

A slice of life



Jacob Simonson is the pre-eminent photographer in early Prince George history. His collection of photos date between 1913 and 1929 and exhibit an extraordinary eye for subject. He was also a brilliant photo-chemist, under Spartan lab conditions. He would often heft his bulky camera about town to capture local events and people in action — most often with no hope of financial remuneration. His ambition is posterity's gain.

The portrait was the primary duty of early photographers. Simonson was particularly good, and didn't mind shooting the ordinary people of the area like (clockwise from top): a couple on their front porch (the photo was damaged on bottom corner), the crew of the B.X. Steamship (Captain Owen Forrester Browne in centre), three dapper hombres, the crew of a Fraser River scow, and a heavy hitter with a local baseball team.

The photos of Jacob Simonson are part of the permanent collection at the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum donated by Wally West. The public can now purchase prints of these historic pictures.

