

(NOTE: This is two pages of typed material. It appears to be his obituary.)

GEORGE GILBERT BATSTONE, born in Boston, Mass., March 27, 1878. Obtained licence as a Journeyman Plumber in Boston, January 1897. Came to B.C. in April 1898 with the Boston-British Columbia Placer Gold Company to set up placer mining machinery in Granite Creek at the site of the Granite Creek gold rush of 1885. Worked there for 3 seasons. He was then sent by the Company to one of the largest placer mines in California at that time, the "Sweepstake" mine in Weaverville, north of Redding where he saw one cleanup of \$50,000.

On one trip west from New York he brought the first phonograph that ever came into the area, an Edison "Gem" which had a large horn.

After finishing with placer mining he drove freight outfits between Spences Bridge and Granite Creek, and when the road was completed, between Spences Bridge and Princeton, sometimes 4 & 6 horses. He also drove extra stage runs from Spences Bridge to Princeton.

On one freight trip he took the first load of ore ever to be shipped from Princeton. It was shipped in small sacks – about one ton in all. During the construction of the railroad, he worked for A.E. Howse tending bar in the Driad Hotel at Nicola (now Merritt), oftentimes having to act as "banker" for his customers when they came in with a "Stake"; sometimes as "bouncer" and even to locking some of the more unruly up to keep order. Bartender in those days called for a little more than just serving refreshments.

He returned to Boston and obtained his Master Plumber's licence in 1906 but soon answered the "call of the West" again, returning to Nicola and the Similkameen.

In 1911 he married Ethel Thynne whose father, Jack Thynne, owned the first stopping house in the Otter Valley near Tulameen which is still standing and presently owned by Ed Cook. He then began ranching on the Diamond H Ranch, 27 miles north of Princeton until 1939 when he moved to Penticton. He worked for Interior Contracting Company until 1950 and has continued to live in Penticton in retirement.

During his lifetime he has been plumber, miner, carpenter, blacksmith, veterinarian, "undertaker", doctor's assistant, bartender – you name it, he's done it – but all these "trades" present a story in themselves. His standard: perfection, and a job was never complete until perfected. He needed to live only 6 months more to reach the age of 90.

He leaves a daughter, Mollie, Mrs. George P. Broderick, Penticton; a son, Jack, also of Penticton, 8 grandchildren & 5 great grandchildren. Funeral service was conducted from the Penticton Funeral Chapel, Rev. W.S. Beames officiating. Pallbearers: H.R. Hatfield, M.M. (Chap) Lowndes, Sam MacDonald, all of Penticton; Henry Frembd, George A. Mitchell, of Princeton; and Jack A. McDonald, Oliver. Interment in the Anglican Cemetery, Fairview Road.