

GCPS Progress Report September, 2016

- Rob and I worked on making a Wanted Ad for the Newsleader. We paid for it from the GCPS account. Thank you George for being so generous with publishing it!!!! I have a copy of the ad here for you to see. Jon can keep it for his records.
- Robin told us there has been a donation as a result of the ad. She received gold scales, weights and a poke bag from someone related to the family of John Edward Collishaw. She said the donor told her they were used at Granite Creek. I have sent a thank you to the donor on behalf of the GCPS. A copy is here for Jon's records. Mr. Collishaw's son was Raymond Collishaw who was a famous WWI flying ace in Canada.
- Below is what I found regarding John Edward Collishaw:
Jack was educated at Manchester University, Oxford, where it seems that several family members attended. He studied music, and was very talented. After leaving school, he was urged to help with the family inn, and even inherited the property upon his father's death. Instead, he decided to spend his inheritance on travel. His first stop was western Australia. Jack then came to America (San Francisco) to seek his fortune in the gold fields of California in the 1880's. When that search proved fruitless, he moved up the Pacific coast to Nanaimo where he became a coal miner. Discouraged by the poor wages (\$500/year in 1901), he headed further up the coast to the Yukon, prospecting in the summers, and back to the coal mines in the winters. In the summer of 1909 he abandoned his family, and was heard occasionally thereafter, the last occasion being in 1923. His family assumed he had returned to Australia to search for gold there, but no proof or record has ever been found of that. Another family theory was that he may have gone to Montana. No record of that has been located either. What is known for sure is that in 1912 Jack was prospecting in the Yukon, and was credited with discovering gold on 30 Apr 1912 on Cabin Creek, a tributary of Nansen Creek, and on Pony Creek, a tributary of Rack Creek. Placer mining applications were registered to him at Carmacks on 08 Mar 1912, 26 Mar 1912, 18 Jun 1912, 19 Oct 1912, and 04 Dec 1912. No further applications were registered in the Yukon, and he does not appear on the 1917 Yukon voters list.
- I could not find any reference to Mr. Collishaw at Granite Creek. Given the above information, I would suspect he arrived in Granite Creek from the California Gold Rush as many men did. If that is the case, he would have been there sometime between 1885 and 1890 (in 1891 he was in the Nanaimo Census). If anyone comes across his name, please make a note of what you find and let us all know so I can pass on any information to Robin.
- Ole put a photo of the items together with an explanation of their owner on the GCPS website. Thank you Ole!
- I prepared a thank you ad from the GCPS for the last edition of the Similkameen News Leader. The GCPS also gave George and Brenda a crystal hummingbird to hang in their window as a thank you for all they have done for the communities.
- On July 28 we went to the party in honour of George and Brenda. Murv, Shirley, Jon and Rika were also there. Bob thanked George for being our Chair.

- Todd took another four bags of recyclables in for the GCPS. Their value was \$28.25. Thank you again Todd!
- I emailed the website "Roadside Thoughts" because they have Granite listed as Granite City with no information about it. I sent them a link to our website and told them they could link to it if they wished. I also corrected them on the name. I also emailed them regarding their page about the Granite Creek Cemetery. I sent them various links for their site. They have not responded to my email and have not made any changes.
- Five new members joined our Society. Welcome Doreen, Cliff, Skip, Gary and Sue!
- We changed the GCPS mailing address to that of the Museum. Jon gave us the go-ahead after discussing it with the Museum Society. We also changed the phone number to our number. We didn't think it would be good for the Museum to field phone calls for us.
- On August 6 the Friends of the Penticton Museum went to the Granite Creek Town Site for a visit. The tour was organized by the Friends of the Penticton Museum Events Co-Ordinator, Sue McDougall, and contact was made to the GCPS by Gary McDougall, Friends of the Museum Director. Bob went over to meet with them and answer questions they had. Murv, Shirley and Rob were also at the event. After I finished cleaning Motel rooms, Bob picked me up and took me over for the tour of the Cemetery. There were about 30 people at the event and they were all very interested in the site. One woman has information from her grandfather who mined there in 1898. We are hoping she will be able to share some of it with us at some point in the future.
- Bob said that one of our new members who spoke at the Friends of the Penticton Museum gathering owns the piano from the Granite Creek Hotel. I emailed her and asked if she could photograph it and send us some photos and the provenance of it for our website. She will be away on vacation but will get to it after her return.
- Rob met with Roy Bilodeau at the Campground on the same day as the Friends of the Penticton Museum tour and interviewed him about his memories of his grandfather, Bill Frew. Thank you for doing this, Rob!
- On August 7, we had a new entry in our Guestbook. It reads:
Just wanted to say thanks to the society for helping preserve the past, and protect the future of this area. I have been rambling through the hills there since the 1980's and have seen the decline over time. Great to see a positive effort to save what's left. On August 6th of 2016 the Friends of the Penticton Museum organized a field trip to Granite Creek. We had 28 people gather under the shade of the pines for a great lunch and stories and information on the history of the area. Bob and Diane Sterne gave wonderful tours of the Granite Creek town site and Cemetery. Randy Manuel and myself added some history and information we had, and Skip Broderick read some of the letters her Grandfather wrote about Granite when he first arrived in 1899. People had a wonderful time and I'm sure many will be back again. Keep up the great work. Thank you, Gary!
- Digging continues at the slope near the location of F.P. Cook's original store. It is quite extensive and disturbing as it is removing the footprint of his store.