

GCPS Progress Report March, 2016

- George published the Bill Frew photo on February 23 asking if anyone knew who the little boys are in the picture. Thanks again George!! Gail and Eric Smart emailed me to say they thought it was Roy Bilodeau but Alan Falk would know more. It turns out Alan is a neighbour and he stopped by to look at the photo. He agreed with Eric but got us in touch with Roy. Bob emailed Roy the photo and he said yes, it was him in the photo beside Bill. The other boy is his brother, Bill. They are Bill Frew's grandsons. Their Mom, Greta, was Bill's daughter. Thanks to everyone who helped solve the mystery and thanks George for printing the results in the NewsLeader!
- Rob's friends have successfully translated the very difficult Chinese writing we were given from the University of Victoria. Excellent work and a **HUGE THANK YOU** to them and Rob for this! Rob can present his findings. I have a printed copy of the translation Rob received. I sent a copy of the translation to the University of Victoria for their records. Can we add this to the website?
- Bob sent Rob a map and GPS co-ordinates of Granite Creek and all the information regarding the "park" that Bill Barlee was going to make of the site in 1995 and the no staking reserve he placed there which expired in 2006.
- Rob has been working on getting information regarding the Chinese in the area. I made a new spreadsheet that only included the Chinese listed in the Princeton Mining Reports (books 1-3). I didn't include the fourth book as it was just reference to layovers. After making the spreadsheet, I went through each name (cross-referencing the miners' licence numbers) and counted them. There were 403 Chinese on the list. I also made a list of Chinese Mining Companies that were listed (these companies include the Chinese names on the other list) and the number was 108. As I mentioned to Rob, I would suspect that we could double the number of Chinese to 800 as the list does not include businesses, prostitutes and men working as general labourers on other people's claims. I have given the information to Ole for the website.
- I have also been trying to figure out who Frenchy was. I think he was one of these two people: Ah Loy or Ah Yep. In The October, 1912 Coalmont Courier newspaper it was reported that Ho Sam places notice that he is taking over Ah Loy's house and Garden at Granite Creek. We know that Frenchy had a large garden at what is now the Rice Ranch. In Thomas Murphy's memoirs he refers to meeting with Ah Loy when he couldn't buy supplies at a fair price from the white merchants. Loy took him to a Chinese store where the prices were cheaper. Ah Loy also held a mortgage for the wash house at Granite (Book 2 Record 117, Jan. 12, 1886) for \$32.65 and owned by Wong Ly. The wash house was known as Wash House of Wkong Foung. My evidence that it may be Ah Yep is that he is listed in the 1891 (Granite Creek part) Census as a Gardener and his birth year matches (1842). Ah Yep did not appear on any other Census and there were no matches in the 1901 or 1911 Census records for a Chinese man born about 1842 who was a gardener. In 1888 there was an Ah Yep (miner license 31463) with a claim on the left bank of Granite Creek (formerly

known as Nicholson's claim). I have never found a miner who was called "Frenchy" in the mining records.

- It might be nice to have a Chinese section on the GCPS website with a link to the Chinese Heritage Program, a copy of the Chinese records I put together, and Rob's translation of the Chinese writing. We can add to it as we get more information.