



FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 20 ISSUE 2

LIGHTNING CREEK GROUP OF MINERS

Fall/Winter 2021



P-0296 Barkerville Photograph Collection 1999.9.172 (Tregillus Photo)

Harry Jones, Jack Tierney, —Stiles, George Rankin and Sam Montgomery standing in front of a shed at a mine. (In another copy of this photo, the man identified here as George Rankin as instead been identified as F.J.T (Fred Tregillus). Location: Lightning Creek Date: ca. 1903

**“THESE OLD BUILDINGS DO NOT BELONG TO US ONLY; THAT
THEY HAVE BELONGED TO OUR FOREFATHERS, AND THEY
WILL BELONG TO OUR DESCENDANTS,”**

William Morris



FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE-CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Hildur Sinclair

VICE PRESIDENT: Grant Johannesen

SECRETARY: Cam Graham

TREASURER: Tony McDonald

OTHER DIRECTORS:

Robin Grady

Kwynn Bodman

Richard Wright

Brendan Bailey

Emily Lindstrom

DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

Monthly meetings are held at Troll Resort. We try to hold two of the meetings about June and September in the town of Barkerville in the new school building. Members and or the Public can attend these meetings if they like but, the public cannot vote unless it is at the AGM meeting itself. You can however express your input of suggestions or ideas.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS:

The contributor is the editor unless otherwise noted. All persons with submission of articles and photos will be given full credit. Please feel free to send in your items of interest which further helps the newsletter to continue.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Friends of Barkerville –

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society mailing address is P.O. Box 4152, Quesnel, BC, V2J 3J2.

Our email address is: friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca and website is

www.friendsofbarkerville.ca

Watch for notifications posted for newsletters, and upcoming announcements of hikes and work bees or special events happening at Barkerville. They can always use extra hands during these times. We are always in need of volunteers. Any help is very much appreciated.

POSITIONS: are good for a one-year term at which time there will be another election of officers at the AGM meeting in Nov.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS: membership, special projects, trails, cemetery projects, newsletter, website.

MEMBERSHIP is from May 1st and ends April 30th of the following year. You are entitled to a 20% discount upon arriving at the entrance to Barkerville, 10% discount on a day pass at Troll Ski Resort, 10% off your bill at Barkerville Brewing Co., in Quesnel, free ice cream at Frog on the Bog Gifts in Wells, & free flight of beer at Bricklayer Brewing Co. in Chilliwack.

WHO WE ARE: We are a registered non-profit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers. Our main focus is to enhance the preservation, protection and promotion as it applies to Barkerville and the Historic Cariboo Goldfields area.

***MEMBERSHIP Contact:** Lana Fox

***NEWSLETTER Contact:** Direct submission of articles to Lana Fox (FOB email address)





PRESIDENTS REPORT- November 16, 2021

Operating through a covid year presents a unique set of challenges to a Non-profit group like ourselves; however, we did manage to have our quota of meetings, and make some positive progress.



We are continuing to be patient as we wait for government approval on our charitable status application. We were successful in obtaining funds of \$50,000.00 from BGM to allow us to continue the restoration work on the Stanley to Barkerville trail. This work was contracted out, and we are very pleased with the outcome. More work on interpretive signage and maintenance will continue next season.

Barkerville itself had lower revenues and visitor turn outs, due to Covid19. And as we move forward and through this pandemic, FOB endeavours to continue to help Barkerville preserve and protect its heritage history and the trails that once travelled there.

FOB has a great core of dedicated people that are a pleasure to work with.

Thank you.

Hildur Sinclair

President FOB director

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, recently held their Annual General Meeting November 16th, 2021 at Troll Ski Hill in the lodge. There are a few changes with directors, two stepping down and three new coming on board. Two long time directors have stepped down, Lana Fox and Doug Perdue.

Welcome aboard.....Kwynn Bodman, Brendan Bailey and Emily Lindstrom!

Election of officers is as follows:

President: Hildur Sinclair

Vice President: Grant Johannesen

Treasurer: Tony McDonald

Secretary: Cam Graham

Directors: Robin Grady

Richard Wright

Kwynn Bodman

Brendan Bailey

Emily Lindstrom





BHT REPORT FOB – CGHS AGM

Barkerville Heritage Trust (BHT)

Report for Nov. 16, 2021 AGM



The last face to face BHT Board meeting was Feb. 2020 in Burnaby.
Since then, the meetings have all been done by using Zoom, connecting us virtually.
The Board, Management, and staff have faced many challenges, trying not to panic.
Floods, fires, smoke, truth & reconciliation, and a global COVID pandemic.
Funding from the provincial government is an ongoing contentious issue.
Enough money to operate but no extra for some things we want to do.
To enable the summer season to proceed with the many colourful Street Interpreters,
Osisko Development Corporation – BGM donated \$500,000.00.
Some changes occurred with Ed, Dawn, Jillian, & Ksenya leaving.
Resulting in staff reorganization and restructuring.
Ryan Adams was hired as Chief Financial Officer.
Becoming Finance, Human Relations, and Projects Manager.
Plans were put in place with Northern Health & WorkSafeBC, in advance.
400 people allowed on site at one time, increased daily attendance.
Individual street interpreters presented historical vignettes,
to a family or one on one, using minimal props, no stages or sets.
The waterwheel show was able to proceed out in fresh air.
Telling everyone in the audience to leave 'er right there.
The forest fuel management project is a hot topic.
Talks about Logging and stumpage costs have been energetic.
Facts and truths are being told about First Nations people in Barkerville's history.
2 Indigenous interpreters relate this through interpretation and story.
Miriam Schilling is stepping down from BHT as representative for Tourism.
She is now being replaced by Indigenous Tourism of BC's, Melanie Bingham.
Our first face-to-face meeting since February 2020 was held in P.G.
9 Directors attended in person and 5 by Zoom, which was nice to hear and see.
Directors met to discuss a vision and plan for next year and in the future.
Brainstorming and making hard decisions so Barkerville continues to endure.
All options were laid out onto the table, unless strongly opposed.
Open up as usual, modified hours and days, or being closed.
Provide Interpretation at what level, how will it look and feel?
Theatre Royal, organized street gatherings, and the Water Wheel?
Funding for cemeteries is provided through communities.
None available provincially through parks or Societies.
2021 attendance was 22,078, impacted by environmental disasters and a pandemic.
A COVID outbreak in Wells caused the season to end a week early in September to
keep things in check.

Kirstin Clausen, new Exec. Director for Heritage BC resigned as Chair.
Al Richmond will now step up to replace her and Craig Smith will remain as Vice Chair.
Government, Staff, Directors, employees, BGM, and "Friends" work together with good will.
So that the public can enjoy and visit the BC historic site of Barkerville.
Representing the Friends of Barkerville – Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society.
In my role as a Director of Barkerville Heritage Trust I take it seriously.

Respectfully submitted by Grant Johannesen, Vice President FOB-CGHS/BHT Director



FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE – CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF JERRY MACDONALD

In 1862 a little town called Barkerville, located in beautiful British Columbia, exploded with life. The gold rush had hit Barkerville a few years prior and was bringing in people from everywhere. The rumors of gold in the Fraser River had proven to be true and everyone wanted to score big and find gold. Among all the people drawn to Barkerville was a Miss Florence Wilson. Miss Florence Wilson came to North America on the first official bride ship, the Tynemouth, headed for North America. She sailed over from London, England, where she was born in 1821 and lived for almost 40 years before arriving in Canada, catching gold fever, and starting her journey to Barkerville.

Before arriving in Canada and working in Fort Victoria, Miss Wilson was a governess in Russia. In 1852 Miss Wilson had been on her way back to London for a visit when the steamer she was on, Victoria, shipwrecked. Miss Wilson spends nearly 24 hours on the rocks before a boat came and rescued her along with the other survivors. Due to the shipwreck, Miss Florence Wilson missed her next boat, the Helen Macgregor, and since her passport and luggage had already been on the ship, she lost everything she had, which amounted to roughly \$20,000 in today's currency. Since Miss Wilson did well in Russia, she decided she would return to Russia in 1856, to try to recoup some of her financial loss. She started giving lessons in Russia and finances were looking better but within a few short months, Miss Wilson had to return to London on family matters, leaving behind Russia for good.

In 1862, at the age of 39, Miss Florence Wilson boarded a bride ship, traveling with the Middle-Class Emigration Society, founded by Maria Rye. This was a three-month voyage, with the end destination of Fort Victoria. For two years she lived in Fort Victoria and made a good life for herself. She started off sewing and selling clothes, then became the owner of a fancy goods and stationery shop, located on Government Street. In 1864, the lure of gold fever caught up with Miss Wilson and she decided to close shop and start the two-week journey to Barkerville to start a claim. It was while she was in Barkerville that Miss Florence Wilson met Samuel B. Tomkins, a Williams Creek entrepreneur and blacksmith working in the gold town. In the summer of 1864, when presbyterian minister reverend John Hall came to Barkerville, Mr. Tomkins and Miss Wilson got married.

The same year Miss Florence Wilson got married she also left Barkerville for a year. She had traveled down to Idaho. To this day it is still unknown why she had traveled to Idaho. Some speculated that she followed the gold rush to Idaho, which seemed odd because she had established herself in Barkerville at this point and the gold rush in Barkerville was

still going. Still, perhaps finding gold was not as easy as she expected and she took a gamble at a less established area. While in Idaho, Mrs. Florence Wilson gave birth to a daughter, Alice Nellie Tomkins. Not much is known of Alice and even when Mrs. Florence Wilson returned to Barkerville in 1865, it is unknown if her daughter came back with her, since Alice is not mentioned in any of Barkerville's history.

Miss Florence Wilson decided to settle her roots in Barkerville at last and became well established. She became a successful saloon owner and brought up to 8 more shares in the mining claims, one of which was known as "The Florence Claim" and applied for more mining licenses. She was also known as one of British Columbia's first librarians, opening a library with her personal books. She became a founder of the Cariboo Literary Institute. As if all these accomplishments were not enough! Florence threw her dedication into becoming a founder of the Pickwick Club and the Cariboo Amateur Dramatic Association, as well as a member of the Theatre Royal as an actress.

Three years later the tragic fire of 1868 tore through Barkerville. After the fire, everyone rallied together, and the process of rebuilding started. Both the library and her saloon were rebuilt, and she ironically renamed the saloon "The Phoenix". Continuing on her life in Barkerville Mrs. Florence Wilson assumed a managerial position at the Theatre Royal and continued acting. Her last performance was in 1873, "Caught by the Cuff".

In 1875, at the age of 52, Mrs. Florence Wilson seemed to vanish without a trace, only a decade after arriving at Barkerville. After years of research six people, Amy Newman, Dr. Judith Booth, Konstantin Vasilyev, Lana Fox, Lewis Davenport, and Richard Wright, finally solved the enigma Mrs. Florence Wilson had become. Finally, it was discovered that she had left for California, with her husband, Samuel B. Tomkins. In 1876 Mr. Tomkins died of Mountain Fever, at the age of 48. Perhaps his health was the reason that she, her husband, and Alice left Barkerville. Mrs. Florence Wilson struggled to survive and tried turning to the Royal Literary Fund at age 62 for help. Her request was denied on the grounds that she did not have enough work to submit.

Mrs. Florence Wilson did eventually remarry. This time marrying James Hopkins, a veteran of the Mexican/American war. They stayed in Napa, California around Saint Helena for most of their time together and Mrs. Wilson is remembered as a pioneer woman of California. A few years after marriage James Hopkins died in 1890 at age 70 of a stroke. After this Mrs. Florence Wilson moved to San Francisco and applied for a war widow pension and was granted \$8 a month.

In 1889 Mrs. Wilson's daughter, Alice Nellie Tomkins became Alice Nellie Tomkins Inwood after marrying William Inwood. Alice and William take up residence in Eagle coast and Mrs. Wilson moves in with them during their first few years of marriage. Later, Mrs. Florence Wilson decides to move in with a friend and fellow writer by the name of Grace Helen Hibbard. In 1902 Mrs. Florence Margret Wilson Tomkins Hopkins died of heart disease at age 79, in the home of Grace Helen Hibbard. Her daughter Alice followed 7 years later and died in 1909 at age 43 of the same thing, heart disease.

Mrs. Florence Wilson will continue to be remembered and never forgotten. She left her mark from her contribution to the gold rush of Barkerville to the early days of California and to this day she is shown as one of the main people in Barkerville. As her character is often seen portrayed on the streets of the historic town. Currently, her character is played by Danette Boucher, who has done a wonderful job of portraying a character who little was known about until recently. Some go so far as to say that Mrs. Florence Wilson made her

way back to her happy days at the Theatre royal and currently her spirit is content to haunt the theatre.

What an interesting and diverse life Mrs. Florence Wilson led, and I would like to extend a huge gratitude to Richard Wright and his research friends throughout five continents for bringing this story to light.



Written by Emily Nelson, March 2021

TIDBITS / NOTES OF PROJECTS ON THE GO & OTHER ITEMS IN NEED OF ADDRESSING/CHANGES....

-FOB donated funding last year in the amount of \$20,000 to Barkerville Historic Town towards the making of new headboards for the old section of the Barkerville Cemetery. We hope this can be completed next year in 2022.

-FOB is still waiting to hear about our Charitable status results, hopefully will be received by early January or February of 2022. We can then issue receipts for any and all donations we receive.

-FOB is no longer responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the outhouses at Blessings Grave and Stanley cemetery sites. This ended in the fall of 2020. Any inquires please contact CRD.

-FOB to create a new brochure/postcard to distribute with membership purchases and to place at various locations around Quesnel, Wells and Barkerville.

-TRAILS.....Robin Grady says that windthrow on the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail at 0.5km above the Courthouse needs a cleanup. Sounds like a Work B coming up next season. Volunteers willing to help out would be much appreciated.

-Work was started on the Cariboo Waggon Road (CWR) restoration project late this summer with a "Great Big Thank you" to Osisko Development - Barkerville Gold Mines \$50,000 donation making this possible and also to Ian MacDonald hired as the contractor to do the work needed. Ian cut back and brushed more of the road, fixed culverts, leveled some road surfaces, and completely reopened the 2.4km Houseman loop, which Angie Justason' had surveyed earlier. Thank you to Angie for her involvement and GPS work. Ian surveyed for a new route from Stanley through Amador for next years project and he installed a gate at the Milk Ranch hill. He also cut a new trail around some badly washed-out section between Summit Rock and Jack of Clubs Creek. The old waggon road is wider and smoother now.

-We will be planning and working on signage for the Stanley to Richfield portion of the CWR.

-We are actively promoting our Memberships for individuals, couples, and families.

****By the way, these make ideal gifts or stocking stuffers for your friends and families at the same time helping us raise funds for projects in and around Barkerville.**



Barkerville Gold Mines invests in Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project

October 15, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(WELLS) Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd. (BGM) is investing \$50,000 in restoring the Cariboo Waggon Road between Stanley and Barkerville.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Osisko Development, BGM made the grant to the Friends of Barkerville Cariboo Goldfields Society (FOB) to fund work on the 15 km, provincially designated route as part of the Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project.

“Osisko Development and Barkerville Gold Mines are excited to see the area between Stanley and Barkerville developed for more year-round recreational opportunities, including a public day hike route between the two historic sites,” says Chris Lodder, CEO and President of Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd.

“This project not only adds to local recreational prospects, but also to the local economy and the preservation of local history.”

The grant will be used to clear and improve the road which runs through the rugged Cariboo Mountains. A workplan is being developed to determine the scope of amenities to be added

like picnic tables and toilets. Interpretive and directional signage and a gate will also be installed.

The FOB have been custodians of the Stanley to Barkerville section of the Cariboo Waggon Road since the mid-1980's and have done maintenance and posted signage along the trail over the years as funds and volunteers have been available.

"We are excited and appreciative for the generous donation of funds from Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd.," says FOB Vice President Grant Johannesen.

"We are fortunate and pleased to be able to work in partnership on the Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project with the New Pathways to Gold Society and other project partners."

The provincially-designated heritage route is the responsibility of Recreation Sites and Trails B.C., which has partnered with FOB to keep the route clear and maintained. Some trail work on the route is already being done as part of the Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project (CWRRP) funded by the New Pathways to Gold Society (NPTGS).

"Working with our neighbours and friends such as the Friends of Barkerville to rebuild and enhance traditional Indigenous trade routes like the Stanley-Barkerville trail provides valuable opportunities to share the real stories of the region with locals and visitors as we continue our work towards reconciliation," says NPTGS Indigenous Co-Chair Cheryl Chapman.

The Stanley-Barkerville project is part of the larger CWRRP, which will see intact, accessible sections of the historic route restored all along its 650 km length from Yale to Barkerville. NPTGS recently received \$100,000 in funding from the B.C. Government's Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative to begin work on sections from Clinton to Lac la Hache.

"This is a perfect example of how communities, heritage groups, corporations, government and others can work together to create heritage tourism assets that will create jobs as well as providing visitors with unforgettable visitor experiences," says CWRRP Project Leader Richard Wright.

"These trails are economic engines that help build local economies and thanks to BGM for supporting us and the communities."

BGM is owned by the Osisko Development Corporation, a premier gold development company in North America. The BGM Cariboo Gold Project is Osisko Development's flagship asset.

FOB is a registered non-profit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers. Its vision is to enhance the preservation, protection and promotion of the rich heritage of the Cariboo Gold Fields.

NPTGS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of local economies via heritage tourism and Indigenous Reconciliation. Since 2007, the Society has raised over \$4.25 million to build economies in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities from Hope to Barkerville.



CWRRP Leader Richard Wright holding the remains of an arrow wagon wheel c. 1920, found on the Stanley-Barkerville section of the Cariboo Waggon Road.

Photo taken by Amy Newman

Barkerville Gold Mine donates \$50,000 to historic road restoration

Funds will go toward 15-kilometre stretch of the road between Stanley and Barkerville. Restoration of the historic Cariboo Waggon Road received a \$50,000 boost last week, thanks to Barkerville Gold Mines.

The grant was made to the Friends of Barkerville Cariboo Goldfields Society (FOB) to fund work on a 15-kilometre stretch of the road between Stanley and Barkerville, which runs through the Cariboo Mountains.

"We are excited and appreciative for the generous donation of funds from Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd.," FOB vice-president Grant Johannesen said in a release. "We are fortunate and

pleased to be able to work in partnership on the Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project with the New Pathways to Gold Society and other project partners.”

The grant money will be used to clear and improve the stretch of road; amenities such as picnic tables and toilets are also being explored.

This latest project part of the larger Cariboo Waggon Road Restoration Project which aims to refurbish accessible sections of the historic route along its 650-kilometre length from Yale to Barkerville. Most recently, \$100,000 in funding was provided by the provincial government’s Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative to commence work on sections of the road between Clinton and Lac La Hache.

“This is a perfect example of how communities, heritage groups, corporations, government and others can work together to create heritage tourism assets that will create jobs as well as providing visitors with unforgettable experiences,” CWRR project leader Richard Wright said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Don Hauka,
Executive Director,
New Pathways to Gold Society
Email: ddclauka@shaw.ca
Cell: 604-787-9155



FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE – CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF JERRY MACDONALD

Have you ever gone to the dentist? Well, I have, and it isn’t my favorite experience. Now what if I told you that when you first visited your dentist, he had no official license to practice. Tall tale – not so, if you lived in Barkerville during the Cariboo Gold Rush. William Allen Jones, also known as “Painless Jones”, arrived in Barkerville ready to practice. This is his story.

William Allen Jones was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1831 to parents Allen Jones and Temperance Jones. William had five siblings, James, John, Elias, Sophia and another sibling whose name is unknown. William’s father, Allen Jones bought his family’s freedom in North Carolina for five thousand dollars, as the Jones lived in the United States during a time of injustice and racism. Allen Jones had also attempted to establish a school for black children, but it was burnt down repeatedly by local white residents. Following this Allen Jones decided to move his family to Oberlin, where William was able to graduate from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1857.

After he had graduated, William moved to California with his brothers, Elias and John who had both also graduated from Oberlin College. The Jones brothers stay in California was

cut short when there was an increasing fear of California becoming a slave state. The Jones Brothers, along with many other African-Americans, then moved to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia in 1859. William and Elias had heard news of the Cariboo Gold Rush and soon were making plans to head to Barkerville, British Columbia. Their brother John remained on Salt Spring Island where he worked as a teacher and would become the first and only teacher on the Island.

Once arriving at Barkerville, William and Elias participated in the Cariboo Gold Rush as miners. William and Elias stayed in Barkerville until the American Civil War ended in 1865, where they then returned home to Oberlin. At that time, William started dental studies at Oberlin College.

After graduating from dentistry school, William returned to Barkerville, British Columbia. He travelled on his own to Barkerville as his brother Elias decided to stay in the United States, where he later married and lived the rest of his life in Oberlin.

William opened his own dental practice in Barkerville, British Columbia in 1876. When he began practicing his dentistry, William was schooled but acting without a license. No license was required, by law, at this time to practice dentistry in British Columbia so William continued his practice until 1886 when the British Columbia government introduced a new Dental Act. William then quickly obtained license to practice dentistry under the British Columbia Dental Act on June 26, 1886, making him the first person to be granted license to practice dentistry under British Columbia's first iteration of dental profession regulations. William came to be known as the "Barkerville dentist" and earned the nickname "Painless Jones".

Next time you visit Barkerville to immerse yourself in the era of the Cariboo Gold Rush, stop by Dr. Jones' office for a trip down memory lane and ask yourself, would you have visited "Painless Jones?"

Written and submitted by Shay Hollowell

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

The Friends of Barkerville-Cariboo
Goldfields Historical Society Wishes
Everyone All Best Wishes, Good Health
Joy and Peace in 2022.

