

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

420 Fraser St., P.O. Box 640
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

2014 Issue #1



Unlocking Lytton's Past

SNIPPETS THIS ISSUE



100 years ago there were not a lot of shops, and those that did exist had limited items for sale. Everyone had to be a “handyman”, using homemade remedies to suit the tasks at hand.

In 1913 a book titled *The Handyman's 1,000 Practical Receipts* was published, described in the preface as “ a collection of practical receipts, every one of which , it is, believed, is of proved worth.”

I'm not sure I'd like to try some of them !

Short ones have been chosen to fit space available, but if you'd like to see other ideas presented, you can browse through the book at

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=chi.086869678;view=1up;seq=9>

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Christmas Lunch

Once again our local population supported the Annual Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale held in conjunction with St. Bartholomew's Auxiliary.



Lunchtime! Dec 11, 2013

Lunch sales provided \$ 378 for the Museum. Thank you everyone - food donators, helpers, and participants.





Rack ‘em Up !

Some years ago the Museum acquired a very magnificent set of elk antlers. It was displayed in one of the front rooms of the museum and admired by our visitors. But the sharp tines were considered a hazard, and hot pink strips of paper were taped to the tines as a warning. These did nothing to enhance the majesty of this rack!



Eventually, the antlers were moved to a less prominent, but ultimately, safer location and the ‘pink ornaments’ removed. How big is it? The space is 39” wide and it almost fills it!

On January 27 & 29, 1973, forty Elk were flown in to Lytton Airport from Jasper National Park, Alberta. The Elk have thrived and often are seen in the area.

These Antlers belonged to a bull elk who followed a female elk across the highway. Obviously, he was not thinking about traffic and was hit by a pick-up truck. No human was hurt, but the truck was severely damaged and the Elk was killed.

The rack would be trophy quality but for the broken point on the right.



15th Annual Tea & Talk

The Museum annual Tea & Talk was held on Wednesday, February 19.



John & Delores Firkins, members from Boston Bar

Less crowded than last year, guests, Executive and spouses all enjoyed the opportunity to have a ‘cuppa’, a chat, and check out some new additions to our collections.



Local members chatting it up!

Dereck Ostiguy ran a slideshow displaying Harry Smithers’ slides (Lytton and area circa 1950s) and it created lots of interest.

Thank you to all who helped with this event and/or provided refreshments for our guests.



A "First" for B.C. --- and Lytton

From the Daily Colonist 1860 Nov. 22

Although we have heard a great many attempts at duels, by belligerent parties in British Columbia, we never expected to live to report one of those bloody affairs of honour occurring within the borders of that colony. But it seems we have been grossly deceived in our expectations, for a friend writes us that a hostile rencontre took place near Lytton City recently, in which a couple of pioneers took part; and although it was not fatal in its effects, still goes a long way to prove that there are at least two men in the sister colony of sufficient pluck to fight a duel. The parties are named D___s and P___n, the former a Cariboo trader, and the latter a packer. A difficulty arose between the two in regard to which should pay for the washing of a grey flannel overshirt, which had been worn alternately by both. The dispute lasted several days, and at last, P___n, becoming terribly enraged at some expressions D___s had used, pitched in and gave him a tremendous walloping. For this the latter challenged him. P___n accepted, and chose double-barreled shotguns, distance 20 paces. Seconds were selected, and towards the close of the day, the parties [sic] went about a mile from town, tossed for a choice of ground, took their positions and blazed away. At the discharge of the second barrel of D___s weapon, his antagonist leaped into the air and fell upon the ground apparently in the last agonies of death. D, upon seeing the mischief he had to all appearances wrought, ran into town with the intention of hastening down the river in a canoe; but finding none ready to start just then, secreted himself in the store of a friend, beneath a number of packing boxes. In the meantime, some of the witnesses of the

"bloody" affair informed the police of what had occurred, and Justice Ball, accompanied by two officers, made diligent search for D. About eight o'clock in the evening, after ransacking the whole town, he was found and pulled from his hiding place in a very woebegone state of mind, and taken to the lockup. In the meantime, P, having recovered from his "wound", secreted himself in the neighbourhood of the city., and although the justice visited the battleground for the purpose of bringing in his body and holding an inquest, it of course could not be found. The two seconds were, however, caught, and lodged in jail for the night along with D.

The next morning, P, thinking the joke had been carried about far enough, appeared before the justice, and after satisfying that official that he was really flesh and blood, and had not been slain in hostile combat by the bloodthirsty D the night before, the jail doors were opened, and that unhappy person, weeping bitterly, was liberated along with the two seconds, who laughed heartily when set at liberty.

It turned out the guns were loaded with powder only, and that of course P had sustained no damage. D was overjoyed at finding his late antagonist alive, and declared it his intention hereafter to look after P's wardrobe in general, and his shirts in particular, for the next year, and to pay all his wash-bills. Justice Ball was as badly sold as any one, and lectured the practical jokers soundly for their participation in the affair. This ended the first duel in British Columbia. May all affaires d'honneur prove as bloodless.



The Internet & an 1898 Mining Company



The Museum often researches for further information on donated items. We talk to local people and other Museums or search for books that might help. We find information on the internet, sometimes even an old book scanned as an e-book to read about it. We never know how successful we'll be, what we'll find, or what direction the research will take us. We record our findings (or lack of), thus having more to share with our visitors.

In past years most visitors have been of the 'walk-ins', those who physically visit our building. But increasingly our visitors have been 'virtual'. It is a rare day when we do not get an e-mail request for information:

- my Grampa died in Lytton, do you have any info on his life?, death? burial location?
- I'm writing a paper/book on the 1858 Goldrush. Was Lytton involved?
- where is the Winch house located?

In January this year, the Museum received the following request from John in Vermont:

I inherited a Gold Mining Stock Certificate that was issued by the "Mira Monte Mining Company, Limited, Lytton, B.C." dated Feb 15, 1898. A Google search doesn't turn up anything on that company.

Can you refer me to anyone in your community who might have historical information relating to this Company (or whether it even existed)?

After finding nothing in our Museum and e-mailing our regrets to John, curiosity got the better of me, as the saying goes, and I started searching the web.

In "Henderson's B.C. Gazetteer and Directory 1898", in the Directory of BC Mining Companies chapter, it listed :

*Mira Monte Mining Co. Ltd.
Incorporated January 31, 1898.
Capital stock \$100,000, in \$1 shares.
Registered office Lytton.*

Hurray ! - proof ! ...but only that a mine by that name was officially registered. Did an actual mine ever exist, or was this all a wishful dream or maybe just a scam?

Back to sleuthing whenever there was a spare moment and eventually I found the "Report of the Minister of Mines for the Year Ending 31st December, 1898 being an account of Mining Operations for Gold, Coal, Etc., in the Province of British Columbia".

The lengthy title should have warned me! This is a 1230 page report covering all of B.C., but finally another Hurrah ! moment. On page 1160 there is mention of our elusive mine, although its name is listed as Miro, rather than Mira.



Mira Monte - Six miles from Lytton. The tunnel on this property has been driven a distance of 200 feet. It has been well and securely timbered a distance of 100 feet. The balance of the tunnel was through hard rock which did not require timbering. At the time of my visit six men were employed.

So, there was an actual mine. Assuming the mine inspector made visits with no prior warning, it was being actively worked.

In the Government's 1900 report there is no mention of the mine at Lytton, but it does say that in the immediate vicinity of Aspen Grove....

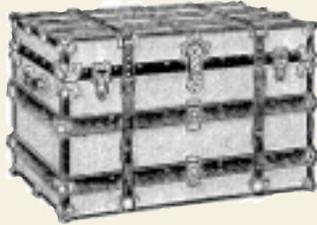
.....are three locations held by the Mira Monte Company of California. On this group a shaft 6 by 8 feet and 12 feet deep has been sunk, and a tunnel 100 feet long has been run. The ore assays well in copper, with fair gold values.

So now there are even more questions:
 Where was the Lytton mine located?
 Who were the six men working it?
 Did they ever find much gold?
 How long was the mine worked?
 Did shareholders ever receive any money?
 Did this group abandon Lytton and move to Aspen Grove?



Trash Trunk ? or Treasure Trunk ?

How do you define "treasure"?



To the Museum it could be a simple newspaper clipping about a local event, an early resident's diary, or being able to scan photographs relating to a local family and their community.

Have you checked an attic, basement or storage room in an old family home for treasures from bygone days? You might find an old wooden trunk full of relics from the past – a lace wedding gown, an old Christmas stocking, embroidered tablecloths, Depression glassware, a military uniform, love letters in a box, or a crocheted baby shawl. Attic treasures provide a connection to our family and its unique history. Such treasures are often remembered with nostalgia.

Letters or papers found often describe historical events and life of the early pioneers. Sometimes there are first hand accounts of historical events and letters. Even old account books sometimes contain interesting information.

If you don't want these things, check with the Museum to see if they are valuable to their collection. But be careful ! That which seems like trash may turn out to be treasure.

Immigrants often brought small, important family items with them. Even the average family may have acquired items through a "pennies on the dollar" purchase from a neighbour short on cash, or perhaps been paid in goods for a service rendered.

You never know what may be hiding in that old trunk. You just might be as surprised (and as delighted) as these people :

- A man who found an old trunk, full of papers, has been informed that a baseball card found in the contents has been valued at \$72,000.
- A pair of rare Russian vases discovered in a home where they had been overlooked for years, are expected to fetch \$1.5 million at auction.
- A woman clearing out her late husband's chest of drawers discovered an old coin stashed away among his clothes. The coin sold for \$475,000.
- A rare 16th century Italian plate, found hanging by a flimsy wire behind a door in a cottage, has fetched \$880,000 at auction.
- A small collection of old coins discovered in a rusty tool box, has fetched \$45,000 at auction.
- A jewelry collection valued at \$89,000 was discovered in a locked suitcase that was hidden in an attic for 70 years.





Genealogy: Nicknames

Peggy for Margaret and Chuck from Charles?
What's up with that?

Many nicknames we have today sound a little bit strange, but we just take it for granted that a Katherine may be called Kate, or a Richard be Dick, though these nicks don't really sound very much like the original name. Why is this?

Let's start with some -ck names. Back in the middle ages, it was common to make diminutives of names by adding -kin, -in, or -cock to the end. Thus, John became Jankin or Jenkin, which eventually became shortened to Jakin, which in turn became Jack. Many of these names today survive in surname form (i.e., Jenkins, Wilkins, Perkins, Tompkins, Wilcox, Johncox, etc.) though there are not many used as first names anymore.

Adam = Adekin, Adkin, Adcock
David = Dawkin, Dakin
Francis = Frankin, Frank
Geoffrey = Geffrin
Gilbert = Gibbin
Henry = Hawkin, Henkin, Hankin, Hank, Henecok
John = Jankin, Jenkin, Jakin, Jack, Johncock
Lawrence = Larkin
Luke = Lukin, Luckin
Matthew = Makin, Maykin, Maycock
Nicholas = Colin, Cole
Peter = Peterkin, Parkin, Perkin
Philip = Philkin
Ralph = Rawkin
Robert = Robin, Hobkin
Roger = Hodgkin, Rodgkin
Simon = Simkin

Thomas = Tonkin, Tomkin, Tonk
Walter = Watkin
William = Wilkin, Wilk, Wilcock

Rhyming names also have been popular diminutive forms of names. For example, Robert spawned not only Rob, but Hob and Dob as well, which in turn became Hobkin and Dobkin.



Family History

DID YOU KNOW.....

Most of you will have heard of James Alexander Teit. He was born in 1864, in Lerwick Shetland, one of the more northerly islands of Scotland.

When he arrived in Spences Bridge in 1884 he changed the spelling of his surname Tait because he said his father had traced the name to a 13th century Norseman, Jan Teit.

A genealogist has done some research and traced the Tait family back to about 1760 on the Island of Fetlar, but could find no use of the Norse spelling. Nor were Norse first names in use. And certainly none of the names James Alexander Teit chose for his children.

The genealogist commented on the spelling change with -
Was this just nostalgia for his Norse roots and a romantic fantasy?

??? Mystery Tag ???



This is an aluminum tag, 1 3/8" sq., with the stamped, painted markings

F. F. L.
2806
B. C.
1914

It was brought into the Museum by Joe Chute. He did not know who issued it or what its purpose was, and in spite of talking to several local people and to other museums, we have have been unable to come up with an identification.

There were lots of guesses, but there's still no definitive answer.

Can you help?

The Western Call, March 13, 1914

Snow is fast disappearing from the Bridge river country. There was an unusually heavy fall there last winter.

Auto men, stage men and teamsters have a hard time this week on both the Ashcroft and Lillooet-Lytton roads, the recent soft weather rendering traffic on both thoroughfares an arduous job, and causing, in several instances, serious breakdowns.

Auto fare is up to \$15 on the road between here and Lytton, but even at that figure the auto men are having a hard time of it, the road is in such a bad condition.

Please Notice This



2014 Museum Memberships (still only \$10.00) are now due. Support the Museum!

Send to : Lytton Museum,
P.O. Box 640,
Lytton, B.C.V0K 1Z0

Regular Museum Meetings on the last Tuesday of each month 7:00pm in the Museum.

(no meeting in July, Aug. or Dec.)

For e-mails of :

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

Send us an e-mail at

museum@lyttonmuseum.ca

Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters.



Unlocking Lytton's Past

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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



& the BC Historical Federation