



**OPPOSITE**

**WILLIAM BARKER (1817 - 1894)**

The young miner poses for a portcard portrait for a studio photographer in Denver, Colorado. Before venturing north to the Cariboo District, the handsome mustachioed Billy worked in a silver mine before venturing into the Cariboo and becoming the name-giver of Barkerville.

COURTESY BRANWEN P. PATENAUDE, QUESNEL, B.C.

## BARKER OF BARKERVILLE

William Barker was a riverman from Norfolk, England, who had left a wife Jane and daughter Emma in order to participate in the California gold rush and then later in a silver rush in Denver, Colorado. It was while he was in California that he learned of his wife's passing.

Hearing about the fortunes being made in the Cariboo, Billy arrived on Williams Creek in 1859 and obtained Free Miner's certificate #9 under the new Goldfields Act from Thomas Elwyn, the Cariboo's gold commissioner. He almost immediately registered a claim along the crowded banks of Williams Creek. This claim proved productive and Barker was able to buy into other claims by selling shares in his own claim. As bad weather started to set in, he joined the hordes of miners who migrated to the more temperate climate of Victoria.

Barker and 6 other miners headed back to the diggings in the spring of 1862 and in August founded the Barker Company staking 7 claims downriver from Stout's Gulch. Although it was never proven, rumour had it that Judge Begbie had helped grubstake the stubborn Englishman. Urged on by Edward Stout, Barker's men kept digging until they struck pay dirt on 17 August 1862 that yielded an ounce of gold for every 3 pans of dirt at forty feet below the surface. They had found the gold in a blue clay. They kept digging deeper and at 80-feet reached bedrock taking 60 ounces of gold from one tiny crevice. The bedrock of the 100 by 700-foot rectangle of ground that the 7 claims totaled eventually yielded \$600,000 in gold at a time when gold was worth \$16 an ounce. The rewards from their labours had hardly commenced when winter settled in and all work stopped. Billy, now prosperous, decided to again winter in Victoria and have some much deserved rest and relaxation. He soon learned that there was a gold digger of another sort in the island city and on 13 January 1863, Barker married London widow Elizabeth Collyer. She had a short time earlier arrived from London,

England, aboard the ship *Rosedale*.

The following spring Mrs. Barker accompanied her husband back to the Cariboo. Barkerville, a new town of saloons and stores that had sprung up beside the creek, had been named in honor of Billy Barker and the town was soon to toot itself as the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco.

Elizabeth loved the rip-roaring life of the gold camp towns where women outnumbered men 250 to 1 and the 45-year-old Billy soon found himself competing for her attention with men half his age. In his efforts to please her, Barker allowed his wife a fairly free rein with his money, and became, himself, one of the biggest spenders in the town's saloons, to the point where he had to hire an ex-fighter to look after him when he became too drunk to look after himself. Their spending habits forced him to occasionally sell off shares in his company, some of which he sold to William W. Cunningham.

For a little while he sold candles to miners of other claims. The Barker Claim began yielding less pay dirt and showed signs of running out of gold completely. Good fortune, it seemed, had turned its back on Billy Barker, and with the aid of a few good friends who 'passed the hat' to collect his fare, Billy and his wife boarded a stage and left the Cariboo. He later prospected near Beaver Pass.

He was later offered a job in a government road camp on upgrading the Cariboo Wagon Road. In his later years he lived at the Dominion Hotel in Clinton. He died in 1894 in Victoria and was buried in the Ross Bay Cemetery.

**THE SHEEPSHEAD COMPANY ON WILLIAMS CREEK**

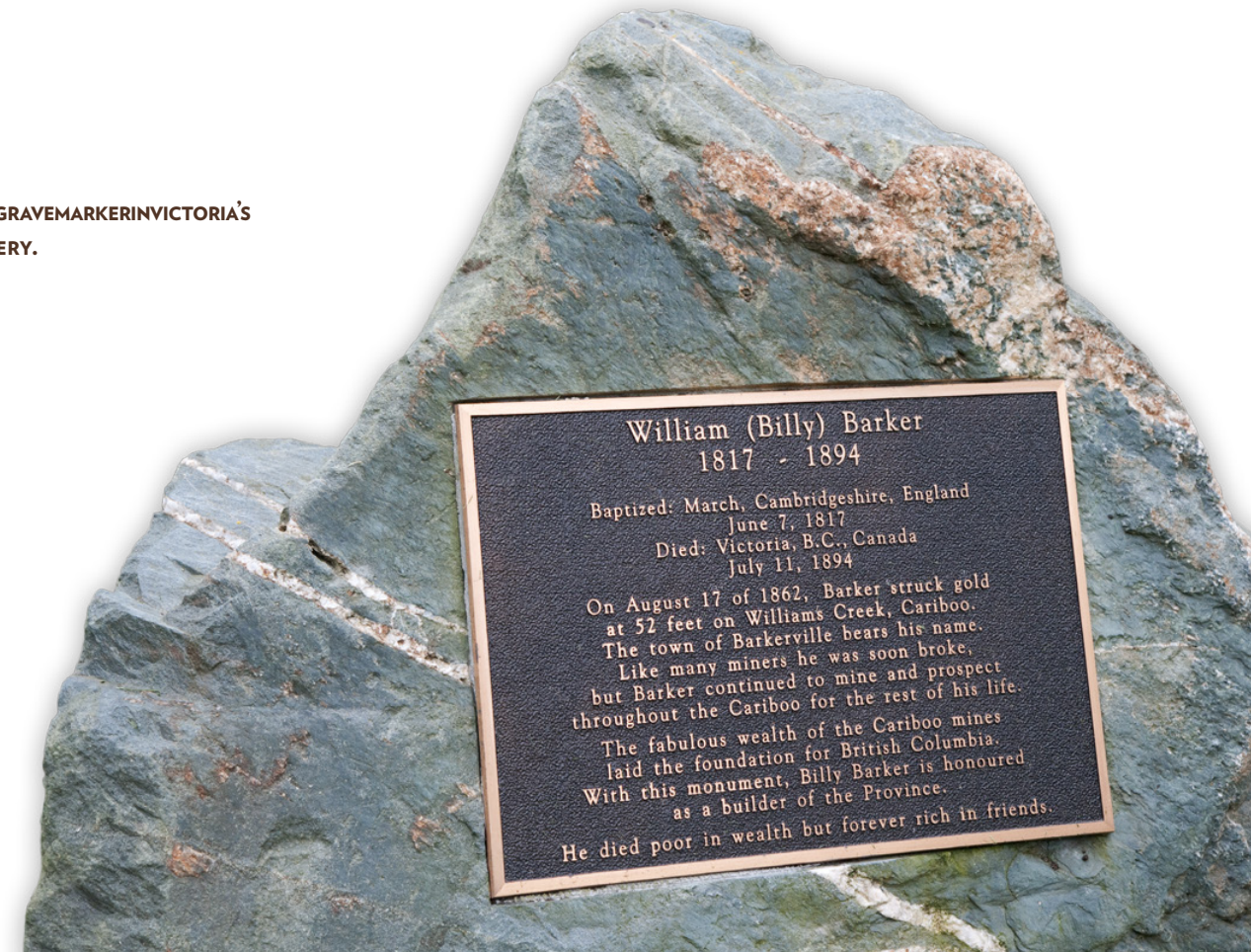
This company was adjacent to the Billy Barker Company. Situated on uneven ground, this early photograph clearly shows the cribbing that would have lined the "well" or shaft. The men had some protection from the rain and sun with the sloped roof. The windlass, a type of pulley system, lowered a hand-rivoted iron ore bucket down the 6-foot by six-foot in diameter "well" to one or two workmen with pickaxes and shovels who filled it with gold laden gravel to be hauled to the surface. The men in the bottom of the shaft either climbed down a series of ladders or were lowered to the bottom by standing in an ore buckets. It was not uncommon for debris to fall from buckets of dirt being hauled to the surface to fall back into the hole and onto an unfortunate miner. A wheel barrow, shovel and scoop shovel are visible to the left hand side of the shaft. Some of the deeper shafts went down anywhere from 40 to a 200-feet or more before reaching bedrock. Two of the men in this photograph are identified by last name only. On the left is a Mr. McLehanie, centre unidentified, while on the right is a Mr. Hance [perhaps Orlando Thomas Hance of Hanceville in the Chilcotin].



**THE BARKER COMPANY ON WILLIAMS CREEK. ON THE 17 AUGUST 1862 WILLIAM BARKER AND HIS 7 PARTNERS FOUND RICH GOLD DEPOSITS AT A DEPTH OF 40 FEET.**

HISTORICAL PHOTO #010207 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1868

**WILLIAM BARKER'S GRAVEMARKER IN VICTORIA'S ROSS BAY CEMETERY.**



William (Billy) Barker  
1817 - 1894

Baptized: March, Cambridgeshire, England  
June 7, 1817  
Died: Victoria, B.C., Canada  
July 11, 1894

On August 17 of 1862, Barker struck gold at 52 feet on Williams Creek, Cariboo. The town of Barkerville bears his name. Like many miners he was soon broke, but Barker continued to mine and prospect throughout the Cariboo for the rest of his life. The fabulous wealth of the Cariboo mines laid the foundation for British Columbia. With this monument, Billy Barker is honoured as a builder of the Province.  
He died poor in wealth but forever rich in friends.

## 'CARIBOO' CAMERON'S TRAGIC STORY



### A STEVENSON CREEK NUGGET

A great deal of quartz would indicate that this specimen was found not far from the Mother Lode.

COURTESY CANADIAN MUSEUM OF MAN #10424



### MINING CANDLE

Used by miners to stick into a shaft wall or shoring timbers for the purpose of holding a candle in a the spring clip, the gadget permitted a miner to work underground hands free in the dark and dank deep mines.

COURTESY ROSSLAND MUSEUM

### OPPOSITE

JOHN ALEXANDER CAMERON AND SOPHIA GRAVES AT THE TIME OF THEIR MARRIAGE AT CORNWALL, ONTARIO.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS #074063 & 074064  
ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

John Alexander Cameron's rags to riches to pauperism story was undoubtedly the most bizarre tale to ever come out of the Cariboo. Cameron was born in 1820 in Lancaster, near Cornwall, in the Country of Glengarry, Upper Canada (Ontario). His father Angus was an immigrant farmer who could trace his ancestry back to Donald Cameron, Chieftain of Lochiel. In his youth John worked on a farm for an uncle near Summerstown on the St. Lawrence River. He hated farming and by 1852 had reached the goldfields of California. His 2 brothers, Roderick and Allan, followed 2 years later and all 3 worked the diggings in California for the next 7 years.

In 1859 John A. returned home to marry fiancée Margaret Sophia Groves who lived in the nearby town of Wales. Soon after the marriage the couple returned to California where John overextended his resources to construct a flume to bring water to an already exhausted mine. Before long he was broke and his wife was pregnant. It was during this period that he heard about the fabulous gold discoveries of the Cariboo. In the spring of 1862, John A, his wife, and daughter Alice set off for British Columbia along with 750 other passengers aboard the side-wheeler Brother Jonathan. By the time they reached Victoria their child was critically ill and they were down to their last \$40. Their circumstances were desperate but the final blow came 5 days later when their daughter died. It was during these bad times that Cameron cemented his lifelong friendship with Robert Stevenson. It came as a surprise to both of them that they had been born and raised only a few miles from each other and were now about to cast their lot together in life.

When the first news of the Fraser River gold discoveries reached Glengarry, Ontario, Bob Stevenson was a young lad working on his father's small farm at Vancleek Hill. In March 1862 the father and son left the farm and traveled through the State of New York to catch an Atlantic ship bound for the Panama. The two later took another ship from San Francisco destined for British Columbia. Shortly after their arrival the senior Stevenson decided to return home but the son, finding the Fraser River prospects rather dull, joined an expedition of Americans who were heading off for the exciting new gold discoveries at Rock Creek in the Similkameen country of southern British Columbia. Instead of prospecting, Bob Stevenson took a government job as a customs officer. He quit his \$250 a month position after homeward bound Americans told him about the



incredible gold discoveries being made in the Cariboo. The shrewd youth, learning that pack animals were in great demand in the gold country, bought 100 horses that he drove as far as Lillooet. He netted a handsome profit of \$10,000 from this venture. He then proceeded to Antler where he purchased a supply store before deciding to come out to Victoria for the harsh winter. He was staying in the Royal Hotel in Victoria when he met Cameron. He liked the big Scotsman and agreed to put up the security for \$2,000 worth of goods that Cameron was to pack to the Cariboo. Stevenson left for the diggings in April and, upon reaching Antler, engaged in the commission business, advancing money to packers and getting 10 % for selling their goods. By the time Cameron and his wife arrived there in July, Stevenson had cleared another \$11,000 on this new venture. Among the goods that Cameron brought

in were boxes of candles. Stevenson took them around to the several mining companies and was able to get \$100 for a 20-pound box.

Nails sold for \$5 per pound in a 100-pound keg; butter \$5 per pound; wax matches \$1.50 per box; a 5-pound bag of salt for \$7.50; flour \$2 per pound when there was any; and potatoes \$115 for 100-pound sacks. The inflation of these prices was incredible considering that in eastern Canada the average laborer earned \$1 a day. Stevenson sold his store at Antler and immediately after disposing of most of his supplies headed for Williams Lake intent on purchasing shares in a gold mine.

Stevenson purchased a one-fifth share in Barker's claim before being tipped off by Dr. Samuel Crane about some good vacant ground below the Billy Barker Company. It was this piece of land that 8 partners staked in August.

This new company originally consisted of Stevenson, Crane, Cameron and his wife, Allan MacDonald (Ranald's half-brother), Richard Rivers, and Overlander brothers Charles and Richard Glendinning.

When staking, Cameron and Stevenson disagreed over the location, but Stevenson finally gave in to his older partner, and as a result Henry Beatty and John Wilson were able to acquire the neighboring ground. Beatty's Tinker claim yielded almost as much gold as the Cameron claim and Beatty returned to Toronto, Ontario, to invest his booty in ship-building and went on to become a millionaire. His son Edward W. Beatty became the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway from 1918 until his death in 1943.

John Wilson at the age of 17 left Yorkshire, England, and spent 2 years working as a farm hand in Logansport, Indiana, before participating for 5-6 years in the Californian rush on the American and Russian Rivers before going on to Petuluma. He mined Fraser River bars before pressing upriver to the Cariboo. Wilson took his nuggets and with Lewis Campbell went to Oregon and purchased a good-sized herd of cattle that they drove over the mountains and back to Kamloops. This was the beginning of the stock that later increased to such proportions that Wilson became known as the 'Cattle King'. Thrice married, each wife bore Wilson 3 children. Unfortunately Wilson's third widow married his bookkeeper that mismanaged the very large estate, and subsequently most of the family fortune vanished.

After staking their ground, Cameron and his partners sat down for a naming ceremony. Dr. Crane suggested it be named after Stevenson but he objected and proposed that it be named for his friend Cameron. Each partner was given an equal share in the company. Crane soon afterwards got into a barroom brawl in which he drew a gun and took a pot shot at an antagonist, for which Judge Elwyn sentenced him to 30 days in jail and a heavy fine. His partners did not approve of his actions and asked him to sell his share in the company.

Shortly after her arrival in July, Mrs. Cameron had given birth to a second daughter but the child was stillborn. She never did fully recover from the ordeal and in the first week of September she took critically ill and her husband spent all of his time at their cabin in Richfield trying to nurse her back to health. During this time the 2 Glendinning brothers, Rivers, and Stevenson began work on a shaft but at 22-feet it flooded and on 22nd September it collapsed. By now there was snow and the Glendinning brothers, thoroughly discouraged, refused to continue work or leave any funds for the sinking of a new hole. Instead, they called it quits and departed for



**JOHN WILSON (1833 - 1904)**

This man, an early partner in the Cameron Claim, went on to become the 'Cattle King' in Kamloops.

COURTESY ASHCROFT MUSEUM



the milder climate of Victoria.

Mrs. Cameron's condition worsened and on 23 October she died. Her death was attributed to typhoid fever. Two days after the funeral, Rivers and Stevenson began sinking two separate shafts but after a few days Rivers abandoned his and came over to help his associate. At 14-feet they hit water and had to hire carpenter's to build a flume to divert the creek water away from the shaft. Stevenson's memoirs best tell what happened next:

"On 22 December we struck it very rich at 22-feet. It was 30 below and Dick Rivers was in the shaft, and Hal penny and I were on the windlass. Rivers called up from the shaft: 'The place is yellow with gold. Look here boys' at the same time holding up a flat rock the size of a dinner plate. I laid down on the platform and peered into the shaft. I could

**THE CAMERON COMPANY CLAIM PHOTOGRAPHED ON 20 JUNE 1863.**

1. William Stewart
2. A.B. McInnes
3. James T. Steele
4. James Wattie
5. Roderick Cameron
6. William Schuyler
7. John A. 'Cariboo' Cameron
8. Allan Cameron
9. Robert Stevenson
10. James Cummings
11. George Black

HISTORICAL PHOTO #010156 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER FULTON 20 AUGUST 1863.



see the gold standing out on the rock as he held it. He sent the piece up and I got one ounce of gold.

“Then Cameron started down the shaft, and while he was down I took my pick and went through some of the frozen stuff that had been sent up that morning and got another ounce before he came up again. Out of three 12-gallon kegs of gravel I got \$155 worth of gold.

“Sinking, we found bedrock at 38-feet. It was good all the way down to there, but the richest was at 22-feet, strange to say.”

Although the partners had perhaps the richest claim in the Cariboo, little could be done to get the gold out of the ground until the spring thaw. Cameron, haunted by a deathbed promise to return the bodies of his wife and infant daughter back to Ontario, decided to leave the diggings and take the body of his wife to Victoria where his first daughter was buried. Cameron approached Charles C. Hankin, Judge Elwyn’s ex-assistant and a shareholder in the Billy Barker Company, and offered him part interest in his company for a 50-pound sack of gold. Thus enriched, John A. offered any of the 90 men wintering on the creek \$12 per day plus a bonus of \$2,000 to assist him in transporting his wife’s body to Victoria.

On 31 January 1863, Cameron and Stevenson left Williams Creek on snowshoes hauling a toboggan into which was roped the casket containing the remains of Mrs. Cameron. Twenty miners volunteered to help them over the worst section of the trail and they spent 11 days traveling the 72 miles to Beaver Lake. From here Cameron and Stevenson went on alone. At Lac La Hache, Cameron purchased a horse for \$300 to haul the toboggan. The harsh winter claimed the life of this horse and also the next so that a third horse was needed for the last leg of the journey over the Douglas Trail. At Williams Lake, Stevenson counted 120 Indian snow graves as the result of a recent smallpox epidemic. The road leading into Port Douglas was lined on each side with tents containing dead or dying Indians and only 1 in 10 of those dying could hope to be spared.

At Port Douglas, the men caught the little steamer Henrietta to New Westminster and from there took the seagoing vessel Enterprise to Victoria thus completing their epic 600-mile journey. Cameron immediately arranged to have his wife’s body preserved in alcohol and interred temporarily with her daughter in the Quadra Cemetery. This, Mrs. Cameron’s second burial, was attended by 800 miners who were wintering over in the island city.



**A MUCH USED LEATHER GOLD POUCH**  
COURTESY WERNER KASCHEL

**OPPOSITE  
CAMERON CLAN**

Standing: Robert Stevenson & Samuel Montgomery  
Seated: Allan, John Alexander & Roderick Cameron

HISTORICAL PHOTO #019799 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



**ABOVE**  
John A. Cameron's Face Mask.

**BELOW**  
The intertwining J.A.C. initials above the main entrance to Cameron's Fairview House built in 1865 in Summerstown, Ontario.



On 19 March, the 2 men left Victoria on horseback, and on 4 April were back at Williams Creek. While in Victoria, Cameron had wired his family about the death of his wife and the rich strike. He requested that his brothers, Roderick and Allan, join him at the diggings.

It was during the months of July, August and September that the Cameron Company yielded up its enormous hoard of nuggets. Since Cameron could not legally hold more than one claim, he asked James Cummings to stand proxy for him on a second mining interest. During these hectic months, Cameron employed 75 men to work 'around-the-clock' shifts. It was during this period that pneumonia took one of his men. Peter Gibson, from Stevenson's hometown of Vancleek Hill, died 24 July at 31 years of age. Cameron founded and cleared a grave site a short distance from the mine. The community that housed the miners first acquired the name Cameron's Town but this was later shortened to Camerontown.

On 22 October 1863, 2 British tourists, Dr. Walter Butler Cheadle and Viscount William Fitzwilliam Milton, visited the goldfields after crossing the prairies and Rockies in the footsteps of the Overlanders. On their trip into the mines from Quensel Mouth, Dr. Cheadle wrote in his diary:

"We met a small bullock wagon escorted by about 20 men on foot. This proved to contain 630 pounds of gold, the profits of Mr. Cameron, and the principal shareholder in the noted Cameron claim. The gold, worth about 30,000 pounds, had been amassed in the short space of three months and represents less than one-half of the actual production of the mine during that time."

Upon reaching the diggings, the visitors were given a tour of the shaft and the diary continued:

"The shaft was about 30-feet down through gravel and clay to bedrock of slate. (There were) numerous shafts all supported by timber and very closely roofed in with flat crosspieces. (It was) wet, damp, dark and gloomy, the shafts (drifts) being in many parts very low, the pay dirt not being extensive perpendicularly. At the bottom shaft the pay dirt was best high up, at the corner end, down close to the bedrock."

"They kindly helped up wash out two pans that yielded some beautiful gold to the value of \$21, nearly 1 1/3 ounces. We could see nuggets lying in the gravel before loosening out by the pick. Steele showed me about \$1,000 in gold in a bag, and the company's books, showed weekly expenses averaging \$7,000 and the yield generally

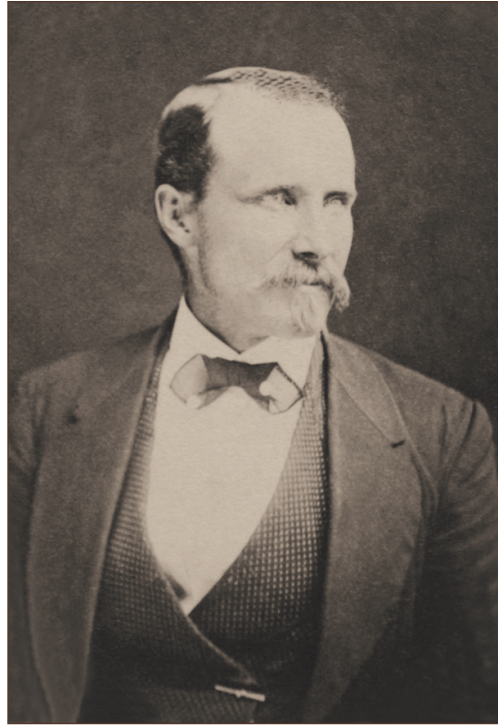
from 40 to 112 ounces per shift, of which there were three, per day or on to \$29,000 a week. Over 100 feet of claim yet quite untouched."

Immediately after the cleanup, Cameron, henceforth known as 'Cariboo' Cameron, left the Cariboo for Victoria and arranged to have his wife's and daughter's remains exhumed from the Quadra Cemetery. The three Cameron brothers and Stevenson then took the casket and their gold and embarked on the first ship heading south. The men accompanied their strange cargo down the California coast, across the Isthmus of Panama, and then took another ship up the Atlantic coast to New York. From here, they took a train for Ontario, arriving back in Glengarry just before Christmas. A few days after the New Year, Mrs. Cameron was buried for the third time with Cameron refusing to permit a viewing of the body. Stevenson, a short time later, returned to the Cariboo.

Cameron purchased his uncle's farm at Summerstown where he built a showpiece home called 'Fairfield' in 1865. He then married Christina



SOPHIA (MRS. JOHN A. 'CARIBOO') CAMERON'S GRAVE AT SUMMERSTOW (NEAR CORNWALL), ONTARIO.



**ROBERT STEVENSON, JOHN ANGUS 'CARIBOO' CAMERON'S PARTNER.**

In this formal portrait, Stevenson wears three nuggets for stud earrings.

CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES #677-674

Emma Woods, a daughter of John R. Woods who operated a large foundry and machine shop at Lunenburg. Christina was 22 years his junior. For the next ten years rumors circulated that the casket brought home by him did not contain his wife and in 1873 a New York newspaper came out with a story claiming that Cameron had taken his wife into the northern wilds of British Columbia and sold her to a wealthy Indian chief for a large sum of gold that was placed in the casket. To stop the gossip, Cameron was forced to exhume the body for a third time for a public viewing. When the lid was removed the dead woman's mother recognized the almost perfectly preserved face of her daughter. She found under her head a woolen shawl that had been given to her as a wedding present by a sister and which had been bought at one of the local stores. After the viewing, Cameron instructed the grave diggers to pour off the alcohol before placing the coffin back in the ground to give his wife a 4th and final burial.

A short time later many of Cameron's investments began to sour as none of his gold properties in Ontario, Quebec or Nova Scotia ever paid dividends but the final blow came when a disgruntled employee set fire to his uninsured sawmill on Lake Superior that held 2 million board feet of dressed lumber. By 1885 Cameron had lost his entire fortune. In 1886 Cameron returned to British Columbia on the newly completed Canadian Pacific Railway to visit his old chum Stevenson and to return to the Cariboo to seek a second fortune. This time Lady Luck failed to smile on the old prospector and he died in a hotel at Barkerville in 1888 at the age of 68 and was buried in the cemetery he had founded 25 years earlier. His second wife, who accompanied him out to the Cariboo, moved to Chicago, Illinois, and then later to Vancouver, B.C. where she remained until her death in the 1920s.

Robert Stevenson, Cameron's partner, remained in the Cariboo until 1876 when he opted to try his luck in the Cassiar goldfields. The following year he purchased 400 acres of prime farmland at Sardis (near Chilliwack) in the Fraser Valley before marrying Caroline Eliza Williams with the intention of settling down. Unable to get mining out of his system, he staked 27 square miles of coal lands in the Princeton area of the Similkameen but was not able to interest James Dunsmuir, the coal magnate in Victoria into developing the lands. He also staked claims near Osoyoos, a small community directly south of Kelowna and almost at the Canada-US border. One of Stevenson's wishes in later life was to have his partner's body exhumed from the Barkerville Cemetery for a final burial beside his first wife at Summerstown. He died in 1922 before he could complete this last favor for his partner.

Brothers James and William Wattie returned to Williams Creek in the

spring of 1863 and purchased the claim adjoining the Cameron Company. The claim was successful and was incorporated with the Cameron Company and came to be known as the Wattie and Cameron Company. In 1884 James left for his home in Huntington, Quebec, where he operated a woolen mill for several years before selling it to the Montreal Cotton Company. He retired in 1890 and died in 1907. William returned home in 1865 to resume his trade as a machinist. He later became superintendent of Knowles Loom Works, Worcester, Massachusetts, during which time he invented and patented over 60 devices relating to weaving machinery. A world traveler, he revisited the Cariboo in a sentimental journey in 1893.



**A RUST-COLORED NUGGET RECOVERED FROM THE CARIBOO CAMERON CLAIM IS ON PERMANENT DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIAN MUSEUM IN VICTORIA.**

## THE OVERLANDERS

The Douglas Trail and the Cariboo Wagon Road, although the most feasible, were not the only means of access to the goldfields: some 250 gold seekers trekked overland in several parties from Ontario and other eastern parts through the Rockies. Brothers Thomas and Robert McMicking, from Stamford Township, Welland County, led one group of Overlanders from Ontario to the British Columbia interior. They went in groups by ship and American railway to Fort Garry [Winnipeg]. Called the Overlanders, the first parties arrived at Quesnel Mouth in the fall of 1862, in response to an invitation from the Reverend Robert C. Brown, the Anglican rector at Lillooet. Once in the Cariboo goldfields these brave pioneers planned to help transform the area from wilderness to settled homeland.

The main parties had set out from Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) in the spring of 1862 and traveled by rail and by steamer across the United States, until crossing back up into Canada south of Fort Garry (Winnipeg, Manitoba). Here they paid \$8 each for Red River carts, \$40 a head for horses, \$25-\$30 for oxen, and \$4 a set for harnesses before continuing 900 miles over open prairie to Fort Edmonton. One party left Fort Garry on 2 June and traveled in 97 carts with 110 animals, most of which were slow-plodding oxen whose speed was only 2 1/2 miles an hour. The party averaged 25 miles a day and did not reach Fort Edmonton until 21 July.

Here the carts were sold, and the supplies loaded on the backs of oxen and horses. Upon reaching the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, progress was slowed to 10 miles or less a day. The food gave out and the Overlanders had to live on chipmunk, squirrel, porcupine, berries and anything else they could scrounge until they met First Nations people with whom they bartered for fish. Prior to encountering the local First Nations, the Overlanders had to kill some of their horses and oxen for food. Before leaving the mountains, the party split up—the majority wanted to head southward to the Thompson River and Kamloops—while the rest decided to come down the Fraser River to Quesnel Mouth and the goldfields. Included in the first group was the only woman Catherine O'Hare Schubert, her husband August, and their three children. Although several men drowned and the entire party suffered extreme hardships, Mrs. Schubert reached Kamloops where she immediately gave birth to a daughter. Schubert Drive in Kamloops is named after this Overland family.

To those Overlanders traveling the Fraser to Quesnel Mouth the most dangerous obstacle was the Grand Canyon, where the river was compressed into a fraction of its normal width. To challenge the river, the parties built 40-foot wide rafts onto which were loaded the oxen and supplies. One of these rafts was caught in a whirlpool and spun around and around, sinking lower and lower, until only the horns of the oxen could be seen by observers on shore. Luckily, it was too large for the suction to pull it completely under and it emerged safely. Those on the other rafts ran the rapids in safety. Some of the party decided to travel in dugout canoes. This proved to be a disastrous mistake. Dugout canoes. This proved a disastrous mistake. The canoes swamped upon entering the water and one man drowned.

When the party of Overlanders arrived at Quesnel Mouth on 11 September 1862 the majority, although only 60 miles from the goldfields, were too disillusioned and discouraged to care about gold and instead continued onto Victoria. One of the expedition leaders summed up their desperate trip with the wry comment, "Our mining tools were the only articles that we found to be unnecessary.

Overlander James Wattie could not conceive of being so close and failing to pay a visit to the goldfields. He and a companion walked to Williams Creek but after 8 days at the diggings were unable to find any work. On returning to Quesnel Mouth, the party were joined by Wattie's brother and a pet oxen that had accompanied them all the way from Fort Garry, before striking out for the coast from Alexandria to Bentinck Arm using the old Alexander MacKenzie Trail. Their walk was extremely dangerous since a smallpox epidemic was rampant and the Chilcotin First Nations were now hostile to the whites. The men had met with some white packers and the story of the

rapid spread of the disease among the First Nations was revealed. Unconscionable miners had robbed several First Nations graves of Hudson's Bay Company blankets in which the deceased corpses had been wrapped and traded these items back to the First Nations people. The highly contagious pestilence spread like wildfire. After spending 2 weeks at Bella Coola, the men made their way by canoe and then by steamer to Victoria.

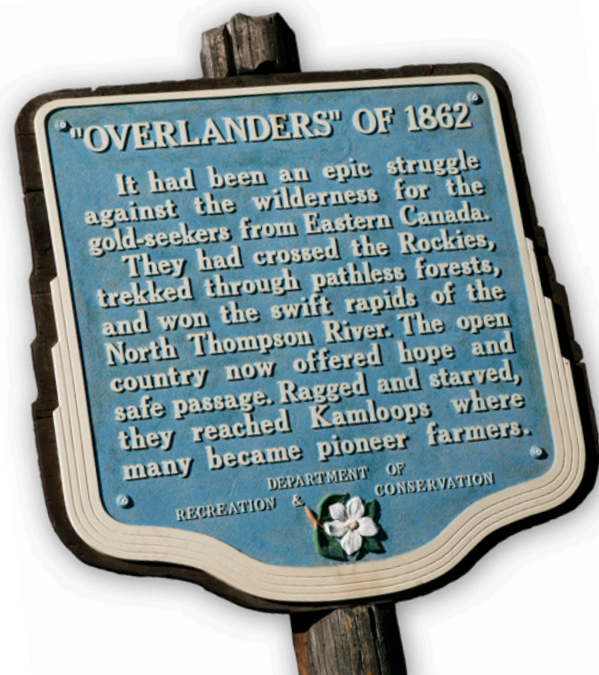
### STARVATION & CANNIBALISM

Five procrastinators who trekked west for the goldfields were brothers William, Gilbert and Thomas Rennie along with John Helstone and John R. Wright, all natives of London, Ontario. They were warned not to head into the Rocky Mountains but the advice was ignored. The 5 men traveled in 2 canoes and all went alright until disaster struck 2 days out of Fort George. Their 2 canoes, lashed together, became half-submerged in the middle of the river leaving the 5 men no option but to hunker down for the night in the cold. They spent 3 days stranded in their canoes until William Rennie opted to braid a rope from moosehide. One of the men swam to shore and then successfully pulled the others to safety but regrettably their plight was still far from over. After waiting for a week, William and Gilbert Rennie set out for Fort George for help. The anticipated trip, instead of taking a few days instead took a month. At Fort George, HBC factor Thomas Charles persuaded the Rennie brothers to abandon any rescue efforts. He told them that the harsh winter would surely have caused the deaths of the 3 men that chose to remain behind.

When a band of Carrier First Nations braves stumbled into the camp they found two men eating the flesh of the third. Incredulously, 2 of the 3 men left awaiting rescue still clung to life. They had decided to do the inconceivable and eat their deceased comrade. The 2

### HISTORICAL PLAQUE THE OVERLANDERS OF 1862

This old plaque that's in much need of repair or replacement, is located beside the Thompson River beside Highway 5 south of Barriere. It memorializes the men and women who came from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) to Kamloops. A new plaque, located in Kamloops, also acknowledges the feats of these brave individuals.



### FOLLOWING SPREAD

The Overlanders pass through the Rocky Mountain en route to the Cariboo gold fields.

JOHN INNES PAINTING, NATIVE SONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA POST #1





**WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARDSON HIND (1833-1889)**

Painting a self-portrait

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES  
PAINTINGS DRAWINGS & PRINTS #00027

men, just as terrified of the First Nations braves as the braves were of them, drove the Natives away at gunpoint. Later, the Natives returned to kill the devils who ate human flesh. There was only a lone survivor who tried to escape on rotting limbs. He was quickly hatched to death by the natives.

Surviving brothers Gilbert and William Rennie spent some time in the Cariboo. Gilbert, disillusioned by his ordeal, returned to his wife and family in London, Ontario. William left the Cariboo but then returned to Barkerville to open as a boot and shoemaker. Unfortunately, he lost everything in the Great Fire of Barkerville in 1868. Although he lost \$1,000 due to the fire, he reopened and became a successful merchant. He also invested in some nearby mining opportunities. In 1880 William Rennie married Catherine Evans, the widow of Captain John Evans.

British-born painter William George Richardson Hind had immigrated to Canada in 1851. He joined the Overlanders in 1862 at Toronto. During the trip, Hind made himself so obnoxious to his comrades that he was temporarily ostracized from their company. He just couldn't make the other Overlanders understand that his purpose for making the trip was to sketch the journey for prosperity.

In 1865 the newspaper Colonist praised his paintings which were later placed on display in England to encourage immigration to British Columbia.



**OPPOSITE TOP**

Cabin on the Fraser River, B.C., 'The bacon is cooked' about 1862.

MCCORD MUSEUM # M5828  
PAINTING BY WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARDSON HIND

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM**

Bar in a Mining Camp about 1865

MCCORD MUSEUM # M605  
PAINTING BY WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARDSON HIND



**PROSPECTING FOR ALLUVIAL GOLD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Overlander William George Richardson Hind was noted for using a style of painting known as “trompe-l’oeil”, an art technique involving very realistic imagery to create an optical illusion that makes the depicted objects in the foreground appear in three dimensions. Hind has used this technique in his painting of the gold miner panning for alluvial gold in the Cariboo in 1864.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & PRINTS #02612 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## The Chinese Miner in the Gold Rush



**OVERLANDER WILLIAM GEORGE RICHARDSON HIND SKETCHED THESE CHINESE MINERS SLUICING FOR GOLD ON THE FRASER RIVER IN 1864 BUT NEVER DID A FINAL PAINTING.**

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & PRINTS #05418 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

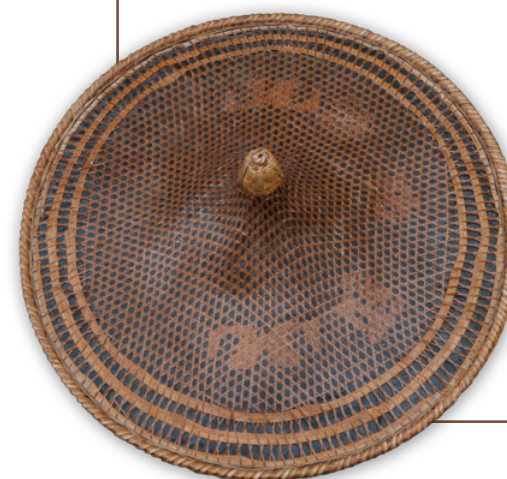
**A CHINESE BAMBOO HAT PROVIDED SHADE AS THE MEN WORKED THEIR ROCKERS SEEKING GOLD.**

VERNON MUSEUM



**A SHORT-HANDLED TIN LADLE FOR POURING WATER INTO A ROCKER.**

FORT LANGLEY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



**A CHINESE BANJO MADE WITH RATTLESNAKE SKIN**

COURTESY VERNON MUSEUM

## CAPTAIN EVANS & HIS COMPANY OF WELSH ADVENTURERS

Welshman John Evans and his 26-man 'Company of Welsh Adventurers' traveled halfway around the world in order to reach the Cariboo diggings in the summer of 1863. Evans' small amount of knowledge about mining had been gained by working for 3 years in a Welsh slate quarry. Henry Beecroft Jackson, a Manchester industrialist who befriended Evans when the pair worked together in the cotton industry, financed Evans' venture in the Cariboo.

Upon their arrival at the diggings, Evans chose to stake a quarter section (160 acres) of ground on Lightning Creek where 'Cariboo slum' had already defeated more experienced miners. After leveling some uneven ground to pitch their tents, Captain Evans had his men form a circle and bow in silent prayer before initiating the sod-turning ceremony. His men immediately set to work and built an 18-foot by 36-foot bunkhouse. In a very short time, the company had whipsawed several hundred trees, dug drainage ditches, and installed flumes to bring water from a quarter of a mile away to a shaft site.

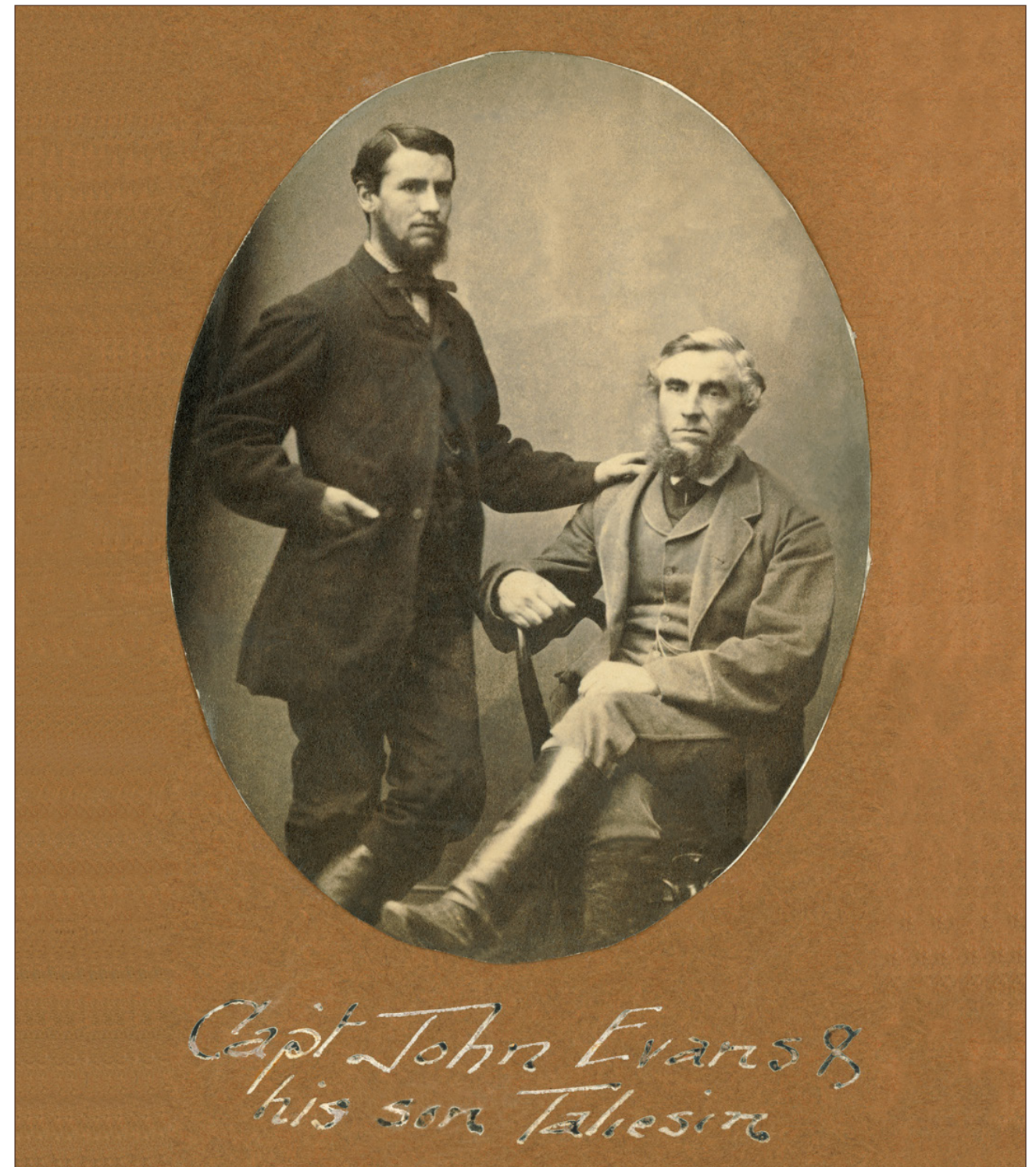
On 6 August, the Welsh miners began sinking their shaft. Some of them were assigned the construction of a Cornish wheel and two log pumps. These cumbersome wooden pumps were made from 12-foot long by 16-inch-diameter logs. Each was first drilled lengthwise with a 3-inch auger and then drilled again with a larger auger, made from curved knives, that removed a further one inch of wood so that the finished hole was 6-inches in diameter. The tops and bottoms of these logs were shaped so that they could be mortised one inside the other in order to reach far down into the shaft. To prevent wooden pumps from breaking apart from water pressure, they were generally bound with iron bands, but Evans, in an effort to keep expenses down, omitted the bands. He also refused to purchase steel with which to tip his men's picks and consequently the shaft men working in gravel or hardpan soon blunted their picks that greatly slowed work. The men became so desperate that they scrounged

scrap steel from abandoned sites in any spare time.

By early October the Welsh miners had sunk their shaft some 30-feet when water rushed in and drenched the men working at the bottom of the shaft. The two log pumps were put to work but kept splitting and clogging up. At this point, the miners relied upon an iron hand-pump and old-fashioned bailing by bucket and windlass. Although they worked day and night, nonstop, the cold water kept pouring into the shaft. To prevent the shaft from being totally flooded the men quickly constructed a third pump but Evans ordered a halt to the work until after the Sabbath before it could be installed. The men were sure all would be lost, especially since the nights were getting colder and Evans would not even allow further work to divert water away from the water wheel to prevent it from coating up with ice. On Monday work was resumed, but that night, the waterwheel became so heavy with ice and snow that it simply fell apart under its own weight. Thus, work on the shaft ceased until spring.

The company of men had to set themselves to repairing the machinery during these winter months to be ready to resume operations in the spring. They also started work on several tunnels in other areas of their claim. Captain Evans, upset by the financial disaster that had occurred, immediately decided to cut expenses once again—this time on the company food by reducing the menu to little more than beans. This 'prisoner' diet was the final straw to the disgruntled Welsh miners and they approached Evans with the ultimatum—the rules would be changed to suit the men or they would all leave. The captain, furious, jumped to his feet and told the men that they all knew where the trail was located and pointed to the door. Every man, including Evans' own son Taliesin, was outside in seconds. Captain Evans quickly followed and begged them to stay agreeing to their terms.

By the beginning of January the men of the 'Company of Welsh Adventurers' were striking 'colored' ground but



WELSHMAN JOHN EVANS & HIS SON TALIESEN

Evans and his 'Company of Welsh Adventurers' arrived in the Cariboo in 1863 and set to work sinking several shafts on Lightning Creek where 'Cariboo slum' had already defeated more experienced miners.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #002876 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



## THE BURNING OF BARKERVILLE



**FREDERICK DALLY (1838 - 1914)**

Dally, the official photographer to Governor Arthur Kennedy, visited the Cariboo goldfields in 1867 and again in 1868. He had his own studio in Barkerville but it, like the rest of the town, went up in flames on 16 September 1868. Dally afterwards sold his photography business and decided to become a dentist in the United States. He eventually returned to Staffordshire in England. This portrait of Dally in his masonic regalia was taken by H.J. Whitlock and Son Ltd., Birmingham & Wolverhampton 'By Royal Warrant Photographers to the King'. Dally took the majority of photographs that appear in the Cariboo Gold rush section of this book.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#028832 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HENRY JOSEPH WHITLOCK AND SON LTD, BIRMINGHAM,  
ENGLAND, AROUND 1888.

Frederick Dally, one of the town's photographers, composed the only known manuscript of the burning of Barkerville on 16 September 1868.

"The eve of the great fire of Barkerville was remarkable for the grandeur of the Aurora Borealis so often to be seen in these high northern latitudes. It commenced at 8 p.m. by the shooting up of upright parallel rays in the west and shortly after by the same appearance in the east, also the same in the north. The night was cold and frosty, the brilliancy of the rays increased quickly and seemed so close that an observer in Barkerville, which town is over 4000 feet above the level of the sea, seemed to be within 2000 feet of them or less and could see all the changes minutely. The rays, when buffeted by the cold south wind that came down the canyon on Williams Creek, appeared to throw out a wavering and unsteady light in the same way that a mark will when made by a piece of phosphorous. In the south appeared a long fleecy cloud and leave a striking resemblance to the form of a snake, which changed but little until it felt the effects of the wind, when it began to waver and emit bright irradiations which spread so rapidly that the whole heavens was one bright and then gradually dying out so faint that it would be doubtful whether it had not entirely disappeared and again it would shoot forth brighter and more glorious than ever.

Whilst viewing this grand spectacle, my attention was drawn to the town...where dancing and revelry was going on, by the number of stove-pipes very close together coming through the wooden roofs of the buildings at every height and in every direction that were sending forth myriads of sparks and numbers of them were constantly alighting on the roofs, where they would remain many seconds before going out, and from the dryness of the season I came to the conclusion that unless we shortly had rain or snow to cover the roofs, for they remain covered with snow all winter, that the town was doomed. I may as well here state that Barkerville was the principal mining town in British Columbia, built entirely of wood, and was situated in a valley with Williams Creek running through it, in the Baldhead Range and is surrounded on all sides by a sea of mountains together with spurs from the Rocky Mountains, of which the

Baldhead is the chief gold bearing range in British Columbia.

When I mentioned the probability of a fire to the businessmen of the place they answered me and said, it had become their settled opinion that the wood the town was built of was different to other wood and that it would not burn, otherwise the town would have been burnt long since, for said they, see the number of small fires that have occurred and not one of them sufficiently destructive to destroy a house, and so they remained passive in their fancied security and had nothing done to guard against so dire a calamity.

The morning of the fire was bright and clear and

the sluice boxes (used by the miners to convey the water to wash the pay dirt when taken out of their claims) bore traces of a hard frost as the icicles that were depending from the flumes were two or three yards in length by several feet in depth, looking very beautiful. And the business of the day commenced, although trade was somewhat dull, still it was steady and profitable.

I had occasion to go down street to make a call on a young man, Patterson, who had formerly been a steward on the passenger ship "Cyclone" that I came to the country in. He showed me over his large and well built premises containing a large stock of goods and, as he informed me, all paid for. I congratulated him most cordially as I felt he deserved it for his



**THE MAIN STREET THROUGH BARKERVILLE SHOWING THE BOARDWALK, ROAD AND BUSINESSES BEFORE THE FIRE.**

HISTORICAL PHOTO#005191 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1867-1868.

**A VIEW UP WILLIAMS CREEK TO BARKERVILLE**

In his book "Very Far West Indeed" R. Byron Johnson gives the following description of Williams creek: "The unfortunate little stream had been treated in a most ignominious manner. A little above the town it flowed along silvery and clear as it had been wont to do; but soon inroads were made upon its volume in the shape of ditches cut from it, and continued along the sides of the hills, to feed the huge overshot waterwheels that appeared in all directions.

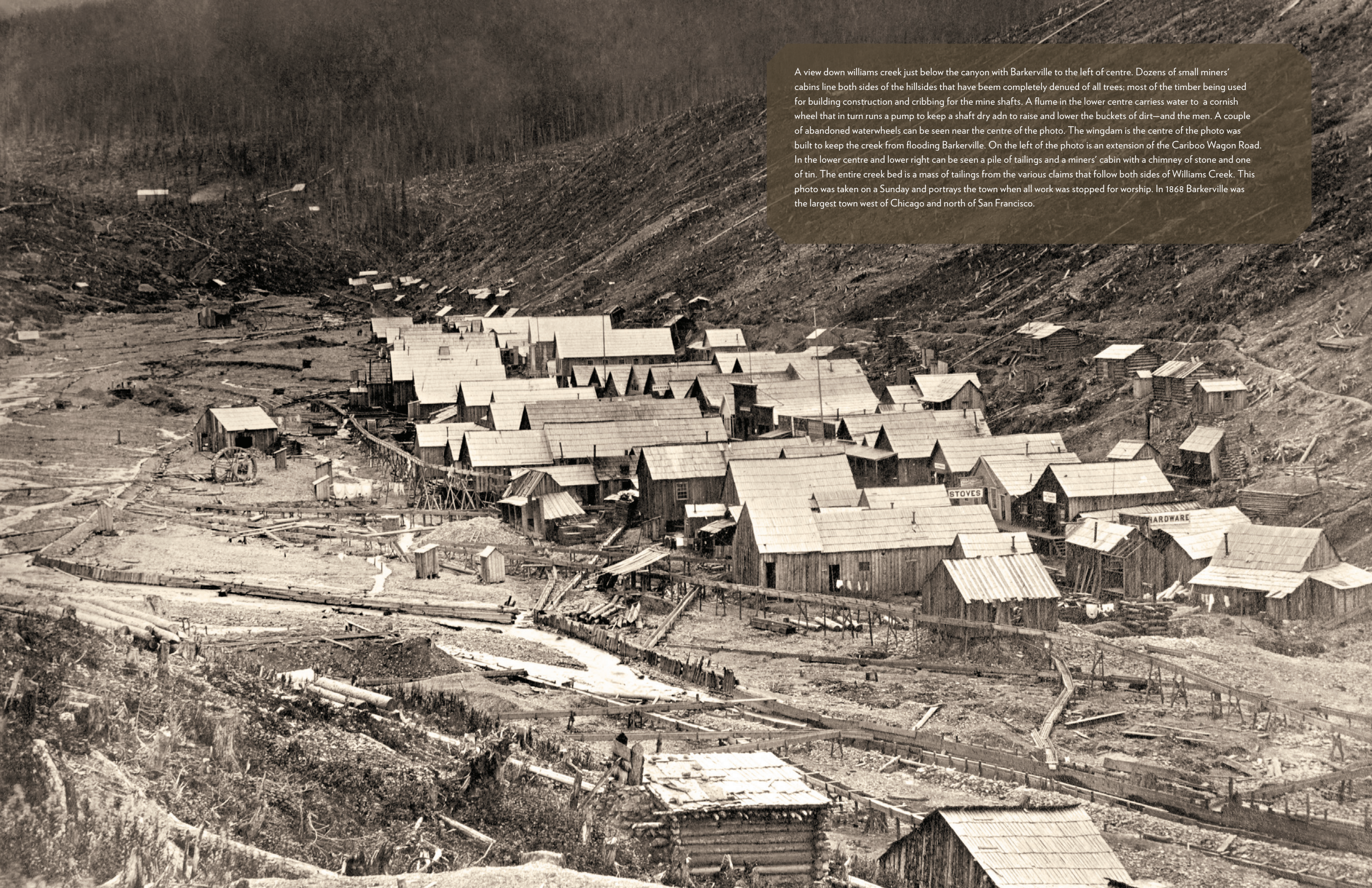
"Then its course became diverted in five or six different channels that were varied every now and then as the miners sought to work the surface. At intervals dirty streams were

poured forth by the sluices, in which the earth dug from beneath was being washed by the water, and here and there the stream was insulted by being shut up for a few hundred yards in a huge wooden trough called a flume.

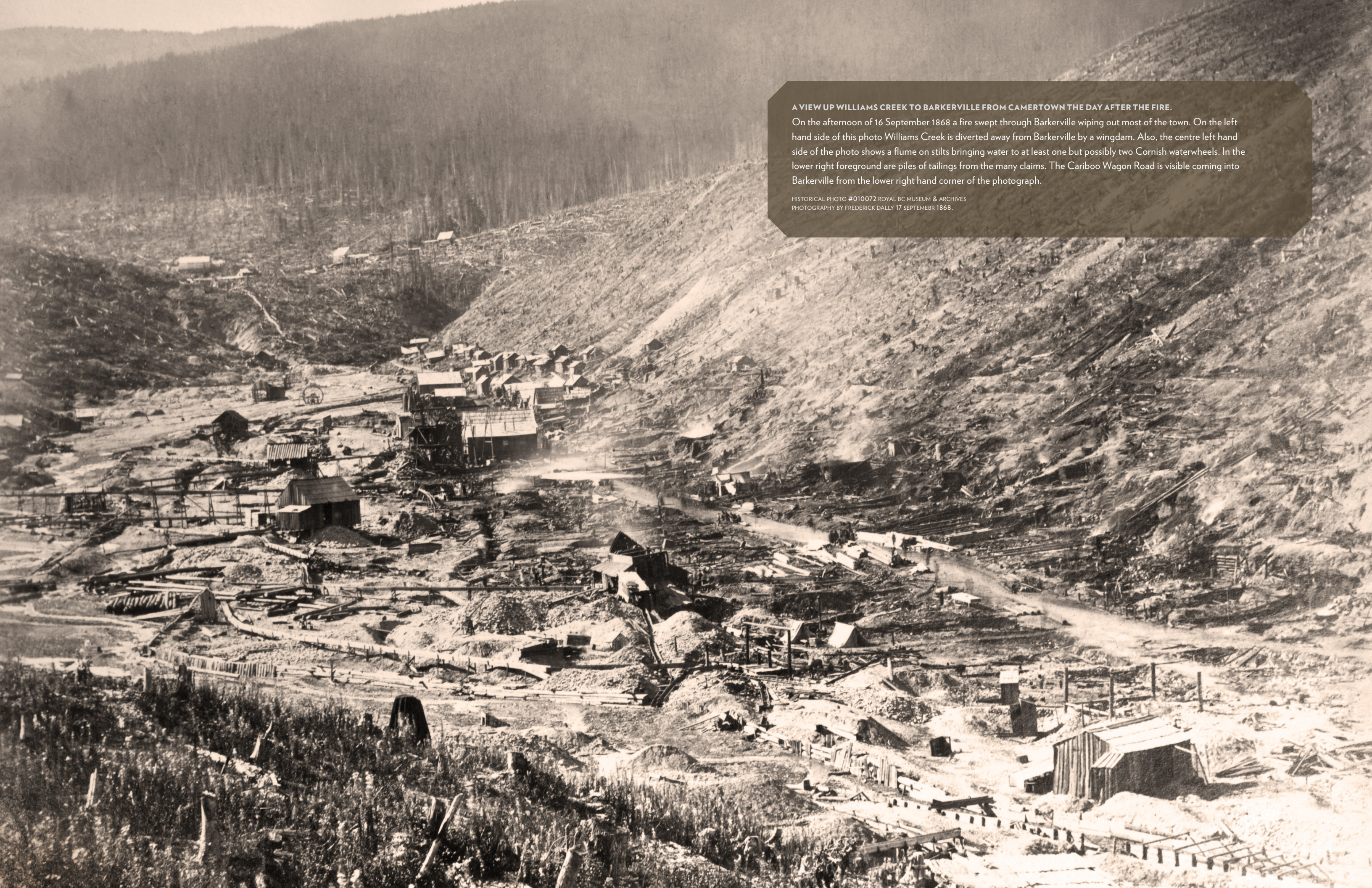
"Across the breadth of the valley was a strange heterogeneous gathering of smaller flumes, carrying water to the different diggings and supported at various heights from the ground by props, windlasses at the mouths of shafts, waterwheels, banks of tailings, and miner's log huts.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #10070 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRDERICK DALLY, 1868.





A view down Williams Creek just below the canyon with Barkerville to the left of centre. Dozens of small miners' cabins line both sides of the hillsides that have been completely denuded of all trees; most of the timber being used for building construction and cribbing for the mine shafts. A flume in the lower centre carries water to a cornish wheel that in turn runs a pump to keep a shaft dry and to raise and lower the buckets of dirt—and the men. A couple of abandoned waterwheels can be seen near the centre of the photo. The wingdam in the centre of the photo was built to keep the creek from flooding Barkerville. On the left of the photo is an extension of the Cariboo Wagon Road. In the lower centre and lower right can be seen a pile of tailings and a miners' cabin with a chimney of stone and one of tin. The entire creek bed is a mass of tailings from the various claims that follow both sides of Williams Creek. This photo was taken on a Sunday and portrays the town when all work was stopped for worship. In 1868 Barkerville was the largest town west of Chicago and north of San Francisco.



**A VIEW UP WILLIAMS CREEK TO BARKERVILLE FROM CAMERTOWN THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE.**

On the afternoon of 16 September 1868 a fire swept through Barkerville wiping out most of the town. On the left hand side of this photo Williams Creek is diverted away from Barkerville by a wingdam. Also, the centre left hand side of the photo shows a flume on stilts bringing water to at least one but possibly two Cornish waterwheels. In the lower right foreground are piles of tailings from the many claims. The Cariboo Wagon Road is visible coming into Barkerville from the lower right hand corner of the photograph.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #010072 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY 17 SEPTEMBER 1868.



Miners examine the total destruction of the fire that swept through Barkerville on the afternoon of the 16 September 1868. Only one building was left standing. Frederick Dally, after a miserable night sleeping in drenched clothing at Richfield, gathered together his camera equipment and recorded the tragic event for posterity the day after the fire.

HISTORICAL PHOTO# 10071 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1868.

industry, steadiness and perseverance, but little did I think that in less than two hours not a vestige of the town would remain but a burning mass of ruins. I gave him an invitation to visit my new building, just finished and nicely furnished.

I returned to my house and seated myself in a chair and again meditated on the probability of a fire when I heard several running on the plank sidewalk and heard one exclaim, "Good God! What is up?" I ran instantly to see the cause of the alarm and to my astonishment beheld a column of smoke rising from the roof of the saloon adjoining the steward's house. I saw the fire had a firm hold of the building and, as there was no water to be had, I felt certain that the

town would be destroyed. So I collected as much of my stock of goods as possible together and hastened with them to the middle of the creek and left them there, whilst I made several journeys after other goods. The fire originated in a small room adjoining Barry & Adler's Saloon. One of the dancing girls was ironing and by some means or other, the heat of the stove-pipe set the canvas ceiling on fire, which instantly communicated with the roof and no less than two minutes the whole saloon was in flames, which quickly set the opposite business in the Bank of British North America in flames.

So the fire traveled at the same time up and down the sides of the street, and as fast against the wind as

it did before it, and although my building was nearly fifty yards away from where the fire originated, in less than twenty minutes, it together with the whole of the lower part of the town was a sheet of fire, hissing, crackling, and roaring furiously. There was, in a store not far from my place, fifty kegs of blasting powder and had that not been removed at the commencement of the fire and put down a dry shaft, most likely not a soul would have been left alive of the number that was then present. Blankets and bedding were seen to be sent at least 200 feet high when a number of coal oil tins (5 gallons) exploded, and the top of one of the tins was sent five miles and dropped at the sawmill on Grouse Creek.

Every person was thinking of his own property and using desperate efforts to save it, and some not placing it sufficiently far out of reach of the element had all consumed. And others again had it taken so far that during the time they were away trying to save more property, Chinamen and others were stealing from them as fast as they could carry it away. One stout Chinaman showing too many creases about him that did not look quite natural, the police made him strip, and off came six shirts, two pairs of drawers, three pairs of trousers, another had hidden away behind the false canvas wall of his house over one thousand dollars worth of flour, rice, boots etc., etc. and every useful article usually sold by storekeepers in the mines.

The town was divided by the "Barker" flume crossing it at a height of fifty feet, and as it was carrying all the water that was near, it kept the fire at bay for a short time from the upper part of the town, but the hot wind soon drove those that were standing on it away. The fire then quickly caught the other half of the buildings, also the forest on the mountain ridge at the back, and as the sun set behind the mountain the grandeur of the scene will not be quickly forgotten by those who noticed it. Then the cold frosty wind came sweeping down the canyon, blowing without sympathy on the houseless and distressed sufferers, causing the iron-hearted men

to mechanically raise the small collars of their coats (if they had been so fortunate as to have one) as a protection against it. Household furniture of every description was piled up along the side of the creek, and the people were preparing to make themselves as comfortable for the night, under the canopy of heaven, as circumstances would allow. And in the early morning as I passed down the creek, I saw strong men rise from their hard beds on the cold stones, having slept wrapped in a pair of blankets, cramped with cold and in great pain, until a little exercise brought renewed life into their systems. At a quarter to three p.m. the fire commenced; at half past four p.m. the whole town was in flames, and at 10 o'clock the next morning signs of rebuilding had commenced. Lumber was fast arriving from the sawmill and was selling at one hundred and twenty five dollars per one thousand feet, the number of houses destroyed was one hundred and sixteen. After the fire I found I had the key of my house in my pocket which reminded me of a circumstance that occurred two years before at a town a mile from Barkerville, when a certain Barrister who was in the habit of drinking more than was good for him, when informed that his house was on fire left the saloon he was in and went and stood on the opposite side of the street to his house and exclaimed, "Never mind boys, never mind, I don't care, let it burn, I've got the key in my pocket." (and so had I.)

The fire was caused by a miner trying to kiss one of the girls that was ironing, and knocking against the stove displaced the pipe that went through the canvas ceiling, and through the roof, which at once took fire. This information I got from an eyewitness, who never made it generally known thinking that it might result in a lynching scene."

## ORIGINS OF CARIBOO FREEMASONRY

It was quite likely that some steps were taken in the early days of the rush to form a Masonic Lodge. By 1866 miner masons realized that Barkerville had taken on an air of permanency and that the separation of the gold from the gravel of the creeks was going to be much longer than had been estimated. Jonathan Nutt was credited with the movement to form a Masonic Lodge in Barkerville. He called a meeting 13 October 1866 that was attended by 13 masons. Nutt was the foreman of the Aurora Claim on Conklin's Gulch, a tributary of Williams Creek. Nutt was an Englishman who had been a miner in California, and while there, in 1854, had become a freemason in Tehama Lodge No. 3 in Sacramento. He later affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 2 at Shasta, California, he then being 34 years of age.

No mention was made of where the original meeting took place but Nutt chaired the meeting. The others were: W.W. Hill, George Grant, Joshua Spencer Thompson, Alexander C. Campbell, W.M. Cochrane, John R. Price, George Duff, Carl Strouss, John Patterson, John B. Lovell, W.E. Boone and William Bennett.

The 13 men decided to establish a Masonic Lodge in Cariboo and to build a Masonic Hall. Each person pledged so much a week towards this end—the amounts ranging from .50 cents to \$1.00. To the names of these 13 men were shortly afterwards added 20 others.

W.M. Cochrane, referred to as “An Irish Gentleman”, was apparently a man of money and loaned the lodge a considerable sum of cash. Alexander C. Campbell, a cousin of John Angus (Cariboo) Cameron was the owner of the Foster-Campbell Claim on Williams Creek. He was also a blacksmith.

It quickly becomes apparent that many of the Cariboo masons had participated in the California gold rush. Joshua Spencer Thompson had been a member of San Francisco Lodge, No. 7 in California.

The minutes of Vancouver Lodge record that on 16 January 1867 Brother Jonathan Nutt attended that lodge and presented a petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland praying for the establishment of a Masonic Lodge at Barkerville, Williams Creek, to be named “Cariboo Lodge”.



### THE AURORA GOLD MINING CLAIM ON CONKLIN'S GULCH, A TRIBUTARY OF WILLIAMS CREEK

15 June 1867, near Barkerville. The day this photo was taken the mine had a washup of 485 ounces of gold. Named after the Roman goddess of dawn—Aurora—the foreman of the claim was Jonathan Nutt, an Englishman that had been a miner in California. On reaching the goldfields of Cariboo, Nutt initiated a movement to form a Masonic Lodge at Barkerville. On 13 October 1866 Nutt called a meeting that was attended by thirteen masons. Those present were Nutt—who presided—and W.W. Hill, George Grant, J. Spencer Thompson, Alexander C. Campbell, W.M. Cochrane, John R. Price, George Duff, Carl Strouss, John Patterson, John B. Lovell, W.E. Boone and William Bennett.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #001663 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY



**CARIBOO LODGE NO. 4 ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS AT THE AURORA GOLD MINING CLAIM ON WILLIAMS CREEK**

- 1 John Weill 2 Paul Manetta 3 John Williams 4 Edward Pearson 5 Edwin Johns 6 Joseph F. Clarridge 7 Charles J. Paulson 8 Robert Patterson
- 9 August Hoffman 10 David T. Price 11 Joseph H. St. Laurent 12 William Fraser 13 James Amm 14 William Rennie 15 John L. Muir 16 James Carson
- 17 Ninian F. Foster 18 Joshua Spencer Thompson 19 William H. Hill 20 William Mckenzie 21 Jonathan Nutt 22 James S. McMillan 23 George Grant
- 24 Alexander C.M. Campbell 25 John McLaren 26 John Bruce 27 Samuel Kahn