

**Peter Faminow fonds**

RBSC-ARC-1663

Finding aid

Sarah Romkey, January 2010

Rare Books and Special Collections  
University of British Columbia Library

**Table of contents**

Fonds description..... 3

Series descriptions..... 5

File lists

    Family records ..... 7

    Records related to education ..... 7

    Records related to law practice and career..... 7

    Doukhobor related files..... 8

    Scrapbooks and clippings..... 9

    Audio recordings..... 10

## **Fonds description**

### **Peter Faminow fonds.**

1925 – 2002.

95.5 cm of textual records and other material.

**Biographical sketch:** Peter Faminow (1917-2002) was born in Alberta to Russian-born Doukhobor parents, Sam and Elizabeth Faminow. He received his grade school and high school education in Lundre, Alberta, and attended Willamette University in Oregon before studying law at University of Saskatchewan and University of Alberta. He met his wife, Frances Sopp, at Willamette.

While studying law, Faminow became actively involved in the Doukhobor youth movement. He would later help organize the 1958 Conference on Peace through Non-violence, author a column called “Dasha” in the Doukhobor publication *Mir*, and serve as the secretary-treasurer of the Union of Doukhobors in Canada. He was also a member of a fact-finding mission to the Doukhobor residential school in New Denver, and was part of a committee of Doukhobors to recommend a resolution to that issue.

After relocating with his wife and daughters (Sarah, Polly and Megan) to North Vancouver to practice law, Faminow served as a councillor and alderman for the District of North Vancouver between 1960 and 1974 and ran once for Reeve. He also ran once as a New Democrat in the Federal Election of 1963.

In 1987, Peter Faminow filed a case in the B.C. Supreme Court regarding the issue of secondary suites in North Vancouver, B.C. and succeeded in having the bylaws for allowing the rental of secondary suites changed.

**Custodial history:** Records were gathered by Faminow’s daughter Polly Faminow. They were initially packaged and shipped to the Royal B.C. Museum and Archives before being transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections in the spring of 2009.

**Scope and content:** Fonds consists of personal and business records of Peter Faminow, related to his personal and family life, career as a lawyer and a politician, and his interests and involvement in the Doukhobor community. Records include correspondence, clippings and scrapbooks, photographs, audio recordings, papers, speeches, and other textual records. Fonds is arranged into the following series: Family records, Records related to education, Records related to law practice and career, Doukhobor related files, Scrapbooks and clippings, and Audio recordings.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

**Physical description note:** Fonds contains 95.5 cm of textual records; 14 photographs; 14 audio reels; 4 audio cassettes.

**Arrangement note:** Records were prepared for transfer and in some cases organized into files by family members. This general arrangement has been retained, and grouped into series by the archivist according to either aspect of life or type of material as appropriate.

**Finding aids note:** File list and audio recording list available.

**Accruals note:** No further accruals are expected.

**Related groups of records note:** See also the Doukhobor Research Collection at Rare Books and Special Collections.

A number of publications related to the Doukhobors were also donated with the fonds. They can be found by searching the UBC Library catalogue.

## **Series descriptions**

### **Family records.**

[ca. 1930-1959], 2002.

7.5 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of Faminow family records, related to schooling, the family farm and other personal records. Contains a file of letters related to military mobilization during the Second World War and the Faminow sons' attempts to gain exemptions. Series consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, a farm account book and other textual records and are arranged by type of record. Also contains a file of obituaries and memorials of Peter Faminow compiled by Polly Faminow.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

### **Records related to education.**

[ca. 1940-1953].

8 cm of textual records.

1 photograph : b&w.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of records related to Faminow's university education and law articling. Records include correspondence, essays (some written by people other than Faminow) and short stories and poems, some of which reference the Doukhobors. Also includes certificates from Willamette University, Law Society of British Columbia, Law Society of Alberta, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Alberta. Files are arranged by type of record.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

### **Records related to law practice and career.**

1942-1999, predominant 1987.

19 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of correspondence, clippings and other records related to Faminow's legal practice and career interests, as well as a series of Supreme Court of British Columbia documents related to Faminow's court case against the District of North Vancouver over secondary suites. Also contains a file of information on watershed issues in West and North Vancouver.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Doukhobor related files.**

1925-1998

39 cm of textual records.

4 photographs : b&w

**Scope and content:** Series consists of Faminow's files and documents related to the history of the Doukhobors and his own involvement in the Doukhobor community and related issues such as pacifism, multiculturalism and human rights. Series contains correspondence with others in the Doukhobor community such as Koozma Tarasoff and Eli Popoff, writings about the Doukhobors by Faminow and others, and records generated by societies and conferences such as the Sons of Freedom, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, 1958 Peace Through Non-violence Conference and various other Doukhobor organizations. Several files consist of documents related to Faminow's fact-finding activities into the Doukhobor children who were removed from their families to the New Denver residential school (known as "Operation Snatch") in the 1950's. Two files contain historical documents have originated from and/or were circulated within the Doukhobor community in the 1920's – 1950's, such as circulars distributed by Peter P. Verigin (file 3-7).

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Language note:** Some materials are in Russian.

**Scrapbooks and clippings.**

1953 – 1998, predominant 1953-1973

22 cm of textual records

9 photographs : b&w

**Scope and content:** Series consists of loose and scrapbooked newspaper clippings regarding Faminow's political career, local and provincial politics, family, and Doukhobor related events. One scrapbook contains a series of photographs of Doukhobor children at New Denver School; one scrapbook contains a series of photographs from a Doukhobor gathering.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Audio recordings.**

[ca. 1957-1982]

15 audio reels.

4 audio cassettes.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of audio recordings made by and for Faminow such as recordings at Doukhobor conferences and festivals, and recordings of Faminow's election ads, speeches and interviews.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

## **File list**

**Series:** Family records.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1-1	Children's school certificates	1933-1937
1-2	Visa, medical and mobilization records	1939-1944
1-3	Family farm letterhead	[193-?]
1-4	Paul Faminow death records	1948
1-5	Newspaper clippings	1953-1968
1-6	Farm account book	1928-1959
5-11	Peter Faminow obituaries and memorials	2002

**Series:** Records related to education.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1-7	Correspondence	1940-1953
1-8	Correspondence	1940-1953
1-9	Essays	[ca. 1948]
1-10	Short stories and poems	[194-?]
1-11	Photograph of a group of university aged men, possibly at Willamette University [BC-2132-1]	[194-?]
1-12	Certificates	1943-1953, 1981

**Series:** Records related to law practice and career.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
2-1	Early career correspondence	1963
2-2	Business correspondence	1974-1989
2-3	Political issues	1949-1962
2-4	Clippings regarding secondary suites	1987-1997
2-5	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Appellant's factum	1987
2-6	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Reply to the factum	1987

**Series:** Records related to law practice and career continued.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
2-7	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Authorities of the respondent	1987
2-8	Task force on illegal suites	1987
2-9	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Appeal book	1987
2-10	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Respondent's factum	1987
2-11	Faminow v. North Vancouver : Combined book of authorities	1987
3-1	Watershed	1996-1999

**Series:** Doukobor related files.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
3-2	Speeches and open letters	1969-1975
3-3	Speeches and open letters	1977-1987
3-4	Correspondence	1971-1973
3-5	Correspondence	1951-1953
3-6	Correspondence	1950-1954
3-7	Collected historical Doukhobor documents	1925-1957
3-8	Collected historical Doukhobor documents	[ca. 1930-1950]
3-9	Dasha	1973-1977
3-10	Correspondence [contains photo: BC-2132-2]	1954-1959
3-11	Doukhobor related writings	[ca. 1970-1987]
3-12	Messages, speeches, letters and reports	[ca. 1932-1975]
3-13	Clippings from Russian newspapers	[ca. 1952-1953]
3-14	Clippings from <i>Vestnik</i>	1962-1968
3-15	Correspondence regarding New Denver school	1957-1958
3-16	New Denver children and school	1958
3-17	Documents related to "Operation Snatch"	1954-1984
3-18	Reports regarding New Denver school	1958
4-1	Canadian Doukhobor Youth workshop	1961
4-2	Symposium	1971, 1982
4-3	Human rights papers	1952-1991

**Series:** Doukobor related files continued.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
4-4	Pacifism papers	1965-1995
4-5	Doukhobor related writings	1951-1997
4-6	Canadian Council of Christians and Jews conference	1972
4-7	Speeches and letters of Doukhobor leaders (photocopies)	1950-1987
4-8	Koozma conference, symposium	1982
4-9	Multiculturalism	1971-1973
4-10	Oral history transcripts	1972
4-11	Biographical information	[ca. 1953-1975]
5-1	Interviews with Koozma Tarasoff	1973-1976
5-2	Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1961-1992
5-3	Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1994-1995
5-4	Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1995-1996
5-5	Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1996-1998
5-6	<i>The Doukhobor saga</i>	1970
5-7	Miscellaneous clippings	1953-1971
5-8	Photograph of group in front of Russian Canadian Hall on St. Peter's Day [BC-2132-3]	29 Dec. 1969
O/S	Peace through non-violence conference at Vancouver, B.C. [photograph BC-2132-4]	June 1958
O/S	Peace through non-violence conference at University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. [photograph BC-2132-5]	June 1958

**Series:** Scrapbooks and clippings.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
5-9	Miscellaneous clippings	1953-1998
5-10	Miscellaneous clippings	1960-1973
6-1	Scrapbook, contains photographs of Doukhobor children at New Denver [BC-2132-6 – 9].	1956-1958
6-2	Scrapbook	1963
6-3	Scrapbook	1963
6-4	Family photos [scrapbook]	1961-1963

**Series:** Scrapbooks and clippings continued.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
6-5	Liberal [politics]	1962-1963
6-6	Civic gov[ernment]	1969-1972
6-7	Political career scrapbook	1959-1961
7-1	Legal	1969-1971
7-2	Scrapbook	1959-1961
7-3	Scrapbook, containing photographs of Doukhobor gatherings [BC-2132-10 – 14].	1957-1960
7-4	Scrapbook	1960-1961
7-5	Political career scrapbook	1958-1959

**Series:** Audio recordings.

<b>Tape number</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
SP:120-1	Speech by Peter Faminow ; speech by William M. Papove, Grand Forks B.C. 1 audio reel : 9.5 cm/sec.	28 Dec. 1957
SP:120-2	Interview with Peter Faminow by Don Thomas, CFCN Calgary 1 audio reel	28 Dec. 1958
SP:120-3	Election talk, CKLS 1 audio reel	14 Dec. 1959
SP:120-4	Non-violence conference held in Vancouver, B.C. 6 audio reels : 9.5 cm/sec.	June 1958
SP: 120-5	Home music recordings 1 audio reel	[196-?]
SP: 120-6	Election radio jingle for Peter Faminow 1 audio reel	[196-?]
SP: 120-7	[Christian?] Fellowship Calgary Xmas vacation at the meeting Haba Temple 1 audio reel	[195-?]
SP: 120-8	J.J. Verigin speech on 29 youth festival Grand Forks B.C. 1 audio reel	23 May 1976
SP: 120-9	Peter Faminow for mayor (North Vancouver District) 1 audio reel. – 1 audio cassette	15 Nov. 1982

**Series:** Audio recordings continued.

<b>Tape number</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
SP: 120-10	Doukhobor Festival, Grand Forks 1 audio cassette	[198-?]
SP: 120-11	Boris Delmar and Peter Faminow 1 audio cassette	[198-?]
SP: 120-12	Fred and Luba Rezansoff, Grand Forks 1 audio cassette	Dec. 1982