

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Volume 11, Issue 3 - February, 2008

BC's First Chess Championship

Editorial

Special Report: Sled Dogs In The Cariboo

THEATRE ROYAL: Special Friends Hosting

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THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH by Robin Grady

Well half a year has been and gone. One of the main pushes this past winter (and the looks of it, it could be with us for quite some more time) has been discussions with the BHT (Barkerville Heritage Trust) in regards to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). We have had two meetings with FOB directors and three meetings with BHT. To date nothing has been finalized but at the last meeting it was felt that much headway was gained in arriving at a common goal. But alas this was not to be, so I have sent a letter to the BHT board to have them spell out exactly what they would like us to sign off on. It is hoped that the MOU will be for the following year (2009), as the time line of BHT next meeting on April 26, will leave us with no time to be ready for the May opening of Barkerville. If that is correct then we may be able to carry on as last year with season passes through our membership. If this newsletter reaches our members before March 25, everyone is reminded of the Theatre Royal Tour on that date. (I am sure Rick will be placing all the info for this event in the newsletter).

[ED. Hot update: Negotiations with BHT continue and it is hoped our presence in the Barkerville Hotel will be preserved for at least three more years. Meanwhile, although future years remain unclear, Barkerville Heritage Trust has kindly allowed us to continue in 2008 to include with our membership season passes to Barkerville Historic Town.. Please look for the renewal/new application form on the back cover of this newsletter.

Theatre Royal Tour 2008



This delightful, uproariously charming, entertaining evening is to be hosted in Quesnel by The Friends Of Barkerville March 25. Details Page 8

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE YEARS PASSED

50 Yeah, 50. It was 50 years ago this year that the Town of Barkerville and surrounding gold fields became a park for the benefit of all British Columbians. The idea initially came from the surviving residents themselves because they felt their town was something worth preserving. They were smart people. Watch for events news next issue and on their website at www.barkerville.ca

75 Yeah, 75. It was 75 years ago that the gold town of Wells, Barkerville's modern neighbour, was founded. Look for news of their festivities at www.wells.ca

100 Yeah, 100. 100 is 10 x 10. You can bet on it, but you'd lose, because it's really 20 x 5. If anyone has an interesting 1908 event to report, write us. We'll publish it in our May issue.

150 Yeah, 150. Unless you live in a mine shaft, you probably know by now that 150 years ago British Columbia was formalized as a colony of England, assuming the territorial rights of The Hudson's Bay Company's land called New Caledonia. Psst... gold had a great deal to do with that event. This issue has an exclusive story from Jeff Dinsdale, the co-chair of the event that was highlighted at British Columbia's sesquicentennial celebrations' kickoff in Quesnel. (See page 5). For more about BC's fun plans for the year, check out www.bc150.com

200 Yeah, 200. It was 200 years ago that Mr. Simon Fraser, with his loyal men and the tolerant assistance of many native nations, on behalf of The Northwest Company, found out that Fort Vancouver and the Pacific Ocean were not where he hoped they would be. Disgusted, he retreated to home base in Fort William, at the head of the Great Lakes, and became as notorious for his actions there as he was for his famous BC float. The founder of Fort George and many other posts, "he deserves therefore to rank as the pioneer of permanent settlement in what is now the mainland of British Columbia.", says The Dictionary Of Canadian Biographies Online. For more about Simon or any great Canadian, go to <http://www.biographi.ca/EN/index.html>



EXECUTIVE

President:	Robin Grady	250-992-2008
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OTHER DIRECTORS (and Committees)

Ray Peebles, Lana Fox, Loretta Grady, Andy Motherwell, Pat Pickering, Dave Jorgensen, Doug Perdue, Rick Galbraith

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Friends Of Barkerville-Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society (commonly abbreviated to FoB) has its registered mailing address as P.O. Box 4152, Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3J2. When Barkerville Historic Town is open (mid-May to end-September), FoB staff are at the Barkerville Hotel on Main Street, phone 250-994-3360. In the off season, contact any executive director. E-mail address for all directors year round is friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca. Our web site is linked to www.barkerville.ca, - click on our logo (shown above) in the bottom left corner of Barkerville's home page.

MEMBERSHIP

A FoB membership application is invited from anyone wishing to share our enthusiasm for preserving, presenting and promoting knowledge, events and memorabilia of the original Cariboo Gold Rush and its hub city, Barkerville. Membership gives the member (i) a voice and a vote at the Annual General Meeting, (ii) opportunities to attend executive meetings and (iii) run for office, (iv) discounts at associated historical attractions and businesses.

MEETINGS

Presently scheduled meetings follow; additions and changes will be published in this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

September 4, 2008: Barkerville, BC. Time & address TBA

Directors' Meetings

March 6, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

April 3, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

May 1, 2008, 5:30 PM: Barkerville, BC

June 5, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

July 3, 2008, 5:30 PM: Barkerville, BC

August 7, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

October 2, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

November 6, 2008, 5:30 PM: Tower Inn, Quesnel, BC

December 6 or 13, 2008 (Potluck): Time & location TBA

MERCHANDISE

The Friends Of Barkerville offer souvenirs, crafts, historical books and memorabilia for sale from the Barkerville Hotel during the Town's open season and Christmas weekend.

NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER is FoB's medium for presenting the society's mandatory publications and general news to members. It is published three times a year, exclusively to FoB members and free of charge. It is internet published on the FoB webpage, or is mailed to members without computers. The Editor is Rick Galbraith. Inquiries, letters and contributions can be sent directly to him at hikerdude48@gmail.com, phone 250-994-3445, or can be submitted to The Editor, c/o FoB. (See Contact Information)

CREDITS

All material in THE NEWSLETTER is copyrighted by FoB and the contributor in common, unless otherwise noted. The contributor is the editor, unless otherwise noted. The front cover illustration is by Diana Gauthier. The Goldfields graphic logo heading this page is by Ron Young.

PLEAS(E)

The Friends Of Barkerville, and the THE NEWSLETTER editor especially, are always looking for help, and we use it well. The organization is involved with marketing, restoration and maintenance of artefacts and cemeteries, attending shows, supporting town activities, fostering growth, providing grants and volunteer assistance at many events. The newsletter needs society news and wishes to give readers interesting stories along with it. Contact any director to offer your help. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS

NOTICE

Your current membership expires April 30, 2008.

Negotiations between Friends Of Barkerville and the Barkerville Heritage Trust are ongoing for the 2008 contract year, but we have come to agreement in principal which, we are pleased to advise, permits us to set membership year dues that continue to include unlimited admissions to Barkerville for the 2008 summer season.

We are planning for this newsletter to publish again in May and, assuming negotiations have been completed at that time, we will be able to advise what other benefits the 2008-2009 membership will provide, as well as Barkerville's complete summer schedule. Please look for your renewal application on the back cover. If you have a friend who would like to join, feel free to copy the notice - it can be used as a new application.

Mr. Simon Fraser is getting waves of attention this the 200th year since his great float, while it is largely unknown that John Alexander Fraser, his fourth son, spent a prospector's life around Barkerville. When J. A. Fraser's short and tragic life is documented, usually it is only with respect to his bad luck, bad management, and suicide. He lays in the Barkerville Cemetery where his grave, and dozens more, are lovingly cared for by the Friends Of Barkerville. The diligence of the author of the article below uncovered information about him, and his peers, worth as much as all the gold he never found. Well, maybe not that much. Stephen Wright is Editor of the B.C Chess Federation Bulletin.

William's Creek, 1865: B.C.'S FIRST CHESS TOURNAMENT? By Stephen Wright



The early history of chess in B.C. is largely undocumented. When the province's fledgling cities grew large enough, organized chess followed almost as a matter of course, e.g., the Victoria Chess Club in 1892. However, before that time chess, along with horse racing, gambling, and other more adventurous activities, served as a social outlet from the hardships of pioneer life, and thus is not often mentioned in contemporary sources. One important early account, describing what was perhaps B.C.'s first chess tournament, occurs as a letter to the editor of the Victoria newspaper The Daily British Colonist of March 18, 1865:

*Williams Creek, 18th February 1865
To the editor of the British Colonist*

Sir, It may not be uninteresting to your readers, at least that portion of them who are chess players, to receive an account of a chess tournament which lately took place among the players on the creek. A public notice was put up by some of the most enthusiastic players that a meeting for the purpose of getting up a chess tournament would be held on the 10th ult. At this meeting twelve gentlemen gave in their names as competitors for the championship. It was decided that the players should be divided into pairs by ballot, to play five games, and the first three games won by either of the contestants to decide between them; the winners of these first games to be again paired off to play a like number of games, and so continue to pair off until only one winner remained, who should be declared the champion of the tournament.

Accordingly the players in the first ballot were as follows:

J.A. Fraser vs. D. McNaughton

J. Elliott vs. B. Bellenbur

Jas. T. Steele vs. W. Reynbow

W. Dodd vs. E. Hodgens

J.S. Thompson vs. J. McLaren

[the sixth pairing, presumably involving John Adair, is missing from the original]

Second Ballot

J.A. Fraser vs. John Elliot [sic]

John Adair vs. James T. Steele

Edward Hodgens vs. J.S. Thompson

Third Ballot

The players were now reduced to three, Messrs. Thompson, Fraser and Steele. On drawing for partners the lot fell upon Messrs. Thompson and Fraser to play together and the winner to play Mr. Steele. In this match Mr. Fraser was again the winner. This gentleman had now played three matches without losing a single game, and his friends felt confident that he would come out the victor in the next, but his opponent Mr. Steele proved a tough customer, and after playing five well contested games, they stood two each the fifth one having been a drawn one; then came the deciding game of which I annex a copy, which was won in good style by Mr. Steele, who was accordingly declared the champion of the tournament.

I am, yours, &c. A Chess Player [Ed. The submission to the Colonist is regrettably anonymous]

The 1865 BC Chess Championship's Tie-Breaker

*Fraser, J.A. - Steele, J.T. [C55] Williams Creek, 10.02.1865
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.0-0 d5
7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Ng5
12.Nb3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qe7 14.Bf4 Bb6 15.Qg3 Qe6 16.Kh1 d4
17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Bg5 Rd7 19.f4 Re8 20.Rfe1 Qf5 21.Bf6 g6
22.Qh4 d3 23.Qh6 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qg4+ 25.Kh1 Qf3# 0-1*

[Ed. Some Barkerville background deleted.]

The site of the tournament is not given by the correspondent; the first library in Williams Creek had opened in Cameronton in 1864, so it seems likely the event was publicized via the library, if not actually played there. The format, a series of knockout matches, had been standard since London 1851, and was only gradually supplanted by the round robin in the coming decade. With a minimum of sixteen "rounds" apparently occurring on the same day as the tournament was organized (the letter specifies that the printed final game was played on February 10), the games must have been played at a pretty fast rate. One wonders about the level of play at that speed; although the published game is relatively well-played, this may just reflect on the abilities of the finalists. And what of the players? There is no way of knowing for certain if they are the same persons, but there is a J. McLaren and J.A. Fraser buried in the Barkersville cemetery. John McLaren was a grammar school headmaster before coming to the Cariboo in 1864; for a time he edited the local newspaper, the Cariboo Sentinel. He was killed at age thirty-one by a slide of sand and tailings in 1869. John Alexander Fraser was the fourth son of explorer Simon Fraser; he came to Cameronton in 1864 as an engineer. Money woes over his family's mortgaged farm and an unhappy love affair led him to commit suicide on May 20, 1865 - he was thirty-two. The next day one of the companies he had invested heavily in struck a rich lead. John Adair is identified in the photo at the beginning of this article. A James Steele worked for John Cameron's company, and can be identified in a photo of the latter. There was also a Steele Claim on the creek, said to be the richest piece of ground in the area; in 1861 it was producing thirty to forty pounds of gold a day.

Your Easter Dinner Grace?

The earliest recorded work of Robert W. Service was in 1880, when he was asked to say grace at dinner on his 6th birthday.

God bless the cakes and bless the jam;
Bless the cheese and the cold boiled ham;
Bless the scones Aunt Jeannie makes,
And save us all from belly-aches. Amen

OUTSIDE IN by You.

Ed. OUTSIDE IN is YOUR room. Readers are invited to submit articles or just comments they would like to share with members. This month's letter comes from Louise Gilbert, a long time and very active member.

“When will the paper copy of the Autumn 2007 Friends of Barkerville newsletter come in the mail? Isn't a copy of the newsletter a part of the benefits of membership? Did it miss coming to me, or did the several hundred members who also may not have access to the web get missed along with me? Did I hear right that the 'look' of the newsletter was changed outside of the committee structure approval process?”

ED. Unfortunately, we had Louise's address wrong. We mail to some 320 members, 319 of them accurately. The cost is significant and is the reason we have cut back to three issues a year. If you can give us an e-mail address, we can save expenses which, in turn, allows for more stories.

All changes are done with full committee approval while trying to leave the editor some license in style and content. You'll notice I've started to include images to give you an enhanced perspective to a story. Using a photocopier, these images are not as legible as I'd like, so I am toying with the idea of having the newsletter printed. To support these ambitions, advertising revenue is needed, and you will see in this issue our first paid-for advertisement.

Friends, your input is needed to tell us your preferred method of receiving the newsletter, and to tell us the style you'd like it presented in. Please send in your comments about what you're seeing and what you'd like to see. And if you know someone is not receiving their newsletter, or would like to become a member in order to start receiving one, be sure to write to let us know.

BARKERVILLE HOTEL REPORT based on material contributed by Cathy Eisma & Lana Fox

Another fun and successful Victorian Christmas in Barkerville brought over \$1000 in sales. Complimentary hot apple cider and cookies were enjoyed by cheerful customers.

The Friends Of Barkerville's



continuing presence at the hotel in 2008 remains unratified, but it is hoped negotiations will allow us to remain there at least another three years. Moreover, directors are looking at making some exciting changes in what you'll see there this coming year. Watch for news in the May issue but, if you're not sure, drop by anyway – you'll probably still see Miss Eisma or volunteers Mr. Peebles, Miss Groulx, Mr. Hack, Madame Fox or Mr. Scott, as usual, in their charming and dignified Victorian costume.

BARKERVILLE AND STANLEY CEMETERIES based on material contributed by R. Grady

The Friends would like to finish the Stanley Cemetery this year. Director Doug Perdue is being a great help from his garage as he is working on new fence pickets already. We're not quite sure what we are going to do about the "Barkerville Cemetery Trust" which we agreed to administer. It seems the area within the cemetery that this trust covers is not the traditional area that the Friends are interested in. The trust, apparently, is set up only for the new portion, and it is felt that that would be better administered by the District Of Wells. Meanwhile, Free Masons' Cariboo Lodge have advised they have a unique interest in the Barkerville Cemetery as well. Meanwhile, the commitment to repair the retaining wall, which borders the traditional area, is still on the table while we look at various approaches to financing it. When this is all sorted out, we will report further.

HATS OFF! by Rick Galbraith

I've got several accolades to make this month. Hats off to pioneers, including modern pioneers such as Holger Bauer, who was tragically killed last year. One of Holger's life loving times was captured wonderfully by Eva Grandell a few months before his death and can be seen on Page 5. Hats off to Eva and Lief of Grandell Studio, www.grandellphoto.com, long time members of The Friends, and to the many other camera workers who for 150 years and more have given us exciting visual glimpses of our past. For a directory of historical BC photographers, check out the dedicated work of David Mattison at <http://members.shaw.ca/bchistorian/cw1858-1950.html>. Hats off to people such as David, and to Stephen Wright (Page 3) and our member Jeff Dinsdale (Page 5) who bring it to you without expectation of reward except your pleasure. Thank you fellas; history needs to be freely shared.



Hats back on, arms folded and a foot tapping the floor to those who wish to make history their own. Nothing seems more nonsensical than the idea of moving Billy Barker's remains to the Cariboo. We hope Mr. Hogg will give long thought to what Billy's wishes might have been. (See report, Cariboo Observer, January 30). Hats back off to Mr. Hogg who publicly (BC150 Kickoff, Quesnel, January 24) touted the gumption of our member Angela Zieske for bringing us an entertaining way to learn, enjoy and reflect on our history. Angela's game, PayDirt, is available at the Barkerville Hotel. Opinions expressed here are mine, all mine.

WINTER WHOAS

The off-season in Barkerville is far from dull. Hallowe'en spirits mix with the town's own to delight children and adults both, then there's cross-country skiing down the main street or snowmobiling down the back street, and of course the traditional Christmas weekend with horse-drawn sleigh rides, and... wait... do you hear what I hear? Why, it's the dogs!

The annual Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run, when mushers and dogs carry the mail on sleds from Quesnel to Barkerville via Cottonwood House, Pine Grove House, Stanley, Van Winkle and Richfield, was held January 24-27. Movie stars and movie makers were there. Mushers from Minnesota, California, Alaska and the Yukon were there. Canadian Geographic is to feature the event (again). European films are to be made. It was a BC150 Celebration. I asked Jeff Dinsdale, co-chair of this event and a Friends member, about the history of sled dogs in the Cariboo and whether there's any record of them being part of the great rush.

THE USE OF SLED DOGS IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA (WHERE WERE THE SLED DOGS ALONG THE CARIBOO WAGGON ROAD?) by Jeff Dinsdale First Nations History

There is a long-established tradition among certain First Nations of the use of dogs as draft animals, a tradition that goes back at least 300 years and in many cases, certainly with the Inuit, thousands of years. But this is not a universal tradition among all First Nations. In British Columbia it would appear that First Nations Groups in the northern part of the province had an established tradition of using sled dogs for winter transport; these First Nations would include the Sekani, Gitskan, Tahltan. However a notable exclusion from this list are both the Northern and Southern Carrier First Nations, the Shuswap and Chilcotin First Nations. It is in the traditional territory of these First Nations that the early documented exploration and the development of the fur trade took place.

1806 - 1850... The Fur Trade Era

There followed a brief period (1810 - 1850) when the fur trade in central and northern British

Columbia, in the region referred to as New Caledonia, flourished. It is in conjunction with this development that we begin to read about the use of sled dogs in this region.

New Caledonia was among the most isolated parts of the fur trading empire. As a result there were significant problems with both supply and the delivery of the returns of the fur trade (animal pelts) to the central depots. From the beginning, New Caledonia dispatched its returns and usually received its supplies via the Fraser-Peace-Athabasca-Churchill River route. The returns of the district's several posts (including Forts Fraser, Babine, George, Alexandria) had to be pressed and packed and then delivered by sled dogs to the depot of Stuart's Lake (Fort St. James) by the middle of February for checking and then forwarding to the departure point of McLeod's Lake (Fort McLeod) before spring break-up or by the end of February.

This whole process was hampered by the lack of suitable sled dogs in this area. John Stuart, who was factor at Fort St. James in 1821 wrote "It is not too much to say that circumstanced as we are at present, one dog would be of more essential service to the concern of New Caledonia than three men". Later the same year he wrote "but dogs is the most necessary article that can be sent to New Caledonia, they are the tools with which we labour".

It would appear that in New Caledonia in the 1820's a dog's life truly was a dog's life. "Dogs were not infrequently in short supply, dying of starvation in the long, cold winters following the periodic failure of the summer salmon run". Stuart lamented "some of the Company's dogs I apprehend will starve to death and it is impossible for me to save them for want of salmon". This was written a month before the August salmon run of 1820. Dogs were always in danger of being eaten by starving natives or hungry whites. Brigaders not infrequently ate dog flesh and horse meat. Simon Fraser testified that dog was a favourite dish of Canadian voyageurs, and Canadian boatmen on the Columbia considered it choice food.

There were really no suitable animals available. In the mid 1800's, the Hudson's Bay Company had imported large numbers of sled dogs from the Lake Athabasca region to facilitate their trade and winter communication between Fort Alexandria, Fort St. James, Fort McLeod, Fort George, Fort Fraser and Fort Babine, but the use of sled dogs in north central British Columbia did not become widespread.

1860's...The Collins Overland Telegraph

A significant development in western and northern Canadian history that had some influence on the establishment of future transportation patterns was the unsuccessful attempt to construct the Collins Overland telegraph between North America and Russia in the 1860's. This development was taking place in concert with the establishment of the Cariboo Waggon Road and so it was only logical that the telegraph line would follow this route to Quesnel. For many years, Quesnel was the jumping off point for the north and this led to

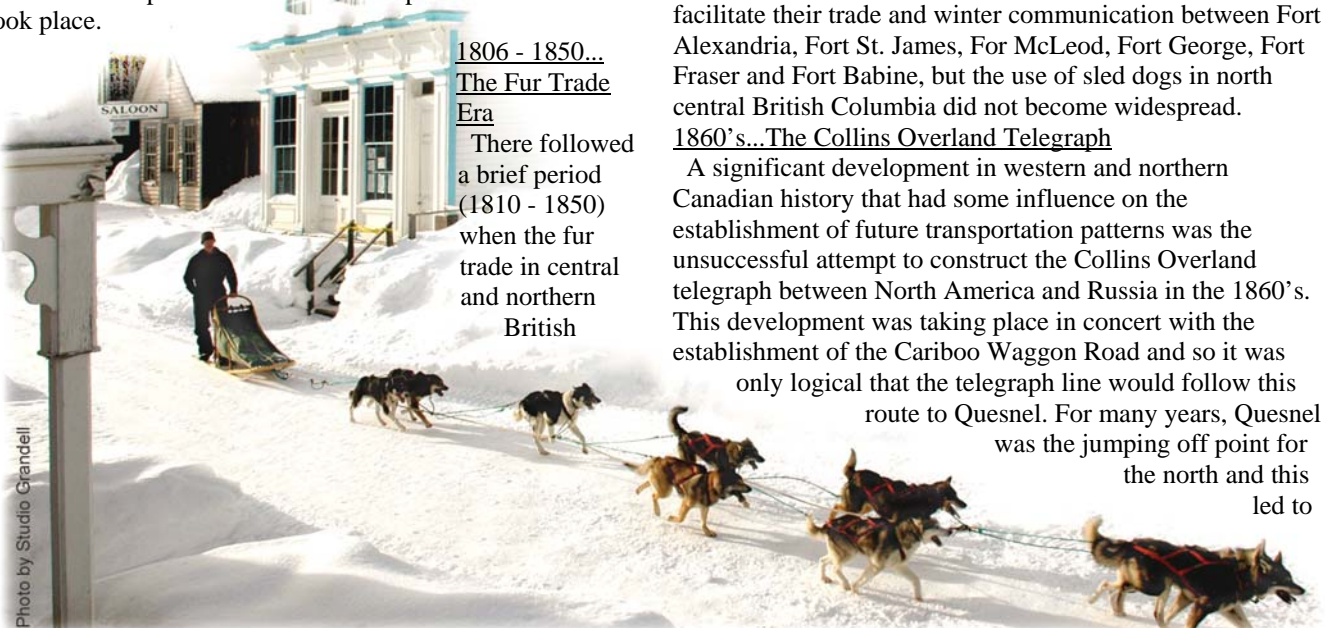


Photo by Studio Grandell

the development of the route through Blackwater to Fort Fraser and beyond. It was also a reason why Quesnel later became a staging area once the sternwheelers started travelling on the Upper Fraser River. But did the men stringing the telegraph wire and exploring the route use sled dogs? Well, it would appear that initially they preferred to walk and there are illustrations showing these men exploring the route on snowshoes.

1860's... The Cariboo Gold Rush

The late 1850's and 1860's also brought the Cariboo Gold Rush and, as mentioned, the eventual construction of the Cariboo Waggon Road. The Cariboo Waggon Road made it possible for horses to be used to carry passengers and heavy freight. We have all seen photos of the freight wagons hitched in tandem pulled by teams of up to 8 horses and of course they would stop at the Road Houses. How else did the gold seekers get to their destination...were there sled dogs on this road? Well after some pretty exhaustive seeking, it would appear that the answer to that question is probably NO! It would seem that if they didn't have the money to take the stage, miners also preferred to walk. There is a well-known photo of miners using an ingenious one-wheeled contrivance known as a trundle barrow to transport their load along the Cariboo Waggon Road. What is not so well known is that they had a winter equivalent known as a One Armed John...really one large ski fitted with a small box or basket and handle bars which allowed one miner to push while the other would pull.

1890's Yukon Telegraph

Another significant event in western and northern Canadian history that prompted and probably even necessitated the creation of a more formally organized system of transportation and communication was Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1890's in the Yukon. Because of the magnitude of this development and the thousands of people involved, the old Collins Overland route was dusted off and the Yukon Telegraph Line was constructed. Again, Quesnel became a jumping off point.

There are documented records and photos of mail being delivered along the Yukon Telegraph Trail from the turn of the 20th century to the 1920's by dog team. One often-reproduced photo shows a beautifully bedecked dog team



(Photo courtesy Quesnel Museum & Archives)

in collar harness and bright-coloured collar horns resting in front of the old Hudsons Bay Store on Front Street. The musher is slinging a set of huge snowshoes over his rifle which in turn he is cradling in his arms, he presents an imposing sight.

Several locals are looking on at the team as it is resting up, probably after completing the run from Fort Fraser. This photo most likely dates to the 1920's, after Charles Allison purchased the Hudson's Bay company store, using it as the location of his Drug and Book store, and as he was also Postmaster, he operated the post office from the rear of the main building

1900's Grand Trunk Pacific Railway

Yet another development that had a significant influence on transportation and in fact on the use of sled dogs in western Canada was the construction in the early 1900's of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from Yellowhead Pass to the Pacific Ocean at Prince Rupert.

1930's... The Adventurers

During the Great Depression, folks did whatever it took to make a living and survive. Two of these individuals were Slim Williams of Alaska and Paddy Carroll of Ootsa Lake. The former travelled all the way to the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 by dog team, stopping in Quesnel for a few days en route. Paddy Carroll and his wife Sammie actually travelled to New York City (and return) by dog team in 1936, again stopping off in Quesnel en route. There are those alive in Quesnel today who still have a memory of this couple coming through town. They stopped long enough to put their sled onto a wheeled chassis as the snow had melted and they did the rest of their trip on wheels, it took them almost two years.

Trappers and Miners in Barkerville

Mail was not delivered to the Barkerville area by sled dogs because of the depth of the snowfall making it impractical. Still, there are documented records of some miners using sled dogs in that area for their own personal use, travelling back and forth to their claims. Among these individuals are Fled Fleury, Ernie Holms, Tim Cushman and others.

Summary

The reality is roads and horses and sternwheelers were a much more efficient way to deliver large amounts of freight. Another reality is that the climate of the Cariboo, with relatively deep snowfalls did not lend itself to the use of sled dogs. As well, there was not an established tradition of sled dog use among local First Nations people.

In order for sled dogs to be utilized efficiently, it was necessary for trails to be either clearly established through forested country and for the snow to be packed down by frequent traffic (either horse and sleigh or people on snowshoes) or the routes of travel needed to concentrate on frozen rivers and lakes, where the wind tends to blow the snow away, preventing it from building up and becoming too deep, therefore making dog team travel fairly easy. In the Quesnel area, the only route that seemed to lend itself to this method of transportation was the Yukon Telegraph Line between Quesnel through Blackwater to Fort Fraser, thus creating the needed winter connection with the north. From there it would be carried by other sled dog teams along the Yukon Telegraph Line through Hazelton, Telegraph Creek, Glenora, Atlin, Whitehorse and eventually to Dawson City.

DREDGING FOR GOLD by Andy Motherwell

The Cariboo gold rush officially began in 1858 after the [Hudson's Bay Company] had shipped about 40lb (22kg) of the yellow metal to San Francisco - the secret was out and since the California rush had played out, thousands of the USA miners headed north to find their Eldorado.

The trip was a long one and most miners travelled very light. Like water flowing every which way, the men (women were less than scarce) spread out to test every conceivable stream, sand bar or bench. They found the places where gold was easy to find and later sank shafts and tunnels such as Billy Barker's group did.

As these surf aces played out, machines were devised to dig deeper and move a lot of gravel, literally right in the streams. Huge floating barges using steam power dug the gravel, washed it for its gold and deposited the waste in piles as the barge moved along the creek. The Klondike has many examples of these immense tailings but you can see similar evidence near Antler Creek on the road to Yank's Peak.

Once the workings were finished, the boilers, the huge buckets and conveyors were removed to the next location.



The [above] photo shows the remains (near Antler City) of the dredge once owned by the Lieutenant Governor of B.C.

Just a few timbers show in the pond now (the picture was taken in 1965), the buildings of Antler City are long gone but the tailings piles are all that is left. The area is a metal detectors' paradise.

In the Cariboo you have to look a bit to find evidence as the forest has hidden much of the past.

MYTH-TAKES

This column is dedicated to the idea of sorting out our sometimes confusing history. Researchers generally accept that the earlier you go, the more likely you are to have an accurate account of things. Well, regrettably, I've found that some early accounts are so colourfully enhanced as to become unbelievable when stacked against other recorded information. The style of early authors and editors indicates how richly stories are salted for more exciting reading. Even letters and journals are sometimes too colourful to be totally believed.

Victorian times were passionate, full of challenge and adventure. The final copy was of stories more daring than factual, and often the author gave no accounting for what was said, nor was asked to. Why, Cariboo Cameron might have made more from a slander suit than his gold mine if he had chosen to sue that New York newspaper. You didn't hear that story? Well, perhaps I'll fill you in one day.

Yes, onus of proof was lacking, audits were uncommon, and levels of trust followed status. Still, they are what we have and we are very lucky to have them.

Who the heck imported them damned camels anyway?

Did a dancer start the fire?

Who built the Alexandra Bridge you see north of Spuzzum?

Why did the Cariboo Waggon Road by-pass Williams Lake?

These and other questions about Gold Rush Myth-takes are crying to be answered here. Watch for jaw dropping surprises in future issues! If you have something that helps clear up myths, send it to us, will you?



I'D LIKE TO THINK ABOUT VOLUNTEER WORK FOR THE FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

MY NAME'S ON THE BACK AND MY AREAS OF INTEREST ARE:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Newsletter | |
| Greeting visitors | Assisting with historical interpretation and sales in Hotel |
| Gardening | Special events (set up, food service, hospitality, clean up) |
| Phoning committees | Trail maintenance |
| Carpentry | Cemetery maintenance |
| Painting | Researching heritage plants and gardens |
| Street clean up | Cataloguing of artifacts (*special training required) |



**THE FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE**

They are hosting the
Theatre Royal Tour Stop at

**CHUCK MOBLEY THEATRE, QUESNEL
7:00 PM, MARCH 25, 2008**

**TICKETS: Members \$12; Students \$8;
Others \$17 At Door or \$12 Advance Purchase**

TICKET PURCHASE LOCATIONS

Caryall Books, Quesnel Museum, Circle "S" Western Wear,
Cariboo Keepsakes, Rodeo Creek

INFORMATION

Rick Galbraith, 250-994-3445, hikerdude48@gmail.com
Robin Grady, 250-992-2008, lorettagrady@yahoo.com
Tony Bensted, 250-992-5958 tbensted@quesnelbc.com
Newman & Wright Theatre Co. 250-994-3340

Leaders Of Light Leisure

In the premier issue of The Cariboo Sentinel, June 6, 1865, you will find John Bowron entreating miners to loan books from his library in Cameronton and you will find the proprietor of the Parlor Saloon in Barkerville inviting miners to come and enjoy a "charitable benefit" giving "miscellaneous entertainment". Two weeks later, the paper published James Anderson's first of his many letters to his dear Sawney. In August that year, it reported on the success of the Cariboo Amateur Dramatic Association (CADA) show at the Parlor Saloon and in September reported the success of the Cariboo Glee Club with James Anderson and William Barry as the prominent vocalists.

Thespial Vestibule

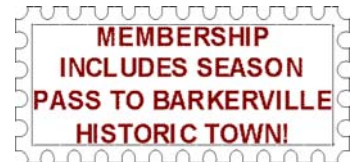
Culture starved miners needed leisure entertainment and pioneer performers such as these men brought it to them in style. A new home for CADA, Theatre Royal, was built in 1868 in partnership with the Williams Creek Fire Brigade. In 1937, a community hall was built on that site after the multi-purpose structure was condemned and razed. Eventually the hall again became home to today's Theatre Royal, and a façade was placed on the building to resemble the original structure of 1868.

Is Hilarity What You Want?

Today, the hard work of the Newman & Wright Theatre Company renders refreshing, robust, rapturous and sometimes outrageous retrospects of Barkerville in a way that would please the most demanding miner or friend.



**FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 4152
QUESNEL, B.C. V2J 3J2
email: friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca**



- Yes, please, I'd love to become a member.
- Kindly renew my membership.

- Family \$45
- Single \$20

- Please bill me
- Money attached

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Um, sure... I'd like to think about volunteering to help the Friends (See over)