

## STOUT'S GULCH

Edward Stout was born in Bavaria, a Province of Germany, 26 September 1827 and in his infancy was left an orphan. He acquired a good education in the public schools of his native country and remained in Bavaria until he was twenty years of age.

In that year, 1846, he left Europe and crossed the Atlantic for the New World, landing in New York. He proceeded from the coast, inland to Milwaukee, where he obtained employment on a schooner. There is some evidence that he joined his uncle here, a Captain Stout who worked a steamer operating on Lake Michigan.

Stout sailed on the lake until 1849, becoming familiar with nearly every port from Chicago at the southern end to the Canadian frontier in the north. In the spring of 1849, he left inland navigation to join the great migration west.

"It was a long, but at that season of the year, pleasant journey. I can remember it most distinctly. We passed over a beautiful country literally swarming with buffalo, elk and other deer, as well as antelopes." Stout's party went through the Black Hills by way of Salt Lake through the Sierra Nevada and arrived in 'Hangtown' or Placerville in November of 1849, the trip taking some 7-odd months to complete. Ned worked in the gold mines and prospected with fair success in this area for over eight years.

Hangtown derived its name from the number of desperadoes who were hung within its boundaries by the Vigilance Committee. In the centre of the town was an oak tree, with large, thick and wide spreading branches.

"One could count the number of hangings that had been carried out by the number of rings on the branches of the tree, just as you can tell the age of some trees by the number of circles or rings which can be counted within the bark when the tree is felled to the ground. Every time the rope from which the criminal was pendant was thrown over the branch and drawn into the air, the friction removed some of the bark in a circular manner and left its count."

The year 1857 found Ned Stout and some members of 'his' party engaged in mining in various creeks and streams of the El Dorado county in California. Among those with Stout at the time, and who later accompanied him to the north to the Fraser, were Alexander Coultee and John Oppenheimer, both of whom had crossed the plains with him in '49.



**EDWARD STOUT (1827 - 1924)**

BARRY GENERAL STORE, YALE, B.C.



**A WHEELBARROW.**

COURTESY FORT LANGLEY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

It had been eight years since the discovery of gold in the American West and the easy pickings were long cleaned out. Mining companies had been formed to pool resources and retrieve gold that was beyond the means of the individual prospector. It was during this 'time of transition' in California that rumours of rich diggings on Fraser's River hit the depressed region.

Ned Stout, one among many, was struck by 'gold fever' and he made up his mind to travel to San Francisco, which he did. Once there, he and several others made a bargain with the captain of a schooner to take them north. The captain charged them a sum of \$2,000, which included the transportation of supplies and a "sufficiency of timber to build two large boats with..." - Ned Stout

The schooner dropped off its cargo and passengers in Bellingham Bay in March of '58.

"We were the only vessel in that spacious har bour. Whatcom, at that time, consisted of two or three houses, or cabins..." - Ned Stout

Using the lumber they had acquired in Frisco, the men built two flat-bottomed scows and headed north for the mouth of Fraser's River. When they arrived on May 2, 1858, there was not a living soul could to be seen, nor the mark of an ax on a single tree. At Fort Langley they saw one white man and at Fort Hope they saw only two.

"After a long struggle of eighteen days we arrived opposite the present town of Yale. Of course it had no name at that time." - Ned Stout

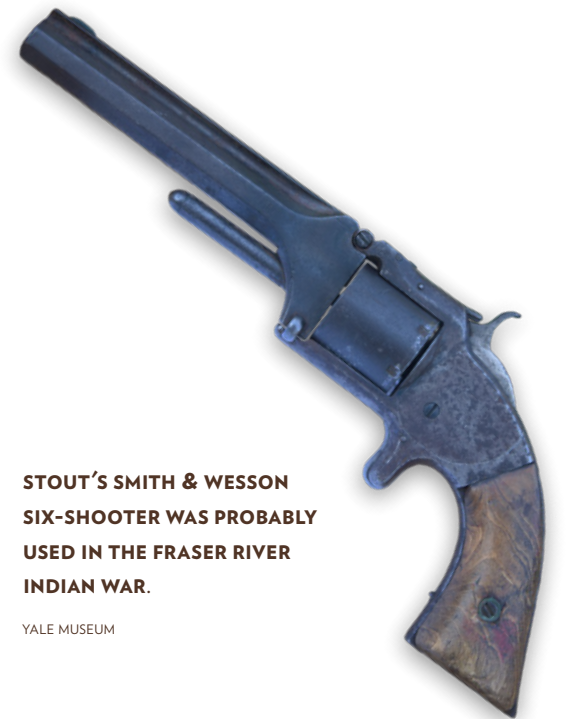
"...two miners ...had been ambushed and murdered by hostile Indians"

It was at Yale that gold had been first discovered on the Fraser, but by the time Stout's party arrived the place was deserted. It was later learned that the two miners who had been working the bars around Yale had gone south to Port Townsend for supplies and during their return to the Fraser had been ambushed and murdered by hostile Indians. Just how hostile the local population was had yet to be discovered...

In company of Stout at that time was James McClennan, Archie McDonald and "Old Texas", all Californian miners. Accounts state that McClennan led the party up the Fraser until they reached the present site of Lytton where the Thompson joins the Fraser. They left the Fraser canyon and followed the course of the Thompson until they reached what would later be called the Nicomen River.

**STOUT'S MEERCHAUM PIPE**

YALE MUSEUM



**STOUT'S SMITH & WESSON SIX-SHOOTER WAS PROBABLY USED IN THE FRASER RIVER INDIAN WAR.**

YALE MUSEUM

During their travel they had met a young Indian woman who had become enamoured of James McClennan after he had given her some of his clothes to wear. She would follow him throughout the day and insist on carrying his pack while at night she would retire with another native fellow to a spot outside the miner's camp. One night, in the middle of July, she suddenly appeared at the fire of the miners and warned them that the First Nations planned to attack the miners.

'Before sun up you white men go. Go back in the stick, far, far, then you back to salt chuck. Indian kill all white men in canyon, by-by he come kill you all. Tomorrow he come. Go now, go quick.'

McClennan took this to mean that the Indians had killed all the whites in the lower canyon and that they must immediately return to Fort Yale or risk the same fate.

During July and August, recoveries of bodies of white men floating down the river were common at Fort Yale. There was a state of terror in the canyon. The cause of the trouble, it was said, was a combination of influences: the desire of the Indians to monopolize the mining, coupled with the success of the Indian wars then raging in Washington and the arrogance of the miners who lived by the code that "the only good Indian was a dead one." Unfortunately, Stout and his party were prospecting far to the east of the canyon, had been oblivious of the new developments that had taken place. If it had not been for the friendship of McClennan and the young Indian woman, Stout and the rest would surely have perished, as it was they faced a dangerous and harrowing trip south, to safety.

"Stout's party lost nearly a man daily"

The miners broke camp that night, after disposing of anything and everything that would impede their speed. Early the following day, they were attacked...

The Indians, who were concealed amongst some rocks and bushes, ambushed the party and wounded three of the miners. The arrows were poisoned and by the next day all who had been wounded were dead. According

to Stout the poison was made by placing the fangs of a rattlesnake in a sort of mortar, with some deer's blood and the two were mixed together. Water was added if necessary to dilute the solution and make it possible to coat the arrowheads. The effect of this poison was to cause convulsions in the victim and turn the skin black after death.

"As it was extremely dangerous to travel by day, we made our way in the night time. As soon as the day broke we built small forts upon the bank of the river with stones and pieces of timber. Detached parties of Indians often hemmed us in, skulking behind low bushes, while occasionally some of them would send a chance musket ball whistling across the rocks with savage interest."

Stout's party lost nearly a man daily, including their leader James McClennan; the chance of escape became bleaker and bleaker. At Four Mile Creek Stout and his party discovered four salmon hanging on a pole. Just before they partook of this fish feast, Mike Mallahan, an Irishman who was with the group, noticed several dead blue jays in the vicinity and quickly surmised that the salmon were poisoned and laid as a trap. After reducing the fish to small pieces they pitched them in the river and continued on.

Arriving at China Bar with only five left out of the original twenty-six among the party, their supply of ammunition depleted, the hopes for survival were bleak. Each of the five survivors was wounded, and so, unable to travel, they lay in their fortifications expecting an assault at any time. But luck or providence would be with them, and the following day a party of soldier-miners led by Captain Schneider and Captain Graham arrived from Fort Yale some miles below and relieved the company.

Following this narrow escape, Stout spent some time recovering from a total of nine arrow and bullet wounds received during the ordeal. The most serious was a wound to the groin which had nearly severed the main artery in his thigh. However, Stout was true to his name and by August he felt well enough to begin mining again.

Moving north through the canyon and eventually into Cariboo Stout met up with William 'Dutch Bill' Dietz. The Dietz party, including Stout, made its way up the headwaters of Antler Creek, over Bald Mountain and down into a different watershed. The gold found by that first party of explorers was nothing impressive but word got out to dissatisfied miners on Antler Creek and soon they were streaming over Bald Mountain in droves. The new creek was named after Dutch Bill, some say because he had the most luck on that first day in panning others say that he bribed the rest of his party with promises of champagne in the offing, regardless the new find became known as William's Creek.

Jordan's partner had 50 ounces of gold in his hand ...and more to come

Initial expectations for the area were high, but for those used to the easy finds of Antler and Keithley, William's Creek soon became 'Humbug' Creek. Gold here was located deeper and underneath a layer of hard blue clay that was initially taken for the bedrock. Since gold is heavier than all other gravel it sinks to the level of the bedrock and that is where the richest 'pay' can usually be found. Strangely, there was very little gold on this hardpan of clay.

One day, Jordan of the Abbott & Jordan claim left to get supplies from town; while he was gone, Abbott, out of boredom, swung a few blows at the 'bedrock' and broke through. By the time Jordan returned, his partner had 50 ounces of gold in his hand and more to come. The rush was on!

Meanwhile, Stout had broken off from Dietz's party and had staked claims on a tributary gulch of William's Creek. Stout's 'Gulch' was to become an important factor in the development of Barkerville itself.

At a point between the town of Richfield and Barkerville, William's Creek slows to a trickle. Miners of the time speculated that all the gold would have been deposited at or above the slowing of the creek and would never have made it into the lower regions of the canyon. When several miners tried the ground in the lower canyon

they found nothing of interest. This was the situation when Billy Barker showed up on the scene. Barker had mined in the California rush of '49 and was therefore an experienced hand. He recognized that although the ground in the lower canyon was poor there must be gold there somewhere because Ned Stout was doing well and he was below the slowing of William's Creek, albeit in a tributary gulch. It was this revelation that indirectly caused Barker to sink extensive shafts in the lower canyon. The rest is history.

Ned Stout worked the gulch bearing his name for two years and then sold his share and moved to Lowhee where he mined some more. When mining activity lapsed, Stout worked as a packer for the Cariboo Co. carrying freight by boat from New Westminster to Lytton. Stout moved back to Yale, built a house and continued to prospect near there and on Siwash Creek. In 1873, he married Mary Thorpe of Yakima, Washington Territory and they had three children (his descendants were still living in British Columbia as late as 1979). Although no longer residing in Cariboo he returned every summer to prospect and was the picture of vigor even into his old age; proud of the fact that he had never taken a drop of liquor. He died in 1924 at the age of ninety-six, a true pioneer.

In his book *Very Far West Indeed* R. Byron Johnson gives the following description of the 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 breath 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.

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"From the hills came the perpetual cracking and trudging of axes, intermingling with the crash of falling trees, and the grating undertone of the saws as they fashioned the logs into planks and boards."

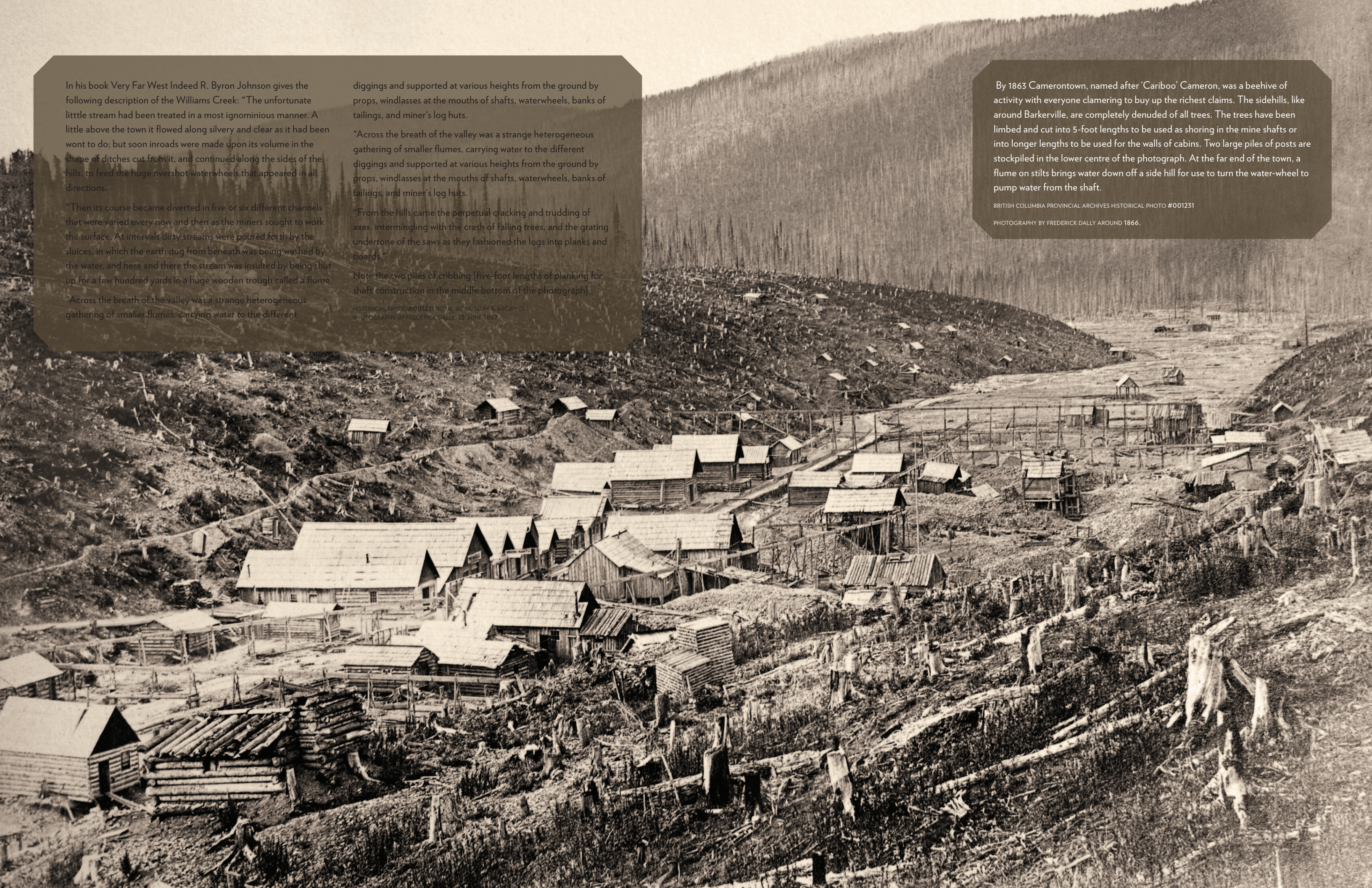
Note the two piles of cribbing [five-foot lengths of planking for shaft construction in the middle bottom of the photograph].

HISTORICAL PHOTO #001231 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 15 JUNE 1867.

By 1863 Camerontown, named after 'Cariboo' Cameron, was a beehive of activity with everyone clamoring to buy up the richest claims. The sidehills, like around Barkerville, are completely denuded of all trees. The trees have been limbed and cut into 5-foot lengths to be used as shoring in the mine shafts or into longer lengths to be used for the walls of cabins. Two large piles of posts are stockpiled in the lower centre of the photograph. At the far end of the town, a flume on stilts brings water down off a side hill for use to turn the water-wheel to pump water from the shaft.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES HISTORICAL PHOTO #001231

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY AROUND 1866.



**A CORNISH WATER WHEEL AND FLUME HYDRAULIC OPERATION  
AT THE DAVIS CLAIM ON STOUT'S GULCH, WILLIAMS CREEK.**

The overshot water wheel in this photograph was 20-feet in diameter and was modeled after the wheels and pumps of the tin mines in Cornwall, England. The early miners who had dug shafts into the ground were often faced with water seeping into the shaft causing flooding. They found that the pay gravel often lay 40 to 100-feet and more under the surface. The wheels were used to pump the water from the deep workings to the surface and also to lift pay gravel to the surface. Water would be fed into cup-like shelves at the top of the wheel using water from a flume to make the contraption turn. The wheel would then drive a rocker arm that would pump the water from the bottom of the mine shaft. The miners were lowered and raised to the bottom of the shaft in a bucket attached to a long rope. The same bucket was also used to haul the gravel that contained the gold to the surface to be stock piled for sluicing. Upon reaching bedrock shafts or drifts went out in several directions seeking the richest paydirt not unlike the spokes of a wheel. The drifts around the bottom of the shaft were usually large enough that a man was able to stand up to fill the buckets to be hauled to the surface. The shafts had to be shored up with lumber to prevent cave ins. Quite often some of the offshoot drifts were no more than 3-feet high by 3-feet wide as a miner followed a lead. Some of the richer claims even had ore cars and tracks that ran along the wider and taller drifts. These drifts had to be shored up with heavy timbers that were lowered down the shafts to the bottom of the mine. It was not uncommon for a lengthy drift to pass underground into a neighbour's claim. Working underground was a dangerous and wet occupation and many of the early miners succumbed to pneumonia.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#001232 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 15 JUNE 1867.



*The Davis wheel and flume  
Williams Creek, Cariboo.*

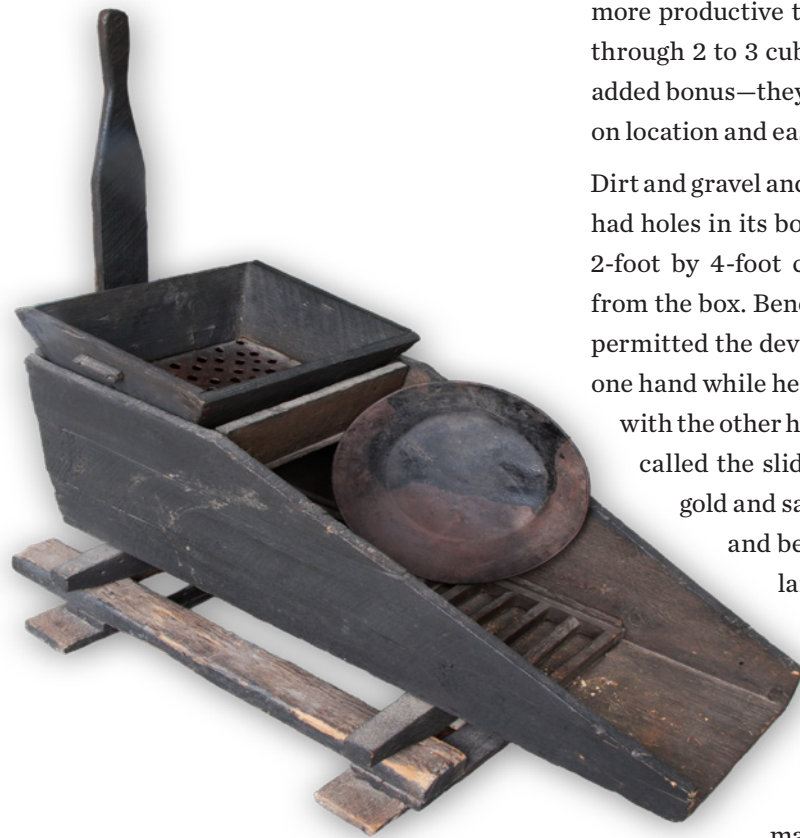
## The Sluice Box or Rocker

Sluice boxes or rockers were used to extract deposits of placer gold from alluvial sediment, much like gold pans but on a larger scale. This particular type of sluice box is known as a rocker because it was rocked back and forth like a baby's cradle moving the mixture of water and sediment over the riffles along the bottom in order to separate and trap the denser gold. This rocker was 48" long, 17" tall and 15 1/2" wide. The tray on top into which the gravel is placed is 16" by 20" by 8" deep. The gravel is placed into this tray along with water and rocked sending the heavier gold through the holes in its bottom. The gold and black sand is captured in the riffles (and a blanket) at the very bottom of the rocker. The gold pan is 16" in diameter by 4" deep.

The rocker box was one of the primary tools invented by California's 49ers to extract gold from gravel. The device, that looked very much like an old fashioned baby's cradle, was usually set up near the bank of a creek or river. They were much faster and more productive than gold panning and a single miner could put through 2 to 3 cubic yards of gravel in a single day. There was an added bonus—they could be built from sawn lumber by the miners on location and easily packed around on their backs if necessary.

Dirt and gravel and water would be placed into the cradle's box that had holes in its bottom. Underneath the box was an approximate 2-foot by 4-foot cradle that sloped downward at the end away from the box. Beneath the cradle were two semicircle boards that permitted the device to be rocked back and forth by a miner with one hand while he added water to the gravel mixture with a laddle with the other hand. The rounded surface covered in canvas was called the slide or apron. As the cradle was rocked, the finer gold and sand would wash through the holes in the top box and be caught by ridges and canvas on the apron. The larger rocks caught by the hopper would be thrown out and the process would be repeated with a new batch of dirt and gravel.

The gravel was washed clean in the box and any oversized material was inspected for nuggets and then dumped out. The undersize material went over the apron where most of the gold was caught. The riffles stopped any gold that got over the apron. At the Cariboo gold camps, the rockers were cleaned every



COURTESY PENTICTON MUSEUM



WILLIAM PHINNEY USES A HAND ROCKER WITH A LONG-HANDLED LADDLE TO SEPARATE THE GOLD FROM THE GRAVEL AT THE CALEDONIA COMPANY ON WILLIAMS CREEK.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#000767 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY

2 to 3 hours or oftener when rich ground was worked and the gold began to show on the apron or in the riffles. In cleaning up after a run, the water was poured into the box on top and the device was gently rocked to wash away the top surface sand and gravel. Then the apron was dumped into a gold pan. The material back of the riffles in the sluice is taken up by a flat scoop, placed at the head of the sluice, and washed down gently once or twice with clear water. The gold remained behind on the boards, from which it is scraped up and put into the pan with the concentrate from the apron. The few colors left in the sluice would be

caught with the next run. The concentrate was cleaned in the pan. Skilful manipulation of the rocker and a careful cleanup permitted recovery of nearly all the gold. The overflow drains back to the one at the rear, and the water is used over again.

The rocker was used when water was in short supply or when the depth of the creek was too shallow to use a sluicebox. The scarcity of water could be reused. A miner with a rocker could process 3 to 5 times more gravel than a man with a gold pan.





JOSIAH CROSBY BEEDY'S STORE & 'VAN WINKLE HOTEL' APPEAR IN THE LEFT  
BACKGROUND AT THE SLEEPY TOWN OF VAN WINKLE [LATER STANLEY].

HISTORICAL PHOTO#010505 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY



# GROUSE CREEK, CARIBOO

Williams Creek is named for Wilhelm Dietz, a Prussian sailor who was one of a party that set out from Lightning Creek and was the first to discover gold on this creek, which was quickly staked by his companions and soon after by others. The most important and richest digging in the Cariboo goldfields, the creek gave birth to the towns of Richfield, Barkerville and Camerontown, which collectively were also known as Williams Creek. Barkerville and Camerontown were named for William Barker and John Alexander Cameron, Barker being the most famous and at one time the richest of the Cariboo gold miners. Dietz's claim was not a money-maker and he died in poverty.

In the early 1860s when placer gold production peaked, the search began for lode gold deposits. The Black Jack, Home Stake, Cornish and the Wintrip were among the first claims to be staked in the area.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA MAP#367  
COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, OTTAWA

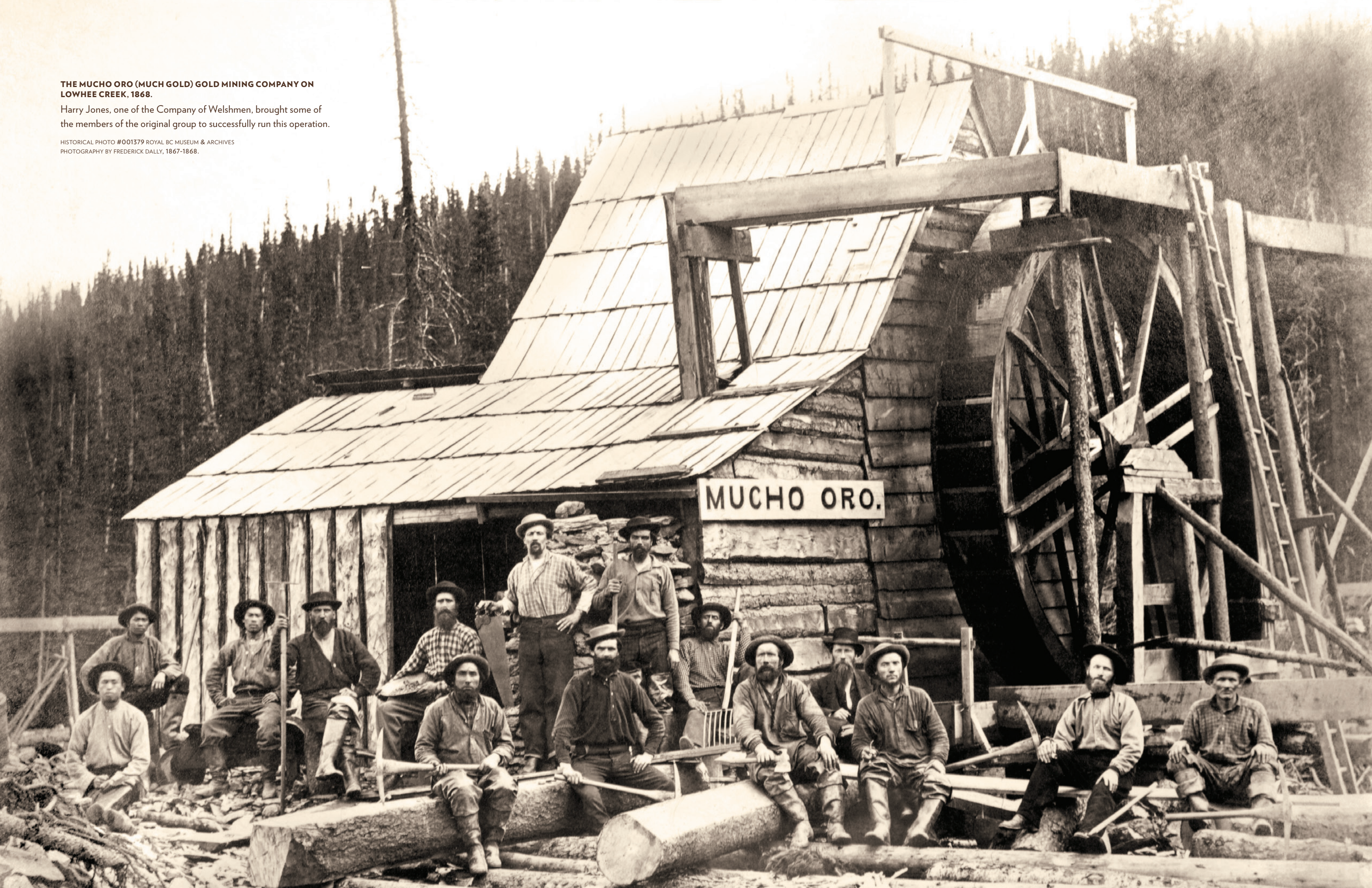




**THE MUCHO ORO (MUCH GOLD) GOLD MINING COMPANY ON  
LOWHEE CREEK, 1868.**

Harry Jones, one of the Company of Welshmen, brought some of  
the members of the original group to successfully run this operation.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #001379 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1867-1868.



Eighteen individuals pose proudly with the tools of the underground gold mining trade at the Alturas Gold Mining Company on Stouts Gulch, Lowhee Creek, in 1868. Their tools included a pick, a broadaxe, gold pan, rubber boots, five-spronged fork, crosscut saw and tool sharpener. Two men are partially hidden by the roof top of the main structure, another sits on the roof over the main shaft. There are fourteen individuals that appear in the front row including two women, two children and a baby on the extreme right. A man poses with a sharpening tool to the extreme right of the photo.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #013192 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1868.



COURTESY FORT LANGLEY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



**HENRY SPENCER PALMER, A LIEUTENANT WITH THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, SUPERVISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN RICHFIELD IN 1862.**

HISTORICAL PHOTO#10948 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY

## RICHFIELD

In the spring of 1862, Lieutenant Henry Spencer Palmer of the Royal Engineers and Gold Commissioner Thomas Elwyn visited Williams Creek—the center of the bonanza gold strikes in the Cariboo. Palmer’s task was to survey and lay out a town site. Elwyn, sent to the Cariboo to replace Philip Henry Nind Jr., was seeking out a location to establish government posts closer to the mines than those that now existed at Williams Lake. Nind, the Cariboo’s first gold commissioner, had to work 20 hours a day to keep up with the horrendous load of paperwork associated with the recording of the buying and selling of shares in the many mines. He had been granted a leave of absence owing to a nervous breakdown from overwork.

Elwyn assessed the situation and recommended that the Cariboo be divided into 2 districts with a gold commissioner serving each. Governor Douglas agreed and appointed Elwyn to serve the section

where most of the activity was taking place, while Peter O’Reilly, previously of the Similkameen, was assigned to the other. The miners liked Elwyn’s good judgments in settling mining disputes and for a time it seemed that the 20 business establishments along the creek might be called Elwintown. Palmer vetoed the idea and chose the more appropriate name of Richfield, for the riches being brought from the ground.

A letter written at Williams Creek, by Elwyn to the colonial secretary in England, gives some idea of the fabulous strikes being made in the Cariboo. It read: “At Antler five hundred men are preparing to mine but only a few companies are actually at work. There will be, I am satisfied, over one thousand men employed on the creek, and the yield of gold for this season will nearly equal the yield of the whole of the Cariboo last summer. Claims have been taken up on the creek and on the banks for a distance of two miles that will pay \$40 to \$100 a day to the hand.

“I paid five shillings per pound for flour and six shillings per pound for bacon at the town of Antler (considered of little importance last year)...

“On my way from Antler to this place I passed within two-and-a-half miles from the mouth of Grouse Creek, but my presence was so urgently required here that fearing a delay of some days I did not go up this creek.

“The yield from Williams Creek is something almost incredible and the rich claims have risen to three times their market value of last year. Only six companies are at present taking out gold, but there are between five and six hundred men on the creek, sinking shafts and getting their claims into working order. Cunningham and Company have been working their claims for the past six weeks, and for the last thirty days have been taking out gold at the rate of three thousand dollars every twenty-four hours. In the tunnel owned by this company the average prospect is thirty-five ounces to the set. Messrs. Steele and Company have been engaged for the past ten days making a flume, but during the previous three weeks their claims yielded two hundred ounces a day. These figures are so startling that I should be afraid to put them on paper in a report for his Excellency’s information were I not on the spot and know them to be the exact truth.

“There is every possibility that before the end of the season there will be fifteen to twenty companies on the creek, the yield of whose claims will equal those mentioned above.

“There are at present no provisions for sale here; but the prices



**THOMAS ELWYN (1837-1888)**

This capable individual was an early Gold Commissioner at Richfield at Williams Creek in the Cariboo in 1862. The early miners were so impressed with Elwyn’s decisions regarding mining disputes that they wanted to name the town Elwintown rather than Richfield in his honour. In 1861 he was put in charge of the government gold escorts from the Cariboo to Yale.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#002747 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



hitherto have been about the same as at Antler Creek.

I expect to be detained here for five or six days settling disputes, after which I will go to Lightening Creek...

"A great many men, principally Canadians, are returning below. They are as a rule entirely ignorant of mining and came here with a few pounds of provisions on their backs and hardly any money. Considering the exorbitant prices...I have that His Excellency will give consent to Mr. Hankin and my constable receiving some extra allowances, or an increase in salary."

The provisions situation eased dramatically when several cattle drovers from Oregon brought meat 'on the hoof' to the diggings. The mixed herds of dairy and beef cattle were driven through the mining towns and up into the mountains to good pasture to fatten. On the top of the mountain (afterwards called Cow Mountain) corrals, stables, and herdsmen's quarters were erected and very soon fresh milk was being delivered to the various settlements on Williams Creek. Each day, beef animals were taken down to the mining communities for butchering to provide fresh steaks for the miners.

The gold the miners obtained presented a problem because it required constant vigilance. To help the miners, the government organized a gold escort to carry the burdensome booty to the coast for a small fee. Unfortunately, they did not guarantee safe delivery and rumor quickly circulated that a miner once arrived at a stopping house in the wee hours of the morning and saw an unguarded gold wagon, as its escorts were all sound asleep in the roadhouse. Therefore few miners used the service but chose instead to send the yellow wealth by Barnard's Express. An early newspaper reported: "Mr. Barnard has fitted an iron burglar-proof safe into each of his wagons. He has the chests constructed with detonating powder in the interstices between the plates, and on any attempt being made to open them with a chisel they would inevitably explode with the force of a bombshell. The safes are also fitted with combination locks, known only to the principals at each terminus..."

The gold escort was a real asset for the miners of the Cariboo since they could now ship send their gold to the coast through the Bank of British Columbia. The miners were secure in the knowledge that their hard efforts had paid off in wresting the gold from the ground. The gold upon reaching Yale was either kept in a safe overnight at

**OPPOSITE**  
**LIEUTENANT HENRY SPENCER PALMER**  
**(1838 - 1893)**

This man came to British Columbia as a Royal Engineer in 1858 and was credited for undertaking several exploratory surveys, laying out trails and inspecting the construction of the Cariboo Wagon Road. He was also credited for laying out the townsite of Richfield. After leaving the province and retiring from the engineers Palmer headed out to Japan where he was hired by the Japanese government to help with the development of Yokohama Harbour. Like Ranald MacDonal, who had a monument erected for him at Nagasaki, Japan, Palmer has a bust of himself at Yokohama Nogiyama Park.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#003969 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AROUND 1880.

the Oppenheimer store or placed directly onto a steamboat bound for Langley, New Westminster or Victoria. Old Fort Langley had a 1,000 pound safe in which they kept gold that was either exchanged for goods going back up to the Cariboo or for forwarding to the nearest mint in New Westminster.

**A VIEW OF RICHFIELD ON WILLIAMS CREEK.**

Although the photograph appeared in a Frederick Dally album the caption clearly suggests that the image was taken by rival photographer Richard Maynard.

HISTORICAL PHOTO #092988 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



*Richfield, Williams Creek,  
Cariboo.*

*Maynard.*



**JOHN INNES' WATER COLOR 'BRINGING OUT THE GOLD' FROM THE CARIBOO. THOMAS ELWYN WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE GOLD ESCORTS FROM THE CARIBOO TO YALE AS EARLY AS 1861.**

PAINTINGS, DRAWING & PRINTS #06281 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

**RIGHT: NUGGETS FROM THE JOHN B. HOBBS CLAIM ON LOWHEE CREEK.**

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE #53131





**A HYDRAULIC OPERATION AT THE CORNISH CLAIM AT RICHFIELD.**

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES HISTORICAL PHOTO#066128  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1868.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES HISTORICAL PHOTO #066128

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1868.

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**ANOTHER VIEW OF RICHFIELD ON WILLIAMS CREEK**

A water pipe is shown in the foreground. The sidehills, like all the other early mining towns, were completely denuded of timber.

HISTORICAL PHOTO#010495 ROYAL BC MUSEUM & ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY BY FREDERICK DALLY, 1867-1868.



#### THE CALAVERAS AND LAST CHANCE COMPANIES

These two companies were two of the richest gold bearing claims on Lowhee Creek with the Calaveras (in this photo) paying 150 ounces for several consecutive weeks in 1868. This mine was worked continuously for several years.

The Colonist on 12 October 1860 wrote about The Largest Nugget Yet: In Calaveras County, near Salt Springs, California, a poor vaquero, named Willis, lately found a nugget of gold weighing three hundred pounds, and worth fifty thousand dollars! It is the richest nugget in the world, surpassing in value the celebrated lump of gold found in Siberia some ten years since, and twice as large as that renowned quartz and gold boulder discovered in 1854, in Australia. The miners of Calaveras were flocking in crowds to the scene of discovery, and claims along the line of the lead had been staked out for miles. In the meantime, Willis found himself suddenly transformed from a poor vaquero

without a penny into the possessor of wealth that is scarcely computable. He went to work, however, the second day after his discovery, eager for more wealth, when a bank caved in upon him, killing him instantly. Ironically, he went from poverty to wealth and from wealth to grave all in two days!

It is very likely that some of the miners in the Cariboo's Calaveras Company were Americans from the California Gold Rush who were hoping to emulate the Mexicans good luck. Instead in July 1873 a Cariboo miner named Howells was killed instantly when he fell down a shaft at the Calaveras Company.

Lower left hand corner opposite page—nuggets from lowhee creek.

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