds to British Columbia Historical Federation)

I am a member of:
Signature of authenticating officer of BCHF member organization _____

Send registration with payment to
BCHF Education Committee
#27-11737-236th Street
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Canada V4R 2E5

Personal information is collected under the authority of British Columbia's Personal Information Protection Act and may be used by the British Columbia Historical Federation for registration purposes.
Please check if you wish to receive information about future workshops and conferences. _____

Accommodation Options in Victoria

(Negotiated per night conference rates listed below are based on single or double occupancy; applicable taxes will be added. Please ask for the BC Historical Federation Conference rate.)

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own accommodations. The conference venue is the **Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites**, and delegates are encouraged to stay there. 75-100 rooms are block-booked for May 10, 11 and 12, 2007. Rooms must be booked before April 15, 2007.

HARBOUR TOWERS HOTEL and SUITES
345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W4
250 385-2405 1-800-663-5896 reservations@harbourtowers.com www.harbourtowers.com

Standard Room - Residential View	$129
Standard Room - View (Mountain & Ocean or Inner Harbour)	$139
One Bedroom Suite	$149
Two Bedroom Suite	$169
Penthouse Suite	$279

($15 per additional person, per room, per night. $15.00 charge per cot.)
Parking Fee is $5.00 per day + GST.

Alternate Accommodations (Book by April 10th)

For those wishing alternative accommodations, rooms are available for delegates at the rates shown below at these two hotels within one block of Harbour Towers.

HUNTINGTON HOTEL and SUITES
330 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W3
250 381-3456 reservations@bellevillepark.com www.hotel—canada.com/Hotels/ramadavictoria.html

Standard room	$99.00
Single/double room with view	$109.00
1 bedroom suite	$129.00
2 bedroom suite	$149.00

($15 per additional person (in excess of two), per room, per night.)
(A 2% Housekeeping gratuity will be added to the above rates.)
Underground parking ($7 per day).

BEST WESTERN INNER HARBOUR
412 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W5
250 384-5122 1-888-383-2378 info@victoriabestwestern.com www.victoriabestwestern.com/

Standard room (one or two queen beds)	$135.00
One bedroom suite (one queen bed and queen hide-a-bed in living room)	$165.00

Complimentary deluxe continental breakfast.
Complimentary covered parking is available.

For those wishing **B&B accommodation** we suggest accessing www.bestinnsofvictoria.com for B&Bs belonging to the Western Canada B&B Innkeepers Association.

Archives and Archivists

Heritage of British Columbia's Northwest region

Edited by Sylvia Stopforth,
Librarian and Archivist, Norma Marian Alloway Library,
Trinity Western University

Compiled and submitted by
Louise Avery,
Curator, Kitimat Centennial Museum

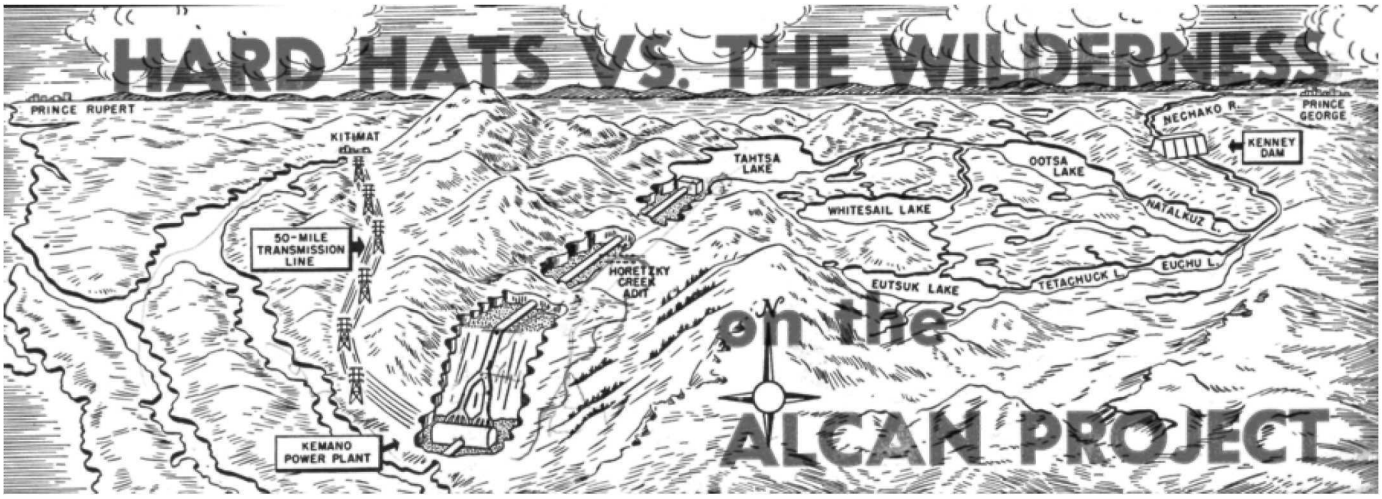
Countless collections and stories told can be discovered in archives throughout Northwestern B.C. The following is only a glimpse into some of the holdings available:

Hazelton Pioneer Museum and Archives:

In the period between 1890 and 1915 Hazelton was the largest community in Northwest British Columbia. The town flourished at the headwaters of navigation of the Skeena River and was a vital centre of activity for prospectors, traders, merchants, pack train operators, and missionaries. Hazelton was a place of frenzied commercial activity and a bastion of Euro-Canadian religion and culture. These forces mixed with the rich traditions of the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en to form a truly unique wilderness society. Museum artifacts and photographs reflect the odd mix of commerce and culture that existed in the boom town era.

Telkwa Museum

The Bulkley Valley opened up primarily because of the Collins Overland Telegraph Line of 1866. In addition to museum artifacts representing the mining, farming, and logging history of this area, the Telkwa Museum has stories written by the pioneer ladies of the local Women's Institute, minute books of the Women's Auxiliary Guild of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Telkwa (circa 1918-



1930), ledgers and memorabilia of the first Broughton and McNeil general stores in Aldermere and Telkwa, and official documentation of the Telkwa Barbecue Society Inc. Shareholders included people from outside the Valley. The Society, formed circa 1922, planned what was considered the main agricultural event from Fraser Lake to Hazelton, with exhibits and horse races.

The Telkwa Museum has a copy of the 1939 *Interior News* Special Edition celebrating the opening of the Telkwa Creamery. The building is still standing and the Museum has rescued many artifacts from it, including the second butter churn. The paper also provides a history of the early pioneers, many "firsts"from circa 1900, the agricultural outlook of the time, and hopes for the future.

Information on Reverend Fred Stephenson, the first Anglican minister in Aldermere (1906), and Joseph Coyle, the first editor of the *Interior News*, and inventor of the egg carton, can also be found in the Bulkley Valley Museum in Smithers.

As an added note: Telkwa will soon be celebrating its 100th anniversary! The town was staked in 1906, and people started moving to the community in 1907.

Prince Rupert City & Regional Archives

Staff at the Prince Rupert City & Regional Archives are in the process of preparing descriptions of archival records, and entering them into a DBTextworks / Archives Online database. These descriptions will be added to the holdings already listed on the Archives' webpage which is located at www.princerupertlibrary.ca/archives. In December, 2005, a searchable photo gallery of over 600 images with descriptions was added to the website. It consists of scanned nitrate negatives, dated 1907 to 1914, which document early Prince Rupert history. Eventually fonds and series level descriptions will be added, along with online finding aids, to assist researchers.

Kitimat Museum and Archives

The Kitimat Museum collection includes artifacts, photographs and archival items from the early settlement of the Kitimat Valley and the creation of the Alcan mega-project of the 1950s. The Nechako River was diverted with the building of the Kenney Dam and the filling up of the Nechako Reservoir. A ten-mile tunnel, transmission line, powerhouse, smelter and town were all constructed within a five-year period. The first aluminum ingot was poured by Prince Philip on August 3, 1954.

Our archival collection includes over 10,000 photographs donated by local photographer Max Patzelt, who documented much of the early life in Kitimat as well as the construction of Eurocan Pulp and Paper Inc. and the Ocelot Methanol plant (currently Methanex). In March of 2004, the Kitimat Museum computerized its archival descriptions, using DB Textworks, through a BC Digital Collections grant, and was able to place over 300 Kitimat/Kemano Project construction images – of artifacts, photographs and memorabilia – on the Museum's website at www.kitimatmuseum.ca. The photographic images are from the collections of the Museum, Alcan Primary Metal – British Columbia, and the Northern Sentinel Press.

This year the museum interviewed over thirty individuals who were here during the construction years. Their memories have been compiled in "Memories of the Project" available on the Royal British Columbia Museum's Living Landscapes website at www.livinglandscapes.bc.ca

In March of 2006 the museum installed a new long-term exhibition that tells the story of the first settlers to the Kitimat Valley, including the Methodist Mission and Residential School that operated at Kitimat Village until 1941.

Follow the birds to VICTORIA!

The 2007 British Columbia Historical Federation Conference.

May 10th - 13th

Presentations include:

- The Dunsmuirs
- Our Aboriginal Heritage
- Our Chinese Heritage
- The Hudson's Bay Company & the Colonial Era
- Victoria's Heritage Architecture
- The Military Presence

plus:

- Walking Tours
- Field Trips
- Receptions
- and more!

All you need to know is on page 21

Book Reviews

Books for review and book reviews should be sent to:
Book Review Editor, BC Historical News,
P.O. Box 5254, Station B., Victoria, BC V8R 6N4

Bringing Indians to the Book.
Albert Furtwangler. Seattle, Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest and University of Washington Press/UBC Press, 2005. 226p. Illus. $29.95 paperback..

Twenty six years after the Lewis and Clark expedition to the region which Americans call "the Pacific Northwest", William Clark received an unexpected visit from four Native inhabitants of that region. Living in St.Louis and in 1841 nearing the end of a long career as an officer of the federal government, Clark had become an authority figure and elder statesman. A widely circulated Christian weekly ran a story claiming that the Natives came on a spiritual quest, to consult Clark about the White religion, specifically to ask him if it were true that there was a book which "provided clear rules for conduct in this life as a means to a happy and eternal afterlife." The story had far reaching results, inspiring missionaries to answer what seemed like a clear call, and in due course to settle permanently in the Colunbia River Valley through Oregon and Idaho.

Furtwangler, who is an independent scholar affiliated with Williamette University and professor emeritus, Mount Allison University, deconstructs the visit to Clark, scrupulously weighing evidence, and concluding - well, not really concluding. The visit probably was not a pilgrimage, but, on the other hand, maybe it was. Probably the Natives were not asking for book learning, but then again maybe they were.

The Protestant missionaries were an unattractive lot, dour and deluded, - or perhaps they were devout, inspired and tireless, but tragically out of their depth. Furtwangler lets us consider both possibilities. Where the explorers and fur traders had been minimally literate, the missionaries lived and breathed books, and could not conceive of teaching people who not only could not read, but had no concept of what was meant by "reading" and felt no need for such a concept.. Should teachers try to create an alphabet for the Natives' own language? Or should they teach the Native to speak and read English?

The missionaries' rivals for the Native souls, lands, and resources were Canadian: Hudson's Bay Company traders and French Canadian priests. The Roman Catholic priests had centuries of experience preaching in non-literate and oral societies. Their liturgy, vestments, buildings were a series of rich visual aids. Philip Marchand, in his entertaining study of LaSalle and the French legacy, *Ghost Empire; How the French Almost Conquered North America* (McClelland & Stewart, 2005), points out that there was no printing press in Quebec before 1760.

A visual aid used by both sects, and a key image in Furtwangler's book, was the 'ladder': a graphic progression from creation to 1840, the illustrations notched or painted on wood, cloth or paper. Biblical and historical characters might be upstaged by images of Jesuits or Lutherans, depending on the point of view, tumbling into the flames of hell. My great-grandfather, a Plymouth Brethren preacher, designed a similar ladder for the more literate sinners of Victorian England. It climbs all the way to eternity by rungs of words, elaborately decorated but not pictorial.. The ladder format, regardless of sectarian details, pictures or words, is an effective graphic tool - McLuhanesque, if you like.

Furtwangler's overwhelming irony is his refusal to claim certainty, despite his scholarship and all the print resources provided by generations of historians, diarists, anthropologists, and theologians. At the end of his book, we still don't know why the four Natives visited Clark. And we don't know whether the repercussions of their visit have proved to be more positive or negative, and for whom. Furtwangler is relentless in his refusal to draw conclusions, or to allow his readers to do so. If we sympathize with the missionaries and their attempts to bring Indians to the Book, he suspects us of paternalism. But if we say the Christians should have left the North Americans to their own spirituality and oral society, we are, probably, guilty of romanticism. There are many ways to read history, and no good ways to rewrite it.

***Phyllis Reeve** reviews regularly for BC History*

Harmon's Journal 1800-1819. Daniel William Harmon.
Edited by W.Kaye Lamb. Victoria, New Caledonia House Publishing, 2006. 192 p., maps. $29.95 hard cover./Surrey, Touchwood Editions, 2006. 192 p., maps. $19.95 paper back.

It was fortuitous that Danaiel Williams Harmon, a Partner in the Northwest Company, decided to send his journal to his family for safekeeping and thus preserving it for posterity. This editon, as the title page states, is intended to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Fort St. James, BC, by Simon Fraser. The Stuart Lake Post, as it was then known, was to become a major centre of the fur trade in New Caledonia for many generations to come.

W.Kaye Lamb, a respected historian in his own right, edited the journal in 1957 and subsequently followed with other journals of now famous explorers, such as Simon Fraser, David Thompson, John Stuart, Roderick McKenzie and others. His intuitive interpretation of the basic journal format employed by these early writers has saved much of their experiences from obscurity. Scholars and the reading public today should be thankful for his skilful handling of these old texts about the fur trade and wilderness exploration.

I have one small wish, that the editor could hve provided a small glossary in the front, to ease those recreational and leisure readers like myself who do not like to be challenged unduly. Terms like "nighe bye", whch intrigued me until nearby came to mind. Also "Mr Stuart&c", which I think means Mr Stuart and his companions or his company; this abbreviation is used throughout the text and an early explanation would have increased the flow of the narrative and added to my reading pleasure. Harmon constantly refers to hunting "bustard" as he travelled the fur trade waterways across North America, and only by omission in a description of waterfowl near the end of his journal do I suspect he means Canada geese: as bustards in today's world are found in Asia and Africa, not in North America. But alas, sticky pennies do not always drop easily!

Harmon writes uncommonly well for a man in his chosen profession 200 years ago. His narrative is often descriptive and he is perceptive in his observations and interpretations of what he sees and experiences. Examples are his comments about early salmon runs having smaller fish (sockeye), followed later by larger fish (chinook) in the Stuart river system; his preceptions of smaller sturgeon in the prairie lakes and rivers, compared to much larger bodied sturgeon in the Nechako-Stuart drainage of British Columbia.

Harmon also uses his personal skills in managing Indian peoples, showing tolerance in explosive situations and acceptance of their cusutoms in order to interact for both business and for social requirements. His marriage to a 14-year old Indian girl was a successsful one and typical of men in his situation in the wilds. All in all, his journal is a very good read and I recommend it fully.

I reviewed both the hardcover and the paperback volumes, which are identical except that the folded map in the rear pocket is not available in the paperback edition. Personally, I think the hardcover edition is much to be preferred as the cover is a tasteful rendition of an old journal style that is very appealaing to the eye.

***W. Grant Hazelwood** is a retired resource biologist whoworked in the Prince George and Fort St. James areas and has a large collection of old wilderness journals and books.*

Imagining Difference; legend, curse and spectacle in a Canadian mining town.

Leslie A. Robertson. Vancouver, UBC Press, 2005. 300 p., illus. $85 hard cover; $29.95 paperback.

While Fernie does not immediately spring to mind as a town whose story is among those most reflective of B.C.'s settlement history, it most certainly holds a wealth of social knowledge, diversity of both provincial and national historical significance. As portrayed in *Imagining Difference: Legend, Curse, and Spectacle in a Canadian Mining Town* by ethnographer and UBC professor Leslie A. Robertson, this small former mining town cum-international ski-resort offers a social and geographical landscape in which human difference maps out cultural terrain. This explorative book contains an entertaining but almost overwhelming compilation of quotation passages from interviews, archival details, geographical representation and historical photographs. To all of this Robertson brings some of her own family experiences and personal ties to Fernie. Her research is conducted whilst living in her grandmother's house in Fernie. I began this read with an inherent curiosity as I too have some family history in Fernie, and also had a "grandmother's house". The house has since succumbed to tourism development and was replaced, along with its neighbouring structures, by a hotel.

The significance of oral histories is inarguable. What becomes difficult, however, is the task of structuring them within academic and theoretical frameworks. Such frameworks often attempt to transform stories into something more exalted. Too often narratives are moulded beyond recognition. It is, as a result, not an easy task to produce a theoretically relevant work that retains the individual identities of its participant subjects. This ethnographic piece, however, appears to have succeeded in finding this balance.

Throughout Robertson's text, the communication of oral histories is achieved through the central "theme", if you will, of renditions of a local legend which tells of a curse cast upon the town by indigenous people in its early settlement years. Though the curse was officially "lifted" in a public ceremony in the mid 1960s, its prevalence in the dialogue of both young and old remains an integral part of local knowledge and the "intergenerational landscape of contemporary social imagination in Fernie". Different depictions of this well-known legend are used to locate and interpret race, place, gender and class, among other significant contexts, while simultaneously revealing a rich and complex socio-historical terrain.

Robertson's two-part, seven chapter ethnography provides a lens through which to examine Fernie's history from pre-1900 colonialism through war-time(s), to the present day. Each successive chapter highlights various historical locales in which human differences are evoked: they are analysed as they pertain to things like immigration, labour strife, colonialism, war, tourism and even globalisation. In one chapter *Constructing the Foreign*, for example, part of Fernie's history is detailed from the perspective of non-Anglo-European immigrants while highlighting the ethnic boundaries and the "flexibility" of race as a concept in British Columbia and Canadian history. Mining operations are central to the understanding of everyday life in Fernie's history, in that, given the inherent danger working underground, the general apprehension of the death or injury of labourers was either directly or indirectly present among every group in every social pocket of the community. Although such common ties intersected social and ethnic boundaries, margins nonetheless persist. Indeed one of the main points communicated by Robertson in the chapters that comprise *The Politics of Cursing* (Part One of the book), is the extent to which the circulation of stories has the power to simultaneously challenge and fortify prevailing ideas of difference. Other examples are highlighted in the fifth chapter, *Getting Rid of the Story*, where some relationships between different communities of people are described by participants using categorisations such as race, belief, and class which are sometimes used to explain "irreconcilable differences" between groups; in other cases, the same categorisations are used to explain cohesion between groups. Specific interactions and perceptions are explored between groups such as Anglo and non-Anglo Europeans, and Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Though social knowledge may shift over time, events and performances, their salience is felt throughout the events described and relayed by both author and interview participants in every chapter.

Despite the extensive historical facts, events, figures and geographical settings described throughout the chapters, the author never seems to lose sight of the

personal, oral histories that ultimately inform her project. The chapters are well written and the content well communicated making the book accessible to the general public and academic communities alike. The book does, however, contain a confusing number of theoretical concepts which are often communicated in an authoritative manner. These references are themselves rendered even more confusing by the loosely organised style and abundant use of exclusive terminology. Perhaps if Robertson accentuated the fact that Fernie is merely used to exemplify how "essentialized ideas of difference" remain salient over time, and that Fernie is not unique in this way, one could more thoroughly appreciate the study and its theoretical framework. It is clear that the same work could have been done in another town only to have the same conclusions drawn by the author. Finally, the conclusions themselves seem a bit too generalised for ethnographic research, which is not usually meant to generalise in such a way.

Robertson succeeds in revealing that there *is* a unique wealth of knowledge to be mined in Fernie's history and how it has shaped subsequent generations of residents. Overall, *Imagining Difference* is an informative, inclusive and fresh look at some of the local histories that made this B.C. community the unique little city it is today.

***Jade Norton** is a sociologist working as a writer/ researcher for B.C. Statistics.*

Islands in the Salish Sea.

Sheila Harrington and Judi Stevenson, eds. Victoria, TouchWood Editions, 2005. 159 p., illus., maps, $44.95, paperback.

Ever since they were first explored by sailing ships, people have been trying to define the islands in Georgia Strait. In the early days their many hidden bays and narrow passages deterred exploration and mapping. Strong tides surprised unwary captains and nearly capsized ships. During the Fraser River and Cariboo gold rushes the islands provided safe harbours for a motley collection of rowboats and canoes before their navigators tackled the long stretch across the Strait. Some of these people made note of the islands' fertile valleys and returned to establish the first farms. The quality of island life remained protected until the advent of the B.C. ferry service, when land speculators and then back to the land people arrived. Sea blush and camas beds disappeared under bulldozer blades, mossy forest glades were transformed into fields of yellow broom, while at the same time people chained themselves to trees and even staged a Lady Godiva event in protest. The environmentalists appear to be winning, now. This book is a well presented look at what is so special about 17 islands, from Quadra in the north to Saturna in the south. It is a graphic attempt to make readers more sympathetic to historical places, flora and fauna, and to make them care enough to preserve these treasures forever. Inspired by the "Parish Map Project" in Britain, Briony Penn initiated the bioregional community mapping project in 1999, with Judi Stevenson and Sheila Harrington of Salt Spring Island. It took five years and involved over1,000 people from the various islands. A core group on each island was responsible for local input and production of the final maps. Besides interpretations of the islands, there are regional maps illustrating energy and transportation systems, the economy, marine life, Saanich native history and Islands Trust protected sites. "Art has an advantage in that it touches the heart," declares Penn. The maps are beautiful and executed with tremendous imagination. The written material, from Robert Bateman's preface to Kathy Dunster's historical overview, reinforces the need to preserve and protect. Although the book is in a larger size format, you still need a magnifying glass to see some of the finer details, but that is as it should be. Any Gulf Islander will tell you the islands were never meant to be understood at a distance.

***Marie Elliott** is the author of* Mayne Island and the Outer Gulf Islands; a history. 1984.

Keeping it Living; traditions of plant use and cultivation on the Northwest Coast of North America.

Edited by Douglas Deur and Nancy J. Turner. Vancouver, UBC Press; Seattle, University of Washington Press, 2005. 404 p., illus. $44.95 hard cover.

This book is edited by two very distinguished scholars and research scientists. Douglas Deur is Research Coordinator with the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit at the University of Washington as well as Adjunct Professor of Geography at the University of Reno, Nevada. Nancy J. Turner is Distinguished Professor in Environmental Studies and Geography at the University of Victoria, BC.

Their combined Northwest Coast studies, plus exhaustive literature searches, have brought out many discrepancies in earlier studies. Franz Boas and many other first visitors' written records usually classified coastal cultures as almost exclusively hunter-gatherer societies. The intent of the editors was to have this volume address this gap in our written knowledge base and to document their actual expanded societal control and management of other food sources.

Anthropologists, archaeologists, ethnobotanists, ecologists, geographers, together with elders and scholars from indigenous peoples whose clans and ancestral roots go back for thousands of years along the Northwest Coast have all contributed. The combined expertise of these selected specialists becomes obvious in their scientific papers within this book, and provides comprehensive insights about how Native Americans managed and nurtured plant communities essential for their sustenance, health and also for bartering with other communities in essential commerce trading for needed goods. It describes how regional communities used and cared for over 300 different species of plants, from wetlands and estuarial sites to higher slopes of the mountains where red cedar and berry crops were harvested and encouraged to produce better results.

The editors and their selected authors are all highly qualified scientists. Therefore this volume should be viewed as a major reference source for scholars, rather than a light easy 'read' for the average lay person. What markets are the publishers wishing to satisfy? The introduction, in particular, is a challenging and intimidating piece of journalism, even to one trained in reading heavy scientific terminology. As the following example of a long sentence shows: "*Cultivation, despite continued terminological ambiguities, is now commonly associated with such activities as the seeding or transplanting of propagules [i.e., the parts of plants such as seeds, bulbs, or fragments of rhizome, capable of regnerating into individual new plants], the intentional fertilization of modification of soils, improvements of irrigation or drainage, and the clearing or 'weeding' of competing plants.*" A constant review of these long loaded sentences is needed to gain understanding. Perhaps the editors should have been "edited". Mercifully the authors (including the two editors) in their papers on supporting studies in this volume are much more understandable. The reader is not so much bludgeoned by scientific nomenclature. Now they have got me doing it!

So, if you, the reader are in search of serious documentation to fill gaps in Northwest Coast knowledge of pre-European plant use and cultivation, then this volume will be an excellent reference for your library. But if your desire is to enjoy a good read as a relaxing displacement activity, as I do, then buyer beware.

***W. Grant Hazelwood**, a graduate of UBC in the Earth Sciences, lives in Terrace on the Northwest Coast.*

Klondike Cattle Drive; the journal of Norman Lee.

Surrey, BC, TouchWood Editions, 2005. 64 p. $12.95 paperback.

The book is an attractive reprint of a 1960 edition with the addition of several photos and a 2005 update to Gordon R. Elliott's original foreword. Authentic personal accounts of gold rush travel are relatively rare and the initial printing of the book may not have received the interest it deserved

In today's world it seems unbelievable that in 1898 Norman Lee could contemplate bettering his fortunes by driving cattle from his ranch at Hanceville in BC's Chilcotin area to Dawson, Yukon, a distance of about 1.000 miles. He failed in the attempt, returned to Hanceville early in 1899 and some time later wrote of his adventures. His account, light-hearted and with his sketches in the margins, describes the trip, and the people he dealt with en route. There is no bitterness over the outcome.

The party with a crew of eight men set out from Hanceville on May 17, 1898,driving about two hundred head of beef cattle and a packtrain of nine horses loaded with camping equipment and supplies. From the start, feed for the animals was poor and there were many stream crossings to contend with. Days later they reached the Telegraph Trail at point about 50 miles from Quesnel. The trail, cut eight feet wide and 'straight as an arrow for miles,' had been built in the 1860s as part of the Collins Overland Telegraph, a line to connect New York to London by way of Siberia. The scheme had been abandoned in 1867 after the successsful laying of an Atlantic cable.

By early August Lee's party was north of Hazelton and in serious trouble mainly due to lack of feed for the animals. What horses remained were now used solely for packing gear with the crew driving the cattle on foot. Lee, ahead of his party, reached Telegraph Creek on September 2nd only to learn that there was no local market for cattle. The only hope was to press on to 'Teslin' as the settlement at the south end of Teslin Lake was then known, slaughter the remaining cattle and build scows to travel downriver to Dawson. That too failed about October, when two scows loaded with the butchered beef were driven ashore by wind and broke up on the rocks. Lee estimated that they had travelled some sixty miles down Teslin Lake which, if correct, would have placed them across the unmarked Yukon boundary.

Retreating to Teslin and then Telegraph Creek Lee and Bill Copeland, the only man to stay with him for the entire journey, made their way down the Stikine to Wrangell. Travel conditions wee equal to, if not worse, than anything encountered so far. Lee arrived in Vancouver early in 1899 with a roll of blnkets, his dog Bobber, plus a single dollar, the latter exchanged for some refreshment and a fresh start with a clean balance sheet. After a merchant friend advanced some money Lee made his way back to his Chilcotin ranch and store where, over time, he became a legendary figure.

A reprint of another gold rush classic is *The Klondike Quest: a photographic essay, 1897-1899*. Pierre Berton. Erin, Ont., The Boston Mills Press, 2005. 240 p., $29.95 paperback.

***Lew Green** spent many years as a government geologist, mapping in the Yukon.*

Made to Measure; a history of surveying in British Columbia.

Katherine Gordon. Winlaw, Sono Nis Press, 2006. 373 p., illus., maps. $34.95 hard cover.

Made to Measure is the story of the land surveyors of British Columbia from 1842 to 2005. It celebrates the hundredth anniversary in 2005 of the Corporation of Land Surveyors of the Province of British Columbia, the surveyors' professional organization, a name shortened on its centenary to the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors.

The book is introduced by a visual joke: a retired surveyor sits on a box marked EXPLOSIVES while examining a human skull and smoking a cigarette. The caption says he is "still enjoying an adventurous life". Perhaps the joke is meant to set the tone, but the book is considerably more earnest than that, although there are plenty of enlivening anecdotes.

Rather than become absorbed in detail, the author Katherine Gordon aspired to "bring out the richness of the story in general, to provide a sense of the incredible stories and the vitality of the role that land

surveyors in the province have played in its history and development.... One book alone could be devoted simply to the instruments and technology developed to survey the kind of terrain that British Columhia boasts." However, she wanted to write, not for specialists, but for those who enjoy popular history. She hung her story of British Columbia surveyors on the general outline of British Columbia history. The two are intimately entwined.

Surveyors are introduced as personalities, and as a type. The author found that "surveyors were and remain a distinct breed.... They are similar to each other to an uncanny degree... They have demonstrated a professional pride in their work and a sense of solidarity almost unparalleled in any other profession.".

Surveyors have worked in British Columbia since the beginning of European settlement. Fortunately for historians, as *Made to Measure* points out, surveyors "have always had a strong sense of being at the heart of history in the making, as is evident in their field notes and reports over the decades".

In 1890 surveyors formed the Association of Provincial Land Surveyors of British Columbia to promote improvements to surveying and to ensure that only competent men did the work. In 1891 the Government passed the Provincial Land Surveyors Act. Men who were granted a commission by the Government could add PLS after their names. Apparently the Government awarded commissions rather casually, for the president of the surveyors' association complained in 1894 that "the public have fallen into the error of considering as a surveyor every person who can set up an instrument, read an angle, look wise, and drink whiskey". In 1905 the British Columhia Land Surveyors Act was passed to create the Corporation of Land Surveyors of the Province of British Columbia and to give the profession the power to administer commissions. New surveyors could add BCLS after their names. The organization has lasted a century and has a list of just over 800 members, about 300 of them currently practising. In 1999 it registered its first woman BCLS.

Science and technology have had an immense effect on surveying. In the 1850s surveyors used a chain to measure horizontal distance (a real chain with links) and a compass or a transit theodolite to measure angles. An important innovation in topographical mapping began in 1888 when oblique photographs were first taken from mountain tops. Technology advanced rapidly after the Second World War with aerial photograhy, stereo plotting equipment, mechanical calculators, electronic computers, geodimeters that measure distance using light waves, tellurometers that measure distance using radio waves, the global positioning system (GPS) using satellite technology, and the total system which measures angles and distances and calculated coordinates. In 2003 GPS was authorized to locate legal surveys in British Columbia.

Made to Measure is a handsome, well-designed book with many sharp black and white photographs and written in a flowing style. It tells a big story about skilled men - and very recently, women - who scouted the land, mapped it, and put in place property lines and provincial boundaries that are backed by law.

Leslie Kopas is the author of Bella Coola Country, *2003.*

Margin of Terror; a reporter's twenty-year odyssey covering the tragedies of the Air India bombing.

Salim Jiwa and Donald J. Hauka. Toronto, Key Porter Books, 2006. 320 p. $24.95 paperback.

Margin of Terror, the recently published account of the 21-year-long and still ongoing investigation into the crash of Air India Flight 182, is in itself a frightening book. The author, Salim Jiwa of Vancouver, is described on the book's cover as an award-winning senior investigative journalist and a regular consultant on terrorism issues. The preliminaries to the loss of Flight 182, a 747 destroyed in flight off the coast of Ireland in 1985 by a bomb, and all the subsequent enquiries, have been followed and examined by him in meticulous and dispassionate detail. As would be expected of a technical journalist, Jiwa writes in a clear, crisp and transparent style, but the colossal amount of detail involved here means that the book requires the most careful and methodical attention from the reader. There is no index, and the dense, convoluted account of various Sikh factions, their religious creeds, rivalries, claims, crimes and denials is not easy to follow for a reader unfamiliar with Sikh names or beliefs.

In a word, the book is demanding, but without doubt it is and will remain the definitive record, outside the actual court documents and those of CSIS and the RCMP. The author, himself a Muslim, speaks the language of all the players in the drama, he is personally acquainted with many of them, and his account has the tone of absolute authenticity.

The story itself is familiar to us all, but it is sometimes forgotten that an explosion at Narita airport in Tokyo, which killed two baggage-handlers, occurred *on the same day.* Both explosions were caused by bombs, concealed in baggage, which were checked on to different flights leaving Vancouver by "passengers" who then did not board the aircraft themselves. The subtext of Jiwa's account is a second mystery – how is it that the RCMP and CSIS did not co-operate effectively to find them? As the inquiry continues, with a review and further legal assessments under retired Supreme Court Justice John Major starting in September 2006, anyone who wishes to follow the proceedings in any detail will find *Margin of Terror* an indispensable guide.

***Mike Higgs** is a retired arline pilot.*

Pioneer Jews of British Columbia. Vancouver, Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia and Western States Jewish History, 2005. 288 p., illlus. WSJH Vol. 37:3 & 4, spring/summer 2005/ The Scribe Vol. 25: 1 & 2, spring/ summer 2005.

Available from The Jewish Historical Society of B.C., 950 West 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7

This book is a series of articles about the Jewish immigrants who came to British Columbia in the wake of the gold rush of 1858. Some of these Jewish pioneers left the province when the gold rush subsided and an economic depression ensued, but for those who remained and endured the difficulties that most pioneers endured in those earliest years, prosperity and even fame came to some families.

As British Columbia's unexplored wilderness, with all its savage innocence attracted the dispossessed, the opressed, the hopeful seekers of a new way of life, hoping to create and to find freedom to grow in what was perceived to be a new world free of class distinctions, race and religious prejudices, some were to make the unhappy discovery that the new world held, in many ways "more of the same". But having arrived, at great sacrifice and expense in most cases, there was no place else to flee to. The options were, to stay and fight to survive and flourish and establish a new life, or to return to their roots. Kanakas, Jews, Chinese, Afro-Americans, the diversity of these new immigrants was incredibly rich. They brought their cultures and religions, their talents and their achievements and in the end, laid the foundation of our present way of life in the province.

Given, that these immigrant Jews suffered tacit prejudice in a largely Christian society, yet Jews excelled themselves in British Columbia in many fields. In those early years, as today, Jews served as mayors, municipal councillors, merchants, farmers, miners. The cover of *Pioneer Jews of British Columbia* bears the photograph of Henry Nathan Jr., the first Jewish member of the Canadian Parliament. He represented the City of Victoria from 1871 to 1874.

Though Jews made substantial contributions to the social and charitable needs of their communities, including the building of a fine synagogue, one of the earliest buildings in the City of Victoria, the Jews of that city tended to live in a cloistered social and religious enclave. This is always the case in ethnic groups in a new country. Language, religion and social history makes them 'different'. The remarkable characteristic of the Jewish community in British Columbia was their ability to forge successful intercourse with the business, governing bodies, farming and mining groups in the province as well as they did.

Religious conflict in the pioneer community was suffered almost at the outset of the immigration in Victoria, as Orthodox Jews split with the Reform minded Jews. But it is only fair to acknowledge that the Anglican Church suffered a schism as well, when liturgy and theology drove that membership to build their own separate churches in Victoria.

Successful grocers like Abraham Belasco, father of the famous impresario, David Belasco, bought produce from native Indian growers and marketed it in Victoria, the Indians providing his market with salmon, venison, duck, berries and potatoes. In fact, trade and barter thrived between the Jewish merchants of Victoria and the native people.

The most interesting article in *Pioneer Jews of British Columbia* is the Sarah H. Tobe article about the Belasco family. Other families, such as the Adelberg and Oppenheimers gave much to their Jewish and non-Jewish communities. The Adelbergs pioneered in the Peace River country at a time when that wilderness held the barest of essentials and the Adelbergs had to forge a life totally different from the one they had left. Survival was the order of the day, and these pioneers were determined to survive, no matter what the challenges.

Pioneer Jews of British Columbia is a valuable little book. It would have been helpful to hve included an index. And I found some of the details about the establishment of organizations a bit tedious and one had to wade through this at the begninning of the book to get to the far more interesting articles about the people. It would seem to this reader that the formation and business of the Hebrew Ladies of Victoria, for example, would have been better served in a separate book. In this regard, the book lacked a umiform organization of material. Valuable as fund raising efforts of the Jewish women of Victoria were, to have included this activity within the book seems out of context with the biographical editorial content, and tends to mix the pioneer folk with the contemporary figures in the Jewish community, giving the total a fragmentary effect.

But *Pioneeer Jews of British Columbia* is certainly worth the read for researchers and others, and there are plenty of facts and details about early Jewish contributions to the common weal that this reviewer found new and interesting.

***Esther Darlington**, Cache Creek.*

Reading the Riot Act: A Brief History of Riots in Vancouver

Michael Barnholden Vancouver, Anvil Press, 2005. 134 p., illus., paper. $18 paperback. Available from Anvil Press, 278 East 1st Ave., Vancouve,r BC V5T 1A6

Michael Barnholden gives us an insightful people's history with *Reading the Riot Act; A Brief History of Riots in Vancouver.* He aims to use sources beyond official reports and media coverage to get at the underlying causes of riots. Unfortunately Barnholden's insistent class analysis sometimes outweighs his original historical research. Still he raises important political questions and shows us another side of Vancouver.

A year after the city was formed, three hundred angry workers set upon a Chinese workers' camp at Coal Harbor and attacked their homes on Carrall Street. And so begins Barnholden's chronicles of more than 16 riots, described within eight thematic chapters, ranging from the 19th century's anti-Asian Riots to the new millennium's Punk Rock Riots.

The stories are prefaced with an excerpt from the riot act of Britain. During the Great Depression, Vancouver mayor Gerry McGeer followed the letter of this ancient law, reading the riot act to

unemployed protesters at Victory Square. The crowd responded with a protest song.

But it is the sound of broken glass which generally triggers riots. And damage to private property, in a society which places property above human rights Barnholden contends, is the signal for the police to attack. A riot started when a rock was thrown at a store window in Chinatown (1907), when demonstrators smashed display cases inside the Hudson's Bay Company (1935) and with the sound of crashing pane glass along the stores of upscale Robson Street after the Grey Cup football game(1994). Missing ingredients from Barnholden's observations are other 'triggers' such as liquor, the weather and time of day. The passing of the flask full of whiskey surely has fuelled angry crowds. In the case of the 1907 riot along the Chinese and Japanese store fronts on Pender and Powell Streets, the rioters were further aroused by the on-going summer heat wave and the cover of night.

The media erasure of the aims of protestors is 'both amusing and amazing' Barnholden states. His many examples include their indifference to the free speech protests of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in 1909 and 1911. And he also notes that a police presence beyond the ordinary can signal (and provoke) violence. The police use of pepper-spray on students demonstrating against the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum at the University of BC campus in 1997 provides a chilling example of police over-reaction.

Riots in a liberal democracy occur when those in control are not listening, the author concludes. But does a riot always have a legitimate motive? And while Barnholden describes the important supporting role women played during the depression protests, few other references are made to women's participation (or lack thereof) in riots.

The bibliography is too brief, suggesting this book is more a meditation than an investigation. *Reading the Riot Act* is worth the read though, if only to listen to what generations of Vancouverites are trying to say, using a method in turns foolish and heroic.

***Janet Nicol**, a writer, teaches in Vancouver.*

Redress: inside the Japanese Canadian call for redress.

Roy Miki. Vancouver, Raincoast Books, 2005. 361p., illus. $34.95 hard cover

In *Redress*, Roy Miki documents the long, sometimes tortured, campaign of Japanese Canadians for compensation, or redress, for their losses during and immediately after the Second World War. Miki has examined archival and secondary sources to present a reasonably even-handed account of the government's wartime policies. The centrepiece of the book, however, is what he calls the "roller-coaster" experience of the Redress campaign. In it, he draws both on his own recollections and interviews with other participants, publications, and the tape recordings of many meetings.

Miki demonstrates that Japanese Canadians neither belonged to a monolithic society nor passively accepted their fate. He shows, for example, divisions over the extent of co-operating with the government's removal orders in 1942, over accepting the government's immediate post-war offer of compensation for property losses, and especially over the disputes of the 1980s over Redress. Some factions favoured accepting an apology and a group settlement; others, including Miki, insisted on individual compensation. Conflicts over procedure, methods, and, by inference, personalities complicated the story and Miki's may not be the only version. Paradoxically, Miki notes, "the focus on redress based on the rights of citizenship…provided the commonality to unite otherwise disparately related 'Canadians of Japanese ancestry."(p. 267)

The book's moral is encapsulated in its subtitle, "Call for Justice," namely, how Japanese Canadians contributed to awareness of the need to provide statutory protection for civil liberties and human rights as confirmed in the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and the repeal of the War Measures Act, the statute under which the government dealt with Japanese Canadians during the war.

As a prize-winning poet, Miki is acutely conscious of precise definitions of words. He writes of the "language" of "redress" by which he means what was to be included in it. Would it be only an "acknowledgment" or an "apology?" Would there be financial compensation? If so, what would its nature be? Although largely confined to footnotes, his discussion of the use – and misuse – of such terms as "evacuation," "internment," and "repatriation," merits careful reading by anyone studying the wartime treatment of Japanese Canadians.

A few minor errors such as stating that Japanese Canadians could not practise medicine before the war (there were several practitioners in Vancouver) have crept in. Miki's account of dealings with the federal government at times is confusing since he describes a meeting of the National Association of Japanese Canadians with new cabinet ministers before he mentions the change of government in 1984. These problems do not, however, seriously detract from this fine book. Miki's personal accounts, his historical research, his attractive writing style, and, above all, his stress on the need to preserve civil and human rights, make this a compelling book that sketches the story of the Canadian Japanese during the Second World War and adds a new dimension by describing the successful campaign for Redress.

***Patricia Roy** is President of the B.C.H.F. and has written extensively on the Chinese and Japanese in British Columbia.*

Sailor on Snowshoes: tracking Jack London's northern trail.

Dick North. Madeira Park, B.C., Harbour Publishing, 2006. 150 p., illus. $19.95 paperback.

This is the tale of Dick North's almost obsessive endeavor to locate the cabin that Jack London lived in at the beginning of the Klondike gold rush in 1897 and 1898. Other

than the fact that London passed through British Columbia in going to and from the Klondike, it has little to do with British Columbia history. It does have to do with historical research and with the dogged persistence needed to bring such a project to conclusion. It's also a well-told tale by an experienced journalist and author.

In 1954, journalist Dick North spent some time in one of Jack London's watering holes in Oakland, California. There he listened to some stories being told by the bartender, the son of the original owner who was London's friend. Something said and something North had read triggered the belief that the Yukon cabin might still be in existence.

North headed to Alaska to work on a northern paper and to try and convince his editor to finance an expedition to locate the cabin. There was no interest. North quit his job found financial support and began the search. The trail led eventually to an isolated area 75 miles south of Dawson City. There, in 1965, on Henderson Creek, the cabin was found and confirmed as London's through a signature on an interior log slab.

The cabin was dismantled and, in return for the support tendered during the search, half was transported to Dawson City and half to Oakland, California. There, both missing halves were reconstructed and provided with the appropriate sod roofs. The twin cabins are still well maintained in both communities.

The strength of the book lies in North's ability to spin a yarn and evoke the Yukon setting, the gold rush era and Jack London as a youth. He's a dab hand at finding the right quotation in London's writings to illustrate his narrative and he has a good eye and ear for the place and its people. Both Jack London fans and history buffs will enjoy the story.

***Ross Carter** is the editor of* Historiana *the newsletter of the Bowen Island Historians*

Through Water, Ice and Fire; Schooner Nancy *of the War of 1812.*
Barry Gough. Toronto, Dundurn Press, 2006. 213 p., illus., maps. $24.99 paperback.

This engaging narrative is vintage Gough. It is a fine book to signal the author's return home to BC on retiring from an eminent career in Ontario as professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University. His acclaimed studies such as *Gunboat Frontier* (1984), *Northwest Coast* (1992), and *Britain, Canada and the North Pacific* (2004) mark him, amongst his other achievements, as a foremost expositor of BC's nautical heritage. Gough has, of course, already written graphically on the War of 1812. What distinguishes the present volume from his highly acclaimed *Fighting Sail on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay: the War of 1812 and its Aftermath* (2002) is his focus on the fur-trading topmast schooner, turned warship, *Nancy*. As Gough writes when introducing his theme, "few such vessels have captured the imagination of students of Canadian history." He explains the attraction by undertaking fresh research, extending the narrative of his *Fighting Sail*, and weaving a dramatic tale.

With deft strokes Gough lays out the commercial, geographic and strategic contexts of the War. He captures in neat cameos the leading characters of his story – including some of the colourful peripheral ones like the curmudgeonly eighty-seven year old captain of the Provincial Marine who refused to step down when war between the 'wilderness fleets' was imminent. Gough neatly delineates actions and events, always with an eye for the telling detail and a good nautical yarn. Those unfamiliar with purely naval aspects of the story will be delighted by the clarity and succinctness of specialist themes like gunnery, rigging, navigation, tactics – and of course, logistics. As Gough reminds us, the War of 1812 was above all else a supply war.

Built in Detroit in 1789, *Nancy* worked the Great Lakes as a trader until British forces took her over as a supply ship for their garrison at the cliff-top Fort Michilimackinac. She was part of a network of supply lines that connected the garrison with Quebec. At one point she even ferried 146 American prisoners of war, and on another occasion two companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Whether bearing military supplies, personnel, or engaged in 'war fighting' with her carronades, *Nancy* demonstrated all the speed, manoeuvrability, and cargo capacity her designers put into her. Until, that is, she found herself in shoal waters heavily outgunned and outnumbered by American forces. On 14 August 1814, she met a fiery end, and slipped into the shifting sands of Wasaga Beach, in present-day Ontario. Her scant remains were not discovered until 1911, nor raised and placed in a museum until 1927.

Schooner Nancy – as historical artifact, nautical tale, and Canadian icon – makes a unique contribution to Canadian lore.

***Michael L. Hadley**, University of Victoria.*

The Valley of the Fraser; a true historic narrative from Surrey's formative years.
John and Lorne Pearson. City of Surrey, Surrey Museum, 2005. 99 p, illus., maps. $12

The City of Surrey and Surrey Museum are to be congratulated on the publication of this interesting book that tells something of the early history of the Lower Fraser Valley. It is based on archival material and family history as told to John Pearson by relatives and friends of the two individuals involved, Eric and Sarah Anderson.

It is the story of a young Swedish sailor who jumped ship in Burrard Inlet with two companions in 1872. After walking overland, they came to the banks of the Fraser River west of New Westminster. After the trio crossed the river, Eric travelled on his own.. He decided that the land he found on the banks of the Nikomekl River was to be his future home. In order to establish himself in this unsettled land he spent some months working on a farm in the Chilliwack area. It was here that he met his future wife, Sarah, who was willing to help build their home near the banks of the Nikomekl River.

The account of the day to day life and struggles experienced by the young couple while establishing themselves in the early

days of settlement in this area of South Surrey as told by the authors makes for interesting reading. It is also valuable to have mention made of the various places in the area that either no longer exist or are now known by other names. It would have increased the value of the book if the place names could have been shown on a map.

There are a number of black and white reproductions throughout the text. These are identified beside the reproduction while the source is given in an appendix. There is also a detailed index but there are no cross references, which would have assisted in linking the various place names from the original name to the present one.

Although this is a somewhat simple story, it is necessary to have this type of history recounted before it becomes lost. Too much of our early British Columbia history is already lost and forgotten.

On the whole this is an easy read, with the flavour of a diary. I did find the title of the book somewhat misleading. To me, the Fraser Valley extends to Hope, but the majority of this story concentrates on the Fraser delta area or what is known today as South Surrey.

***Melva Dwyer** is the former Honorary President of the BCHF*

William Wilson, Pioneer Entrepreneur

Christopher J.P. Hanna. Victoria, Trafford Publishing, 2001. 271p., illus., $26.95, paperback.

William Wilson arrived from England in November 1862, at the height of the Cariboo gold rush. His family were merchants in England, and he brought with him a supply of goods to sell in the Cariboo. This was the beginning of a career in clothing that made him a millionaire within 50 years. Over 140 years later, the W & J Wilson store continues to be known for its fine quality men's and women's apparel.

Historian Christopher Hanna has done an excellent job of melding family memorabilia with archival sources to produce a family history of one of the most outstanding businessmen in late 19th Century Victoria. William led a steady life: good marriage, good friends and, for the most part, sound investments. Hanna's meticulous research of William's political activities is a primer on how Victoria businessmen dealt with one another and with the promise of a railroad following Confederation. William was likely a member of the Carnarvon Club which fought for a Vancouver Island railway as arbitrated by Lord Carnarvon in 1874, and he supported separation from Canada if the CPR railway was not built on time. The clothing store was managed by brother Joseph, allowing William time for making shrewd investments. His interests in land, mining and even a tannery and shoe manufacturing company eventually elevated his status to one of the business elite. He was willing to risk his savings on popular off-island ventures such as Lulu Island farmland and the developing site of Vancouver, as well as in a sawmill at Bennett Lake during the Klondike gold rush. William carefully juggled his passionate interest in politics with a desire to be a good businessman. At the time of his death he had earned the respect of most Victorians and he left an estate in excess of more well-known contemporaries, R.P. Rithet and Edgar Crow Baker. The Wilson history is good example of how to set a family story in time and place. The notes are copious, the family trees well illustrated. The only items one could wish for are a contents page and an index.

Marie Elliott

Good Intentions Gone Awry; Emma Crosby and the Methodist Mission on the Northwest Coast.

Jan Hare and Jean Barman. Vancouver; UBC Press, 2006. 307 pages. Photos, Bibliography, Notes. $85. hardcover; $29.95 paperback.

This book almost didn't get reviewed. Having offered it to me, knowing I was unlikely to refuse any book with Jean Barman's name on the title page, Book Review Editor Anne Yandle took a closer look and e-mailed that she was tempted to keep it. And no wonder. It's one of those books which bring together history and human interest, scholarship and acquaintanceship.

Emma Crosby was the great-grandmother of Vancouver bookseller LouiseHager. The authors pay tribute to the Hager family for placing Emma's private letters in the public domain and encouraging their publication, thereby reclaiming a legacy not only for the family but for "other missionary wives and for the Tsimshian people," and allowing for "the building of a bridge across time."

Hare and Barman qualify as natural bridge-builders: "an Anishinaabe woman concerned with Aboriginal responses to contact and a historian of British Columbia seeking to broaden approaches to the past", recognised scholars and teachers in the overlapping fields of Language and Literacy Education and Educational Studies. They strengthen the bridge by involving Caroline Dudoward, whose great-grandparents initiated the request for a missionary to be posted at Port Simpson, realising that the missions brought literacy and useful insight into European ways.

Emma, the daughter of an Ontario Methodist preacher, shared his missionary zeal, and in 1874 married Thomas Crosby partly as a means of fulfilling her own vocation. His version of traditional circuit preaching took him hundreds of miles up and down the northwest coast. She saw her calling as the establishment of a model Christian home, teaching the Native people, especially the women, by example. Because of Thomas's lengthy absences and the difficulty of importing teachers except for short terms, Emma's influence extended to the school, church and entire community.

She was a devout, educated, loving woman, and her love of family, Thomas and their children, her parents and siblings back in Ontario, illuminated her letters to her mother , and coloured her attitude towards her Native charges. Her personality shone through her writing.

For the first years Emma and the girls of the village cultivated a symbiotic relationship; they were her students, helpers and companions. When they gave her first born child a Native name, she and Thomas

included this among the "Christian" names. But as Thomas took on ever more far-flung responsibilities, as she experienced the births and, too often the deaths of her own children, she found it increasingly difficult to cope with the girls brought to her for training and protection. She began to worry about cross-cultural influences happening in both directions. Eventually, the Native girls, instead of living in the house with the Crosby family, were billeted in a separate Home, supervised by a series of matrons, who could not move beyond their racist assumptions, and who had not the motivation that Emma had to settle into a way of life in an alien setting. Unable to overcome their distrust of the girls, they found a solution in the enforcement of strict routines and rigid regulations. Yet they, like Emma, began with the best of intentions.

Little by little care of the Native girls became confinement and then something close to incarceration. Learning new ways turned out to demand the abandonment of the old. The people who had welcomed the Crosbys felt betrayed, and in 1897 Thomas was manoeuvred out of Port Simpson into an administrative position and retirement.

The authors tend to be hard on Thomas, whose own memoir, Up and Down the North Pacific Coast by Canoe and Mission Ship, exudes evangelistic zeal. But they do quote his heartbroken letter to Emma's parents, written after he returned from an absence of several weeks to find two of his babies dead of diphtheria, contracted by their devastated mother in the course of a parish visit. His flamboyant and adventurous style cannot hide his sincerity or his undoubtedly "good" intentions. He was an early champion of Native land rights, and that as much as any dissatisfaction among his flock disturbed the "authorities."

Their retirement in Vancouver did give Emma a chance to know her grandchildren, who, according to Louise Hager, loved her "to pieces".

Caroline Dudoward's Afterword proudly summarizes the part played by Alfred and Kate Dudoward in Port Simpson's history, recognises the devastation of colonisation, and moves beyond to deal with the necessary perils of survival in a "complex, dynamic world."

As I began to write this, I heard about an art project involving the youth of Port Simpson. Eleven children were given disposable cameras to record something about their daily life; their photographs were interpreted by twenty professional artists, and both photos and paintings were exhibited in Vancouver, the children attending the opening. The Arthouse Gallery website claims that "The initiative is intended to promote self-esteem and spark imagination for youth through a creative collaborative art process." I wondered briefly if this initiative might be another good intention destined to go awry, but I am reassured by seeing the name "Braden Dudoward" among the young photographers.

Phyllis Reeve

LOCAL HISTORIAN HONOURED WITH AWARD

Nanaimo's Peggy Nicholls was recently honoured by the British Columbia Historical Federation with the distinction of being a "Living Archive" for the work she has done in recording and preserving local history. A certificate was presented to Peggy at the September meeting of the Nanaimo Historical Society confirming the title. Gordon Miller, Recording Secretary of the B.C.H.F., made the official presentation.

Peggy has well earned this accolade. For over 30 years she has recorded histories of people and places from Nanoose to Nanaimo, helping many trace their family trees. Because she has known, spoken to and collected the memorabilia of so many people, her extensive network and phenomenal memory is triggered when she is asked to provide information.

In Nanaimo, she spent five years tracking and charting the lives of the 24 families who came to the City in 1854 to settle here. "From The Black Country to Nanaimo, 1854" became not only the stories of the settlers but also the histories of their descendants. The five short volumes which emerged bring to life the growth of the town, the part these families played in its development, and how they solicited their friends and family in England to make the journey to join them.

Originally expected to be mainly of interest to the descendants and local people, the books have been recognised as a major accomplishment. They are purchased by genealogists looking for family links, by visitors who see them as a window on Nanaimo, and are quoted by professional historians. They have been sent all over the world and have been regularly re-published.

Now in her 90s, Peggy is still encouraging others - seniors and students - to pursue and preserve their history. With her husband Len, Peggy was an early promoter of preserving our heritage and the Historical Society is proud that she is one of several nonagenarian members who add their memories to our meetings.

October 31, 2006

The Hon. Beverley J. Oda
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Oda,

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF), is an organization of 111 member societies representing 12,209 individual members interested in preserving and promoting Canadian history with particular emphasis on British Columbia. We were delighted to read that in an interview published in the Fall 2006 edition of *Canadian Issues: Thèmes Canadiens* you said that "Canada's history is the foundation of our nation."

As taxpayers, the BCHF welcomes efforts to streamline government and eliminate waste but wishes to draw your attention to the negative effects of the planned cuts to the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) on museums, both large and small, throughout Canada. These cuts would seriously impair their ability to deliver programs that educate Canadians about their local history and also introduce them to the history of other parts of Canada and the world.

We note that the parliamentary vote of October 25th to rescind the planned cuts to the MAP was passed in the House. This demonstrates the widespread desire, by all political parties, for the Government to establish a stable and long term museum policy that will recognize and fund MAP and other programs, such as the Youth Employment and Summer Career Placement Programs. These programs assist in the preservation and presentation of Canada's history which is undertaken by the many hundreds of non-profit historical museums, societies and other groups across Canada.

The Museum Assistance Program has done much to teach Canadians and others about Canada's history. Let us cite a few local examples.

One of our member groups, the Nelson Museum and Historical Society, recently opened the new Touchstones Gallery. Part of the funding came from the MAP. Heritage tourism is a major industry in Nelson; the new museum, gallery and archives will attract more visitors and encourage them to stay longer. Another of our member groups, the Langley Centennial Museum, received a MAP grant to assist it in making the paintings of Legh Mulhall Kilpin, a noted British artist, more accessible to the public.

Knowledge of the cultural diversity of British Columbia has been enhanced through projects funded by MAP such as the exhibit on "Reluctant Heroes" prepared by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver and the travelling exhibit on early Japanese Canadian studio photographers arranged by the National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Society.

MAP has also provided funds for other travelling exhibits such as "No Place for a Lady" organized by the Vancouver Museum and on Climate Change prepared by the Vernon and District Museum. And, of course, it has also assisted many museums and archives in conserving historical artefacts and documents.

We are also concerned about the cuts to the Youth Employment Program. Not only does this give young Canadians an opportunity to gain experience in historical research and in the tourism industry while earning money to finance their studies, but it also provides many museums with a source of workers during the busy summer tourist season. Since many smaller museums rely mainly on volunteers with, perhaps one or two paid staff members, reductions to the Youth Employment Program may mean that they have to close or operate on limited hours during the summer season when tourists come and Canadians learn about their history.

Thus, we urge you to reconsider the cuts to the Museums Assistance and Youth Employment Programs since they will sharply reduce the ability of Canadians to learn about their heritage and to appreciate what a fine nation Canada is.

On behalf of the British Columbia Historical Federation Council

Yours sincerely,
Pam Welwood
Secretary

cc: Hon. Richard Harris, B.C. Caucus Chair and B.C. MP's

: Stan Hagen
Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts B.C. Legislature

Miscellany

From Rick Goodacre

The federal government recently terminated the Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Fund. While this program, a three-year pilot, was drawing to a close in any event, the early shutting down of CHPIF as part of a wide array of cuts to "wasteful" programs is of concern. One of the goals of the national Historic Places Initiative has always been to establish new, federal incentives for heritage resources. We need to convince the Conservative government that this is still a crucial priority, both for the ultimate success of the Historic Places Initiative, and to create new opportunities to conserve our dwindling number of heritage buildings in Canada.

In response, the Heritage Canada has mounted a national petition - see below. Please consider participating - just follow the simple instructions.

Rick Goodacre
Executive Director
Heritage Society of B.C.

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the Coalition Against Demolition are calling upon the federal government to implement financial incentives for historic places in its 2007 Budget.

Over the past 30 years, Canada has lost 20% of its historic buildings to demolition – and the destruction continues.

You can take action… Tell the federal government what it must do to keep landmarks from becoming landfill!

Go the the Heritage Canada Web site (http://www.heritagecanada.org) and follow these simple steps to send a postcard to Jim Flaherty, the Minister of Finance; Environment Minister Rona Ambrose; Treasury Board President John Baird; and Brian Pallister, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance.

1. Go to our easy online petition.
2. Fill in your name, address and postal code to ensure that your message is counted.
3. Simply press "Send" and the postcard and the following message will be sent to the four elected officials.

"The time has come for the federal government to implement financial incentives in its 2007 budget to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places."

Salt Spring Island Historical Society

Key personality at a recent meeting of the society was John Patton Booth, first elected to the B.C. Legislature in 1871. He was defeated in 1874 but re-entered the Legislature in 1890 and in 1900 became speaker of the House, a position he held until his death in February 1902.

Booth was also a farmer on Salt Spring Island.

He was of course played by an actor but the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the early pioneers were real. He introduced several who gave interesting stories of their forbears at a time when logging and farming were the principal activities, deer hunting supplied meat for the table, and cougars were a pest.

The organizers were lucky to find some half-dozen direct descendants of the pioneer settlers of Salt Spring Island still living on the island. Their ages ranged from 20 to 80.

The event was co-sponsored by the Farmers' Institute, which was celebrating its 110th anniversary and offered its spacious hall for the performance. Around 200 people from both organizations attended.

CBC Radio's B.C. Almanac Catches Gold Rush Fever

CBC Radio's provincial noon show is panning for golden nuggets - from its listeners. BC Almanac has launched a new book project revolving around the 150th anniversary of the 1858 Fraser River gold rush, and creation of the mainland colony. "This event really defined our province," says host Mark Forsythe, "especially after 30,000 American miners arrived...it forced the British to declare the mainland colony very quickly in November 1858." BC Almanac is asking British Columbians to describe a personal connection to the gold rush; whether it be an ancestor who worked the Fraser Riversandbars, sold supplies in Lillooet or danced the hurdy gurdy in Barkerville. It might include visible signs of the gold rush in their community like the oldCariboo Wagon Road, artifacts, letters, pictures or an abiding passion for gold panning. The story will be told from many points of view: Canadian, European, Asian, American and First Nations - the first to locate gold. To make a contribution, visit the BC Almanac web page www.cbc.ca/bcalmanac, click on Gold Rush Connection. Forsythe adds, "My co-author Greg Dickson and I would like to get people thinking about B.C.'s fascinating history and hopefully exploring the province's old gold rush communities and trails." This will be the third book from the CBC current affairs program; previous titles include *The British Columbia Almanac* (Arsenal Pulp, net proceeds to BC Childrens Hospital) and The *BC Almanac Book of Greatest British Columbians* (Harbour Publishing, royalties to Friends of the BC Archives).

For more information contact 604-662-6126 or write B.C. Almanac, CBC Radio, Box 4600, Vancouver, B.C.

"Eighteen ladies, and their hats!, are ready for a tour of Victoria in a circa 1914 Buick oversize touring car"

Rick Lames who kindly supplied this image and the one below would be interested to learn the name of this company as well as anymore background on the photograph. Drop a post card in the mail to BC History if you have additional info.

The Great Divide photographed in the 1930s. That's a Studebaker appraoching the camera.

Welcome to New Members

Affiliate
Mountain View Cemetery
5455 Fraser Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5W 2Z3

Regular members:
Delta Museum and Archives Society
4858 Delta Street
Delta, B.C. V4K 2T8

Canadian Museum of Rail Travel
Box 400,
Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 4H9

Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives
PO Box 766
Gibsons, B.C. V0N 1V0

Associate Members:
Mrs. Laverne Radmore,
RR #3
Lacombe, AB T4l 2N3

Mrs. Barbara Hynek
2477 - 140th Street
Surrey, B.C. V4P 2C5

The British Columbia Historical Federation is an umbrella organization embracing regional societies.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES are entitled to become Member Societies of the BC Historical Federation. All members of these local historical societies shall by that very fact be members of the Federation.

AFFILIATED GROUPS are organizations with specialized interests or objects of a historical nature.

MEMBERSHIP FEES for both classes of membership are one dollar per member of a Member Society or Affiliated Group with a minimum membership fee of $25 and a maximum of 575.

Question regarding membership should be sent to;
Ron Hyde, Membership Chair
#20 - 12880 Railway Avenue
Richmond, B.C. V7E 6G2

Phone 604.277.2627 Fax 604.277.2657 rbhyde@shaw.ca

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to Circulation Department.
British Columbia Historical News
Alice Marwood, 8056 168A Street, Surrey B C V4N 4Y6

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 40025793
Publications Mail registration No. 09835

Canada *We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance program (PAP), toward our mailing cost*

Contact Us:

British Columbia History *welcomes stories, studies, and news items dealing with any aspect of the history of British Columbia, and British Columbians.*

Please submit manuscripts for publication to the Editor, **British Columbia History,**
John Atkin,
921 Princess Avenue,
Vancouver BC V6A 3E8
e-mail: johnatkin@shaw.ca

Book reviews for British Columbia History,
Please submit books for review to:
Frances Gundry
PO Box 5254, Station B.,
Victoria BC V8R 6N4

Subscription & subscription information:
Alice Marwood,
8056 168A Street,
Surrey B C V4N 4Y6
Phone 604-576-1548
e-mail amarwood@telus.net

Subscriptions: $18.00 per year
For addresses outside Canada add $10.00

24th Annual Competition for Writers of BC History Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing Deadline: 31 December 2006

The British Columbia Historical Federation invites book submissions for their annual Competition for Writers of BC History. Books representing any facet of BC history, published in 2006 will be considered by the judges who are looking for quality presentations and fresh material. Community histories, biographies, records of a project or organization as well as personal reflections, etc. are eligible for consideration.
Reprints or revisions of books are not eligible.

Lieutenant-Governor's Medal

The Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing will be awarded to an individual writer whose book contributes significantly to the history of British Columbia. Additional prizes may be awarded to other books at the discretion of the judges.

Publicity

All entries receive considerable publicity, Winners will receive a Certificate of Merit, a monetary award and an invitation to the Awards Banquet of the Federation's annual conference.

Submissions

For mailing instructions please contact:
Barb Hynek,
Chair/Judge of the BCHF Book Competition
2477 140th Street, Surrey, B.C. V4P 2C5
Email: bhynek@telus.net
Phone: 604.535.9090

Books entered become property of the BC Historical Federation.

By submitting books for this competition, authors agree that the British Columbia Historical Federation may use their names in press releases and Federation publications regarding the book competition.