

From Mimeograph to Multiple Pathways

The BCHF takes another leap into the Electronic Age

by Jacqueline Gresko

The British Columbia Historical Federation Council and the Publications Committee are pleased to announce that, thanks to a partnership with the University of British Columbia Library, the federation's publications 1923–2007 have been digitized and will be available on the University of British Columbia Library website. Ingrid Parent, the University Librarian, and Christopher Hives, the University Archivist, joined us at the conference awards reception and banquet, Saturday May 8, 2010 in Vancouver. The federation recognized Chris Hives and the University of British Columbia Library for developing the project.

A soft launch of the digitization took place before the official launch.

1. Go to the the BCHF website at www.bchistory.ca.
2. Click on the **Publications** link.

NEW! Federation Publications, 1923 - 2007

or

3. go directly to the university library website at <http://bchistory.library.ubc.ca/?db=bchf#>.

The digitized publications include the *BC Historical Association Annual Reports* 1923, 1924, 1929, the *BC Historical Quarterly* 1937–1958, and *BC Historical News/BC History* 1968–2007. The university library and BCHF are sharing a unique historical record with communities across the province. The BCHF website provides the covers and contents for Vol. 41, 2008, on, and copies of BCHF Newsletters. We look forward to discussing an update at five year intervals of the UBC Electronic Publication Hosting Agreement with the BCHF. A 2012 update would coincide with celebration of the BC Historical Federation ninetieth anniversary.

A brief history of the project

Members of the BC Historical Federation Council and Publications Committee had discussed for several years how to digitize the federation's past publications. An invitation from Chris Hives, University Archivist, University of British Columbia Library, got the

project going. He invited Jacqueline Gresko and Ron Hyde, members of the Federation council, to consider cooperating with the university library on a digitization project. The BC Historical Federation publications committee prepared recommendations that the council and Annual General Meeting of May 2009 endorsed.

The digitization of the *BC Historical Association Reports* and *Quarterly* and the BC Historical Federation's *BC Historical News* and *BC History* brings a wealth of historical articles to the Federation's 170 member societies and 24,285 individual members, but also to students, researchers and readers across the province. The digitization project fits the Federation and the University Library's shared goals to stimulate public interest and to encourage research in the province's history.

In June 2009, Ronald Greene, president of the BC Historical Federation, signed an Electronic Hosting Agreement with the University of BC Library "to help promote access to important sources of information pertaining to British Columbia history." That agreement for a digitization project moved the federation further into the electronic age, from single to multiple pathways of communication. In the early-twentieth century the federation began newsletters and printed journals. Now in the twenty-first century the federation and the publications committee coordinate website communication and email as well as journal, newsletter and direct mail. The federation's current newsletter, begun in 2003 by Ron Hyde, goes out in print, by email and on the website.

This history of BC Historical Federation publications appears on the University of BC Library website:

The British Columbia Historical Association, organized on 31 October 1922, published four Annual Reports and Proceedings between 1923 and 1929 in order to "stimulate some interest in the study of British Columbia history."

However, it was not until January 1937 that the British Columbia Historical Quarterly was published by the Archives of British Columbia in co-operation with the British Columbia

Jacqueline is the BC Historical Federation Publications Chair and served as president of the federation from 2003 to 2006. Her most recent publication is *Traditions of Faith and Service: Archdiocese of Vancouver 1908-2008*. Her current research projects include one on women missionaries and one on Royal Engineer families.

Further Reading

Anne Yandle, "British Columbia Historical News: A Short History," BC Historical News vol. 37, no. 4, Winter 2004, 2.

Historical Association. The masthead for each issue indicated "Any country worthy of a future should be interested in its past", a phrase coined by W. Kaye Lamb, editor and Provincial Archivist. It was hoped that by publishing the Quarterly "the writing of worthwhile articles upon many aspects of British Columbia's history" would be encouraged. This objective was achieved but, unfortunately, printing of the publication diminished to thrice per year (1949), semi-annual (1951) with the last and final issue as a bi-annual (Jan. 1957-Oct. 1958 printed in 1963).

After a decade without a publication the British Columbia Historical Society recruited reluctant volunteer editor, Philip Yandle, at its 1967 annual general meeting; and the inaugural issue of British Columbia Historical News appeared in the spring of 1968. Early issues included news from member societies and of local historical interest as well as a feature article. As the journal matured fewer news items and more feature articles were published. To reflect this change in content, the title was revised to British Columbia History in 2005.

In the summer of 2009 the University of British Columbia Library, in partnership with the B.C. Historical Federation, began work on a project to digitize and provide full-text searching for all of the Federation's publications. Taken collectively the various publications represent an outstanding resource for chronicling the historical development of the province as well as the wonderful and diverse research that has been done to date. The provision of digital copies of the publications as well as the capacity to effectively and efficiently search their contents will undoubtedly provide enhanced access to these important sources of information.

Acknowledgments

The BC Historical Federation thanks Chris Hives, University of BC Archivist and Ingrid Parent, University of BC Librarian for the partnership on digitization of the federation publications. We thank Gary Mitchell, Director Collections, Research and Access, Royal British Columbia Museum, and Provincial Archivist, for advice on the *BC Historical Quarterly* digitization. On January 30, 2009 he wrote to Ron Greene, President of the Federation "to authorize the British Columbia Historical Federation to digitize the entire run of the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*." The Federation now has clear copyright on publications produced from 1923 to the present. We appreciate the contributions of historical society members who began the publications, and the editors, authors, reviewers and publications committees who kept them going. We recognize the members who generously donated back issues for digitization. We thank the current publication committee members for their support, particularly website editor Ron Welwood. Last, we thank the members who provided feedback on the test website.

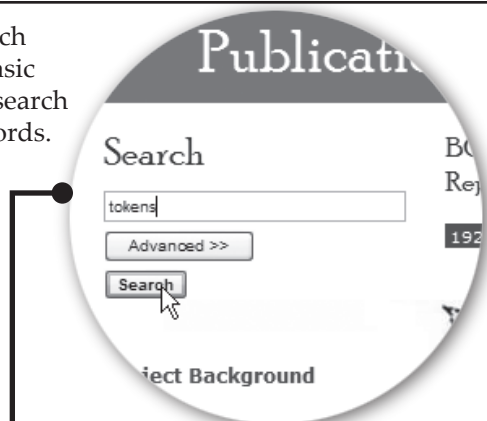
Personally I would like to make two points. First, doing an inventory of the journals in June 2009 made me think about the ebb and flow of historical organizations in British Columbia and also the evolution of historical studies. The digitization project provides opportunity to research articles on both topics and to gain new insights. For example the 1924 BC Historical Association *Annual Report* panoramic photograph of the BC Pioneer reunion. The photograph has been available through the BC Archives, but the digitization of the report provides the photograph and the identification of people in the picture. The list of names includes Emily Carr and Susan Allison. These women wrote about Aboriginal peoples and childhood in a time when white men and past politics dominated historical studies of the province. I look forward to seeing what students make of this.

Secondly, I want to say how pleased I am as a University of BC graduate to be able to participate in the University Library's digitization of BC Historical Federation publications.●

Introducing the Digitization Project

<http://bchistory.library.ubc.ca/?db=bchf#>

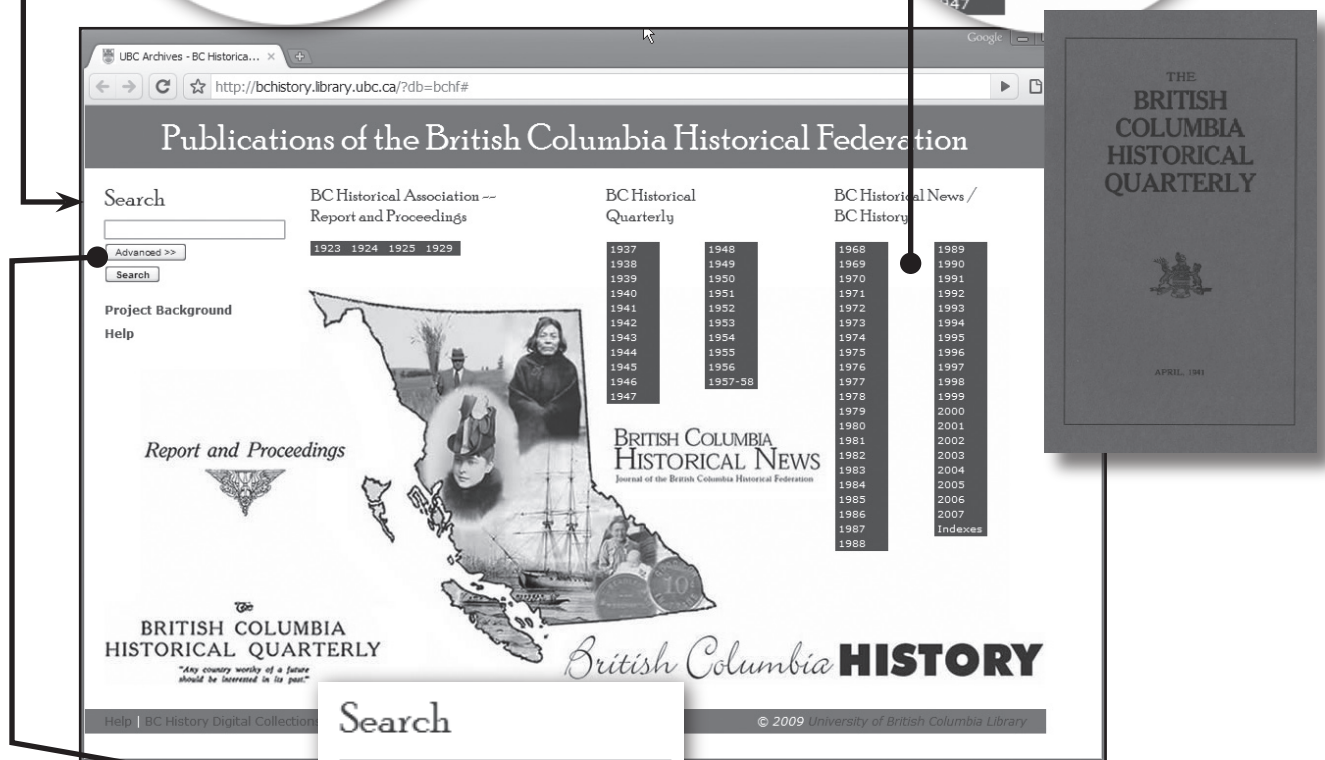
Basic Search
Use the basic search to search for key words.



Browse by Year

Use your mouse to scroll through the expanding menus to find a specific issue.

Clicking on that issue opens up the PDF so you can read, print, or save the issue.



Advanced Search

Use the advanced search to sort by date, title, or author.

Use stemming to find the suffixes for a root. For example you could search for Smith and find the Smithes and Smithsonian as well.

You can also restrict the search to a specific date range.

Results are shown in a list with links to either a text version or the fully searchable PDF.

Search

☒ All words ☐ Any words

Sort by author ☐ Reverse

Stemming:

January 1923 to December 2010

25 results per page

