

Scrapbook of Articles Relating to Granite Creek
From the 1887 Daily Colonist Newspaper
Compiled by Diane Sterne

February 15, 1887

OKANAGAN DISTRICT.

Mr. G. C. Tunstall reports that Similkameen division has yielded \$203,000 during the last year. The greater portion was taken from Granite creek. The various other creeks were worked but no pay gold was secured. The largest nugget, \$320, was taken out of Bear creek. Slate creek produced one worth \$215. About 100 whites and 50 chinese are wintering in the camp, which it is thought will give employment to 400 men this year.

March 8, 1887

SIMILKAMEEN NOTES.

[Mainland Sentinel.]

Miss Marble, the victim of the second robbery which occurred at Granite City, obtained restitution of the stolen property, \$300.00 in gold dust, and declined to lay an information against the guilty party, who soon after left for parts unknown.

George Rody, a well-known prospector and miner, better known as "Poker George," who was brought from Princeton to Granite City with a foot and hand badly frozen, crossed the great divide on the 2nd inst., and was buried the following day. A large concourse followed the remains to the grave.

The late cold snap put a stop to mining on the benches of Granite Creek, but operations will be renewed now that milder weather has set in. The Mainland Co. renewed drifting on the 19th February. The ground pays three ounces to the set.

The greatest cold recorded by the thermometer at Granite was 36° below zero.

The Granite city court house is supposed to have been dynamited by some one to show his disapproval of the mining recorder's absence from his duties.

A Chinese woman of evil repute died some time since at Granite city. Her friends took immediate steps to administer her estate, and proceeded to raffle off a young Monglian female, possessed of considerable personal attractions, named Awh Cho, who had been an inmate of the deceased's establishment, for the sum of \$500. The tickets, at \$10 each, were eagerly purchased by whites and Chinese. In the meantime a claimant to the possession of the female unexpectedly appeared on the scene in the person of the dead woman's husband, and the looked for event will not take place.

The mail-carrier from Hope reports having met on a previous trip a young man named Fisher who had lost his way on the mountain, and would have perished but for timely assistance rendered, having taken four days to make nine miles, must have since met his fate by

probably falling over the Skagit bluff, a very dangerous locality on the Hope trail. The unfortunate man apparently reached the Cedar Flat house in safety, but on resuming his journey next morning again lost the trail. No tracks could be seen indicating the direction he had taken, the drifting snow having obliterated all foot-marks. The person in charge of the next house did not see him, and the bitter snowstorm which raged with unprecedented severity precluded the possibility of his being alive in the absence of proper shelter.

Snow on the Hope mountain lies to a depth on some places of 20 feet. Hares, martin and other fur-bearing animals were never so plentiful. Deer on the western slope of the mountain and in the Similkameen Valley are so numerous that they are being shot to feed hogs. Is there no law against this wanton destruction?

A deliberate murder was committed about the middle of January at Kettle River. W. Jones, a former resident in the Okanagan Valley, had some difficulty with one of his parents, who soon after went out to attend to some duty. On his return Jones met him at the door and shot him dead with a Winchester rifle. The murderer then started for Fort Colville, but returned home after having gone a part of the way. A warrant was issued by Mr. Haynes, J. P., for his arrest, which has not as yet been effected although he has not made no effort to escape.

KAMLOOPS ASSIZES.

(Before Mr. Justice Walkem.)

Felix Andrews, an Indian, who had been educated at the Fraser river Mission, pleaded guilty to forging a money order in John Frank's name on Mr. Martin, M.P. P. He had also forged a second order similar to the first. Sentence, 3 years penal servitude.

Asnohn George was next arraigned for causing the death of Chilakester, by kicking him while fighting with him. The evidence rather exculpated the prisoner and he was acquitted. The same prisoner was subsequently tried for shooting H. Shuttleworth through the body in October last, near Semilkameen. The evidence was clear, and the prisoner being convicted of shooting with intent to murder was sentenced to 7 years in the penitentiary.

In the case of Ah Cum and Fook Chung, for burglary and stealing about \$500, in notes and gold dust, etc., from Loon Tai's store, Granite creek, Fook Chung pleaded guilty and Ah Cum not guilty. The court sentenced Ah Cum to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labor, as a receiver of stolen goods; and Fook Chung, for the graver offence, got 3 years in the penitentiary.

June 16, 1887

Granite Creek Platinum.

After all the talk and enquiry made about platinum, says the *Oregonian*, at last a lot of the genuine article has been received here. It came from Granite creek, British Columbia; and there is 100 ounces of it. It will be sent east by Mr. James Fisk, and after being refined will be sold, and then it will be known how much can be paid for it. Bulk for bulk, it seems to be heavier than gold and is a nobler metal. From granite creek also comes a lot of coarse gold, which is good to look at and quite different from the tiny scales commonly found in placers. There is more platinum to be had at Granite creek. It is found among the gold and when cleaned out, used to be thrown away, but it will not be thrown away any more, for it is worth about as much as gold, perhaps more. The lot brought down is in quite coarse flakes, with some small nuggets amongst it. It is of a dull steel grey color and its great weight is the only indication which might lead one to suppose that it was valuable. Some parties who have been on Granite creek think they have found a platinum mine just this side of the boundary line.

July 12, 1887

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Granite Creek.

Mr. W. Jensen, who arrived down from Granite Creek last week says that the town that promised to be a lively mining settlement is almost deserted, the prospectors having gone to new and more lucrative scenes. Mr. Jensen was through the Nicola country a short time ago and speaks highly of it.

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July 13, 1887

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A New El Dorado.

Thos. Daley, of Hope, says the *Columbian*, arrived in the city to-day. Mr. Daley has just come from Granite creek, and brings news of a mining excitement at Rock creek, near Keremeos, where a ledge of very rich gold quartz has lately been discovered. If the reports are not exaggerated the finders of the ledge, one of whom is Mr. Finney, a Cariboo miner, are to be envied. Mr. Douglas, a representative of an American syndicate, has examined the ore and offered Mr. Finney and his partner \$75,000 spot cash for their claim, which these gentlemen promptly refused. The ore is of the very richest kind, some of it being almost a mass of yellow gold, and when broken by the hammer the pieces will hang together by numerous shreds of the valuable mineral. The discovery has caused in-

tense excitement and miners are flocking in great numbers to the spot, and claims are being located by the dozen. Almost every white man at Granite creek has deserted that place, and will try his chances in the new El Dorado.

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October 25, 1887

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Episcopal Mission.

Canon W. H. Cooper, F. R. G. S., who has lately arrived in Kamloops to take charge of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Mission, has just concluded his first tour through the southern part of his extensive district. During his trip he rode upwards of 400 miles, visiting Grand Prairie, Spallumcheen, Enderby, Priest's Valley, the Okanagan Mission, Penticton, Keremeos, Granite Creek, Nicola, and the Stump Lake mining Camp. Arrangements were made in all these places for regular Church of England services. Canon Cooper is now engaged in organizing a series of services along the C. P. R. line, which runs 400 miles through his mission, viz., from Donald to Spence's Bridge. In the work amongst the employes of the C. P. R. and the large number of men working on the road, the Rev. H. Irwin is also engaged as assistant missionary. Canon Cooper has been deeply interested in immigration work for several years, and he is about to visit Victoria to present letters of introduction to the Lieutenant-Governor from the Marquis of Lorne and Sir Charles Tupper. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has requested the Dominion officers in British Columbia to give the Canon every facility for becoming acquainted with the resources of the country to enable him to prepare a series of articles for a leading English newspaper, and to provide him with matter to furnish information to the Church Emigration Society of which he was the founder and hon. secretary.

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November 19, 1887

the dollar.

Mr. Geo. Tunstall, gold commissioner, Granite City, is in town. He has brought with him several fine specimen gold nuggets from Granite creek, two of which weigh about four ounces. The finer of the two is worth \$85 and the other worth over \$70.