

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society
Volume 16, Issue 1 - May, 2012

Barkerville opens May 17, 2012!



The Bridge across Williams Creek is in!



A frosty view of St. Saviors Church



The sleigh passes the Hotel during Barkerville Christmas



Prancer curls up under the tree like a Christmas Gift!



EXECUTIVE

President: Doug Perdue 250-747-1695
Vice-president: Richard Wright 250-994-3340
Secretary: Grant Johannessen 250-992-1296 Treasurer:
Tony Bensted 250-992-5958

OTHER DIRECTORS: Lana Fox, Robert Grady, Andy Motherwell, Dave Jorgensen, Jim Gorsline, Larry Gardner, Dianne Dagneau and new director Bridget Nowakowski.

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. FOB staff is in the Barkerville Hotel (mid-May to end-September), phone 250-994-3360. In the off season, contact any executive director. Our e-mail address is: friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca.

Our web site is: www.barkerville.bc.ca

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, (iii) the right to run for office, (iv) discounts at associated historical attractions and businesses.

DIRECTORS MEETINGS: Most of our regular meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at @5:30pm in Quesnel. There will be a couple of meetings a year in Barkerville.

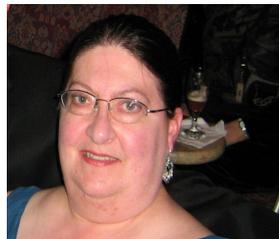
MERCHANDISE: The Friends of Barkerville offer souvenirs, gifts, historical books and memorabilia for sale from the Barkerville Hotel during the Town's open season and Christmas weekend.

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 Cathy Eisma. Inquiries, letters and contributions can be sent directly to her at ceisma@goldcity.net, phone 250-994-3283, 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 Friends of Barkerville and the editor especially, is always looking for help. The organization is involved with restoration and maintenance of artifacts, buildings, machinery, work, publications, and archival work, supporting town activities, fostering growth, and offering volunteer assistance at many events. The newsletter needs society news and wishes to give our reader's interesting stories along with it. Thank you.

EDITOR'S CORNER *by Cathy*

Eisma



Well, another winter has come and gone and it has been a fairly good one, for the most part. Spring seems to be here – at least in the lower elevations. The snow

seems to be going fast but in Barkerville it keeps on falling and then melting, then falling again! 2012 is Barkerville's 150th Anniversary and there are lots of events planned for the season. Most notable is the return of the Canadian National Gold Panning Championships – scheduled for August 11th & 12th. Also on that day will be games and activities as well as Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations.

The events we all look forward to will again take place – such as Victoria Day Tea (May 21/12), Dominion Day Festivities (July 1/12), Williams Creek Sports Day & Goldfield Bakery's 9th Annual Pie Eating Contest (July 21/12) and the 3rd Annual Williams Creek Fire Brigade Day, with it's ever popular "Amazing Race" Race (September 22/12). The Autumn Moon Festival will be on August 25th and the 2nd Annual Barkerville Cowboy and Drover Jubilee will take place on September 7th – 9th.

A new event to take place on June 8th is a Barkerville-UNBC Academic Heritage Symposium Gala. Barkerville and UNBC will jointly host the Symposium over three days in June that will conclude with a Gala Fundraising dinner to be held in Prince George for the benefit of Barkerville. With all that to look forward to – it promises to be an exciting season on the streets of Barkerville!

Barkerville Rush Relay -Sunday May 20, 2012.

This 8-stage running relay follows the gradient-rich Highway 26 from the busy resource town of Quesnel to the Cariboo Gold Rush mountain valleys of Barkerville. They will grind up hills steep and long, and stride past colorful and historic sites such as Cottonwood House, Lightning Creek, Robber's Roost and Blessing's Grave. The slopes are gentle past Jack of Clubs Lake and Barkerville, but then the route turns into a trail to Richfield which then climbs steeply to Summit Rock. Snow is certain to be encountered before retracing the path to finish up in the quaint but welcoming town of Wells. Participants rave about the course and the high standard of race organization, the enthusiasm of the volunteers, the great scenery and the amazing wildlife! Don't forget to be out there to cheer on the runners!

TRAILS REPORT

– By Robin Grady

Trails & Cemeteries 2012

We now have wheelchair access toilets at Blessings and Ever wonder about the lives of some of the people buried in the Barkerville cemetery. Here is a short history on Sam Montgomery as told by Harry Jones (another story) in one of a series of letters sent to Louis LeBourdais in the 1920's & 30's which were then later published in the Vancouver Sun. This is one of many letters Harry sent about his recollections of days of old and what he knew about some of the old timers.

Stanley, thanks to the Cariboo Regional District, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and HMC Service Inc. The Friends also have a service agreement to maintain these for the next three years.

The CRD also gave funding to help up grade wheelchair access to and through the Stanley Cemetery, so with that we hired a crew to cut the grade and lay down material for pathways. There will be two loads of fines to be added to what is already there to be done this summer. We had treated posts pounded in to replace the old fence and will be installing railings this summer. Looks like several work bees out there plus a couple of painting days either in town or on site.

Once the snows have gone we hope to clean up any problem area, mainly blow down, on the trails that are used the most from Barkerville area. ie 1861 to Sawmill Flat, VanWinkle, and Grouse Creek. Possibly in August we would like to have a group hike from Sawmill Flat to Barkerville to celebrate the 150 year Barkerville celebrations. We think it would be a nice gesture if we can conclude the hike in somewhat of a period costume with mining garb and tools etc. we could store what we need in a vehicle near Richfield so we will not need to carry over the mountains. Once a date is confirmed we will try to inform those interested, there may be a small charge to bus hikers to the starting area.

In late May or early June we will also be planning a cleanup of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery, so be ready.

Another project is to place a trail through the washout on the Ditchline near Coopers Cabin, so again be ready.

Thanks to Dianne for the organizing our winter snowshoe treks, both hikes had 16 plus snowshoers.

Barkerville to Host Party of the Century (and a Half)!

Barkerville celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2012, and the year is full of exciting adventures for the more than 65,000 international visitors who flock to "BC's Gold Rush Town" annually. The signature event for Barkerville's year-long sesquicentennial celebrations will take place August 11th & 12th, 2012. The event will officially commemorate the 150th anniversary of Billy Barker's astonishing gold discovery in August 1862, and the subsequent birth of Barkerville Historic



Town. During the weekend-long gala visitors to Barkerville will also be treated to the triumphant return of the Canadian National Gold Panning Championships, hosted by 5-time World Invitational Gold Panning Champion and lifetime Barkerville resident, Scott Rea.

James Douglas | Manager, Visitor Experiences from Barkerville's Web page

SAM MONTGOMERY – by Lana Fox

Ever wonder about the lives of some of the people buried in the Barkerville cemetery. Here is a short history on Sam Montgomery as told by Harry Jones (another story)

in one of a series of letters sent to Louis LeBourdais in the 1920's & 30's which were then later published in the Vancouver Sun. This is one of many letters Harry sent about his recollections of days of old and what he knew about some of the old timers.



Sam Montgomery, Acc. # 999.9.1.52, P263
Barkerville Archives

In Harry's words he says, "Sam Montgomery was Irish north and true British and a sailor and all around man; good memory and very good company – had millions of yarns of all sorts."

Sam Montgomery was born in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland and lived with his grandparents and I understood his grandpa was a military man and a pensioner. Sam said they were not rich but lived comfortable with plenty to eat. Sam called himself a British seaman and when he got in trouble once in a faring port he appealed for protection of the British Flag and it was granted to him, he said. Sam claims that a British subject need not be afraid that he will be looked after by the old Flag if he is on top of the ground, in any port or place in the world. Sam Montgomery told me that he spent a few months in the gold mines in

California and because he did not like it he quit and came down to San Francisco and spent a few days before striking out for Victoria.

One day he was walking on the sidewalk and one of the streets he noticed all the people on the same side of the street and rushing to cross to the other side and left me almost alone. I saw a man walking toward me with a gun in his hand and spoke that he was not going to shoot me. In the mean time somebody behind got hold of me by the shoulders and held me between himself and the man with the gun. However in moving back and forward we got opposite an alley when he let me go and run to it and the gunman after him.

Sam said he was in many tight places before but nothing like that. I found my partner and after I told him about the hold-up I got out of, he said let's quit the damn place and we got on board the boat and shipped for Victoria. This was in the year 1860.

Montgomery spoke highly of his partner Tom Coffin. Montgomery and Coffin went to Cariboo in the summer of 1862 and landed on Lightning Creek on a spot near Butcher's Bench which was covered with grass and staked their ponies to feed for the night.

Sam suggested to sink a hole, we may strike gold but Coffin objected and asked Sam if he ever seen gold in a swamp. The summer was spent on Chisholm Creek and we found some gold and spend it in Victoria during the winter. Same came back in 1863 and remained in the Cariboo until his death, (I forgot what year.)

Sam was blessed with what is called a strong common sense; a good memory and a good command on the English language; good talker and he could tell a story with the best of those story tellers I ever saw, full of humour and could laugh hearty as well as to make others laugh, was always good company and well informed.

How he could gather so much knowledge and being as he said himself "a wild kid" ran away from home when he was 14 years old and never went back. Yet, he was a good writer and a fine reader, studied navigation when out at sea and had the right papers for "first mate", as he used to say. He must be a wonderful man to learn and gather so much knowledge yet he never mentioned that he ever spent an hour on those things but he tells us that all the time when not on shift, was spent with the boys in their camp which he loved better than camping with the Officers in their quarters. I met him in his cabin when he told me that he was very much scared by a black bear in the devils canyon. When on my way from Slough Creek with a bundle of hay for my mattress, I took a rest when on top of the hill and bit my pipe, when I thought I heard some noise behind me, I turned my head to look and there was a big black bear in 20 feet. I yelled at the top of my voice and the bear sprung down to the canyon and up the hill on the other side of the canyon as quick as he could. Sam says the bear was as much frightened as he was. However, Sam did not lose much time on the road to Stanley.

Meet Director Dave Jorgenson

Dave has been a member of the Friends of Barkerville for over 10 years, during which he has served as a Director. He is married and has 3 grown up children. He is a self-employed owner of the Bear's Paw Café, the Frog on the Bog Gift Store and Whitegold Adventure. He lives in downtown Wells and lists his education as by life...plus outdoor recreation management diploma. His other interests include: Travel, just about anything outdoors, making things, figuring stuff out, biology, history, kite-skiing, canoeing, cycling, and most importantly sharing joy for life for others.



As for his link or special interest in Barkerville – "Living in Wells makes Barkerville my home too. Leading Hiking, Skiing, and Canoe trips in our area, we can't help but constantly stumble over our history. Making it real for people is my passion, and FOB supports that cause too. Also, from resource extraction, government changes, degradation of time, and lack of knowledge, we are under constant threat of losing contact with the rich past that makes our present what it is. I see my job as one of showing the connection between the past and the present, and making it entertaining, real, engaging and interesting for people."

Report from Sue Morhun, Chair, Barkerville Heritage Trust

Happy Birthday, Barkerville! We're 150 years old this year along with the Cariboo Wagon Road and key places all along the Gold Rush Trail. That's quite a milestone to celebrate and we hope everyone commemorates our rich collective heritage throughout the year.

In the lead up to our year long birthday party, there has been absolutely no quiet time. As CEO Judy Campbell often says, everyone is busier in the winter tackling a myriad of things that aren't possible to even think about when summer season is underway. Here are some highlights.

We concluded a three year financial operating agreement with the Province of BC through the good auspices of Minister Steve Thomson (Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) and his senior staff. This welcome development gives us funding certainty for the next few years and allows for a much improved planning horizon. The Board has begun refreshing our "Framework for Sustaining Barkerville" Business Plan as a result – that's a great feeling. We have also received preliminary approval from the Province for over \$500,000 of priority

building projects including stabilizing the collapsing log Powerhouse building on the back street (near the stables), as well as the Lowhee Mining Co. and the Butterfield Barns which you may know better as the old carpentry and machinery shops. The two barns are central to improving artifact storage associated with our planned Barkerville Conservation and Learning Institute. Two other partnerships will bring welcome developments on site. The original Williams Creek School house will be erected on its proper location between the J.H. Todd Drug Store and the Masonic Hall this year. The school operated circa 1900 until claimed by fire in the 1940's. The new building is being framed by CNC in Quesnel over the winter and then trucked to the site and erected in the spring. It will provide temporary artifact storage while the two "Barns" are restored and then, hopefully in 2013, open as a new school house. The forest companies in the area have been exceptionally generous in their support for the Barns restoration and school construction by providing more than \$75,000 worth of donated materials. How wonderful! Two grants totaling \$100,000 in support of creating a traveling exhibit to China in 2013 and titled "Who Am I?" have been approved and work is now progressing well. We are most appreciative of the support from the Omenica and Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Committees. With \$200,000 more to raise, our fundraising staff now have a number of promising "irons in the fire." The exhibit will not only raise the profile of the Gold Rush Trail and Barkerville with Chinese tourists (especially since Canada has achieved approved destination status) but, we hope, link contemporary Chinese families, with ancestors who were part of the great overseas immigration in the mid to late 19th C. The formal signing of a letter of intent between participants in both BC and China took place as part of Premier Clarke's November trade mission to China. As local residents will attest, it has been a "Big Snow" year. With over 150 roofs to be concerned about (over 100 of them historic structures), careful snow removal has occupied a lot of time and cost as well. Coupled with usual building conservation concerns, changed WCB regulations are making the work of getting snow safely off the roofs more complicated. Consequently, staff have had to refine their methods and will work further this spring to develop a revised snow removal plan including designated "storage" areas. With the site opening a bit later this year, they hope to have everything up and running with all the streets graded and ready go by that time. We also hope Mother Nature knows it is our !50th and behaves weather-wise. We have all sort of events planned for the 150th season. A growing number of individual event sponsors means that we can plan to do more and, perhaps, do them even bigger and better. We thank them for their faith in Barkerville. And we thank you, too. The FoB are an important partner – assisting as volunteers, helping to diversify the range of activities in the area with an ever improving trail system and tackling special projects like the Canada Claim. We have ample reason to celebrate this year – come join us as often as you can!

Barkerville Hotel Store Report

By Cathy Eisma

We had a very successful Victorian Christmas in Barkerville this past December, due to the excellent weather conditions – no doubt. There were lots of people on the street and visiting each business, as well as a constant parade past by the horse drawn sleigh. Everyone was in a festive mood and it also appeared in a buying mood, as our sales were the best that we've had in years. The fact that Wells also had a few events and stores and galleries open helped to bring out the people, too.

We are looking forward to another busy season, as this year is Barkerville's 150th Anniversary! Let's hope it brings out people who haven't been for awhile.

We will also have lots of changes in the store; things have been rearranged and I hope will prove more functional and more profitable, too! So- come on out and visit us and see the changes, pick up your membership if you haven't already and enjoy Barkerville.

OLD MEETS NEW- FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Hello Past and Present Friends of Barkerville! It's time to renew your Friendship!

The **Friends of Barkerville now has an online Annual Membership** and Annual Barkerville pass. It's even more convenient to: Register and pay for your Membership/Annual Barkerville Pass from home anywhere in the world!
<http://barkerville.bc.ca/membership.html>

Your Membership is important to us.

- Membership numbers help us to apply for grants and qualify for funding projects.
- Membership funds help keep Barkerville and Cariboo History alive.

Your Membership is important to You.

- Membership entitles you to unlimited admission to Barkerville Historic Park at a very low price. (\$30 for a single, \$60 for a couple, or only \$65 for a family)

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE on page 7

1. Bald
2. canvas
3. prospector
4. Clinton
5. Welsh
6. saloon
7. Sophia
8. sternwheeler
9. pick
10. Cameron
11. Beaver Pass
12. Scotch Lassie
13. consumption
14. spiders net
15. Wright
16. gum boots
17. Moses
18. Bowron
19. hurdy
20. Eldorado
21. doctor
22. courthouse
23. Summit
24. acre
25. Kellys
26. fort
27. Barker
28. Fox
29. Begbie
30. bannock
31. axe
32. Cow
33. Winnipeg
34. Beggs
35. Stanley
36. tanner
37. Davis
38. sewing
39. yes
40. Discovery
41. ore
42. Quesnel
43. now
44. Kibbee
45. away

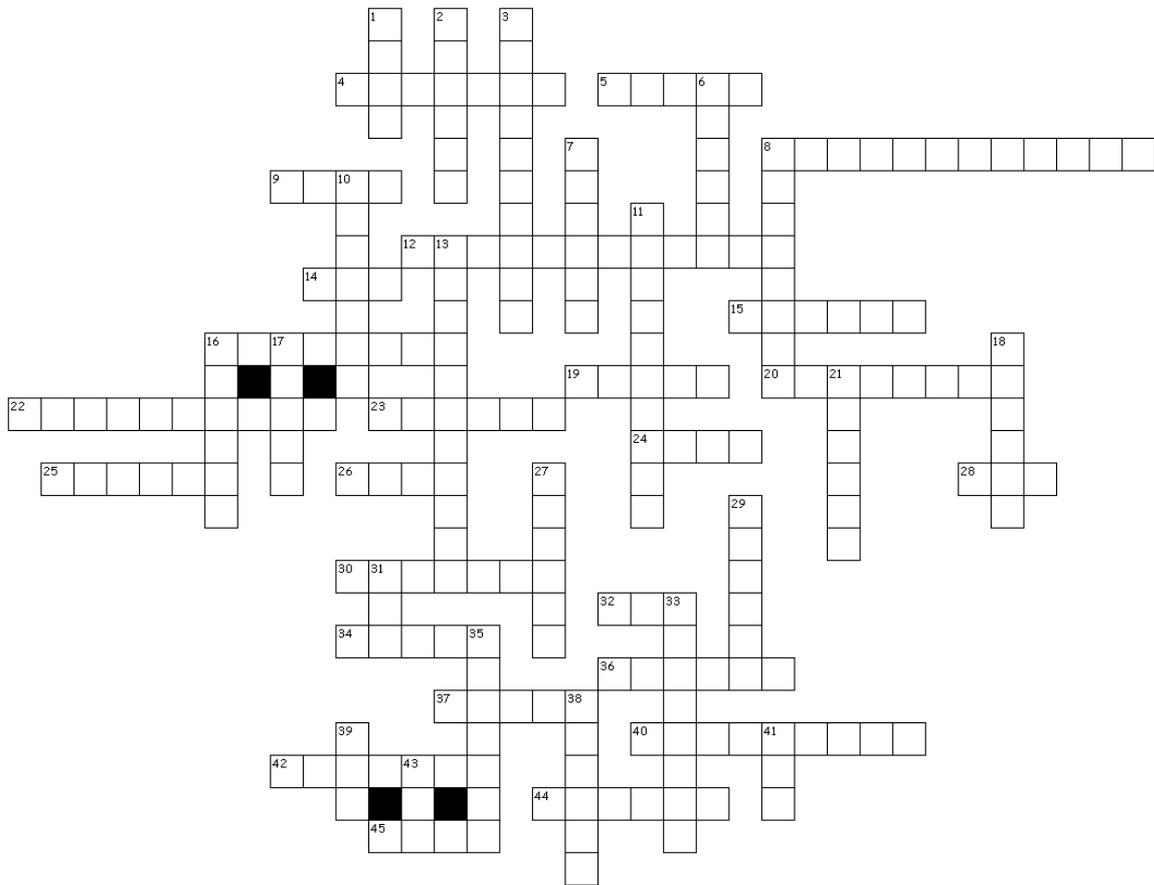
DID YOU KNOW???

- Your Friends of Barkerville Membership entitles you to a 50% Admission Discount and 10% off in the Gift Shop of the Quesnel Museum.
- Legion Lifestyle show is in Quesnel this weekend, May 11, 12, 13th
- The FOB sponsored two Snowshoe Hikes this past winter and there are a couple of hikes planned for this spring and summer.
- The Cariboo are again out on the highway, just wandering around in traffic – so watch out for them if you head up this way in the next few weeks.



May 6, 2012





ACROSS:

4. town on the way through the Cariboo
5. Captain Evans was a ___miner
8. the BX was one of these
9. tool a miner used
12. who was Jessie Heatherington
14. spiders net
15. Cariboo road builder
16. what miners usually worked in
19. dance hall girl
20. gold panning place
22. building at Richfield
23. hiking you arrive at this rock
24. a piece of land
25. a family who lived in Barkerville
26. what was located at Alexandria
28. Barkerville town dweller
30. miners bread
32. mountain name near Wells
34. name of a gulch
36. maker of leather
37. Red Headed _____
40. claim name
42. river reached by gold seekers in 1859
44. lake named after Frank
45. out of town

DOWN:

1. mountain near Barkerville
2. tents made out of this
3. person searching for gold
6. drinking establishment
7. John Cameron's wife
8. hotel in Barkerville
10. Camerontown is named after who
11. first bricks made in this area
13. an old disease
16. war on this creek
17. who ran the barber shop in Barkerville
18. chain of lakes
21. who was Thomas Bell in Barkerville
27. who hit pay dirt at 52 feet
29. the Hanging Judge
31. chopping tool
33. where did Overlanders leave from
35. old town on Lightning creek
38. in 1851 what machine was invented
39. opposite of no
41. pay dirt
43. at this time



Barkerville Historic Town
FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE
CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Annual Pass & Membership Form 2012



Date: _____

Please Print Clearly

New **Renewal**

Family (\$65)

Couple (\$60)

Single (\$30)

Name: (1) _____
 Given

 Surname

Card # _____

Name: (2) _____
 Given

 Surname

Card # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____

Postal/ZIP Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please Bring this Form to the Barkerville Hotel (Map #48) to Register Your Membership, or Mail to:

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE CARIBOO GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4152
QUESNEL, BC V2J 3J2

CHECK FOR F.O.B. NEWSLETTERS @ www.barkerville.bc.ca

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A LEGAL CLAIM JUMPER!

PRIVATE OFFERING TO PURCHASE WITH YOUR ANNUAL PASS AND MEMBERSHIP (BY MAIL OR AT THE BARKERVILLE HOTEL) A ONE YEAR SHARE IN THE "CANADIAN CLAIM, Co.," LOCATED ON WILLIAMS CREEK ACROSS FROM THE WATERWHEEL IN BARKERVILLE).

SHARE CERTIFICATES WILL BE SENT TO YOU OR ISSUED AT THE BARKERVILLE HOTEL AT A COST OF \$3.00/ SHARE!

Please add to your membership fee if mailing in; we take gold dust, nuggets, cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard.

NOTE: Your contact information may be used by the Barkerville Heritage Trust and/or Friends of Barkerville to notify you of upcoming events and activities, but WILL NOT be used by anyone else for any other purpose.

ITCHING TO VOLUNTEER? HAVE WE GOT SOME GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

Please phone 250-994-3360, or email friendsofbarkerville@barkerville.ca for more information.