

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

420 Fraser St., P.O. Box 640
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2013 Issue #2

Unlocking Lytton's Past

Multi-National Lytton

First Nations Peoples were the first settlers of Lytton. Then others came: explorers, gold seekers and railway men. Where did they all come from? And what happened to them?

Most Lyttonites know there were several European families - but you may be surprised at some who travelled great distances from all parts of the globe to take part in building Lytton.

Read *Snippets* in this issue to see what an international background Lytton has.

14 June 2013

We had a special mini Tea & Talk for the residents of Spintlum Lodge. Our February T & T was just too crowded for them to join us.

Thank you to our volunteers who moved extraneous furniture from display rooms so our wheelchair guests could get a good look around the Museum and who also served tea and goodies to our visitors.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lytton 1872 - a candid view

Rebagliati Families

Recording Devices

Judge Begbie

Miscellany

Spintlum Lodge Tea and Talk



Spintlum resident Liz meets Museum resident bear



Lytton 1872 - a candid view



In 1872, this man, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Canadian Pacific and Intercolonial Railways, his 16 year old son, a Doctor, a Botanist, a Photographer, a Cook and a Secretary, began an east to west cross-Canada expedition to inspect the proposed route for a railway line across Canada.

The Secretary, Reverend George Monro Grant, had a strong penchant for keeping a very detailed diary of the trip. He recorded the journey, the places and the people they encountered. The following year, the diary was published in a book entitled *Ocean to Ocean: Sandford Fleming's Expedition through Canada in 1872*.

The diary is divided into different areas across Canada. The final section is entitled *From Kamloops to the Sea*. Some of the subtitles in this section are: *Kamloops Beef -- John Chinaman -- Savona's Ferry -- a Night Ride to Ashcroft -- The Judge and the Miners -- Indian Graves -- Big Bugs...* and of course the one we're most interested in, *Lytton*.

On October 2, travelling south from Spences Bridge, and probably looking forward to being near to the end of their journey, the entry reads.....

Towards sunset, cold rain with strong gusts of wind came on ; and as the road was often only a narrow ledge, cut out of the side of a precipice, we were thankful when the driver pointed out a hill in front, as the one on the other side of which was our resting place, the village of Lytton, at the junction of the Thompson with the Fraser.

We soon saw the lights of the village, and drove up to a house, the mean outside of which gave little promise of the good things for the inner man, in the dining room. M. Hautier, a Frenchman, and his pretty little Flamandwife, kept the house, and had comfortable rooms prepared for us, and a petit gout de mouton, with fixings, for supper.

A humorous anecdote follows about “....an unpleasant creature in the house....”

While the writer was obviously pleased with the Hautier establishment, he doesn't paint a very rosy picture of the village.

October, 3rd -- The village of Lytton can scarcely be considered worthy of its aristocratic name. A single row of frail unpainted sheds or log shanties, the littleness and rickettiness

Continued on page 3

Lytton 1872 - a candid view *con't*

.....of which are all the more striking from the two noble rivers that meet here and the lofty hills that enclose the two valleys, is the sum total of Lytton. Its population of perhaps an hundred souls is made up of Canadians, British, Yankees, French, Chinamen, Siwashes, half-breeds; all religions and no religions."

The entry continues to describe the sad state of the town and it's people,

"But go into the hotel, and all that is changed."

To read the complete entry for Lytton, visit the Museum - we have been gifted an original copy of this 140 year old book. Or, find it free to read or download at <http://archive.org/details/oceantoocean00gran>

Engineer-in-Chief Sandford Fleming, a Scotsman, is also known as "the father of standard time" after he created a time zone map to solve the problem of train scheduling. and he was a staunch advocate for the construction of submarine telegraph cables to connect all countries of the British Empire. He also designed Canada's first postage stamp, featuring a beaver, and in 1977 Canada Post honoured him on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

**Our Mystery Lady**

*Submitted by
Tom Peglow*

This is a story of an artifact given to the Lytton museum.. The picture, in a carved wooden black frame, is done in charcoal of a lady wearing a nice coat, large handbag, fancy gloves with a parasol. Her hair is done up, and she is wearing beads in her hair that drape down into her clothing. The picture is not dated nor do we know the name of the woman depicted. She appears to be of the Victorian era about 1890 to 1900 or so judging by her clothes and her hair style. It looks like she is not a native person, but of European descent instead.

This drawing was found in the old George A.G. Rebagliati warehouse bought by Mr. G. Chubb. He had wanted it cleaned out, and George Kirzenstein was told to throw it and three or four other pictures into the dump. But he held on to them and later gave this one to Lorna Fandrich. She had it framed and donated it to the Museum. We are still left with a bit of a mystery, who was this mystery lady?

Did she leave her belongings here by accident or misfortune? If anyone who reads this has any further information about her please forward it to the Lytton Museum and help us solve this riddle.

*Editor's note:
We published a similar request to identify this lady in 2003 , but had no response. Hopefully, now, someone will know or be able to at least hazard a guess.*



The Hanging Judge

Submitted by Tom Peglow

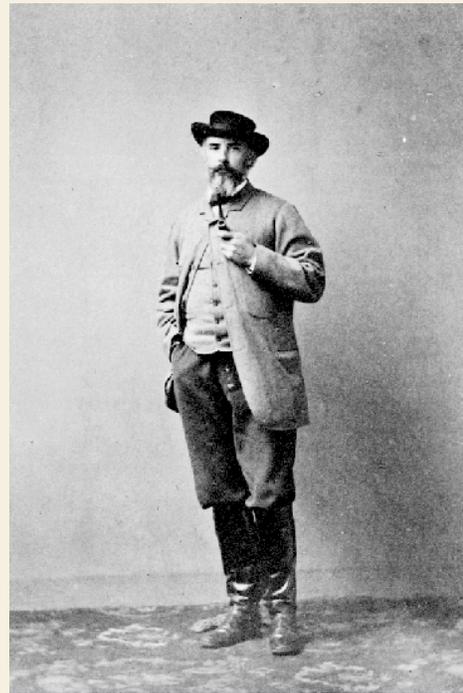
Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie, born in 1819, eventually became known as the 'hanging judge', but he was well known to berate and scold law breakers and juries alike if he had a mind to. So, at some point in time his 'haranguing' became misconstrued into 'hanging', with its negative connotations. He actually only ever sentenced 2 Cariboo men to death.

He was educated at Elizabeth College Guernsey, Cambridge and Lincoln's Inn. He earned degrees in mathematics, Classics and Law and established a successful law practice in London. A tall man of 6 feet - 4 inches, he was an imposing sight in his judicial robes. In 1859 he became the first Chief Justice of the new colony of British Columbia.

That year, he and a small group of companions set out on foot from New Westminster to Lillooet to better understand the terrain and peoples of his jurisdiction.

Being interested in languages he learned to speak several native dialects including Chilcotin and Shuswap. He was involved in drafting the Aliens Act of 1859, the Gold Fields Act of 1859 and the Preemption Act of 1860.

He possessed a great sense of humour which would benefit him and those who came before him in court.



Judge Begbie was a naturalist who enjoyed the woods, meadows and animals. He loved to travel and was fond of singing opera.

On numerous occasions he stayed at Lytton's Globe Hotel and on one of these visits he met a lady he had sung with at a miners benefit during his stop over in San Francisco.

Josephine Hautier was a trained vocalist, so they probably sounded pretty good together!

Some of the maps he created on his travels were so accurate in distances and positions that they were used by the Royal Engineers.

While holidaying in England in 1875, he was knighted by Queen Victoria. After returning to BC he continued his duties until his death in 1894. He was buried in Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria.

The Rebagliati Families: a Major Part of Lytton History

Submitted by Dorothy Dodge as an up-date to her previous article on this family in our 2001 Newsletter

Last Spring our museum had the honor of being trusted with precious materials and photographs from the Bob Rebagliati collection. These items were left with us, with the proviso that we could copy or scan whatever we needed to build a Fonds (history) for the Rebagliati family, and that all original materials would be returned when Bob attended the September 14, 2013 reunion in Lytton of the Rebagliati clan. It has been a wonderful Lytton history lesson for all our museum crew, hence the following column. Enjoy!!

The Rebagliati families were an important component of Lytton history. Bernardo and his brother, Angelo, were prominent business owners from the 1880's to the mid 1900's. As one news article stated, "A Main street with no BR's General store, no handsome family residence, no butcher shop, no Imperial Oil dealer, no Lytton Hotel, a whole row of houses on the hill, and a town minus a good percentage of it's progressive young business men and women...." wouldn't have amounted to much.



That only listed the BR's part of the equation ; there was also an A.G. Rebagliati General store, a stage and freighting business run by the A.G.'s, a Taxi and Trucking business later on, the A.G. garage, and several other homes and buildings.

When the New Lytton Hotel was built, the owner's wife was A.G.'s daughter. Both families had interests in farming, mining, and Real Estate. Because of the many serious fires that Lytton has suffered, very few of the original Rebagliati buildings are left, the most notable being the BR home on Main Street (1921), and the new Lytton Hotel (1934).

It should be noted here Rebagliati brothers Bernardo (BR) and Angelo (A.G.) married sisters Angela (BR) and Concessa (AG) also with the surname Rebagliati. However, the brothers were in no way related to the sisters before marriage as Rebagliati is a very common name in Italy, just as Smith is common in North America.

Bernardo was born June 5, 1857, and died June 26, 1926. His wife, Angela, was born October 2, 1866, and died Sept 29, 1940. Bernardo came from Genova, Italy, to Lytton via San Francisco in 1885, just before the CPR was completed. His wife, Angela, came from Savona, Italy, via New York, U.S.A. to Vancouver and Kamloops in 1886.. They were married in Lytton the same day she arrived! They eventually had 10 children. Bernardo became a naturalized Canadian citizen on May 15, 1896.

Angelo was born in 1863, and died in 1943. Concessa was born 1864 and died in 1942. The A.G's came to Lytton as a family with one or two children in 1886.. They had 8 children in all, seven of whom lived. The final resting place for most of the Rebagliati families is in the Lytton Highway Cemetery.

Continued on p6



The Rebagliati Families con't

Another branch of the Rebagliati family was Peter Rebagliati. He was Bernardo's nephew and had the Government mail contract for ..'umpteen years' between Lytton and Lillooet. When automobiles came in, he had Johnny and Alonzo A.G. drive for him until he closed his business. He never learned to drive, and never married.

Barney, Pete's brother died in Lytton.

Then there was Butch, whose real name was George Rebagliati. He was Angela's brother, married in Italy. He had two children by his first wife, Rose. Butch's son, Peter, married and lived in Lillooet. His son, Raymond, also lived in Lillooet. This family is also interred in the Lytton Highway cemetery. Butch married a second time and had a son named Jackie, who lived in Lillooet – he had no children.

Angela had another brother, John, who married Alice Seward, a Lytton girl. They had three children: Kathleen, William and Charlie.

There are many more relatives in the museum folder in the family trees. Thanks to Bernardo's son, Ber Rebagliati, we have a fairly good record of the families. Ber, who was a BR, was able to give an outline of the A.G. family as well.

We are all looking forward to the Rebagliati reunion in September. It is our hope that any errors we may have made will be corrected at that time, and that we will be able to record any family anecdotes that the families can share.

We hope to do a follow-up story in our next newsletter on the reunion, including who was here, and their memories of the 'old days'! We have scanned many of the pictures Bob left with us, but accessioning takes a long time, so we may not have them ready – however, you are all welcome to visit the museum and browse through what we have, including some very interesting family trees.

DID YOU KNOW.....

...you can access one million original historical records of births, marriages and deaths in British Columbia?

BC Archives, Vital Statistics Agency & FamilySearch International, working together, have scanned original records, and made them available - free - at the Royal BC Museum/BC Archives website.

Records in Phase 1 of the scanning project begin at 1872 and Phase 2 will add pre-1872 records, deaths overseas during WW2 (1939-1945), death records 1985 to 1991 and marriages from 1933 to 1936. Each year more records will be added as they become available. To access the records go to:
<http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch>



Big Bulky Business

Submitted by Dereck Ostiguy



Boy, have we ever evolved and this is sure evident in some of the machinery used in offices. Back in the

1800's a lot of time was devoted to having a person dictate something to a stenographer who, either by long hand or shorthand, transcribed the information, which later was typed or sent to print. Then came the dictation machine , a device which Thomas A. Edison saw as another use of his wax cylinder recording device. Early machines were not up to snuff, with mechanical failures, poor speech recording and time restraints cited.

Alexander Graham Bell and Charles Tainter improved the reliability and speech recording quality and soon put the dictation machine into production in 1887. By 1888 both houses of congress in the USA were actively employing their "*GRAPHOPHONE*" brand device.

Edison, after seeing the success of the *Graphophone*, entered the market in 1888 with his own new device, the *Edison Class E*.

Edison marketed his machines in the 1900's as the "Ediphone" dictating machine. Other players later in the market (1900's) were brand names such as..Dictaphone; Parlograph; Ronephone; Orbaphon and Stenophon.

Dictaphone, to this day exists as a company providing dictation equipment to service offices worldwide.

Your Lytton Museum is the proud owner of fine examples of 1930's dictation office memorabilia .

So, come in and see what today's 2oz handheld multi-hour recorder evolved from.



A letter was verbally dictated onto a wax cylinder on machine #1.

The wax cylinder went to the secretary who listened to it on machine #2 and typed up the letter.

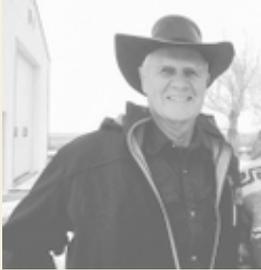


When the letter was complete machine #3 was used to peel off a thin layer of wax, thus erasing the cylinder ready for the next use.





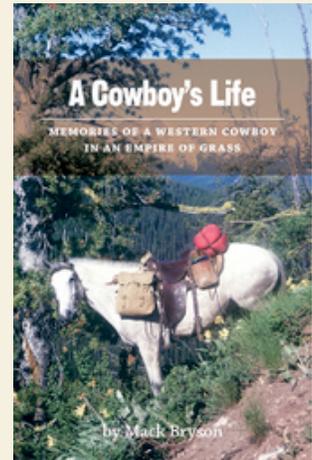
A COWBOY'S LIFE



While not specifically about the Lytton area, many may recognize ranches and people associated with Lillooet and Southern Cariboo area.

Mack Bryson was raised on a variety of ranches in the interior of British Columbia during the 1930's and 40's. At the age of 23 he became the Cow Boss of one of the largest ranches in Canada.

He is the great grandson of BC ranching pioneer Robert Carson who had the Carson Ranch on Pavillion Mountain outside Lillooet BC. Mack's father Clarence Bryson managed some of the most famous and prolific ranches in BC history. Mack grew up on these ranches during a time of horse driven ranching and started working in the industry at the age of 12. In 1956 his family purchased the massive Empire Valley Cattle Company which was west of the Fraser River and next door to the world famous Gang Ranch (the largest ranch by area in the Western Hemisphere.) He participated in the mechanized revolution which saw the Empire Ranch move to modern ranching methods including bulldozers and airplanes. The Brysons were also steward to the largest herd of Mule Deer in BC.



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Lytton Museum brings the past into the Present

The following are now available by e-mail:

- Meeting reminders
- Monthly Meeting Minutes
- Update Bulletins
- Newsletters

To be placed on our e-mail list please send an e-mail to museum@lyttonmuseum.ca

We promise not to flood your mailbox with unwanted messages.

Regular Museum Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month (no meeting in July, Aug. or Dec.) at 7:00pm in the Museum.

Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the local area history. If you wish to officially join our group, membership is \$10.00.

Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters. Copies also are on sale at the Museum for \$1.00



Unlocking Lytton's Past

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

(a Village of Lytton Commission) is a member of:



& the BC Historical Federation