



BRITISH COLUMBIA

GOLD HUNTERS

A HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

DONALD E. WAITE

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PAGE 2 -

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & PRINT#01214

MINERS IN LEATHER PASS, ROCKY MOUNTAINS

OIL PAINTING ON BOARD BY WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARDSON HIND

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FOREWORD

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IONA CAMPAGNOLO, OC, OBC

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia from 2001 to 2007 and Honorary Patron to Barkerville.

QUEEN VICTORIA I (1819 - 1901)

Queen Victoria I reign began in 1837 and ended with her death in 1901 after a 60 years on the British throne. British Columbia's capital, Victoria, was named in her honour. She was responsible for the naming of New Westminster, known as the Royal City.

ROYAL COLLECTION: QUEEN VICTORIA WOA 3154
OIL PAINTING BY FRANZ XAVIER WINTERHALTER

INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Ross Stereo Tropical Field Camera 1890 Ross of London, England, made a beautiful wooden cameras from 1865 to 1920. This tripod camera took a 7" x 10" glass plate negative and has matched Voigtlander lenses. Below the camera is a stereoview photograph that show three dimensional viewer.

OKANAGAN ARCHIVE TRUST SOCIETY
OLDPHOTOS.CA

I made my first trip to the Barkerville District to talk of the descendants of early miners and to photograph some of the original mining sites in 1975. In order to capture the same thrill of adventure experienced by the gold seekers, I wanted to sleep out under the stars. As my arrival at Barkerville occurred after dark, I left the main highway and followed a dirt road in search of a place to bed down away from vehicular noises. A short time after dozing off, I was awakened by some loud banging of tin cans that sent me scurrying to the safety of my car. I turned on the headlights only to discover that the noisemakers were a couple of black bears. I had camped on the hill overlooking the town dump.

En route to the one time gold capital of the world, I stopped off at the museum at Clinton and departed from this treasure house with the understanding that I would pay its curator a longer visit on my way home. As it turned out, I found Barkerville so intriguing that I overstayed my allotted time, resulting in a non-stop drive homeward that had me passing through Clinton in the middle of the night. Unfortunately, other commitments took priority over the research and thirteen years passed before I was able to carry on with the project that became the book titled 'The Cariboo Gold Rush'. I then realized the value of the interviews from that trip.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge those people that assisted me on that trip so many years ago. Unfortunately many have since passed on. They were Avis L. Choate and Beverly French, curators of the Clinton Museum; Branwen C. Patenaude of Quesnel; Renée Chipman, curator of the Quesnel Museum; John Dunwoody 'Woody' Jackson and Dorothy Jackson of Clinton; Lorne Purdy of the 83 Mile House; Brian Young and Barbara McLennan of the British Columbia Provincial Archives in Victoria; Gordon Yusko, Fort Langley National Historic Site; Glenn Wong and Larry Pawlowicz, both of the Barkerville National Historic Site;

brothers Reginal J. and Gerald M.J.T. Rankin, both of Soda Creek; and J. Alexander 'Sandy' Stevenson and Roberta E.L. Myers of Sardis and Chilliwack.

This new book project has been a work in progress ever since my retirement at age 60 in 2004. Originally, I had opted to write a book on Canadian gold hunters until realizing the idea was too big. Instead, I pulled in my horns and continued doing research on BC gold hunters and expanding north into the Yukon. My wife Tina and I made our first trip to Whitehorse and Dawson City in 2013.

I also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge those people who have assisted me over the past 10 years. They are Michel Picard with the Canadian Museum of Man; Laura Mann, Curator of the Dawson City Museum; Sharon Keen, Victoria; Gary Mitchell with the BC Provincial Archives; Heather Gordon with the Vancouver City Archives, Nancy Taylor Stonington, artist; Patricia Cuning, McBride Museum, Whitehorse, Casey Mclaughlin, Transportation Museum, Whitehorse; David Robotensky, Superintendent for the Klondike National Historic Sites; Cindy D. Charlie, Manager, Tagé Cho Hudän Interpretive Centre, Dawson City; Sylvia Burkhard, Claim 33; Dawne Mitchell, Jack London Museum, Dawson City; Donna Darbyshire and Susan Twist, Yukon Archives, Whitehorse; and Christopher Collin, Tour guide with Husky Bus, Dawson City.

I am grateful to all the people who contributed text to this book: Allison Krissie Anderson, Fred Braches, Stan Copp, Gino Del-Ciotto, Jennifer Douglass, David Gregory, Marilyn L. Moris, Arthur Raymond 'Bud' Ryckman and Grant Zazula.

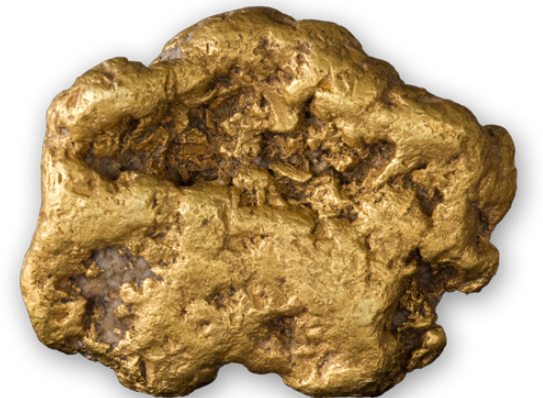
Donald E. Waite, August 2014



LOWHEE CREEK, CARIBOO
COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN#53131



PIONEER MINE, BRALORNE, BRITISH COLUMBIA
COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN#56706



BOULDER CREEK, SURPRISE LAKE, CASSIAR
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA #10418

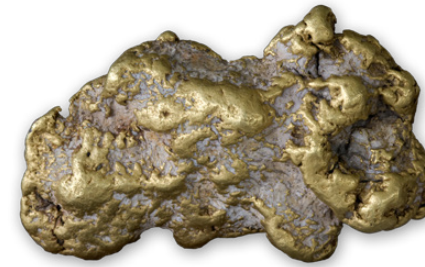


STEVENSON CREEK NUGGET, CARIBOO

COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN#10424



GRANITE CREEK, BRITISH COLUMBIA



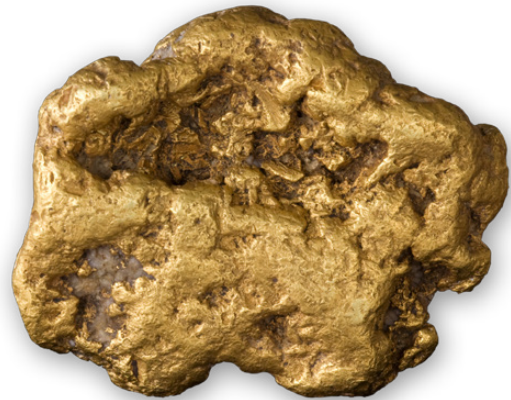
SOMEWHERE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN#53772



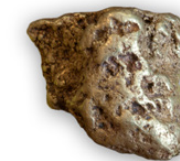
NEAR ROSSLAND BC

Quartz samples containing gold taken from in and around Rossland, British Columbia



BOULDER CREEK, SURPRISE LAKE, CASSIAR, BRITISH COLUMBIA

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA #10418

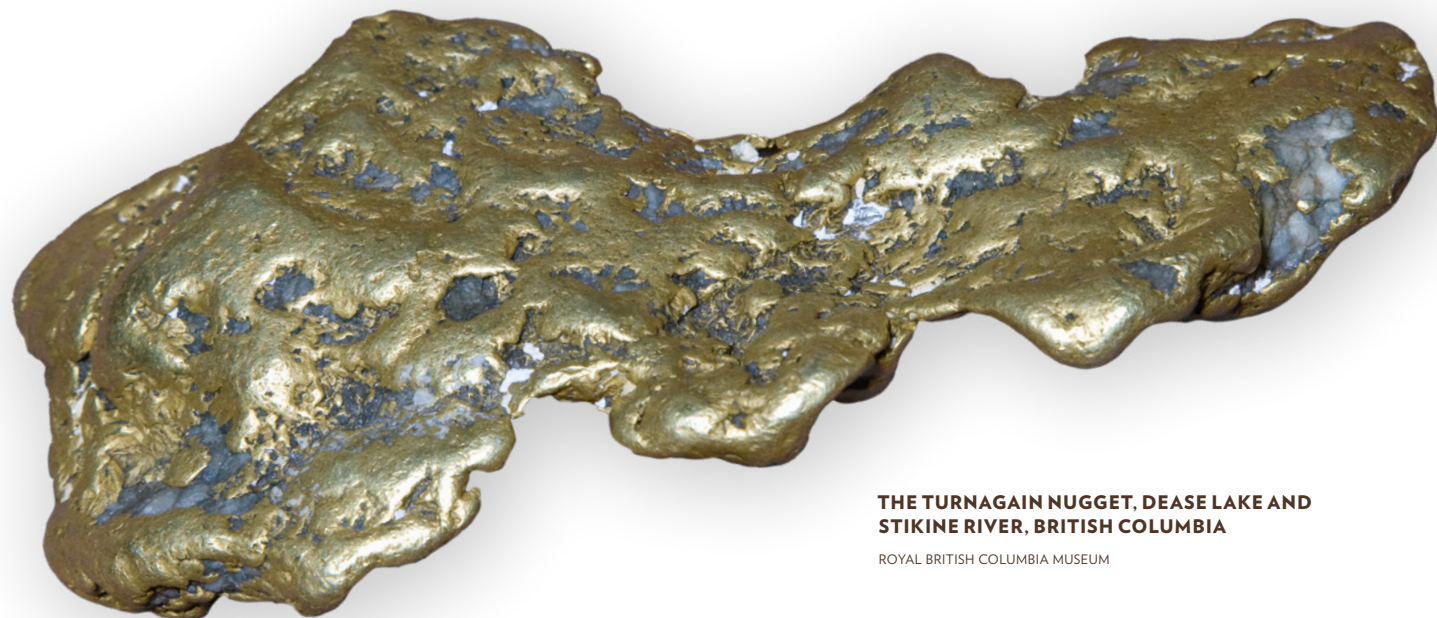


BARKER AND BLACK HILLS CLAIMS, YUKON

COURTESY KLONDIKE NUGGET AND IVORY SHOP LTD. DAWSON CITY, YUKON

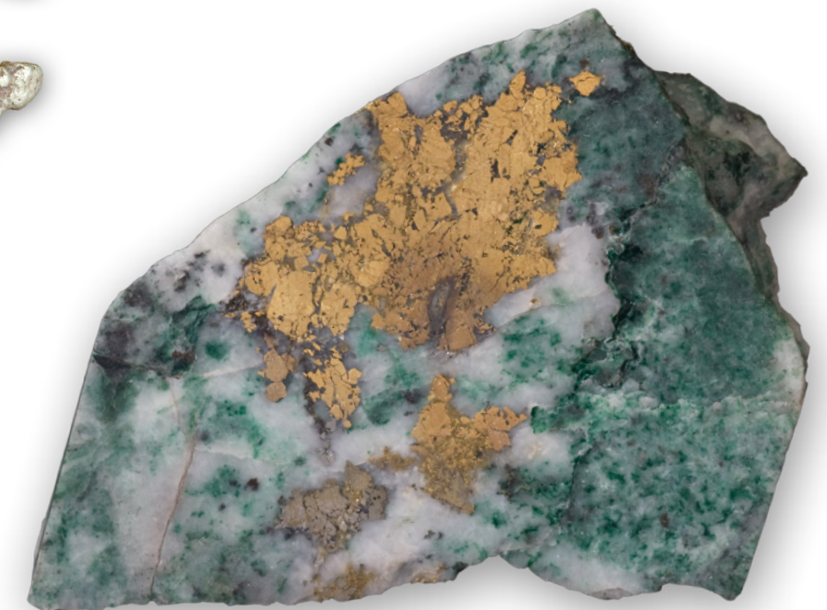
PIONEER MINE, BRALORNE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN#45785



THE TURNAGAIN NUGGET, DEASE LAKE AND STIKINE RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM





DRAWN BY FREDERICK ALEXCEE
FORT SIMPSON, B.C.

1851 QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S GOLD RUSH

Many of the first gold hunters that arrived in British Columbia were ex-49ers that had participated in the California Gold Rush. The rush began when a Haida First Nations brave sold a 27-ounce nugget in Fort Victoria for 1,500 Hudson's Bay Company blankets. Governor Richard Blanshard wrote Earl Grey, the British Secretary of War for the Colonies, on the 29 March 1851: "I have heard that fresh specimens of gold have been obtained from the Queen Charlotte Islanders. I have not seen them myself, but they are reported to be very rich. The Hudson's Bay Company's servants intend to send an expedition in the course of the summer to make proper investigations. The brigantine *Huron* was dispatched accordingly, ostensibly to trade, but really to search for gold. Failing in which, the men broke up part of a quartz ledge, and carrying pieces on board their vessel, returned in triumph to Victoria."

John Work, the Hudson's Bay Company's Chief Factor at Fort Simpson, loaned Chief Albert Edward Edenshaw (Christian name) of the Haida First Nations some gold specimens with promises of huge rewards if he could direct him to the newly reported gold discoveries on Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). As a result Edenshaw returned home and an old lady guided his wife, their 4-year old son Cowhoe and him to an outcropping of rich gold. Leaving the boy in the canoe, the 3 adults started chipping the rich gold ore from a quartz vein and placing it in a basket. Leaving the place of discovery, Edenshaw's wife walked back to the canoe and emptied the basket of gold samples into the bottom of the canoe and then returned to help her husband collect more gold. At dusk the 3 gold pickers returned to the canoe only to discover that

TOP LEFT:
Haida Artist Bill Reid's gold box.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM
OF ANTHROPOLOGY OBJECT #NB1.717A-B

ABOVE:
Watercolor landscape painting of Fort Simpson or Lax Kw'alaams surrounding by Dene First Nations homes.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS RBSC-FRAMED-LANDSCAPE-017 FREDERICK ALEXCEE

young Cowhoo had thrown all of the gold samples into the ocean. Chief Edenshaw had no choice but to show Work the few samples that they did collect from that outing.

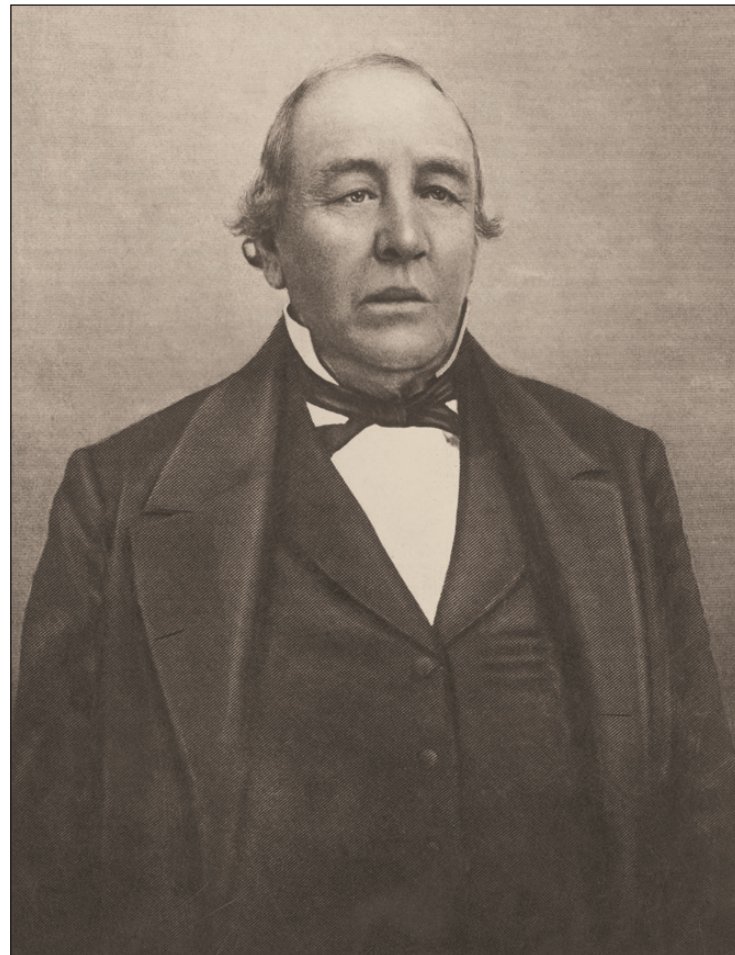
On 13 May 1851 Work made a trip by canoe from his fort to the Queen Charlotte Islands to investigate the gold discoveries for himself. He travelled in a 48-foot cedar canoe that was 5-feet wide

and only 2.5-feet deep that was manned with First Nations paddlers. The task of paddling the ten large canoes was made easier by sails. The 700-mile journey down the Laird River and then the 50-mile open-sea crossing to the Queen Charlottes and back took less than two weeks. On the 20 May his canoe almost swamped in ocean waters. He wrote in his diary about a couple of smaller craft manned by First Nations braves: "We are afraid the Indians before us are lost."

Work's fleet of canoes reached Gold Harbour on the 23 May and immediately commenced blasting the rock some 14-inches deep but found no gold. His men and First Nations braves searched among the stones and gravel and found a few pieces containing quartz with gold. The following day Work's men made two more blasts but found no gold except for a few small specks in a quartz seam of rock. Work wrote: "What gold the Indians found was all a distance of 16 yards along the shore and about 6 yards from above the high water mark to low water mark among the loose stones and in the cracks or seams of a clayey slate rock that dips to the southeast. All the larger pieces were found among the loose stones and a little at the

end of the seam of quartz."

Work concluded by writing: "It is my opinion that all the gold found is travelled or has been brought there and that where it came from plenty more may be found...The Indians are dissatisfied and disappointed that we have found no gold by blasting as it dampens their hopes of having a fort. We can blast no more as our borers are so broken in the head that they are too short. This I regret as I intended to have bored deep."



JOHN WORK (1792 - 1861)

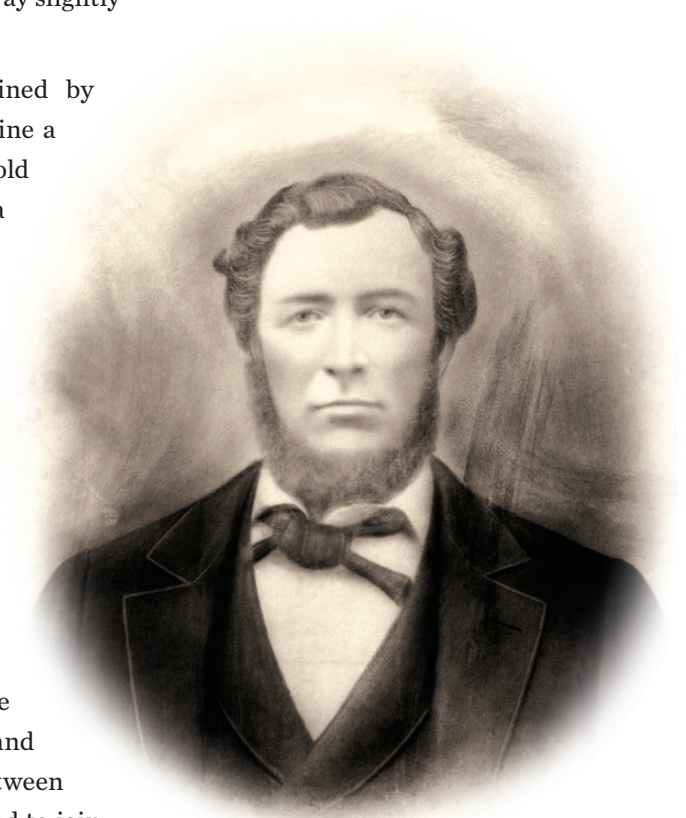
The Hudson's Bay Company Chief Factor in charge of Fort Simpson, Work made a 1,500 mile return journey by canoe to the Queen Charlotte Islands to check out the reports of gold discoveries.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#004324 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

It would appear that the Indians salted the vicinity in which Work conducted his search for gold hoping for a fort to be built. Before departing the Queen Charlotte Islands, Work visited Skidegate and managed to trade: "We got about [blank from diary] ounces of ore from them in lumps and grains; they had a lump of over a pound nearly pure and one about 6 ounces..." These Work passed on purchasing because the Indians placed on them too great a value. Work returned to Fort Simpson having been away slightly less than two weeks.

The Hudson's Bay Company's vessel *Una*, captained by William Mitchell, was the first to carry a crew to mine a vein 6.5 inches wide and some 80-feet long with 25% gold content. Immediately after a dynamite blast, the Haida braves would rush to the exposed gold and attempt to gather it up before the *Una*'s crew. According to the ship's logbook, the natives grabbed the white men by the legs to prevent them from reaching the gold. Fearing bloodshed, Captain Mitchell pulled up anchor and departed for Victoria but the ship was wrecked off Neah Bay and the small amount of gold that had been recovered was lost.

William Henry Emptage was a casualty of these skirmishes. Emptage had been born in Margate, Kent, England; his father having been a captain on the life saving boats in the Straits of Dover. When Emptage grew to manhood, he joined the East India Company and was an Able Bodied Seaman on their ships plying between India and England. On a return to England, he decided to join on with a HBC vessel bound for the Pacific West Coast. After a long sea voyage his ship reached Victoria where it was reported that gold had been discovered on the Queen Charlotte Island. It was while the ship's crew was blasting a rock at Gold Harbour, the name given to the discovery location, that a premature blast injured his left hand. He was brought back to Victoria for treatment and since there was no chloroform the doctor gave him whiskey, placed a rock in his mouth to clamp down on to endure the pain, and then proceeded to amputate the hand above the wrist. After the original amputation, the doctor peeled the skin back from the bone and cut the bone a second time an inch shorter. After his recovery, Emptage was sent to Fort Langley to work on the HBC dairy farm. Despite the loss of the one arm, he

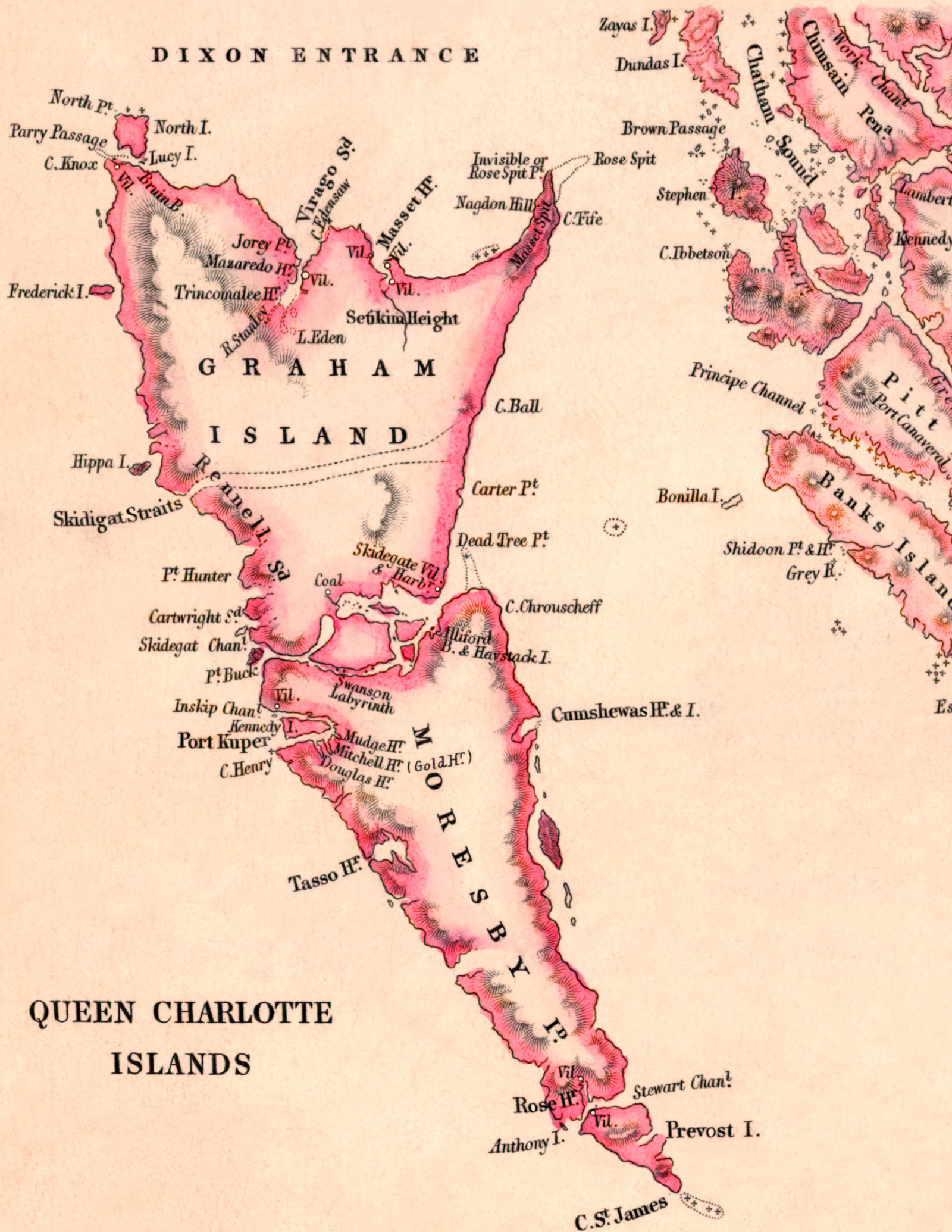


WILLIAM HENRY EMPTAGE (1837 - 1904)

An employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, Emptage lost a hand when a premature dynamite blast exploded while attempting to collect gold specimens in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

FORT LANGLEY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DIXON ENTRANCE



QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

was able to carry a milk pail in the crook of his arm.

Several American ships visited the Queen Charlotte Islands during this period. The first, the *Georgiana*, was wrecked on the east coast of the Charlottes and her crew taken captive by the Haida braves before the ship was set ablaze by the First Nations. The crew's freedom was paid by the next American ship to pull into Mitchell Harbour. This safe haven was named in honour of Mitchell, the captain of the *Una* and later the *Recovery*.

In the fall of 1851 ten American ships visited the Queen Charlotte Islands in search of gold but hostilities with the Haida curtailed any actual mining. Most of these ships had professional miners who had participated in the 1849 California gold rush. One of these vessels, the *Susan Sturgis*, captained by Matthew Rooney, befriended Chief Edenshaw, who, with his own braves, agreed to join the ship's crew and act as guide and interpreter. When the ship pulled into Masset Inlet to trade, she was massboarded by Masset Haida who fought with Chief Edenshaw and his men. The Americans on the ship were taken captive with the result that Chief Trader Work had to travel to the Queen Charlottes to negotiate a release of the *Susan Sturgis*' crew.

It was during this period that the crew of one of the American ships cut down several of the massive trees growing on the Queen Charlotte Islands to be used as spars on their sailing ships. Governor Douglas, convinced that the Americans might be planning to annex the islands to the United States, appealed to the British Government to bring the islands under the British flag and early in 1853 he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the Queen Charlotte Islands. His only real power was for the issuing of licences to search for gold. Later that same year, Douglas issued a proclamation of the British crown's ownership of the precious metals on the Queen Charlotte Islands requiring that all miners pay a monthly fee to mine.

Early in 1859 Governor Douglas dispatched a schooner to the Queen Charlotte Islands with a party of 27 professional gold hunters. The miners spent several months exploring the islands and carefully examined

the spot where the large quantities of gold had been taken out. William Downie, after whom Downieville in California and Downieville in the Cariboo were named, wrote in his book 'Hunting for Gold': "The general nature of the gold was trap and hornblend, and, at the head of Douglas Inlet, we found granite, as well as slate, talcose rock and coal, but not gold; and I concluded, that the large amount of this metal, which had been found previously in those parts with so little difficulty, existed merely in what the miners call an off-shoot or blow-out, which can only be explained as one of those freaks of nature, so often found in mining country." The men did not have the necessary tools to do any serious quartz-mining operations yet they did manage to bring back about half a ton of specimens. The first gold was obtained from a little harbor of the west coast of Moresby Island. It came to be known afterwards as Gold Harbor.

OPPOSITE
A portion of a map of the Provinces of British Columbia & Vancouver Island with portions of the United States and Hudson's Bay Company Territories compiled from original documents by John Arrowsmith, 1864.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
MAP#G-3510-1864-A7-QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

ORIGINAL DISCOVER OF GOLD

From the Dunfermline Press, Scotland - 3 March 1939

JAMES HOUSTON: A Western Pioneer

by Robert Allison Hood



JAMES HOUSTON (1823 - 1902)

This 16" x 20" charcoal portrait of Houston, purported to be the original discoverer of gold on the mainland of British Columbia, hangs on display at the Langley Centennial Museum. Houston is credited with being the first whiteman on the mainland to discover gold.

Houston married a Nanaimo First Nations bride and the couple settled on the Derby townsite, the site of the original Fort Langley. Although he came from one of the wealthiest families in all of Scotland, Lady Houston, upon her death excluded Houston's children and grandchildren from any inheritance as there was no proof that the gold hunter had ever been 'church' married. Ironically his wife was one of the first First Nations women to convert to Christianity.

COURTESY LANGLEY CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Scotland's ancient capital, Dunfermline, has sent out many of her sons abroad to far distant places to win distinction and wealth. Andrew Carnegie's name during his life was renowned for his benefactions at home and abroad, and his good works live after him. Just a short time ago Lady Houston, the widow of Sir Robert Houston, the great shipping magnate, and the heiress to his immense fortunes, died one of the wealthiest women in the world. It was not generally known that the uncle of Sir Robert, James Houston, also a Dunfermline boy, had an adventurous career that makes his history perhaps worth recording for the town's annuals. He claimed to be the first discoverer of gold in British Columbia, and so to have seen the means of starting the great gold rush to that country of 1858 and 1859 that brought about the early settlement. Now it is one of the richest of Canada's provinces, with a population of over 700,000.

James Houston never attained wealth, but he lived a most colorful and eventful life and left an honorable record behind him. He liked to talk to his son of his boyhood days when, as a youngster, he played with Andrew Carnegie, Dunfermline's most famous son. The latter, as is well known, sought his fortunes in the United States, but James Houston, when still but a youth, went to sea and signed articles on a ship going round the Horn. Few details are known about his early adventures but some colorful incidents are recorded which bear testimony to the courage and resourceful spirit of the young Scotsman. His ship was wrecked off the coast of New Zealand, and the survivors of the crew on landing were promptly taken prisoners. They were enclosed in a stockade, at which the native sentries kept guard outside. James made an attempt to escape but was discovered in the act and wounded in the groin by the spear of one of the Maoris. He was then tossed back again into the prison. Not daunted by this experience, the young man as soon as the wound was healed made a second attempt. This time he succeeded. There being no chance of salvation on land he swam four miles out to sea to a ship and was

taken aboard of her. He then led a party made up from her crew to where his comrades were confined and they were all rescued.

Next we hear of him he is back with his ship in New York harbor. Here he plunged into the sea to rescue the bride in a wedding party who had fallen off the dock and was well nigh drowning. Going ashore and walking about the streets in the great American metropolis, he was surprised to be greeted heartily by more than one passerby who was quite unknown to him. The explanation of this was that his brother Robert, an engineer by profession, was there at the time and these were friends of his who had been deceived by the close family resemblance between the two men. This was the father of the great shipping magnate, Sir Robert, who was to later make such a career in that industry.

In 1849 James Houston was a quartermaster on a ship sailing from New York to the Isthmus of Panama. This was the year of the great gold rush to California and the young man left his ship to take part. For some considerable period he worked there hunting for the yellow metal, but apparently without making any stake worth mentioning. Then the sea claimed him again, but not for long, as he deserted his ship with a friend named Eldridge at Bellingham in the State of Washington. This time it was the report of a great find of gold somewhere near Spokane that was the lure. The two young men bought horses and supplies and set off with hearts full of hope that they might find a fortune. However when they had travelled for two days inland and looked up at the high mountains that still lay between them and their destination, Eldridge's courage failed him. The loneliness of the land, its huge forests, and these giant peaks cast a gloom upon his spirits that was not to be dispelled. At last he said to his companion, "Jamie, this is where I go back." Houston tried to persuade him to continue, but he found this was useless, so the two friends parted. James gave Eldridge his gold watch to pay for his share of the provisions and then went on alone.

He persevered in his journey until he reached the Pend d'Oreille River, but on arrival there he did not see much prospect and so pushed on over the boundary line into Canada. It was a rough unsettled country, but with true Scottish perseverance James kept on travelling.

He had passed out of the heavily timbered lands of the coast regions where often the heavy underbrush made the "going" most difficult into a dry interior country of brown, burnt up hillsides, similar to those of California, and many lakes of a rich blue color such as were new to him. He had now "joined up" with a new partner, and the two men were able to ride along making good progress. The country, though rough and unsettled, was a pleasant one, and if the summer climate was hot it was a dry heat and healthy and bracing. Fish and game were abundant.

They rode happily along Okanagan Lake, charmed with its clear blue waters and the rich browns and purples of the encircling hills.

The route they were travelling now was that annually followed by the Fur Brigade of the Hudson's Bay Company in its progress from Fort St. James in the north to the Columbia River with the year's costly yield of furs. It was the policy invariably followed to make the cavalcade as grand and imposing as possible so as to impress the Indians with the Company's greatness and power, and thus imbue them with a wholesome respect. It is possible the travelers may have met it and enjoyed the spectacle of the long procession of mounted men and pack animals winding along the lake front, headed by the Chief Factor, dignified in his beaver hat, frilled linen and blue coat with metal buttons. No doubt, in the loneliness of the land through which he travelled, Houston would have been thrilled with the novelty and picturesqueness of such a sight.

Their pleasant journeying together was not to last. One night they pitched their camp by the lakeside. Here was just enough room in the small tent for the two to lie stretched out close together. Houston lay on the

outside next the flap and his companion on the inside. During the night hostile Indians crept up upon them to the rear of the tent and transfixed with a spear, thrust through the canvas, the sleeping man at the back. Houston awoke to hear his partner's death cry, and managed somehow or other to slip out the tent door and make his escape in the darkness.

His plight now was a serious one for he had lost both his horses and his supplies and was without a gun. He travelled on subsisting on the flesh of fowl hens, a bird like a partridge, which he found he was able to snare with a lace drawn from his boot. At last, after several days of hunger and fatigue, he saw a tent on the other side of the lake he was skirting. "Thank God! A white man at last!", he exclaimed, and plunged into the water and swam across.

He found a lone camper by the name of Todd, and he was kind to the distressed traveler. When the latter was rested he gave him provisions so that he was able to proceed to the Hudson's Bay fort at Kamloops. Here the factor, Donald McLean, another Scotsman, received him hospitably, and with him Houston spent the winter. He was inclined to be reserved and secretive about himself, and McLean, who asked him no questions, thought he must be a deserter from the United States army.

On the advent of spring, Houston was seized with the prospector's itch to be off on the quest, and he went out panning for gold along the course of the Thompson River. It was then that he made the discovery that he claimed was the one which turned the eyes of the world upon British Columbia and started the great gold rush of 1858 to that until then little known part of the British Empire.

There were a number who boasted this honor, and it may be that Houston's claim is not truly founded. Who can say at one way or other with assurance at this time? Judge F.W. Howay, the foremost authority in British Columbia history, supports the view that gold was first discovered in 1855 at "the mouth of the Pend d'Oreille River, where it leaps with a bound of about ten feet into the Columbia." This was just north of the boundary line. The following year, he states, it was found on the Thompson River and on the Fraser [River] near Fort Hope. However important may have been Houston's discovery, it is certain that it did not bring him wealth.

The next we hear of him he was shooting the rapids of the turbulent and treacherous Fraser River in a canoe with two companions, Alexander Robinson and Pete Baker. The hazardous venture was



PETER BAKER (UNKNOWN - 1897)

An older Peter Baker poses at a portrait studio in New Westminster. He accompanied Houston on his first gold discoveries along the Fraser River. Baker had come to New York and taken a ship through the Isthmus of Panama where he contracted and almost died of scarlet fever.

COURTESY BAKER FAMILY, ALBION
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN JOSEPH THOMPSON

performed in safety, and the three men made the journey as far as Fort Yale, where the river becomes more peaceful, portaging their frail craft where necessary. Those who have travelled on either the Canadian Pacific or the Canadian National Railway, the lines of which run along roadbeds one on each side of this tremendous canyon—roadbeds that have been blasted out of the solid rock above the stream—will have some slight conception of the difficulty of such a feat and perhaps wonder that it could be done at all. The canyon widens and then narrows again often in a regular succession, and the turbulent, mighty stream spreads itself out only to find itself thus periodically confined and constricted and forced into narrow, rocky gateways through which it dashes with a fury of white contending waters fascinating to witness. The thought of a frail canoe on such a wild torrent and amid such cruel rocks, inspires wonder at the hardihood of those who would venture with it. Not many years were to pass after Houston made the perilous passage before a wagon road was made along these rocky precipitous canyon sides—a wagon road that has been rebuilt today and along which the motorist may travel in comfort while trying to realize and image for himself some of the perils and hardships faced and surmounted by those pioneers through whose mighty labors his easy journeying has been made possible.

At Fort Yale the river widens out, and from there the travelers' task was easier. They glided easily down to Fort Hope and thence upon the now wide and majestic flood to Fort Langley, the Hudson's Bay headquarters on the south bank of the river, but a few miles from the delta. The Fort was then in its heyday of its history.

It had been founded in 1827 by James McMillan, sent out to do so from Fort Vancouver, and as a trading post for the Company had proved a great success. Here had visited in great style in 1828, the Governor General of the Company, George Simpson, with a piper, in full regalia, marching behind him, brave in kilt and sporran. It had flourished with its trade, and besides had become a food depot of considerable size, with a

large staff of workers. Here salmon were salted and packed in barrels, manufactured within its palisade, for exportation. Cranberries in large quantities were shipped to San Francisco. Hemp was grown and sent to England to be made into rope. The Fort was on a fertile site, not the original one when Houston first saw it, but three miles farther up the river. It had an area of about 630 by 240 feet, and this was enclosed by a palisade built from logs of split cedar well over a foot thick. At the four corners were bastions twenty feet square. In each there were two nine pound guns and also smaller cannon. The gates were huge double door affairs on iron hinges, and were only opened on special occasions, a small single door being the one commonly used. The officers' quarters was a two storey erection called the "Big House" and the upper floor of this was reserved for the officers of the Brigade when they visited the Fort. On the lower floor lived the factor and clerk and their families. Here was the great reception room where Governor Douglas had been installed when the Crown Colony of British Columbia was instituted in 1858. Then there were numerous other buildings for residence and also for work purposes.

The Fort had a pleasant social life of its own. Many of the men of course, were married to First Nations women as there were very few white women in the country. At Christmas time there was a week of rejoicing and merriment, and dancing was kept up night and day. On the festive itself the Indian chiefs were all invited up to the "Big House" and a whole beef, as well as peas, tallow and molasses, were given to them. The arrival of the annual Brigade, too, was a great occasion both for the people of the Fort and for the Indians, and the scene of its arrival has been pictured as very fine.

James Houston was evidently struck with the advantages of the spot and the fertility of the soil, and no doubt he was tired of wandering around. At any rate, he settled down on a piece of land on the east side of the Salmon River and not far from the Fort. Here he built himself a house and started to make a farm out of the virgin forest.



A MINIATURE TIN GOLD PAN HOLDS PLACER GOLD AND BLACK SAND TAKEN FROM THE PEND D'OREILLE RIVER.

COURTESY ROSSLAND MINING MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

The Gold Pan

A gold pan was generally made of sheet iron in the shape of a circular dish with flared but straight sides and flat at the bottom. The most common pan, known as the "Australian" was 15" in diameter at the top to about 7" at the bottom, and 3 inches deep. The sides are generally angled at 30 to 45 degrees. The "American" pan is similar but had a straight lip at its top.

Panning was the simplest and most inexpensive of all the methods used to recover placer gold. According to N.L. "Bill" Barlee's book "The Guide to Gold panning in British Columbia: "Although the origin of the gold pan, the device used in panning, is obscure, some authorities believe that it came into common usage among the placer miners of Transylvania, in the central part of Europe, no later than the 15th century, and possibly some time before then. In the alluvial gold-fields of North America, Australia, and other parts of the world it was and is the prospector's inseparable companion, being ideally suited to test any gravels that were indicative of carrying placer gold." It is equally possible that the origins are from Rome.

A miner partially filled the pan with dirt containing placer, put it in water and with a swirling motion created a whirlpool that separated the stones and gravel from the gold due to specific gravity; the gold being 20 times heavier than water and 5 times heavier than the gravel.

The time required to wash a pan of gravel took 10 to 15 minutes and it was considered a good day's work to wash 50 pans. Gold panning was used only to test gravel.

Pans today are manufactured in both metal and high impact plastic for lightness although Russian iron or heavy gauge steel pans are still traditional. Steel pans are heavier and stronger than plastic pans. Some are made of lightweight alloys for structural stability. Plastic gold pans resist rust, acid and corrosion, and most are designed with moulded riffles along one side of the pan. Of the plastic gold pans, green and red ones are usually preferred among prospectors, as both the gold and the black sand stands out in the bottom of the pan.

Clearing land in the coast regions of British Columbia is a heavy task today when there is plenty of stumping powder to blow out the stumps and stumping machines to complete the drawing of them after the powder has done its work. Then it was an almost Herculean task. The winter rainfalls in that country are so heavy that the trees grow to giant size and the underbrush is very thick. To burn it all after it has been cut down is in itself a tedious and slow process. But Houston tackled it bravely, and after he had sufficient land cleared he set about procuring livestock to put upon it. For this he went off all alone into Oregon riding on a pony, and bought a dozen herd of cattle, driving them back to his farm single handed. They were Herefords and Holsteins and amongst them was a bull. The cattle throve well on the way home and the herd increased.

Not long after this a very attractive Indian girl came from the tribe at Nanaimo to visit her sister, who was married to an First Nations brave of the tribe at McMillan Island. Her name was Mary Cusheon. The two girls had been the first converts to Christianity of the Reverend Thomas Crosby, who was the pioneer Methodist missionary in the Province, then carrying on his work at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. James Houston fell in love with the girl, married her, and took her to his home. On 27th March 1838, a son was born to the couple, and they called him Alexander. Later a little girl was born but she died. Houston married a Nanaimo First Nations bride and the couple settled on the Derby townsite, the site of the original Fort Langley. Although he came from one of the wealthiest families in all of Scotland, Lady Houston, upon her death excluded Houston's children and grandchildren from any inheritance as there was no proof that the gold hunter had ever been 'church' married. Ironically his wife was one of the first First Nations women to convert to Christianity.

Houston prospered in a modest way. His herds had grown and he went into the dairy business. For twenty-four years he sat upon the Council after the district about Fort Langley had been formed into the municipality that now goes by that name.

He was a man of strong character and was much respected in the community. In the rough adventurous life he had lived before coming to Langley he had not forgotten the religious training of his youth, and his home was a God-fearing one. Shortly after his marriage there had been two shiploads of girls sent out from England to become wives to the settlers. Many of those latter now that this opportunity had come to get mates of their own race and color, cast out their Indian wives to replace them with the newcomers, but not so James Houston. He preferred to cleave to the one he had taken for better or for worse.

About the year 1890 he sold the farm into which he had put so much toil and labor intending to return to the place of his birth. But when the final decision came he found he could not bear to leave this land of his adoption which he loved, and instead of going away he squatted on the site of the of the old Fort at Derby and built himself a little house there. This was an Admiralty Reserve, and still belonged to the Imperial Government. There was no objection to him occupying it, but he paid 10.00 dollars a year to the municipality by way of taxes. He had property now in New Westminster and in the young town of Vancouver and he was able to get along comfortably enough. He lived here happily until he died on 17th April 1902. His Indian wife had pre-deceased him by many years. His son, Alexander, however, had stayed with his father, and the two had ever been "good pals". Four years later, Alexander received a Crown grant to the land his father had squatted on, 158 acres more or less, and for the sum of ten dollars he became its owner. Here he has lived until this day, and has brought up his girls and boys. The youngest is now a lad of sixteen, and the eldest son was recently married. Mrs. Houston presides graciously and efficiently over the home.

Alexander is a tall fine looking man and carries his years well. His home looks out on the site where the original Fort Langley stood facing the river in those days before the Gold Rush, when a constant guard was maintained for fear of hostile Indians, and when fur was still king.

THE PETER DUNLEVEY PARTY

While Boulanger and Houston were panning with success on the Thompson River, the first shiploads of miners from San Francisco were making their way up the coast to participate in the Fraser River gold rush and the first paddlewheel steamer, the Commodore, docked at the wharf at Fort Victoria 25th April, 1858.

Official steamship records show that from San Francisco alone, 455 miners left for Victoria in April - 1,262 in May - 7,149 in June and 6,278 in July. In reality, each vessel carried passengers far beyond their capacity and the ship owners did not dare to publish the true figures. Officially the Sierra Nevada carried 900 passengers but at Fort Victoria she unloaded 1900. It is estimated that in May, June and July that some 23,000 people left San Francisco by sea and another 8,000 made their way overland to the new diggings. Those gold seekers who arrived at Fort Victoria soon learned that they were still over 400 miles from Fort Kamloops. Vancouver Island's Fort Victoria, with a population of only 400 souls, was totally unprepared for the sudden invasions of thousands of miners and became a tent town almost overnight. Initially the miners' presence was a real boon to the economy and saleable items sold for incredible prices but once these goods were gone the many residents were anxious to see the miners on their way. Need being the mother of invention, the more aggressive miners built their own boats and made the 20-mile crossing from the island to the mainland without waiting for the riverboat steamers. It was estimated that 300 skiffs, each containing an average of 5 passengers, passed up the Fraser River to Fort Yale during the low-water season. Just below the fort, the miners began panning 4 to 5 ounces of gold per man per day. Many lingered at these gold-bearing river bars, but a few of the more determined professional miners began hiking upriver in search of the Mother Lode.

In this vanguard were 5 Americans led by Peter Curran Dunlevey of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The party consisted of James Sellars from Texas; Ira Crow, an ex-California miner; Thomas Moffat, from Williamsport, Indiana; and Thomas Manifee. In May 1859, these men were busy sluicing for gold opposite the confluence of the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers when they met Tomaah, the son of Chief Lolo St. Paul. He asked the miners what they were doing and was shown the flakes and small nuggets of gold before being invited by Dunlevey to share their

meal. The young Indian scarcely touched the bean and bannock mixture after the initial taste but a cup of well-sugared tea was an instant success and he gulped it down only to hold out his empty cup for more. It was after he'd drunk the second cup that Tomaah told the miners that he could show them a river where gold lay like beans in a pan. He explained that he worked for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Alexandria and that he would not be available to take them to the location until after a jamboree. He told them that all the First Nation peoples from the New Caledonia District would be gathering at Lac La Hache in 16 days for a summer games prior to continuing on to Fort Kamloops to trade their winter and spring harvests of furs. He suggested to the miners that they return to Lillooet and then go by way of Marble Canyon to Fort Kamloops to purchase fresh supplies and to take a message to his father. From Fort Kamloops they could travel to Lac La Hache where he would meet them prior to the commencement of the jamboree and that after the games he would guide them to this 'River of Gold'.

The next morning the miners awoke to find Tomaah gone. They wasted no time and were soon headed downriver towards Lillooet. Here they traded a canoe for two Indian horses before heading towards Fort Kamloops. They spent the first night in an old fur-trading encampment that dominated the Indian village of Fountain. The miners were on their way at daybreak the following morning and soon reached the Indian village of Pavilion. From here they pushed on and reached Fort Kamloops trading post where they met several discouraged Thompson River prospectors who were happy to sell their miner's tools to Dunlevey for a fraction of their value.

Dunlevey, after grooming himself and changing into clean clothes, called on Chief Lolo before visiting the Hudson's Bay Company post for supplies. The old Iroquois had retired from the company in 1843 to begin developing a horse breeding empire and had amassed a sizeable fortune by hiring out pack animals to his

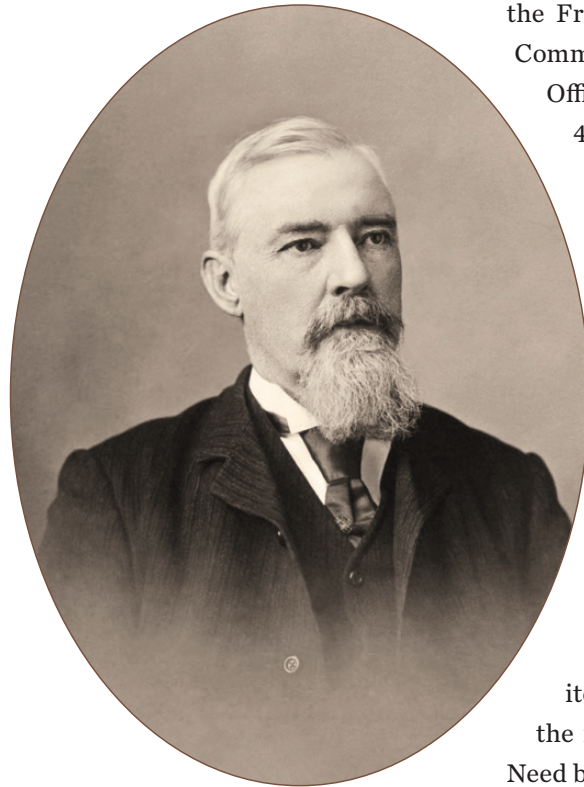
former employees for the transportation of furs to the coast. His two daughters had recently converted the original rundown HBC post into a stopping house.

Chief Trader McLean was suspicious of the immaculately dressed miner and at first refused to fill his order since he had been instructed by the company not to become involved with the miners. Gradually, the trader warmed to the mannerly Dunlevey and the next morning the miners were able to leave the fort with 12 of Lolo's packhorses loaded with over a ton of provisions. John Moore and John McLean joined the Dunlevey party as axe men.

On the evening of the 15th day since they had seen Tomaah, the group camped a few miles from Lac la Hache. Just as they were crawling into their blankets, Tomaah and another Indian named Baptiste appeared out of the darkness. The next morning the 7 white men and two Indians continued to Lac la Hache. Shortly after their arrival, the miners sat with Tomaah and Baptiste as the First Nation chiefs from the New Caledonia Districts addressed the great semi-circle throng of athletes and spectators. As the chiefs talked, Baptiste translated their words to the attentive miners. Because the orations concerned the welfare of all the miners coming into the country, they were indelibly etched into the memory of Dunlevey who in later years was able to recite them almost word for word to his biographer:

Old Chief Dehtus Anahiem of the Chilcotins was the first to speak, "It makes warm my heart to come to this old time meeting place of the Shuswaps, to visit with our brothers the Denés and the Yabatah. These games are the chief attraction, for they keep us brave and strong, eager and fleet, not only for the hunt but to scare away our enemies. It is mainly for this last point that Anahiem of the Chilcotins has come to talk with the brother chiefs at this meeting.

"For some time our scouts have been bringing us news of white men coming up our rivers. We have tolerated



PETER CURRAN DUNLEVEY (1833-1905)

One of the earliest gold discoverers into the cariboo, Dunlevey later owned a stopping house at Soda Creek where he grew grain crops for the horses and oxen. He later was a large property owner in fledgling Vancouver.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#056601 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

these men thinking them to be weak-minded and therefore entitled to the reverent regard that all Indians have for these weak ones as dictated by the Great Spirit. However, we have found out that these men are really not crazy and are washing out little pieces of yellow stone that they call gold and which they use as money such as we use fur skins to trade for other goods. The Indians of Lillooet have already been corrupted. It is said that they have learned the white man's skill and are also finding little pieces of yellow gold.

"The priests have told us to shun the firewater as we would the devil that they have told us of but how can we keep clear of their firewater if we allow them to come among us and ruin our women with their diseases? Will we not be ruined as other tribes far to the east that the priests have told us about?"

"Another thing, this money really belongs to us and the white men are taking it without asking our permission. The priests tell us that this is stealing. If we steal the priests tell us that their God will punish us. Will their God punish them for this bad act or have they made a convenient arrangement with this God? Has He one law for the Indian and another one for the white man?"

"We must keep these white men out! We tribes must act together. If we do not act immediately we will only have to drive them out later. This will result in much bloodshed for them and also for our own people. We must act now or we are lost!"

"This is not my country or my camp. If it were I would say to the white men to go back to the country you came from and induce your white brothers to do likewise. You are not wanted here. If you still choose to come and disregard my warning then with sorrow I say that your blood be upon your heads and hands and not on ours."

A feeling of fear passed through the Dunlevey party for the speaker's arguments were all too true. Unchallenged, his words could easily result in the amalgamation of the Shuswaps, the Yubatan-Denés

and the Chilcotins for the purpose of warring against the sudden influx of miners. When Chief Anahiem finished his oration, he stepped back from the center of the circle and nodded for Chief Shuswap Williams of the Williams Lake First Nations for a rebuttal. Chief Williams, instead of addressing the crowd, shifted the onus of responsibility for a decisive vote for or against bloodshed by inviting Chief Lolo, because of his age and wisdom, to be the first to reply to the Chief of the Chilcotins. Fortunately for the Dunlevey party, Tomaah's father was a much more forceful linguist than his former enemy Chief Anahiem. Dunlevey quoted him as saying:

"It is just as useless for our 3 tribes to resist these white men as it is for one of us to try and resist. We know that our resistance would only result in needless bloodshed and possible annihilation.

"The Indians can never win against the white man because of his numbers, his guns, his learning, and his craftiness."

Chief Lolo's comments certainly received more plaudits than those of the previous speaker. He went on to talk about the years of his early manhood spent near Fort Alexandria. He told them of the time the Chilcotins had tried to attack Fort Alexandria that resulted in the killing of their war hero by a Yabatan who shot an arrow from across the river through the champion's heart.

Chief Williams was the last leader to speak and he sided with Chief Lolo and encouraged the Indians to live in harmony with the white men. He concluded his speech by telling the athletes to enjoy the games.

One of the main events at the games was a wrestling match between Baptiste, representing the Yabatan-Denés, and Red Bear, representing the Chilcotins. It was a well-matched fight involving much betting between the tribes. Sellars got into the spirit and bet on Baptiste. It was a long, drawn-out match but the Yabatan eventually came out the victor and Sellars ended up winning an Indian pony that he immediately

gave to a beautiful maiden named Agat, a cousin of Baptiste. She in turn gave the spirited animal to her sister At-t'uss, Tomaah's girlfriend, because she had the necessary skill to ride the wild bronco.

At the conclusion of the games, Tomaah asked Baptiste or take the miners to the 'River of Gold' so he could spend time with his girlfriend before returning to Fort Alexandria.

After several days travel, Baptiste brought the men to a creek, soon to be named the Little Horsefly because of the annoying insects. Here Ira Crow panned the first coarse free gold to be taken from an area soon to be known as the Cariboo. Only 12 hours after the Dunlevey reached the river, another group of miners arrived and joined their forces. These men were Hans Helgsen, Joseph Devlin, Frederick George Black, Duncan McMartin, and Edward Campbell.

Some of the original miners faded into oblivion. Of the others, Peter Baker mined for a few years around Quesnel Mouth, a small community that came into existence at the confluence of the Quesnel and Fraser Rivers, before settling down to married life at Albion, a small settlement across the Fraser River from Fort Langley and in the Municipality of Maple Ridge. James Houston accompanied Baker out of the Cariboo and homesteaded upon the ruins of the original Fort Langley of 1827. Baker lived until 1897 and Houston did not pass away until 1902.

Peter C. Dunlevey left mining temporarily in 1861 to open a stopping house and fur-trading post at Beaver Post and James Sellars married Agat and became his assistant. A few years later, John McLean settled at Quesnel Mouth, where he operated the Occidental Hotel for the next 30 years until his retirement in 1902. In 1862 Hans Lars Helgesen married Lillian Colquhoun, an Irish lass he had met in San Francisco, and settled down to family life at Metchosin on Vancouver Island. Legend claims that one of his partners had shot a caribou near Quesnel Forks, a predominantly Chinese community near the junctions of the Cariboo and Quesnel Rivers, and the Norwegian moved that the district be called the

Cariboo. Duncan McMartin, one of the men feasting on the steak, seconded the suggestion and the remaining miners unanimously agreed.

Duncan McMartin and Edward Campbell both had creeks in the Cariboo named in their honor. McMartin died in New Westminster. Campbell died in the town of Horsefly that lay on the banks of the river from which he had panned his gold.

Following their rich strike of gold on the Little Horsefly Creek, Peter Curran Dunlevey and his partners invested their wealth in roadhouses and freighting outfits along the Cariboo Wagon Road. When the news broke out that James Reid was building a sternwheel ship on the Upper Fraser in 1862 to ply between Soda Creek and Quesnel, Dunlevey took up good farmland just to the north of Soda Creek and quickly developed many acres of grain fields and gardens as well as a road house to cater to the needs of the miners and freighters. Dunlevey, in association with John F. Hawkes, in later years invested his wealth to purchase shares in the City of Vancouver's Coal Harbour Land Syndicate that owned half of the Saltwater City.

When news of the building of a stern wheel steamship on the upper Fraser reached New Westminster in 1861 it caused a great excitement among the business population of the Lower Mainland, who looked upon it as a great opportunity for the future. Wasting no time, Robert McLeese and his partner Joseph Triffle Senay set out for Soda Creek, where they secured a building lot close to the steamboat landing and proceeded to build a two storey log structure that they called the Colonel Hotel. Like Dunlevey and his partners, they wanted to capitalize on the tiny community of Soda Creek knowing that it would soon become a bee-hive of activity.

THE MULE TRAILS



A WOOD CUT THAT APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER 9TH, 1858 ISSUE OF THE NEW YORK HARPERS' WEEKLY OF FORT LANGLEY.

COURTESY WERNER KASCHEL

The first miners into the Fort Kamloops area either trudged over the Hudson's Bay Company brigade trail through the Columbia and Okanagan Valleys or else chose the more treacherous Indian trails along the Fraser River. Those who traveled up the river found that they would have to wait out the spring flood before they could proceed along the canyon. During their wait, many of these anxious miners panned the river below Fort Yale with relative success.

James Douglas, the HBC Chief Factor for the area north of the Columbia River and acting Governor for the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island, was aware of

the deplorable conditions regarding the mainland. At great risk to his position, he set about organizing the construction of an improved route from the coast to New Caledonia, with the explanation that such a route would secure the area north of the 49th parallel as British territory. At Fort Victoria, Douglas called a meeting and told the miners that his government would provide transportation, equipment, and food, in exchange for labour in the building of a 4-foot wide mule trail through the mountains as far as Lillooet. As a precaution against desertion and to put some money in the government coffers, Douglas required each miner to put up a \$25 deposit to be refunded in goods

at Lillooet providing his conduct and work on the road proved satisfactory. If all worked out according to plan, Douglas realized this gamble could mean a great personal success as well as a British one.

Douglas had worked hard and spent much of his life influencing the right people to achieve his dual role in the British colonies. Born in 1803 in Lanarkshire, Scotland, to a Scottish father and Creole mother, he went at an early age to live in British Guiana, where his father had a large sugar plantation. Both parents died when James was very young. At 16, James accompanied an older brother to Canada to begin his apprenticeship in the North-West Company in Montreal. At Fort William on Lake Superior, his intelligence and good working habits came to the attention of Chief Factor Dr. John McLoughlin. Shortly before the merging of the two fur trading companies, McLoughlin sent Douglas to Fort Chipewyan to supervise the fisheries of the district, an important responsibility since it was the fish that the forts relied upon as a principal article of food. In 1825, Douglas was posted to Fort St. James on Stuart Lake in the District of New Caledonia under Chief Factor William Connolly. The following year he accompanied his superior on the annual journey with the packs of furs from New Caledonia to the headquarters of the Columbia Department to Fort Vancouver.

In 1827 Douglas married Connolly's eldest daughter and was placed in temporary charge of Fort St. James while his father-in-law left on the annual trip to Fort Vancouver with the furs. Consequently, it was Douglas who arranged the welcoming committee for the arrival of Sir George Simpson, the Governor of the Northern Department of the HBC.

Three years later Governor Simpson transferred Douglas to Fort Vancouver as Chief Factor McLoughlin's chief accountant for the next 15 years. In 1843, McLoughlin sent Douglas, now a Chief Factor, to construct Fort Victoria on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. In 1849 the HBC, upon leasing the whole of Vancouver Island from the British

government, moved their headquarters from the Columbia River to Fort Victoria.

For the proposed mule, Douglas chose the route explored by Alexander Caulfield Anderson in 1847, via the lakes and portages west of the Fraser River from Fort Langley to Lillooet, and appointed Anderson to take charge of the project. Anderson named Harrison Lake for Benjamin Harrison, a British shareholder in the HBC, Anderson Lake for himself, and Seton Lake for his uncle Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Seton, who, when the troopship Birkenhead sank near the Cape of Good Hope in 1852, held his entire command at attention while the crew launched the women and children away in lifeboats.

In July, the Umatilla, the first steamship to reach the upper end of Harrison Lake, deposited on shore an eager force of miner-roadbuilders. That evening before supper the men held a meeting and named their camp Port Douglas after the Governor before giving three hearty cheers to honour him.

Anderson quickly organized the men into parties of 25, each with its own captain, and by August 500 pick-and-shovel laborers were spread out along what came to be known as the Douglas Trail. Miners, following the route, employed Indians with 30-foot dugout canoes to carry them across the 3 lakes, while mule trains skirted the lakes by following Indian trails. The road builders quickly widened the Indian paths to facilitate the movement of pack animals. By mid-September, the trail had reached Lillooet Lake and by mid-October, Douglas was able to report to London that the road was finished.

To defray the costs of transporting supplies into the road camps, Calbreath advanced William Francis Laumeister the cash to purchase 23 camels from the United States army for \$300 per animal. The syndicate, which included Adam Heffley and Henry Ingram, hoped to clear \$60,000 the first season since camels could easily carry twice the load and travel twice the distance than mules or horses.



A wood cut that appeared in the October 9th, 1858 issue of the New York Harpers' Weekly under the caption 'Fort Yale and the Gold Hunters' Camp, Fraser's River'.

COURTESY WERNER KASCHEL

Storekeepers at Port Douglas stared in disbelief when the sternwheeler *The Flying Dutchman* towed a barge wharf side and a couple of men began unloading the humpbacked beasts of burden. Laumeister's troubles began when the first camel down the gangplank bit and then kicked a prospector's mule into oblivion. He soon learned that the camels' hooves, adapted for travel in sand, could not stand up to the rocky terrain, with the result that many soon went lame. Laumeister fitted them with rawhide boots that solved that problem only to find that the camels' potent odors stampeded any horse and mule trains encountered along the trails. The mule and horse owners both sued for damages and signed a petition to have the 'Dromedary Express' removed from the road. Several were used for a short time at least on the Cariboo Road until the rocky terrain proved too much for their soft padded feet. Besides this handicap the camels' stench spooked the

horse and mule teams which soon resulted in several civil suits against the owners. Before two years were out Laumeister was forced to admit that the entire venture had been a big mistake and an expensive learning experience. A few of the camels were sold cheaply to US circuses while the rest were turned loose to fend for themselves in the Cariboo. The last one died near Grand Prairie (now Westwold) in 1905.

Miner John Morris, passing by Quesnel Forks, saw what he took to be a large grizzly bear and immediately blasted at it with his rifle. When he saw the animal topple over, he and his companions rushed to the spot only to discover one of Laumeister's camels with a big gaping hole in its side. Henceforth he became known as 'Grizzly' Morris and the very rich mine that he later discovered on Williams Creek came to be known as the 'Grizzly' in memory of the incident.

Meanwhile, other road contractors were having their problems. Those past the first section were finding their supply route cut off because of the dynamiting just past Yale. Aware of the great danger and long delays, packers were unwilling to use the route and turned instead to the Douglas Trail.

About this time a contingent of Royal Engineers under the command of Colonel Richard Clement Moody arrived in response to the pleas from Douglas for a British military force to maintain law and order on the Pacific coast north of the 49th parallel. They were accompanied by Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie, who at a ceremony held in Fort Langley, on November 22, 1858, swore in Douglas as the governor of the crown colony of British Columbia. Douglas' first act as governor of the mainland was the swearing in of Begbie as chief justice.

Two of the first tasks facing the Royal Engineers, known as sappers, were the deepening of the channel at the south end of Harrison Lake to facilitate boat traffic to Port Douglas and the surveying for a 4-foot-wide mule trail through the Fraser Canyon from Fort Yale to Camosin (Lytton). On December 18th, the *Victoria Gazette* announced: Good boats are running on all the lakes, while numerous houses for public entertainment are opening up all along the line."

Three small paddle-wheel steamers, the *Melanie* on Lillooet Lake, the *Lady of the Lake* on Anderson Lake, and the *Champion* on Seton Lake, replaced the Indian canoes.

Across the Fraser River from Lillooet, an enterprising individual by the name of Otis Parsons built a stopping house upon the foundations of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Berens. Parsons had worked on the building of the Douglas Trail until it reached Lillooet where he decided to rig up a barge affixed to a ferry cable to transport the pack animals and miners across the Fraser River. His stopping house soon provided homegrown produce to feed the continuous stream of men heading to the goldfields.

Douglas responded to the miners' demand by contracting road builders to develop the mule trail from Yale to Lytton. The trail had barely opened before the inhabitants at Yale began an advertising campaign. Instead of discussing the

new trail's merits, they chose to ridicule the competitive route. Of the Douglas Trail, the ad stated: "Elegant and high-toned. Meals one dollar. Beds fifty cents. Crawlers thrown in gratis. Sit on an open deck in the cold; stick your nose in the cook's galley to warm it for free. Take your own snowshoes." The advertising was effective for the reason that many of the travelers heading to the Cariboo over the Douglas Trail were inexperienced men who had never lived outside a city environment. The poor souls tramped the entire route with just the clothes on their back and a small pack of provisions that sometimes only included a blanket. Stories about bears and Indians terrified these individuals into packing revolvers. One greenhorn wrote: Accidents with firearms are of a frequent occurrence in this country, through the inexperience of their possessors. Furthermore, revolvers are of little or no use here, the same weight of good worsted stockings would be much more serviceable". One frightened lad went to sleep with a cocked revolver in his bedroll and upon arising in the morning, began to roll up his blanket, only to have the weapon's trigger catch on its fold. It discharged and killed him instantly, much to the astonishment and grief of his companions.

In June 1860 Douglas granted a \$22,000 contract to Franklin Way and Josiah Crosby Beedy for the construction of a mule trail from 12 miles out of Yale to the Indian Village of Spuzzum. It was here that Way built a stopping house and erected a cable ferry across the Fraser River to connect with the Indian path on the opposite shore. That fall Douglas let out a second contract to Hugh McRoberts and William Powers to begin extending the trail upriver from Spuzzum towards Lytton. From Lytton, miners followed along the south side of the Thompson River until arriving at Mortimer Cook's ferry crossing, the place at which Spence's Bridge was later built. Once on the north side of the Thompson River the miners could follow a Hudson's Bay Company trail that skirted the Bonaparte River to Robert Watson's stopping house located at the junction of the two competing trails to the Cariboo. Port Douglas storekeepers Joseph Lorenzo Smith and Thomas Marshall realized in early 1861 that the new mule trail was a much faster way to the goldfields than the Douglas Trail.

LIEUTENANT MAYNE'S SKETCH

The following partially restored 6 pages of Mayne's roughly 2-foot by 3-foot map was drawn on vellum or calf's skin.

Lieutenant Charles R. Mayne was attached to the Nautical Survey of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Mayne sailed with Captain George Henry Richards on his expedition in Her Majesty's Ship Plumper and also on Her Majesty Ship Hecate to survey the coast of British Columbia between 1857 and 1859 and there came to serve in the Royal Engineers under Colonel Richard Moody and was assigned the exploration and mapping of hitherto unknown parts of the colony. His journal of these activities is a classic source of British

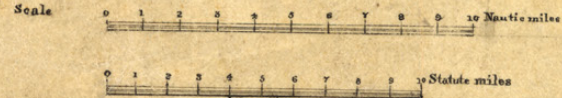
Columbia history as are those of his Royal Engineer colleague Lieutenant Henry Spencer Palmer.

Mayne Island in the Gulf Islands is named after him, and Hecate Strait for his vessel. For this work, in 1860, he was promoted to Commander and returned to England. In 1862 he was appointed to the command of Her Majesty Ship Eclipse for service in New Zealand and took part in the native wars until severely wounded in 1863 and invalided home. For these services he was mentioned in despatches and promoted to the rank of Captain. He received the Companionship of the Bath in 1867.

SKETCH OF PART OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY LIEUT^{NT} R. C. MAYNE, R. N. OF H. M. S. PLUMPER, 1859,

APPROXIMATE SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH = ONE NAUTIC MILE



CITATION

MAYNE, R. C. "SKETCH OF PART OF BRITISH COLUMBIA". SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH TO 1 NAUTIC MILE, 1859. SURVEYOR GENERAL DIVISION VAULT, LAND TITLE AND SURVEY AUTHORITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. PLAN 33 TRAY 1 ORIGINAL MAPS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/CREDIT

PLAN 33 TRAY 1 ORIGINAL MAPS IS INCLUDED WITH PERMISSION BY THE SURVEYOR GENERAL DIVISION OF THE LAND TITLE AND SURVEY AUTHORITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA







PAVILLON FARM
LIME TOWER PEAK
PAVILLON LAKE

SANDSTONE AND TRAP
SHUSHWAP INDIANS

THE BONAPARTE RIVER
1000 FT
RIVER COUTEAU
RIVER JUMBO
RIVER DEMO
FERRY
SANDSTONE PLAIN
LAKE SHUSHWAP
1500 FT
THE NORTH RIVER
RIVER 200 YDS
THE THOMPSON RIVER
KAMLOOPS
MOUNT ST PAUL
MOUNT RACKALT 1800 FT

CHAPEAUX RIVER
TRAIL TO FOUNTAIN (1 DAY)

SLIDE
FOSTERS BAR
THE RIVER CHAPEAUX
INDIANS

THE THOMPSON RIVER
1000 FT
THE NICOLA RIVER
3000 FT
DANGEROUS BEACH RAPIDS
LYTTON
RANCHERIA BAR FARM
INDIANS VILLAGE
JACKASS MOUNTAIN
NICAOMEN RIVER
STUMP LAKE
POND
MOUNT SKYETAKEN
LAKE RIVER
LAKE
2 MILES
SMEENATLON LAKE
ME DONALD R.
BODINIO RIVER
1 1/2 MILES WIDE
NICOLA RIVER
1 MILE WIDE
WHA-HATCH ALLER
LARGE VILLAGE

BULWER PEAK
NEW BRUNSWICK BAR

MOUNT SQUALISHT OR SERVICE BERRY MOUNTAIN
WHA-HATCH ALLER



This engraving of Lillooet appeared in the *Canadian Illustrated News* on 13 August 1870 with the caption:

“LILLOOET, FRASER RIVER - Lillooet is a flourishing town situated on the right bank of the Fraser [River], 212 miles from the port and capital, New Westminster. At one time the banks of the river in this neighbourhood were exceeding rich in gold. Since this time the town has gradually gone on increasing in size and importance, and now ranks as one of the principal posts of the Fraser.”

They loaded all their worldly possessions on their backs and headed for the new junction with the intention of reaping wealth from the weary travelers by setting up a stopping house. Upon their arrival, they discovered that Watson was already located at the junction and doing a great business catering to the needs of the miners and was in the process of building a larger stopping house. Not to be thwarted, Smith and Marshall bought him out. When Smith died in 1871, his wife remarried Marshall, and by the time he passed away in 1877 a Smith son was old enough to join his mother in the business. The location came to be known as Clinton.

From this stopping house, the miners followed a

Hudson’s Bay Company trail to Alexandria (formerly Fort Alexandria). From here they worked their way northward, following Indian trails through to Lac La Hache to Chief William’s village (later Williams Lake). The trail from Yale through to the junction at Watson’s stopping house became known as the Cariboo Trail.

Past Chief William’s village, foot trails led the miners to Quesnel Forks, where William Prosper Barry and Samuel Adler had constructed a 200-foot bridge across the Quesnel River. These two industrious men made good money collecting tolls from the travelers using the bridge.

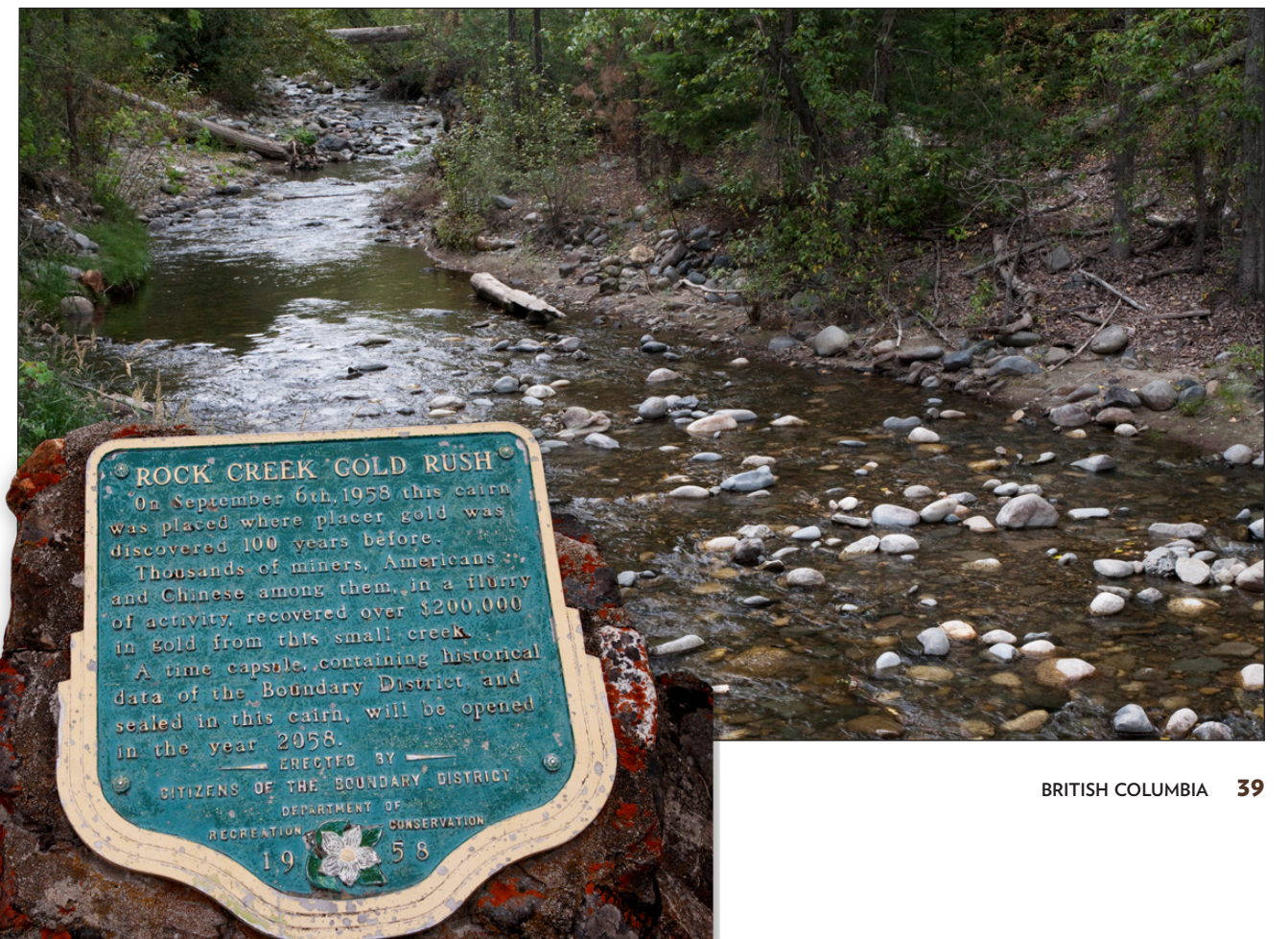
1858 ROCK CREEK GOLD RUSH

The Rock Creek gold rush took place in an area that was dubbed the Boundary Country because it took place just to the north of the 49th parallel that separated the United States from Canada. The rush was touched off by First Nations braves pursuing two American soldiers across the border. The soldiers escaped and three miles inside Canadian territory chanced to find gold on the Kettle River where it was met by Rock Creek. Adam Beam filed the first claim.

The rush that followed was composed mostly of Americans and some Chinese. All these men had come north from Fort Colville just south of the border and some came all the way from the California gold rush. At the peak of the gold rush an estimated 5,000 men were in the area and a new town, called Rock Creek, sprang into existence with a population of about 300. Governor Douglas sent Gold Commissioner Peter O’Reilly to the area to collect duties on items coming across the border as well as collect fees for mining licenses. Unfortunately, just as O’Reilly arrived at

Rock Creek trouble broke out between the Caucasian and Chinese miners—and the inexperienced new Gold Commissioner was driven from the mining camp by a hail of stones in what came to be known as the Rock Creek War. O’Reilly’s recourse was to flee to Victoria to report to Governor Douglas.

A short time later, Douglas, accompanied by William George Cox, who was to become the new gold commissioner, and Arthur Bushby, best known for being Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie’s clerk and companion, proceeded to Rock Creek. Douglas laid down the law to the American miners and told them that if they didn’t behave themselves on British soil that he’d return with 500 marines. He further explained that the Chinese had the same rights to the gold workings as they had and that any further molestation of them would not be tolerated. As the men left the large tent, Douglas insisted on shaking each man’s hand, looking each one in the eye—and ingraining his personal expectations of each of them.





THE PREVIOUS TWO PAGES:

JAMES DOUGLAS TAKING THE OATH AS FIRST GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AT FORT LANGLEY

On November 25, 1858, there appeared in the Victoria Gazette the following news letter:

--"New Fort Langley, 20th November 1858. Editors Gazette: Yesterday, the birthday of British Columbia, was ushered in by a steady rain which continued perseveringly throughout the whole day, and in a great measure marred the solemnity of the proclamation of the Colony. His Excellency, Governor Douglas, with a suite comprising Rear-Admiral Baynes, Commanding the naval forces on the Pacific Station; Mr. Cameron, the respected Chief Justice of Vancouver Island; Mr. Begbie, the newly appointed Chief Justice of British (39) Columbia; Mr. Lira and others, proceeded on board H.M. Ship "Satellite," Captain Prevost, on Wednesday morning by the Canal de Haro to Point Roberts, where his excellency and suite were conveyed by the Hudson Bay Company's screw steamer "Otter" to the Company's steamship "Beaver" which was lying moored within the mouth of the Fraser. Both vessels then proceeded in company as far as Old Fort Langley, where the "Otter" disembarked a party of 18 Sappers under the command of Captain Parsons who immediately embarked in the "Recovery" revenue cutter, joining the command of Captain Grant, R.E., who had previously reached the point with a party of the same corps. Both these gallant officers have recently arrived from England with small parties of men under their command. The "Beaver" then proceeded with His Excellency aboard to New Fort Langley, where preparations were made for the ceremonial of the following day.

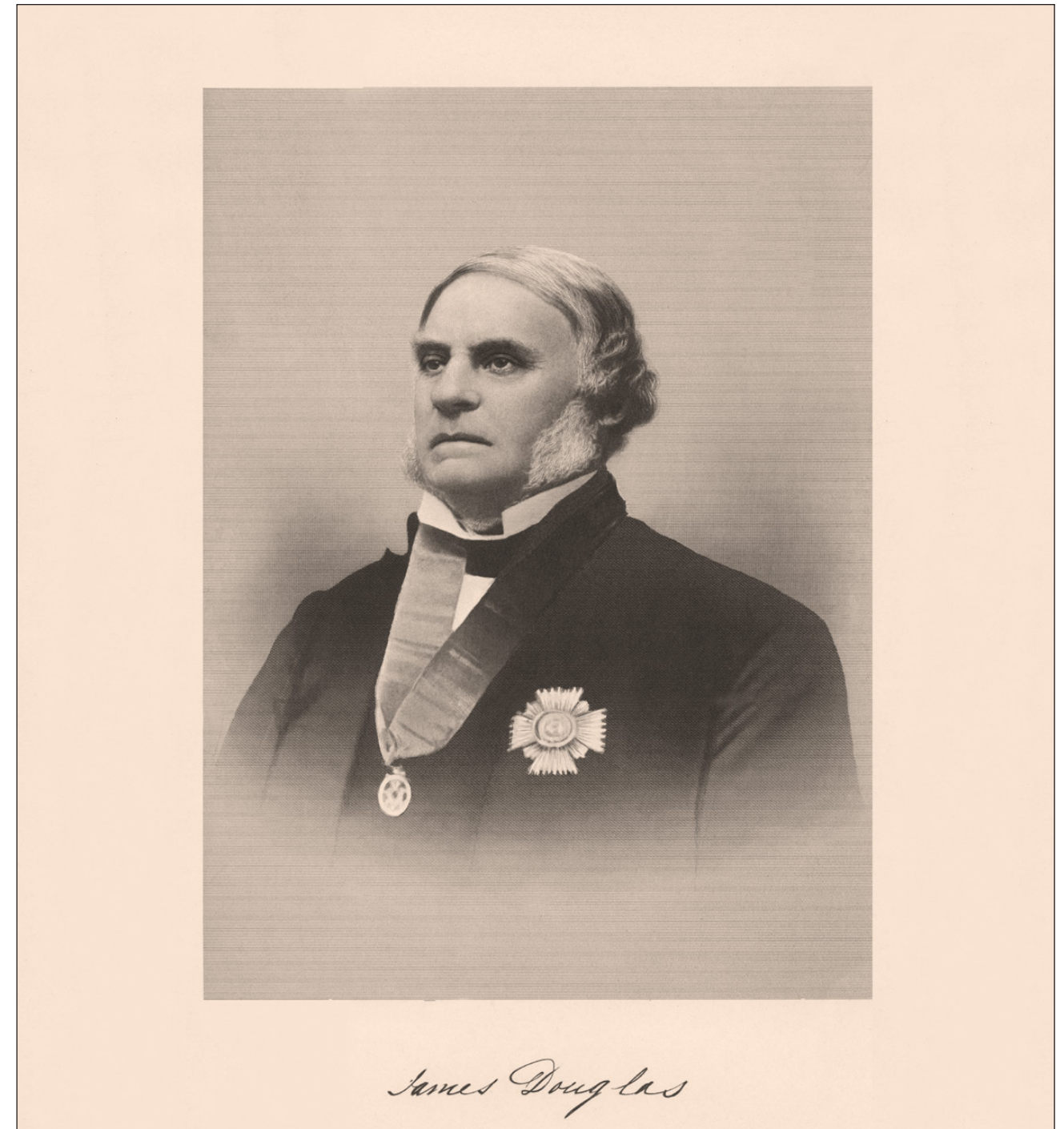
"On Friday morning, the 19th instant, His Excellency, accompanied by the Captain Grant disembarked on the wet loamy bank of the Fort and the procession proceeded up the steep bank which leads to the palisade. Arrived there, a salute of 18 guns commenced pealing from the "Beaver" awakening all the echoes of the opposite mountains. In another moment the flag of Britain was floating, or to speak the truth, dripped over the principal entrance. Owing to the unpropitious state of the weather, the meeting which was intended to have been held in the open air was convened in the large room at the principal building. About 100 persons were present.

"The ceremonies were commenced by His Excellency addressing Mr. Begbie and delivering to him Her Majesty's Commission as Judge in the Colony of British Columbia. Mr. Begbie then took the oath of Allegiance and the usual oaths on taking office and then addressing His Excellency took up her Majesty's Commission appointing him the Governor and proceeding to read it at length. Mr. Begbie then administered to Governor Douglas the usual oaths of office, viz.: Allegiance, Abjuration, etc. His Excellency being then duly appointed and sworn in, proceeded to issue the Proclamation of the same day, 19th instant, viz.: one (40) proclaiming the act; a second, indemnifying all the officers of the Government from any irregularities which may have been committed in the interval before this proclamation of the act; and a third, proclaiming English Law to be the Law of the Colony. The reading of these was preceded by His Excellency's Proclamation of the 3rd instant setting forth the Revocation of Her Majesty of all the exclusive privileges of the Hudson Bay Company.

"The proceedings then terminated. On leaving the Fort, which His Excellency did not do until today, another salute of 17 guns was fired from the battlements, with even grander effect than the salute in the previous day. On leaving the riverside in front of the town a number of the inhabitants were assembled with whom His Excellency entered into conversation previous to embarking on board the "Beaver," and by whom he was loudly cheered in very good style as he was on his way to the steamer."

Thus was inaugurated, in the very heart of the Fraser Valley, the first Government of British Columbia.

COURTESY NATIVE SONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA POST #1



SIR JAMES DOUGLAS (1803 - 1877)

Fur trader with the Hudson's Bay Company, Douglas came up through the ranks until becoming Chief Factor in 1839. When gold was discovered in New Caledonia in the early 1850s Douglas became Governor of British Columbia. from 1851 until 1864 he was Governor of Vancouver Island. in 1858 he also became Governor of the Mainland of British Columbia. After his retirement in 1864, he traveled to England where he was knighted by Queen Victoria I and made a Knight Commander of the Bath. While overseas douglas visited Europe and with relatives in Scotland. He was often credited as being the "Father of British Columbia".



The Wagon Road, Engineers' Road or Dewdney Trail passes parallel to Highway #3 near the western exit from Manning Park.

THE ENGINEERS' ROAD OR DEWDNEY TRAIL

An east to west Wagon Road across the southern portion of British Columbia by the British Government's Royal Engineers was an attempt to keep any gold discoveries north of the Canadian-US border from making their way into the United States. The militaristic Royal Engineers built the first few miles of road from Rock Creek towards Hope but were then seconded away for the building of the Cariboo

Wagon Road through the Fraser Canyon to the Cariboo goldfields. Edgar Dewdney built the first section from Hope to Rock Creek in 1861. He afterwards took the contract to build the section from Wild Horse to Rock Creek in 1864. Eventually the road was built to Hope. Dewdney went on to become the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories before becoming the fifth Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.



EDGAR DEWDNEY (1835-1916)

The Civil Engineer namegiver of the Dewdney Trail, built the first section from Hope to Rock Creek in 1861. He afterwards took the contract to build the section from Wild Horse to Rock Creek in 1864. Dewdney went on to become the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories before becoming the fifth Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #012677 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM NOTMAN, CIRCA 1865

BREAKING TRAILS & CREEKS OF GOLD



DONALD MCLEAN (1805-1864)

The Chief Trader in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company Fort Kamloops, McLean made the first reports to his superior James Douglas that gold had been discovered by First Nations braves on the Thompson River. McLean became one of the casualties of the Chilcotin War in 1864.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#063818 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Shortly after his arrival at Fort Kamloops in 1855, Hudson Bay Company Chief Trader Donald McLean traded for gold with a Shuswap First Nations Indian. When McLean reported the purchase to Chief Factor James Douglas, his superior in Victoria, he was instructed to keep the information quiet since a gold rush would spell the end of the fur trade. Douglas wrote in his diary: "Gold was first found on Thompson River by an Indian a quarter of a mile below Nicomin. He is since dead. The Indian was taking a drink out of the river; having no vessel he was quaffing from the stream when he perceived a shining pebble which he picked up, and it proved to be gold. The whole tribe forthwith began to collect the glittering metal. This was likely in 1856."

After exchanging letters with Hudson Bay Company officials in England, Douglas encouraged McLean to buy gold from the First Nations braves. McLean requested that spoons be shipped to him at Fort Kamloops for sale to the Indians so that they could be used in the extracting of nuggets from the crevices of the bedrock. Apparently McLean had collected a couple of pickle jars of gold by the fall of 1856. In December 1857 Douglas reported: "The reputed wealth of the Couteau mines [the local name of the Thompson-Fraser River area] is causing much excitement among the population of the United States of Washington and Oregon, and I have no doubt that a great number of people from those territories will be attracted thither in the spring." By this time the First Nations had mined about 800 ounces of gold and traded it with the fur traders.

In February 1858 Douglas sent the 800 ounces of gold south on the steamship Otter for minting at San Francisco, California. The mint superintendent, a member of the fire department, remarked at the group's next meeting that the next gold excitement would be on the Fraser River. By March the first vanguard of miners began to arrive on the Fraser River and a few miles above Hope they discovered the first rich pay on a bar they named Hill's, after the man who had washed the first gold. News of their success and samples of the gold were sent to San Francisco and by April the rush

had started on the Fraser River. Since the California gold rush had taken place only a few years before, the rumor spread quickly and a new breed of fortune seeker was soon trudging along the explorers' and fur traders' trails.

There was a real urgency at the time of the 1858 Fraser River gold rush to ensure British jurisprudence with the result that Governor James Douglas hired gold commissioners to intercept American gold hunters at the borders and make them buy miners' licenses, stake claims, and record their findings. The size of claims were first only 12 by 12-feet, then 25 x 25-feet and finally 100 by 100-feet.

Seasoned miners who had proven their ability at finding gold strikes across the world made the first major gold strikes in the Cariboo. They were known to be able to look at a creek and be able to tell if it contained gold. George W. Weaver, William Ross Keithley and John A. Rose were 3 such men. Weaver was an experienced gold-hunter from the California gold rush who already had Weaverville named in his honor while Rose had more recently had Rose's Bar named in his honor just below Yale. During the summer of 1860 Weaver, Keithley and Rose persuaded Ranald MacDonald to lead them on an expedition along the north shore of Cariboo Lake. It was a wise and sound decision based on MacDonald's background as he had acquired valuable life experiences long before reaching the goldfields of the Cariboo. He had been born at Fort Astoria in what was then known as the Columbia District or Oregon Country. His parents were Archibald MacDonald, a Scottish Hudson's Bay Company fur trader, and Princess Raven, daughter of Chief Comcomly, a leader of the Chinook First Nations. Following the death of his mother, the infant Ranald was raised by a maternal aunt until after his father was transferred to Fort Kamloops. From then until he was 10, he was raised by his father and step-mother at Fort Kamloops, Fort Langley, and Fort Colville before being sent east with the fall fur brigade to Red River for schooling. In 1839, at the age of 15, he was apprenticed in the banking business under Edward Ermatinger at St. Thomas, Ontario, his father's friend and brother of Francis Ermatinger of Fort Kamloops fame. The youth hated the indoor occupation and within a year ran away much to the despair of his father. By 1848, Ranald was working on a whaling ship and while sailing along the coast of Japan he had requested a sailboat to put off for shore to explore this strange land. By first simulating shipwreck and afterwards ingratiating himself with those in authority by teaching English to 14 Japanese interpreters,



RANALD MACDONALD (1824 - 1894)

This gold hunter was one of the most interesting of all the gold discoverers to venture into the Cariboo. Seen here a few years before his death, MacDonald, the son of the Hudson's Bay Company Chief Factor, was one of the early educators of English to the Japanese. He had participated in the Australian gold rush before coming to British Columbia.

MacDonald was a major player in the discovery of gold on Leech River at Sooke on the southern tip of Vancouver Island in 1864.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

he escaped execution but still suffered almost a year's imprisonment since white men were banished from Japan at this time. He was reported in American papers as having drowned in the South Seas. He was safely deported from Japan on an American ship bound for Australia and was able to participate in the gold strikes near Melbourne in the 'Land Down Under'. A short time after the death of his father, the prodigal son returned to St. Andrews, Ontario, to see his family and it was while visiting here that he heard of the Fraser River gold rush. He persuaded his two half-brothers, Allan and Benjamin, to join him and participate in this new gold rush. The trio took a sailing vessel bound for the Panama and when en route up the Pacific Coast opted to disembark at Fort Vancouver where Ranald made enquiries about his maternal grandfather. He was saddened to learn that Chief Comcomly had fallen victim to a smallpox plague in the 1830s. Upon reaching Fort Victoria, the trio paid a visit to their father's old friend Governor Douglas. Known as 'Black' or 'Siwash' MacDonald in the Cariboo, Ranald was on the Lower Fraser in the fall of 1859 and the following spring volunteered to guide Rose, Weaver and Keithley into the hinterland. 'Black' MacDonald's half-brother Benjamin, although only 15 when he arrived in British Columbia, was among the first to stake claims on the better gold producing creeks in the Cariboo.

The four trailblazers eventually came across a gold-bearing creek that they name Keithley. Weaver and Keithley worked this creek with mediocre success but soon gave up to join Rose and MacDonald who had gone deeper into the hinterland. Although it was not a rich source of gold, less experienced miners who tended to follow experienced parties such as theirs, began staking claims along the stream and by that fall the settlement of Keithley sprang up as a supply center. When winter struck, the reluctant miners built igloos and crude shelters to live in while protecting their staked ground from claim jumpers.

Weaver and Keithley, who had gone on during the early excitement, followed Keithley Creek for several miles before heading off along one of the feeder streams. When this small creek petered out, the men crossed a high plateau and descended into a valley by following a stream so littered with deer antlers that they then and there named it Antler Creek. Continuing on, they met up with Rose and MacDonald who were bursting with good news about the creek. They had been working the creek and were able to show the amazed newcomers places where the rusty colored gold nuggets

were in plain view in exposed pockets of sun exposed colored bedrock, and announced that they had been able to take 4 to 5 ounces of gold to the pan.

Bedding down for the night, the 4 men excitedly planned their strategy. Because they were the discoverers of the creek the 4 men were each entitled to one 100-by-100 foot claim as well as their regular claim of the same size. It was decided that they would search the creek for the richest spots on which to stake their 8 claims and then pan the remaining areas until their food supplies ran low. During the night however the camp was covered with a foot of freshly fallen snow. Despite the change in weather, the men prospected feverishly up and down the creek and succeeded in staking out the choice areas. By this time supplies had run low and they agreed that Keithley and Weaver would return to Keithley Town for winter supplies. Everything was planned carefully in order to keep the creek secret. They would use the Keithley Creek gold to purchase the supplies since the store owner might notice the color difference of the Antler Creek gold and suspect a new find. More importantly Weaver and Keithley would have to make sure that their actions did not arouse any suspicions.

The two set off and about half a mile from Discovery Rock, the spot on Antler Creek where they first found gold, they located an easier route up to the plateau and then down again in practically a straight line southward in the direction of Keithley. They waited until the supper hour to enter the town, knowing that the miners would be occupied with their meals. Entering the store, they made great effort to appear casual, even to the point of engaging in small talk while purchasing their supplies. Lingering, so as not to appear hurried, they felt safe to leave by dark; but upon passing through the mining community found that hordes of men were packed and snow shoed-up, ready to follow the pair to wherever they had come. Their prospecting fame had defeated any measures they had taken to prevent interest in their actions and, like the

Pied Piper; they led the merry horde to the gold.

Thus, some dozens of parties set out for Antler Creek in 6-feet of snow. Many crossed the plateau on show shoes—hence the name Snowshoe Plateau—and before long claims were being staked over already staked ground, giving rise to many disputes. Upon returning to their claims, Weaver and Keithley helped Rose and MacDonald build an 8-foot x 10-foot cabin from spruce and balsam logs as a shelter against the harsh winter. The other miners chose to live in tents or holes in the snow. Soon Antler Creek became so solidly staked that new arrivals began to look elsewhere resulting in several rich creeks being discovered almost simultaneously. Four of these—Williams, Lightning, Lowhee and Grouse—would soon become the chief source of gold in the rush that followed the discovery of Antler. Almost immediately, a depot called Antlertown was set up on Antler Creek to provide supplies for the area.

By Christmas of 1860, Murtz J. Collins, Michael Costin Brown and John 'Kansas' Metz had reached Quesnel Mouth where they purchased snowshoes from Fort George Indians for \$14 a pair before striking out for Antler Creek.

Williams Creek was discovered in February 1861. Born on the slopes of Bald Mountain, it flows in a northwesterly direction for about 9 miles before emptying into the Willow River. At the midway point the creek flows through a canyon or gulch before meandering through a broad valley.

One evening Wilhelm Dietz, an ex-Prussian sailor, and his partners, James Costello and Michael Burns, stumbled into their camp in a half-starved state claiming they had found gold in a nearby-unnamed creek. The next morning Brown decided to join Dietz and Costello in their exploration while Burns, Collins, and Metz decided to remain in camp. The trio moved around Discovery Rock and continued upstream until a wide creek (later named Racetrack) blocked their passage. Heading into the hills, they climbed up



It was probably in a moosehide pouch similar to this that McLean sent the two pickle jars of gold that he'd purchased from First Nations braves to Victoria.

COURTESY VERNON MUSEUM

a mountainous slope, finally reaching a broad plateau that they named Bald Mountain because it was barren of any timber. Brown left the following account: "We crossed the divide, eventually making the headwaters of the creek and after some time we traveled to a place near a little gulch or canyon, where we camped for the night, building a little shelter.

On the following morning we separated to prospect the stream, agreeing to meet again at night to report progress. The story of that day's prospecting, which we recalled over the campfire, has become a matter of mining history in British Columbia. 'Dutch Bill' made the best prospect, striking pay dirt at \$1.25 a pan. Costello and I had done pretty well, finding dirt worth a dollar or so a pan. You can well imagine we were well pleased with the day's exertions, and each man in his heart felt that we had discovered very rich ground. I shall not forget the discussion that took place as to the name to be given to the creek. Dutch Bill was for having it called 'Billy Creek' because he had found the best prospects of the three. I was quite agreeable, but I stipulated that Mr. William Dietz should buy the first basket of champagne that reached the creek. This appealed to Costello, and so the creek was then and there named—not Billy Creek but 'Williams Creek'."

The 6 men returned to camp and they all worked out certain plans: Costello would remain on the creek and guard their claims; Dietz, Burns, Collins and Metz would return to Antler for supplies; and Brown would travel as quickly as possible the 60 miles to Williams Lake to register their discovery with Philip Henry Nind Jr., the Cariboo's only gold commissioner. Things began to go awry when news of their strike leaked out at Antler. They decided that Dietz should return to the claims the following morning. Using showshoes, he retraced his footsteps in a record 3 hours but his strenuous exertions were of no avail for the entire population of wintering miners at Antler followed his trail in the snow and within hours were staking claims up and down both sides of the creek.

Ironically, the discoverers staked claims that proved

to be among the poorest on a creek that became among the richest in the world. After working like slaves for 3 months most of the original discoverers sold their claims for modest prices and became involved with more productive sites. Brown ended up selling his shares to William Wallace Cunningham for \$2,500. An Irishman by birth, Brown had managed a hotel in San Francisco at the height of the California rush before catching the sternwheeler Brother Jonathan to join the flood of humanity heading north to the Cariboo. This experience prompted him to purchase a pack train to supply provisions to the growing hordes of miners. On one trip alone he took 8,000 pounds of provisions into the gold camps. He sold flour for \$1.25 a pound; beans, bacon and dried apples for \$1.50; and tobacco for \$2. He packed all summer but that fall was caught in a snowstorm and lost 42 horses. In the spring of 1863 he had carpenters build him a 30-foot by 60-foot store on Williams Creek from whipsawed lumber at a cost of \$4,500. He sold the store in 1864 to open the Adelphi Hotel in Victoria. During the next 40 years he took part in the gold rushes to the Big Bend, Cassiar, Dease River, and eventually the Klondike. In 1904, he left the Yukon for good and returned to Victoria where he passed away 10 years later.

With Keithley, Antler, and Williams Creek all solidly staked, the miners of poorer claims began to investigate any unexplored streams within a 20-mile radius of Antler Town. In June 1861, William W. Cunningham, Edward Campbell, W. Henry Lightfall, James Bell and John Hume discovered an incredibly rich stream that began as a trickle on the slopes of Agnes Mountain and flowed westward until emptying into the Swift River. When Cunningham took the first pan of gravel from the creek and saw the prospects, he remarked. "Boys, this is lightning" and the name stuck.

It was Cunningham who announced that gold had been discovered on Van Winkle Creek, a tributary of Lightning. Because a Rip Van Winkle Bar near Lytton in earlier days had been prosperous, the new locality was named Van Winkle in its honor. In keeping with political

tradition, the nearby community of Stanley that had sprung up in 1870 to replace the declining Van Winkle, was named in honor of Edward Henry Stanley, the 15th Earl of Derby and secretary for the colonies at the time. His brother, Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, was the Governor General for Canada from 1888 to 1893 and left his name to Vancouver City's Stanley Park (and later the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup).

Richard Willoughby had sold a mine for \$35,000 in Arizona before leading a 300-man force of soldier-miners through hostile Indian Territory in the United States en route to the California diggings. Willoughby, Hanson Tilton, and brothers Asa H. and Thomas P. Patterson circumnavigated the canyon on Williams Creek and descended on through a narrow valley before coming upon a lovely lake that was later called Jack of Clubs Lake. On their right a small stream flowed from the lake—later proven to be the source of the Willow River—while on their left a small creek disgorged itself through a narrow ravine between 2 mountains. The party found gold immediately and Willoughby christened the creek 'Lowhee' and their claim 'The Great Lowhee' after a secret miner's society to which he belonged at Yale. The men took their time and were careful to stake what appeared to be the most productive ground. In July the 4 partners returned with the necessary equipment to work their claims. Other eager miners followed them and when Willoughby reached the diggings he turned to these men and announced, "Boys, this is it!" Lowhee Creek was fabulously rich and easy to work, for nowhere was the silt and gravel more than 4-feet deep to bedrock on which rested the gold nuggets. During 5 weeks of mining, Willoughby and his 3 partners took out 250 pounds of nuggets from a 200 x 500-foot rectangle of 10 claims. Upon leaving the Cariboo, Willoughby tried farming in Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley but that occupation did not suit his reckless nature and in 1869 he headed for the gold strikes in the Cassiar and Omineca country. The rest of his life was spent in northern British Columbia and Alaska. He died in Nome, Alaska, in 1904 with a large fortune.

George Downey was one of a group of prospectors who followed Antler Creek to its source. From here the men crossed an alpine pass to the headwaters of another stream that they named Grouse Creek. This waterway also proved to be a generous source of gold.

By the summer's end, 1,200 men were working on the gold-bearing creeks around Keithley and Antler, and soon small companies of 2

and 3 men were busy taking out as much as one-and-a-half pounds of gold per man per day. The gold the miners were finding on Williams Creek was in hard blue clay 8 to 10 feet below the surface that was believed to be an old creek bed.

One day Joel Abbott working alone while his partners William Jordan and John Dawson were away buying supplies dug through the blue clay and found unbelievable rich gravels containing smooth water-worn nuggets and from that day forward the creek began yielding unimaginable amounts of gold. As early as August the Abbott and Jordan Company was reported to have amassed over 400 pounds of gold after expenses.

George W. Weaver and William R. Keithley had to put in a 4-mile-long flume to carry water to their diggings. Although the flume's lumber and construction costs were extremely expensive, the claim's gold output easily covered the overhead and the two men accumulated a tidy fortune. Ranald MacDonald mined a fortune before selling his claim to John A. Rose for a 20-pound bag of gold. After selling his claim to Rose, Ranald MacDonald engaged in packing supplies from his ranch on the Bonaparte River into the gold camps. After packing for several years, he retired to Colville, Washington (formerly Fort Colville) to write his autobiography. Several publishers refused his manuscript fearing his story was too fantastic to possibly be true. There are monuments honoring MacDonald in both Rishiri and Nagasaki, Japan. He died a poor man in Washington State in 1894 and his last words to a niece were reportedly "Sayonora, my dear, sayonora".

Rose, nicknamed the 'Man of Destiny' was last seen rafting down the Willow River with an unknown companion in the fall of 1862. The bodily remains of these 2 men were later found buried under the ashes of their last campfire. It was speculated that they had either swamped their raft losing their provisions and thus died of starvation and hypothermia, later to be buried by passers-by, or had been ambushed by Indians who sought to conceal their dastardly deed by burying them. George Weaver later went to the Kootenays where he met his death while working alone in a ground-slucing claim on Weaver's Gulch. He had been buried up to his neck in cold mud for 2 days before being found. He almost survived the ordeal. He was buried not far from where the accident took place.

John Innes' 6-foot by 9-foot painting of the discovery of gold in 1861 by a party led by Wilhelm 'Dutch Bill' Dietz. His companions agreed to name the creek in his honor provided he pay for the first case of champagne that arrived at the diggings.

COURTESY NATIVE SONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA POST #1

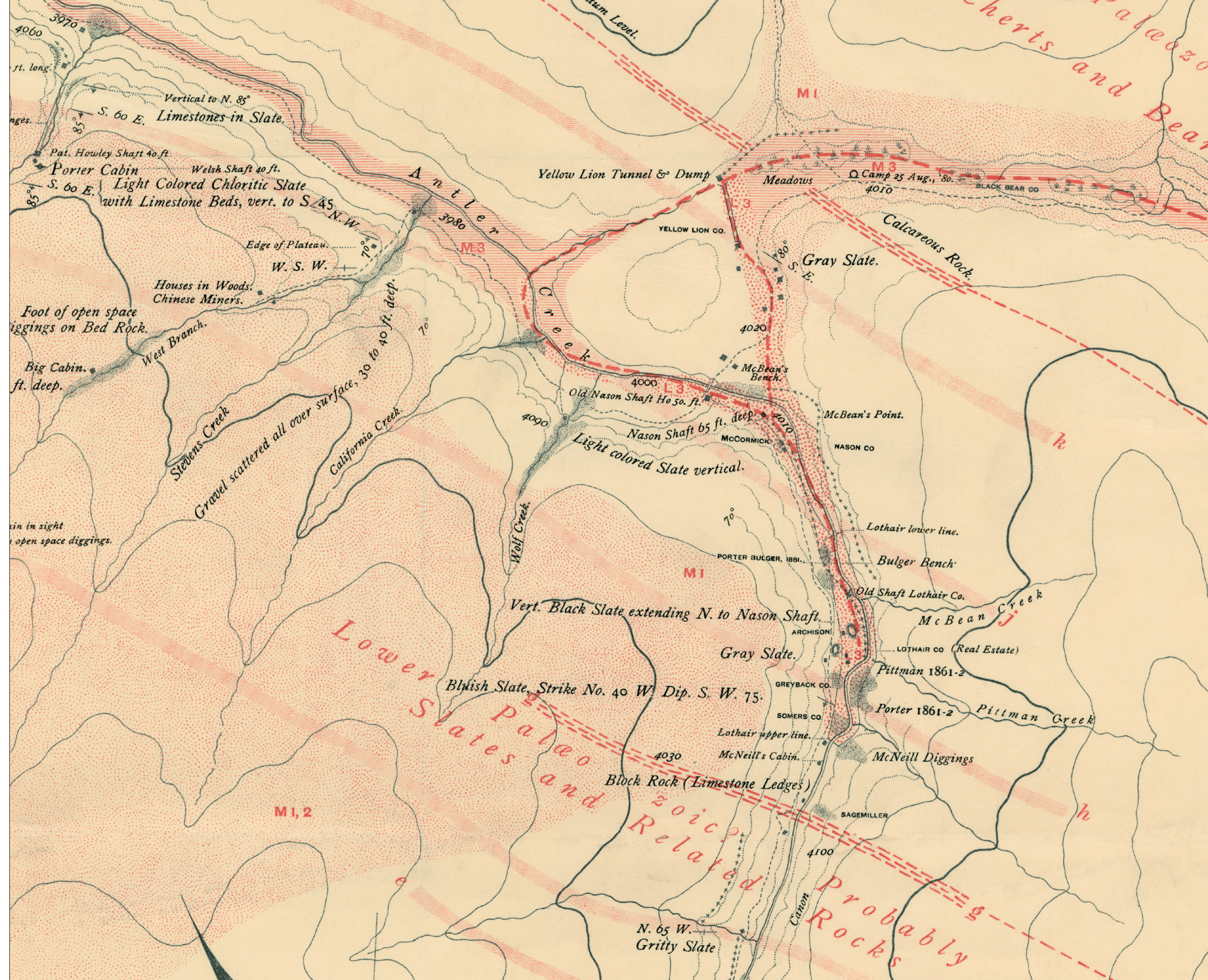


ANTLER CREEK, CARIBOO

One gold rich creek that the miners located had antlers scattered on the ground and henceforth became known as antler creek. George W. Weaver, John Rose, William Ross Keithley and Ranald Macdonald, all seasoned miners, Rose had a bar on the Fraser River named in his honour while Weaverville had the town of Weaverville in California named after him during the California Gold Rush. The half-breed Macdonald was often referred to as 'Black' or 'Siwash' Macdonald. Ranald brought his younger brother, Benjamin, although only a 'teenager, with him to the Cariboo, to participate in what would become one of the greatest gold rushes of all time. Ranald Macdonald was easily British Columbia's greatest gold hunter having participated in the Australian gold rush prior to taking part in most of the major gold discoveries in British Columbia.

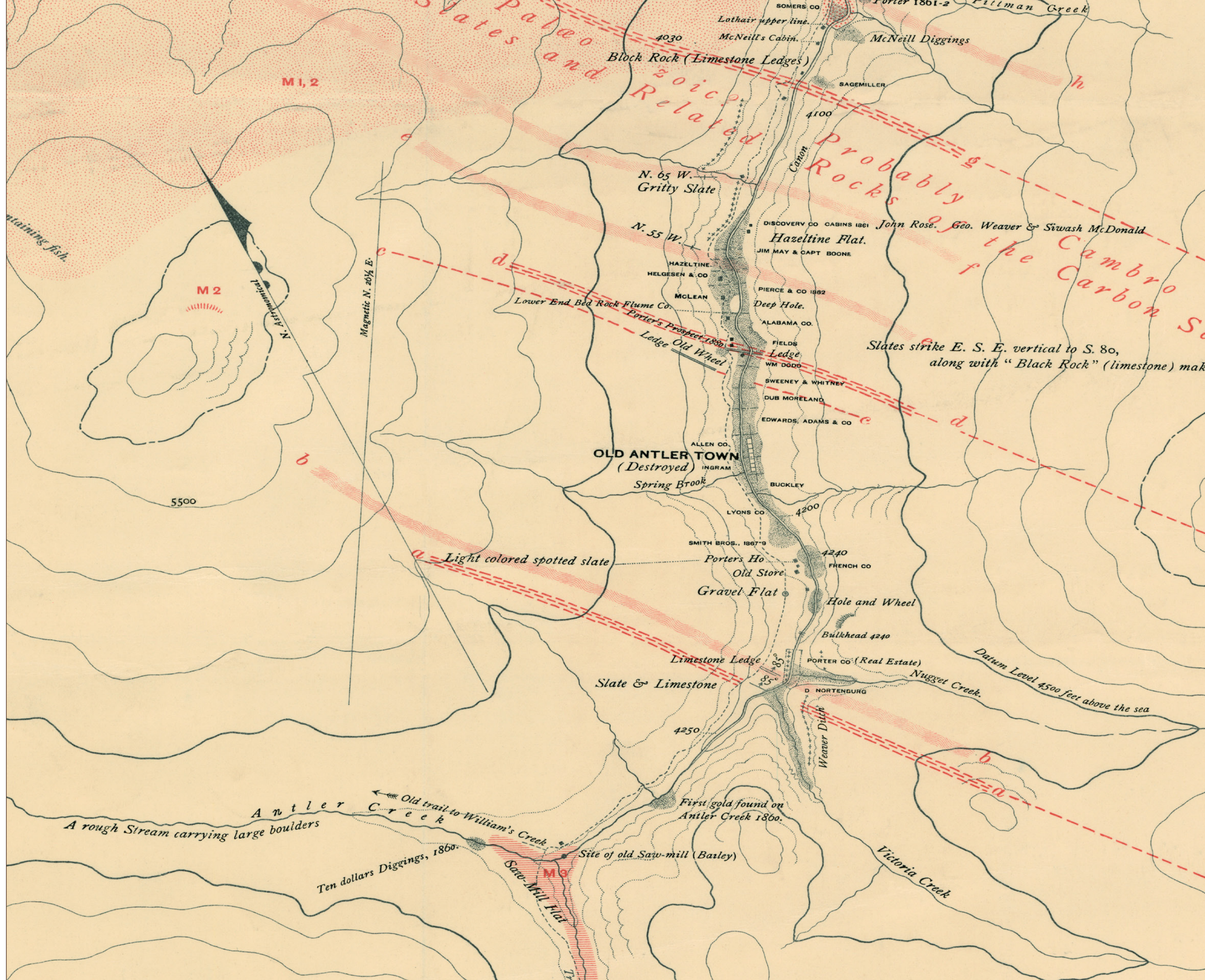
"Thus some dozens of parties set out for Antler in 6-feet of snow. Many crossed the plateau on snowshoes—hence the name Snowshoe Plateau—and before long claims were being staked over already staked ground giving rise to many mining disputes. Upon returning to their claims, Weaver and Keithley helped Rose and Macdonald build an 8-foot x 10-foot cabin from spruce and balsam logs as a shelter against the harsh winter. The other miners chose to live in tents in the snow. Soon Antler Creek became so solidly staked that new arrivals had to look elsewhere, resulting in several rich creeks being discovered almost simultaneously. Four of these—Williams, Lightning, Lowhee and Grouse—would soon become the chief source of gold in the rush that followed the discovery of Antler. Almost immediately, a depot was set up at Antler Town to provide supplies for the area."

Not all of Antler Creek proved rich as per



an account by disenchanted miner William Mark: "There as been a great deal said about the richness of this creek (Antler Creek) and the quantity of gold taken out from time to time; but not a word was said on the other side of the question, and there had been several companies ruined at this creek. One company, a party of eight Cornishmen... were on ground adjoining this rich claim. The day we left Antler they abandoned the place, and left it ruined men. This was the case with every other creek; some struck it rich, and this is blazed in every paper. Many lost all they had, and were completely beggared. this was never named but hushed down."

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA MAP#366
 COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, OTTAWA



Diller invested wisely and some of the original Cariboo gold still remains in the hands of the Diller family.

Diller's story was one of many rags to riches success stories that came out of the Cariboo but the riches to rags stories were far more numerous.

During the period 1877-1892, prospecting and testing was done on the major veins: Bonanza (B.C.) Vein, Steadman Vein, Pinkerton Vein, Black Jack Vein (Westport), Proserpine Vein, Perkins Vein and Mount Burns Vein. In 1877-1892, Black Jack and Burns Company sank a shaft 180' deep on the Black Jack claim from which three levels were established with a few hundred feet of drifts and crosscuts. Assays greater than \$70 per ton were reported.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA MAP#364
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