

# B.C. historical NEWS

FEBRUARY 1973



BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 6 No. 2

February 1973

Published November, February, April and June each year by the British Columbia Historical Association, and distributed free to members of all affiliated societies by the secretaries of their respective societies. Subscription rate to non-members \$3.50 per year, including postage, directly from the editor, Mr P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver 8, B.C.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	2
Minutes	2
Society notes & comments	4
Jottings	6
Obituary: Mr C.D. Stevenson	8
Miss Hazel Hill	8
B.C. Books of interest	8
Book Reviews: B.C. Perspectives	9
A history of Victoria: Gregson	10
The Ladners of Ladner	12
Paddlewheels on the frontier: Downs	14
Hiking trails: Vict. & S.Van.Island	15
Look! they're REAL! by Dave Brook	16
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Brief	17
Vancouver: a lost branch of the van Coeverden family, by Adrien Mansvelt	20

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The cover series for Vol. 6, Nos. 1-4, drawn by Robert Genn, will have sketches of buildings throughout the province that are of historic significance. They may be still standing or they may be only a memory. The deadline for entries will be October 1st, 1973. A prize will be awarded to the winner. No. 1 was "Where was it?"; No. 2 is "Where is it?"

## EDITORIAL

In the summer of 1970 the Federal Government, through the National Historic Sites Service of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, initiated a survey of Canada's old buildings from Dawson in the Yukon to St. John's, Newfoundland. This information was gathered by students who worked in specific areas across the country, using a master coding system that detailed the site, age, past and present use, construction details and architectural style of the buildings surveyed. This information was then computerized for a readily available information service. The general historical boundary for survey was considered to be 1880 in the Eastern Provinces and 1914 for the West and North. The National Historic Sites Service has issued a pamphlet in which it states "..... The inventory will serve as an invaluable reference for art historians and architects, for in many cases it will be the only such source of building appraisal data .....If a new highway, harbour complex, or an industrial park is projected, some means must be found to find out at once the possible loss."

All this information on our behalf we must find very commendable, but when the computer print-out is used as a weapon against strong public opinion we must begin to wonder what kind of a monster has been created. Two recent examples in Vancouver tend to point out to what extent facts can be used for ulterior motives. The first came to light when the Vancouver Historical Society asked for information on the old National Harbours Board building at the foot of Dunlevy. The print-out in its analysis gave this beautiful old building a straight zero in all classifications. And if this wasn't enough to make us distrust the regurgitations of the Ottawa monster then it certainly was demonstrated by Conrad Guelke in a brief supporting the demolition of Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral. According to him the National Historic Sites Service "deemed the Cathedral not of historic or architectural significance on the national scale".

In a recent television interview Mr Peter Bennett, Director of this survey, still seems to labour under the delusion that we here on the Pacific West (this being distinct from the Easterners' West which begins at Thunder Bay) have no historic buildings other than log cabins built in the gold rush days. It's a pity that none of us historically minded people was not consulted when decisions were being made for us.

One last thought on Christ Church Cathedral: Isn't it about time Christ returned and chased the money changers out of the temple!

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 MINUTES

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Council of the B.C. Historical Association for 1972-1973, held in Vancouver, Sunday, February 11, 1973.

Present: F.B. Street (1st Vice-Pres.); J. Roff (2nd Vice-Pres.); H.R. Brammall (Past Pres.); P.A. Yandle (Sec'y); P. Brammall (Treas.); A. Yandle (Co-Edit.); H.B. Nash (Exec.M.); D.New (Gulf Islands); E. Norcross (Nanaimo); K. Adams (Port Alberni); J.E. Gibbard and J. Gresko (Vancouver); A. Slocomb (Victoria). Visitors: E.J. Kneen (Nanaimo); N. New (Galiano); R.D. Watt (Vancouver).

With Vice-Pres. Street in the chair in the absence of the President, the meeting was called to order at 1.45 p.m. On motion of P. Yandle and R. Brammall the minutes of the Second Meeting were adopted as circulated.

Mrs Brammall, as Chairman of the Convention Committee of the Vancouver Historical Association, reported the following plans for the Annual Convention to be held in Vancouver, May 24, 25 and 26: Registration fee \$2.00. Accommodation for out-of-town members and guests reserved at Walter Gage Residences, University of B.C., at \$12.50 per day, meals in residence included, for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Thursday, May 24th, evening, at University Women's Club, Hycroft, including guided tour and refreshments.

Friday, 25th, following the Annual General Meeting, Luncheon and President's address. Afternoon, tours of Vancouver City Archives and/or Museums with a special Planetarium show from 4.30 to 5.30 at \$1.00. Evening, a forum type meeting in the Walter Gage Centre with supper for non-residents at \$1.35.

Saturday, May 26, 10.30 to 2.30, Burrard Inlet tour on M.V. Hollyburn with sandwiches and coffee, \$5.00. Evening, Banquet, guest speaker: Mr W. Sampson, U. of Alberta. Mr Sampson has offered a choice of four titles: (1) K. Mackenzie and the Beginnings of Agriculture in B.C.; (2) Fur-trader and Priest; (3) The Jurist and the Fourth Estate; (4) John Work. P. Yandle moved, seconded by Nash, that the speaker be asked to use the first title; carried.

A walking tour of Gastown will be arranged for Sunday morning on request.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs Brammall and Mrs Gresko for the great time and effort they devoted to making the above arrangements.

Mr Brammall reported that the Association has received from the Government of Canada an Income Tax Deduction Number for use on receipts for donations. Local societies are encouraged to apply for the same privilege if they have need for it.

Mrs Yandle reported the work of the ad hoc committee appointed at the previous meeting (A.Yandle, chairman, J.Roff, A. Slocomb and R. Watt) to study and report on the organization and policies of the Provincial Library and Archives. The report took the form of a written statement which could serve as a brief, and after its distribution and reading it was moved by P. Yandle, seconded by Roff, that the report be adopted in its entirety. Carried unanimously. Mrs Yandle added that the Provincial Archivist says he plans to resume publications within a year and to revive the "British Columbia Historical Quarterly" within two. Mr Watt pointed out that the new budget for Library, Archives and Museum has been greatly increased -- approximately doubled. Moved P. Yandle, seconded Gresko and carried, that copies of the report be sent to the Provincial Secretary, the Premier and the Provincial Archivist and Librarian, also to President Andrews, presently lecturing in Brazil.

P. Yandle, reporting on the publication of Champness: To CARIBOO and BACK, dedicated to the late Gordon Bowes, said the printer has the work well in hand and that it should be ready for sale at the Annual Convention, May 24-26.

The Secretary then reported as follows:

(a) He had ordered, as directed, 10,000 membership cards from the printers in Victoria but had received no reply or acknowledgement. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr Nash would call upon the printers immediately for clarification of the situation.

(b) A letter had come from Campbell River proposing affiliation of a local history society, a move which will be welcomed.

(c) Institutions in B.C. are charged \$10.00 membership through their local affiliated societies and cannot, like institutions outside the province subscribe to the News for the non-members' subscription rate of \$3.50 (see masthead). This is because institutions in B.C. make the News available free to many persons who might otherwise become members or subscribers.

(d) He had officially endorsed on Dec. 13 the application of a group of women represented by Mara Gagnon for a L.I.P. grant for a Project entitled "Herstory". He asked approval of his action and got it by unanimous agreement.

(e) A copy of a brief of the Okanagan-Similkameen Parks Society has been received. It asks for the preservation of the Hudson's Bay Co. Brigade Trail between Hope and the Tulameen by extending the boundaries of Manning Park to include it. Moved P. Yandle, seconded Gibbard, that the Association support the brief by re-petitioning the Government to the same effect. Carried.

Mr Slocomb reported the experience of the Victoria Society in importing recording equipment duty-free and offered information and price-lists to other affiliated societies. E. Norcross inquired how transcriptions can be got from the electronic tapes. R. Watt said a Mr Langlois is doing such work but cautioned about the costs and the necessary quality of the recording. He thought L.I.P. or other grants might be obtained to help with costs. Storage of tapes is difficult and costly, and if the transcription is not good it is hardly worth it.

Mr New inquired whether any stand had been taken on the proposal to "develop" Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. P. Yandle reported that the Vancouver Historical Society has officially opposed the proposal, and R. Watt, who is Vice-President of the Society, explained that it had sent two letters, one to Vancouver City Council approving and supporting its action and one to the Provincial Secretary asking to have Christ Church declared a Historic Site. P. Yandle moved, seconded by Roff, that we, also, ask the Government to declare it a Historic Site.

The meeting adjourned at 4.45 p.m. on motion of Yandle and New.

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#### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI At their October meeting the Alberni Society greeted John Sendey, their new museum co-ordinator, who spoke on his hopes and plans for the museum. He also showed slides of a "dig" at Neah Bay.

As is the custom, the November meeting, an open social meeting, welcomed many old timers. Kenneth Mollet of Sidney, B.C., whose great-grandfather and grandfather arrived in the Alberni Valley in the late 1870's and whose grandfather was the first government agent there, spoke of his family and showed pictures, promising to search out more and make them available to the Society.

In January Captain Dick McMin, whom many members will remember from the trip last May on the Lady Rose, spoke on the Alberni Canal and Barkley Sound, ending with a plea for all to fight pollution in these and other areas.

BURNABY The Burnaby Historical Society can chalk up 1972 as a time of worthwhile achievement. Given the responsibility of setting up the sitting room in the Manor House of Burnaby's Heritage Village, members, under the direction of Mrs Charles Killip, came up with a display that brought delighted reaction from many of the 30,000 people who visited the Village while it was open. Also, during the summer, members put in a creditable

number of volunteer hours filling various capacities in the Village. A long-time dream came true in the Fall with the acquisition of a permanent meeting place and also a filing room - both in Burnaby's Century Park complex. Several male members sawed, hammered and painted to make the room ready for what the BHS hopes to enlarge into a historical-reference source for public use. Already, several speakers' presentations have been taped and these will form the nucleus of a proposed tape library.

WEST KOOTENAY Speaking to the West Kootenay Historical Society in November, Bruce Ramsey talked about Camels in B.C. Mr. Ramsey has hunted camel bones, tombstones and camel stories throughout B.C. for many years. When they were first brought to B.C. the animals which were advertised as being able to carry about 500 lb. sold for \$300 each. Their history is sketchy and the fate of some of the original 25 camels is still not known. One historian believes the camels were brought to an area about 7 miles from Trail. A pack of 5 or 6 camels was seen going through Pend d'Oreille country to the Kootenay River and must have travelled on the Dewdney Trail. One camel was released at Cherry Creek on the Kootenay River but permission was later given for the animal to be shot. Its meat was eaten and its hair used for pillows. Later reports said camels were sighted by frightened Indians and in one spot there was a wooden plaque saying seven camels which had died in a storm were buried there. The last camel reported to be living in B.C. "Queen" was a great hit at country fairs. Queen died one day in a farmyard where she was kept and is now buried there. What now remains of B.C.'s camels are some sketchy historical records and a picture of Queen, the country fair star.

At their January meeting Mrs Helen Peachey described various historic sites she visited on a recent European tour, from Stonehenge to Hamlet's castle at Elsinore. The local history part of this meeting dealt with the Dewdney Trail and archaeological work at the site of old Fort Colville in Washington State. The Trail Horsemen's Society has done considerable work in relocating the trail which was once the prime link between the Fraser River and the gold diggings of the East Kootenay. The portion of the trail passing through the Boundary country has been obliterated, but about 70% of the route between Christina Lake and Rossland have been identified. It is hoped that when clearance has been obtained from the various agencies including the provincial Department of Lands and Forests, a clean-up campaign can begin as well as the construction of picnic sites. Although the site of old Fort Colville is now drowned, a considerable amount of archaeological work was done when the Lake Roosevelt reservoir was low and some television programmes about the old HBC post have been shown on local screens.

NANAIMO At the January meeting the guest speaker was Rev. Reginald H. Purdy who recollected life on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Rev. Purdy went, along with his father and uncle in 1909, to take up land in the Queen Charlottes. Fifty years ago, Mr Purdy helped to build a church at Massett, to which he returned last summer to speak again in the church.

The previous meeting in November was held in the Museum, during which members had a conducted tour of the museum and afterwards listened to a tape recording, courtesy of Mr Barraclough, of a C.B.C. broadcast of November 20th, 1970, entitled "The Death of a Raven".

On November 27th, the Society, as usual, held its service at the "Rock" to commemorate the landing of the Princess Royal pioneers. Speakers were Alderman Mrs Hall and Mayor Frank Ney. Mrs Kneen read the roll call of the pioneers and the newly formed chapter of the Sweet Adelines sang "This is My Country".

VANCOUVER The Vancouver Society has had two meetings since the last report. On November 22nd, Mr Alex Bulman, the well known Kamloops rancher and author, spoke on "Kamloops Cattlemen", which in reality was a history of the cattle trade in British Columbia as well as the story of ranching in the Chilcotin and the Cariboo. The next meeting was held on 24th January, when Dr V.G. Hopwood gave a talk on David Thompson's travels in British Columbia, illustrated with slides of Thompson's maps and early nineteenth century surveyors' instruments - a sextant and an artificial horizon of the type used by Thompson.

VICTORIA At their November meeting Captain A.R. Phelps, retired, gave an address on the topic "History of Early Coastwise Shipping". He showed a large number of slides of early vessels used on British Columbia coastal waters, some going back to the era of the Hudson's Bay early ships. His slides pointed up the extensive research work that he had done over the years, especially in locating hard-to-find photographs.

As a special guest speaker at their Annual Christmas dinner, Gerald Wellburn, long-time resident of Duncan and the Victoria area, reminisced about Christmases past - one in England before the Wellburn family emigrated to Canada and another in Victoria when they first arrived in 1911. It is interesting to note that Elizabeth Forbes, author and columnist, reproduced Gerry Wellburn's address, in part, in the Victoria Times of December 18th and 20th, 1972.

Members enjoyed, in January, a lively talk by the Rev. John Travis, Victoria, on the subject "Discovering Robert Rundle, Pioneer, Missionary Explorer in Alberta". His talk brought to mind the fact, often forgotten, that many of the early explorers in Canada were men of the cloth. This is true of the Rev. Robert Rundle who arrived, in what is now Banff, Alberta, in 1840. He kept a diary of his trip to the western part of Canada, and, as so often happens, the diary was "lost". Rev. John Travis, who for some years was the minister at the Rundle Memorial United Church at Banff gave himself a research problem, namely, to find the lost diary. His interesting talk told how the diary was found after a fantastic search that extended to the British Isles and Trinidad.

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JOTTINGS

The Vancouver Numismatic Society Annual Coin show and Educational Symposium is being held in Vancouver April 14th and 15th. The coin show will be held in the Oakridge Auditorium on April 14th, and the symposium at the Holiday Inn on April 15th. There will be speakers on the following topics: "History of the R.C.M.P. in British Columbia and their medals; a slide presentation "B.C. Banknotes"; "The Exposition of 1894, San Francisco"; "Resolution and Adventure Medal 1772 at Nootka, B.C." - a Captain Cook medal. Further information may be obtained from Mr Norman Williams - 526-0744 or 261-8927.

From the Vancouver Sun, Jan. 25th, 1973 .....A new Provincial Class A Park of 1.2 acres called Blessing's Grave Historic Park near Barkerville. The park commemorates Morgan Blessing, a miner murdered by John Barry, the only white man hanged in the Cariboo District. Barry's conviction was brought about by a nugget stolen from Blessing and given to a dance hall girl and later the nugget was recognized by a friend of Blessing's.

From the Vancouver Sun, February 5th, 1973 ".....Yellowknife, N.W.T, A blue print for a "two-holer" outhouse was introduced at the Council of the Northwest Territories by Yellowknife member Searle, together with an angry letter from J. Olsen of Deslisle Sask. The letter commented on Searle's statement that the Federal Government was not providing sufficient funds for sewage disposal in the North. Olsen asked "Are the Indians begging for the white man's flush toilets or did the white man who is not even native to the North, introduce the idea to them that they cannot be content without a flush toilet?" Searle replied "With respect to your not so unique suggestion of a "two-holer" two real problems exist. First, it is rather difficult to dig through rock and permafrost. Second, at below zero temperatures it would be difficult to use if it were possible to build"."

The Society for Historical Archaeology is concerned with the identification, excavation, interpretation and conservation of sites and materials on land and under water. Membership includes subscription to the annual journal Historical Archaeology. Apply to Roderick Sprague, Sec.-Treas., Dept of Soc/Anthro., University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

ORAL HISTORY Plans are being considered to establish a sound record institute and oral history association in B.C. The institute would be a headquarters for research and instruction in everything to do with the recording and preservation of sound tapes, and the oral history association would enable the institute to maintain contact with interested people all over the province. Members of the association would be given special help in the techniques of recording and in matters of research. They would receive a periodical publication which would contain articles about newly acquired recordings, the latest equipment and so on. It is proposed that an inaugural meeting be held in the spring. If you would like to be kept informed about further developments please write to Committee for Oral History Association of B.C., c/o Oral History Project, The Library, University of B.C., Vancouver 8, B.C.

In National Historic Parks News, published quarterly by the National Historic Parks Branch, Issue No. 9 concentrated on "Boats with Bustles". "The restoration of boats is a relatively new move for the National Historic Sites Service. Only in the last twelve years have floating structures been considered of historic importance and been counted along with the more than 600 major and minor historic sites that plot the advent of Canadian history from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island." The restoration of the St. Roch, historic conqueror of the Northwest Passage, will be complete by the latter part of 1974. Two sternwheelers, S.S. Keno at Dawson and S.S. Klondike at Whitehorse, are the property of the National Historic Sites Service and plans are well underway to restore them to their original condition of 1930 and 1937 respectively. They will form part of the extensive Klondyke Goldrush International Historic Park - symbolizing the important role the sternwheeler has played in the development of the north. When restored, Keno will stand as a tribute to the importance of the sternwheelers in the development of the Yukon. Klondike will be converted into a museum housing exhibits, artifacts and relics relative to the history of transportation in the Yukon.

GENEALOGY CLASSES Mrs Gay Curran-Husband is at present teaching a class in genealogy at Delbrook Senior Secondary School in North Vancouver. The course offers an introduction to genealogy, how to search, how to keep



records, and a workshop. Her next course on genealogy will be at Point Grey High School, Vancouver, starting towards the end of March. Enquiries may be addressed to B.C. Genealogical Society, Box 94371, Richmond, B.C.

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OBITUARY

Mr C.D. Stevenson Our Society has learned with great sadness of the untimely death of Doug Stevenson of Williams Lake. Many of us first met the Stevensons' at our successful Gulf Islands Conference of 1966, following which they personally hosted the 1967 Williams Lake Conference. Since then those of us who have had occasion to pass through Williams Lake have enjoyed the wonderful Cariboo hospitality of the Stevensons. Doug's love of history, along with his enthusiasm as a collector of books on the Pacific Northwest, was infectious to all, and he took great pride in showing and discussing his fine book collection with his many visitors. His generosity, support and encouragement to all will be missed by our Society and all who had the good fortune to know him. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Doug's wife Ann.

Miss Hazel Hill It is with extreme regret that we note the passing of Miss Hazel Hill of Lytton, B.C. on November 14th, 1972. Miss Hill had a most interesting background that very few of us knew. Graduating from the University of Toronto and a commercial business course at Windsor, Ont., she specialized in writing French language policies for Canada Life Assurance Co. before obtaining her Master's degree from the University of Alberta in 1963. During her life she lived in New York, France and Switzerland, and was invited to go to New Delhi for the World Council of Churches but could not obtain leave. Before going to Trail she spent some time in the Alberni Valley doing social work. She was a commercial teacher in Trail from 1955 to 1967 when she moved to Lytton and continued teaching until her retirement two years ago. Hazel had been active in the community life of Lytton and served a term as mayor. Before she became ill last summer she had been planning to institute a branch of the B.C. Historical Association at Lytton and had settled on October 1972 for its inaugural meeting.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA BOOKS OF INTEREST, compiled by Frances Woodward.

- BEGG, Alexander. History of British Columbia from its earliest discovery to the present time. Toronto, McGraw Hill-Ryerson, 1973. 590 pp. illus. \$9.95
- CARMICHAEL, Dean. A holiday trip: Montreal to Victoria and return via the Canadian Pacific Railway. Montreal, Railfare Enterprises, 1971. 32 pp., illus. \$1.50. Reprint of 1888 edition.
- CURTIS, Edward S. In a sacred manner we live: photographs of the North American Indian; introduction and commentary by Don D. Fowler. Barre, Mass., Barre Publishers, 1972. 152 pp., illus. \$15.00
- DAVIES, Marguerite and Cora Ventress. Fort St. John pioneer profiles. Fort St. John, Centennial Committee, 1971. 72 pp. illus. \$2.85
- DILL, Reg. History of the Rotary Club of Nelson, B.C.; golden anniversary issue, 1922-1972. Nelson (1972) 40 pp., illus.
- DOWNES, Art. Paddlewheels on the frontier - the story of British Columbia and Yukon sternwheel steamers. Surrey, Foremost Pub. Co. Ltd., 1972. 160 pp., illus. \$9.50; Pt.1 \$2.95; Pt.2 \$3.95 paper.

- DUFF, Wilson. The Upper Stalo Indians of the Fraser Valley, B.C. Vancouver, Indian Education Resources Centre, U.B.C., 1972. 136 pp. illus. \$2.00  
(Reprint of Anthropology in B.C. Memoir No. 1, 1952)
- GAAL, Arlene. Memoirs of Michel-Natal 1899-1971. Rutland, 1971. 202 pp. \$4
- HUNGRY WOLF, Adolf. Good medicine traditional dress issue; knowledge and methods of old-time clothing. (Good medicine series No. 3) Golden, Good Medicine Books, 1971. 64 pp., illus. \$2.50.
- HUNTER, Tom. Wildlife of B.C. (reprinted from B.C. Outdoors Magazine) Surrey, Foremost Pub. Co., 1972. 64 pp., illus. \$2.95.
- LADNER, Leon J. The Ladners of Ladner; by covered wagon to the welfare state. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1972. 161 pp., illus. \$6.50.
- MACFIE, Matthew. Vancouver Island and British Columbia, their history, resources and prospects. Toronto, Coles Pub. Co., 1972. 594 pp. illus. \$6.95.  
(Reprint of 1865 ed.)
- NITINAT STUDY GROUP The Nitinat study - a research project concerning the Nitinat Triangle region on Vancouver Island. Victoria, 1972. 73 pp. illus.
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROJECT, 1972. Architecture of the Fraser Valley. Vancouver, 1973. 112 pp., illus.
- OUTDOORS CLUB OF VICTORIA. Hiking trails Victoria and southern Vancouver Island. Victoria, 1972. 32 pp., illus. \$1.50.
- PATERSON, T.W. Shipwreck, piracy and terror in the northwest. Victoria, 1972. 64 pp., illus. \$2.00
- PIERCE, Richard A. Alaskan shipping, 1867-1878 - arrivals and departures at the port of Sitka. Kingston, Limestone Press, 1972. 63 pp. illus. \$3.50.
- POOLE, Francis. Queen Charlotte Islands. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1972. 347 pp. \$8.95. Reprint of 1872 ed.
- ROTHENBURGER, Mel. We've killed Johnny Ussher! Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1973. 210 pp., illus. \$5.50 hard cover; \$3.75 paper.
- SWAN, James Gilchrist. Almost out of this world: scenes from Washington Territory: the Strait of Juan de Fuca 1859-61; ed. by Wm A. Katz. Tacoma, Washington State Historical Soc., 1971. xxiii, 126 pp., illus. \$7.50.
- TRELEAVEN, G. Fern. The Surrey story today, v.3 (1940-1971). Surrey, Surrey Museum & Historical Society, 1972. 48 pp., illus. \$1.95.
- TRIMBLE, William J. The mining advance into the inland empire. Fairfield, Wash., Ye Galleon Press, 1972. 254 pp. \$10.00
- VANDIVEER, Clarence A. The fur-trade and early western exploration. New York, Cooper Square Pub., 1971. 316 pp., illus. \$8.95. Reprint of 1929 ed.
- VAN TAMELON, Jon P. Canada by canoe; Hudson's Hope, B.C. to Montreal, Quebec. Hudson's Hope, 1972. 190 pp. \$5.00.

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BOOK REVIEWS

B.C. PERSPECTIVES. Kamloops, Cariboo College, 1972- (Subscriptions \$3.00 for three issues)

The Department of Social Sciences at Cariboo College must be congratulated for undertaking the publication of B.C. Perspectives. This journal, of which two issues have now appeared, has set out to publish student work on various British Columbia subjects. The aim is two-fold: to make the results of student research on local subjects available and to show the public the kind of work being done in provincial colleges and universities.

Thus, in the first issue (February 1972) Roland Neave's study of the "sequent occupance" of the Lac Du Bois region and James A. Utley's analysis

of the Cloverdale Fair present interesting historical data gleaned from newspapers, government records and personal interviews. Both articles reveal a concern for "relevance" to the local community. Mr Neave warns of the harmful effects of the encroachment of housing on productive grazing land and Mr Utley proposes a return to the original concept of a country fair as a means of overcoming recent deficits in the fair's operations. The third essay is a statistical examination of Who's Who in British Columbia which shows some striking changes between 1931 and 1951 in the values which made certain British Columbians "prominent". Neil Porteous argues that between these years there was "a moving away from aristocratic British leanings to attitudes which have an affinity with American capitalist values." He offers some thoughtful explanations of why this took place but only hints at the most obvious, the eclectic policies of the editors of Who's Who.

In spite of some rough edges, the articles and the four book reviews are, on the whole, well above the standard one usually finds in undergraduate writing. And, the volume is nicely presented with appropriate maps and illustrations.

The second issue (October 1972) breaks with editorial policy. Indeed, the contributors are professional historians who participated in a symposium on "Approaches to Local/Regional History" held at Cariboo College. In a witty keynote address, J.M.S. Careless, the only participant from outside the province, warmly endorses the study of local history but properly warns against allowing it to become parochialism. Closely related to this theme is a very personal essay in which G.L. Cook describes how he uses local history to launch his Simon Fraser students into their study of the discipline. On the other hand, A.J. Hiebert, in a fascinating account of the Prohibition movement in the Okanagan, notes the difficulty of using local studies to investigate the grass roots of widespread phenomena. Nevertheless, his work does help to explain why British Columbia went "dry". The fourth paper is J. Gresko's impassioned plea for closer co-operation between college history teachers and local museums.

The picture which emerges from both issues of B.C. Perspectives is a happy one. With students of the calibre included in the first issue and instructors with the enthusiasm of the editors and the contributors to the second issue, the future of B.C. studies is bright. Let us hope that B.C. Perspectives will continue to record it as such.

Patricia Roy

Dr Roy, a member of the Victoria Branch, is a member of the Department of History, University of Victoria.

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A HISTORY OF VICTORIA: 1842-1970, by Harry Gregson. Victoria, Victoria Observer Publishing Co., 1970. 246 pp., maps, illus. \$10.00.

This first full-length history of Victoria is a concise outline of the city's political, economic, social, and cultural development from its founding in 1842 as a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company to the present. The author has performed a welcome task of synthesis, drawing widely from both published and original source material as well as verbal reminiscences. Fresh illustrations complement the text, and several new

maps, especially those of large homes and former estates, will be of particular interest to the local history enthusiast.

Victoria does not appeal to all tastes. One disappointed visitor was moved to proclaim that to him Victoria was nothing more than "God's waiting room . . . the only cemetery in the entire world with street lighting."<sup>1</sup> James Douglas, on the contrary, was so captured when in 1842 he first saw the meadows and oaks of what was then Fort Camosun, that he wrote to a friend: "The place itself appears a perfect Eden in the midst of a dreary wilderness of the Northwest Coast, and so different in its general aspect from the wooded, rugged regions around that one might be pardoned for supposing it had dropped from the clouds . . ." (Gregson, p.2). Who could have imagined then that by the end of the nineteenth century the streets of this tranquil Eden would be flowing with "top-hatted, frock-coated merchants, lawyers, business men and politicians, sharing the side walks with semi-naked Indians peddling salmon, jog-trotting Chinese with laundry baskets on their heads, roistering red-jacketed sealers, lumbermen and adventurers of many nations" (pp. 121-122)

In the latter half of the nineteenth century Victoria's strategic position as an important trading headquarters close to San Francisco, and as best port of embarkation to the North, transformed a tiny Fort into a colourful, cosmopolitan centre of activity, particularly in 1858, year of the Fraser River Gold Rush, and again thirty years later, during the Klondike Rush. In many entertaining anecdotes Gregson shows that the resultant influx and expansion produced an interesting clash of personalities, an intermingling of all nationalities with the rather austere Scottish element and sometimes "uppish", usually more light-hearted English strain. "Old square toes" Douglas, for example, is seen sternly ignoring that volatile gadfly Amor de Cosmos, and Lady Douglas, spurned by the wife of Rev. Staines because she is of mixed blood, evidently prefers the company of her children and her chickens to that of Mrs Staines. The famous dispute between the irascible Dean Cridge and Bishop Hills reads like a chapter from the days of Oliver Cromwell, with its locked cathedral doors and the hurling of invective both written and verbal. This quarrel led Governor Seymour to exclaim that the Victorians were "tempest torn and excited" and resulted in the Reformed Episcopal Church which is still on Humboldt Street and is Victoria's oldest church building.

A host of eccentric "characters" gives Victoria its truly unique flavour, and Gregson obviously delights in telling us about them. There is "Blanket Bill" who, when captured by Indians, is said to have been swapped for a blanket offered by Douglas, and there is "Singing Lola" whose "vindictive and stern look in a photograph seems to indicate that she 'went off song' after a few years of marriage to John 'Tod'" (p.64). There was Bill Nye, the rag and bone man, who scoured the waterfront in a barrel using his hands as paddles, and there was "Pig Iron Kelly", the notorious smuggler of Chinese domestics, who weighted his emigrants with pig iron so that all evidence could be drowned in an emergency. The list is seemingly endless.

At the turn of the century the financial crisis in the U.S. seriously

1. A visitor from "Gotham" (New York). Quoted in J.W. Jackman, Vancouver Island. Toronto, Griffin House, 1972, p.154.

affected Victoria's mining and industrial interest. This factor coupled with the rapid growth of Vancouver and Seattle tended to dethrone the "Queen City" and to demote her to a much "lesser princess". Hopefully Victoria's economic misfortunes will help to preserve her unique character. "A cemetery ..... with street lighting" she may sometimes appear to be, but she has also managed to remain as Emily Carr remembered her - a place where every aspect is lovely, North, South, East and West - blue sea, purple hills, snow-capped Olympic mountains bounding her southern horizon, little bays and beaches heaped with storm-tossed drift, pine trees everywhere, oak and maple in plenty.

So stands tranquil Victoria in her Island setting - Western as West can be before earth's gentle rounding pulls West east again.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Book of Small. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 1942, p.245.

Jennifer Gallup

Miss Gallup is a librarian in the Humanities Division, U.B.C. Library.

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THE LADNERS OF LADNER - By Covered Wagon to the Welfare State. by Leon J. Ladner. Vancouver, Mitchell Press Ltd., 1972. 162 p., illus. \$6.50.

PIONEERS! O PIONEERS!

Relatively few place-names in British Columbia, or elsewhere for that matter, are derived from the patronyms of the first settlers. In the lower mainland Agassiz, Rider Lake, Deroche, Mount Lehman, Bradner, Haney, Newton, Port Kells and Ladner are the only examples that come to mind, though some would add Hammond. Of these only Agassiz, Haney and Ladner are viable communities, and even these have no separate organized entities, being unorganized communities within the district municipalities of Kent, Maple Ridge and Delta, respectively. Moreover, of the families whose name survives as place-names, only one would otherwise attract any attention today. The name Ladner would be well known in this area even if Ladner's Landing had been named Chilukthan, Trenant or Delta from the beginning to the present.

For these reasons it will interest many to know that a prominent scion of the family, Mr Leon J. Ladner, has produced a book entitled "The Ladners of Ladner". The subject proves as fascinating as one would expect. Mr Ladner has gone to great trouble to trace the early career of his father, Thomas E(llis) Ladner from the time he left his native Trenant, Penzance, Cornwall, in 1851 to accompany his only brother, ten years older, returning to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, whither their father, Edward, had gone in 1847 and where he was to die before his family could join him. Thus left to their own devices, the two brothers began to plan joining the gold-rush to California and early the next year, still aged only twenty-five and fifteen, they were in Omaha with saddle-horses, ox-wagon and a herd of cattle which they took by way of Laramie, Salt Lake City and Donner Pass to Placerville, a journey of five months and six days. They spent six years in California but their migration was to be continued in the gold-rush to the Fraser River mines in 1858, this time by steamer, canoe, river-boat and pack-train. Ten more years, gold-hunting, packing and other enterprises, were to elapse before settling on the Delta.

Nor does the author tell his story in a vacuum. From Omaha to Barker-ville and the Big Bend he is at great pains to fill in the geographic setting and historical background with much attention to social and economic conditions in which the brothers moved. This, with a digression into the life of the Indians in British Columbia, constitutes more than half the story of the wandering years but adds to rather than detracts from its interest. The remaining quarter of the book is chiefly concerned with Thomas E.'s salmon canning empire (nine canneries in all, from San Juan Island to Skeena River) and his retirement in Vancouver, 1909-1922 (largely the author's own travels in Europe before the First World War). In all, it is an absorbing story.

And yet . . . "The Ladners of Ladner"? This reader, at least, would have liked more: more of that older brother, William H. Ladner, J.P., M.P.P., and of his sisters, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Phillips of New Westminster, the former the mistress of the first private residence in that city; more of the next generation of Ladners growing up on the Delta; more of the rest of the Ladner family as members of Lower Mainland society in the Twentieth Century, since they are, in the generations following that of the author, people of some consequence in their own rights. Mr Ladner, it is true, in his eighty-ninth year, promises us another volume, but on an entirely different subject. It is to deal with "that creeping political and economic menace, Communism, the tentacles of which are spread throughout the world". Even knowing the author's experience as leader of the "Friends of the Soviet Union" at the end of World War II; what new information he can bring at this late date to that tired, over-worked subject one can only wonder.

His publishers have done a good physical job for Mr Ladner - good printing, binding and illustrations - and have included an appropriate foreword by Dr Norman A.M. MacKenzie, President Emeritus of the University of British Columbia. It is too bad they did not also give him guidance and assistance in two specific editorial matters: The proof-reading was definitely inadequate. One or two typographical errors are usually to be expected, but when they misname people ("Suther" for Sutter, "Jeuness" for Jenness) or confuse wording and meaning ("having" for loving, "rides" for rifles, "shipping" for whipping) or identify the capital of the United States as "Washington, B.C." the results must be at least embarrassing for the author. Even more serious is our second complaint, the inadequacy of the bibliography or list of "References" at the end of the book. They are listed in absolutely random order, giving titles and authors without mention of publishers excepting where the publisher was apparently responsible for unacknowledged authorship and, with three exceptions, without dates excepting where the date is essentially part of the title. Also, while the text cites one "Report" nowhere clearly identified, there are three works among the eighty-four listed that look grotesquely out of place: "Fascism; Mussolini", "Main Kampf; Adolf Hitler", and "Leninism; Joseph Stalin". Several other titles are nowhere referred to either nor have any bearing on the Ladner history as given. One can only suppose they are thought either to have some bearing on the author's obtrusive biases or to prepare readers for that promised second volume.

Nevertheless, one must be grateful to Mr Ladner for his positive achievements: a lively and authentic account of a migration over the Mormon Trail to California following "Forty-Nine" with personal aspects

of the Fraser River and subsequent gold rushes in British Columbia, 1858-1867, and new light on the lives, personalities and achievements of two important British Columbians, his father and himself.

John E. Gibbard

Mr Gibbard, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a past Secretary of the B.C. Historical Association

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PADDLEWHEELS ON THE FRONTIER: THE STORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON STERNWHEEL STEAMERS. by Art Downs. Sidney, Gray's Publishing Ltd., 1972. 160 pp. \$9.50.

This volume originally appeared in two soft cover parts in 1967 and 1971, published by B.C. Outdoors Magazine. Boat buffs of all sorts will welcome having it all in one piece and librarians and researchers will be pleased to know that a very adequate index is now provided. Among its real strengths is the author's ability to describe the deep affection for the paddlewheelers that grew up among many of the users of these ships and it is clear that the same fondness guided Mr Downs as he wrote. The result is a truly sympathetic portrait, a celebration of the contribution made by the paddlewheelers and the men who owned and ran them to the development of British Columbia. As he explains in his foreword,

"The record that paddlewheelers and their crews left ranges from comic to tragic, from merely impossible to incredible. The book is not intended to be a concise history of these events. Rather it endeavours instead to present a broad picture of the vessels and their crews and the contributions both made in the transformation of a frontier to the land we know today."

In other words, this is a "popular" treatment of the subject. If we are looking for precise footnoting and extensive bibliographies we will be disappointed. Nevertheless, there has obviously been a great deal of research, in both public institutions and among knowledgeable individuals, no matter how loosely it may be acknowledged or arranged. Consequently, I think the author achieves his own purposes, producing a very entertaining and humorous narrative admirably illustrated.

The period covered, if one disregards for a moment, the portion of the story referring to the Beaver, is almost exactly 100 years; from 1858 when the first paddlewheeler churned up the Fraser River to 1957 when the Moyie, the last of the breed, was retired from service on Kootenay Lake. Within these years, the narrative is organized by river system, which places the ships in their proper setting and among those which were their commercial rivals. Thus there are two chapters on the Lower Fraser and one each on the Cariboo and Central B.C., the Skeena and Stikine, Kamloops and the Shuswap Country, the Okanagan, the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers, the Arrow and Kootenay Lakes and Northern B.C. and the Yukon.

In keeping with his main aim, Downs has filled each chapter with an abundance of verbal and photographic description. For the former he has relied heavily on contemporary newspaper accounts in his reconstruction of the flavour of the period, the ships and the crews. The following is characteristic of many descriptions of arrivals and departures at small communities,

"In May 1911, the B.X. produced more of a flurry at Quesnel than usual. Her whistle blast caused the drayteam organized by George Johnson to bolt, with George "pluckily holding onto the lines and riding out the storm". Then a stagehorse coming down the gangplank fell into the river . . . One horse bucked and "rider, saddle, and blankets went about six feet into the air and landed a few paces away". Afterwards the vessel churned away and calm returned."

Bright as the text is, the photographs are certainly the chief glory of the book. Not only are they numerous and well chosen, but the commentary is for once as complete as anyone could wish. The comments do not merely identify the subject but expand on it, often adding important new points to the discussion. Some might quarrel that the proper place for this sort of thing is in the body of the text, but I found it a refreshing change from cryptic, incomplete or even non-existent identifications of photos. There is one piece of vital information missing from all the photographs, however. Not one of them carries a reference to source, although many contributing repositories are mentioned on one of the introductory pages. Not only is this gross discourtesy to the librarians, archivists, curators and private owners who located and made material available, it makes it almost impossible for those who, after reading the book, want a certain illustration, to establish who has custody of the original.

Apart from being entertaining in itself, I think this book paves the way for other historical studies in this area of a more specialized nature. An obvious candidate would be a more detailed treatment of the economic role played by the sternwheelers on the Lower Fraser between 1858-1886, the latter date marking the establishment of the C.P.R. transportation monopoly on the Lower Mainland. Certainly several good biographies leap out of these pages, notably one on Captain William Moore, who, as Downs notes, played a part in every gold rush from '58 to '98. Following the author's identification, location and picturing of so many different craft, someone might like to attempt an analysis of sternwheeler construction and design in B.C. Mr Downs has laid a good foundation, we can only hope that others will build on it.

R.D. Watt

Mr Watt is Vice-President of the Vancouver Historical Society.

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HIKING TRAILS; VICTORIA AND SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND, Prepared by The Outdoor Club of Victoria. Victoria, 1972. 36 pp. \$1.00.

This booklet consists chiefly of detailed sketch maps with brief descriptions of the trails. It will appeal particularly to newcomers to this area and those longer-time residents who now wish to explore our parks, woods and beaches on their own rather than with a club.

All the trails mentioned are clearly defined trails and in the main are for walks rather than strenuous hikes. However, some longer day hikes are also included and, in particular, there is a very fine detailed map of East Sooke Park. The area covered goes as far west as Port Renfrew and as far north as the Malahat.

The Outdoor Club of Victoria Trails Information Society hopes in due course to produce further publications of a similar nature. For further information write to Mrs Muriel Hunt, Box 1875, Victoria, B.C.

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"Look! They're REAL!", by Dave Brock

The following talk was broadcast on Good Morning Radio, CBC Vancouver on February 6th, 1973 and is reproduced here by kind permission of Mr Brock.

On February 3, 1973 there closed for ever the condemned sections of Eaton's old store on Hastings Street, which of course until 1948 was David Spencer's old store. My family didn't get to know the place until we moved here from Ottawa in 1914, when Spencer's had already been open for about eight years. But we did know it for 34 years, and our account number was 35.

When Eaton's bought Spencer's out, they let us keep that charge account No. 35. Sales girls would say "Yes? 35 what?" and we'd say "35, period", and this was great fun, except that it made us feel about a million years old. When the computers took over, small numbers became impossible . . . a computer can't think in small numbers . . . I have noticed the same very human flaw in politicians who are spending other people's money. So our account number is now 12-million-and-something. This is a very low number for a computer. My Woodward's number is 200-million-and-something; and when I last heard, my Social Security number was not much under a billion. But all the same, 12 million just doesn't get as much awe-struck attention from the sales-girl, or get many old fond memories from me.

But never mind, I keep great supplies of memories on hand anyhow, and my best David Spencer one is undoubtedly the old roof garden, with lunch or afternoon tea in the open air, looking out across the harbour. The other roof garden of those kindly days was on top of the old Vancouver Hotel, pulled down long ago to make room for more memories, which are Vancouver's one really lasting product. From the Hotel's roof garden you could admire the pleasant terra cotta facade of the Birks Building, which to-day grows even more handsome with the years; so, we'll be pulling that down too, a few months from now.

I remember Spencer's book department being far above average, even in the days when other bookshops also stocked great standard works that anyone remained glad to have bought and kept, instead of mere best-selling stacks of recent piffle.

I remember Spencer's French Room of imported dresses. And what was probably the town's best millinery. And the wonderful flower shop. Also I remember that a spencer with a small S once meant a provisioner (to a castle or palace or such) and since Spencer's store was just across Cordova from the CPR trains and ships, thousands of us who were leaving home had all kinds of dainty and cheerful nourishment thrust on us by seers-off who dashed over to Spencer's on a sudden friendly whim.

In that same food department I watched Seaforth wives trying (not very successfully) to cheer themselves up with food after seeing the Seaforths off for Hitler's war in December '39. The cheeriest thing I ever saw there was a great array of peach blossoms, hundreds of branches all through the food department. My wife touched a spray and cried "Look! they're real!" (They'd be from some Spencer family ranch.) And then, watching us and beaming with pleasure at my wife's pleasure, we saw Colonel Victor Spencer, the ranching shopman, to whom not only Nature and B.C. were real, but the store and its staff were real, and we were real too. And I remain,

Yours really,

Number 35.

## OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY

The following brief to extend Manning Park and protect the historic trails of British Columbia was submitted in the latter part of 1972 to the Minister of Recreation and Conservation.

This is a proposal for the preservation of several of the early historic trails of British Columbia. It has particular reference to those parts of the trails which lie between Hope and the Similkameen country. These are trails around which the Province developed. The most interesting, as well as being the earliest and least known of these trails is the Hudson Bay Company's Brigade Trail. From 1849 to 1861 this trail carried the whole of the commerce of the Interior down to Hope, from as far north as Babine Lake. During those years brigades of several hundred horses passed over the trail. Judge Begbie travelled it in 1859, on his first visit to Kamloops from the Coast. It was only with the construction of the Dewdney Trail - the first government road to the Southern Interior - that the Brigade Trail fell into disuse.....

From the historical point of view, it would be a tragedy for these trails to be lost. Their educational value is unquestionable: there can be no better way to absorb the story of our predecessors than to walk in their footsteps; in a very literal sense this will be possible with the trails. In these days of increasing interest in hiking, riding, and exploration on foot and on horseback, there will be ever more people seeking to take part in these activities.

Now that the Federal Government has announced its own program, "Byways and Special Places", there may be an opportunity for co-operation in the preservation of a heritage which undoubtedly belongs to Canada as well as to British Columbia. It is worth noting that the West Coast Trail, which is similar, though much more limited undertaking, attracted over 1000 people during the summer of 1972. The re-opening of the trails to the Interior, possibly as a joint project of government at two levels, is an exciting possibility.

A substantial additional value of this proposal lies in the unspoiled and magnificent country through which the trails pass. An opportunity exists to protect this country as well as the trails. It lies to the north of Manning Park, and it is suggested that the logical way to protect the trails and the area itself would be to make a substantial enlargement of the park, to take in the necessary territory. This country is still difficult to get into, and neither the mining or forestry industries are at present operating in it. It would therefore seem to be an area which is not only highly desirable, but one which could be added to the park without any major opposition from industry. The headwaters of the Tulameen River and other drainage systems are included in the proposed extension of the park. This piece of country has great potential as a wildlife sanctuary, a sanctuary from pollution, an area for hiking, riding, camping and climbing and as an ecological reserve.

The easy access to, and increased use of the present Manning Park make it impossible, for the future, to regard it as a primitive sanctuary area. The addition to it of the suggested extension, which would be better protected both by regulations and by its geography, is a way of providing such an area near the Province's heaviest concentrations of population.

A considerable amount of exploration of the historic trails has been done in recent years by members of this Society, the Okanagan Historical Society, the Boy Scouts of Canada and others. The extensive amount of information collected by our members is available for study by members of government departments, as they investigate this proposal. The people who made the exploration will happily provide their own knowledge and experience. Mr Harley Hatfield, P.Eng., a member of this Society, and others have explored the area annually since 1967. . .

This Society is deeply committed to the proposal contained in this brief. Both the Society and those of its members who are well-informed on the subject, will be available to assist, in any way they can, the further investigation of the proposals set forth.

Respectfully submitted: The Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society.

#### APPENDIX A - INFORMATION ON THE TRAILS

##### The Hudsons Bay Company Brigade Trail

The trail went some miles up the Coquihalla River from Hope, and then followed Peers Creek to Manson's Ridge, thence down to Fool's Pass - a very steep and difficult route. It continued along the west side of the Sowaqua Creek valley, crossed the creek and then skirted the northwest spur of Mt. Davis, at an altitude of approximately 6,000 feet, thus reaching the Podunk Creek valley. It followed this to the upper Tulameen valley. It crossed the Tulameen River, and travelled easier country past Lodestone Mountain to join the Tulameen River again, and thence north to Fort Kamloops. A branch trail led down the river to Princeton (then known as Vermillion Forks.)

##### The Dewdney Trail

This trail was started in 1860, and completed to Vermillion Forks in 1861. Edgar Dewdney and Walter Moberly (who later achieved fame for his survey work for the C.P.R.) were the contractors, and a good part of the work was done by the Royal Engineers. This road was a much bigger project than the old trails, and was later continued to Fort Steele. The trail followed the present route of Highway 3 to the Skagit, and then went up Snass Creek, and so over to Whipsaw Creek. Later, a new route up Skaist Creek and through the Hope Pass was developed. The new route became known as the Hope Trail, and the older part, which followed Snass Creek, was called the Canyon Trail.

##### The Whatcom Trail

This was a variant of the original Dewdney Trail, and was developed before the Hope Trail.

##### The Ghost Pass Trail

This led down from the Brigade Trail to the Dewdney Trail, using Eighteen Mile Creek. Along with Blackeye's Trail (an ancient Indian route) and a short trail leading up the upper Tulameen valley; this served as a better route than the original Brigade Trail, cutting out the difficult Peers Creek section of the latter.

The Pacific Crest Trail

This is not a historic trail, but its recreational importance is such that a possible route is marked on the map, which would enable it to be linked to the trail system now being recommended.

APPENDIX B - SUGGESTED BOUNDARIES FOR THE EXTENDED PARK

These suggestions are not intended to be final or precise, but are given as suggestions for study.

The new boundary could start from the western extremity of the present park at Seventeen Mile Creek. From this point to Peers Creek it could take in all the high alpine country and come down to the highway wherever this would not interfere with any good logging area. It could include the slide.

In the Peers Creek and Sowaqua Creek valleys, it should give full protection to the Brigade Trail without taking in areas where logging is presently feasible. The south slope of Tulameen Mountain is steep, rocky and rough. It is good wildlife and wilderness area, but not good for anything else. The north or east branch of the Sowaqua should be kept free of pollution. The Brigade Trail runs along the north side of the Podunk Creek valley which contains only small lodgepole pine. The boundary should protect the trail and the whole valley, to the point where the trail enters the long-used cattle range at the edge of the plateau.

Along the east side of the Tulameen valley, to where the Dewdney Trail swings east, the boundary should follow, as far as possible, the edge of the range which has actually been used by cattle for some years. From this point to the junction with Manning Park, the boundary shown on the map is drawn to protect as much as possible of the Dewdney and Hope Trails, without intruding too much on traditional cattle range. Where cattle have been pushed in, in the last year or two, or where it is merely hoped to extend the grazing area, it is suggested that the park extension should have priority.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

". . . . I read with much interest Dr Akrigg's address "The Naturalists Discover British Columbia". It surprised me that botanists, two hundred years ago, would have been endeavouring to send seeds etc. back to Kew. It is also remarkable that Capt. Cook should have found space in his small craft for two botanists. Yours sincerely, George Parkes."

INDEX TO B.C. HISTORICAL NEWS VOL. 1-5 will be circulated with this issue. If you do not receive one please ask the Secretary of your Society for a copy.

NOTE: CONVENTION DATES: May 24, 25 and 26, 1973 at VANCOUVER

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VANCOUVER: A LOST BRANCH OF THE VAN COEVERDEN FAMILY

by Adrien Mansvelt

van Coeverden



Vancouver

Ever since my arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia, I have been intrigued by the fact that although a vague notion seems to exist that Captain George Vancouver's family was originally of Dutch origin, nobody apparently has been able to prove his descent. And yet long before I came to this part of the world and though previously not connected in any way with Vancouver, B.C., I had heard that the family name was originally not Vancouver but Van Coeverden.

A search in the Vancouver Public Library and the U.B.C. Library produced only three works of interest concerning Vancouver's lineage; a book "Vancouver; a life 1757-1798" by George Godwin, a pamphlet "George Vancouver, the story of a Norfolk sailor" by G.H. Anderson, and an article in the British Columbia Historical Quarterly, Volume VI, 1942, page 77 under the title "Captain George Vancouver, a study in commemorative place names" by F.V. Longstaff. However, the information contained therein on Captain Vancouver's ancestors, does not go very far. In the second paper it is stated that nothing is known about the origin of the father of Captain Vancouver except that John Jasper Vancouver

was Deputy Collector of Customs at King's Lynn and that Captain Vancouver's grandmother, a certain Mrs Sarah Vancouver, was living in St. James' Street at King's Lynn, where she was listed as a householder and died in 1769. It is admittedly known though that Captain Vancouver did himself remember his Dutch origin when mapping the area in the North West American Continent as in the Chatham Strait (Alaska Panhandle) he named a Couvorden Island, a Point Coevorden and a Couvorden Rock.

It seems that nobody ever thought of working on the riddle of the origin of the Vancouver family from the other end, neither did anybody ever try to find out which member of the van Coeverden family came over to England and established the Vancouver family there. It was probably the language barrier that accounted for this fact and formed the main impediment to further studies. Research in The Netherlands into the van Coeverden ancestry brought to light that in 1883 an article was published in the Dutch heraldic magazine "Heraldieke Bibliotheek" by a certain Captain C.J. Polvliet, member of the Dutch Army Engineers Corps, giving the complete van Coeverden genealogy.

As it is, the van Coeverden family happens to be quite well known in their homeland. They are one of the most aristocratic families in The Netherlands, if not the Dutch family with the oldest ancestry. But even in The Netherlands little has been published on the family, though they are listed in the Handbook on Netherlands Nobility, the Dutch equivalent to "Burke's Peerage". Their origin lies indeed in the town of Coevorden, a town almost on the German border in the North East of Holland. In the nineteenth century it had only a population of a few thousand inhabitants. Nowadays its population numbers about 12,000 inhabitants and the town has developed into a centre of local trade and industry. In former days it used to be an important fortress and originally it formed the capital or the main town of the Province or Region of Drenthe.

The earliest we know is that the van Coeverden's were Viscounts of Coevorden by the middle of the 12th Century, and from their Castle at Coevorden covered the defence of the area. They had the right of coinage and they remained in the hereditary position as Castellans of Coevorden for about two and a half centuries, under the suzerainty of the Bishops of Utrecht, who were sovereigns of the area. Then about 1400 one of the more forceful Bishops of Utrecht decided to put an end to this hereditary rule and instead appointed an official in charge of the Coevorden Castle and hence of the area. The van Coeverden's then were enfeoffed instead with feudal estates near Goor in the Province of Overijssel, which area came under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Utrecht as well. They belonged to the Overijssel Knighthood and in the course of time through intermarriage with descendants of other noble families added to their possessions various castles in that Province, such as Goor and Wegdam.

Once the Dutch Republic had been established in 1579 the van Coeverden's became faithful military men in the service of the Princes of Orange and served the Dutch Army in different military capacities, meanwhile continuing to intermarry with the noble families of the East of Holland. By the end of the 18th Century, apart from the Goor and Wegdam Castles, the Manor Houses of Den Doorn, De Schuilenburg, Stoevelaar, Rande and Kampferbeek in the Province of Overijssel, Schelfhorst in the Province of Drenthe and Putten in the Province of Gelderland, were or had been owned by members of the van Coeverden family.

One of the van Coeverden's, a certain Reint Wolter van Coeverden, (eventually Captain in the Army of the Dutch Republic) as a young man served as a Squire at one of the German Courts, where he fell in love with one of the ladies in waiting, the English Lady Johanna Lillingston, presumably a daughter of Luke Lillingston. (The Lillingston's are mentioned in Burke's "Landed Gentry" as a Yorkshire family). He married her and the couple had one son, named Lucas Hendrik (born at Meppel, Drenthe, in 1699) or as he may have called himself later on, Luke Henry, and one daughter, named Johanna Sidonia. The father, Reint Wolter, seems to have been a bit of an adventurous person. About the year 1700 he decided to go via England to the West Indies where he presumably may have served the Dutch West India Company in Surinam, as mention is made of his stay in South America. He took his wife and two children to these faraway lands. At their return from the West Indies they were shipwrecked but eventually were saved. Johanna van Coeverden presumably died in England, her home country, and their son Luke Henry through his English affinities may have lived there the rest of his life, although so far I have been unable to find any further mention of him but that he died outside Holland. However, as the earlier mentioned Sarah Vancouver was a contemporary of his the assumption may be made that she might have been his wife. This assumption probably looks a bit rash but proof thereof we find later on.

The father, Reint Wolter, meanwhile returned to Holland, joined the Dutch Army again and remarried a certain Miss Johanna Catharina van Broekhuysen. He had one son by his second wife by the name of Arent Louis. Arent Louis van Coeverden became a lieutenant captain in the Army of the Dutch Republic, married a Miss Helena Gezina van Triest, and had two sons. One of them, Johannes Josephus Wigbold van Coeverden, Lord of Kamferbeek, born in 1741, started as a lieutenant in the Dutch Army. He became an important local administrator and was a member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly. He died at Vollenhove (Overijssel Province) in 1818.

Meanwhile the Kingdom of The Netherlands had been founded in 1813 and an official Dutch nobility with voting rights established after the pattern of House of Lords - previously Dutch noblemen only held titles granted by the Holy Roman Empire or by the French Kingdom - Johannes Josephus Wigbold van Coeverden in 1814 had conferred upon him the title of Jonkheer (Baronet). He married three times and by his first wife, a certain Miss Maria Catharina van Jeger, had two daughters, of whom the elder was Louise Josephine van Coeverden, born at Breda, 12 June 1768. It was she who gave the clue to my previous assumption that Sarah Vancouver was Luke Henry's wife, because Louise Josephine van Coeverden on 6th March 1798 married at Vollenhove (Province of Overijssel) Charles Vancouver (the brother of Captain George Vancouver), who in the van Coeverden family papers is recorded as a remote cousin (as they had the same great-grandfather). They each carried the same coat of arms as the van Coeverden family, being three red eagles against a gold background. The couple remained without issue and as far as I have been able to make out the marriage cannot have been a very successful one. Charles Vancouver went by himself to North America and died in Virginia, whilst his wife remained living with her father, and after his death, lived with her half-sister, Helena Gezina van Coeverden, the wife of Jonkheer (Baronet) Jacob van Foreest, Member of the Provincial Parlement. She died on 5th July 1831 at Heemse Manor near Hardenberg (Province of Overijssel), the van Foreest home.

The basic link between the van Coeverden and the Vancouver families now having been given, it may be assumed that Captain Vancouver's grandfather came over to England with his parents and became an Englishman through his mother's affinity to the country.

For those interested, a full descendance of the van Coeverden family may be found in Polvliet's article, a copy of which is available, in Dutch, in the Special Collections Division of the U.B.C. Library.

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Mr Mansvelt is the resident Vancouver Consul General of The Netherlands.

The crest at the beginning of this article is the coat of arms of the town of Coevorden in The Netherlands.

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REMEMBER THE B.C.H.A. CONVENTION DATES

MAY 24, 25, and 26, at

THE UNIVERSITY OF B.C., VANCOUVER, 1973.