



Victoria Historical Society Publication

Autumn, 2006

Welcome to a new season of interesting talks and events with the Victoria Historical Society. In addition to the regular series of talks and outings, this year we and our sister organisation the Old Cemeteries Society, are hosts to the Federation of British Columbia Historical Societies Annual Conference which will give added vigour to our proceedings. The plans for the Conference are proceeding well and of course as we get nearer to the event we will need a good deal of help with the day-to-day running of the event, and we will rely on the enthusiasm of our members to help make the event a success.

As a result of our last Annual General Meeting there has been some changes in the composition of the Board of Directors and the new board and their responsibilities are shown in the panel on page 6. Our thanks to those volunteers who have retired or stepped down from their positions. These members, often working quietly in the background, are the foundation of a successful society such as ours, and their contributions have been a major factor in our continuing good health.

OUTING TO ST. ANN'S ACADEMY OCTOBER 7, 2007

"A Home Away from Home — the Boarding Schools of the Sisters of St. Ann in BC, Alaska and the Yukon" The exhibit features photographs and memorabilia from over 30 schools where the Sisters of St. Ann taught girls from all walks and places in these areas.

St. Ann's Academy is opening a new exhibit, celebrating Women's History Month (Oct. 5-March 17) Thursdays Through Sundays 1 - 4 p.m. For members of the VHS, I propose an outing on Saturday, October 7, 1- 2:30 to see this. I will arrange for a guided tour for us. Contact Arnold Ranneris at 598-3035. (Admission is by donation). For those interested, we may follow this with a walk through the grounds of St. Ann's to the Museum for tea/coffee.

SPEAKERS FOR 2006 ~ 2007 SEASON

September 28, 2006

Terri Hunter ~ *Oak Bay: People and Places Over the Past 100 Years*

In 2006 Oak Bay celebrated its Centennial, and Ms. Hunter will share some aspects of this.

October 26, 2006

Jan Ross ~ *The Women of Carr House*

Jan Ross, Curator of Emily Carr House since 1995, will speak about the women who shared Emily Carr's life. This is a fitting celebration of Canadian Women's History Month (October)

23 November, 2006

Geoffrey Castle ~ *A Saanich Scenario*

Mr. Castle, Archivist for Saanich Municipality which has celebrated its Centennial in 2006, will speak about people and places of Saanich's history.

7 December, 2006 (Dinner Evening).

Rev. Sel Caradus ~ *A Temple Not Made With Hands; a History of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, BC.*

Rev. Caradus has written a history of the cathedral, its people and the community it has served, and its present life in Victoria, from its origins in the 1850's

25 January, 2007

Daryl Ashby ~ *John Muir, West Coast Pioneer.*

Mr. Ashby, author of the book with the above title, is a keen local historian, and will speak about John Muir who had a major part in the early colony of Vancouver Island.

22 February, 2007

Susan Wood & Ken Roueche ~ *Exploring Fairfield's Past*

Ms. Wood, editor of *Moss Rock Review* and CFX radio host of the Local History Hour (Sundays 2pm), and Mr. Roueche, author of *A Fairfield History*, will speak about the people and events that shaped the Fairfield area of Victoria.

22 March, 2007

Jean Barman ~ *Stanley Park's Secret*

Ms. Barman, prominent BC historian, will share

insights and events described in her recent book, *Stanley Park's Secret, the Forgotten Families of Whoi-Who, Kanaka Ranch, and Brockton Point*. Stanley Park has recently noted its centennial in Vancouver.

26 April, 2007

Helen Edwards and John Edwards ~ *Preserving Victoria's Heritage*

The speakers have been active in the Hallmark Society, which is dedicated to the preservation efforts of citizens and local government of heritage buildings. They will give an illustrated lecture on aspects of this program which has achieved much.

24 May, 2007

Arnold Ranneris ~ *Victoria's YMCA and YWCA*
Arnold is volunteer archivist for the YM/YWCA. He has become fascinated with the social history of the "Y" which has been active in Victoria since 1875 (YMCA) and 1892 (YWCA). He will be assisted by Lori Hewitt, staff member of the YM/YWCA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Dinner

It's never too early to be thinking about Christmas and about Christmas Dinner in particular. This year as usual we will be meeting at the Gorge Vale Golf Club, and we can expect the usual warm welcome and good service from them. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 and you should send or give your cheques to Eric Domke as soon as possible. The speaker at this meeting will be the Rev. Sel Caradus and his topic will be *A History of Christ Church Cathedral*

Improving Your Mind!

Heritage Resource Management (HA 487A F01, 1.5 units, TT# 84278)

This lively and interesting course develops your understanding of the range of management challenges associated with heritage areas, buildings, landscapes, and other resources. It provides an intensive study of heritage resources worldwide, and of the management approaches that support their preservation and presentation.

Fees: \$442 credit or non-credit.

Times: Mondays, September 11 to November 27, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in FA 103

For more information call: Joy Davis 250 721 8462

Cultural Resource Management Program
<http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp>



BAPCO PAINT AND WHITE SWAN SOAP

The founder of the companies, William Joseph Pendray, was born in Cornwall August 15, 1846. He emigrated to California in 1867 or 1868 via the Isthmus of Panama,¹ first going to Grass Valley, Nevada where he worked for wages for eight months

and recognized that he was not going to get wealthy that way. Hearing of opportunities in the Cariboo district of British Columbia, he came north to Victoria. Pendray carried on to Mosquito Creek in the Cariboo where he became one of the owners of the Willow and Minnehaha mines.² The Willow turned out to be a very rich mine and Pendray did so well that he was able to retire to England a wealthy man after only a few years. However, gold fever is a difficult disease to overcome. Investing in South African gold mines Pendray managed to lose most or all of his fortune. In need of an income and perhaps restless in England, after three years he returned to North America, showing up in Virginia City, Nevada. He was there when a bank failure brought many hundreds to ruin. This time, fortunately, Pendray was able to recover or retain his money. In 1875, with his stake intact, he came to Victoria. His uncle, W.J. Jeffree, was in the clothing business in Victoria and wanted Pendray to come into the business, but Pendray found that the business did not appeal to him. While walking about the city he ran across a soap factory that had been closed since the death of its owner.³ He decided to take the opportunity and rented the vacant factory. He started in the soap manufacturing business, with but one man to help him. The company prospered and the 1882 Directory stated:

"PENDRAY & Co.'s SOAP FACTORY. This is the only soap factory in British Columbia. It is situated on Humboldt street, and comprises very extensive and substantial buildings, the factory itself being 60 x 40 feet, the warehouse 60 x 30 feet, and the storehouse 20 x 16 feet. The amount of tallow used per week is about 3,000 pounds. On the ground floor there is an 8 horse power boiler for supply steam. The various kinds of soap manufactured are Indian soap, made with oil, whale oil soft soap, ordinary household soap, of which 12 kinds are made; toilet soaps, of different scents and colors; carbolic, shaving and glycerine. The quantity of household soap manufactured per week is about 10,000 pounds and there is also a large demand for toilet soap. Pendray & Co. deserve all praise for their energy."⁴

By 1891 the factory consisted of two boilers, each with a capacity of 20,000 lb. of soap stock and two smaller boilers, one of 4,000 lbs. and one of 1,000 lbs. There were also two soap presses, one soap powder mill, a bluing grinder, a nine horsepower and a seven-horsepower engine. At that time the average week's production was 40,000 lb. of soap, both toilet and laundry soap. The plant also made bluing, stove polish and blacking, washing soda, etc.⁵ The main brand of soap was called White Swan Soap.

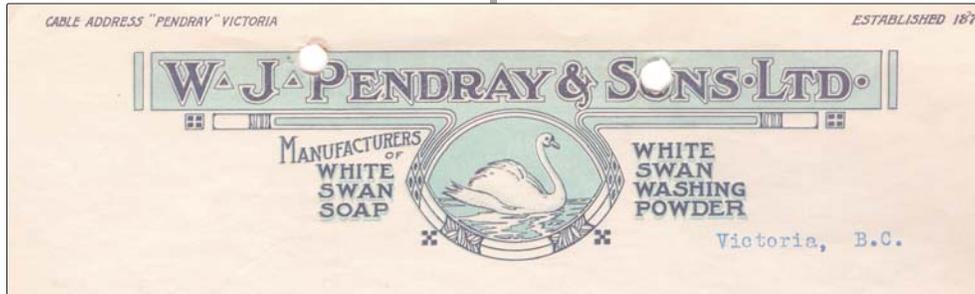
The Humboldt Street site backed onto the mud flats of James Bay. Shortly after the turn of the century a coffer dam was built and the mud flats were filled. Today we know the coffer dam as The Causeway and the Empress Hotel sits on the former mud flats.

By 1877 Pendray felt that he was successful enough that he could ask Amelia Jane Carthew, young lady

whom he had met during his three year return to Cornwall, to become his wife. In April 1877 Amelia sailed from Liverpool to New York, crossed the continent by rail to San Francisco and then sailed up the coast to Esquimalt where she was met by her Fiancé. The following day, May 23, 1877, Amelia and William Joseph Pendray were married at the residence of W.J. Jeffree. Between 1878 and 1891 the Pendrays had four sons, Ernest Carthew, John Carl, Herbert Jeffree and Roy Trevena.

Belleville Street, almost in front of the family home, when the horse bolted and Ernest was thrown from the buggy and killed instantly. He left a widow and two small children.

Prior to the establishment of W.J. Pendray & Sons, Ltd. on October 18, 1909, the soap works and the paint company were proprietorships of W.J. Pendray. Phyllis Manning says that Lord Leverhulme⁹ wanted to expand to North America and called upon W.J.



The Jacob Sehl house had stood on Laurel Point, at the entrance to Victoria harbour until it had spectacularly burnt to the ground in January 1894.⁶ Pendray subsequently purchased the property⁷ although he continued to operate on the Humboldt site. The Pendrays built a house on Belleville Street in 1895 which was notable for the ceiling frescoes painted by German artisans and the topiary garden that he developed. The house was located just one block from the Laurel Point site. The house was sold after Mrs. Pendray's death in 1937 and for a number of years it served as a home for a group of nuns. During this period the building was known as Loretto Hall. It later became a restaurant known as the Captain's Palace and then Gatsby Mansion Inn and Restaurant. The topiary is long gone.

Of peripheral interest is that in 1880 W.J. Jeffree and W.J. Pendray installed the first two telephones in Victoria. The Company exhibited at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in 1886 and in the early 1890's won a number of medals at the British Columbia Agricultural Association annual Exhibition in Victoria. The awards were made for various products, laundry soap, toilet soap, paper boxes, sal soda, stove polish, blacking, vinegar and bluing.

As one might expect, just operating a successful soap works was not quite enough to keep an energetic man such as W.J. Pendray busy. He also purchased, in April 1899, the British Columbia operation of the Canada Paint Co. Ltd. which had established in Victoria about 1893. Pendray called his new acquisition the British America Paint Company and moved it to Humboldt Street beside the soap manufactory. The move to Laurel Point took place some time about May 1906.⁸ The Humboldt Street property was sold to the Canadian Pacific Railway which opened the Empress Hotel in 1908. A portion of the 1929 wing of the hotel occupies the former Pendray property.

Disaster struck the family towards the end of 1908. The eldest son, Ernest, was driving a buggy along

Pendray, anxious to purchase the White Swan Soap Business. This may have been the case, but before a sale could take place the family suffered another grievous loss. On September 27, 1913, William J. Pendray was inspecting the new large water tank and fire protection system at the paint factory when a pipe fell from high up, striking him on the head with fatal results. He was just 67 years of age. The eldest surviving son, J. Carl Pendray, missed being present — and possibly injured — when he was delayed by a customer who called on him just as the two Pendrays were leaving the office to inspect the project. J. Carl succeeded his father as president of the company.

The agreement for the sale of the soap company to Royal Crown Soaps Ltd was made on the 21st of October 1913.¹⁰ At the time of the sale the company was operating in Victoria, Vancouver and Calgary, having opened in Calgary by 1912. The soap works was closed by its new owners in 1926.

Herbert, the third son, (1883-1956) became the vice-president of the paint company. He and his wife never had any family. They travelled quite a bit and their life centered around the Metropolitan United Church. He left a bequest to the church which was used to build Pendray Hall.

Roy, the youngest son, (1891-1932) moved to Calgary to manage the prairie operations. He died of pneumonia in 1932 at age 41. He left a widow and four daughters.

Carl (1879-1961) managed the company until his retirement in 1948. He was very civic minded and served four one year terms as mayor of the City of Victoria in the mid 1920's. Upon his retirement his son, Allan, became president of the company. Carl passed away while in California in February 1961.

The company was sold to Canadian Industries Ltd. in late 1965, effective January 1, 1966. By this time the company had been known as Bapco paint for many years, from its brand of paint. On April 30,

1968 the name was officially changed from British America Paint Co. Ltd. to Bapco Paint Ltd. A few years later, in 1973, the company moved its factory from Victoria to Surrey, a move resulting in a modern plant and major savings in freight, for the raw materials did not have to be shipped to the island, and the bulk of the finished product shipped back to the mainland. Some years later the CIL paint division was sold to St. Clair Paint and in turn it has very recently been sold to ICI Paint Canada.¹¹ Today, Laurel Point is the site of a luxury hotel.

¹ The two main sources used differ here. Phyllis Manning says 1867 and the much earlier Colonist article says 1868. The Victoria Daily Colonist, September 18, 1913, p.5 and *The Pendray Pioneers in Early Victoria, British Columbia*, by Phyllis Manning. Mrs. Manning, a daughter of J. Carl Pendray and a grand-daughter of W.J. Pendray, refers to the Colonist article and the 1867 date may have been a correction.

² Wm Pendray was listed in the 1871 B.C. Directory as Mosquito Creek. *First Victoria Directory Third Issue and BC Guide*.

³ This is the story related by the 1913 newspaper article and Phyllis Manning. The firm of Robinson and McDonnell (S. Robinson and R.J. McDonnell) was listed in the 1871 directory as running a soap manufactory. It was not listed in the 1874 directory, nor was S. Robinson, and the only R.J. McDonnell was shown with a different occupation. There are no appropriate obituaries in the newspaper index in the period 1870 to 1875, nor in the Vital Events death index, so we cannot confirm the story. An advertisement for *Robinson's Celebrated Magic Soap* appeared in September 1870.

⁴ *The British Columbia Directory for the Years 1882 - 83*, R.T. Williams, Victoria, 1882 p. 20.

⁵ *Victoria Illustrated*, Ellis & Co., Victoria, B.C. p. 84.

⁶ Victoria Daily Colonist, January 16, 1894 p. 8.

⁷ Manning says 1890, but the date is unlikely as it was four years before the Sehl's house burnt.

⁸ Victoria Daily Times, 75th Anniversary Issue, June 8, 1959.

⁹ Manning, p. 41, However William Lever, founder of Port Sunlight and later Chairman of Lever Bros. (Limited) did not become Baron Leverhulme until 1917.

¹⁰ The agreement for sale was one of the items that the author was able to salvage when approximately five truckloads of old records were taken to the city dump for disposal following the sale of the paint company. He heard about this after the first truckload had gone and obtained permission to go through the remaining records in the vault with the understanding that the family were to check anything to be saved. This was accordingly done. It was a very quick salvage job under severe time limitations.

¹¹ November, 1996.

Ronald Greene



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MANY CENTENNIALS

In 2008, British Columbia will celebrate its sesquicentennial. Now that's a word soon to be on everyone's lips! It means 150, and so we will be celebrating the founding of the Colony of British Columbia in 1858.

But that's not British Columbia's only centennial. As an avid collector of memorabilia and other trivia, I started picking up souvenir items produced for the 1958 British Columbia Centennial. I now have quite a boxful, including a large flag; plates and cups and saucers; books and pamphlets; a belt buckle; dollar coin; a large plaster plaque and even a license plate holder. There was quite a party in 1958!

But then I came across a horse buckle that said British Columbia Centennial 1966. And some posters and medals for the 1971 British Columbia Centennial. Not to mention lots of 1967 Canadian centennial items with a British Columbia flavour.

So if you're confused, here's some historical background on the events commemorated by these various British Columbia centennials. This may come in handy in preparation for the 2008 year of celebration.

1849 - Colony of Vancouver Island

The Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Victoria in 1843. But with increasing US American activity in the Pacific northwest, the British government wanted to establish its imperial presence in the region. The Colonial Office at that time was looking for models whereby private interests would bear some of the costs and responsibilities for colonies. Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the colonies, negotiated with the Hudson's Bay Company for a suitable arrangement.

Under the Royal Grant of January 13, 1849, the British Crown gave the Hudson's Bay Company proprietary rights to Vancouver Island in return for an annual rent of seven shillings. The Hudson's Bay Company promised to establish a settlement of colonists and defray civil and military costs from the sale of land and other natural resources.

James Douglas, as Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company and with over twenty years of experience in the region, expected to be appointed as Governor. The Crown, however, appointed Richard Blanshard, an English barrister with enthusiasm but no experience in colonial administration. Blanshard arrived in March 1850 but by the end of the year had resigned. In September 1851, James Douglas was appointed Governor on Vancouver Island.

1858 - Colony of British Columbia

The US Americans were actively expanding their business empires into the heart of the mainland and gold seekers were moving north from California. James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver Island, attempted to control activity on the mainland even though he lacked political authority. He issued an ordinance in December 1857 declaring that all gold mines in the Fraser and Thompson districts

belonged to the Crown and must be licensed. However, by spring, floods of US American miners were streaming into the new territory – ignoring the need to purchase licenses. This spurred the Colonial Office in Britain to action.

Under a new Secretary of State, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, the Colonial office introduced a bill into parliament on July 1, 1858 to put a vast area called "New Caledonia" under the Crown's jurisdiction. By the time the Act received royal assent on August 2, 1858 the name New Caledonia was changed to British Columbia by Queen Victoria. This British Columbia Act proclaimed the Colony of British Columbia as the land bordered by the US to the south, the main chain of the Rocky Mountains to the east, the Simpson and Peace rivers to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the west, and including the Queen Charlottes.

James Douglas was offered the governorship of this new colony too – provided he severed his connection with the Hudson's Bay Company. On November 19, 1858, at Fort Langley, James Douglas was sworn in as Governor and various proclamations made to establish the new colony.

Most people expected Fort Langley to be the capital for the new colony; however, Colonel Moody, the new Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, determined that a new spot forty kilometres west of Fort Langley could be better protected – so New Westminster was chosen as the new capital in 1859.

1866 - Act of Union

As early as 1864, the Vancouver Island Assembly debated forming a federation with the mainland, mainly for economic reasons. But with deepening recession on the west coast, and talk of confederation in the eastern colonies, by 1865 the Vancouver Island Assembly began actively pressing for immediate union of the two colonies. The Colonial Office in Britain was also under pressure to reduce expenditures and by February 1866 decided to incorporate the Colony of Vancouver Island into the Colony of British Columbia.

On November 19, 1866 the Act of Union was proclaimed. The first Governor of the united Colony of British Columbia was Frederick Seymour, who had been Governor of the mainland Colony of British Columbia since 1864. The Island was given eight seats in the new legislature and the mainland fifteen seats.

In March 1867, the new Legislative Council chose Victoria as the capital of the new colony, much to the surprise of Seymour and others who favoured New Westminster.

1867 - Confederation of Canada

The British North America Act joined Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canadas in the Confederation of Canada in 1867. In British Columbia, politicians hotly debated joining the new confederation. The "pro" faction lobbied the British Government to include provisions in the BNA Act to

accommodate future admission by British Columbia into the Canadian federation. They lobbied the new Canadian government, going so far as to draw up potential terms for admission. The Legislative Council passed a resolution favouring union with Canada. It was a lively topic in the election of 1868, with all but one elected representatives on the mainland favouring confederation while all elected Victoria representatives opposed. Debate continued to rage.

In 1869, the Crown appointed Anthony Musgrave as Governor of the Colony. The Colonial Office in Britain believed that political and economic interests could best be advanced through union of the British Columbia Colony with Canada and directed Musgrave to promote favourable consideration of confederation. In February 1890, a lively debate in the Legislative Council resulted in unanimous support for the resolution for union.

1871 - British Columbia joins Confederation

In July 1870, a delegation travelled from British Columbia to Ottawa to negotiate terms of the union. They were warmly received. Negotiations began on July 3, 1870 and soon reached agreement.

In addition to confirming British Columbia's right to make its own decision on responsible government, under the agreement the province's \$1,045,000 debt would be wiped out; the province would receive subsidies and other grants; the federal government would exert its influence to have the Imperial authorities continue to maintain the naval station and would itself guarantee a loan for a dry-dock at Esquimalt. Most importantly, the Canadian negotiators offered to begin a railroad within two years and complete it within ten years. British Columbia was asked to grant a twenty-mile belt on each side of the proposed line, but would receive \$100,000 per annum in perpetuity.

In the November elections in the Colony, supporters of Confederation were returned in every constituency. On January 5, 1871 Governor Musgrave read to the new Council a message outlining the amended terms of union and promising the introduction of completely representative government after union. On January 18, 1871, the Legislative Council of British Columbia unanimously accepted the terms of union.

On May 16, 1871 the Imperial government issued the order-in-council to admit British Columbia as a Canadian province and fixed July 20, 1871 as the date for entry into the dominion.

Prime Minister John A. McDonald chose Joseph W. Trutch as the new Lieutenant-Governor and the first provincial election was held in the autumn. From the twenty-five elected members, Trutch chose John Foster McCreight as the first premier.

Mary Coward

