

LYTTON MUSEUM

and ARCHIVES

June 2001

420 Fraser Street, Lytton, B.C.

Volume 2, Issue 1

LYTTON PIONEERS - THE REBAGLIATI FAMILY

One of the most prominent of our pioneer families would certainly be the Rebagliati family. The name itself has an interesting history. During the second century A.D. a group of Romans could no longer tolerate the oppression of their Emperor, and emigrated to the north of Italy. This group became known as the 'Rebellious Ones'. This name changed gradually over the years, to 'Rebellatus' > Ribellari > >> and eventually became 'Rebagliati'.

Starting about 1859 there evolved a period of instability, resulting in periodic wars. Bernardo Rebagliati (BR), born in 1857, grew up in this environment and an older brother was killed in the fighting, so Bernardo decided to try his luck in the New World.

BR sailed around Cape Horn to San Francisco in 1882. In 1885 he came to Hastings Mill (Vancouver), then on the M.V. Skuzzy from New Westminster to Yale, and from there by horse to Lytton. Lytton reminded him of his home in Italy, so he decided this would be his new home. He went to work in the general store and it was not long before he bought the store. He sent to Italy for a wife, and in 1886 Angela Rebagliati traveled by ship to New York, by train across the U.S., then to Lytton. A priest came from Kamloops

to marry them. Note here that Angela's maiden name was Rebagliati, and she married into another unrelated Rebagliati family.

BR's first store was on the east side of Main Street about 100 feet north of the BR family house (which is now Doris Loring's home). It had living quarters in the back and a root cellar behind the living quarters. Because of a growing family (there were to be 10 children) a new store was built in 1892, directly across the street. It had a flour shed on the north side. The last BR's General store was built in 1913 adjacent to and south of the 1892 store. In time, the 1892 store became a butcher shop operated by Clarence Rebagliati. Ber and his sister, Anne, ran the store after Mr. BR died. In 1948 the store was sold to Wilson Miller. It was destroyed in the second big Lytton fire on Monday, June 13, 1949.

Running a store in those days was more complicated than it is now. You were part banker as well as merchant, as the nearest bank in the early days was Kamloops. Area farmers were always short of cash until the crops were in or the cattle sold, so the merchant had to decide who to give credit to, and how much. It was not easy, as the farmers often had a difficult time making ends

meet. Some of those accounts were never paid off.

The last BR family home was built during 1919/1920 by Charlie Mills, (who worked on the old Vancouver Hotel), assisted by Clarence Rebagliati. Today, within the present yard of the BR family home, is a warehouse, which was used to store the high quality beans that the Indian farmers grew on their farms.

BR's brother, Angelo Giovanni (AG) came to Lytton in approximately 1890, accompanied by his wife, Concessa, and their first child, Mary. Concessa was the sister of BR's wife, Angela, so two sisters, maiden names Rebagliati, married two Rebagliati brothers! BR had 10 children and AG had 7 children, and because they often gave their children the same names (John, Ann, George, etc) it was the source of great confusion. It was partially solved by referring to Bernardo's family as BR

continued on page 2...

Inside this issue:

The Bridges (revisited)	Page 4
Lytton Brands - 1964	Page 6
Lytton Fossil Find	Page 3
Museum Happenings	Page 8
Ranching and Branding	Page 5
The Rebagliati Family	Page 1



THE REBAGLIATI FAMILY - NINE OF BERNARDO AND ANGELA REBAGLIATI'S CHILDREN IN 1936.

From left: George, Evelyn, Louise, Clarence, Margaret, Johnny, Rose, Bernardo, Ann (Mary is not in this picture)

and Angelo's family as AG, i.e. Johnny AG and Johnny BR, etc.

Angelo (AG) also opened a store, which was east across the street from the present Lytton Hotel. By 1931, he owned the store, a dance hall (locally referred to as the Opera House) and the Lytton Pool Hall. Everything was lost in the big fire of 1931, which also claimed the Lytton Hotel.

Tony Medori and his wife, Nita (who was Angelo's daughter), bought the hotel property and rebuilt the hotel in 1934. This building is the present Lyt-

ton Hotel.

These two, Bernardo and Angelo, had a total of 17 children. You can imagine how extensive the family tree is! They included stage coach drivers, garage operators, hotel and dance hall operators, blacksmiths, stage lines, general stores, a taxi and truck business, and to add to the confusion, the sisters (who were the wives of Bernard and Angelo) had two brothers who also came to Lytton. They later settled in Lillooet and Kamloops and raised their own families.

This, as you can see, is only a sketch of what the Rebagliati's meant to Lytton. Due to the hard work and perseverance of Clarence Rebagliati's son, Douglas, and his generosity in sharing this information with us, we have his second draft of the family history and the family tree, very important additions to our archives. Doug has given his permission for this document to be shared with anyone interested, providing copyright is respected, so please feel free to come and enjoy yet another piece of Lytton history.



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS



We've been having some trouble with computer gremlins, which caused many delays, but finally you have our first newsletter of the year in your hands!

The month of May has been our busiest month so far with 72 visitors. Since January 1st we have had a total of 141 visitors. We've done some research with grade six students and have done searches for four separate groups. In February we had another very successful 'Heritage Tea and Talk' afternoon, and in May we sponsored an interesting and valuable workshop on the Principles of Conservation Management and Emergency Planning, with participants from Ashcroft and Boston Bar, and some local museum members. Ms. Rosaleen Hill, B.C. Archival Preservation officer, did a 'site inspection' for our museum and we passed with flying colours!

New items this year include three new books: B.C. Prehistory, by Fladmark; Gold, Gemstone and Mineral Sites of B.C., by Rick Hudson, (this book has already led two tourists to our door) and Winds of Chance, by Rex Beach (a movie of this story was partially filmed in Lytton).

Also received were several photographs by J.A. Chute, including the old swinging bridge across the Thompson river (which no longer exists), the inside of Lena's Grill (a former Café on Main Street), and a photograph of Lytton's Main street during a 'mud flood', back when the Royalite Garage still existed. Several photographs came from Franchise films which include stills

and posters from The Pledge movie, as well as a list of cast members and their individual accomplishments.

New artifacts in the museum include an old bolt from the first Thompson River bridge, a Christmas dinner menu from the old Globe Hotel, 1911 (oysters and lobsters, yet!), an old square Maytag Washing machine, and several more items you will have to come and see. We also have a 'clinker puller'!

One more item I will mention is a 12 tape, reel to reel set of Heritage Class

tapes, recorded by J.A. Chute during Indian Education classes at the Lytton Elementary School. Louis Phillips, Lena Dunstan, Mamie Henry, Charles Brown and Norman Dunstan are the main storytellers. Very interesting.

Our two faithful volunteers, Mona Crowston and Dorothy Share, are currently putting together scrapbooks of news clippings dating from 1981 to the present, a job that requires much patience. Many thanks to you both.



FOSSIL FIND IN LYTTON



Bill and Pat Nixon and Darryl McIntyre found this fossil in the Lytton area. A paleontologist has taken the fossil to U.B.C. to be tested, and then it will be sent on to Ottawa for more testing. When all testing is finally completed, it will be returned to Lytton and put on display in the museum.

The fossil is 34" long, 16" in circumference.

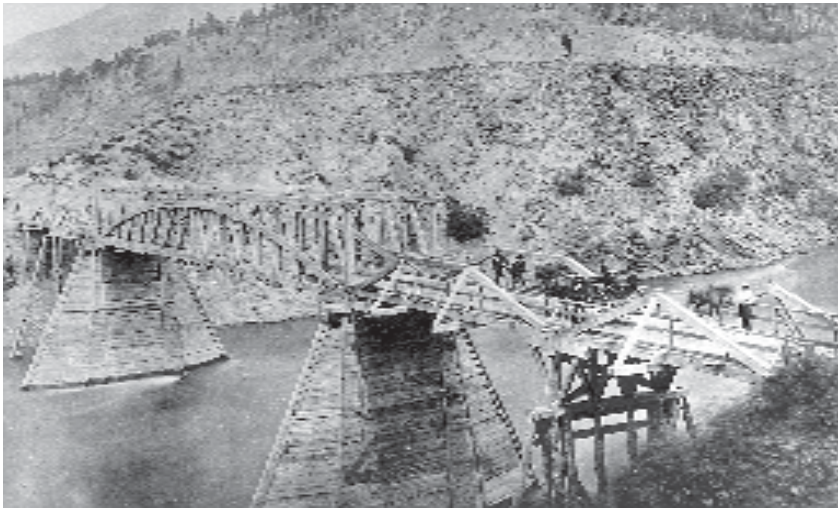
The official report is as follows:

Ancyloceras Phylum Mollusca
class: Cephalopoda
order: Ammonoidea
family: Ancyloceratida

Early Cretaceous Barremian Era
124 + million years old
Largest ever found in B.C.

The Bridges...A clarification.

After printing the wrong picture of the second bridge in Volume 1 Issue 3, we thought we would give them to you again...



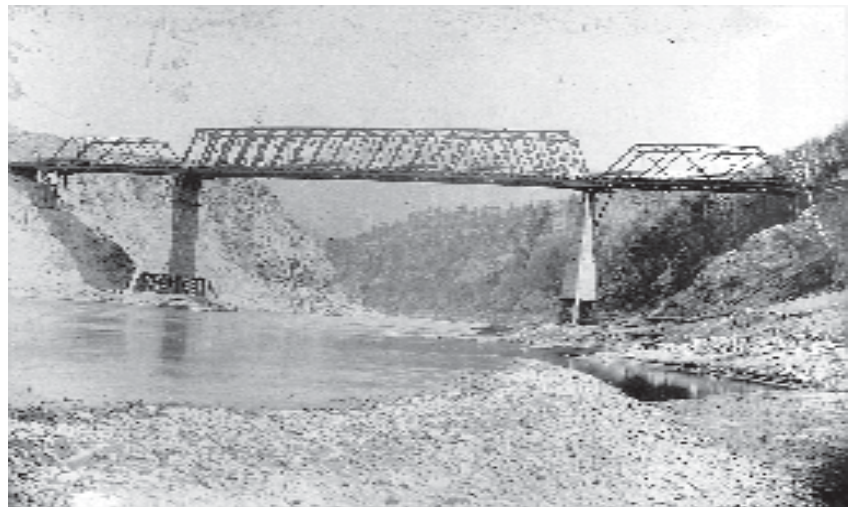
At left is the first bridge, built between 1874 and 1876, well behind schedule, over cost and after having the piers washed away in the floods of 1875.

This bridge almost immediately suffered from engineering and construction problems, and by 1878 had an upstream curve of two feet and a sag of four or five inches.

It was restricted to traffic travelling no faster than a walk, and by 1883 was reported to be in unsatisfactory condition. It was straightened, and lasted until the floods of 1894.

At right is the second bridge, built in 1895 at a cost of \$9210.00

This bridge was made up of two eighty foot Howe Truss spans, one at each end, and a centre two hundred foot Howe Truss span. It was six and a half feet higher than the first bridge and seventy feet above the low water mark. The piers measured ninety feet by sixteen feet at the base and were resting on bedrock.



This bridge fared better than the first. The decision was made to replace it in 1913.



At left is the third bridge, completed May 14, 1914 at a cost of \$37,996.00

This bridge has one two hundred and fifty foot riveted steel span, two seventy foot and one fifty foot plate girder spans. It rests on concrete piers, which are deteriorating.

For comparison, the contract for the new bridge, now under construction, was awarded at \$9,854,800.00. The expected completion date is September 30, 2001.



RANCHING AND BRANDING

The legend began in the hills of West Virginia in the early 1840's and ended in a Victoria cemetery in 1898, following a good stint in the Cariboo, including a go-round with an uncooperative cayuse.

Jerome and Thaddeus Harper left home one jump ahead of the sheriff, drifted west to California, then north to the Fraser River Gold Rush.

The boys found mining rather difficult from the back of their horses. In February 1859, Jerome and Thaddeus swam a herd of 300 wild range cattle across the Columbia River and trailed 'em up the Okanagan to sell them to the northern mining camps.

When they saw the endless hills of sun ripened bunchgrass, Jerome declared, "That golden bunch grass is of more value than all the gold found in all the creeks in all the colony". Thus the British Columbia cattle ranching industry was born.

Jerome and Thaddeus Harper with their (JTH) brand founded the Harper Ranch by Kamloops, the Gang Ranch (named after the gang plow) on the west side of the Fraser, the Semlin Ranch by Ashcroft and numerous ranches in-between.

On 9th March 1869, the government enacted 'An Ordinance for the Better Protection of Cattle, and Prevention of Cattle Stealing'. This act established Brand Districts, comparable to electoral districts, and appointments of Brand inspectors, usually a local Justice of the Peace, who would register local brands.

Some of the earliest registered brands included:

1869 The Gang Ranch, the Harpers

 (position unknown)

1875 James Stuart, Cache Creek

 (position unknown)

1883 Basque Ranch, Langley Cattle Company  Right Hip Horse

1883 W. H. Smith, Nicola Valley,

 Left Rib Cattle

1884 Peitokasacitatnun (Indian), Chilcotin **110** Right side shoulder - ribs.

During an 1870 round-up Jerome suffered debilitating injuries from a wild horse's kick. He never recovered, however he outlived Thaddeus and died in a Californian hospital 1901.

In 1876, Thaddeus Harper and his family organised the longest cattle drive in western history. Starting at the Gang Ranch with 300 head, they crossed the border at Osoyoos with over 1,000 head, wintered in Idaho and then trailed on to the Great Salt Lake. They shipped the cattle on to California by the new Union Pacific Railway. The Harpers and their native cowboys spent 18 months in the saddle before returning home.

During the following years, the Harpers and other ranchers annually drove cattle down the Cariboo Wagon Road, including Lytton's Main Street, to Yale, where they were loaded onto cattle barges, and towed to Victoria.

Thaddeus' wild cowboy life style, including legendary nights at Lytton's Globe Hotel, finally caught up with him in 1898. The founder of B.C's cattle industry is buried in Oak Bay Cemetery, Victoria.

As of 1st January 2001, all British Columbian beef cattle shipped to market must be identified with a special Cattleman's Association's tag, in addition to a Ranch Brand, as a control regulation for Mad Cow disease.















Separate brands could be registered for cows and horses, designated and positioned as:

- C - Cow
- H - Horse
- H - Hip
- S - shoulder
- R - Rump
- F - Flank

These are read as follows:




















- LHC - left hip cow
- RSH - right shoulder horse

"How to Read a Brand on a Critter" from the *B.C. Brand Registry*

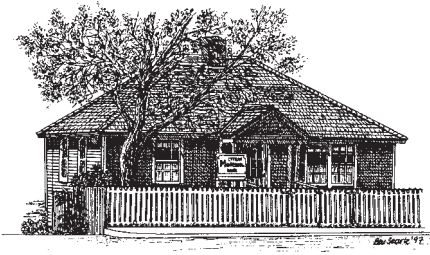
-  Rail
-  Quarter circle, top
-  Slash (as /7)
-  Box
-  Open Box
-  Cross
-  Bench
-  Rafter
-  Diamond
-  Tipped T
-  Reverse E
-  Laze H
-  **BQ** Bar BQ
-  **2NP** ???



FAMILY	NAME	BRAND	CLASS	COW	HORSE	DESCRIPTION
ABBOTT	Emily	A B	*	LS		A over B
ALBERT	Thomas	TA	INDIAN		RH	TA
ALBERT	Thomas	<u>TA</u>	INDIAN	RS		TA over bar
AUSTIN	William	<u>W</u> A	INDIAN	RS	RS	W over bar over A
BALTRUNAS	V	<u>^</u> VK	*	LH	LH	Rafter over VK
CHARLIE	Jimmy	RC	*	R neck	RS	RC
CHRISTIE	DG	7L	*	LH	LS	7L
DUNSTAN	Malcome	MD	INDIAN	RR		MD joined
DUNSTAN	Raymond	<u>D</u> R	INDIAN	RH		Top 1/2 circle over D, lazy R
FIALA	H & C	<u>K</u>	*	RH		Boxed K
HANCE	CA	<u>C3</u>	*	RR	RS	Bar over C3
HANCE	Henry	<u>IA</u>	INDIAN		RS	Lazy H, A, over rail
HANCE	Henry	<u>I4</u>	INDIAN	RS		Lazy H, 4 over rail
HANCE	Tommy	<u>3I</u>	INDIAN	RH		3, lazy H, over rail
HANNA	Rosie	4U	INDIAN	RH		4U
HENRIKSEN	O	<u>O</u> H	*	LS		O over bar over H
JOHNSON	JM	<u>J</u> J	*	LS		J over J
LAMBRIGHT	Hammond	<u>D</u> ◊ ()	*	RS		D ◊ over top 1/2 circle
LORING	AN	<u>E</u> A	*	LS	LS	E over bar over A

LORING	Miss OV		*	RS		Bar over reverse L, H
McINTYRE	John		INDIAN	RH	LH	MJ
MACHELL	Frank		INDIAN	RH		Reverse F, M
MACHELL	Frank		INDIAN	RS	RS	Rail over reverse F, M
MODEL	K		*	LS	LS	KM over top half circle
MUNDALL	Dr. RV		*	RR		Reverse E, M over bottom 1/2 circle
MUNRO	Casper		INDIAN	RS		Rail over MC
MUNRO	Casper		INDIAN		RS	M/ over C
MUNRO	Willie		INDIAN	LR		Bottom 1/2 circle over WM
PHILLIPS	Louis		INDIAN		LH	Rail over 5Y
PHILLIPS	William S		INDIAN	RH		P over lazy S
RAPHAEL	John Green		INDIAN	LH	LH	GS
REBAGLIATI	AJ		*	LS		47
STEVENS	Mrs. M		*	LS		A lazy S
SWARTZ	Richard		INDIAN	LS		TC
THOMAS	Blanchford		INDIAN	RS		X over X
WESSELS	LT		*	LS		T/ over Z
YAMELST	Mrs. A		INDIAN	LS	LH	76
YAMELST	David		INDIAN	LS	LH	Bottom 1/2 circle over D5

NOTE: The *1964 B.C. BRAND BOOK* classified some brands as INDIAN or did not give a classification. We believe that the above list was complete and current as of 1964, but many brands now in use do not appear.



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

HERITAGE TEA AND TALK

We had about 30 visitors in all, and everyone had a great time talking old times, eating excellent goodies and discussing our collection of pictures and artifacts. The museum really benefits, too, because of the oral history we would not find anywhere else, and the help people give us identifying artifacts and photographs, and the suggestions we receive by all the wonderful participants who really have the interest of the museum at heart.

WORKSHOP: Principles of Conservation Management and Emergency Planning.

The 2-day workshop, held May 4-5, was held in Lytton, with Rosaleen Hill, of the B.C. Archival Preservation service. We had 8 participants, including one from Boston Bar and one from Ashcroft.

Rosaleen talked about the types of materials used for preventative conservation, handling of media material, concepts of emergency preparedness, the value of an emergency plan, and how to develop an emergency plan. She also gave us tips on what to avoid in a museum/archives, i.e. carpets and food are a no-no, where to look for Grants, and what companies supply archival materials.

It was a very informative and helpful workshop, lightened up by muffin and coffee breaks, thanks to our wonderful museum members, and excellent lunch breaks at the Acacia Leaf.

Thanks go to the many volunteers and to Sylvia and Cor Vandenbos, who all made this an enjoyable and worthwhile activity.

HELP!

Is there anyone out there who could put in about two hours a week (one afternoon) greeting tourists at the museum? We would like to keep the museum open in the afternoons for the month of June. People come from all over the world and really appreciate meeting our local people, and you would really enjoy the experience. Phone 455-2254 or 2268.



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