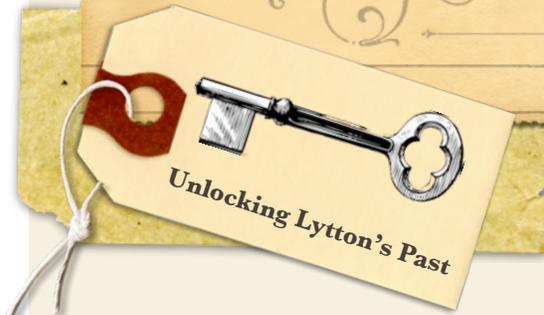


# LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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

2016 Issue #1



Unlocking Lytton's Past

## Snippets

While cleaning a family silver dish for Christmas dinner, I wondered how many of you are like my cousin. She has a trunkful of beautiful family silver, but doesn't use it because she hates cleaning it.

After reading the Snippets, perhaps you'll change your mind.

## Membership Dues

A reminder that memberships are due at the beginning of January each year.

We have held the dues at \$10.00 for a long time. As well as supporting the Museum's work at preserving our local history, your membership provides you with 4 newsletters during the year.

Thank you to Jo Johnson who hand delivers newsletters to many local members, saving us postage costs. If you live elsewhere, and are computer conversant, please consider receiving your copy by e-mail as a pdf.

If you choose not to renew this year, thank you for your support in the past. This will be your final newsletter.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## Annual Christmas Lunch 9 Dec 2015

Once again our fundraiser went very well. We took in \$522.50 from lunch sales, memberships, item sales and donations.

This type of event doesn't just happen - it takes a large team of people working beforehand organizing the overall event and contacting the food donors, and another team of helpers during the event to make sure it all runs smoothly and to clean up after closing time.

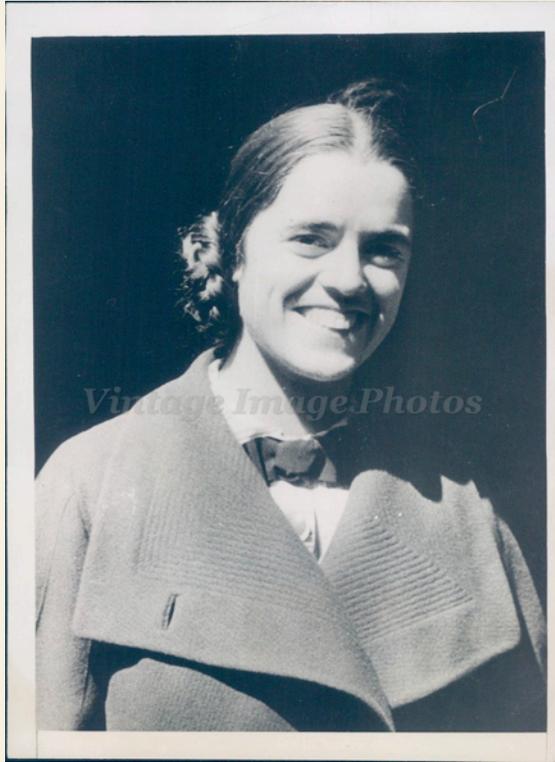
A very big thank you to all those involved (and apologies if your name has been missed. Please let me know.)

Irene & Jim Steer, Peggy Chute, Tom Peglow, Dereck Ostiguy, Dorothy Dodge, Jo Johnson, Joan Craig, Sheila Bolan, Ruth Dunham, Claire Carter, Jessa Lightfoot, Diane Miller, Lorna Peglow, Lorna Fandrich, Judith Urquhart, Julia Boldt, Esther Brown, Dennis Roy, Mona Crowston, Marie & Peter Heaster.





## All in a Day's Work



John Haugen bought this photo on E-bay. Pasted on the reverse is a yellow paper with wire-service style printing with a 01 June 1934 date stamp. It reads:

*Nurse's daring amputation 'All in a day's work' A drama of surgery in which two Vancouver, B.C. nurses played the leading roles when a surgeon could not be located was enacted when a man's life hung in the balance. Miss Ruth Pretty (above) and Miss Phyllis Burrows, Matron of the Lytton B.C. Hospital. operated on Yelmer Hedburg, 31, shortly after the man had been struck by a train. The nurses operated, amputating the man's limbs which had been mangled in the accident, but unfortunately the man died from loss of blood because of loss of time before the amputation.*

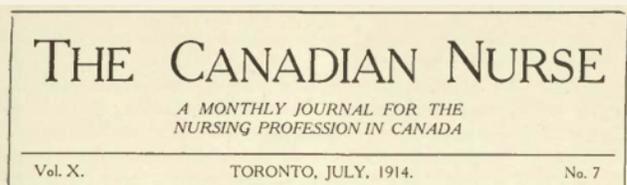
I have been unable to find a newspaper article about this incident, but did find a B.C.

Certificate of Death Registration filed on 21 June 1934. Information on the certificate:

- Gillmar Hedburg, (Yelmar Hedburg)
- residence: Golden B.C.
- Occupation: labourer
- estimated age: between 31 & 45,
- estimated birth year: 1889.
- died: 09 June 1934, in Vancouver General Hospital
- an inquiry was held, but no autopsy
- cause of death: railway accident, amputation of legs on 08 June, shock and hemorrhage
- buried: Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver.

The Golden Museum has his name as Hjalmar Hedberg. He, 2 brothers and their mother, came from Sweden to Canada in 1910, after his father died. There was no indication why the family made the move. The 1911 Census lists an Iwan Hedberg in Golden, but there is no sign of the rest of the family in B.C.

**You never know where or when Lytton will pop up on the internet. John Haugen also found this:**



*Miss Louise and Miss Agnes Wickham, who have charge of the Mission Hospital at Lytton, B.C., are planning to take a month's holiday in Saskatchewan. Miss Agnes Campbell, who has been doing private nursing in Vancouver, will take their place.*



## Vice Chair Report 2016

We are still looking for a Curator or “collections manager” along with a Chairman to fulfill the vacancies in those positions. Unfortunately such vacancies are rampant in similar organizations across North America. It is difficult to find volunteers to work in an unpaid job just for the joy of doing something for the good of all and the self satisfaction of putting something back into their own community.

I stepped down last year from being Chairman after two years to that of Vice Chairman, but now as Vice I am back in the position of Chairman by default. I will do my best this year to fulfill my obligations but at the end of this year I will resign from any executive position. At that time I will help the new executive settle in if required.

This year’s executive consists of Chairman (unfilled), Vice Chair Peter Heaster, Treasurer Jo Johnson, Secretary Tiffany Callewaert-Haugen and Directors Julia Boldt and Victor Stepan.

Our fund raising for the Museum building fireproof extension has exceeded our expectations. 2016 started out very well, with a generous donation of \$10,000 from Dr. Ian Strang. He always has been a staunch supporter of the museum and we thank him for his on-going financial assistance. Our total stands at around the \$50,000 mark, indeed a fine effort by our volunteers and many thanks to all who kindly made contributions - only \$75,000 to go.

The back yard project, started late last year (after a four year hiatus), primarily to house our two speeders and the mounting of the

ferry wheel, is coming along nicely, thwarted somewhat by poor weather and company holidays. However, it should be fully complete by the end of March. During construction it was noted that the northeast corner post of the original lean-to was rotten and so it will be replaced as well.

Update changes to the Museum Policy were accepted at the February meeting. Please e-mail us if you would like a copy

Peter Heaster

## Tea & Talk

After some discussion about whether or not to hold it this year because of the declining number of helpers at events, it was decided this is an important community contact for the Museum. A small group of members shared the task of preparation and hosting on the day.

Thirty people joined us for tea and believe you me, there was lots of talk! Even Bulwer-Lytton seemed to enjoy the conversation.



This year’s B.C. Heritage Week theme was *Distinctive Destinations: Experience Historic Places*. And you can’t get much more ‘historic’ in B.C. than Lytton!



## Josephine Hautier - her story

*(as presented at the Museum's Storytelling session, for the 2015 River Festival Weekend)*

There are many books about men of the gold rush eras. The stories relate their journeys and hardships in their quest for gold. Few books, however, tell you much about the women who also came and who played important roles in the settlement of gold rush towns.

One such woman played an important role in Lytton's history. Here is her story as she may have told it.

My name is Josephine and my story begins 5000 miles away in Belgium, where I was born in 1837. My life did not start auspiciously as I was born out of wedlock and so I had my mother's maiden name of Sparla. When my mother married 5 years later, my stepfather acknowledged me as a daughter. (Perhaps he was my real father? I never knew - one did not ask that kind of question!) And so I became Josephine Vandenbroecke.

My mother was a milliner and my stepfather a tailor and in 1851 they decided there were far more opportunities in the New World than Europe, so we emigrated to San Francisco.

That same year, Louis Hautier, 15 years my senior, also arrived in America. Louis had been born in France (contrary to many articles which refer to him as Belgian, although he did receive some of his education there). He landed in New York and eventually made his way to San Francisco where he opened a shop only 4 blocks from my father's tailor's shop and here he made a living as a distiller and herbalist.

When Louis and I met in 1855, I was an opera singer and actress. I was well educated, proficient

in several musical instruments, as well as being a good cook and seamstress. Perhaps Louis attended one of my performances. I'm not sure I would have visited his place of business.

We married in 1856 and our first child, Louisa Mai was born the following year.

Life was so good. I sang in concerts and looked after Louisa, and Louis prospered in his business. But in 1858 Louis heard about the Fraser River Gold Rush. British Columbia was the place to be, and so we packed up our household and sailed for Victoria.

Louis opened a confectionary store on Johnson Street and sold delicacies, pastries and his herbal remedies. I sang in concerts when my duties as wife and mother allowed, and awaited the birth of our second child. Life was becoming more settled again.

But before the baby was born in 1859, Louis left for the Fraser Canyon to find gold. At Kanaka Bar he found other frenchmen prospecting for gold. Two of the men started Kanaka Bar Roadhouse, and Louis found better money working as a cook, herbalist and amateur physician at the Roadhouse than panning for gold..

In the Spring of 1860 Louis came home to Victoria. I was so pleased to be a family again. - Louis and I, Louisa and baby Alphonse. But Louis spent all his "home" time convincing me of the golden opportunities that awaited us if we moved to Lytton and built a hotel. He had already obtained acreage south of town for us to move to while building the hotel.



So once again, we packed up and the four of us embarked by steamboat to the Fraser Canyon. Alas, the steamboat only went as far as Yale. The next 60 miles had to be done on foot. Louis arranged Indian bearers for our goods and an Indian woman called Lasha to carry Baby Alphonse and help 3 year old Louisa along the trail. It was a very long trip.

By 1862 we had acquired a lot in the town, and built and opened the Globe Hotel. The wagon road to Lytton had been completed and business was good. We also kept a large kitchen garden and vineyard about 2 miles below town to supply the hotel in victuals and wine.

I was in charge of the cooking and am proud to say we served the best meals in town and along the gold rush trail, according to some. Amongst our guests were Judge Begbie, with whom I had sung in Victoria (he had an excellent bass voice), and Governor Douglas.

Louis was still actively pursuing his medical skills. Douglas sought his advice and had Louis remove several stubborn corns on his feet. Louis stated his price of five dollars per corn and removed 6 corns. But when it came payment time, Douglas would only pay \$25. On a future trip Douglas complained one corn had grown back and my husband replied "that was the one for which you did not pay!"

Louis was always looking for other ways to improve our income. He and a partner opened a butcher shop, which was in competition with one run by a rather rough fellow named Patrick Kilroy. One evening, in our saloon, Kilroy made disparaging remarks about me, and Louis, a bit in his cups, rose to my defense. He accosted Kilroy, who promptly

wrestled Louis' walking stick from him and began hitting him over the head with it. Louis always carried a small pistol in his pocket. He pulled it out and fired at Kilroy. Luckily, he wounded him only slightly or Louis could have been held for murder. He did get charged with intent to kill, but that was reduced to common assault and he was fined \$50. And much to Louis' delight, (and mine!) Kilroy was fined \$400 for inciting the fight.

But life was not easy in a frontier town. While children and the hotel kept me occupied during the day, any 'relaxing' usually meant spending time drinking in the saloon with guests and friends (or alone at home).

Alas, the drink contributed to my demise. In 1880, I fell ill from a combination of overwork, depression and too much alcohol. Louis and I turned the running of the hotel over to Alphonse and we retired to the farm.

In the fall of that year, a diary entry from a friend visiting at the farm read: "Found Mdme. Hautier very ill on a wretched bed...did our best to help her."

But by that point I was beyond much help, and basically just gave up. With Louis' help, I struggled on for almost another year, but died in September 1881 at the age of 44. I was buried on the farm, where Louis was buried next to me in 1886.

From a life full of changes, 7 children, and hard work at the hotel, I finally had rest.





## The original John! Meet the man who invented the toilet (for an ungrateful Elizabeth I...)



A poet and a gentleman, Sir John Harington seems like the most unlikely candidate to invent Britain's first flushing toilet.

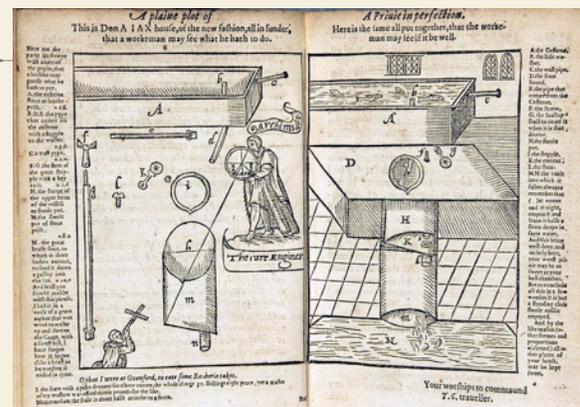
Nevertheless, his contribution to evacuation has been considered so significant that his first name endures as a favourite term for the loo!

Born in Somerset in 1560 to a poet and a gentlewoman of Queen Elizabeth I's chamber, Harington was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. As godson to the Queen, she herself described him as her "witty godson", Harington made a name for himself as a vocal and energetic member of the court.

Harington was a keen writer and was encouraged in his creativity by the Queen. However, when he was caught circulating risqué stories among the gentlewomen, he was banished from the court and advised that, before he'd be allowed to return, he'd have to complete a translation of the epic poem *Orlando Furioso*, by the Italian poet Ariosto.

It seems Harington's mind must have wandered from the task in hand, as it was during this time in exile that he built Britain's first flushing toilet in his house. Quite how he made the transition from avid poet to amateur plumber is unclear.

Harington's new invention, or "privie in perfection" as he called it, was accompanied by an elaborately detailed account of the cistern's workings, entitled *A New Discourse of a Stale Subject, Called the Stale Subject, Called the Metamorphosis of Ajax*. So detailed, in fact, that he had trouble finding a printer who would agree to work for him.



While the Queen disapproved of this written account, she did agree to have a flushing toilet installed in Richmond Palace. It seems the world wasn't ready for Harington's revolutionary new toilet, preferring instead to continue dumping the contents of their chamber pots into the streets below. However his translation of *Orlando Furioso*, published in 1591 and dedicated to the Queen, proved extremely popular.

Reprinted with permission from Find My Past UK website blog, by Violet Macdonald, 19 November 2015



## Recognition of Local Historical Chinese Sites

January 29, 2016, Provincial Government press release:

*Twenty-one places of historical significance to the Chinese Canadian community are being provincially recognized under the Heritage Conservation Act fulfilling a commitment in the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations.*

Two places in Lytton have been chosen from a list of the original 77 places nominated by British Columbians. They also will be considered for the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The 2 sites are :



*Lytton Joss House 145 Main Street, Lytton B.C. c.1881,*

and

*Gold Rush Landscapes in Nlaka'pamux Territory: Browning's Flat and Rip Van Winkle Flats c. 1880-1890*

Expanded information on all the sites at [www.heritagebc.ca](http://www.heritagebc.ca) in the *Chinese Canadian Historic Places - Statements of Significance for Shortlisted Historic Places.*



## Lytton 100 Years Ago

Victoria Colonist Newspaper

1916 January 26

So how much snow did we get in January this year?

### TRAINS PROCEED ON MAIN LINE

Snowploughs Clear Way for Those Held Up In Mountains —Some Expected at Vancouver This Morning.

VANCOUVER, B.C., Jan. 25.—The C. P. R. main line through the mountains was cleared this evening at 6:45 o'clock when the big wing plough operating from North Bend broke through the blockade by pulling into Lytton. In the Fraser Canyon, from North Bend to Lytton, the wind had drifted the fine dry snow solid and the work gangs had to force a clearance through heavy banks of the consistency of sand. The westbound passenger train due here last Saturday evening will be the first to arrive at Vancouver, being due about 2 a.m. Other trains held at Spence's bridge and Kamloops, six in all, are due to reach Vancouver in the early morning, the first being due about 5 o'clock and the last about 8 o'clock. The first eastbound passenger train will leave Vancouver at 9 in the morning.



# Curio Corner

**curio: a rare, unusual, or intriguing object.**

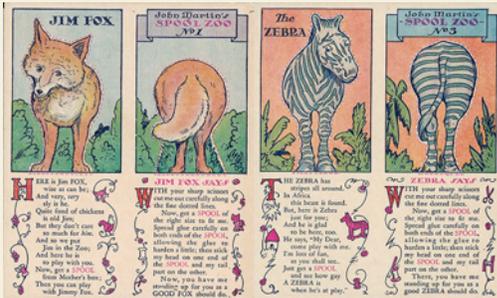
In the 1930's Coats and Clark Thread Company needed to sell more black and white thread. It seemed most people were purchasing size 50 All Purpose Thread, instead of buying the right size thread for different projects. To educate the public they created a Thread Chart to show different fabrics and which thread should be used for each.



But how could they get the consumers to read the chart and buy the correct threads?

After seeing an animal toy consisting of three parts: a square block for the body with the head and the tail as two flat pieces mounted at the front and back - problem solved.

What better way to get Moms to read the thread chart than by printing it on the back of a trading card which would appeal to children. And so Spool Pets came into being.



Different animals could be made using different size spools. For instance, with a tiny size 200 spool you could make a kitten. or a large cow with a size 8 spool.

Children traded the cards and spools to build their menagerie, or entreated their mother to buy a different size thread to collect another pet for their collection..



Coats and Clark issued 2 different sets - 6 'pet' and 6 'zoo' animals.

In 2006, a set of 11 of the 12 sold for \$129.00.

Come in and see the ones we have on display.

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

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

**\$10 Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters.**

Newsletters are available by e-mail in pdf format saving you paper clutter and saving the Museum publication and postage costs.

Send us an e-mail at

[museum@lyttonmuseum.ca](mailto:museum@lyttonmuseum.ca)



Unlocking Lytton's Past

## LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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



British Columbia Museums Association



Archives Association of British Columbia

& the BC Historical Federation