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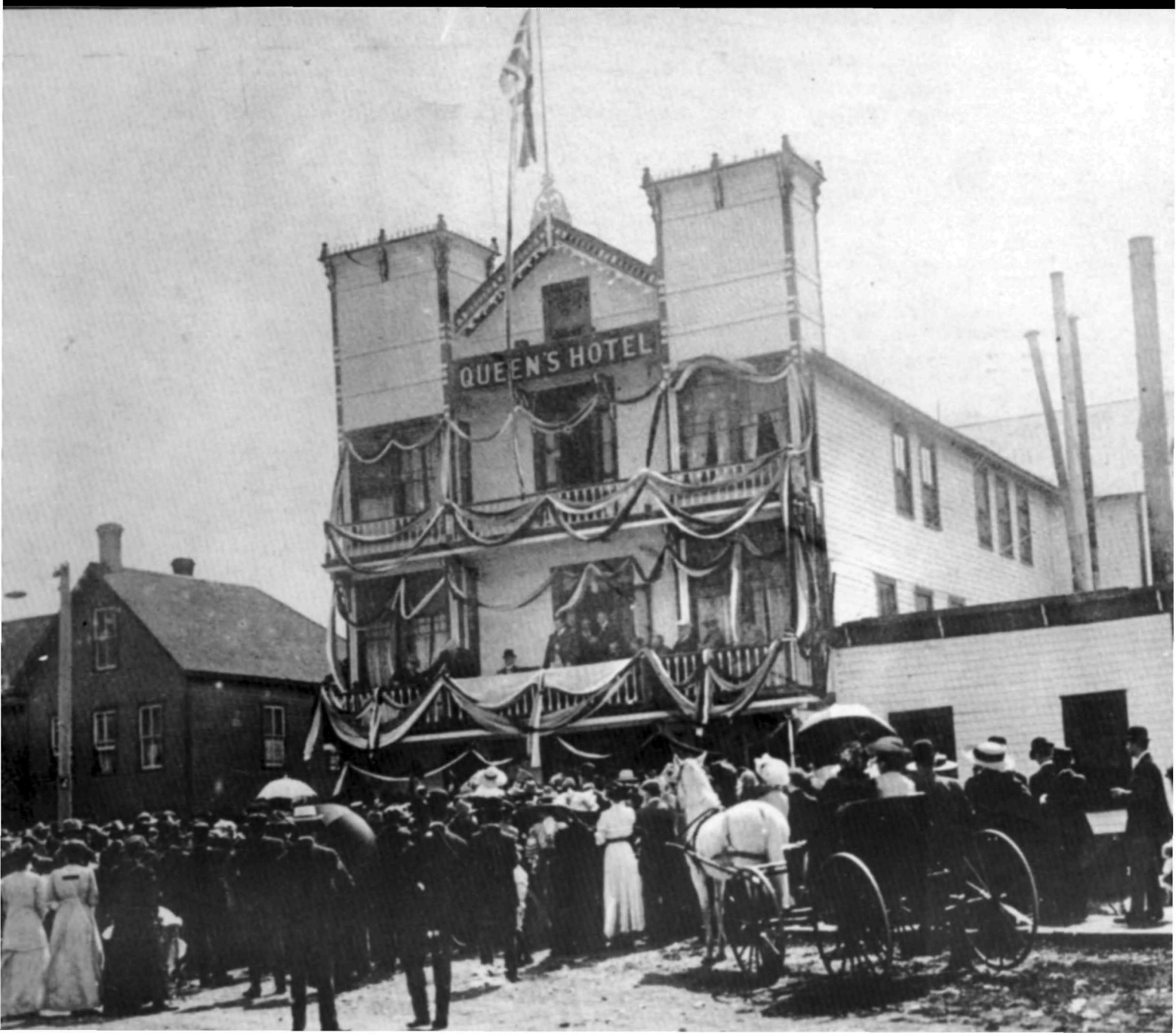

On the cover:

Crowds assemble to hear Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Golden, B.C. **Photostory on page five.**

Golden and District Museum photo.

MEMBER SOCIETIES

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Member societies and their secretaries are responsible for seeing that the correct addresses for their society and for its member subscribers are up-to-date. Please send changes to both the treasurer and the editor whose addresses are at the bottom of the next page. The Annual Report as at October 31 should show a telephone number for contact.

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Fort Steele Heritage Park, Fort Steele, B.C. V0B 1N0
The Hallmark Society, 207 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2K8
Nanaimo Centennial Museum Society, 100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 2X1

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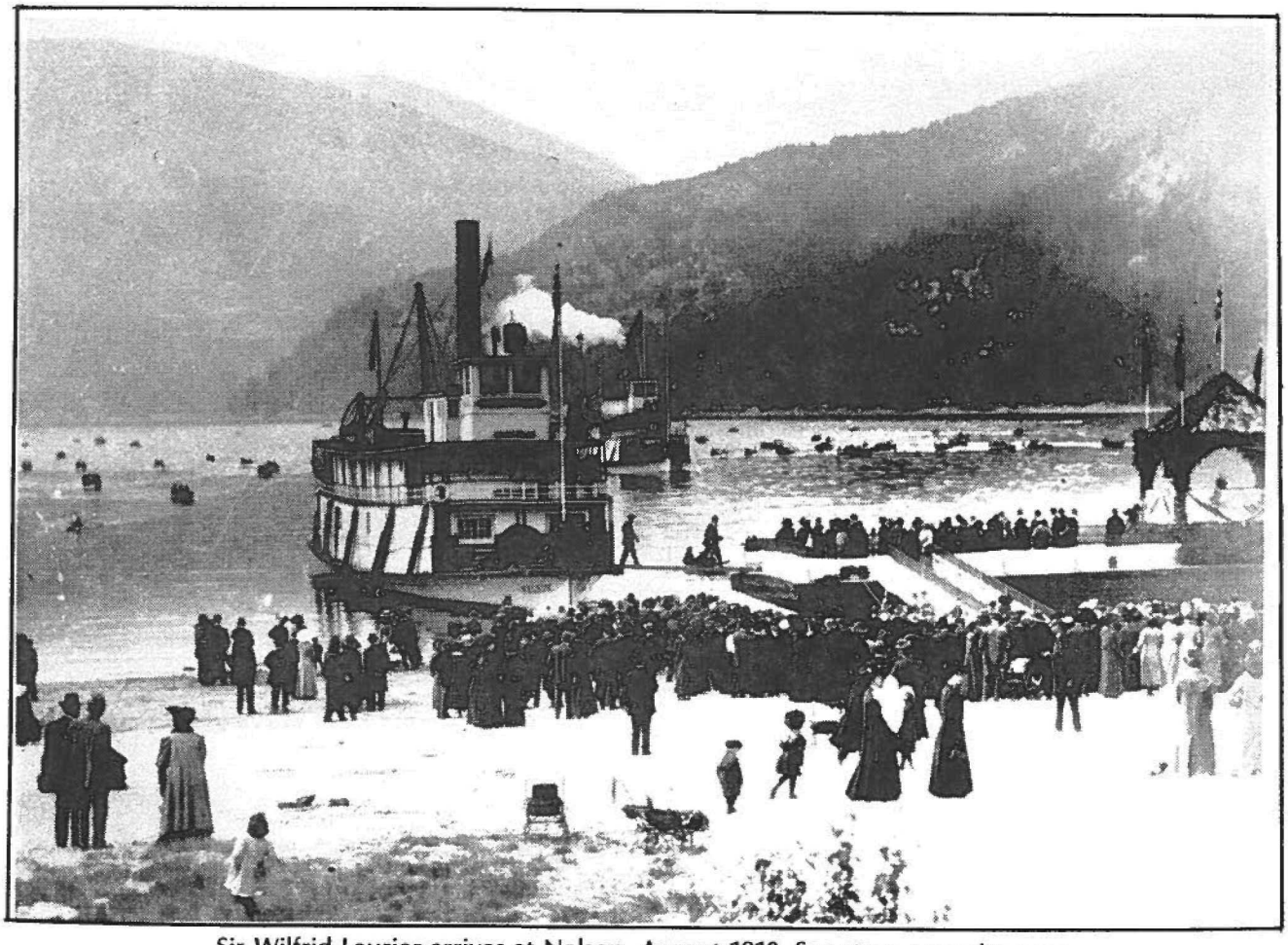

Ross Flemming, courtesy Michael Cone

Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrives at Nelson, August 1910. See story opposite page.

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Naomi Miller

A Visit from the Prime Minister in 1910

Sir Wilfrid Laurier visited British Columbia in the summer of 1910, no doubt with a view to obtaining votes in the 1911 election. In the cover photograph the crowds assemble to greet him at Golden, and the photographer caught the honoured guest on the balcony of the Queen's Hotel, leaning over the rail to answer a question from the local postmaster in the audience below. The detailed description of the visit to Golden appeared in the *Golden Star* Saturday, August 13, 1910:

RECEPTION TO SIR WILFRID LAURIER

The conditions on Monday were all that could be desired for the reception of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The rain of the preceding day had cleared the air and freshened everything up. The sun shone brilliantly and a good crowd had come to town to give a hearty welcome to Canada's leading statesman. The decorations in the town were on an elaborate scale and everyone did their best to make the thing a success.... Unfortunately the time of arrival was advanced an hour, which was only known shortly before said time. Consequently quite a number of people missed the reception altogether. On arrival the orders for stopover time were cancelled and the time cut in half, allowing only 45 minutes for the stay in Golden.

On arrival of the train the reception committee boarded and H.G. Parson M.P.P. welcomed Sir Wilfrid to British Columbia on behalf of Premier McBride.

Accompanying the Prime Minister were Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways; E.M. MacDonald, M.P. of Pictou, N.S.; F.F. Pardee, Simcoe, Ontario; Senator Gibson of Hamilton; Senator Templeman of Victoria; Senator Bostock of Yale-Kootenay; and Ralph Smith, M.P. of Nanaimo. The party left the train for a short ride around town, then assembled on the balcony of the Queen's Hotel where an address of welcome was read by Mr. Buckham.

The welcoming message included reference to "our most beautiful valley", and an invitation to Lady Laurier "to be our guest on a trip to the source of the Columbia." The treatise was signed by J.A. Buckham, President of the Liberal Association; Captain F.P. Armstrong, President of the Conservative Association; and Dr. J.N. Taylor, President of the Board of Trade.

The article continued:

Sir Wilfrid thanked them for their kind welcome and good wishes. He said wherever they stopped on their present tour they had been assured that the said places were the best and most beautiful in the Dominion. All beauty was in the eye of the gazer, and no doubt every one was right in considering his own town and surroundings the most beautiful.

Hon. George P. Graham was called upon to speak. He said that he was much interested in the projected railway through the valley to connect with the Crow's Nest, and he would be sure to bring the matter before the railway company. After a few remarks by Hon. Senator Templeman, the party boarded the train which pulled out at the scheduled time.

The Ottawa delegates stopped at Revelstoke, Kamloops, and many places in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. The return trip included a visit to Nelson on August 29th, 1920. The dignitaries travelled on the *S.S. Moyie*, shown here pulling in beside the *S.S. Nelson* at Lakeside (Connaught) Park, Nelson. The podium was a decorated C.P.R. barge. If you look closely you can see several early Boy Scouts in position to be Guard of Honour. Many residents of nearby communities came in small boats to hear the Prime Minister speak. This reception was held in the evening, necessitating coats be worn against the chill and the mosquitoes.

The photos show us how Laurier's visit, brief as it was, aroused public interest and enthusiasm in small towns in "the early days."

Barbara Stannard and T.D. Sale

Joseph William McKay 1829-1900

In 1878, Joseph W. McKay's recollections of the events leading up to the discovery of coal in Nanaimo were recorded in retrospect. Toward the end of 1849 McKay had been ordered to Fort Rupert and from there to Victoria which was the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company in whose employ he worked as a chief trader.

His narrative was as follows: "While engaged in the office there I was one morning in December called out by the foreman of the Blacksmith Shop who told me that an Indian named Che-wech-i-kan, later known as Coal Tyee, from the vicinity of Protection Island (now Nanaimo Bay), had been in the shop to have his gun repaired and while waiting and watching operations he had picked up some lumps of coal, which he observed very closely. Subsequently, when he saw the men use some coal to replenish the fire he said that there was plenty of such stone where he lived. I went to the shop and talked with the Indian, and told him to bring me some pieces of coal from his home, and I would give him a bottle of rum and have his gun repaired for nothing.

"The man, who was quite old, went away, but he was taken sick and did not return until early in April 1850, when he brought a canoe load of coal, which proved to be of fair quality. I fitted out a prospecting party at once, and about the first of May we landed near the place where the town of Nanaimo is built now. For several days, we looked around and on the 8th of May, I located the Douglas vein, which is still [1878] being worked, at the place from which the old Indian had taken his specimen.

"On our return to Victoria, I made a favourable and very circumstantial report on our discovery, but owing to the pressure of other business on hand the mine was not actually opened until August 1852.

"In the same year, I was commissioned to explore the country lying between the newly discovered coal mines and Victoria for farming lands, and during the summer we located several large tracts with a view of opening them to settlers. In the course of these explorations, I found indications of gold on various occasions, but nothing which would warrant more extensive prospecting."

Joseph William McKay was born in 1829 at Rupert House, where his father served the Hudson's Bay Company. Young McKay soon joined the Company and at the early age of fifteen he was sent to Fort Victoria, a year after the Company had moved its headquarters from Fort Vancouver. He rose rapidly through the ranks, and was only twenty-three when he arrived in Nanaimo to take possession of the coal discovery on behalf of his Company. McKay was of average height, with dark hair, and a dark moustache and beard. He had piercing blue eyes, which emitted anger when his quick temper arose. His speech was very abrupt and displayed a Scottish accent. He was very outspoken and quick to take umbrage. There was no doubt that McKay was capable of dealing with any problems that might arise while he was in charge of a posting.

Governor James Douglas kept in close touch with Joseph McKay, and issued frequent and detailed instructions. The following letters written at Fort Victoria and dated the 24th and 26th August 1852, are good examples:

Mr. Joseph McKay

Sir:

You will proceed with all possible diligence to Wentuhuysen Inlet commonly known as Nanymo Bay and formally take possession of the Coal beds lately discovered there for and in behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company.

You will give due notice of that proceeding to the Masters of all Vessels arriving there and you will forbid all persons to work the Coal either

directly by means of their own labour or indirectly through Indians or other parties employed for that purpose except under the Authority of a license from the Hudson's Bay Company.

You will require from such persons as may be duly licensed to work Coal by the Hudson's Bay Company, security for the payment of a royalty of 2/6 (two shillings and six pence), a ton which you will levy on the Spot, upon all Coal whether procured by mining or by purchase from the Natives, the same to be held by you and from time to time to be duly accounted for.

In the event of any breach or evasion of these regulations you will imediately take measures to communicate intelligence of the same to me.

I remain Sir
Your obedient servant
(Signed) James Douglas

Mr. Joseph McKay,

Dear Sir:

I herewith enclose Invoice of sundries now forwarded c/o *Cadboro* for use of the new establishment, and the party of Miners, who proceed to join you by the same conveyance.

The Miners are under the special orders of Mr. Muir, and you will please to avoid all interference with them directly, giving any instructions you have to give through Mr. Muir himself, but in no case directly to the men under his orders.

The Blacksmith Raymond is for general service, the work of the Miners must however have the preference in all cases and attended to.

A small forge should be put up as soon as possible and every assistance in the way of Carpenters or Axemen be given to Mr. Muir when and as often as required.

Please to write me fully of your proceedings and the progress of the work by every opportunity.

The *Recovery* will be sent up in a few days, and the *Cadboro* may be loaded with Coal and sent back as soon as possible.

I remain,
Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
(Signed) James Douglas

P.S. The Miners are allowed 1/- (one shilling) per diem instead of rations and will therefore provide their own provisions, which will save you much trouble.

List of Miners

John Muir	Oversman
Robert Muir	Miner
Archibald Muir	Miner
John McGregor	Miner P *Recovery*

Mr. John Muir had been in charge of the Miners at Fort Rupert and continued in the same capacity in Nanaimo.

During the period between August 24, 1852, and the end of September, 1853, a constant exchange of correspondence amounting to no less than eighty lengthy letters passed between James Douglas and Joseph McKay. These letters contained detailed instructions, reports, requests for supplies and trade vouchers of all kinds. It is only possible to capsule a few items of interest in the early development of Nanaimo when Joseph McKay was the dominant person in the fledgling community.

Sept. 9, 1852, McKay reported that:

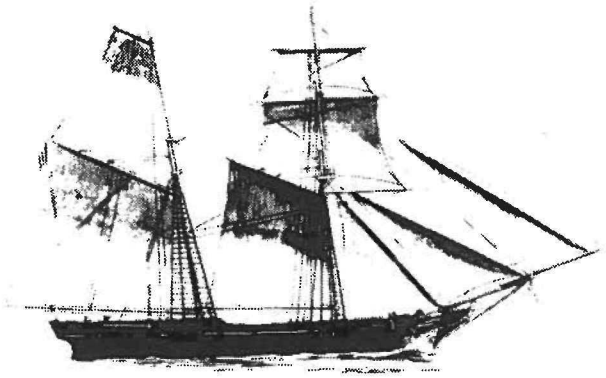
1. The *Cadboro* was loaded with 480 barrels of coal (first shipment).
2. The local Indians were working for payment of one shirt per day (or pay by tickets which they could collect until they had enough for the purchase of a blanket).
3. Sufficient wood had been prepared for a 25x12 foot house.
4. 1000 pieces of cedar bark for lining the house had been delivered by the Indians.
5. A salt spring had been discovered nearby that would produce salt by evaporation—one pint of salt could obtained from seven pints of water. (Salmon and venison were being preserved in barrels for the winter.)

Sept. 20, 1852—Douglas wrote to McKay that as a result of a letter sent to Mr. John Work about 15 reinforcement miners led by Mr. Boyd Gilmore would soon be arriving from Fort Rupert. McKay was ordered to build as many small houses as possible for their accommodation.

Sept. 30, 1852 - McKay informed Douglas by letter that the *Cadboro, Recovery,* and *Mary Dare* could only be loaded at the rate of 20 tons a day. (The *Mary Dare's* full load of coal was 200 tons.)

Oct. 6, 1852 - McKay reported that a second 25x15 foot building for accommodation for the miners was in progress.

Oct. 22, 1852 - McKay reported that the miners had reached a depth of 30 feet and that the second 25x15 foot building would be habitable in two or three days.



The *Cadboro*

June 2, 1853 -

1. The Bastion being built for protection from hostile Indians by two French Canadian axemen Leon Labine and Jean Baptiste Fortier was reported nearing completion.
2. Three dwelling houses 20x30 feet were habitable.
3. Four houses 25x15 feet and three houses 20x30 feet were in progress.

July 17, 1853 - McKay's letter to Douglas contained the announcement of the birth of a son, Alexander, to Mrs. Robert Dunsmuir and a child to the native wife of John Malcolm, labourer.

Sept. 12, 1853 - Douglas reported that he had contracted Francis Cote to construct dwelling houses 30x20 feet and expected 5 or 6 to be completed by the spring.

Sept. 27, 1853 - Douglas informed McKay that the *Colinda* had set sail from Gravesend August 1 with 40 miners.

The foregoing extracts from the frequent letters that passed back and forth from Douglas to McKay show the shrewd attention to detail by both men in the development of early Nanaimo. Douglas used his authority as Governor without consulting Hudson's Bay Headquarters in London to achieve the successful completion of many tasks in the shortest possible time. By their combined efforts and cooperation the coal production from Nanaimo for 1853 reached 2000 tons. Most of this coal was shipped to San Francisco where it was sold at $28 a ton. (The price at Nanaimo was $11 a ton.) The Hudson's Bay Company under the name of the Nanaimo Coal Company continued until 1861 when they sold out to the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company Limited.

On November 27, 1854, Joseph McKay had the pleasant duty of welcoming to Nanaimo the twenty-four Staffordshire miners and their families who had travelled on the *Princess Royal*. He had been instrumental in having houses built for them prior to their arrival. These Brierley Hill Miners had signed five year contracts with the Hudson's Bay Company. They joined the people already in residence in Nanaimo, some of whom had lived there for three years or more. Joseph McKay arranged the purchase of 6193 acres of land from the local native tribe (the payment was made in blankets) in December 1854. Shortly after this transaction he left Nanaimo for Fort Simpson and was succeeded by Capt. Stuart.

McKay continued to rise through the ranks of the Hudson's Bay Company, becoming a Chief Factor in 1872 while still a young man of forty-three. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island in 1856. In 1879 he retired from the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1883 he joined the Federal Indian Department. After a second successful career as Indian Agent he retired to Victoria, and died in 1900 at the age of 71, leaving a family of four daughters and one son.

Appendix A

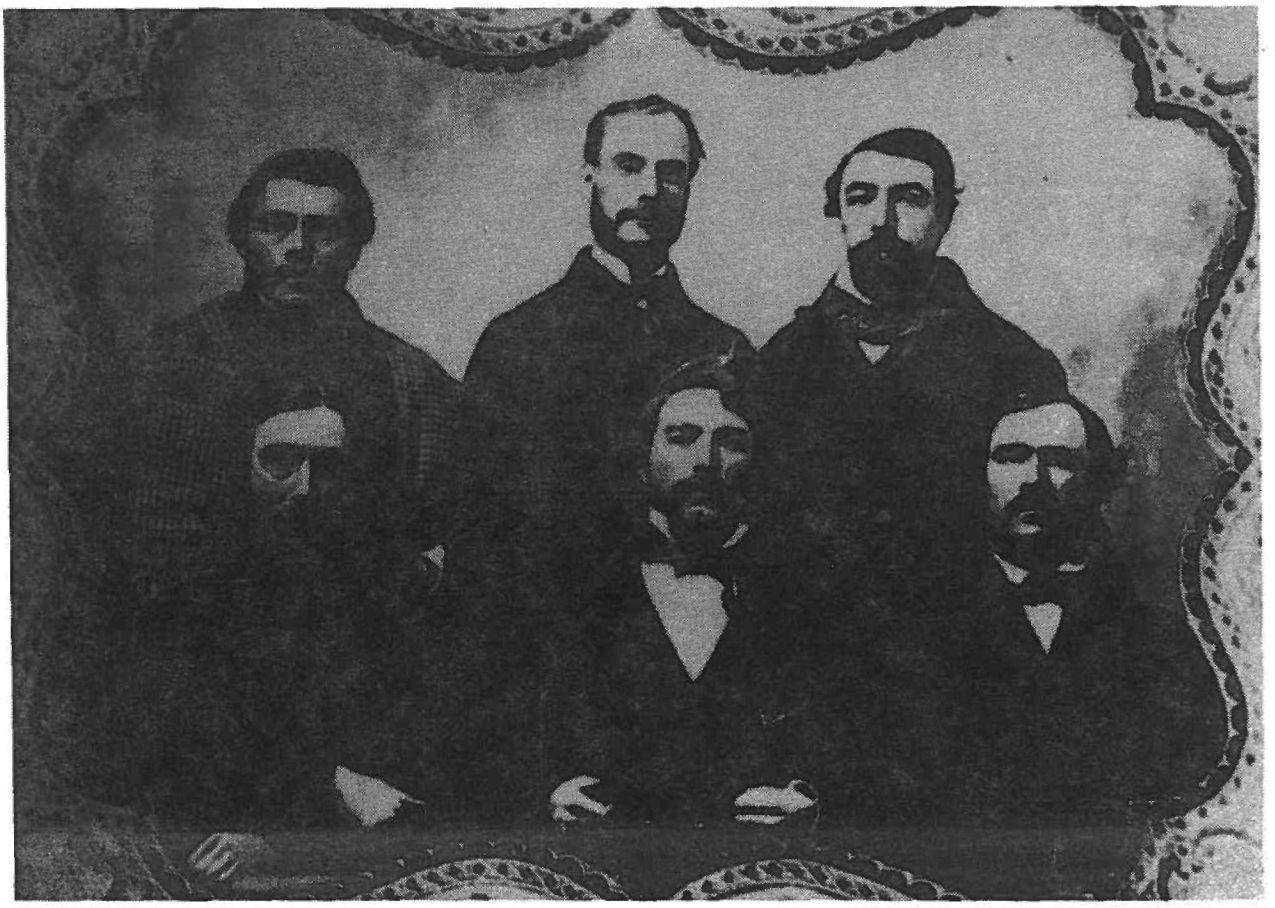
List of Passengers from England per Barque *Harpooner* 1849, Captain Grant's men.

Rose, James	Blacksmith and Engineer
McDonald, William	Joiner and House Builder
Tolmie, Thomas	Carpenter, etc.
Fraser, William	Farmer and Labourer
McDonald, William	Farmer and Labourer
Munro, Thomas	Gardener
McLeod, John	Labourer
Morrison, James	Farmer and Labourer
Muir, John	Oversman
Muir, Archibald	Collier and Labourer
Muir, Andrew	Collier and Labourer
Muir, Robert	Collier and Labourer
Muir, John	Collier and Labourer
Muir, Michael	Collier and Labourer
Smith, John	Collier and Labourer
McGregor, John	Collier and Labourer

Appendix B

Passengers arriving on the Barque *Tory*, 1851.

Hunter, Andrew
Malcolm, John
Linklater, James
Stove, James



PABC

Members of the First House of Assembly, Vancouver Island. Front row, left to right: Thomas Skinner, Dr. J.S. Helmcken, James Yates. Back row: J.W. McKay, J.D. Pemberton, and Joseph Porter (clerk).

Appendix C
List of Families who sailed from England June 1854, and Arrived at Nanaimo, November 27, 1854.

Princess Royal

Baker, George, wife, son and daughter
Baker, John, and wife
Bevilockway, Joseph L., wife, two sons, and daughter
Biggs, John and wife
Bull, George, wife and daughter
Dunn, Daniel, and wife
Ganner, Elijah, wife, two sons and two daughters
Gough, Edwin, wife, one son and one daughter
Harrision, William
Hawks, Thomas, wife, son and daughter
Incher, William
Jones, Thomas
Lowndes, Mrs. Thomas
Malpass, John, wife, son and daughter
Meakin, John, wife, and two sons.
Miller, Matthew, wife and two daughters
Richardson, Richard and wife
Richardson, John, wife, two sons, one daughter
Robinson, George, wife, son, daughter, and maid
Sage, Jesse, wife, two sons and daughter
Thompson, John and wife
Turner, Richard and daughter
Webb, Joseph and wife
York, Thomas, wife and two daughters

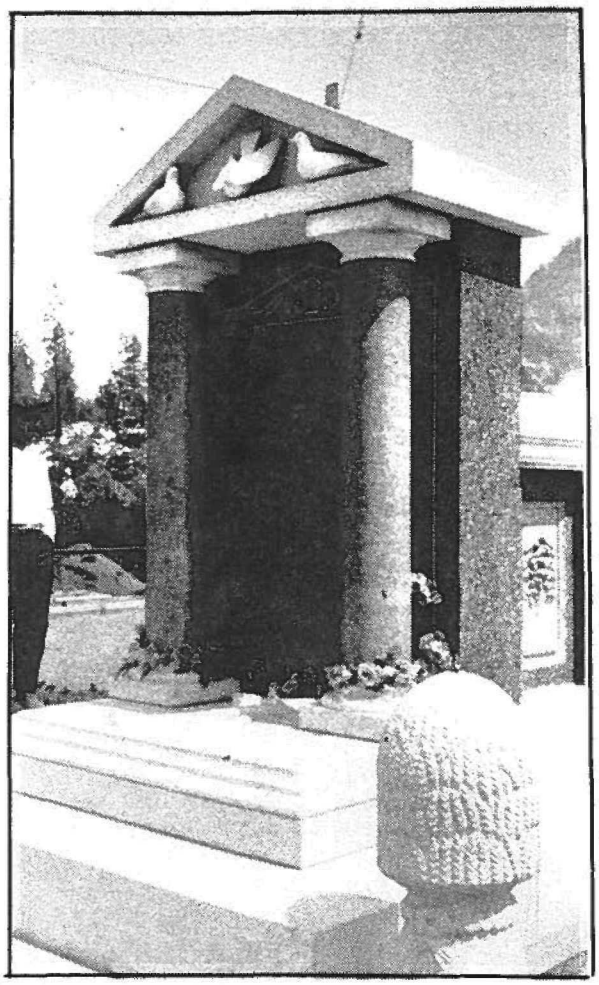
Barbara Stannard and Don Sale are long-term members of the Nanaimo Historical Society.

Elsie G. Turnbull

CEMETERY VISIT

An outstanding event in a Heritage-dominated spring was the symposium on British Columbia cemeteries held in Victoria in 1985. Highlighted by a tour of Ross Bay graveyard, the Chinese burial ground at Harling Point, the Jewish Cemetery, Synagogue Congregation Emanue-l and the Royal Navy Veteran's Cemetery at Esquimalt, it revealed the historic importance of how the human race reveres its dead. From the honored treatment of towering obelisks that mark the burial plots of important individuals, to small square contemporary plaques laid flush to the ground and inscribed with only name and dates, the cemetery is a place of fascination for the historian. Throughout British Columbia many interesting and unusual grave sites abound. In the Kootenays, for example, one may find the graves of Doukhobors and Hudson's Bay traders.

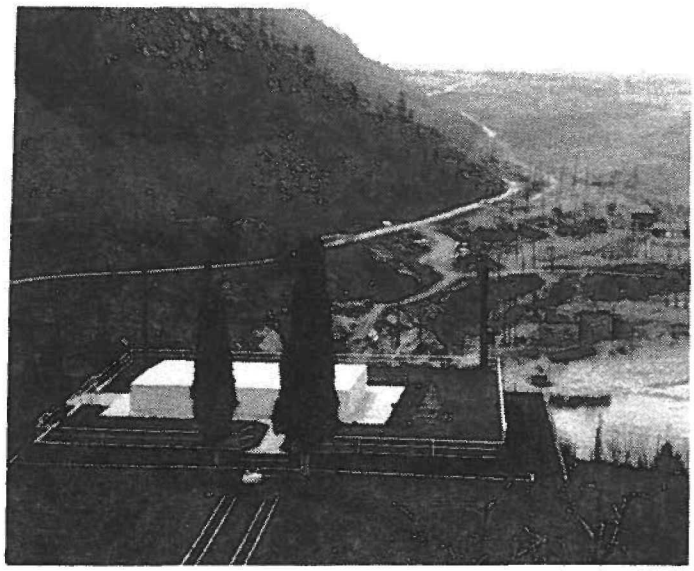
As if brooding over his people whose farms spread out in the valley below, Peter Lordly Veregin lies in a tomb on the cliffs above Kootenay River and the Doukhobor town of Brilliant. A broad slab of gleaming white concrete stands on a stone platform within a tree-lined square. Flowers and a carefully tended lawn add decoration, while a rockface on the hillside bears in the Russian language a lament for the fallen leader. In imagination one can recall the long file of grieving mourners, chanting and singing as they followed the recently slain leader up the trail from Brilliant on that dreary November morning in 1924, when he was carried to his final resting place.



Elsie Turnbull

Veregin's first tomb

Doukhobors in Russia and Canada, had purchased land from the British Columbia government at the junction of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers, where he set up the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood's successful venture into an industrial, agricultural and trading enterprise. Veregin's sudden death from an unexplained explosion in a train, as it wound its way from Brilliant to Grand Forks on the night of October 29, 1924, brought shock and grief to all the Doukhobor communities. This found expression in an elaborate monument with two columns, supporting a pediment bearing three white doves. Unfortunately, sporadic vandalism over the years destroyed this tombstone, whose shattered remains now decorate the base of the present rock platform.



Elsie Turnbull

Veregin's second tomb, 1954

Burial rites for ordinary Doukhobors exemplify their motto: "Toil and a Peaceful Life!" Graves standing in a cleared field are covered with a mound of stones and earth, sometimes decorated with artificial flowers, or simply marked with a white slab of wood. Much is made of the three symbols of Doukhobor spiritual belief—bread, which is considered the staff of life, salt, the essence, and water, the spirit of life. They repose nearby, perhaps as simply a slice of bread, a saltcellar, and a bottle of water on plate or basket. In earlier burials the symbols were placed in a glass-enclosed wooden box, which also held a wreath and photo of the dead. More modern interments have headstones of cement or granite with inscriptions in Russian and in English.

Elsie Turnbull

A graveside offering of bread, salt, and water

A Russian memorial with a different character is that commemorating Alexander and Alicia Zuckerberg, whose ashes repose on the highest point of an island in the swirling waters of the Columbia River near Castlegar. Two thoughtful, cultivated persons, the Zuckerbergs had fled the Russian revolution of 1917 to set up a life according to their own philosophy, in a land far from their birthplace of Estonia. Born in 1880, Alexander Zuckerberg was raised on a farm but attended the St. Petersburg Institute of Technology, graduating in civil engineering. He taught mathematics in St. Petersburg for many years but when life became more difficult after the revolution, he emigrated to Canada, settling with his wife and two children in Vancouver. In 1935 Peter Veregin, leader of the Doukhobors, asked him to establish a Russian language school in the Kootenays, and Zuckerberg came to Castlegar, leasing the small green island in the Columbia for several years before he became registered owner in 1951.

Here he built a small log cabin, heated by a pot-bellied stove, while he pondered the design for an island home that would embody Russian features. Crowned by an onion cupola and square tower with pointed roof, the house was reminiscent of the country home of his childhood. Within the house was Zuckerberg's extensive library as well as a room for practical work. He cobbled his own shoes, built the concrete causeway between his retreat and the mainland, and painted scenes of river and forest. Outside was a vegetable garden and a patch of grain for the rye bread he baked. In the shrubbery he carved the brooding figure of a naked woman seated on a giant stump.

Having come to teach in the Doukhobor schools at Raspberry and Brilliant, he extended coaching in mathematics to other students and took a vigorous interest in educational matters, teaching many classes. Surrounded by the swift-flowing Columbia River, he saved several people from drowning and in 1957 received a bronze medal from the Royal Humane Society for rescuing a child.

Alicia Zuckerberg, who had been a nurse and teacher in her Russian days, spent much of her time in Castlegar, in charge of a beauty salon and hair-dressing parlor. When she died in February 1960, Zuckerberg erected in her memory a low-

Elsie Turnbull

Zuckerberg house, Castlegar

relief statue of white plaster-of-paris beneath a protective pediment. Wearing the uniform of a nursing sister of the First World War, she stands with folded arms in front of a broad white cross in a group of trees overlooking the Columbia. One year later Zuckerberg himself died and his ashes were placed beside those of his wife.

In the far southeastern corner of British Columbia the quiet little cemetery of Roosville is the last resting place for many historic pioneers. This is land at one time belonging to the Kootenay Indians, known as "People of the Lakes" or "People of the Flatbow", who were fishing in the rivers, hunting in the mountains, and harvesting native tobacco plant long before the white man came. Now it is Reserve country and its residents have adopted many foreign ways. White and Indians are buried alike in the same graveyard.

One of the outstanding settlers was the Englishman, Michael Phillips. Bred and educated in the British tradition, he came out in 1864 to work for the fur-trading Hudson's Bay Company as a clerk at Fort Shepherd, and was put in charge of trading at Tobacco Plains, Wild Horse Creek, and Perry Creek. He resigned in 1870 and took up land for ranching along Phillips Creek, spending much time prospecting and exploring the upper waters of the Elk River. Phillips is credited with the blazing of the Crowsnest Pass and discovery of its coal fields. In 1887 he was appointed Indian Agent for the East Kootenay Reserve, and although he met opposition from Indians who disputed the right of white men to allocate lands upon which they had lived for years, he was able to avoid friction and to gain their support and admiration.

Soon after his arrival at Tobacco Plains, Michael Phillips married Rowena David, daughter of Kootenai Chief Paul David. They had a large family, many of whom now lie in Roosville cemetery. Michael and his wife are in graves outlined by white concrete. A white cross marks Rowena's resting place, while a slant-faced headstone commemorates her husband with the words, "To Memory Ever Dear".

Not far from the Phillips plot is that of Colin Sinclair, 1846 to 1910, and his wife Mary Ruby Phillips, whose life spanned the years 1873 to 1941. Member of a family tracing its engagement with the Hudson's Bay Company back to the year 1792, Colin Sinclair's grandfather William was born on the family freehold farm in the Orkney Islands, and received enough schooling to join the Hudson's Bay Company as a clerk in 1792. Sailing from Stromness to Rupert's Land, he was sent out from York Factory to establish new posts, and in time rose to be Chief Factor at Winnipeg and its environs. He died in 1818, leaving many descendants to become part of the fur-trading enterprise.

Of his sons, James Sinclair would conduct two groups from Red River over the Rocky Mountains, to take up settlement land in Oregon. The first contingent, setting out in 1841, crossed the Rockies by Whiteman Pass and found their way to the Columbia River Valley through Red Rock Gorge, a spectacular cut through blood-red cliffs now memorialized as Sinclair Canyon. On the expedition in 1854, Sinclair led his party on a rough new pass in the Kananaskis Valley.

In 1829, James Sinclair had married Elizabeth Bird, Scottish daughter of James Curtis Bird who was a retired Chief Factor living in Red River. She died in 1846 after giving birth to a son named Colin. James Sinclair married a second wife, Mary Campbell, who accompanied the family on James' second trip to Oregon. At this time young Colin, Elizabeth's son, was nine years old and he journeyed to Oregon riding across the prairies in a wooden two-wheeled cart that carried supplies.

James Sinclair was to meet his death in 1856 at the hands of an attacking Indian at the Cascade Falls of the Columbia River, but his son Colin would end his days in East Kootenay. Lured by the discovery of gold at Wild Horse, Colin took up homestead land in 1881 at Tobacco Plains in northern Montana. While living there he became a friend of Michael Phillips and in 1890 married Phillips' daughter Mary Ruby. Ten years later the Colin Sinclairs moved across the border into Canada where their decendants live to this day. For many years their son J.W. Sinclair served as Customs Sub-Collector at Roosville.

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The Doukhobors by George Woodcock and Ivan Avakumovic, pp. 225-232, and 257-260.
Zuckerberg Island, Historical Restoration Project Report for City of Castlegar, August 3, 1983.
The Story of the Tobacco Plains Country by Olga W. Johnson. pp. 19-24, and pp. 55-57.
Backtracking with Fernie Historical Association, pp. 17-21.
West of the Mountains, by Geneva Lent, p. 140, 142, 300.

Girl Guides of Canada Mark 75th Anniversary

Mabel Foster photo

Shortly after 1910, when the first Girl Guide companies were in Canada, the above company was formed in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. The leader, Mabel Sellars, is third from left in the second row. Please contact the Editor if you can identify the other women.

Peggy Cartwright

The Royal Governor and the Black Militia

In March 1858, word began to spread of "gold on the Fraser!" From the Puget Sound settlements in Washington Territory to San Francisco and around the world, the news travelled, and men came in search of fortunes to a hitherto unknown corner of the North American continent. They poured into Victoria by the thousands, to be outfitted and to continue on by ship, canoe, almost anything that would float, to the mainland and the dangerous ascent of the turbulent Fraser River.

The city of Victoria, capital of the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island, consisted then of a Hudson's Bay Company fort, with a fair-sized Indian village facing it across the harbor. The population, exclusive of Indians, was less than three hundred. Once the gold rush was started, Victoria doubled, trebled, quadrupled in size. Its wooden buildings and the prevalence of fires inspired the formation of three volunteer fire companies, the Deluge Company (British), the Tiger Company (American), and the Union Hook & Ladder Company. These convivial groups of citizens were devoted not only to the rescue of their city from burning, but to social gatherings such as family picnics and parades in full regalia. They let it clearly be understood that despite the fact that approximately eight percent of Victoria's population was colored, the volunteer fire companies would remain exclusively white.

There was, however, an all-Black organization at least equal in importance to the fire companies: the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps. Formed in 1860 by authority of Governor James Douglas, who also saw that it was armed with old Hudson's Bay muskets, the forty-odd members of the Pioneer Rifle Corps drilled twice weekly under their captain, Richard Johnson, for the following four years. Then, in 1864, the power and authority of the colony was transferred to a new governor.

Suddenly, there was a great upsurge of nervous activity in the planning of two separate but related events, an appropriate farewell to James Douglas and a suitably impressive welcome to Arthur Edward Kennedy. A suggestion that these two events be combined in one large, community banquet, was put down as impractical. A Management Committee was appointed and met on the 26th of February, 1864, to lay plans for the proper reception of Governor Kennedy. His Worship, Mayor Harris (he was fond of referring to himself as "an 'umble tradesman", since he had been Victoria's first butcher), presided. John T. Pidwell, prominent businessman, pious Methodist, and self-appointed civic leader, acted as secretary. Also present were representatives of Victoria's three volunteer fire-fighting companies, members of the Hebrew Benevolent Association, and the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps. The fact that Negroes were excluded from the volunteer fire companies, though they had repeatedly offered their services in the beginning, added to the discomfort of the Management Committee. And the fact that John T. Pidwell had been Honorary Secretary of the Victoria Volunteer Rifles No. 1, now defunct (it had lapsed out of existence for lack of attendance), did not increase his affection for the Pioneer Rifle Corps.

Pidwell had arrived in Victoria at the age of fifty, and speedily achieved prominence as the proprietor of the city's foremost furniture emporium. His business fell far short of absorbing his boundless energy, the excess of which he devoted to civic works and horseback riding. His uninhibited style in the saddle was a source of wonder and dismay to his family and fellow Victorians. He was in at the start of almost everything. He rather wished now that he had kept a sharper eye on the progress of the Victoria Volunteer Rifles No. 1, but since he had not, he decided to turn their decay into an asset by blandly announcing that "the other rifle corps" was not going to take part, as they were rusty from inactivity, and it was thought best, since Captain Kennedy was a military man, not to give him a military type of reception unless it could be

very well done. At this point Richard Johnson stated to the Management Committee that the Pioneer Rifle Corps was well drilled and had too much pride to appear at all unless they were able to do so properly. John T. Pidwell reiterated his statement that no military were to take part.

The *British Colonist* carried a full report of the meeting in the next day's newspaper. Then the letters to the editor started to appear. The first was from an indignant member of the late Victoria Volunteer Rifles No. 1, asking John T. Pidwell who had made him spokesman for the corps, and asserting that "the late corps could with one week's close drill be made presentable in a procession," and calling it disgraceful not to include them. Members of the Pioneer Rifle Corps refrained throughout from writing letters to the paper.

While carefully not taking sides, the *British Colonist* chose to reprint an article from the *New York Tribune* of February 9th: "The 20th Regiment of the United States Colored Troups is now fully recruited, upwards of 700 men are at Riker's Island and the remainder are at Elmira. Almost every county in the State of New York is represented in this fine regiment." The *British Colonist* ran the dispatch in full, adding that the regiment contained "friends of some of our colored citizens of this city," and giving the names of socially prominent New York women who had met at the Union League Club House "to appoint a committee to procure a stand of colors for presentation to the 20th Regiment."

If the planners were susceptible to being shamed it was not apparent. On March 1st, under the heading, "Reception Committee", there was a report of a meeting held in the Council Chamber the day before. Preparations were going along merrily. Three arches, with inscriptions, were to be erected, and two bands had been engaged. Invitations to participate in the festivities had been sent to distinguished citizens and local benevolent societies. The volunteer fire companies were not mentioned, but it was recorded that a motion was passed "that no Society or organized body shall be permitted to form in the line of order other than the one assigned to them by the Marshall of the day."

Ignored in the invitations, given to understand that they were not wanted when a city-wide reception for their new governor was being planned, the blow to the pride of the Pioneer Rifle Corps was a bitter hurt. But it was soon clear that the decision of the Reception Committee by no means reflected the total climate of opinion in the city. An irate letter denouncing the obviously prejudiced actions of the Reception Committee with considerable force was followed in a few days by a letter from another member of the "late No. 1 Company". The writer paid warm tribute to Black soldiers of the Queen, then answered his own question, "Were the late corps still in existence, would I parade with the colored folks?" with, "Why not? If they could go through their evolutions better than we, the more credit to them!" In conclusion, he remarked that "some of those who now decry the colored corps and decline to walk with them, would probably in case of a disturbance feel much more secure with an additional score or two of Rifles at their backs, even though carried by black men."

The next issue of the *British Colonist* contained, in a report of the Reception Committee's March 7th meeting, the information that Richard H. Johnson, Captain of the Pioneer Rifle Corps, had addressed the committee, stating the desire of the corps to take part in the reception for Captain Kennedy, and respectfully requesting that they be assigned their proper place in the procession.

The following day there were no letters, no comments or reports about either the Banquet or the Reception. There was news of the war, brought by the *Eliza Anderson*, in from Olympia with files of the *Oregonian* and other papers. Also, the *Brother Jonathan* had arrived with the latest news from San Francisco. The North was doing well at last—with Chattanooga and Gettysburg behind him, Grant had assumed supreme command over more than a million men.

On March 10th, the date of the "Grand Banquet to Sir James Douglas", the *British Colonist* printed a letter written by an old friend of the retiring Governor, Dr. John C. Davie. It was a long letter which began by noting that the doctor's "two respectable neighbors, Messrs. Lester and Gibbs, have been refused tickets for the approaching banquet because they are men of color." That which was "wrong in principle must ultimately prove mischievous in practice," Dr. Davie warned, and therefore the venerable Scottish surgeon would not attend the banquet, despite his high regard for Governor Douglas.

The banquet which took place that night was the occasion for much speech-making, and the proposal of toasts ranging from one "To Foreign Residents of Victoria," at which the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," and other national

anthems, to a toast to "The Press," which the paper regretted was made by a gentleman who was "not sufficiently audible to be understood."

Sir James Douglas bore it all with grace and equanimity. He departed amid cheering and flag waving on March 14th, and the members of the Reception Committee then turned their undivided attention to the welcome for Governor Kennedy, to take place in just ten days. Meanwhile, the ornamental arches were causing some problems, or rather, the inscriptions on them were. One letter to the editor asked "Pidwell & Co." to be so kind as to translate what the writer called "this choice piece of vulgarity." Reference was to a Latin inscription of dubious merit.

Pidwell was incensed. He wrote several drafts of a reply, and became so wrought up that only a ride could relieve his feelings. Alas, the answer which he composed and sent to the paper as from "Pidwell & Co." only drew a scathing critique from another Latin scholar. Still, the Reception Committee plunged on, causing startled reflexes among friend and foe alike, rather after the manner of Pidwell on horseback, until the great day finally came.

Almost the entire population of Victoria converged on the Dickson, Campbell & Co. wharf to which Her Majesty's Gunboat *Grappler* brought the new Governor and his family. Their ship had docked earlier at Esquimalt, as large ocean steamers had to, the harbor at Victoria being too shallow for them.

Mayor Harris, sundry Councillors and other notables, all with their wives, greeted the Governor and Mrs. Kennedy and their two grown daughters, as they landed. His Excellency replied with a short but gracious speech. Then, in a carriage drawn by six splendid horses, embedded in a procession composed of the three volunteer fire companies, two bands, the French and Hebrew Benevolent Societies, and the carriages of dignitaries, the Kennedy family were taken on a tour of the city, under the ornamental arches with their debatable Latin inscriptions, and eventually deposited at the St. George Hotel.

It appeared that the Reception Committee had exhausted itself in planning the welcome. The matter of where the new Governor and his family were to be housed had somehow been overlooked. There were those who said this was a fortunate oversight, especially because Kennedy was a man of means and definite tastes. He first rented a house from a local tycoon, then bought a half-finished mansion on Rockland Hill and permitted the provincial government to stand the cost of completing it for him, thus establishing an official residence for the Royal Governors of the colony.

Three days after his arrival, Captain Kennedy was formally inaugurated as Governor of Vancouver Island. An "Address of the People" was presented by a committee consisting of Mr. Pidwell and four other men of distinction in Victoria.

Two days later an item appeared in the *British Colonist:* "Members of the Pioneer Rifle Corps will proceed today in uniform to the Government buildings for the purpose of presenting an address to His Excellency the Governor."

They were as smart, as polished, as precisely drilled as Governor Kennedy expected they would be. He had learned during his years in Gambia and Sierra Leone that when Africans set out to stage a ceremonial display, they had few peers, and none who could surpass them in disciplined coordination combined with zest.

At eleven o'clock exactly, the band of eight which had played them from the drill hall where they assembled, along Government Street and across the James Bay Bridge, hit the last bar of "The March of the Men of Harlech" and the company stood at attention in front of the government buildings, where His Excellency awaited them.

Governor Kennedy stepped forward to receive the salute. Then A.H. Frances, chosen because his voice had a clear, pleasing ring that carried without effort in a hall or on the parade ground, took two paces out from the center of the line and read the address. The wording was graceful but concise. Following the opening expression of devotion to the person and Government of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, the members of the Pioneer Rifle Corps conveyed their regret to Governor Kennedy "that in the general rejoicing over Your Excellency's arrival we were precluded, on account of an anti-English prejudice against our color, from the honor as well as the pleasure of taking part in the procession as a military company—a company whose highest aim is to be of service to Her Majesty and whose greatest privilege is to be Her Majesty's most loyal subjects."

The address then made reference to the company's having been organized under the sponsorship of Sir James Douglas, then stated the

satisfaction they felt in the knowledge that Governor Kennedy adhered to the non-recognition of distinction in class, creed, color, and nationality that formed the basis of English law, "principles that found in your great Curran so eloquent an expounder in days gone by". A damn good reference, the Governor noted, the brilliant, incorruptible John Curran, champion of the humble against the rich and mighty. Whoever put the address together had a touch of brilliance, too—also the good sense to be brief, for the soldier who had read it was closing with the signature, "R.H. Johnson, Captain, on behalf of the Company", and stepping back into the line.

Kennedy first thanked them for their sentiments of loyalty to the Crown and to himself as Her Majesty's representative. As to their being excluded from the procession, he hoped they were laboring under a misapprehension; however, he could not affect ignorance of the prejudice that existed in the colony. But they must know from the instructions he had received from Her Majesty's Government and from his own sentiments, expressed already in his inaugural speech, that no distinctions could be made in class, color, or nationality.

He sketched the administrative patterns in African colonies where he had served as governor, and where numerous officials in the government were black men. He referred to having learned since his arrival in Victoria that there were many highly respected colored members of the community. He advocated patience in overcoming prejudice, at the same time expressing surprise that it should exist in an English colony such as Victoria, and attributing it "to influences from the sister country." He even touched carefully upon the Civil War, rooted in the question of slavery, that was being fought in that country.—It was no secret that many Victoria businessmen supported the South, as much from personal inclination as because they believed Southern commercial policy to be more advantageous to them. It was also known that Victoria harbored agents who reported to Washington, and who worked to promote feeling in favor of annexation.

Kennedy hadn't meant to speak at such length. Something—a nostalgia for the days of his first governorships in African colonies, or the fine military bearing and precision of the men before him—had caught him up and carried him along. He realized that he had enjoyed this encounter, and it had brought him greater satisfaction than anything that had happened since his arrival in Victoria. But it was time to bring it to a close. He repeated that he knew no distinction in the colony but between loyal and disloyal—the honest and dishonest. He thanked them again for the sentiments they had expressed in their address and hoped they would always adhere to them.

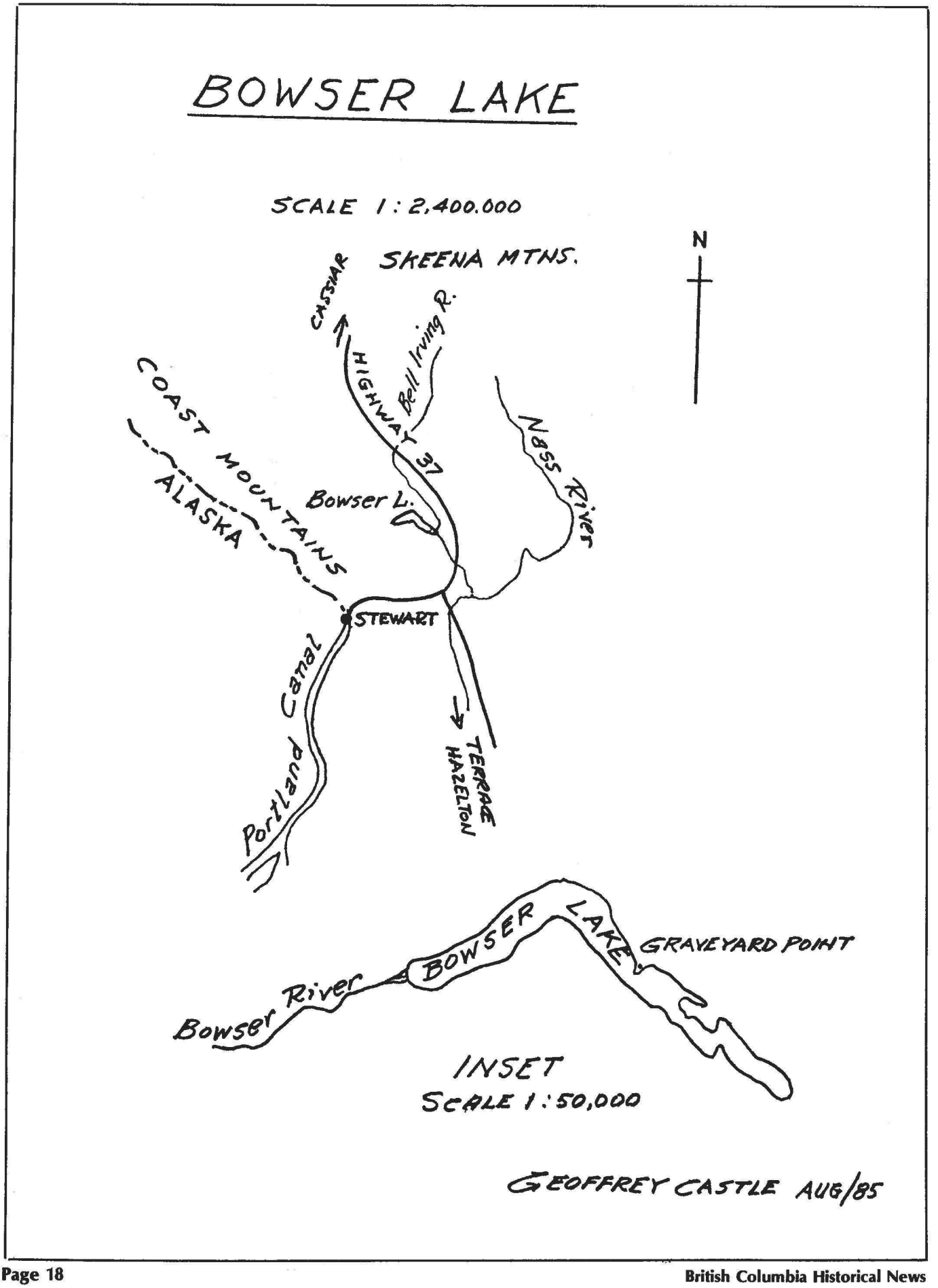
The members of the Pioneer Rifle Corps gave a cheer for His Excellency. The band played "God Save The Queen" while everyone stood at attention. Then Richard Johnson gave the order and the Company wheeled about smartly and marched off.

The Governor returned to his task of presiding over a disparate collection of amateur politicians whom he suspected of shrewdly manipulating the affairs of the colony, each with an eye to where the greatest advantage lay to himself.

It is tempting to speculate on what may have become of the members of the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps. How many of them returned to the United States after the Civil War ended? How many remained in British Columbia, and are any of their descendants still in Canada? We do know that one member of the Corps, Paris Carter, lived for the rest of his life in Victoria and was in the business of hauling goods in his own van, which was smashed up in a collision with Governor Richards' carriage, after the horses had bolted and the Governor and his wife had been dumped in a ditch. The only person seriously injured in the accident was Paris Carter, who managed to stop the runaway team and hold the horses' heads until help arrived.

Of the other members of the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps there seems to be no record. Perhaps now that interest is turning towards a restoration of the early history of British Columbia, to include all the first settlers, more will come to light. The frontier province has still many facets of its past that are little known and the fictions which have been accepted over the years are far less vital and revealing than the facts of its mixed and colorful history.

Peggy Cartwright has a special interest in the colonial history of British Columbia.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Portland Canal
TERRACE
HAZELTON
Bowser River
BOWSER LAKE
GRAVEYARD POINT
INSET
SCALE 1 : 50,000
GEOFFREY CASTLE AUG/85

Landmarks

Geoffrey Castle

Simon Peter Gunanoot— A Legend in His Own Time

Graveyard Point is a promontory on the northern shore of Bowser Lake, about 60 kilometres northeast of Stewart, B.C. On this point, at an elevation of 390 metres, a pile of weathered boards marks the grave of Simon Peter Gunanoot who, in less than the thirteen years he was a fugitive from justice, became a legend.

On June 19, 1906, Gunanoot (Zghun-min-hoot—meaning young bears that run up trees), otherwise Simon Peter Johnson, was alleged to have shot and killed Alex MacIntosh following an altercation in the Two Mile Hotel, a dubious tavern in the care of James Cameron, generally known as "The Geezer".

The dispute appears to have concerned Simon's wife, Sarah. Patrons later confirmed that they heard Simon threaten to shoot Alex who was killed with a single shot in the back sometime between 6 and 7 o'clock next morning. As it happened, another man, Max Leclair, was also shot in a similar manner the same day near the present location of the bridge at Hazelton. Furthermore, Simon was seen riding away from the area. He also had a reputation of being a crack shot with a rifle. In any event, all the circumstantial evidence pointed to Simon so he decided to flee in the face of James Kirby of Hazelton Detachment of the B.C. Police swearing out warrants for Simon's arrest and organizing a hunt for him.

Up to that time, Simon Gunanoot was a respected and hard-working individual. He and his wife ran a store at Hazelton. He had a productive farm 80 kilometres to the north. Simon was also a successful trapper. In view of this good record, it might be difficult to understand why, if he were innocent of the charges, he would forsake all for the life of a fugitive. Perhaps the overwhelming consideration was that life would be impossible for him if all contact with the environment were lost, even if only for a short time.

A suspected accomplice, Peter Himadam, together with his wife, Christine, accompanied Simon, Sarah and his wife, and the children to Bear Lake where it was familiar country and felt safe. Simon's father Nah-Gun Johnson also went along, discouraging his son from giving himself up. For the first two years, the authorities spent much time, effort and money trying to track down Simon. A $300 reward was offered and gradually raised to $2,000 without producing the desired results. The Attorney General, W.J. Bowser, was kept informed of the progress—or rather the lack of it—almost daily. It had to be admitted that 10,000 square miles stretching from the Nass River to the Ominica Mountains, and from the Nechako River to the Stikine River was a lot of territory. Enticements, ruses and persuasions were of no avail. Even the arrest of Nah-gun failed to attract Simon, especially since the old man managed to escape.

Eventually, the services of Pinkerton's International Detective Agency, founded during the American Civil War, were obtained, but they, too, were unsuccessful. Over the ensuing years, prospectors, friends and well-wishers, upon meeting Simon, would try to encourage him to surrender voluntarily. Eventually, through Simon's friend, George Beirnes, meetings were set up with Victoria lawyer, Stuart Henderson. Henderson had a reputation for winning cases for Indian people and apparently convinced Simon that his case stood a favourable chance in court

Accordingly, on June 24, 1919, Simon Gunanoot turned himself over to the Hazelton police. After his October trial in Vancouver, lasting barely 15 minutes, Simon was acquitted and Henderson received $20,000 in fees, a fortune in those days. A few months later, Peter Himadam was also acquitted.

Simon Gunanoot returned to the life he knew and enjoyed best—trapping. In 1933, now aged 60, Simon succumbed to a bout of pneumonia and was buried next to his father, Nah-Gun, who died 25 years earlier and was buried at Graveyard Point. Peter Himadam died in 1937 near his birthplace on the Bear River. With the news of the death of Sarah Gunanoot in 1958, memories were again easily rekindled as they would be again when James Kirby passed on in 1965, aged 100.

Whether or not Simon Gunanoot was actually guilty of the murders, his impact on Canadian history and culture will endure. Certainly it is unique having two major geographic features named after someone once accused of a double killing. They are Mount Gunanoot, near the head of the Spatsizi River, and Gunanoot Lake, north of the Babine River.

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Geoffrey Castle is an archivist with the Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

Back Issues of the News

Back issues of the *News* can be ordered at $3.50 each plus postage from the Editor.

Deadline for Next Issue
December 1, 1985

Please submit all material for the B.C. Historical News (except book reviews) to the Editor, 1745 Taylor Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8.

Book reviews should be sent to Dr. P. Roy, #602, 139 Clarence Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2J1

Contest

We have received just two letters so far, giving us suggestions for improving the *Historical News*. Assuming that we are not *THAT* perfect, the contest is being kept open for another three months.

The handsome prize, *Sunlight in the Shadows, The Landscape of Emily Carr*, by Michael Breuer and Kerry Dodd (Oxford University Press, 1984) is surely worth a few lines of constructive criticism of the *Historical News*. Please send all entries to the Editor, 1745 Taylor Street, Victoria, V8R 3E8, by December 1, 1985.

A Page From the 1868 Victoria Directory

The Following Articles will be admitted Free of Duty:

Agricul ural Implements, Books Printed and Manuscript, Bricks, all Fresh Fruits not enumerated in Schedule of Specific Duties, Coin, Gunny Sacks, Iron and Steel, all kinds of Woods not enumerated in Schedule of Specific Duties, Calves under 12 mont s old, Personal Effects, Salt, Garden Seeds, Grain for Seed, Tar and Pitch, Tin, Copper and Zinc, Wire (iron and brass) Copper Sheets, Boiler-plates and Bolts and Patent Metal for Ships, Iron Hoops, Sheet Iron, Rough and Partially Manufactured Woods used in construction of Carriages and Wagons, and Steel Springs, Anchors, Cables, Chains and Copper Bolts for Ship Building, Fresh Fish, Fish Oil, Whalebone, Raw Hemp for Rope making, Tallow, Gas Retorts, Fire Clay, Furs, Hides Lemon and Lime Juice, Guano, Wool, Oakum, Jute, Wagon Axles, Ship's Blocks and Junk, and Blacksmith's Coal, Lead in pipe, sheets and bars.

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News and Notes

Sir Anthony Musgrave Honoured

Sir Anthony Musgrave, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 1869 to 1871, encouraged the province to enter the Dominion, which it did on July 20, 1871. On this day in July 1985 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada paid tribute to Musgrave at a ceremony in Government House, Victoria. His Honour the Honourable Robert G. Rogers, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, assisted by the Honourable Allan McKinnon, M.P., unveiled a plaque that will be permanently displayed on the grounds of Government House.

A career Imperial civil servant, Musgrave served as governor of Newfoundland from 1864 to 1869, before coming to British Columbia. He subsequently held vice-regal office in Natal, South Australia, Jamaica, and Queensland. He was knighted in 1875 and died in Queensland in 1888.

WRITING COMPETITION

The British Columbia Historical Federation invites submission of books or articles for the third annual competition for writers of British Columbia History.

Any book with historial content published in 1985 is eligible. Whether the work was prepared as a thesis or a community project, for an industry or an organization, or just for the pleasure of sharing a pioneer's reminiscences, it is considered history as long as names, dates and locations are included. Stories told in the vernacular are acceptable when indicated as quotations of a story teller. Writers are advised that judges are looking for fresh presentation of historical information with relevant maps and/or pictures. A Table of Contents and an adequate Index are a must for the book to be of value as a historical reference. A Bibliography is also desirable. Proof reading should be thorough to eliminate typographical and spelling errors.

Submit your book with your name, address, and telephone number to:

British Columbia Historical Federation
c/o Mrs. Naomi Miller
Box 105
Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0

Please include the selling price of the book and an address from where it may be purchased.

Book contest deadline is January 31, 1986.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There will also be a prize for the writer of the best historical article published in the **British Columbia Historical News** quarterly magazine. Articles are to be submitted directly to:

The Editor
British Columbia Historical News
1745 Taylor Street
Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8

Written length should be no more then 2,500 words, substantiated with footnotes if possible, and accompanied by photographs if available. Deadlines for the quarterly issues are September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1.

Winners will be invited to the British Columbia Historical Federation Convention in Vancouver in May 1986.

MUSEUMS/ARCHIVES

Police Archives Established in Victoria

A Police Archive Project, funded by British Columbia Heritage Trust, was undertaken in Victoria, B.C. during the summers of 1984 and 1985. The initial project in 1984 was the outgrowth of a concern shared by Chief Bill Snowdon of the Victoria City Police, Dr. Marjorie Mitchell, Anthropology and Forensic Science instructor at Camosun College, and by the writer. It was realized that the Victoria City Police historical records, dating from 1866, were of considerable historical interest, but inadequate storage facilities, the deteriorating condition of many documents and the lack of any classification made research extremely difficult and time-consuming. Furthermore, it was apparent that restoration and cataloguing was essential for all inactive historical records in order to retard further deterioration, and to make them more accessible, at least on a limited basis, for research.

The purpose of the project was two-fold: first to provide Victoria City Police with a detailed descriptive inventory of all historical documents and early police photographs, and second, to provide a catalogue and finding-aid system that would enable researchers to locate records while minimizing unnecessary handling of these fragile documents.

As a result of the 1984 Archive Project at Victoria City Police, both Chief Peter Marriott of Esquimalt Police and Chief Bill Moyes of Oak Bay Police expressed interest in establishing comparable archival resources for their own historical police records, dating from 1915 and 1912 respectively. As well, the discovery of additional records at Victoria City Police and donations to the department required cataloguing.

British Columbia Heritage Trust provided a second grant for the summer of 1985. In order to ensure consistency among the three police department archives, the catalogue and finding aid system devised in 1984 was applied to Esquimalt and Oak Bay.

A numerical cataloguing system, organized by subject matter, was developed with the assistance of the B.C. Provincial Archives. Individual index cards were prepared which provide a description of the contents, date, location, and condition of each document and a catalogue number. The Victoria City Police also has a large collection of police department photographs dating from the 1870s. These were assigned catalogue numbers and an inventory was prepared. Unframed photographs were placed in individual envelopes and labelled. Minor conservation measures were undertaken to safeguard the older records at Victoria City Police by binding more fragile volumes with cotton tape.

Recommendations for use of the Archives by researchers were submitted to the police departments. Following a security check required by the police departments, researchers will be requested to use pencil only, and to refrain from smoking or consuming food or beverages while working with historical documents. The most important recommendation is that researchers not be allowed to use the records unsupervised.

The project was a process of examining documents and photographs to determine age, content, historical significance, and physical condition. The archival system, as devised for the project, could be applied to any police department, with the assistance of student employment grants.

The importance of preserving and maintaining historical police documents, photographs and artifacts cannot be overemphasized. They provide a window on the history not only of individual police departments, but also of communities and society in general. From the perspective of researchers, police archives are a valuable source of information about changing patterns of crime and enforcement. From the perspective of police officers, the materials can help to promote a sense of pride in the history of his or her own department.

Lacey Hansen-Brett

Canadian Historical Association

Dr. W. Kaye Lamb Honoured

The Canadian Historical Association recently honored Dr. W. Kaye Lamb for his many contributions to British Columbia history by presenting him with one of its Certificates of Merit. Dr. Patricia Roy, the British Columbia representative on the C.H.A.'s Regional History Committee, made the presentation at the May meeting of the Vancouver Historical Society. The citation accompanying the Certificate read as follows:

The distinguished literary scholar, Roy Daniells, once wrote:

Kaye Lamb reminds one of the European scholar about whom it was asked, "does he contribute to learned journals?", to which it was replied, "He founds them." Lamb's role as Provincial Librarian and Archivist in British Columbia, as Librarian at U.B.C. and, supremely, as Dominion Archivist and first incumbent of the National Library, together with his ceaseless research into historical documents, give him the status of a founding father of Canadian studies. [Dalhousie Review, *vol. 51 (Winter 1971-72), p. 590.*]

While Dr. Lamb has been widely acclaimed for his role in fostering Canadian Studies, he has made a very special contribution to historical studies in British Columbia. While Provincial Librarian and Archivist (1934-1940), he founded the British Columbia Historical Quarterly *(1937), a journal renowned for the quality of its scholarship, the diversity of its readership, and its unique role in encouraging the scholarly study of British Columbia history. Dr. Lamb edited this journal until 1946 and regularly contributed articles and edited documents. Over the years, Dr. Lamb has also written articles on British Columbia's history in the Canadian Historical Association* Annual Report, *the* Canadian Historical Review, *the* Beaver *and other historical journals. In all, Dr. Lamb has published at least thirty-eight articles or edited documents relating to British Columbia.*

Dr. Lamb's special interests in British Columbia history have focussed on transportation and exploration. His widely acclaimed History of the Canadian Pacific Railway *(1977), though national in scope, has a particular interest for British Columbia. He is also the co-author (with Norman Hacking) of* The Princess Story *(1974), a history of a coastal shipping fleet. His long interest in exploration of the north west coast and of the interior of British Columbia is attested to by his editions of the writings of John McLoughlin (1940-1944), Daniel Harmon (1957), Simon Fraser (1960), Gabriel Franchere (1969), and Alexander Mackenzie (1970). His edition of Vancouver's Voyages, published by the Hakluyt Society (1985) maintains the high standard of historical scholarship and literary elegance for which Dr. Lamb's other work has been justifiably praised.*

Certificate of Merit Awards

The Regional History Committee of the Canadian Historical Association invites nominations for its Certificate of Merit awards. These annual awards are given for outstanding publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional history. Nominations for British Columbia and the North should be sent, along with a brief statement of why the individual or organization is being nominated and supporting documentation such as a publication, reviews, or newspaper clippings relating to a project, to: Patricia E. Roy, Department of History, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2. To ensure inclusion in the 1986 competition, nominations should be received by December 1, 1985.

Bookshelf

Piper's Lagoon: A Historic and Captivating Vancouver Island Park. Vi Henderson. Nanaimo: Quadra Graphics Ltd., 1984. Pp. 52, $6.95.

Vi Henderson has put into words what so many lovers of Piper's Lagoon Park feel, and she is to be thanked for her affectionate description of this jewel which lies in the midst of suburban Nanaimo.

The spit head is a primeval place where the closeness of the city is forgotten. Here on a rocky headland youngsters play at games of pirates, families scramble over rocks and around twisted Garry oaks, couples find places in which to be alone.

Anyone who has walked the smooth-pebbled beach of "the spit" on a blustery winter day, or has toasted on that same beach in the hot sun of summer and watched southbound sailboats do a spinaker run before a fair weather wind will want to read this little book. Anyone who has dug clams in the mud of the lagoon emptied of its water at low tide, or gathered oysters on the ocean side or pried mussels off rocks, roasted them in a beach fire 'til the shells open and eaten the little peanutty morsels will agree that Piper's Lagoon is worth having a book written in its honour.

The author's celebration of these natural wonders includes a section on the history of the area. Unfortunately, this section is incomplete, omitting as it does any more than a mention of the Place and Planta families. In addition, Mrs. Henderson's otherwise clearly written prose is marred by the use of such words as "noachian" which sends the reader to the dictionary.

Quadra Graphics of Nanaimo has done an excellent job in the production of this book. It is small, handsome and well-designed. It would fit easily into a jacket pocket, knapsack or picnic basket on an outing to Piper's Lagoon Park.

Lynne Bowen is the author of *Boss Whistle: The Coal Miners of Nanaimo Remember.*

Patricia Roy is the Book Review Editor. Copies of books for review should be sent to her at 602-139 Clarence St., Victoria V8V 2J1

Battery Flashes of W.W. II: A Thumbnail Sketch of Canadian Artillery Batteries during the 1939-1945 Conflict. D.W. Falconer. Victoria: D.W. Falconer, 1985. Pp. 496, illus. $19.95 paper.
(Available from the author, 1225 May St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 2S8 at $19.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling Canadian; $2.78, International)

In compiling *Battery Flashes of World War II,* D.W. (Wilf) Falconer has produced a remarkable reference tool for those interested in the history of the Royal Canadian Artillery. It is possible to trace individual units from formation, through service either on the home front with the 6th, 7th, and 8th Divisions, or overseas with the Canadian Active Service Force, to disbandment.

Using General Orders: 1939-1946, War diaries, unit histories, and other documents such as site fighting books and organizational orders, Falconer has produced "thumbnail" sketches of individual units, relating salient facts such as where they served, in what actions, and, often, which ordnance was employed in the course of operations. Where appropriate, the compiler chronicles changes in a unit's designation as a result of operational requirements, and indicates its inclusion within larger formations such as infantry divisions, corps or armies. A brief description at the head of each major section, and an extensive table of abbreviations, assist researchers who are not familiar with the specialized terminology of the artillery. A bibliography provides additional background. Written descriptions and some illustrations in the appendix will be of interest to collectors and those attempting to catalogue uniforms.

British Columbia has a long association with the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. Using this book, a researcher can determine which units served in this province, when, and where; changes in designation, and which of B.C. origin served overseas. *Battery Flashes of World War II* is as useful a reference source as it is an impressive piece of research and compilation. It is vital to any collection concerned with Canadian military history.

Dave Parker, a curator at the Provincial Museum, is the co-author of the recently published Helicopters: The B.C. Story.

Children of the First People. Dorothy Haegart. Vancouver: Tillacum Publishers, 202-986 Homer Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2W7.

Children of the First People is more than the picture book of Indian children it appears to be at first glance. It is, rather, a compilation of the memoirs of ten elderly Indian women and men of their childhood years, illustrated with black-and-white photographs of the storytellers and numerous photographs of modern Indian children. Dorothy Haegert, a professional photographer living in Victoria, spent four summers travelling the southern coastal area of British Columbia photographing the children, and another one and a half years collecting the memoirs. What she has produced is an oral cultural history, albeit a brief one, of the southern coastal Indians during the transitional period "between two ways of life" as Dave Elliott, a Saanich contributor, succinctly describes it.

Almost all of the ten contributors were raised in the traditional longhouse culture. As young children they spoke only their native language and learned their religion, their crafts, hunting, fishing, food processing skills, the rites of puberty, and much more, as their ancestors did. When they grew older, many boarded at residential schools where they were immersed in the English language and Canadian/European culture. However, none of the stories is an indictment of the effects of white culture upon that of the Indian. On the contrary, the stories emanate the quiet pride of the storytellers in their cultural-adaptation accomplishments as modern fishermen, carvers, knitters and native culture teachers in schools and universities. Still, the contributors do not avoid some cultural adaptation problems like alcoholism and often useless training offered by the residential schools—useless in that it did not prepare them adequately for the Canadian lifestyle while, at the same time, it caused them to miss parts of their Indian education. However, it is their memories of the traditional lifestyle which permeate the stories. I will remember particularly their emphasis on the respect they accorded family members, friends, animals and even trees. The memoirs, brief as they are, are interesting and substantially informative.

The photographs of the children illustrate what is left of the traditional lifestyle in the modern setting of coastal reserves. They show children at play, participating in ceremonies, learning crafts, and in loving poses with animals and adults. The photographs, many of which are excellent, strongly suggest that coastal Indian culture, so well described by the elders, continues to live.

I have one criticism and that is that, unlike the story contributors, the children are nameless. If the author thought captions would detract from the pictures, she could have recorded their names in an appendix. Out of respect and for posterity's sake, these children deserve recognition. The author has included a brief biography of each contributor and of herself in the last pages of the book.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in Indian culture and history. It should be in the library of every school in British Columbia and perhaps other provinces. Grade 1 teachers could use the pictures for oral discussions. The stories should give older students and adults some understanding and appreciation of coastal aboriginal culture and the evolving culture of the transitional period.

Georgiana Ball, who is currently writing a history of the Cassiar district, has taught in several coastal communities.

New Publications of Interest

Heritage Cemeteries in British Columbia
John Adams editor. 55 pp. Published by Victoria Branch, B.C. Historical Federation. ($6.00) Order from 628 Battery Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1E5. Papers presented at Heritage Cemeteries in B.C. Symposium, April 1985

Metis Outpost, Gerry Andrews. 200+ pp. Order from Pencrest Publications, 1277 Fairfield Rd., Victoria, B.C. Frontier Life in Northwestern British Columbia in the 1920s.

Victoria Landmarks, Barry King and Geoffry Castle. Order from P.O. Box 5123, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4. One hundred line drawings with historical description of subject.

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