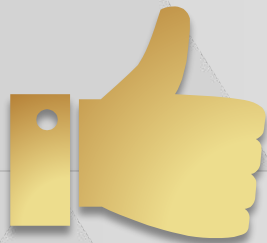


The Cariboo Gold Rush



By Arjshaan
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CARIBBOO GOLD RUSH

How did people get to the Gold Rush?

If people were coming from countries other than Canada, they had to board a steamship for days, weeks, months, and often years to be near the riches in the Cariboo. Once they were in North America, people travelled by horseback. They also used oxen to pull carts and even used them as rafts to make it easier to swim across lakes and rivers.

What problems did people face?

On the way to the gold fields, the weather was really rainy. And people complained that the sounds of the waterfalls, when they were in the mountains, made their ears hurt. Sometimes horses were injured or died, and the prospective miners had to trade their guns and old carts for more horses, since money was of no use in the mountains. Occasionally, it was so foggy that people would fall and die, too. Life was difficult!



What was life like in the Cariboo?

Well, they have to stay there from 1860-1866. Why did they have to stay there? They had to stay there, because the Cariboo Gold Rush was there. What was life like in the Cariboo? The weather was mostly rainy and cold, winters were hard, there were lots of drugs, a lot of gambling, people pulling pistols at you, the indigenous people sometimes killed the white men, it was expensive. For example, for Joseph T. Halperney one year cost him about \$14,000 for the mining company. There were also old jobs and in the winter it was very hard to find jobs. With so few women in the towns, young women from England had to be sent to the Cariboo as potential brides and some became very rich. Furthermore, a lot of new dance halls opened in Barkerville and a troupe of Dutch and German dancing girls, the "Hardy Gunders" also danced on stage and men could pay one dollar to dance with them.



What happened after the Gold Rush?

The Cariboo Gold Rush started in 1860 or 1861. But when did it end? Some sources say the search for gold lasted until 1865 and others say it lasted until 1867 or 1868. But no one argues about the fact that all of the sites in the Cariboo, Barkerville's Gold Rush lasted the longest. Miners continued to find gold in that area until the 1930s. Afterwards, some people went home again, while others stayed in Barkerville for awhile. Soon, the booming Gold Rush site became a ghost town. In later years, tourists and souvenir hunters who visited Barkerville loaded their cars with anything they could find in the unoccupied buildings.

Those eight short years of frenzied digging increased the population of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, which at the time belonged to Britain. Many new towns were built, which meant that many more small local governments had to be created. It also meant that more roads and railroads were needed for transportation. As a result, in 1871 the colony of British Columbia joined Canada in exchange for the government agreeing to build a railway from Montreal all the way to Vancouver.

Timeline

1867	Cariboo Gold Rush has ended.
1885	Fraser River Gold Rush is over. And people couldn't make money.
1894	Carbon Wagon Road reaches Barkerville.
1893	Barkerville is crushed and is named after Billy Barker.
1881	The Cariboo Gold Rush began.

What did people eat on their journey?

If people were travelling by foot they would have mostly buffalo - chopped and dried - that the indigenous people told them about. And if they were travelling by ship they were recommended by the captains to pack two of preserved meats and vegetables, and a large supply of lime juice. Lime juice actually was a life saver on some occasions! It cures had water, fever, scurvy, skin trouble, toothache and even red eyes.



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Why did I choose this topic?

When I was in Grade 5 my class was learning about the Klondike Gold Rush. But when I went home I forgot what Gold Rush I was learning about. Then I searched up Gold Rushes in Canada. After that, the Cariboo Gold Rush came up and then I did research on that topic. So when I went to school the next day I remembered I was learning about the Klondike Gold Rush. So, I chose this topic because I already have some background knowledge.

How did people get to the Gold Rush?

People coming from countries other than Canada had to travel on steamships for days, weeks, months, and often years to be near the riches in the Cariboo. Once they were in North America, people travelled by horseback. They also used oxen to pull carts and even used them as rafts to make it easier to swim across lakes and rivers.

People travelling by foot ate mostly buffalo - chopped and dried - that the indigenous people told them about.

People travelling by ship were recommended by crew members to bring preserved meats and vegetables, and a large supply of lime juice. Lime juice actually was a life saver on some occasions! It cured fever, scurvy, skin trouble, toothache and even red eyes.

On the way to the gold fields, the weather was really rainy. And people complained that the sounds of the waterfalls, when they were in the mountains, made their ears hurt. Sometimes horses were injured or died, the prospective miners had to trade their guns and old carts for more horses, since money was of no use in the mountains. Occasionally it was so foggy that people would fall and die, too. Life was difficult!



ON THE ROAD TO THE CALIBOO MINES, BRITISH COLUMBIA. (From an Original Sketch.)

What was life like in the Cariboo?

Well, they had to stay there, from 1860-1868. Why did they have to stay there? They had to stay there, because the Cariboo Gold Rush was there. What was life like in the Cariboo? The weather was mostly rainy and cold, winters were hard, there were lots of drugs, a lot of gambling, people pulling pistols at you, the indigenous people sometimes killed the white men, and it was expensive.



For example, for Joseph T. Halpenny one year cost him about \$14, 000 for the mining company. There were also odd jobs and in the winter it was very hard to find jobs. With so few women in the towns, young women from England had to be sent to the Cariboo as potential brides and some became very rich.

Furthermore, a lot of new dance halls opened in Barkerville and a troupe of Dutch and German dancing girls, the “Hurdy Gurdies” also danced on stage and men could pay one dollar to dance with them.



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"...the bill of fare which was for breakfast, beans, meat and tea and the same for dinner (lunch) - for supper little better bread would be on the table as well as butter and beans." from a miner's diary.

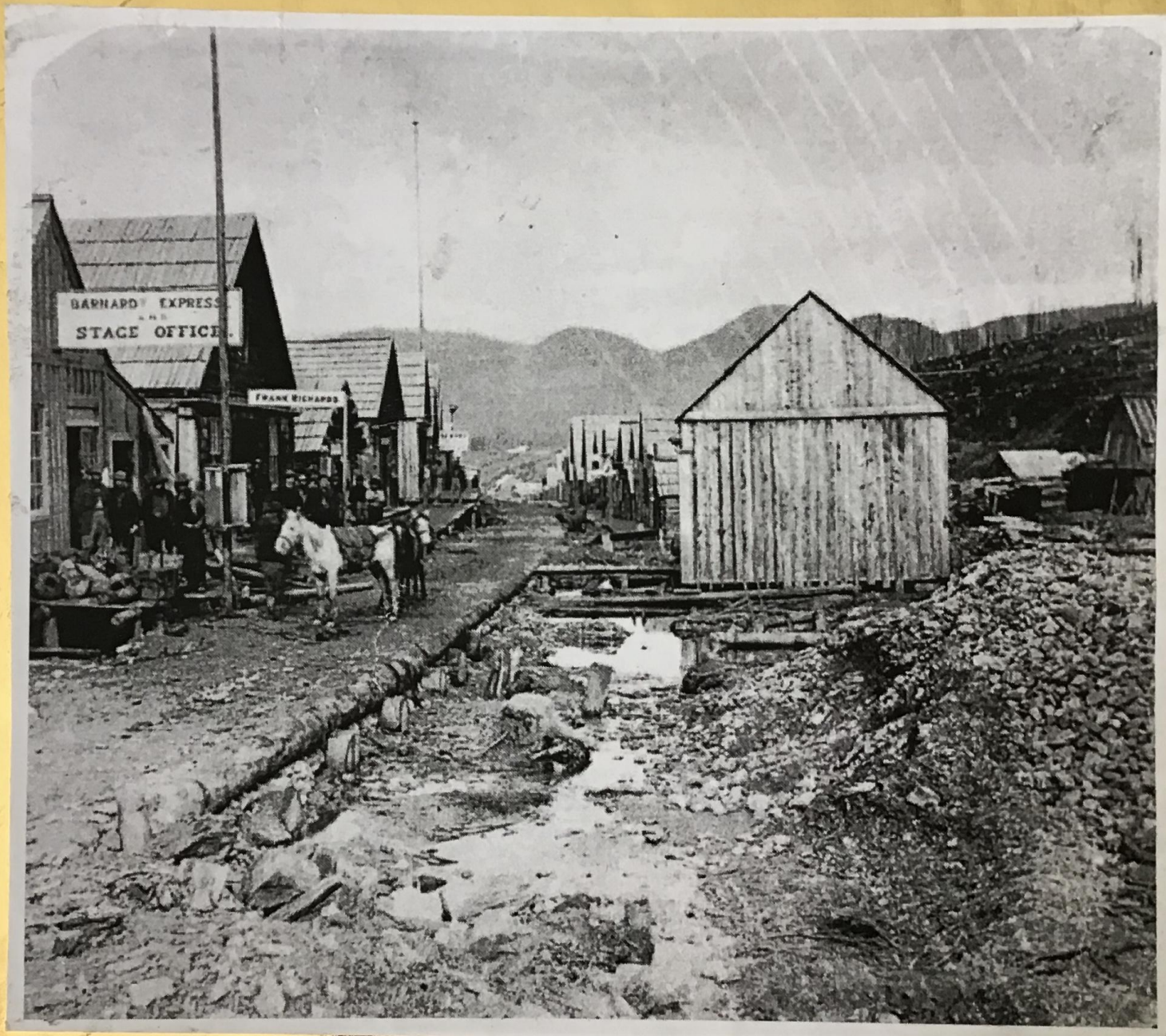
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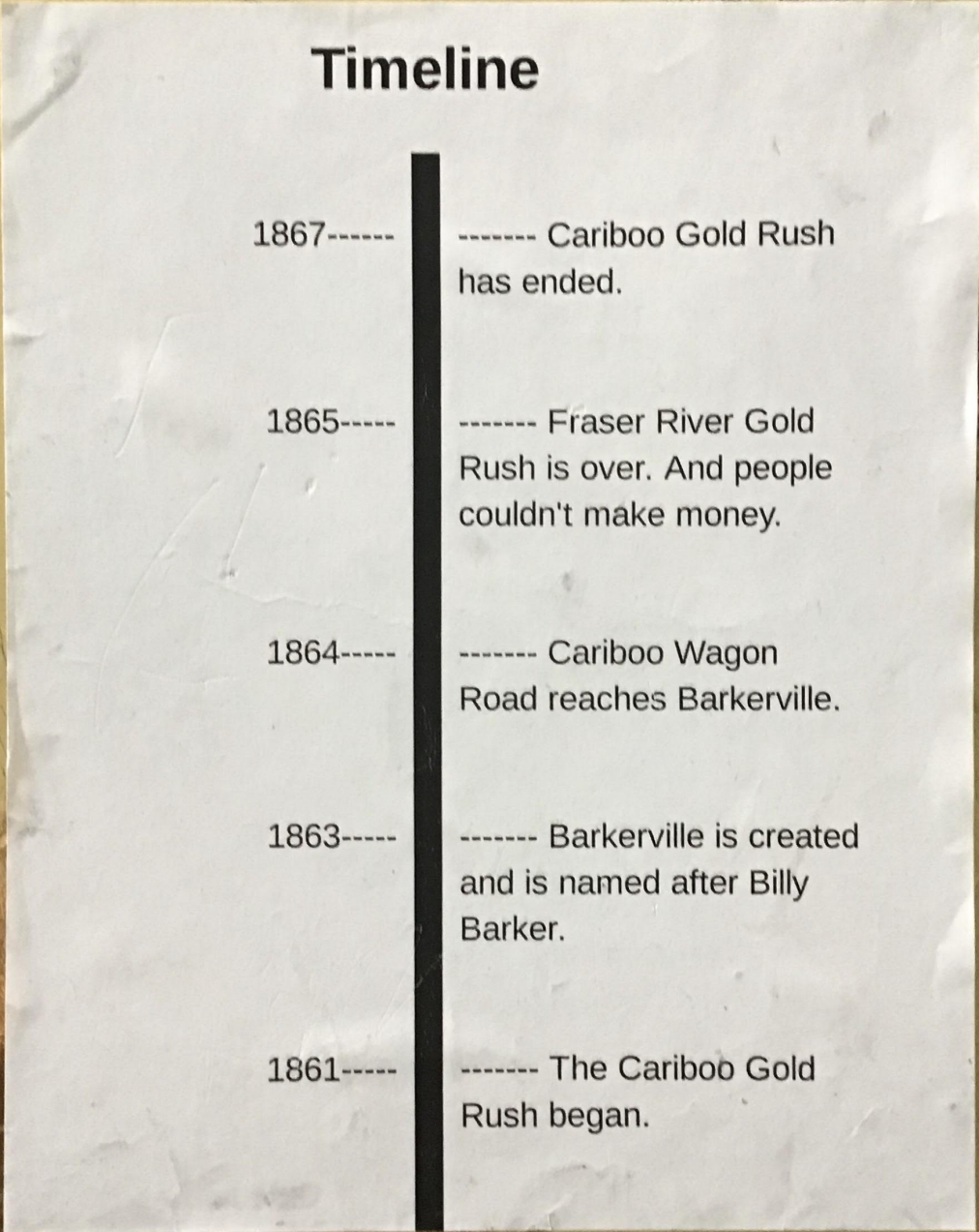
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Those eight short years of frenzied digging increased the population of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, which still belonged to Britain. Many new towns were built, which meant that many more small local governments had to be created. It also meant that more roads and railroads were needed for transportation.

As a result, in 1871 the colony of British Columbia joined Canada in exchange for the government agreeing to build a railway from Montreal all the way to Vancouver.



Timeline

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- 1867----- Cariboo Gold Rush has ended.
 - 1865----- Fraser River Gold Rush is over. And people couldn't make money.
 - 1864----- Cariboo Wagon Road reaches Barkerville.
 - 1863----- Barkerville is created and is named after Billy Barker.
 - 1861----- The Cariboo Gold Rush began.

What did I learn about researching history?

I learned lots of things about how to do a history project. First of all, there are lots of ways to start a history project but I chose this way: First, I had to get information and put the facts on coloured index cards of different colour for each category. Then I had to check if the information I got was true or not. Then I had to make a paragraph from those notes. After that, I made a bibliography in alphabetical order and in MLA format. Finally, I had to find pictures in the public domain and glue everything on gold paper and then glue everything on my backboard.

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