British Columbia HISTORY

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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*,,
AnneYandle,
3450 West 20th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V6S 1E4,
604.733.6484
e-mail: yandle@interchange.ubc.ca

Subscription & subscription information:
Alice Marwood
#311 - 45520 Knight Road
Chilliwack, B. C. V2R 3Z2
phone 604-824-1570
email: amarwood@imag.net

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Writing Competition - Lieutenant-Governor's Award
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4100 Lancelot Dr., Richmond, BC V7C 4S3
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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 $75.

Question regarding membership should be sent to:
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British Columbia **HISTORY**

The Journal of the British Columbia Historical Federation | Volume 38 Number 4 2005

William Charles Heaton-Armstrong, 1853-1917
Dagmar Watkins 2

James Cooper Keith
Robert Cathro 6

Doctors Edward Charles & Isabella Delamge Arthur
Pat A. Rogers 10

The Kosiancic Farm in Crescent Valley
Ray Kosiancic 14

The Use of Saltings on the BC Coast
V.C. Brink 17

Through Japanese Eyes
Jim Wolf 18

Token History:
Ronald Greene 24

Archives and Archivists 25

Book Reviews 26

Miscellany 35

From the Editor

The late arrival of the last issue of the News was one of those unfortunate things where someone just didn't pay attention to their job. Our printer very kindly sent issue 38.3 off to the wrong distribution company where it then sat unnoticed in a warehouse for many weeks until someone at that company phoned to ask about the lonely boxes!

In the last issue I asked for assistance in locating an author and their manuscript of which I had an incomplete copy and no name. I'm happy to say I now have the complete file and you can look for the history of the Vancouver Poetry Society in the next issue.

This issue also contains the 2006 conference registration form and program. It looks like it's going to be another interesting get together this year.

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 2006

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 before 15 May 2006 to: Robert Griffin, 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 Historical News. 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 Historical News, 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.

William Charles Heaton-Armstrong, 1853-1917

His story and his connection to the Okanagan.

By Dagmar Watkins

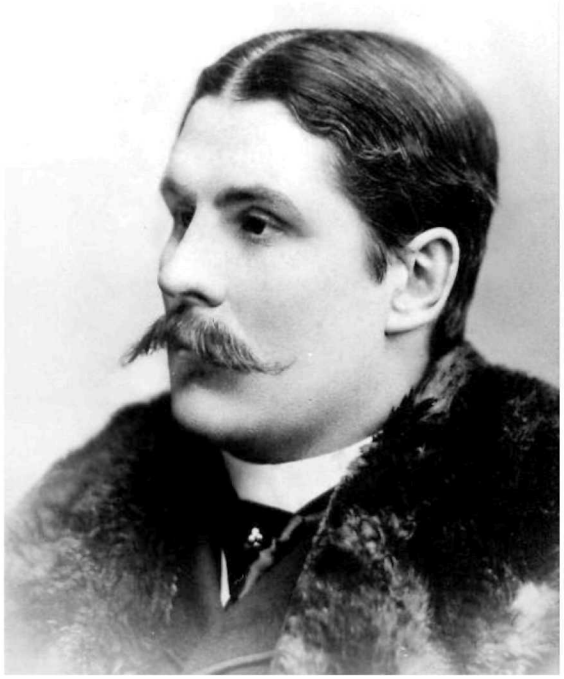
Dagmar Watkins is an active volunteer at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum Archives. her interest in the Heaton-Armstrong family was sparked when she discovered that William Charles was born near her childhood home in Austria. her persistent detective work tracked down some of the descendants and brought to light the information for this article.

William Charles Heaton-Armstrong's story is one of those larger than life histories. It is a story full of hardship, excitement, entrepreneurial adventure, wealth, insinuated skulduggery, power, courage, and much satisfaction. It is a tale of ancient lineage, of ancestors who reached the highest peaks before spectacular falls, not once but a number of times. W.C. was true to this lineage and embodied all the spirit and adventure of his ancestors. He was a well-travelled man who knew that the old world order of being either a gentleman or a business man, but never both, was becoming a thing of the past. It was this latter realization which was to lead him to invest in Canada and give his name to Armstrong, BC.

The transformation of W.C. from gentleman adventurer to merchant banker would have found approval with his entrepreneurial ancestors. They can be traced back to the English Plantagenet King Edward I and to King James II of Scotland. Legend has it that the earliest mention of the name Armstrong in British history was in ancient times when a grateful king of Scotland, who had been unfortunate enough to have his horse killed from under him in battle, was immediately remounted by his armour bearer who was named Fairbairn. In gratitude, the king rewarded him with lands on the border between Scotland and England, and changed his name from Fairbairn to Armstrong with the added bonus of a personal crest designed by the king himself.

The border land was a dubious gift since it was a piece of property constantly in danger from marauding brigands from both England and Scotland. By the early sixteenth century the chief of the clan was John Armstrong of Glenockie. His clan was numerous and warlike and they spent their time harassing their English neighbours. After the Armstrong clan had defeated an army sent by the English king, the ungrateful Scottish king felt threatened by the Armstrong show of strength and had John and his retainers hung on June 8, 1530. This caused the new laird to flee to Holland as the rest of the clan dispersed to different parts of England.

By the 1600s, the Armstrong families in England had regained their status and one, Sir Thomas Armstrong, had become a Member of Parliament for Leicester in 1660. The family had been staunch supporters of the monarchy and were well rewarded with lands in Ireland. By the 1680s, however, Sir Thomas' son was unjustly accused of plotting against the king's life and he, like his ancestor



before him, fled to Holland. In doing so he was branded an outlaw, seized by bounty hunters and returned to England, where he was condemned as a traitor. On June 20, 1684, without trial, he was put to death in a most horrible manner. He was taken on a sledge to Tyburn and hung, drawn, and quartered. His body parts were set up in various parts of London. In 1689, somewhat ironically I must say, he was pardoned, in absentia; the proceedings before his death were considered illegal and his widow received a small pension.

After this, the family settled quietly in Farney Castle, Ireland, and in 1731 Colonel William Armstrong Esq., married the wealthy heiress, Mary Heaton, of Mount Heaton in County Offaly. Mary was not only wealthy but also well connected, her family having been granted clear titles to Irish land by Charles II. She was the sole heir to the large Mount Heaton estates and, on the death of her father, her lands were joined to those of Col. William Armstrong. Their son was offered a peerage as Baron Dunmace but died before he could accept it, otherwise Armstrong might well have been Dunmace, BC.

It was their grandson, William Henry Armstrong, M.P. who lost most of the estates, except for Roscrea, through gambling. This forced the family to move to the European continent, finally settling in Austria. William Henry's oldest son, John, had the good sense to marry Josephine Mayr of Leoben,

The dashing, young William Charles Heaton-Armstrong. (far left)
Photo courtesy the family

Bertha Heaton-Armstrong attired for a grand ball in Austria before her marriage to William Charles Heaton-Armstrong. (centre)
Photo courtesy of the family

In London, England, William Charles Heaton-Annstrong enjoys a time out in the latter years of his life.
Photo courtesy of the family

whose father, a descendant of Baron Mayr Melnhof, owned the largest inn in town and was extremely kind to the impoverished Heaton-Armstrongs. John also assumed, by Royal licence, the additional surname and Arms of Heaton of Mount Heaton. Their son William Charles (W.C.) of the town of Armstrong fame, was born in 1853 in Gmunden, Austria and was the second son. The kindly innkeeper, his grandfather, was particularly fond of him. When W.C. ran away from school at fourteen to join the Merchant Navy his grandfather would often write and send him money.

W.C. spent his time on a frigate called The Windsor Castle which travelled between London and Hong Kong. The journey took roughly 6 months for which he was paid two English pounds. Once, while in Hong Kong, he was the victim of an attempted robbery by two men and it is reported that with his fists he killed one man in self defence. All his life he was a keen supporter of boxing and in his youth he tried to win the light-weight amateur title. Always being short of money he took on a heavy-weight in Portsmouth, England. It was a bare-knuckle fight and he broke his opponent's arm but lost his amateur status. He did win, however, a purse of five English pounds.

One day, while in Mumbai (Bombay), W.C. was left on board alone and amused himself by playing with the captain's binoculars. To his joy he spotted a cousin inspecting the troops on a neighbouring ship, made contact with him and, being short of funds (as usual), managed to wangle some money.

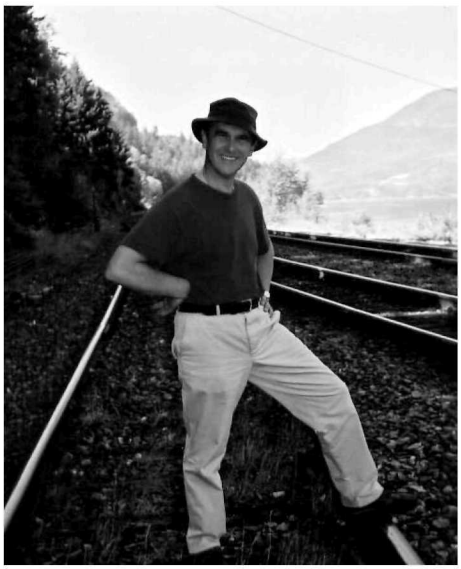
W.C. served in the Merchant Navy for about thirteen years, eventually becoming a captain. He sailed mostly in the Caribbean and South China Sea. Once he recorded in his log book that he had rescued one of his ratings who had fallen overboard and then "finished my breakfast." Officers in the merchant navy were given space in the cargo hold for trade goods so W.C .supplemented his income by trading and thus perhaps began the change from merchant seaman to merchant banker.

His buccaneering days were not over, however, and in the Russo-Turkish War of 1876 he served as Lieutenant-Commander in the Imperial Turkish Army and was known as Adam Bey. Between 1879 and 1884 he sailed a war ship from England to Chile to support the Chileans against Peru in the War of the Pacific.

During his seafaring days, he had surveyed the coast of Labrador and Nova Scotia and had charted all the lighthouses along it. He liked this part of Canada very much and always spoke fondly of it to his children. He brought back to England First Nation's artefacts given to him by various chiefs. These gifts are now in the American Museum in Bath, England, with his name inscribed.

On his return to England, W.C. entered into business. This change from seafaring to business did not please his father who constantly reminded him

that business was not the occupation of a gentleman. Sometime in the early 1880's W.C. sent his impoverished father some money, whereupon father changed his mind and even invited his son to Velden, Austria, where he was staying with his two daughters at the home of Baron Alfons Zois Edelstein. Here W.C. met his future wife, Bertha, the youngest daughter of the Baron. After a three year courtship they were married in 1886 at Schloss Egg, Kreinsburg, which is in present day Slovenia but was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



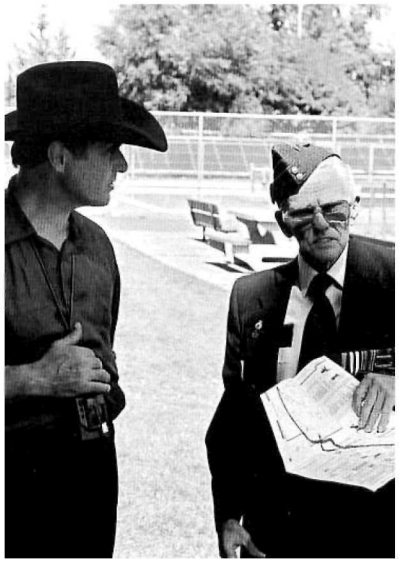
After living in Austria for a few years he and Bertha moved to London, England and, in 1892, he bought the majority of the bonds in the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway joining Sicamous with Okanagan Landing, Vernon. The route went right through the swamp which has become Railway Avenue in downtown Armstrong. The railroad's location forced the original settlement of Lansdowne, which was up on the bench above Deep Creek, to relocate its business centre to take advantage of W.C.'s railroad. This gave the people working with W.C. the opportunity to attach the Armstrong name to the new settlement and Lansdowne became just another area of the Spallumcheen Valley.

Also in 1892, although living in London, he stood as a Loyalist candidate for Mid-Tipperary, Ireland but didn't get in, probably because he was against the separation of Ireland from England. In 1906, he was more successful and was elected to Parliament for Sudbury, Suffolk, England, as a Liberal. It was during this time that he was accused by another candidate of various misdemeanours in his financial enterprises but the charges were eventually dropped. He sat in the House of Commons until 1910.

W.C. was now financially well established. His business ventures had been varied and mostly successful. All his life he had been an ardent supporter of free trade and one of his enterprises was to import German beer, showing market analysis and entrepreneurial skills well ahead of his time. Although the venture was profitable it did not go down well with English brewers who did not like to see their monopoly threatened.

Perhaps it was at this time that he became involved in a brawl in a London street and had to escape by jumping over the shafts of a Hansom cab!

After W.C.'s retirement from politics, heestablished his own bank, Armstrong & Company. It was successful for a number of years but did not manage to survive World War I. He was forced to declare bankruptcy. Descendants of W.C. proudly recall that, unlike present day tycoons, W.C. paid off all his investors from his private funds. As a result, he and his family had to leave their grand home in 30 Portland Place, London, and live in reduced circumstances. They lost their live-in servants but two opted to stay with them, one Austrian and one Scottish. These two faithful servants had been



with the family for such a long time that to leave was unthinkable.

W.C. died soon after this in 1917, leaving his wife with very little money. He had been a man of many interests as his biography in Who's Who 1912 shows. He had been a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical, Zoological, Botanical, Statistical and other learned Royal Societies. He loved motoring, big game shooting, and billiards. He had also published Calculations of the Sun's Meridian Altitude and Astronomical Tables. He had enthusiastically supported the building of the Channel tunnel between France and England again showing insight way ahead of his time, since "The Chunnel" was not built till much later and opened in 1994. In his electoral speeches, he advocated freedom from sectarian influence in schools, more money to be spent in agriculture, fairer railway rates, and a reform of the Poor Law to improve social conditions especially in housing.

Throughout his life he and his family continued to maintain a strong connection to Austria and all three of his children spoke German fluently. In 1886 his older brother John died without issue and W.C. became Lord of the Manor of Roscrea, Ireland. In 1892 he petitioned Queen Victoria for the baronetcy that had kept eluding the family in the past, asking the queen to take into account the eminent public services and loyal support to the crown of his ancestors. It was eventually denied but the baronetcy continues to be a goal of the family.

In 2002, W.C.'s great-grandson, Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, a barrister in London, England, together with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Celestine, visited Armstrong. They brought gifts, including a portrait of W.C., for the city, and spent a busy five days being hosted and entertained, and attending official functions, viz: meetings with The Historical Society, City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce. Anthony opened the 2002 Interior Provincial Exhibition and brought a message from the Queen which he read at the opening. He presented "The Nomad Cup" to the Armstrong 4-H swine club to be given every year, from his father, William "Bill" Heaton-Armstrong who has a pig farm in England.

The highlight of the stay, however, was Anthony's visit to all the places along the railroad from Sicamous through Armstrong to Okanagan Landing. It was immensely fulfilling for him to walk along his great-grandfather's legacy to the Okanagan and to be the first of the extensive Heaton-Armstrong family to visit the town which carries their name. •

Sources and Acknowledgements.

I especially wish to thank Michael Hogan, of Armstrong, who was kind enough to visit Roscrea for me while in Ireland and for putting me in touch with the abbot, Dom. Lawrence Walsh, who kindly forwarded some names and addresses and whose book Richard Heaton of Ballyskenagh was most helpful. The present abbey, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, was once the property of the Heaton- Armstrong family.

Special thanks to Anthony Heaton-Armstrong who did extensive research for me in England and who also gave me a copy of a tape made by Duncan William Francis (1886-1969) son of W.C.

Thanks also to Daniela Rippitsch, in Austria, who helped with the research there; Mag. Martin Roessler , Pfarrer of Rutzenmoos , Austria, for clarifying the choice of church for W.C.'s christening. Many thanks for all the information from the various Heaton-Armstrong clan members: Duncan Heaton-Armstrong, Scotland; Mike & Hazel Heaton-Armstrong, Scotland; Hazel Heaton-Armstrong, Portugal; Grizelda Adam, nee Heaton-Armstrong, England; Wm.J.P. Heaton-Armstrong, England.

Information of the early history of the Armstrong family was found in Clifford Stanley Sims' *The Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames*.

I would also like to acknowledge the continual support of local historian, Jessie-Ann Gamble.

Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, great grandson of William Charles Heaton-Armstrong, explores the railway line from Sicamous to Okanagan Landing in August 2002. ***(top left)***
Photo taken by Jessie Ann Gamble

Mayor Jerry Oglow of the City of Armstrong is presented with a painting of William Charles Heaton-Armstrong by great grandson Anthony Heaton-Armstrong at the Council Meeting on August 26, 2002. (bottom left)
Photo taken by Jessie Ann Gamble

Anthony Heaton-Annstrong, his wife Anne and Enderby historian Bob Cowan at Sicamous on August 27, 2002 following the route of the old Shuswap & Okanagan railway line. (top right)
Photo taken by Jessie Ann Gamble

In August 2002, Anthony Heaton-Armstrong discusses the military insignia of the Memorial in Armstrong Spallumcheen Memorial Park, with Vern Flatekval, Air Force veteran of World War II. (bottom right)
Photo taken by Anne Heaton-Armstrong

James Cooper Keith

Business Pioneer and Treasure Hunter

by Robert J Cathro

Bob Cathro is retired geological engineer whose interest in history was stimulated by a career in mineral exploration in Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia.

The author would like to aknowledge the help and encouragement of the Bowen Island Historians and its archives.

A previous article in the B.C. Historical News (issue 37.1) recounted the visit by Lord Minto, the Governor-General of Canada, to the Pacific Coast in September, 1904 and his surprise stop on Bowen Island to sign the register at the Howe Sound Hotel.[1] The owners of the prime 350 acre waterfront lot at Hood Point on which the hotel was built were James Keith, who played a pioneering role in the founding and development of North Vancouver, and his wife Anne, a member of one of Victoria's most prominent families.

Although James was one of the leading forefathers of the Vancouver business community, history has ignored him. Unlike most prominent figures of the day who inserted paid autobiographical notes in publications such as Who's Who, he must have been a more modest person who preferred to protect his privacy. No biographical summary has been found, merely brief mentions in newspaper articles, books, footnotes or photo captions. This article will try to set the record straight.

James Cooper Keith was born on February 18, 1852 at Strichen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, the son of an Anglican minister, William, and his wife Christine Smith. Although little is known about his family, there is evidence that he was a member of a well-known family of financiers [2] that later was prominent in American railway circles.[3] That may explain why Lord Minto, a fellow Scot, made his unpublicized visit to the Keith property.

Keith arrived in Victoria in 1876 to take up a position as clerk in the Bank of British Columbia. The usual route for bank personnel from England was a six-week trip by sea via Panama and San Francisco. It was the first bank in the province, created in April 1862 by a group of London bankers to provide service to, and purchase gold from, miners engaged in the Cariboo Gold Rush. By 1876, the bank operated branches in New Westminster, Barkerville, Quesnel, Yale, San Francisco and Portland.[4]

In 1879, James Keith was married in Victoria to Anne Jane Finlayson, who had been born in the original Fort Victoria on March 16, 1856. Both her father, Roderick Finlayson, and her grandfather, John Work, had played prominent pioneering roles in the expansion of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) into the former Russian fur-trading region along the Pacific coast, as well as the founding of Victoria. Both Finlayson and Work were former Chief Traders and Chief Factors of the HBC. James and Anne's only child, Mary, was born on November 7, 1880.[5]

Roderick Finlayson was born at Loch Alsh, Rosshire, Scotland on March 16, 1818 and sailed in July, 1837 to New York, where he was hired by the HBC. Following a brief posting to the head office at Lachine, Quebec, he was transferred to Fort William in 1838. The next year, he travelled by canoe to Edmonton, by horse through the Rockies, and by canoe down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver (near Portland, Oregon), where he was placed in charge of the sawmill. In 1840, at the age of twenty-two, he was chosen by James Douglas to be a member of the small group that accompanied him to Alaska in the ship Beaver to take over Fort Stikine (near Sitka) and Fort Durham (near Juneau) from the Russians. After short postings at Fort Stikine and Fort Simpson, Finlayson was transferred to the south end of Vancouver Island in June, 1843 to take charge of the construction of Fort Victoria. The next year, he was placed in charge after the death of chief trader Charles Ross. After the 49th parallel was made the Canada – U.S. border in 1846, Douglas moved the HBC headquarters north to Victoria in 1849 and Finlayson became head accountant. When Douglas became Governor of the new colony in 1851, he appointed Finlayson as a member of the Legislative Council, a position he held until 1863. He was awarded his commission as Chief Trader in 1850 and Chief Factor in 1859, was placed in charge of affairs in the interior of the mainland in 1862 and elected mayor of Victoria in 1878. He died in Victoria on January 20, 1892 at the age of seventy-four.[6]

Finlayson married Sarah Work at Fort Victoria in 1849 and they raised a family of five daughters and four sons. Sarah was born at Fort Colville, Washington, south of Grand Forks, in 1829 and died at Victoria on January 25, 1906. Roderick became one of Victoria's wealthiest and most prominent citizens, having accumulated much valuable real estate in and near the city. By 1923, all of the sons and one daughter, Mary, had died, Sarah and her sister Mrs. Cotton were living in Victoria, Agnes lived in Europe and Anne had married James Keith. The Finlayson's only grandson was killed at the battle of Vimy Ridge, France in 1917.[7]

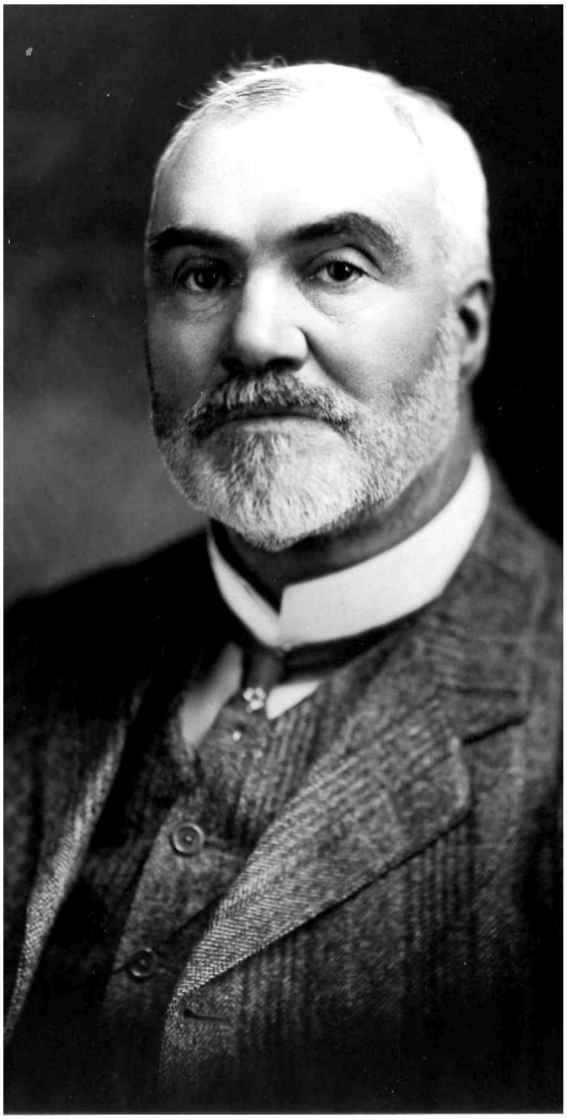
Finlayson's father-in-law, John Work, had an even more impressive pioneering career. John was born at St. Johnstown, County Donegal, Ireland in 1791 with the surname Wark. He emigrated to Canada and joined the HBC at York Factory in 1814, at which time he changed his name. He was posted east of the

James Keith (opposite)
Vancouver Archives Photo
Port.P. 1085 #1

Rocky Mountains until 1822, when he was transferred to Fort Colville, where he established a successful farm that is thought to be the first attempt at agriculture in British or American possessions west of the Rockies. From then until 1835, when he became Chief Trader in charge of the coastal trade, he travelled widely for the HBC, exploring the lower Fraser River in 1824 and taking charge of trapping parties east of Fort Colville and as far south as San Francisco Bay. John Work was posted (or exiled) to Fort Simpson from 1835 to 1849, was promoted to Chief Factor in 1846 and was transferred in 1849 to the new Fort Victoria, where he joined his future son-in-law. He was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island from 1857 until his death on December 22, 1861 and concentrated during his senior years on the impressive gardens at his 1300 acre Hillside Farm. He was described then as the largest landowner in the colony. His brother David settled in eastern Canada, became a member of the Senate, and died in 1905 at the age of 102. [8]

John Work married Susette Legace, who had been born of mixed parents in Fort Colville in 1809. Their marriage, which occurred sometime after he arrived there in 1822, was finally solemnized by the Church of England in Victoria in 1849. They raised an accomplished family of five daughters and one son. In addition to Sarah, daughter Jane married Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, who joined the HBC as a doctor and scientist and became a Chief Factor. Their son Dr. Simon Fraser Tolmie, a veterinarian who was Anne Keith's cousin, became the premier of British Columbia from 1928 to 1933. Another daughter married James A Graham, who was later Chief Commissioner of the HBC.[9] John and Susette Work's son, Charles Wark, was an eighty-four year old retired painting contractor living in Victoria in 1951.[10] Susette, who died in Victoria on January 30, 1896, has been described as a woman of incredible strength and ability.[11]

No information has been found about James Keith's banking career before 1886, when he was transferred to Vancouver to open a new branch for the bank on September 1. Located on Cordova Street, it was the first bank in the new city, which had been incorporated and burned to the ground only a few months earlier. The branch moved to a new location at 542 West Hastings Street in 1887 and to the corner of Hastings and Richards in 1891. In 1901, the bank name disappeared in a merger with the Canadian Bank of Commerce.[12] Keith immediately recognized



the growth potential and investment possibilities of the new city but his enthusiasm eventually put him at odds with the more cautious directors of the bank. He was dismissed from the bank at the end of June 1892 because he went beyond the guidelines by making loans secured only by real estate.[13] A silver tray presented to him by the bank on his retirement was donated to the City of Vancouver Archives by his daughter.

Before he left the bank, the Keiths had already started to invest in quality land. The earliest record I have found is the purchase of DL 792 on the Capilano River in 1890, which was sold to the District of North Vancouver in the early 1900's,[14] and the Bowen Island property in 1891.

1 Cathro, Robert J, "Bowen Island's Howe Sound Hotel", *BC Historical News*, 37.1 (Winter 2003), 2-5

2 Kathleen M Woodward-Reynolds, "A History of the City and District of North Vancouver", M. A. Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1943, 52.

3 Letter from J C Keith to Premier Richard McBride re the Howe Sound and Northern Railway, January 6, 1911, in which he stated that his family operated the Chicago, Burlington and Quincey Railroad and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. BC Archives.

4 Kenneth M. Pattison, "The First Bank of British Columbia", *BC Historical News*, 1990, vol. 23:1, pp2-3.

5 F. W. Howay and E.O.S. Schofield, *British Columbia* (Vancouver: S J Clarke, 1914), IV, 190-194.

6 A Bryan Williams, "Roderick Finlayson Played a Part in Stirring Times on the Coast", *The Vancouver Daily Province*, February 3, 1923

7 Williams, "Roderick Finlayson"

8 Howay and Schofield, *British Columbia* IV, 1176-9; B. A. McKelvie, "Indefatigable John Work", *The Vancouver Daily Province* Magazine Section, May 19, 1951

9 Lugrin, N de Bertrand, *The Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island, 1843-1866*, The Women's Canadian Club of Victoria, Victoria, 1928, 60-63.

10 McKelvie, "Indefatigable John Work"

11 Lugrin, *Pioneer Women*

12 Constantineau, Bruce, "Banks in Greater Vancouver" in *The Greater Vancouver Book*, Chuck Davis, Editor in Chief, Linkman Press, Surrey, 1997, 506.

13 Robert A. J. McDonald, , *Making Vancouver: Class, Status, and Social Boundaries, 1863-1913*, (Vancouver, UBC Press, 1996) 42.

14 James W. Morton, *Capilano: The Story of a River*, (Toronto McClelland and Stewart, 1970), 104.

15 Morton, *Capilano*, 72

16 Woodward-Reynolds, *West Vancouver*, 52

17 Morton, *Capilano* 97.

18 NVA, Western Corporation Pamphlet

19 Doreen Armitage, *Around the Sound: A History of Howe Sound-Whistler*, (Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1997), 113.

20 CVA, James Keith File, op. cit.

21 CVA, caption of photo Port, P1085 #1.

22 Woodward-Reynolds, *West Vancouver*, 52

23 McDonald, *Making Vancouver*, 168.

24 McDonald, *Making Vancouver*, 131, 135.

25 Robert J. Cathro, "Bowen Island's Howe Sound Hotel", *BC Historical News*, 33 (Winter 1999-2000), 19-21.

26 Irene Howard, *Bowen Island* (Bowen Island: Bowen Island Historians, 1973), 74.

With his impressive local connections through his wife's family in Victoria, his banking contacts and his own family background, James Keith was perfectly positioned for successful career in real estate. In the words of Morton, Keith "spent the remain(der) . . . of his life unobtrusively speculating in a thousand enterprises, most of them in North Vancouver. As the *British Columbian* put it in 1912, he had a positive genius for sound speculation".[15]

In 1891, the year that the District was incorporated, he was already a director of the newly incorporated North Vancouver Land & Improvement Company. The following February, while he was still manager of the bank, he reportedly underwrote a $40,000 loan to build an initial road across the District from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove. It is not clear whether this loan came from the bank or from family funds. Although this proved an inadequate amount and construction was delayed by a ten-year recession, the new community showed its gratitude by naming Keith Road after him.[16]

The same year, 1892, he became one of the backers of a bizarre treasure-hunting expedition to Cocos Island. His partners in the venture were Captain James Van Bramer and Benjamin Springer. Van Bramer, an American, was a partner in the Moodyville sawmill and is generally credited with starting the first ferry service across Burrard Inlet, from Moodyville to Hastings Mill. Springer came from Delaware, Ontario to work at the Moodyville Sawmill. They became involved in many business ventures, including mining development on the Argyle mineral claim adjoining the Keith property on Bowen Island in 1890-91. For example, Van Bramer and Springer were the founding president and secretary, respectively, of the British Columbia Telegraph & Delivery Company Limited in 1891 and together they built a three-story building at the northwest corner of Cordova and Cambie Streets in 1887. That building was later occupied by the Masonic Temple.

The *Eliza Edwards*, a schooner-rigged steamer built in Vancouver in 1891, was outfitted for the trip and departed for Cocos Island in June, 1892. The target was Spanish treasure that had supposedly been plundered by Captain Graham and the crew of HMS

Devonshire in 1820 and buried there. The fruitless venture reportedly cost $20,000.

In 1893, the Keith family moved into an impressive home at 1130 West Georgia Street that had been built in 1888 by another land developer, Henry Ceperley. In the same year, the Keiths bought Passage Island, off the shore of West Vancouver.

Over the next dozen years, occasional clues exist that suggest the extent of his commercial involvement. In 1897, he staked the Surprise mineral claim, near his Hood Point property on Bowen Island. He and his family were large shareholders of the Capilano Park Company from about 1902 to 1907.[17] In 1907, he was a director of the Western Corporation, Limited, another of North Vancouver's largest land development companies, as well as president of the Port Nelson Canning Company [18] and the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley & Northern Railway, a predecessor of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and BC Rail.[19] He was also involved in the Dollar Company, which operated a lumber mill where Dollarton was later established.

James and his wife attending a picnic in 1888 of "leading citizens" in what was to become Stanley Park. (above)
Vancouver Archives Photo Bu.P.290 N.183

The impressive Keith home in the 1100 block of West Georgia. (opposite)
Vancouver Archives Photo Bu.P.290 N.183

James Keith also made many contributions to civic life. He served a term as President of the Vancouver Board of Trade, was one of the founders of the Vancouver Club, served on a committee that spearheaded the incorporation of the City of North Vancouver in 1905 and played a role in establishing the first ferry service between the new city and Vancouver in 1896.[20] He also donated land at the corner of Capilano and Keith Roads in 1907 for one of the first schools on the North Shore and a cup for rugby competition in 1909. According to McDonald, he was also a patron of Whetham College, a private boys school, and of the British Columbia Society of Fine Arts "because he was part of the group of powerful families that belonged to both the upper class and to High Society".[21]

At his death from pleurisy on October 6, 1914, at the age of sixty-two, James Keith left an estate initially estimated at $580,000, ninth highest in Vancouver prior to 1940. In the opinion of MacDonald, this was based on exaggerated land values and heavy mortgaging. When the real value was finally determined some thirteen years later, debts of almost one million dollars remained.[22] However, that is an unfair conclusion because, had he lived, an investor as clever as Keith would probably have rearranged his affairs to respond to changing conditions, such as the increased business activity in the port during World War One.

After the operator of the Howe Sound Hotel on Bowen Island, Arthur Newland, ran into financial difficulty about 1910, ownership of the Bowen Island property reverted to the Keith family, who converted it to a summer home and renamed it *Invercraig* ("between the rocks").[23] James' widow, Anne, sold it to Captain John A Cates in 1924 [24] and later sold the home on West Georgia and moved into an apartment at 1400 Beach Avenue, where she lived until her death on November 28, 1937 at the age of eighty-one. Their only child, Mary Isabelle, who never married, died in Vancouver on November 18, 1958 at the age of seventy-eight. Passage Island was sold by her executor for $7000 after it had been rejected as a provincial marine park. Today, it contains at least a dozen fine homes. •

Doctors Edward Charles & Isabella Delamge Arthur

Nelson Pioneers

By Pat A. Rogers

Pat Roger's article was originally written as a script for the 7th Annual Storytelling Festival held at Proctor, BC. with Ms. Susan LeFebour as the storyteller.

Mrs Susan LeFebour as Miss Margaret Arthur at the 7th annual Storytelling Festival held at Procter, BC, Summer 2005.

Welcome. The time is July 1938, an afternoon social hosted by Mrs. Alexander Carrie. The guest of honour is Nelson Pioneer, Miss Margaret Arthur.

"Well, well, well do I have a treat for you! My name is Margaret Isabella Lennox Arthur and I am going to both enchant and educate you today. How many here have heard of my parents, the doctors Edward Charles and Isabella Delamge Arthur? Let me see a show of hands. Tut, tut, not near enough. Now get comfortable and listen closely as I tell you the tale of how Nelson came to be.

My Father entered the world in 1856, kicking and screaming. Grandma Arthur said these traits followed him all his life through and I must admit it was so.

He was a headstrong, curious man. You know the type, always poking at things with a stick. As a result he had a difficult time staying within the bounds of polite society. Oh, how his sharp tongue became the bane of others. I suspect that when he finished school there was a sigh of relief as he collected his sheepskin and was out the door!

With a BA and an MA under his belt Dad set out to teach the classics to the masses. He soon realized there was not much of a future in the dead languages, so he enrolled at Trinity College and graduated as a physician in 1888. He was ready to hang out his first shingle!

Well, practicing medicine in Ontario did not hold enough excitement for my wanderlust stricken Father. He soon learned that the CPR needed a physician, so he signed on for one year.

So, you can imagine my Dad was in quite the dilemma when he chanced upon the dark haired beauty known as Isabella Delmage. Talk about pitching woo, he was smitten. After a whirlwind courtship they were married in 1889. Now, do not think for one minute that my mother was going to pack in all her life's dreams for the chance of being a housewife! Before the nuptials she extracted a promise from the young doctor that she would marry him only if he allowed her to study to become a physician. Being a smart man, my Dad agreed!

Dad headed West with the CPR and my mother, newly pregnant, kept the home fires burning. Oh, how their lives were about to change.

Dad wrote home just about every day regaling my mother with stories of life on the rails. He had a soft spot for the Chinese. They took all the dangerous jobs in hopes of earning extra money. With the Head Tax it cost so much more to bring their families to Gold Mountain. So many of them were blown to bits trying to set the dynamite charges that there was never much left to bury.

As the rails were laid in the Kootenays my Dad's wanderlust kicked in. One day in 1890 he walked the rails and trails into a shantytown on the shores of a mountain lake. As he sat on a hillside overlooking the shanties and tents he could see Kootenai Indians paddling heavily laden canoes ashore and the smoke curling skyward from cook stoves and bonfires. His curiosity got the better of him so he picked himself up and headed down the hillside.

Before he knew it, he had sauntered through the town site, spoken to a dozen or more people, and planned his future. He found a log at the water's edge and set about writing home. He was so excited his thoughts flew from his pen to paper. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm. Mom said later that this letter home so ignited her spirit that she, too, garnered a bit of wanderlust!

Once Dad's contract expired he tightened his laces, set his hat, picked up his pack and walked into his new home. In early 1891 he was the newest resident of what was to become Nelson.

Mom was so enchanted by his letters home that they helped her through the mourning period following the loss of their first child. She packed her bags and all their belongings, bought a ticket West and started on the journey of a lifetime.

Now, we must remember that Canada was only twenty-four years old and the most civilized part of the country was the part she was leaving! There were towns with houses surrounded by white picket fences; cities with modern transportation, telephone and telegraph systems; and libraries and universities. Canada East was booming.

Bearing that in mind can you imagine what went through my Mother's mind when she set foot in Shanty Town West? She often reminded my Father of her first sight of what was to become her new home and how much she loved him.

Dad set up his drugstore and took on the duties of the Provincial Coroner. He tramped about the area holding inquests in mining camps, under tarps and in makeshift halls and churches.

He hung out his shingle and welcomed all to his practice. He was ready to set the world on fire, or at least his little corner of it.

Mom busied herself creating a home for them and their expected child. She felt herself starting to

love this wild west town. There were areas she avoided, as her Presbyterian, Eastern, sensibilities had not quite evaporated. The Ladies of the Evening made her uncomfortable at first, but gradually this lessened. The Chinese and their open use of opium made her a bit fearful. Saturday night brawls meant a constant knocking on their door in need of her husband's services. Rainy days socked in the little town and turned the makeshift roads into gigantic mud holes. Mom would laugh as she remembered how excited everyone was when the wooden sidewalks were finished! She called this her learning experience. She was made of far tougher stuff then even she realized.

Dad was a stickler for education and knew this booming shanty town needed a school. He and the Reverend Rogers put their heads together and converted a room in our home into a classroom. The first students arrived in May 1891 and an education system was born in this small corner of British Columbia. The town was growing and with it the school population. Before long Dad lead a committee to acquire a proper schoolhouse and teacher. After some wrangling and many, many letters what was to become Central School was born. My Dad was the first School Board Trustee and remained one for twenty years!

During this time Mom gave birth to a son. All was right with the world and nothing could upset her, not even the Chinese and their opium. Unfortunately, little Edward died within the year and Mom sank into melancholy.

The spring flowers, the warmth of the summer sun or the falling leaves of autumn could not stir her. When the gray clouds of winter set in Mom thought she would go mad. She went to Portland and spent the winter months taking long walks, attending medical seminars, and trying to regain her strength.

Upon her return home, she extracted her prenuptial promise of medical training, applied to Portland and was accepted. Mom entered Medical School in 1894 and was one of only three women to graduate as a physician in 1897. Her months of melancholy lead to Mom being one of only a handful of women physicians in Canada at the time.

Grass did not grow under Dad's feet. He knew this shantytown could grow and prosper and he set out to make it so. Education was on the right track; the new school was a definite asset and the Board of Trustees a capable lot.

The town site was another matter. If John Houston, publisher of the local paper, thought this town could be incorporated into a full fledged city there was an awful lot of work to do; a lot of bad habits to be broken and the people educated as to a healthier and cleaner way of life.

One of the first things needed was a proper fire department. When a fire broke out it often took out several buildings, not just the originating one. On one hand Dad thought this was a blessing as someone needed to put a match to the lot of them! I remember some of them - this was years later, and, oh my, fire traps one and all. A town made of wood needed a fire department, so Dad chaired a fund raising committee and before long a fire hall was built and a pumper wagon was on order. The task at hand now was to train the lot. Now, whenever I see the Keystone Kops, I am forever reminded of Dad's stories of those early training sessions!

A hospital was next on his list as the days of treating patients in their homes was coming to an end. Once more Dad chaired a committee to fund raise and before long the first hospital took shape. Another, newer, more modern hospital would follow a few years later. Everything was falling into place, as the framework of a city took shape.

Now, Nelson was a rather unsanitary place at the best of times. People threw their waste into open pits in their back yards or threw it out the front door and into the gutters. Dad knew disease spawned in these areas and the thoughts of having to fight a plague caused him to blanch. The rats were bad enough. Disease could be stemmed if the cesspools were built to standard.

Dad was the Community Medical Health Officer and he was on a roll. While he was running about the town trying to get the cesspools under control the new Provincial Sanitary Inspector came to town. It seemed Dad and the Inspector locked horns and before you knew it Dad was in court for having the cesspools at his home and drug store below standard. He cited a busy schedule, but it all fell on

Edward Charles in uniform 1916 (above)

Isabella Delamge Arthur in 1919 (below)

Doctor Edward Charles & Miss Margaret Arthur in 1924

deaf ears. Dad was fined $50.00, but the matter did not end there. Remember, I told you Dad had a short fuse, well, it was lit! One thing lead to another and Dad ended up spending the night in jail!

Dad missed my Mother and was most anxious for her return. He was so proud of his wife that he nearly burst at the seams. He wanted something special for this extraordinary woman, so he decided to meet with Alexander Carrie, a young furniture maker and Architect, new to town. He wanted Mr. Carrie to build him a fine house.

Oh, poor Mr. Carrie. My Dad was like a dog with a bone! He did not have much respite from my Dad until the last nail was driven. When Mr. Carrie handed him the keys both of them grinned from ear to ear, as both knew a job well done. Dad set about creating a surgery for my Mother, equipping it with the latest medical texts and instruments. She would have the comforts of a home office.

Dr. Isabella Arthur was soon home and hanging out her shingle. Before long Mom was busy with her practice, as well as trying to keep her well intentioned, but short tempered husband in check. Soon they were both off and running trying to secure a sanitary water system for the new City. Dad would regularly hike into the watershed to inspect the conditions of the system. Bad things happened when beavers fouled the water. These cases were better off prevented, if you get my drift.

To pasteurize or not to pasteurize was the question. Mom and Dad both lobbied for the complete pasteurization of all milk and the immunization of all cattle to help prevent disease. My parents were well ahead of their times.

Nelson was incorporated in 1897 and their work only intensified.

I popped into the world in 1899 and you could not have found two more proud and doting parents. Mom had a certain wisdom that comes from losing a child. She believed that strong and healthy parents brought healthy children into the world. She loved to do deliveries. She was the first to hold a completely virgin soul in her hands. She urged the schools to teach girls all aspects of child rearing and home making. Too many girls were cast into motherhood far too early and had no tools to deal with it. It was easy to be a parent, but oh, so hard to be a good one. She was the first to advocate and provide pre natal care to her patients.

In 1910 Mom became the first School Medical Health Officer. She received $1.00 per head of each student, teacher and janitor examined per year. There were always outbreaks of lice for which she insisted on washing my hair in coal oil, if I needed it or not! I smelled like an old oil lamp, but then again so did everyone else!

Mom and Dad were founding members of the University Club. They, and others of like mind, believed the province needed a university. They petitioned the government to set aside the Endowment Grounds in Vancouver. Dad is listed among the graduates at the First UBC Convocation in 1912.

Dad was bound and determined to fight for King and Empire in World War One. He had a devil of a time attesting, as he was a bit grey about the edges. He fudged his birth date and finally attested in Winnipeg in 1916. Now, my Father does not know, that I know, of his little tantrum. He was famous for them at home and it was no surprise to learn that on the day of his arrival in England he found himself cooling his heels in the detention hut. He was not good at taking orders. Mom just sighed when she heard, as she knew nothing would change her Edward. He would speak his mind and suffer the consequences. She showed me the picture of Dad standing so proud in his uniform. She said it was the only time since their wedding that he had not looked like an unmade bed.

Mom was busy looking at heads, caring for the ill and taking on Dad's duties as Medical Health Officer. She worked endlessly for the Library Board, the National Council of Women and the Women's Institute. Somewhere she found the time to present a paper on Child Welfare to the Provincial Board of Health in 1918 and to lobby the government to put nurses into rural areas.

Meanwhile, I was studying music and voice and hoped to continue in Washington and at the Toronto Conservatory. I was most fortunate to grow up in a home where I was encouraged to speak my mind and to have parents who strove to make the world a better place.

One of the most trying times for my Mother was the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918. Nelson was very fortunate for it was my Mother who kept the death rate down. The deaths that did occur, like that of Izzie Nelson's mother, upset my mother greatly. The Flu seemed to be unstoppable. Edmonton passed a bylaw making it illegal for anyone to be outside without a sterile mask over their face. The fine was $5,000.00. Mom had such a good grasp of contagious diseases that she fought tooth and nail to have all public gatherings cancelled. As the City Medical Health Officer she had a duty to protect her home and she fought like a Lioness. City Council hummed and hawed and worried about the economy. They did not seem to realize you needed people to spend their money on wares, not on graves. Mom came home from City Council meetings on the verge of needing spirits! Finally public gatherings were cancelled and sterile masks issued. She had to keep on top of the City Council, as they no sooner banned gatherings, then they wanted to open them up once more! It was not enough for mother to battle the Flu, but she also had to combat the stuffed shirts who thought they knew better than a woman! I can just imagine how those old goats must have felt taking orders from her!

Mom brought Nelson through the Flu, but not without herself being bed ridden with it. It took all her energies to get back on her feet and I wonder if she really did recover from it.

Dad wrote home and we soon learned of life in France. He survived the war, but I do believe it changed him. He did not talk of the War and we did not ask. He was home in 1919 and championing the soldier's rights for a pension. The Drs Arthur were a team once again! They saw what needed to be done and they did it.

Mom's health suffered after the Flu Pandemic and she could not regain her strength. In 1923 she took a leave of absence and journeyed to Ontario to visit her sisters and me. We were all invited to a party at Mrs. Stephen Leacock's home the next evening, but mother fell ill. My aunt was not in favour of going to the party, as she said they were all drunken debaucheries. Mom suffered a stroke and fell into unconsciousness, dying a few days later. Dad could not get to her bedside in time and this forever haunted him. He had not said good-bye. From that day forth the light went out in his eyes. Mom is buried in St. Mary's, Ontario.

Dad continued with his medical duties and assumed those of my mother. He puttered away at his mining claims, attended various meetings and fought the good fight for Nelson. He saw what needed to be done and he did it.

One thing father did not do well was manage his business. He collected very few bills and paid little attention to the money matters at hand. When he died in 1932 he left only enough money to be buried. Please stop by the Nelson Cemetery and visit with him. He would love to hear of all the happenings in his city.

I have given you just a wee glimpse into the lives of the Drs. Arthur. They spent their entire adult lives working and advocating for the City of Nelson. Without them I do not believe Nelson would be the Queen City. As you can see the community is the richer because of their lives." •

The Kosiancic Farm in Crescent Valley

100 Years in the life of a family farm

By Ray Kosiancic

This article was adapted from the annual Christmas letter sent to friends and family by Ray Kosiancic. He lives in Crescent Valley and has an interest in classic vehicles. His collection includes a couple of the trucks he writes about in this article.

Ready or not, sit back and read my humble story of my fore fathers and all the trials and tribulations in the last 100 years.

So what do we talk and reminisce about... the past and what it means to my family and the farm that Ida and I own at Crescent Valley.

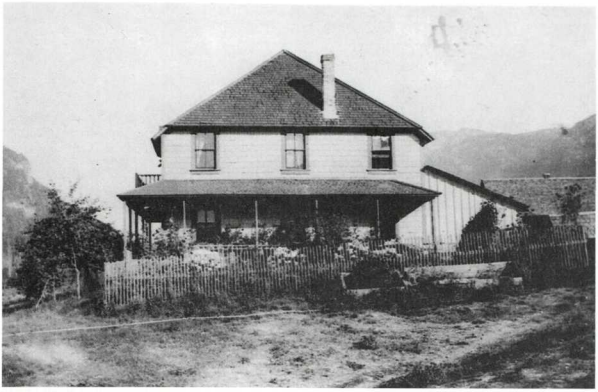
In 1898 my grandfather Jacob Kosiancic and his wife Antonia left Trieste in Austria and boarded a steamship for North America. Jacob worked in a steel mill in Pittsburgh for 10 cents an hour, 12 hours a day, and 6 days a week forging steel for the railways. There, my father Valentine was born. Hearing of a gold rush in British Columbia, Jacob and his family went to Rossland in 1900 where he found work at the Le Roi mine for $2.50 a day. At the same time he applied for and got 400 acres of crown land in Crescent Valley paying $2.50 and acre. Whether by accident or good fortune this lovely piece of land that overlooks the Slocan River is now the farm we own.

My grandparents had two more sons, Joe and Jack, and over the years the farm was known as Kosiancic Brothers. Everyone lived in a log and shake building with dirt floors originally built by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in 1893 as a bunkhouse. Fish were plentiful and so too was the wildlife. My grandmother would go out into the forest with a double-barreled shotgun in the afternoon and shoot rabbits for that evening's dinner. My grandfather raised his own team of oxen from two large steers and like other pioneers, he raised cattle, pigs, chickens and grew most of the vegetables the family needed.

Only six families lived between Crescent Valley and Slocan at the turn-of-the-twentieth-century. There were no motor vehicles and only a wagon trail in the valley so the CPR trains were the main mode of transportation. They brought in supplies for the pioneers and prospectors and then hauled out railroad ties, lumber and ore. Jacob applied to the railroad for a siding in 1905 and was granted one provided that he shifted hundreds of yards of earth to provide a proper grade for the tracks. He worked most of the year from daylight 'til dark shoveling most of the dirt by hand but he got his own siding, the Kosiancic Spur. He loaded cordwood into boxcars at $2.50 per cord and then shipped it to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, today's COMINCO.

In 1908, the valley got a new industry. Joseph Patrick and his sons, Frank and Lester, built the Patrick Sawmill at Crescent Valley. (The Patricks, of course, are well known in hockey history. Lester "The Silver Fox" Patrick and his brother Frank, pioneered the construction of Canada's first artificial rinks and formed the Pacific Coast Hockey Association). The new industry gave Jacob a new job. He secured a

The first house on the farm from 1893 is on the left, the garage is in the centre and the Chinese gardener's cabin is on the right. The poles are waiting to be shipped by rail.
Photo from the author



The 1911 farmhouse is still on the farm today.
Photo from the author

contract to supply 400 pilings 30 to 35 feet in length that were driven into the centre of the river by a steam powered pile driver on a wooden barge. Heavy planks were then secured to the piles to make a ramp on which logs could be taken into the sawmill. The mill provided settlers with a market for the timber cut from their land with logs selling for $6.50 per thousand feet. Logging took place mostly in the winter as it was relatively easy to skid the logs over frozen ground with a team of oxen or horses. Once the logs were cut, the settlers cleared the land with a stump puller. A team of oxen would go in a circle winding up a large cable and pull the stumps but, much dynamite was used on the larger stumps.

With income from the sale of logs, Grandad was able to build a large pole barn with a shake roof and siding in 1909 and two years later, a large two story farm house made of hewn cedar logs which is still on the farm today. My grandmother was very religious and made one of the main rooms in the house into a little church with pews, religious pictures, statues and the Stations of the Cross. Priests would often come by to say Mass and nuns would visit to make a retreat. Much praying would take place.

Grandad also diversified. In 1913 he planted 250 apple trees and in 1925 loaded 700 boxes of apples into two CPR boxcars and shipped them to the Associated Growers in Nelson. However, the $140.00 he received was, barely enough to pay for the boxes and packing. Another disappointment followed. The next year a carload of potatoes shipped to Associated Growers was supposed to sell for $1.25 per hundred weight, but while in storage many of them rotted. After workers sorted them, there was nearly a total loss.

Dairying was a more successful venture. Grandad constructed a fifty cow dairy in 1914 and shipped milk by train to the City Dairy in Nelson. On Sundays, when there was no train, the milk was taken by horse and wagon halfway to Nelson where a teamster and his rig from Nelson met him. Traveling on horseback, the family delivered milk to neighbours and ladled it out from a five gallon can for ten cents per quart. Until 1916 when the Empire milking machine was purchased - the first in the Kootenays – all milking was by hand. In 1920 Joe, the second son, went to Vancouver for a cheese making course and the farm began producing 1000 pounds of cheese a month which was mostly sold in Trail.

In the 1920s, the Kosiancic sons began to mechanize the farm. In 1922, Valentine, the eldest, enrolled in The Modern Automobile and Tractor School in Vancouver for a mechanics course. (He purchased his first car, a Model T, but because of trouble in keeping it running never bought another

An aerial view of the farm today. The 1911 house is shown in the bottom right of the photograph.
Photo from the author

Ford). At the same time as Valentine studied mechanics, the farm bought its first tractor, a two-ton Caterpillar Cletrac costing $600.00. This machine was slow and two years later it was traded in for a 12-20 Case wheel tractor that cost $1100.00.

In 1928 Valentine decided to start up a sawmill to cut lumber for sale and to build houses and other buildings on the property. He purchased a 1926 Chevrolet one ton to haul the lumber and rail ties and two Crosley single cylinder two cycle 25 hp diesel engines imported from England cost about $1200.00 each. One was used in the sawmill and the other propelled a Gould's three cylinder piston pump which brought water up from the Slocan river and raised it to an elevation of 300 ft into a huge cement reservoir, gravity then fed the it back to the irrigation sprinklers.

Jack drove a 1928 Dodge sedan to deliver milk in the area and to haul the cheese to Trail.

Although the 1930s are usually equated with the Great Depression, the Kosiancic farm continued to diversify and expand. In 1931, a Chinese worker, Yew, was hired to run a market garden and grow vegetables and some fruit. A large three story chicken house was built in 1933 to hold 1000 hens. The eggs, along with vegetables and fruit from the market garden, were sold on the milk route. Expansion required new vehicles notably a new International milk truck in 1936 and the next year, for $3,000, a new three ton White truck with a fourteen foot steel flat deck and a hydraulic dump. It was one of the biggest trucks in the Kootenays. The farm was now growing 300 tons of netted gem potatoes and 100 tons of K.B. turnips each year.

In 1955 Valentine's third son Ray [the author] and his wife Ida purchased the farm. They continued the dairy business known as Raida's Dairy. The author's interest in vehicles, inherited from his father, saw him delivering milk with a custom 1964 GM pickup with a 353 Detroit Diesel engine. This special conversion was the only one in Canada and most of his customers remember hearing the "Screaming Jimmy" on the milk run. The dairy was discontinued in 1972 and Ray started driving busses for the City of Nelson and the school board. Beef cattle and hay production continued on the farm until 1995 when the cattle were sold.

And there's just part of the history of the Kosiancic farm. •

The Use of Saltings on the BC Coast

By V.C. (Bert) Brink and June Binkert

Saltings is an old English term for land which is regularly flooded by salty water and used for various purposes when the tide is out, notably as pasturage for horses and cattle.

In the early days of farming along the British Columbia coast saltings played a significant role, providing grazing and browsing areas for farm animals at a time when forested land was being cleared for the plough and the building of homes.

For many decades (and, in some places, right up to the present time) the use of saltings helped to make farms viable. The extensive use of saltings in the Fraser River delta is now almost forgotten but a map of the original vegetation of the estuary, put together in 1979 by Dr. Margaret North, of the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia,[1] shows how extensive brackish marsh and shrub used to be. In fact, saltings were surveyed and sold by the provincial Crown; some were dyked while others extended outside the dykes and remain as salt marsh to-day.

The photograph, taken in 1946, shows horses and a cow using the saltings of Boundary Bay- with Mount Baker in the background. It is believed-that the horses belonged to Murray Davey, a prominent Delta farmer, and at least one is a Clydesdale draughthorse. Very likely the photo is the last taken of saltings used as pasturage in the Lower Mainland of B.C.

Along the North Arm of the Fraser River, the McCleery farm (1962)[2] made use of the saltings, and this use is recorded in the Vancouver City Archives.

There are many past references to the use of saltings along other estuaries, for example the Cowichan and Comox areas and Delkatlah Slough on Graham Island in the Queen Charlottes. However, over and above their use by early settlers, saltings have always been heavily used by wildlife (bears, elk and birds in particular).

The botany and habitat values of saltings have been only scantily described in formal terms, and this lack of knowledge has allowed many saltings along the Coast to be compromised environmentally (for both good and bad) by debris from the forest industry (logging and milling).

Saltings are associated with river estuaries at the heads of more than 400 fiords on the coast. It is time to recognize their ecological importance and history, and to treat them as a valuable natural resource. •

1 M.E.A. North et al. *Vegetation of the Southwestern Fraser Lowland 1858-1880.* ([Ottawa:] Environment Canada, Lands Directorate, 1979).

2 Bruce Macdonald, *Vancouver: A Visual History*, (Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1992).

Through Japanese Eyes:

The Portrait Studio of Paul Louis Okamura

By Jim Wolf

Jim Wolf is author of the B.C. Bestseller - *Royal City: A Photographic History of New Westminster 1858-1960* (Heritage House, 2005). He also contributed his Okamura research to the travelling exhibit "Shashin: Japanese Canadian Photography to 1942" prepared by the Japanese Canadian National Museum which is touring the Province. An abbreviated version of this essay appears in the exhibit catalogue published in 2005.

New Westminster's pioneer studio photographer Paul Louis Okamura created an impressive legacy of images that will forever be part of the city's heritage. Despite the prominence of Okamura's gilded name on his portraits, like so many other early artists of British Columbia, he has become an obscure historical figure. Okamura's story is fascinating. He was the first of an exclusive group of Japanese artists to be educated in Western art methods and to travel outside Japan to pursue an artistic career. Fate determined that he would find a home in New Westminster and be welcomed into Caucasian society. Although he was a talented portrait artist, Okamura found few commissions. Learning the technical skills of a photographer finally provided the opportunity for Okamura to establish a business and earn an income. His classical art training enabled him to master portrait photography and with this new medium create works of art that were widely appreciated and sought after. Today Okamura's story can be understood as an important example of an immigrant's experience as our country's first Japanese-Canadian artist. He has left an inspired artistic legacy that documents not only British Columbia's early history, but his own artistic expression of the place that he called home.

Okamura's photograph studio must be viewed as a very unique circumstance that had few precedents in Canada. The only other known Japanese photographer in the country was R.Z. Tashiro who lived and worked on the Skeena River from 1891-1900.[1] However, his studio was designed to serve the working-class Japanese fishing communities there and when he relocated to Vancouver he chose "Japantown." His working-class studio clientele was similar to that of other well-known Asian photographers including his compatriot Senjiro Hayashi of Cumberland on Vancouver Island or Chinese-Canadian C.D. Hoy of the northern B.C. town of Quesnel. After 1907 other Asian-born photographers became active in the Lower Mainland. Yucho Chow, Vancouver's first Chinese photographer began his Chinatown studio circa 1908. The burgeoning Japantown on Powell Street was the location of several new businesses including Shokichi Atatsuka and Yataro Arikado a former apprentice of Okamura. The Fujiwara Studio in 1911 was operated by F.S. Fujiwara who advertised in local business directories as providing "Fine Portraits".[2]

Okamura's New Westminster studio, by contrast, was established to serve primarily an affluent Caucasian community in a sophisticated urban center. Okamura is known to have operated a successful business over an extended time period from c.1893-1930. Okamura, through economic circumstance, was forced to look beyond the opportunities within his own small immigrant community. Despite the widespread racism against all Asians during this period he found acceptance in a wider social sphere through a combination of factors including his character and artistic talent.

The lack of surviving historic records places limits on determining clearly the scope and achievement of Okamura role as a photographer. Unfortunately his studio's business records and negative collection have not survived. Only a fragment of the studio's output remains in the form of approximately 100 prints held by public archives. The New Westminster Museum and Archives has the largest collection of over 80 individual photographs. These valuable surviving "photographic documents" are primarily those collected and preserved by Caucasian families. Photographs taken by Okamura of British Columbia's Japanese community are very rare in public collections. To date only a handful of his studio images of the Japanese community have been located.[3] The relative rarity of Okamura's photographs reflects the history of the Japanese-Canadian community that existed during the operation of his studio. The community's tragic internment during World War II separated families from their homes and possessions and destroyed many private collections. Despite these limitations, Okamura's surviving photographs reveal a talented artist and successful photographic portrait studio.

Paul Louis Okamura was born in1865 in Katamonmaemachi, Shiba-ku, Tokyo, Japan, and demonstrated his artistic ability from an early age.[4] He was born with the name Tsunenojo Oyama, the son of one of the last of Japan's samurai, and so connected to the Emperor's court. Following the prescribed Japanese tradition, Okamura as a second son would inherit none of his father's wealth and would be subject to military conscription. Apparently to avoid this fate and pursue his artistic studies, the Okamura family adopted him to become a 'first-born' son.[5] In 1879 Okamura was accepted as a student at the Technical Fine Arts School (est. 1876), part of the Engineering Department of Tokyo Imperial University.[6] The Japanese Government created it to facilitate the use of Western artistic techniques for

cartography, drafting, and architectural rendering and gave it the mandate of supplementing "the shortcomings of the art" of Japan.[7]

The Japanese Government made the error of hiring three Italian artists for the fine arts school faculty rather than teachers of the technical arts. One of the Italians was Antonio Fontanesi (1818-1881), an ardent advocate of the 'Barbizon' school of painting. Named for a French village on the edge of the forest of Fountainbleu, this artistic movement celebrated the straightforward and quietly dignified depictions of meadows and woodlands. It was a movement that turned away from the classical and historical painting that had dominated previous generations. Fontanesi, although opposed to "free and undisciplined brushwork," conveyed his Romanticist view of painting to his students, which appealed to their natural sensibilities as artists.

Okamura and other students were so enamored of Fontanesi, and his romantic painting philosophy, that many of them soon adopted the idea of pursuing a life devoted to art rather than technical drawing. When Fontanesi was forced to resign because of illness he was replaced by another Italian artist who apparently tried to enforce the intended government prescribed curriculum. Okamura and other students protested the loss of their beloved mentor and they felt compelled to leave the school and start their own elite study group called the "Group of Eleven". Several of these young men were obsessed with the goal of visiting the western world to pursue their art. Japan had recently changed its emigration laws to allow more opportunities for its citizens to travel. While some of the Group of Eleven chose Europe, Okamura traveled to the United States in the 1880s, where he spent several years before coming to British Columbia in 1891.[8]

Okamura is said to have found Vancouver "crass and garish" without an outlet for his artistic expression and employment.[9] By chance, he saw a newspaper advertisement placed by St. Louis College in New Westminster, seeking an art teacher. This was a venerable Catholic school for young men founded by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate missionary order in New Westminster in 1865. In a remarkable situation Okamura met and impressed the esteemed Oblate Augustine Dontenwill, who would later become Bishop of New Westminster. Okamura's success in convincing the Oblates of his ability is a testament to his superior talent, ambition and personality. As he was still not yet proficient in English he was granted permission to attend college classes to become immersed in the language. By 1893 he was listed in the directories as "Professor of Drawing," heading up all art instruction at both the college and New Westminster's St. Ann's Academy for young women. During this time, under the direction of Dontenwill, he converted to Catholicism and acquired his English first name Paul Louis.

It appears that Okamura could not economically sustain himself with the limited income his teaching position provided. He began to place advertisements in the locally produced Catholic newspaper *The Month* that promised to produce "Fine Portraits in Oil and Crayon from Photographs."[10] Okamura's use of photographs to complete these portraits likely led to his interest in pursuing photography. According to an early biography Okamura became the trusted assistant of a Canadian photographer and eventually took the operation of the business after the owner retired.[11] The unnamed studio and its owner remain a mystery. Although Okamura was producing photographs as early as 1893, no directory listings or advertisements have

1 David Mattison, Camera Workers: The British Columbia, Alaska & Yukon Photographic Directory, URL: http://members.shaw.ca/bchistorian/cw1858-1950.html

2 *Henderson's Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley Directory 1911*, (Vancouver: Henderson Publishing Ltd. 1911) lists on p.1642 "Photographers - Japanese: Fujiwara Photo Studio, 245 Powell Street." And on p. 219, an advertisement.

3 Okamura's photographs of the Japanese-Canadian community include: Suzuki Family Portrait (Suzuki) , Kumagai Family Portrait (Dr. Paul Kumagai), Kisuke and Sanoko Mikuni Portrait (Nikkei Legacy). Okamura's portrait of self and Shinkichi Tamura (Banno), and Tamura Shokai (Kodama), All are held in private collections.

4 Jinsiro Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan* (Vancouver Jinsiro Nakayama, 1921) 43-44.

5 Personal interview with Myea Innoye (Okamura's daughter), 6 May 2004.

6 Kazuo Kaneko, *Study of the Education System in Meiji Art Institutes*, (Tokyo: Fine Arts Discussion Group, 1993)

7 Motoaki Kono, *Some Italian Imperial Employee-Artists and Japanese Art*, (Tokyo: University of Tokyo, undated)

8 "P.L. Okamura", *Supplement to the Daily Columbian*, (New Westminster: Columbian Printing and Publishing Company, 1903) 79.

9 Toyo Takata: *Nikkei Legacy* (Toronto: NC Press, 1983) 67.

10 *The Month*, January, 1894, advertisement following page 18.

11 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 1921 79-80 (Japanese Canadian National Museum (JCNM) Collection)

12 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan* , 43-44.

Self Portrait 1905
Courtesy the Banno family

been located to determine more details of his first photographic studio and mentor. It is certain that Okamura was a close friend of R.Z. Tashiro, the earliest known Japanese photographer to operate in the country, who moved from the Skeena River in 1901 and opened a studio at 263 Powell Street.[12] They apparently met by accident when Tashiro was taking photographs in New Westminster. It was from Tashiro that Okamura learned about many technical aspects of photography prior to opening his own business.

Regardless of how Okamura was introduced to the technical skills of photography, this new venture required him to become something new - an entrepreneur. The inauguration of his studio's operation coincided with an economic recession that hit the province hard in 1893. It is quite likely the photograph studio Okamura took over suffered from a lack of business, which may have precipitated its sale. Operating a studio during this period likely required a great deal of patience on the part of the photographer to find business. In addition to his location in the relatively small market of New Westminster, he faced the competition of several very well established and prestigious studios. The largest of these was operated by the talented Stephen J. Thompson, (New Westminster, 1885-1904; Vancouver 1897-1911), but even he was forced to open a Vancouver studio to stay in business. [13]

The earliest of Okamura's known photographs include both portraits and landscape views that mark his experimentation with the technology of cameras. Promotional landscape photography that captured views and landmarks of a city was typical of the Victorian era of photography in B.C. Okamura was likely following the lead of his unknown Canadian mentor and other photographers in the city by taking landscape views of New Westminster. These images would have been popular purchases for local residents, businesses and tourists. Few have survived but they include images of the City Market, Brunette Sawmills and a circus parade on Columbia Street. When the Great Fire of September 10-11, 1898 destroyed downtown New Westminster Okamura was one of the few local professional photographers to have his camera ready to document the destruction and reap the benefit of local souvenir sales in the wake of the disaster. He combined before and after panorama scenes of the city taken from

across the river to capture the need and desire of residents to come to terms with their loss.

Surviving examples of Okamura's early portrait work are in the popular form of carte-de-visite and cabinet cards. These photographs appear clichéd but are as technically accomplished as those of any other local photographer. These images differ from his later photographs as the subject is posed on a white backdrop. Taking cues from his western competitors, but perhaps drawing on his own ambitions, Okamura styled his business as a high-class art photography studio. Great care was taken to select beautiful printed card stock on which to mount and display the studio portraits. The earliest cabinet cards were decorated with a handsome gilded or silvered 'artist' signature that promoted the work using his 'exotic' Japanese name.[14] Every photograph also announced his location in "New Westminster, B.C.", should a viewer be impressed with the image.[15] He later utilized custom dyed and pressed card stock that provided elegant frames to elevate his photographic prints to their rightful position as art. A custom stamp featured either the artist's palette or his distinctive stylized signature plate and was centred below the image. Okamura must have been keenly aware of the value of promoting his photographic portraits as works of art to provide a distinct commercial advantage over other competitors. Although other studios used similar methods to influence a potential customer's choice, Okamura was the only photographer acknowledged in the community as a talented portrait painter.

Another distinct advantage for Okamura's business was his Japanese ethnicity. The establishment of his business coincided with the wide popularity of "japonisme" a term coined in 1876 to capture the thematic use of Japanese style during the Victorian aesthetic movement. The distinctive characteristics of Japanese design influenced the decorative and fine arts of the West and influenced such artistic luminaries as Tiffany and Monet. When Gilbert & Sullivan's celebrated comic opera The Mikado opened to rave reviews in New York and London in 1885 it fuelled the love of all things Japanese. Later his elaborate studio sets also conveyed his stylish ethnic origins. A very beautiful Japanese screen decorated with cherry blossoms was frequently used as a backdrop for group photographs, as were oriental rugs and exotic chairs. Portraits of children sometimes incorporated the addition of an artistic and stylish prop - a Japanese fan.

At the turn of the century Okamura's early successes provided the opportunity to build his own combined home and studio. He also turned his camera from the placid landscape to work primarily as a portrait photographer.[16] This shift may have been his intent to further his interest in portraiture which he had mastered as an artist. It may also have been born from purely a financial necessity, as studio portraits were the most lucrative work for a photographer. In establishing his studio Okamura was greatly assisted by the very influential friends he made thorough teaching art at St. Louis College and St. Ann's Academy.[17] The Catholic Oblates were instrumental in the venture as they provided a lease to a valuable property owned by the diocese. In 1902, *The Daily Columbian* reported: "Mr. P.L. Okamura, it is understood, has recently acquired a vacant lot at Royal Avenue, near Fourth Street and will shortly have a residence erected thereon by Contractor Williams."[18] In this house at 99 Fourth Street he opened his own studio for art and photography. Finally, the acknowledgement of his business came in the tangible form of being listed as a photographer in the 1902 city directory.[19]

Okamura employed various methods to market his artistic portrait work to the general public. One of the most successful venues was through the very popular Royal Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition held annually in the city's Queen's Park. The fair was one of the largest public events held in the Pprovince and attracted thousands to see the local exhibits of agricultural products as well as the wares of local manufacturers. One of the key exhibits included the professional and amateur work of both artists and photographers. In 1893 Okamura exhibited his painting title "Last Communion of St. Clare" which brought him a cash prize and the attention of the local press and in 1894 his work was complimented as "beyond all criticism"[20]. His first known exhibit of photography occurred at the 1896 fair and the local newspaper reported that the "north wall [of the hall] is occupied by the photographic displays of Messrs. Thompson and Okamura. These exhibits are both of superior merit"[21] At the 1901 fair he displayed photographic enlargements that were embellished with his own chalk drawing. In 1900 he participated in the first Vancouver Arts & Crafts Exhibition showing a collection of photography alongside the work of amateurs and other studios.

Okamura's studio reflected his intention of creating a venue that evoked good taste and certainly upper middle-class values. The studio at Fourth Street

13 Mattison, *Camera Workers*.

14 See Portrait of Richard Oddy, 1897, IHP 4185. [IHP: Irving House Historic Centre and New Westminster Museum and Archives]

15 See Portrait of Mary Jan Adamson and Howard Adamson, IHP 4188

16 Few landscape photographs with Okamura's studio identification have been found that date after 1898.

17 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 1921, 79-80 (JCNM Collection)

18 "City News," *The Daily Columbian*, 27 May 1902, 4.

19 *Henderson's British Columbia Directory 1902*, (Vancouver: Henderson Pubishing Ltd. 1902) 438.

20 " The Exhibition Over," *The Daily Columbian*, October 13, 1894 1.

21 "The Exhibition," *The Daily Columbian*, October 9, 1896 3.

22 Interview with Florence Hart Godwin, 5 October 1990.

23 See IHP 0615

24 "P.L. Okamura", *Supplement to the Daily Columbian*, (New Westminster: Columbian Printing and Publishing Company, 1903) 79

25 See IHP 0475

26 "P.L. Okamura", *Supplement to the Daily Columbian*, 79 (It is not known whether or not the editor chose which business people to include or whether the features were paid advertisements)

27 *The Daily Columbian*: November 16, 1903, 4, "New Westminster"

28 *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 1921

29 Tairiku Nippo Sha: Kanada Doho Hatten Shi, 2, (Vancouver Tairiku Nippo Sha, 1917), advertisement on unnumbered page; Takata, *Nikkei Legacy*, 34.

30 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 43-44

31 Interview with Dr. Paul Kumagai New Westminster, 15 July 2004.

32 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 227

33 Nakayama, *Kanada Doho Hatten Taikan*, 262

34 See Portraits of Manuella Briggs IHP - IFP 061 and IFP 062

35 Personal interview with Myea Innoye, Burnaby 6 May 2004

36 "Obituary - T. Okamura," *The British Columbian*, 27 March 1937,5.

and Royal Avenue did not encourage just anyone to walk in off the street for a quick photograph. Rather, it was several city blocks up a steep hill away from the dirt and dust of the commercial district of Columbia Street and close to the fine Queen's Park residential district where many prominent families lived. Clients, wearing their best clothes, could easily walk to the studio. The studio's backdrops during this period also reflected the values of good taste, status and domesticity valued by patrons. The scene is designed to be viewed as the parlour or hall of a wealthy home. Expensive tapestry drapes, oriental carpets, fur rugs, fine furniture and palms are all part of creating an appropriate set. Okamura also painted backdrop canvases that featured a distinctive stained glass window and a library of books which greatly added to the effect.

The majority of the surviving images are portraits of the prominent families of New Westminster. One pioneer noted that a portrait sitting with Okamura prior to 1914 was widely acknowledged as a mark of being part of the city's leading society. [22] One close friend was former student William H. Keary who served many years as a city councillor and later as mayor from 1902-1909. Keary's patronage provided Okamura with the opportunity to produce portraits and to photograph civic events such as the visit of Japanese naval officers led by Rear Admiral Ijichi in 1909.[23]

Another friend and neighbor was the well known pioneer and provincial court registrar, J.J. Cambridge who also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual May Day festivities. Established in 1870, May Day was one of the premier social events of the Royal City. Several popular young ladies were selected and one crowned in the ancient English tradition as May Queen. Okamura was contracted by the civic May Day Committee to take the official portraits of the May Queen and her "suite of maids" in all their white floral finery from 1899 to 1920. Okamura lavished attention on these commissions, recognizing the important position that these young women held in the eyes of the community. Unlike other studio images, many of these portraits were printed on quality sepia toned papers and Okamura personally signed each one. Some of these images reflect Okamura's expert eye for composition and the use of light and are among his most accomplished photographic works. Likely they also provided a substantial income from sales to many of the young girls and their admirers.

The sport of lacrosse and the Royal City's fine roster of players was another civic tradition that could draw crowds as large as May Day. Okamura's studio was apparently quite popular with local teams and players as the place "of rendezvous...at the close of each season."[24] When the New Westminster Intermediate Lacrosse Team became the Champions of B.C. in 1902, Okamura mounted individual portraits and a photo of the "Allingham Cup" on a backdrop with hand-painted decoration including lacrosse sticks and patriotic maple leaves. This photographic montage, which would have been sold in quantity to the players' families and fans, was even printed with the phrase "Copyright 1903" – indicating his knowledge of this legal device and the importance

of protecting the income from his art.[25]

New Westminster photographers rarely advertised in the local press and there is no evidence of advertising by Okamura in the Caucasian press. However in 1903, in a rare case of unbiased treatment by the local press, a special supplement of the New Westminster's *Daily Columbian* featuredOkamura's own portrait and business beside Caucasian businessmen and pronounced him as "one of the photographers of the city." [26] The studio garnered other favorable attention such as mention of his studio receiving "5,000 feet of picture molding of all styles and descriptions." [27]

Okamura did advertise in the early journals of British Columbia's Japanese community. [28] In 1917, he celebrated the fourteenth anniversary of his business with a full page tribute banner in the *Tairiku Nippo,* the leading Japanese language newspaper in Vancouver. It included congratulatory messages from over twenty other Japanese businesses in Vancouver and New Westminster.[29] This and other advertisements of his studio in Japanese publications and directories illustrate Okamura's growing reconnection to his immigrant community. While setting up his business, he was isolated and had few Japanese friends.[30] but once established financially, Okamura began to reconnect with his compatriots and became well regarded and respected throughout the Fraser Valley as an interpreter. If a Japanese person was "in trouble" and needed assistance with the City of New Westminster or other Canadian government officials he would be encouraged to see Okamura who would "fix it".[31]

By 1912 Okamura's reintegration with the Japanese community was complete when he married Misao Sugiyama, a resident of Vancouver. However, Okamura's fortunes turned for the worse when another recession took hold in British Columbia. In April 1913, Okamura opened a studio at 303 West Hastings Street taking over the former Carpenter Photo Studio. The business closed shortly afterwards as the recession and World War I crippled normal business activities and the demand for portraits and artistic photographs plummeted. Okamura with time on his hands became an instrumental player in organizing a Camera Club in Vancouver's Japanese community in 1914 that included amateur and professional photographers such as F.S. Fujiwara.[32] When the Club staged a photograph exhibition Okamura served as the show's jury.[33]

During the war years everything came to standstill and Okamura returned to live in New Westminster with his wife to raise their three daughters. The studio remained open but few photographs from this era survive, perhaps indicating that Okamura was employed elsewhere. The old combined studio and home became too crowded for both a family and business. In 1918 Okamura moved his studio to offices in the Carnarvon Block located in downtown New Westminster in an upscale business district close to the court house, opera house and across the street from the fashionable Russell Hotel. The new studio was outfitted with Arts and Crafts styled paneling and wallpaper that reflected the changes in popular taste of interior decoration. These changes indicate Okamura's awareness of the value of maintaining a modern operation which would be appealing to new customers.[34]

Although the photography business continued to operate, Okamura's business listings in local directories during the 1920s bounce from categories that include: "Artist", "Art Dealer" and "Artist's Materials and Supplies". Okamura received many commissions to photograph and paint the portraits of many famous local and provincial personalities but was often requested not to include his Japanese signature.[35] Despite these commissions, times were difficult and the artist had to resort to giving art lessons to make ends meet. Okamura was able to support his family during this period of economic uncertainty with the aid of many Japanese friends who would bring fresh vegetables and fish, ensuring that no one was ever hungry. Finally in 1931, the Great Depression forced Okamura to close his storefront studio. He continued to work from his old home on Royal Avenue as a photographer until he died on March 26, 1937 at age 72. His passing was recognized in his home city with an obituary in *The British Columbian* that acknowledged the valued contribution of this "pioneer city photographer."[36]

Today, Paul Louis Okamura may certainly be viewed as a remarkable pioneer – Canada's first Japanese- born artist and early studio photographer. His story has largely been lost through time and recovered mainly through the beautiful and evocative photographic images that survive. Okamura's successful operation of a photographic studio and the artistic legacy of his portraits clearly need to be seen as a rare achievement in spite of the widespread racism that existed in British Columbia. Okamura focused on the beauty that he saw through the lens of his camera, creating a legacy for all to behold. •

Okamura's magical use of light and composition is seen in this extraordinary portrait of May Queen Miss Alvina Munn, 1899. (left)
New Westminster Museum and Archives IHP 6911-22

Token History

W. T. Beadles & Co., of Salmo, B.C.

By Ronald Greene

Salmo is a small community 46 kilometres south of Nelson, in the Kootenay region of British Columbia. The original name for the railway siding on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway was Salmon Siding. This railway was completed in late 1893 by the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, which was taken over by the Great Northern Railway in 1898.[1] At one time salmon runs came up the Columbia River and into the Salmo River, but that was before dams were constructed on the Columbia River for hydroelectric and irrigation purposes. The site grew from a railway siding into a small town as it developed into the supply centre for small nearby mining communities such as Ymir and Erie. Lots were being advertised in the Victoria Daily Colonist in March 1897, "over 300 lots sold in 90 days". H.A. Jones was the Victoria agent.[2] A post office was established in May 1897. The population in 1900 was given as 300 people. As the mines played out the main economic activity centered more on forestry and lumber.

William Thomas Beadles came out to British Columbia in by 1897, to run the Northern Hotel in Salmo. He had been born in Decatur, Illinois c. 1870, the son of William Thomas and Catherine Beadles. He became the second postmaster at Salmo on March 1, 1898. By the 1898 B.C. directory Mr. Beadles was listed as a general merchant and postmaster. However, he was still listed as the manager of the Northern Hotel in 1899 when an M.S. Bittencourt was shown as the proprietor. In 1900-1901 Beadles and John A. Benson were shown as the proprietors of the hotel. A reminiscence by Rollie W. Mifflin, who came to Salmo in April 1900 stated that the Northern Hotel, "was by all standards the best hotel in town. It was cleaner, sold the best brands of liquor, had the best equipped rooms and kept better order than the others." [3]

The 1901 letterhead of W.T. Beadles & Co., (shown above) mentions "Boots & Shoes, Gents Furnishings, Drugs & Toilet Articles." There is also correspondence with the Superintendent of the Provincial Police enclosing payment for a liquor licence renewal for the period of January 1 to June 30, 1899.[4] Since the covering letter was on W.T. Beadles & Co. letterhead it is unclear whether the correspondence regards the hotel, which was licensed, or whether Mr. Beadles' company was selling liquor. If we had to guess we would say the licence related to the hotel. This 1899 letterhead mentions "General Merchandise and Miners' Supplies, fresh and salted meats, fruit and

vegetables." There was also a branch store in Erie, some 4 kilometres to the west of Salmo.[5]

William Thomas Beadles married Lenora Moffatt Coghlan on July 2, 1900.[6] She was shown as 23 years of age, a native of Owen Sound, Ontario. According to Mifflin she was the first teacher in Salmo. The couple became parents of a baby girl on April 5, 1901, but the joy of becoming parents must have been drastically tempered because just days before the birth William had come down with typhoid fever. Unfortunately he did not recover from the illness and died on April 19, 1901, leaving a widow and his infant daughter, Wilhelmina Thomasena,[7] both names being feminine equivalents to her father's name.

Mrs. Beadles left Salmo after her husband's death, moving to Mount Lehman, just west of Abbotsford in the Fraser Valley. This was the home of her parents, Robert and Helen Coghlan, who were farming there. She remarried in 1904, to John A. McDonald. He was listed as the deputy mining recorder in Olalla in both the 1905 and 1910 B.C. directories. She succumbed to tuberculosis in August 1913.[8] The death certificate gives her permanent address as Seattle, Washington, but she died in Mount Lehman, where she returned in the late stages of her illness. We have found no further mention of Wilhelmina.

W.T. Beadles died intestate, which resulted in James Lawrence of Nelson being appointed the administrator of the estate. The gross value of the inventory was $13,713.64, the personal property $12,303.00 and the debts were $9380.98, leaving a net personal worth of $2983.00. The schedule of creditors was largely store suppliers, such as the Oppenheimer Bros., Brackman-Ker Milling Co., P. Burns & Co., Hamilton Powder Co., Giant Powder Co., and Imperial Oil Co.[9]

The Beadles token was listed by the Ontario collector W.R. McColl in a sale of tokens in 1903, which might hint that the pieces were struck in eastern Canada. We list the token on the BC Database as S1760b. It is made of Aluminum, round, 21 mm in diameter. •

1 John Fahey, *Inland Empire, D.C. Corbin and Spokane*, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1965

2 *Victoria Daily Colonist*, March 7, 1897, p. 8

3 Rollie W. Mifflin, *The Early Salmo Story and other true stories*, the author, Seattle, 1958, p. 15

4 GR-55, Correspondence Inward, Superintendent of Provincial Police, Box 25, file 17

5 not mentioned in the Henderson's B.C. Directory for 1900-1901, but mentioned in the Probate files

6 Vital Events, GR-2962 Marriage Certificate, 1900-09-144551 microfilm B11384'

7 Vital Events, GR-2965 Birth Certificate, 1901-09-287828, microfilm B13817, GR-2951 Death Certificate 1901-09-175530 microfilm B13107

8 Vital Events, GR-2951 Death Certificate 1913-09-088746, microfilm B13090

9 GR-2214, British Columbia. Supreme Court (Nelson), Probate files 1895 - 1947, B14 (1901), microfilm B9680

Archives and Archivists

By Reuben Ware, City of Vancouver Archivist

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

Vancouver City Archives acquires L.D. Taylor Fonds

In September, the City of Vancouver Archives acquired the private records of Louis Denison Taylor (1857-1946), early Vancouver newspaperman and one of the City's most far-thinking, colourful and controversial Mayors. Of course, there are extensive holdings of official city records of Mayors and Councillors at the Archives, but private records and archives of former Mayors of Vancouver are scarce. Thus, the Taylor acquisition is a unique and important archive for documenting the City's history, especially the first four decades of the 20th century.

Known widely as "L.D.," Louis Denison Taylor achieved political feats some of which are not likely ever to be equalled — he won nine Mayoralty elections [his record was nine wins, seven losses], was the first Mayor to win re-election after a loss, and the oldest person ever elected Mayor (age 75 in 1932). Included in his totals are wins in both of 1915's two Mayoralty contests; L.D.'s January 1915 victory was nullified, but he won again in March by an even larger margin. Serving his eight terms between 1910 and 1934, he was Vancouver's populist voice of reform and advocated a number of progressive ideas, including the eight-hour day, universal suffrage for women, property taxation based on land, city planning, and regional cooperation. The City of Vancouver Archives has a special connection with L.D. in that his support for the efforts of Major James Skitt Matthews was instrumental in the 1933 establishment of the City's archives.

When L.D. died in 1946, one of his sons came to Vancouver from California to look after his affairs and make arrangements for his apartment at Granville Mansions. L.D.'s personal effects, library, apartment furniture, papers and archives were taken to California and held by the family ever since. In 2001, former City Archivist Sue Baptie made contact with Roy Denison Werbel, L.D.s great grandson, in San Pablo, California and explored the possibility of having L.D.'s archives returned to Vancouver. When Dan Francis was researching materials for his biography of L.D., Roy Werbel contacted him and offered the use of L.D.'s archives for his research. In 2004 this led to renewed contact with the City of Vancouver Archives and, earlier this year, to a successful acquisition of the Taylor archives and their transfer to Vancouver.

In June, I travelled to San Pablo and surveyed more than 80 boxes of family archives, identifying those parts of it pertaining to L.D. (45 containers). The inventory describes correspondence, notebooks, clippings, election material, financial records, leases, mining stock, and photographs. Personal artefacts include gavels, business cards, wallets, and a compass. One significant part of the acquisition is L.D.'s letters to his sons, Ted and Ken, and to his father-in-law, Osborne Pierce. These offer personal commentary on family matters, as well as political and civic affairs.

When the details of the acquisition had been set with the family, arrangements were made for Gillian Boal, conservator from the University of California Library (Berkeley) to prepare and pack the materials for shipment to Vancouver. A shipper made the pick-up, Customs was cleared, and the records arrived in Vancouver. The boxes were first placed in the Archives freezer vault at -17° Celsius to eradicate any mites or other creatures, and the records are now safely stored in the stack area of the City of Vancouver Archives. Plans are now being made to process the records (arrange and describe, re-folder and re-box, and possibly microfilm them), and we hope that the records can be made available for research by the end of 2007. •

Mary Rawson, "Eight Times Mayor of Vancouver, Single-Tax Taylor: Louis Denson Taylor, 1857-1946," *British Columbia Historical News*, vol. 34, no. 1, Winter 2000, 25-26.

Daniel Frances, *L.D.: Mayor Louis Taylor and the rise of Vancouver*, (Vancouver: 2004), p. 7. I would like to thank Roy Werbel for his interest in seeing the records returned to Vancouver and for his assistance in making it happen.

Funds for the Archives' freezer vault came from the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives and the BC Gaming Commission, 2002.

Book Reviews

Books for review and book reviews should be sent to:
Anne Yandle, Book Review Editor BC Historical News,
3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6S 1E4

Art & Artists in Exhibition Vancouver: 1890 - 1950 [electronic resource]
Gary Sim. Vancouver: Sim Publishing, 2004. CD-ROM. Available from Gary Sim, 304 - 1348 Barclay St., Vancouver, BC V6E 1H7

This slender little disk holds a wealth of information. There are capsule histories of arts organizations, short biographies of artists, lists of exhibitions and titles of paintings included. There are exhibition reviews, bibliographic citations and artists' statements. All of these are linked together to make easy work of finding the information you're looking for. One bonus included in this opus is a partial index of the Vancouver Art Gallery publication *Vancouver Art and Artists, 1931-1983*. This is a volume that will be much more useful with an index, though I'm not certain how many will find it in this format. Mr. Sim continues to add more information, the latest release of the CD includes 1,044 web pages listing 1760 artists with 818 biographies, 310 exhibitions and 4,477 titles of paintings are included. The printout is reported to be 1600 pages.

This reference tool is of great value to a busy librarian who gets many queries about artists who were working during these early years. The sheer volume of information is astonishing. Like many references in Canadian art, it was created by an author who wanted to share the results of his research. The researcher, Gary Sim, is a man of many talents, whose resume includes work in mountaineering, mining, engineering and architectural technology. He has also been an active member of community arts and heritage organizations and exhibited his own works of art.

Standard references about Canadian art and artists that are such independent projects share a tendency to be overly personal and lack a certain scholarly rigour that might hold sway over an institutionally funded professionally edited work. It is not always clear when sections of text are being quoted, nor are the criteria for inclusion immediately apparent. That being said, we are extremely indebted to creators of reference works that bring together bits and pieces of important history from many sources. This work, in particular, is well documented and most sources are near at hand. I am somewhat baffled that nowhere in the list of references is there a mention of William Wylie Thom's 1969 M.A. Thesis, *Fine Arts in Vancouver 1886-1930*, which, to my knowledge, is the only previous gathering of information about this period. I was also unhappy to find that the CD-ROM did not function fully on my Macintosh computer.

This electronic resource will be a useful collection of information for libraries, schools, galleries, dealers, curators, and students of Vancouver history. We are indebted to Mr. Sim for the staggering amount of research and planning that went into this project. And, a very positive aspect of electronic resources, it is still growing!

Cheryl Siegel, librarian, Vancouver Art Gallery.

British Columbia; land of promises.
Patricia E. Roy and John Herd Thompson. Don Mills, Ont., Oxford University Press, 2005. 216 p., illus., maps. $36.95 paperback.

My regret in reading Patricia E. Roy's and John Herd Thompson's *British Columbia; land of promises* is that I haven't had the opportunity to read the first four published volumes of the six volume set that comprise Oxford University Press's *Illustrated History of Canada*. In reading the aforementioned volumes I might have had a better perspective on how this, the fifth volume, stands in comparison. As an illustrated regional history on its own, however, it holds together rather well. Photographs have been selected to advance the storyline of our province and the authors have taken great pains to research each and every image, going as far as to identify the photographer, provide details about the photograph and correct the historic record where previous historians have erred. The addition of the odd map is also helpful.

There appears to be a "shameful legacy" theme throughout the text regarding our treatment of natives and immigrants, namely Asians, which I found particularly interesting and likely flows from Roy's previously published work, *A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and Chinese and Japanese Immigrants, 1858-1914*. This theme also brings to mind the obvious question though; which group was viewing the province as a Land of Promises?

It's not until you sit down and read our history through in one go that you realize the impact unions have had in the province and their role in shaping our resource industries and general mindset. Yes, we are different than the east. This theme was also adequately addressed.

The authors' earnest desire that this volume be added to their colleagues' course list is probably warranted, but as a framework for further research; the book gallops along at a furious pace, packing into its 216 pages only the essentials of B.C.'s past, from its inception to our current government. The traits that make it a valuable research tool for any student of history are its good use of quotes and reference footnotes. But this is not to say that the book is unreadable for the general public; I found it to be well written, interesting and engaging, especially the last chapter, *A New British Columbia? 1972-2004*.

Eric Jamieson, retired banker, now taking up free lance writing.

Coldstream: The Ranch Where It All Began
Donna Yoshitake Wuest. Madeira Park, B.C. Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd. 2005. 182 p., illus., map. $23.95 paperback.

While the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon is neither the largest nor oldest spread in the BC Interior, it has certainly been one of the most diverse. And one of the most interesting too as portrayed in *Coldstream: The Ranch Where It All Began* by professional journalist and former Ranch resident, Donna Yoshitake Wuest. Deservedly on BC's best-seller lists for several months, Wuest's book is a lively and entertaining record of archival details, historical photographs, amusing anecdotes

and revealing quotations from the hundreds of individuals she interviewed to supplement her own family experiences on the ranch from her birth in 1949 until she left in 1968. Additionally, she acknowledges her gratitude to Ted Osborn, the Ranch's general manager from 1974 onwards, for his provision of "boxes and boxes of historical records and information from the ranch archives and the key names to contact." A single-spaced, more than four page appendix, as comprehensive as she could make it, lists the contributors, their occupations, and their dates of employment at the ranch - an important research resource for others wishing to pursue further information about Coldstream and its history.

Wuest's eleven concise and easily read chapters provide a panoramic and kaleidoscopic view of Coldstream's diversity over the years, all the way from its original land-grant settlement claim by soldier-adventurer, Captain Charles Frederick Houghton in 1864, to his trade of it to the brother Lieutenants, Forbes George, and Charles Albert Vernon, then to their development and expansion of it before its sale to bluebloods, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, and to its eventual purchase in 1994 by current owners Keith and Chelsea Balcaen. From then until now, as Wuest details, literally thousands of individuals - including in the early years as many as 400 First Nations workers at a time - were employed as cowpunchers, wranglers, apple pickers and packers, sheep herders, market gardeners of potatoes and asparagus, grain and corn harvesters, gravel pit operators and all the hands needed to support and maintain them and their families.

Each of the succeeding chapters highlights a phase in the diversity of the ranch's operations from livestock to apples to crops to hay to forestry and gravel, even to its use as a military training base before returning to the horse and cattle interests of the Balcaens. *The Orchard Ranch,* for example, details its history from a labour intensive operation that developed with improvements in mechanization, irrigation, spraying and packing and served for a time as home base for the Japanese Canadians relocated from the lower mainland during World War II. The chapter on *The Crop Ranch* features the raising and harvesting of hops, potatoes, asparagus and tobacco along with the work of the Chinese market gardeners. And the final chapters centre on Coldstream, now surrounded by suburbia and split down the middle by Highway 6, but as an economically viable operation with Keith and Chelsea Balcaen's commitment "to keep the Coldstream Ranch going as long as possible."

Although Wuest provides a myriad of requisite facts and statistics about Coldstream's growth (the number of owners and employees, the dollars invested at various times, the size and variety of its herds, the amount of hay and hops harvested, the tons of beets grown, the cubic yards of gravel dug, and the number of hand-made crates produced daily by "the apple box champ," Norm Schram) she never loses sight of the people who came and went or met, married and remained at the ranch. So there are stories about the Vernons, the Aberdeens and their never used jam factory, and about the remittance man and self-styled "Major," Coutts Marjoribanks, "the black sheep of the family," who rode a horse into the Vernon hotel. There are other stories too about the succession of Coldstream managers: William Crawley Ricardo, "Fluffy" Wollaston, and the family duo of father C. D. "Bill" Osborn and his son Edward T. "Ted" Osborn and the improvements they made. There's even a list of the Ranch's "climatological observers" who tended its weather station over the years.

Overall, Wuest's book is an informative and inspiring popular history of a unique ranching operation in the Interior of BC. It's well worth reading.

M. Wayne Cunningham, book reviewer for the Kamloops Daily News.

Denny's Trek; a mountie's memoir of the march west.

Sir Cecil Denny. Surrey, Heritage House, 2004. 191 p., illus. $18.95 paperback. [Originally published, 1939]

This is a little book with a big story. It is more than a re-telling of the formation of Cananda's first police force, it is a book about Indians of the plains and how they came to Canada from the States and how they gave those early policemen something to remember for the rest of their lives.

It is a tale of unrelenting hardship. Not only for the force of 297 officers and men, 308 horses, 142 oxen, 93 cattle, 114 Red River carts, 73 wagons and 20 Metis drivers, (the line stretched out along the prairie through two miles of wilderness prairie), but also for the thousands of Indians, Canadian born or American born, who suffered starvation,deprivation of their lands and hunting areas, and finally, the exploitation of unscrupulous traders who exchanged buffalo hides and furs for rotgut liquor. The tale, indeed, is a sad one. It also gives the reader some idea of the complexity of the relationships between those police officers whose mandate it was to protect and maintain law and order in a lawless land, with the native Indians who comprised most, if not nearly all of the population of the plains at that time.

Whiskey forts hastily built to exploit the Indians were a plague on those endless plains. Fort Whoop Up in southern Alberta was the most notorious. Denny describes the preliminary preparation of the police for its destruction and incarceration of the operators. But the need for law and order across the entire prairie region to the Rockies was urgent, and even the remote, and reluctant P.M. Sir John A. Macdonald, nick-named, "Old Tomorrow", finally put his oar in the water, and allowed the formation of the North West Mounted Police.

Sir Cecil Denny was a remarkable man whose story contains details which are both a compelling and primary source for the scholar. Denny's book may be in the genre of popular histories, but the information the book contains sheds light on the more personal reactions of Denny

himself, and the remarkable men, white and Indian, who figure prominently in the dramatic events of the time: the destruction of the buffalo and its dreadful impact on the Indian people; Custer's inglorious defeat at the hands of the Sioux; the wholesale slaughter of an entire white village by Sioux in Minnesota; the American versus the Canadian treatment of the Indians; the hardships faced by that early police force; all unfold in Denny's Trek holding the reader's interest to the end.

The book is plentifully provided with photographs, and the drawings of the artist journalist Henri Julien, maps and details of the battles, white and Indian, Indian against Indian, and the Riel Rebellion. Much has been written about the Rebellion, but I found Denny's opinion of Louis Riel interesting. "Riel was a man of weak personality, Indian, French, Irish and Scandinavian blood ran in his veins. He was vain, inordinately susceptible to flattery, and he welcomed any opportunity for theatrical display". The old imperialist attitudes are more than apparent in Denny, but they are balanced by a real sense of decency and fair play. He was essentially sympathetic to the plight of the Indians in his care, when an agent for the Government, after serving in the police force.

The greatest of the police officers at the time of the trek to the West, which Denny describes in fascinating detail, is North West Mounted Police Superintendent, James A. Walsh. If any man was a match for the great Sitting Bull, and Poundmaker, it was Walsh. One might say the mandate of the police force was too vast and complicated to put into manageable focus. It is a fiction that the West in Canada somehow developed without the mayhem and the complex problems the American Government had to deal with. But the truth of it was, the Canadian police force and the Government in Ottawa often found themselves on the receiving end of American demands which Canada could not or would not comply with, not unlike the present climate of relations between Canada and the U.S.

The American government wanted the extradition of Sitting Bull, for example, after the massacre at Ulm, in Minnesota. Sitting Bull and his people - about 5,000 of them - had fled to Canada. Canada was reluctant to comply. The relationship between the two fearless men, Sitting Bull and Superintendent James Walsh, became a remarkable one. They were friends for many years, until the death of the great chief. Grant MacEwen's book on Sitting Bull is a valuable adjunct to Denny's book.

How the police force coped with the challenges of maintaining law and order in the land that was sheer wilderness when they marched into it in 1874 is a fascinating story. This book is highly recommended. Denny's Trek is one of the most interesting Canadian histories I have ever read, if not THE most. Full of fascinating detail, descriptions of battles, the endless conflicts between the various tribes, fractious and genocidal as they were, the aftermath that produced untold misery and deprivation to the Indian people of Canada and the U.S. and the reasons for their suffering, is all told by Sir Cecil Denny in a writing style without some of the fantasies and sloppy research one finds in popular paperback histories these days.

Esther Darlington, Cache Creek, B.C.

Enduring Threads; Ecclesiastical Textiles of St.John the Divine Church, Yale, British Columbia, Canada.

Jennifer Iredale, editor. Historic Yale Museum, 2004. 52p., illus. $12.

An imaginative initiative, the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA), is facilitating collaborations among academic departments, government branches, and local organizations which share a mandate to preserve and document cultural history . They have brought together the work and interests of the Department of History in Art at the University of Victoria, the Fraser Heritage Society. The Historic Yale Museum, and the British Columbia Heritage Branch. In this instance CURA has enabled the small Fraser Valley community of Yale to share a meaningful collection .

Never merely decorative despite their beauty, the textiles within a church speak obviously of seasons, patron saints, and priestly rank. They testify more quietly to the devotion and skill of their makers, and to the history and spirituality of the communities of artisans and worshippers. The linens at St.John's were created in the late 19th century by the Anglican nuns at their school, All Hallows in the West, and by their pupils, both white and First Nations.

Historical and present background and context are provided in introductions, statements and essays by Jennifer Iredale, curator, B.C. Heritage Branch; Bev Kennedy, curator/director, Fraser Heritage Society; and University of Victoria student, Rachel Edwards. In a reprint from the All Hallows in the West Magazine, 1901, Sister Althea Moody tells 'The Story of a Piece of Embroidery". In "Clara Clare: The Keeper of the Fabric." Irene Bjerky movingly recreates the viewpoint of a First Nations student, the author's great-grandmother. The textiles themselves appear spectacularly in the full-colour Catalogue of Works; some photographs are detailed enough to show the stitches.

The St.John's exhibition traveled to the University of Victoria's Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, to accompany another CURA project: A Woman's Place; Art and the Role of Women in the Cultural Formation of Victoria, BC, 1850s-1920s. Both catalogues are available through the Maltwood Museum.

Phyllis Reeve, author of Every Good Gift; a history of S. James', Vancouver (1981)

High Seas, High Risk; the Story of the Sudburys.

Pat Wastell Norris. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 2005. 235 p., illus., $24.95 paperback. (Originally published 1999)

British Columbians routinely observe tugboats tending ships coming in to port, towing logbooms and barges and assisting in water rescues, but Island Tug and Barge's Sudburys were not a familiar sight to much of the coast. The *Sudbury* and *Sudbury II* were

large deepsea tugs that spent most of their time out on the Pacific, in the worst possible weather, salvaging deepsea freighters and tankers that were in need of assistance.

Pat Norris's book, now in soft cover, chronicles the 20-year history of the two Sudburys, bringing their crews' experiences to life through quotes from the tugs' former skippers who shared their stories of fires, sinking ships, tornadoes, disappointments and even elation. To them it was all in a day's work.

Pat, who grew up at Telegraph Cove, Vancouver Island, brings her knowledge of boats and the ocean to her writing, making the book a good read, especially for those with a yen for the sea.

Doreen Armitage, author of From the Wheelhouse *(2003).*

Legh Mulhall Kilpin - Teacher, Painter, Printmaker,
Ed. Barbara Winters. Langley Centennial Museum and National Exhibition Centre, Langley, BC, 2003. 80p. $19.95

This publication documents the professional history of a man born in England in 1853 where he went to school and later taught at art schools for 30 years until he came to Canada in 1906. He then lived and worked in Montreal until he died in 1919. Fame and fortune in the fine arts can be a fickle mistress. It is imagination and inspiration slightly ahead of the current milieu rather than technical expertise that leads to fame and fortune. We are fortunate that his grand-daughter managed to preserve a large collection of his works for many years and that most of these works have now been donated to the Langley Museum. This collection of essays by the editor and three others who have studied, documented and catalogued this large collection of the work of Kilpin provides a professional history of this rather obscure but clearly talented artist. Anyone interested in the history of the evolution of art in England during the latter years of the Victorian era as well as the activities of the artistic community in Montreal will find this publication fascinating. Those interested in the Canadian art world will find it stimulating reading. Indeed, it should encourage many art lovers to visit the Langley museum and view some of the works described in the catalogue of his works. This is a fine example of the important role that the federal government plays through its various heritage programs in preserving and making available to Canadians our rich cultural legacy.

Harvey Buckmaster, emeritus professosr of physics, with a strong interest in the history of climbing and photography in the Rockies.

The Life and Times of Victoria Architect P. Leonard James.
Rosemary James Cross, Victoria, Dear Brutus Publishing, 2005. 220 p., illus., map. $38.95 paperback. (Available from Dear Brutus Publishing, 349 Linden Ave., Victoria BC, V8V 4G1)

Rosemary James Cross characterizes her book as the "life story" of her father, the architect Percy Leonard James, rather than "an architectural treatise of his work." Indeed, the book's true value lies in the insights and memories of an only child and in the exhaustive study of a professional architect's career. While we had an inkling of her work in *Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia* (2003), compiled and edited by Donald Luxton, this book lays out all of that fastidious research in detail. It is a singularly important contribution to the vigorous and mature heritage advocacy movement in Victoria, which may be traced back to the 1950s and the work of restoration architect Peter Cotton. Not surprisingly, Victoria's Hallmark Society awarded the 2005 Mark Madoff Award to Cross and this book.

In fact, Cross provides her readers with something more than "an enlightening and amusing view of the life and times" of her father and describes at length his activity as a British Columbia architect of considerable significance. She recounts the factual history of James's major and small commissions executed largely, but not only, in Greater Victoria: several prominent buildings, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway Steamship Terminal, the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Crystal Gardens, and the Federal Building and Post Office; many notable houses in the Oak Bay, Uplands, and Rockland areas; and the Better Housing Scheme and Wartime Housing Limited programs associated with both world wars. According to Cross, the origins of James's major stylistic influences, which she identifies as the Arts and Crafts and the Classical Revival styles, are found in his training in Britain rather than in the work of West Coast architects such as Samuel Maclure and Francis Mawson Rattenbury, and his later interest in the Moderne and the International Style developed during a year spent in Britain. Always the gentleman, James worked easily with other architects, including his brother Douglas James and, beginning in 1926, his partner Hubert Savage. He even survived a professional relationship with the testy and quirky Rattenbury. Perhaps the best testimony to his professionalism was his role in shaping the provincial architectural associations in Alberta and British Columbia as well as the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Without any doubt, Rosemary James Cross's greatest contribution to the study of architecture has been to assemble the body of work created by her father: the lists of commissions, the collections of historical photographs, the locations of the working drawings, and the identification of the public and private records, all of which academic architectural historians will need to know about in assessing his work. For the task now is to discover where P. Leonard James, the architect and not the father, figures within the larger context of the history of British Columbia, Canadian, and indeed North American architecture.

Jill Wade teaches history at Thompson Rivers University, Open Learning Division.

Land Here? You Bet! The true adventures of a fledgling bush pilot in Alaska and British Columbia in the early 1950s.
Sunny Fader and Edward (Ted) Huntly. 183 p., illus., map. $19.95 paperback

Outposts and Bushplanes.
Bruce Lamb. 207 p., illus. $17.95 paperback.
Both books published: Surrey, Hancock House, 2005.

Land Here? You Bet! and *Outposts and Bushplanes* are two similar, yet individual, books published as part of the recent remarkable increase in aviation memoirs. Each details the flying career, or part of the flying career, of the authors.

However, *Land Here? You Bet!* is the better written book, as the final text is the work of Sunny Fader, a professional author and writer in many fields. She was a friend of the Huntley family for five years before the death of Edward Huntley in 1996. He was then a retired Captain of Delta Airlines, and his story, told in her words, is a zestful and evocative return to the days of basic bush-flying in the early fifties.

Here is a case where enthusiasm became almost obsession, and the narrative carries us smoothly from the teen-ager working long, long hours to pay for his flying lessons, to the skilled and experienced arctic pilot of a few years later. The adventures are colourful, as are the excellent illustrations, and they follow each other like beads on a string: unexpected landings in the wilderness, contract flying for the Coast and Geodetic Survey, adventures with bear and moose, helicopters and storms, appalling weather and engine problems, fuel shortages and breakdowns. The almost boyish good nature of the young pilot, and the first-rate detail in the story, are fascinating. Read this? You bet!

Outposts and Bushplanes is a slightly heavier book, and is set mostly in northern and central BC, rather than Alaska. It is also autobiographical, and gives us the full benefit of Bruce Lamb's lifetime of experience as a bush-pilot. Today, the answer to the often-asked question "What is the definition of a bush-pilot?" seems to be "The captain of Air Force One", but Lamb's personal story, covering decades of BC history as well as aviation, reveals an independent frame of mind which would put him well outside that classification. He has much to say about life in the north before power-dams and flooded valleys, rules and regulations, and the ever-spreading tentacles of government. There are 32 pages of photographs, in authentic black-and-white, and they form a window in time, a view back to the age of individual responsibility, survival, trust, ingenuity, goodwill, and an open sky.

Although there is much aviation detail in it, this is a history book for average readers, who may well need a map to follow the action, should they not be familiar with Graveyard Lake and Germansen, Kluskus Lake and the Lower Parsnip, Monkman Pass or Scatter River. The text is informative, solid, and well-considered, with only trivial peculiarities such as "a hoard of animals" or "a shear cliff" in it. The question of why the name of Grant McConachie is spelled "McConache" throughout the book is puzzling.

At one point, the writer says "When I think of the great freedom and independence we enjoyed in the fabulous outdoors of times past, I realize this great adventure is being increasingly denied to our present young outdoors people". He is certainly right, and this book is an excellent yet detailed overview of that situation, which every thoughtful reader will endorse and enjoy.

Mike Higgs, retired Canadian Pacific pilot.

Selling British Columbia: tourism and consumer culture, 1890-1970.
Michael Dawson. Vancouver, BC. UBC Press, 2004. 274 p., photos, illus., $29.95 paperback.

Michael Dawson's book, *Selling British Columbia*, has had recognition beyond that of reviews. In 2004, he received the third place prize for the BC Historical Federation's 22nd Annual Competition for Writers of BC History. The book's 80-year account (1890-1970) of promoting tourism in the Pacific Northwest, more specifically BC, will appeal to historians, tourism workers, and travellers.

The sound scholarly rigour found in Dawson's work provides a historical description of tourism that includes attracting settlers, industry, and consumers to specific regions of BC. Interwoven are analyses of how national and international events influenced private and public sector decision makers to shape the promotion of BC tourism. Archival materials used by Dawson include newspapers, tourist pamphlets and films, and other documentation from an array of agencies. Highlighted are the roles of prominent individuals. These stories make for an interesting read, especially in light of the political and economic activities that surrounded major tourism events prior to the 1970s.

Readers currently working in BC's tourist industry, as well as a more general readership, will find the events captured in Dawson's work to be informative. How BC tourism evolved is easily understood through Dawson's interpretations. Readers are introduced to the ways accommodation facilities came into existence, including hotels, auto camps, and motels. Part of Dawson's discourse is the examination of the various methods used to determine the success of tourism. In the past, success was based on the number of tourists. Today, that measurement is a dollar assessment. A healthy discussion is provided on how technologies of the day were used: how advertising was conducted through the media of print, radio, and television. Dawson shows how specific cultural and social imageries, such as Aboriginal art, hunting and fishing, BC hospitality, and "A Bit of England on the Shores of the Pacific," were used for promotional purposes.

Dawson comes up short on explicitly linking his ideas to major tourism promotions after the 1970s (for example, EXPO86). The astute reader will see, as the 2010 Olympics approach, the parallels between notions examined by Dawson and Olympic organizers' intentions beyond the actual games. Currently, with economic growth in mind, each level of government

and a variety of business groups are backing the Olympics with the plan to attract investment and consumers.

As a heads up, there is a minor slippage in the map found in the preliminary pages. The Cariboo lake labeled Canim Lake is, in fact, Lac la Hache.

Dr. Kirk Salloum is an educational consultant living in Vancouver, BC.

The Story of Hudson's Hope to 1945.

M.A. Kyllo. Salmon Arm, 2003. 160 p., illus., maps, spiral bound. $25. Available from Martin A. Kyllo, 2541, 221st St. NE, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 3Y3.

Almost any local history is sure to disappoint. On the one hand these histories can be endlessly frustrating for those seeking out the core of a community's history, for, all too often, local histories stand as little more than a sanitized compendium of stories, local lore and fond remembrances. For such an audience these amateur histories, with their antiquarian research and tepid enquiry obscure a great deal more than they illuminate. On the other hand, few readers within the communities under study are particularly inclined towards theoretically informed autopsies of barn dances and whist drives. For as much as such scholarly enquiries attempt to decode the local events for deeper meaning, they are often guilty of decimating the humanity at the heart of these communities and their shared histories. Faced with such prospects one wonders why anyone would willingly take on the challenge of local history.

Yet despite such risks, M.A. Kyllo's *The Story of Hudson's Hope* sets out to detail this community's history on the banks of the Peace River in north eastern British Columbia. And one of the distinguishing aspects of Kyllo's history is the extent to which the author resisted the antiquarian amateur urge. While he does present a traditional narrative treatment, a strenuous research effort underpins this history. Unsatisfied with cataloguing the recollections of pioneers or their descendants, Kyllo doggedly sought out secondary sources, unpublished diaries, corporate records, newspapers, and archival records in an attempt to frame Hudson Hope's history within a broader context. He may not have always succeeded and we are sometimes presented with cursory treatments but, in the least, Kyllo recognised that a larger world existed beyond the Peace River country and that world informed an understanding of events in and around Hudson's Hope. And while he ultimately favours a celebratory view of his good fortune of having been raised in a community where he argues that they enjoyed absolute freedom, his research pulled him towards murkier questions about the details and interests shaping and distorting Hudson's Hope history, far beyond the glance of young boys raised on the banks of the Peace River.

Taken as a whole, Kyllo's *Story of Hudson's Hope* succeeds more often than it falters. Yes, the page numbers in the index are off by two pages for all but the first few pages of the book and Kyllo almost invariably adopts a safe view of events and their consequences. But it is his research effort that raises this above the crowd. There is a wealth of information to be mined in Kyllo's sources and, indeed, a lesson to be taken from his decision to seek out a much wider base of information. His industry is a lesson that all local historians need to hear; while one may not be interested in deconstructing barn dances or whist drives such a position does not mean that local histories, even those created by amateur historians, need not be only an assortment of happy recollections and melancholy. One can, as Kyllo has done in *The Story of Hudson's Hope*, make a contribution to knowledge that will not only bring back fond memories of the past but can also arm the more adventuresome with the means of exploring what that past may have actually meant.

Dr. Jonathan Swainger, History Department, University of Northern British Columbia

The Best Miners in the World ; stories from Canada's Sullivan Mine.

W.R. (Bill) Roberts. Kimberley, Hardrock Publishing 2004. 335 pages, illus.$29.95 paperback. Available from Sandhill Book Marketing, #99, 1270 Ellis St., Kelowna, BC V1Y 1Z4

The Sullivan Mine is located in Kimberley in the south-east corner of the province of British Columbia. Author Bill Roberts notes in the prologue to his book that the Sullivan Mine contributed to the coffers of the province over a period of 110 years. In all, the mine produced 185 billion pounds of lead, 17.5 billion pounds of zinc and 297 million ounces of silver as well as major amounts of tin and some rare metals. Despite its tremendous contribution to the economy of the area and to the province as a whole, the Liberal government in all its wisdom, chose to close down the local hospital as well as 3 out of 6 local schools.

The dangers inherent in working underground are always there and accidents can occur at any time. Rock that has been overlaid by thousands of feet of overburden, when penetrated by tunnels and other means of access, expands and causes 'rock bursts' that are extremely hazardous and in some cases fatal. Bill Roberts taped interviews with many men who got out the ore. Their stories, told in miners' vernacular, show that accidents were not confined to miners but included electricians, barmen, timbermen, pipefitters and others sent underground.

My memory of the Sullivan goes back to the beginning of WW II. I was fresh out of university, a graduate in geology, and was sent to the Sullivan to get involved with the war effort. Most of the oldtimers I met then are long gone.They even predated some of Bill Roberts' friends. I refer to Eric Eskog, Ed Petersen, and John Olsen and note that the sons of these men were hired on by "the Company" and in their way contributed to the ongoing success of the mine. These men, who are a real cross section of those who daily put their lives on the line for the Company, were interviewed over the period of years that Bill Roberts worked underground.

There were eras of problems as the extraction of ore continued. One of the most dangerous periods was the time of the 'Hot

Muck" and the extreme efforts that were made to control the problem, initially caused by using the waste from the sink and float plant to backfill large open spaces (stopes) created by extraction of the ore. Men had to be suited up in fire protection gear , and of course were paid "danger pay " to work in those areas affected. Accidents may happen under many circumstances but are particularly bad when they occur inside a mine. The toll that such events takes on families is recorded in some of the interviews of men who worked on mine rescue teams sent to scenes of severe disasters. The description of their work is most vivid and undoubtedly the memory of some of those events haunted the rescue team members for years after.

All in all, the book *Best Miners in the World*, is a must read for anyone interested in the history of the East Kootenay. What makes it so interesting to me is that I had the privilege of knowing some of the men who participated in making the Sullivan the great mine that it turned out to be.

Alistair Drysdale. Retired geologist who lives in Kimberley during the winter and at Premier Lake during the summer.

Vanishing British Columbia.

Michael Kluckner. Vancouver, UBC Press; Washington, University of Washington Press, 2005. 223 p., illus., map. $49.95 hard cover.

This is Michael Kluckner's thirteenth book and it is a treasure. He describes it as "a roadside memory" of historic places of British Columbia. It is a collection of subjects arranged geographically, described in text and illustrated by 160 of his watercolour sketches and various photographs He captures a province he (and some of the older of us) knew in the 1940s-1960s, most of which is now "vanishing".

Over a period of ten or more years Kluckner travelled around the province researching, sketching and painting places and scenes—early settlers, aboriginal, and Chinese and other groups who left some marker of their passage.

One of the unique features is the incorporation of input gleaned from correspondents around the province, after he posted the subjects on his website. Over 450 people contacted him with additional pieces of information and personal perspectives. It thus became a collaborative effort by the author, who has generously acknowledged contributions. Another feature is the extensive use of footnotes (in sidebars), providing additional information or details.

This 223-page book can be used in many ways: for reading pleasure from beginning to end, geographic regional description, or browsing at random. The text and typefaces used are very clear and the general layout is very pleasing. Additional notes and an extensive bibliography provide resources and sources for followup.

Kluckner makes an excellent case for regional preservation and the stewardship of regional history. The initial 3000 printing has been sold out and an additional 3000 are being printed. People and libraries who want a copy should not delay.

Arnold Ranneris, Past President, Victoria Historical Society.

Watari-Dori (Birds of Passage).

Mitsuo Yesaki. Vancouver, Peninsula Publishing Company, Surrey, 2005. 175 p., map. $15 paperback. Available from Mitsuo Yesaki, #1105, 1740 Comox St., Vancouver, BC V6G 2Z1

Set mainly in the Steveston area, this novel is about a young fisherman, named Miyakichi Ezaki, whose family has emigrated from a fishing village on Honshu Island, Japan. While the story covers less than a year of Miyakichi's life (June 1915 to January 1916), in that period we see him come of age. Moreover, the author thoroughly describes the fishing practices of the period, the day-to-day experiences and routines of the fishing families, and the various hardships endured by the tiny Japanese fishing community, "which in 1900 accounted for over 50 percent of the fishermen" on the Fraser River Delta. Traditional Japanese foods are described and a glossary gives helpful translations. The construction and use of the furo (Japanese bath) is also detailed.

Although the dialogue is sometimes stilted and certain details are repeated, interesting historical facts and insights will intrigue anyone interested in the chronicles of BC's fishing industry. For example, to troll for salmon, the fishermen attached lines to "branch poles," which "were weighted with small lead pellets fixed at regular intervals along the extreme third of the lines and with large balls on the ends. Three spoons are attached at regular intervals from the end of each line. With this setup, . . . [fishermen could] . . fish eighteen hooks." The fishermen knew when they had a catch "by the tingle of the bells, and watching the branch poles." Although their boats and methods were primitive by today's standards, the fishermen's hard work and long hours resulted in the construction of numerous canneries. A map of the Fraser River Delta (dates not given) shows the location of 20 canneries, one cold storage facility, and the Hong Wo General store in Steveston.

The life of the early Japanese residents in the Greater Vancouver Area is another fascinating aspect of this novel. During peak periods, the wives of the fishermen worked up to 10 hours a day, six days a week in the canneries. When the canneries shut down, the women would work on the local farms. During the off-season, most of the men were unemployed; so, they spent their time repairing and making nets, cutting cordwood, fishing different species in other areas of the province, or working in the boat-building industry. The Japanese fishing community's main, and in some cases only, holiday was New Year's. At that time the members took three days to celebrate "furusato [birth place] customs and traditions and to indulge in the special dishes and delicacies of their homeland." These are described in mouth-watering detail.

While this book often reads more like an oral history than a novel, learning history through a story is entertaining and memorable. I hope Mitsuo Yesaki will publish more stories and that the next one will also provide some information on this local author.

Sheryl Salloum, Vancouver writer.

NOTEWORTHY BOOKS.

Books listed here may be reviewed at a later date. For further information please consult Book Review Editor.

Aboriginality; the literary origins of British Columbia Vol. 2. *Alan Twigg. Vancouver, Ronsdale Press, 2005. $24.95.*

The BC Almanac Book of Greatest British Columbians. *Mark Forsythe & Greg Dickson. Madeira Park, BC. Harbour Publishing, 2005. $39.95*

Bear Child; the life and times of Jerry Potts. *Rodger D. Touchie. Surrey, Heritage House, 2005. $19.95*

Enderby; an illustrated history. *Robert and Joan Cowan. Enderby & District Museum Society, 2005. $20*

Gold Below the Canyon; the life and times of William Barker, gold miner, 1817-1894. *Branwen C. Patenaude. Victoria, Trafford, 2005. $20.95*

Halcyon; the captain's paradise - a history of Halcyon Hot Springs. *Milton Parent. Arrow Lakes Historical Society, 2005. $25*

Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley. *Derek Hayes. Vancouver, Douglas & McIntyre, 2005. $49.95*

Homefront to Battlefront; Nelson, BC in World War II. *Sylvia Crooks. Vancouver, Granville Island Publishing, 2005. $24.95*

Imagining Difference; legend, curse and spectacle in a Canadian mining town. *Leslie A. Robertson. Vancouver, UBC Press, 2005. $29.95*

A King from Canada. *Conrad Swan. Stanhope, UK, The Memoir Club, 2005. $50*

Klondike Cattle Drive. *Norman Lee. Surrey, TouchWood Editions, 2005. $12.95*

The Klondike Quest; a photographic essay 1897-1899. *Pierre Berton. Erin, Ont., Boston Mills Press, 2005. $29.95*

Lovingly Yours, Nellie; letters home and other stories from Portland, Maine to the shores of Ness Lake, BC. *Victoria, Trafford, 2004. $38*

An Okanagan History, 1905-1919, written at Fintry. Westbank, *Sugars Publishing, 2005. $24.95*

Once Upon a Time in the West; the making of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association, *1963-2004. Bela Szabados. Kelowna, Academic Printing and Publishing, 2005.*

Pioneer Jews of British Columbia. *Vancouver, Western States Jewish History and The Scribe, 2005.*

Pioneers of the Pacific; voyages of exploration, 1787-1810. *Nigel Rigby, Pieter van der Merwe and Glyn Williams. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press, 2005. $26.95 US*

Raincoast Chronicles Fourth Five. *Howard White, ed. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 2005. $42.95*

Reading the Riot Act; a brief history of riots in Vancouver. *Michael Barnholden. Vancouver, Anvil Press, 2005. $18*

Royal Metal; the people, times and trains of New Westminster. *Vancouver, 2004. $39.95*

Selected Excerpts from the Vancouver Natural History Society "Bulletin" (with notes and an index). No.. 1, September 1943 to No. 153, December 1971. *Bill Merilees, comp. Vancouver Natural History Society, 2005. $45*

The Small Cities Book; on the cultural future of small cities. *W.F. Garrett-Petts, ed. Vancouver, New Star Books, 2005. $39*

Stella; unrepentant Madam. *Linda J. Eversole. Surrey, TouchWood Editions, 2005. $19.95*

The Valley of the Fraser. *John Pearson and Lorne Pearson. Surrey Museum, 2005. $12*

Waterfront; the illustrated maritime history of Greater Vancouver. *James P. Delgado. Vancouver, Stanton, Atkins and Dosil Publishers. $45*

Wingns across the Water; Victoria's flying heritage, 1871-1971. *Elwood White and Peter L. Smith. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 2005. $28.95*

William Wilson, pioneer entrepreneur. *Christopher J.P. Hannan. Victoria, Trafford, 2001. $26*

Gerald Smedley Andrews

December 12, 1903 December 5, 2005

Gerald Smedley Andrews, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, passed away peacefully in Victoria, BC.

His passing culminates a long life rich in accomplishment and service. Highlights include teaching at Big Bar Creek and Kelly Lake, BC (1922-26), obtaining a Forestry Degree from the University of Toronto (1930), working as Party Chief with the Surveys Division of the BC Forest Service (1930-39), post graduate studies in aerial photogrammetry at Oxford and Dresden, Germany (1932-34); mapping the Normandy Coast in advance of the D Day Invasion for which he was awarded an MBE and on return to BC, laying the foundation for a mapping service second to none in the world, as Surveyor General and Director of Surveys and Mapping, Government of BC (1951-68). Upon retirement he undertook several short term projects: one for the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the other for CIDA teaching air photo interpretation to graduate engineers at the University of Paraiba, Brazil.

He was active in the B.C. Historical Federation, and wrote prodigiously on matters related to history and surveying. He published his first book, Metis Outpost in 1985, a tale of two youthful years at Kelly Lake, and twoadventurous packhorse trips through the Rocky Mountains before the advent of roads. He travelled extensively in his modified Ford van at home and abroad, spending many memorable summers at his cabin in Atlin.

For years he delighted friends and family with Christmas cards made from remarkable pen and ink drawings featuring scenes from BC and around the world. Later in life he received recognition for his achievements with an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering from the University of Victoria, 1988; the Order of British Columbia, 1990 and the Order of Canada, 1991. Above all, he succeeded as a human being: beloved by his late wife Jean (nee Bergtholdt), and by his daughters, Mary, and Kris; his sisters Leila Logan, Nora Sloane, Mary Bonnycastle, Betty Richards, Gertrude and Emily Moar; brother Bill Andrews; numerous nieces, nephews and their children; and respected by friends and colleagues of whatever age, race, colour, creed, skills or estate. He will be greatly missed. •

Miscellany

BC Conference Archivist Bob Stewart Passes Away

"He has been, for all my years in archives, one of the mainstays of our community. A giant of an archivist with a sense of humour to match, Bob was great in bringing life to our gatherings but he also brought a thoughtful and caring mind to our discussions."

Gary Mitchell, Provincial Archivist of BC

Bob's connection with archives was established in the early 1970s when researching in archives for his Master of Divinity thesis on the Oxford Group Movement in Canada in the 1930s. His career as an archivist began in 1982 when he joined the BC Conference Archives. At that time he became a member of the Church's National Committee on Archives and History to which he continued to make an important contribution up until the time of his death. Under his guidance, the Conference Archives was established as a repository with a rich collection of records documenting of Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational Churches within British Columbia prior to 1925, and The United Church of Canada after 1925.

Bob's thinking and rants about archives nurtured the development of both a United Church Archives and a religious archives community. He mentored archival studies students from UBC's program since its inception in 1981.

A worship service in celebration of Bob's life was held Friday, November 25, at 3:00 p.m. at First United Church, 320 East Hastings Street, Vancouver.

Royal City: A Photographic History of New Westminster 1858-1960

New Westminster's long and rich history comes alive in a new book available now. Jim Wolf's "Royal City: A Photographic History of New Westminster 1858-1960": is a unique history that includes 250 photographs, many of which have never been published. Weaving together images and memories, this book celebrates the collective history that make the Royal City such a special place.

Royal City is a beautifully designed 200 page hardcover book that forms a visual documentary of New Westminster. The city was founded at thesame time photography was becoming a popular hobby, business and art form. Every chapter is framed by a brief history of an era and illuminated with photographs that represent that period's built landscape, society, industries, celebrations and disasters. Jim has tapped into the wealth of the city's fascinating history and also filled his book with quotes or 'voices' from the past which add drama to the compelling images. Each section also includes a profile of the the life and work of one of the city's talented pioneer photographers. The book works well both as a keepsake for current and past residents as well as a useful tool for anyone interested in the history and heritage of BC's first capital and early photographers.

Historian and author Jim Wolf is a long-time resident of New Westminster and past president of the Heritage Preservation Society. "Royal City" is produced as a joint project by the Arts Council of New Westminster and the Heritage Preservation Society with funding assistance from the City of New Westminster Heritage Endowment Program. Funds from the sale of the society's books will assist with funding programs of the New Westminster Heritage Foundation. To find out more about this book or to order a copy please call 604-521-5733 or send an email inquiry: nwheritage@lightspeed.ca

Get Planning. Heritage Week themes announced

As plans are generated to recognize Heritage Week each year, please note the themes, as identified by Heritage Canada, for the next seven years. Let's find ways to promote and celebrate our common heritage to our communities and visitors. It's a shared resource for all.

This year's Heritage Week poster for British Columbia will feature the former Victoria Law Courts Building, now the Maritime Museum of British Columbia.

2006 - "Our Cultural Heritage Places"
Museums, art galleries, theatres, cinemas, bandstands, festival buildings

2007 - "Vernacular Architecture - Buildings of Everyday and Everyone"
Settlements, houses, neighbourhoods, and cultural places

2008 - "Heritage of Trade"
Trading posts, warehouses, retail shops, department stores

2009 - "Heritage of Education"
Schools, colleges and tmiversities

2010 - "Our Communications Heritage"
Buildings and sites related to post, telegraph, telephone, radio and television

2011 - "Heritage of Sport & Recreation"
Parks, stadiums, arenas, leisure and vacation places

2012 - "Heritage of Power"
Water mills, hydroelectric plants, transformer buildings

Moti our mascot c.1920s
Editor's collection

The Moti Prize

Our annual competition for elementary students writing on local history.

The rules are simple: the competition is open to elementary school students in BC; the submissions must be on local history; the editor of this journal is the judge; entries must be submitted by May 1st of each year; and the winner may be published in *British Columbia History.*

The prizes: $50 to the winner and a subscription to *BC History* for the school library.

2006 BCHF Conference

Our 2006 Conference is hosted by the East Kootenay Historical Association and will be held in Kimberley between 4 - 6 May 2006.

Rocks, Walks & Talks is the theme for the Kimberley Conference. The Rocks stand for the geological specimens gathered during the 100 years that the Sullivan Mine was the main employer. Walks you will take around the Heritage Museum, the Platzl, the Sullivan Power House, the Book Fair and the restored rail cars at the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel. Talks will be by speakers sharing the history of various East Kootenay Communities.

Don't forget; Kimberley is on Mountain Time — not Pacific time — so add one hour to your projected arrival time.

from the Kootenay Weekly Express August 3, 2005

Nelson Museum, Archives and Art Gallery board hires Leah Best as executive director

The Nelson Museum, Archives, and Art Gallery board has been looking for an ideal candidate to take over as executive director and they ended up finding the best in Leah Best.

Best arrived in Nelson two weeks ago, fresh from at four year stint at the Vancouver Art Gallery where she was assistant curator, and managed the gallery's significant art acquisition program. She brings a vast amount of experience and education to the job not to mention enthusiasm for what she considers an amazing opportunity.

"It's a great opportunity to bring together all my various experiences, and to move to Nelson, which is great," she said. "What's happening here is quite well-known throughout the museum community, both provincially, and I would suspect nationally because it's so unique."

Best was chosen out of 38 initial letters of interest that came to the MAAG board from the UK, US, and across Canada. She will replace Shawn Lamb, who will take on other responsibilities within the MAAG project.

"Leah brings to the position a remarkable mix of museum and gallery experience," said MAAG board president, Don Lyon. "The board felt she best served the interests of the organization during this dynamic period in our history."

Best was born in B,C., and grew up in Calgary and on Gabriola Island. She completed an honours degree in Art History at UVic, and went on to do her masters in Art History at the University of Toronto before working for the National Ballet of Canada for several years. She then completed additional training in museum management, and returned to B.C. to work with a variety of museums before landing the MAAG position. She is already enjoying the small town way of life in Nelson.

"I love that I can be standing on the comer at 502 Anderson and the mayor will walk by and stop by to say 'Hey, how's it going,'" she said. "It's so different from what I'm used to."

Programs of Interest in Genealogy from the Surrey Public Library Cloverdale Branch

Please call the Cloverdale Library at **604-576-1384** or refer to our website: www.spl.surrey.ca/Programs and Services/Genealogy

Orientations to the Cloverdale Genealogy Collection
The Cloverdale Library holds the largest, Canadian family history collection west of Ottawa. Orientations are held on the **first Saturday of every month** from 9:30 am to 10:20 am. No charge - but pre-registration is still required.

Creating Fine Pictures from Distressed Photographs: **Photoshop Tips and Tools** with Warren Sadler
(Lecture with on screen demonstrations)
Bring out the best in your family photos! Learn how to enhance and restore the precious visual records of your past. Bring a problem picture with you - one or two of these will be chosen from the group to use as an "object lesson". Pre-registration is required.
Saturday, February 4, 10:30am to 12:30pm $10.00

You *Can* Create Your Own Family History Website: Simple Methods for Technophobic Genealogists! with Diane Rogers
Creating a family history website can be easier than you imagine! This session is intended specifically for people with little or no knowledge of web site design. Discussion will focus on why you might want a family history website, what you would want it to look like and how to get one up and running with a minimum of technical knowledge; for example, by utilizing free web services.
Saturday, February 18, 10:30am to 12:30pm $10.00

Genealogy on the Internet: United Kingdom with Jacqui Haines (Lecture with on screen demonstration)
Have you been frustrated by Internet searching for family history records in the British Isles? How do you know when it's worthwhile to pay for online services? Are the free sites authoritative? Learn more about these issues and others during this workshop, focused specifically on United Kingdom genealogical resources on the Internet.
Saturday, March 18, 10:30am to 12:30pm $10.00

American Family History Records Demystified for Canadians with Judith Argent
An introduction to researching American records for Canadian genealogists, including starting points and major resources, records unique to the USA , and differences regarding access to information and privacy laws.
Saturday, April 1, 11:00am $10.00

Tracing Your Roots in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia with Vera Shpolyansky: Forensic Genealogist
Vera Shpolyansky is a forensic genealogist specializing in locating living people in Eastern European countries. She is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and National Genealogical Society in the U.S.A. This session will be of interest to anyone looking for Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian family history records.
Saturday, April 8 - 11:00 - 12:30pm $10.00

Researching, Writing, & Publishing Your Own History with Author/Historians Gavin Hainsworth & Katherine Freund-Hainsworth
A New Westminster Album: Glimpses of the City As It Was Dundurn Press 2005
Whether your passion for exploring history is biographical, genealogical, heritage home, organizational, neighbourhood, or local community-based, many participants would desire practical strategies to take their research forward into engaging writing, creative artifact documentation, and possible publication. Author-Historians Gavin Hainsworth & Katherine Freund-Hainsworth (who is also an artist) will share their experiences on how make the transition from hobbies to creator and writer.
Saturday, May 13, 2006: 1:00 - 3:00pm $10.00

General Audience: Five Issues in Last Wills & Testaments that Lead to a Costly Probate Process (General Audience Session: 40 minute lecture followed by a question period) with Vera Shpolyansky: Forensic Genealogist
Vera Shpolyansky is the owner of a search company: ***VS Probate Assistance & World Search Co.*** that serves probate attorneys and trust companies in Canada and the U.S. The company searches for missing beneficiaries, heirs at law and descendants of property owners.
Saturday, March 25, 11:00am $10.00