

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE

Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

Volume 14, Issue 1 - February, 2010



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OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN BARKERVILLE



Photo by Cathy Eisma

Well, it was another successful Old Fashion Christmas in Barkerville. The weather cooperated – sort of – and we had two out of the three days with lots of people who made the trip out to enjoy the day. The sleigh made many trips up and down the street; there was a successful theatre show in the Methodist Church, put on by Theatre Royal and we served hot apple cider and cookies to quite a few happy customers. Sales were good also – the only thing to put a damper on things was that the weather turned cold on Sunday and by Monday morning the thermometer registered a chilly -40! Needless to say – Monday was a bust and the majority of the merchants cleaned up and went home early. Not only was it very quiet – I did see one couple braving the cold – but it was almost impossible to stay warm for long. But, as the old saw goes “two out of three ‘ain’t’ bad”. All we can do is hope for better weather next year and maybe Mother Nature will oblige us.

NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE

The new edition of the web site is well under way and will be put up for viewing very soon. Trail maps will be available to download along with descriptions.

Photos of flowers and animals will also be posted. Lots of old info has been updated as it didn't pertain anymore. Take a look at:

www.barkerville.bc.ca



Photo by Lana Fox

EXECUTIVE

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

OTHER DIRECTORS: Lana Fox, Robert Grady, Andy Motherwell, Dave Jorgensen, Rick Galbraith, Jim Gorsline, Larry Gardner

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 linked to www.barkerville.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

It has been a quiet winter for me as far as the Friends go. I have been hibernating and keeping in touch by phone and email. I did go and help out at the Old Fashion Christmas and enjoyed myself talking to the



customers and friends that popped in. The atmosphere is always so festive and it got me inspired to decorate and finish all the preparations necessary for a family Christmas. Ours was to be special this year as we had our new granddaughter for the holiday season. I have been doing some planning and paperwork in preparation for next season. One of the things that is planned is a reading in the Hotel by author Ann Walsh on August 1st. Who knows what will be in store for us this next summer. Lots of exciting changes coming – always something new to look forward to.

One thing that is now in the production stages is our new Friends of Barkerville website. There will be a page with some maps of our Goldrush Pack Trail's, which will be printable in color. We are continuing our project of raising funds for the Canadian Claim Mine, by selling mine shares and there is also a new membership initiative involving our shares certificates. We will all continue to work towards making Barkerville a better place.

Cathy Eisma, Editor

TRAILS REPORT

By Robin Grady

We have been working with Westroad Resource Consultants who have donated their time and mapping expertise with the computers to produce a series of trail maps. These maps will be on our updated web site very soon, and will be downloadable. They will be in color and fit on 8 X 11 inch paper, scale will be 1:20000. If you use an ink jet printer, you should invest in a plastic map carrier or large baggies will do. Presently, we will not have all the 1861 Goldrush Pack Trail on the site, only the portion from Sawmill Flats to Richfield. There will also be a description of each trail with distance and rating. Trails covered by maps will be... Groundhog Lake,- Van Winkle (Lightning Cr.) - Powder house.- Grouse Creek,- Williams Creek Loop,- Richfield Cemetery, Proserpine and Bald Connectors,- 1861GRPT 0-16k. We do not have our old map of the 1861 GRPT on site but they are available this summer at the Barkerville Hotel and The Bear Paw in Wells. This pamphlet has GPS trail info. We hope many hikers take advantage of our site and invite them to consider joining Friends of Barkerville. Our Web site is:

www.barkerville.bc.ca

PRESIDENTS REPORT – BY DOUG PERDUE



As we start off a new decade, there is a change to the leadership for the FoB. I have agreed to take my turn, and I hope that you will bear with me as we continue in our efforts to promote Barkerville and the surrounding goldfields. My first message in the newsletter is one of thanks to Robin Grady for the dedicated effort and good leadership

he has brought to the Friends. Robin has stayed on as a director and deserves a round of applause as he steps back from the role of president for the past three years. I would also like to thank the directors, both past and present for the commitment that they bring to keeping Barkerville a vibrant and interesting community. I would like to thank retiring directors Loretta Grady and Pat Pickering for their help over the years. Pat is continuing as the FoB representative on the Barkerville Heritage Trust Board (BHT). In addition to Robin and myself, seven directors have continued in their role. Tony Bensted, Lana Fox, Rick Galbraith, Jim Gorsline, Grant Johnnesen, Dave Jorgensen, Andy Motherwell. We also have two new directors, Larry Gardner and Richard Wright who deserve a warm welcome. The Friends ability to participate in projects to enhance and maintain Barkerville relies heavily on funds raised by selling memberships. The BHT has asked in our assistance to maintain and hopefully increase membership in the FoB this year. Membership in the FoB gives you entry to the townsite, copies of the newsletter, and the opportunity to participate. I would like to encourage you to renew your membership in the Friends. Just as importantly, I encourage you to ask friends, neighbors and relatives to also join the Friends for 2010. If everyone can bring in one or more new Friends we will be in a good position to move ahead on new projects in 2010. FoB was successful in negotiating with the town of Wells to have Wells take over management of the new portion of the Wells/Barkerville Cemetery. We felt that they were the appropriate group to take on this task. FoB will assist in maintenance of the site, through participation work bees as needed. The BHT has also asked for our assistance in helping to maintain the old portion of the cemetery. Cemetery maintenance will be one of the main projects for the year. The Canadian Claim refurbishing is the other project that we are focusing on. Drop by the Barkerville hotel and purchase a share in the claim to invest in Barkerville's entrepreunering spirit. Annual Passes and a variety of merchandise are also available at the hotel in support of the Friends.

REPORT FROM NEIL VANT – CHAIR OF THE BARKERVILLE HERITAGE TRUST

First, I am pleased to report that last season we experienced no decline in attendance at Barkerville! We who support Barkerville can hold our heads high as we bucked both the provincial and regional trends which concerning Tourism experienced 20-50% declines due to the recession and our high dollar.

Moreover, I am also pleased to report that our September numbers for 2009 are up over 1,000 visitors compared to September 2008. Our fall shoulder season is growing year after year making it more and more worthwhile for all of us.

Recent noteworthy events include a joint executive teleconference between the Trust and the Friends on December 8th, 2009. We discussed items of current mutual concern like the Canadian Claim Project and Season's Passes. We agreed on priorities concerning the Canadian Claim so we can have work done that is affordable for the Friends in stages. Also we wrestled with many ideas and suggestions on how more and more season's passes could be sold. It was also agreed that improved maintenance of the Cemetery is a priority as well. In January of 2010 the Board met in Prince George and the Community reception was well attended including the Mayor and several councilors, representatives of Initiatives Prince George and one of the local MLA's, The Honorable Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. Our CEO, Judy Campbell gave an excellent presentation on our growing Chinese connections in light of her recent visit to China with Lilly Chow, recently retired Director of the Trust and Bill Quackenbush our Curator. This was a timely presentation as Prince George is also keen on building relationships across the Pacific with their new expanded Airport. I took the opportunity to lobby Shirley Bond concerning the connector between Barkerville and Purden Lake on Highway 16 which was very favorably received by her and those at the reception. The First Nations consultation is now complete concerning this very worthwhile project so that one more of the must do's to make it happen is now done. We look with confidence to the 2010 season and our Marketing staff informs me that no less than 9 Chinese Tour groups have been making inquiries concerning Barkerville! In closing, we all must work hard at promoting Barkerville whenever we can. The Trust Board values the Friends and as I have said in the past: - "We need all the Friends we can get"!

THE LATEST IN MODERN INVENTIONS

by Julia Wheatley

Here we have the latest in Modern Inventions--a kerosene powered clothes iron, patented 1903. A Boon to Today's Housekeeper. So much more convenient than those Old-Fashioned Irons that need to be heated on the Kitchen Stove.

Why, you needed two of those Old Irons; one always heating on the stove, waiting to be swapped when the one you are using cools. And those Old Irons were heavy--2 pounds each. Mind you, the Modern Kerosene Powered Iron is also made of iron, and weighs the same...After all; you will need that weight to press the wrinkles out of your laundry. Notice the Fine Features on the Modern Iron: fuel reservoir with pump-valve; adjustable heat control; attractively scalloped flame vents on the body of the iron; to mention just a few. The fuel--kerosene--is placed in the reservoir up front. This is then pressurized with a small pump via the valve you will notice on the top of the reservoir. That metal tube is perforated where it passes through the hollow body of the Modern Iron and then exits out the other end. At this end is another small valve that controls air-flow and, therefore, the intensity of the flame within this Most Modern of Irons.

So easy to use this Modern Iron. Pressurize the fuel; Light at the back; Adjust the height of the flame; and then, in a Few Minutes, the Iron will be to Hot. However, you may wish to take Extra Care when lighting. The fuel is Pressurized. Oh Dear....

And, of course, the top plate of this Modern Iron will heat long before the bottom plate, and will remain hot. And when you grasp the handle, your knuckles will be in Very Close proximity to this Very Hot chunk of Iron. This Might be Uncomfortable to Some; so the manufacturers have--thoughtfully--installed a Heat-Shielding Knuckle-Guard. Also of Iron. Hmmm.

There is one other Small Concern. You are using pressurized fuel, {think Coleman lantern "SchSchS"ing--not the gentle flame of a coal-oil lamp} and you are using pressurized fuel without



a mantle to contain the flame. So where will that flame be? It will be licking out through the scalloped flame vents. Fire coming out of an iron? Please do not stand Too Close.

Let me understand this. This iron may explode when lit; is guaranteed to put your knuckles in contact with hot iron; will shoot flame six inches in all directions; all while being as heavy as my old-fashioned sad-irons??

There are days I am quite content to be Old-Fashioned.

CHINA RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

- W.G. Quackenbush

I was in Guangdong in November to establish research connections and to promote Barkerville. Judy Campbell and I went along with Lily Chow. Lily did all of



the translating, connecting and leading of our little group. Our first days we followed Senator Lillian Dyck around as she visited her father's home village (His last name was Quan and he had come from China and subsequently had been unable to return and remarried late in life). So, we got to see the UNESCO World Heritage Sites that are associated with these villages -- there are about 10,000 villages -- each with their own element of a Diaolou -- a protective tower. They centre in the Wuyi county districts around Guangzhou (Canton).



The villages are quite interesting in their layout – a broad cement platform boarder on the edge of a crescent shaped pond. The houses, of brick and reinforced concrete face onto this wide expanse. First one row of houses, then closely, or even with no space between, a second row, then a third and a fourth row, each a foot or

so higher. Then, perhaps there will be an open space with a Diaolou facing onto the space, with the villas of the more wealthy residents, if there are any, situated behind, or forming a part of the Diaolou complex. The Diaolou are generally towers that look like minarets. They were used for both defense and flood protection – the area is in the low lying delta of the Pearl River. The majority of the villages and Diaolou were built with overseas Chinese money, principally after 1920 and before 1936, but a few of the Diaolou date back as much as 400 years. Most of the money came from places like Malaysia and India, etc. where there was less repressive measures on the Chinese than in North America. The Middle Eastern influence in the architecture is felt to have been the greatest influence in the construction. One interesting aspect of these villages is that they were primarily clan villages and many of the people have the same last name (the Chinese system is to place the last name first). Most of the structures were never occupied by the builders as they remained wherever they were, sending money back to build these structures. There was even one village that they call the Canadian village, where the money that was sent back came from Canada. They are all pretty well abandoned, as most of the villagers have moved into the city in order to take advantage of the great boom going on (7% growth last year). However, even in the cities, there are the remnants of this village structure, as the old roads follow the elements of Feng Shui, as is seen in the villages and the older structures have similar appearances. It is really too bad as most of the houses appeared to be quite serviceable – they are made out of cement and with a bit of cleaning up would be in useable condition – one would have to really mean it to do much damage to these structures.

Senator Dyck was greeted by the Quan clan at her home village with a lion dance and tea ceremony in her father's

old home. One of the aged villagers could also remember some of her father's children from his first marriage and when they lived in the house. They were all excited to welcome back their long lost relatives. We then went to the Quan clan library where Lillian, her brother Winston Quan and her son Nathan all added to the book of generations that stretches back 25 generations. The town of Chikan, where the library is located, is now being preserved for use as a film set. The residents remain and carry on their lives much as they have for centuries – except with cell phones and televisions – everyone has them.

We also visited a number of the monumental heritage sites, including Clan gardens, Buddhist temples, etc. It was good to see the contrast between the everyday and the past as the apartment blocks that are springing up everywhere – for mile upon mile, freeway upon freeway, sky scrapper upon sky scrapper. All of this contrasted with the winding alleyways just off of the main thoroughfares

filled with little shops, each the size of a car garage – with business being carried out in a very relaxed manner – a tobacco store,

next to a cell phone store, next to a day care, next to a fruit stand, next to a small restaurant, next to a hair salon – or someone out on the street making belts or wire kitchen implements - with a small rest stop with an ancient tree in the middle, where the streets divided.

And then there was Hong Kong... this is definitely a world class city. The tourism is huge and if you want a tailor made suite for \$250 – ready in 7 hours, then there will be an East Indian tailor who will take care of your needs (they certainly thought I needed one) – or a Chinese jeweler selling gold and silver – or a high end woman's clothing store... and the lights. The light show at 8PM down at the end of Nathan Road in Kowloon where about 40 of the buildings in Hong Kong light up like fireworks going off and dance across the night sky with a sound system that is amazing. And





the people... Judy and I got to one corner and just stood there for 10 minutes, mouths hanging open, feeling like the country bumpkins that we are.

And, we accomplished what we set out to do in making contacts with the Wuyi University for research purposes, arranging to set up an exhibit on the Chinese in the Cariboo at the Wuyi Overseas Chinese museum in

Guangzhou and promoted Barkerville to every Vice Mayor and official in the region – it was not all about being a tourist, as the hand shaking aspect filled most of our days. With Prince George gaining international flight status and Canada now having preferred status for Chinese tourism, this trip was most advantageous for us to position the north of British Columbia as a destination. Our pitch, of course, is in the relationships with the past and the people who helped build Canada. We are hoping that those people who count Canada as the home for their relatives will come to visit.

BOOK REPORT by Andy Motherwell
Race to the Polar Sea – by Ken McGoogan – Harper Collins Publishers Ltd. 2008



An amazing book, produced after extensive research through long forgotten journals and records, by a very skilled storyteller.

In 1850 – 1855, about the time of the Cariboo gold rush and Darwin’s thesis on evolution, there was an intense curiosity about the earth’s poles and especially a northwest passage. Sir John Franklin, in April 1845, sailed into the arctic with two ships, in his final expedition, to find the elusive shorter route to the orient. He disappeared and by 1850 many had tried to find Franklin – many paid the final price.

Elisha Kent Kane, a medical doctor and son of a wealthy Philadelphian, led two expeditions to the arctic after an astonishing life of adventure in Brazil, China, Africa and Mexico, all while in poor health, frequently. At one point he had been lowered into the core of a volcano in the Philippines – barely escaping with his life.

Encountering the slave trade in Africa he became an abolitionist and in 1861 the American Civil War started, while our gold rush exploded.

At that time there was a popular belief in an open north polar sea which lasted for several years and that Franklin might be trapped there.

European and North American explorers were not adapted to ice conditions but the most successful including Kane learned to adopt the “Eskimo” lifestyle and survived – Kane with two years trapped in the ice. In 1850, he stood at the three graves of Franklin’s crew on Beechey Island and determined to find survivors and a passage.

He was a hero when he successfully returned after suffering starvation, scurvy and desertion. In 1856, he published a book about the expeditions.

He died February 16, 1857 in Havana leaving a will but, having a tangled love affair meant his wishes were not carried out. He left an invaluable record of the arctic in sketches and journals, “as it was” before global warming.

Our fascination with the poles continues and this is a valuable source of new information.

Congratulations to Jeannette Vos – winner of the gift basket in the Barkerville Hotel Door Prize Draw. The basket contained various merchandise from the store.

COMING AUGUST 1ST AT THE BARKERVILLE HOTEL

Author Ann Walsh will read from and talk about her gold rush books "Your Time, My Time" and the Barkerville Mystery Trilogy ("Moses, Me and Murder" "The Doctor's Apprentice" and "By The Skin of His Teeth.") Widely used in schools, these books are packed with Gold Rush history and adventures. Ann is a popular presenter at festivals and in schools, and her books are read and enjoyed by both younger readers and adults alike. Come and meet the author and enjoy tales of Barkerville's past. Ann's books will be available for sale at the Friends of Barkerville Office (Barkerville Hotel.)

2010 MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the February 2010 issue of the Friends of Barkerville newsletter. We would like you to take a break from the Olympics and read this from cover to cover, to discover your own Gold. (We hope this slips by the IOC).

If you are a current FOB member, thank you. If you are a past member and have not renewed your membership in the last few years, here is your chance for the real Gold Deal. (current memberships will also need to be renewed by May 2010). Think of a membership as a great gift to a friend.

This upcoming season we want members to have a chance to be part of the Barkerville character by being a "Legal Claim Jumper" with the purchase of a share in the "Canadian Claim Co." Presently the "Company" offer is \$5.00 per share, but this year FOB members may purchase shares for \$3.00 each.

Additional shares may be purchased by members at the cost of \$3.00. Share documents will be mailed out with membership cards or if membership is purchased at the gate entrance; they will be issued at the Barkerville Hotel when acquiring your new membership card.

Your share purchase dollars will be helping with the renovations of the "Canadian Claim Co." claim, on the east side of Williams Creek just downstream from the Waterwheel.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP-----\$21.00	add for your \$3.00 share
COUPLE MEMBERSHIP----\$42.00	“ “
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP----\$47.00	“ “
(children under 18 years)	

Check the Newsletter for other possible membership discount offers in various locations. (not finalized until May)

Please find on the Back Page our application information, please allow us to have your email address as it helps us to be a little green and will save us a little green, which helps us to help keeping Barkerville a living Museum for your children's children to enjoy.

* Check our website for further membership benefits

