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An Exponent for Stevens County

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THE EARLIEST QUARTZ MINING

WITH COMING OF RAILWAYS, PLACERS GIVE WAY TO HARD ROCK MEN

Record of Some of the Earliest Locations in Stevens County, Then An Immense Territory

(By John B. Slater, historian Stevens County Pioneer Association.)

When the known placers of Stevens county, according to its territorial limits 50 years ago, had become exhausted of gold the miners turned their attention, naturally to the search for free gold quartz. The upper reaches of the tributaries of the Columbia were searched for seams of auriferous ores. That a country so abundant in alluvial deposits of the metal must furnish these bars from a fixed source was the impulsive conclusion of the habitual prospector who shouldered his pack and melted away into the unbroken seclusion of the mountains where no elevation was too great and no declivity so abrupt or cavernous that he would not examine with the utmost scrutiny every promising outcrop carrying the least indication of values.

Returning to their winter rendezvous, usually at the military posts, or at some trading center, these pioneers spent much of their time telling of the wonderful success in their summer expeditions; and, in their restlessness, they would excite others to abandon pursuits of trade and traffic and join in the more innocent and interesting employment of disturbing the holy resting place of the uncoined dollar. So long as gold from placer was obtainable, the quartz deposits did not attract. There were other reasons, too, namely:

To develop a quartz mine, transportation and machinery played an important part. The absence of these two factors made it immediately apparent to the owner of a quartz mine that he had a hard task on his hands in a scheme of development, for there were no railways, even across the continent. Regardless of the riches locked in the ledges he could not move his ores to a place for treatment, and to provide facilities for treating them on the ground was as difficult because he would have to bring his machinery hundreds of miles from the sea coast with no roads to furnish transport. Very crude and primitive methods for grinding ores were sometimes employed but the process was usually too slow for the mountaineer. He wanted to make his money quickly and rush on to some new excitement. The result was that the miner of the original invasion, after having exhausted his physical resources, spent the balance of his life telling of rich claims he had discovered, and left because of their inaccessibility.

When the soldiers came to Fort Colville, many of them, in small squads, under the leadership of officers on leave, would spend much time prospecting the ranges in the hope that they might verify these winternight tales spun by optimistic prospectors about the gaming tables.

Also, the ownership of a quartz lode meant a more substantial tenure; for, while a rich placer deposit could be worked out in a few weeks, or in a season at most, the only facilities needed for domicil being a tent, a quartz mine meant heavy tunneling, buildings, mills and permanent fixtures with capacity to endure through many years of progress and development. While the laws of the country were sufficient for the purpose of the placer miner, this transient security was not satisfactory to the quartz miner who might, when his ground was proven, wish to reduce his title to more than a mere possessory right. Such guarantees had been made to the agricultural classes in the acquisition of farm lands, but not until July 4, 1866, did the federal government offer sufficient inducement to the quartz miner, and this was in the passage of the following statute:

"Sec. 2318. In all cases lands valuable for minerals shall be reserved for sale, except as otherwise expressly directed by law."

This was small comfort to the quartz miner, but his hopes were realized almost in a bound when the general laws of May 1, 1872, pointed the way and confirmed his title under proper restrictions to lands bearing mineral. This statute was so definite and clear-cut in its provisions that every locator felt absolutely secure in his discovery and location. He was, to all intents and purposes, his own lawyer.

While this law, with consistent rules, has endured through the best years of mining development, we find the so-called forerunners of modern progress demanding its repeal to be replaced by laws intending to place mineral lands on the auction block. No law has yet been devised that can fulfill the purpose of the statute of May 10, 1872, which is based on the first law of property, towit, treasure trove. When this law is repealed the prospector will cease to search for the metal stores of the land and an industrial fundamental will be destroyed, unless perchance, he would perform in the role of a wage toiler.

Some twenty years ago the Washington legislature, at the instance of speculators, secured the passage of a law requiring all locators of mineral lands to immediately perform $100 worth of assessment work, which meant that if he was too poor to do this he might turn the lion's share over to some pirate speculator who would help him comply with the law. The prospector decided that it was not enough to discover a gold mine. Rather than be penalized for his pains, he covered his find, tore down his location notice and left the state. While mining has never recovered from the shock, it seems hopeless to secure its repeal.

Coincident with the passage of the statute of May 10, 1872, came the completion of the first transcontinental railway. Quartz mining immediately took the stage—exit the placer. Machinery for development and facilities for transportation were available for the ores. Gold was first in the plan of development, but silver, copper, lead, zinc, antimony and many other metals came in for a share of attention as the demand grew and the industry expanded.

The first quartz lode in what was then Stevens county if not the first in the state of Washington, was located under the name of the Similkameen at a point (in what is now Okanogan county) two and one-half miles south of the forty-ninth degree of north latitude and on the north side of the Similkameen river at what was known as the Angle camp and was named the Aurora. The date of discovery, as shown by the notice of location, was July 2, 1873, but the notice was not finally recorded with the county auditor until October 4th following. In the meantime the reported find of gold bearing quartz in such close proximity to Rich Bar on the Similkameen river, which had produced a million dollars in placer gold up to that time, must have created a great excitement, for it is said within three days the rocky area for several miles along the river was checkered with mining claims. In the same vicinity on July 5, J. O. Jackson, J. W. Crouch, H. F. (Okanogan) Smith, Charles Snyder and B. L. Johnson located the Similkameen lode, and on the same day another location was made in Angle camp under the name of Similkameen by numerous party of men who denominated their organization the Colville Company. The names appearing on the recorded notice of this discovery were W. V. Brown, W. P. Winans, Henry Wellington, Capt. Evan Miles, Dr. A. W. Wiggins, Francis Wolff, S. F. Sherwood, W. Barry, Thomas Earl, A. Thorp, J. C. Haynes, Harry E. Young and Guy Haines.

The claim that did much toward extending the fame of the camp was the second location made under the name of "Similkameen lode." The territorial officials at Olympia had performed considerable service to the prospectors by furnishing them with "grub stakes" for their perilous expeditions, and the prospectors returned the favor by locating their benefactors with them on many discoveries. The names of the owners on this notice were designated collectively as the Olympia Company. They are here given in the order named on the record:

"No. 1, J. A. Gallagher, 200 feet."

"2, S. Garfield, 200 feet." Garfield was delegate to congress from 1867 to 1869.

"No. 3, Daniel Braly, 100 feet." Braley was county auditor of Stevens county at the time.

"No. 4, J. C. Haynes, 200 feet." The name of Haynes was stricken, evidently because he was a British subject, being judge of the provincial court at Osooyoos, B. C.

"No. 3, M. Thomas, 200 feet."

"No. 5, Elwood Evans, 100 feet." Evans was secretary of the territory 1862-67.

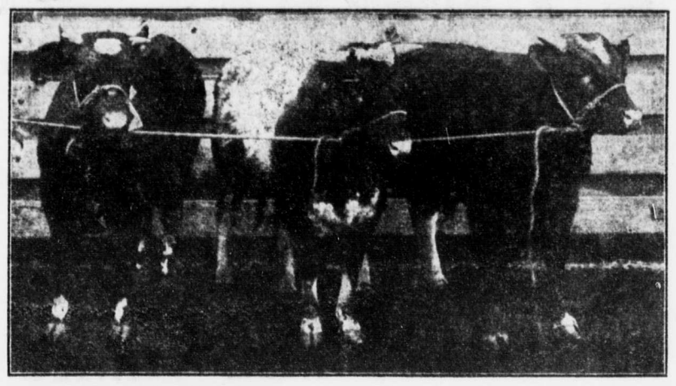
"No. 5, Frank Tarbell, 100 feet." Tarbell was territorial treasurer 1875-80.

"General Milroy, 100 feet." Probably Lieut. Col. W.J. Milroy, who organized the territorial militia.

"No. 6, E. Ferry, 100 feet." E. P. Ferry, territorial governor 1872-80, and first elected state governor, for whom Ferry county was named.

No. 6, H. G. Struve, 100 feet."

(Continued on page seven)



GOOD SHOWING OF PUREBREDS

SHORTHORNS FROM STEVENS COUNTY HAVE IMPORTANT PLACE IN SHOW

Good Animals Raised by Local Breeders Show Growth of the Industry Here

The importance of Stevens county as a producer of high class Shorthorn cattle is not realized until one witnesses the performance of Stevens county breeders at such a show and sale as took place at Spokane recently at the annual conference and sale of the Pacific Northwest Shorthorn Breeders Association. One could not look over the Stevens county cattle on exhibit there and not feel proud of the county. The performance of these cattle in the sale ring held up the reputation of the county further by bringing very attractive prices.

D. E. Pearson of Boyds, who had six head on exhibition and entered in the sale, was an especial credit to the county and its Shorthorn breeders. He has been in the strictly purebred business a little over a year, and is one of the most enthusiastic boosters for Shorthorns and good stock of all kinds. He had in the sale two aged cows which he bought for foundation stock which brought him a neat profit over what they originally cost and left him a calf each on the farm at Boyds. Highland Chief, a roan bull calf, dropped March 21, 1919, was also one of Mr. Pearson's entries. This calf brought a good figure and at a sale where bulls were going cheap. This calf returned to Stevens county and goes to the farm of J. J. Parsons at Arden. W. D. Elwood owns the mother of this calf, the cow Bettie 3d. Mr. Elwood also owns the cow Violet 2d, the mother of a year-old heifer which Mr. Pearson sold in the sale at $355. Mr. Elwood is justly proud of the fact that he owns these high-class cows. The heifer mentioned stood first in a class of junior heifers and with plenty of competition in a class of 25.

Left to right—Diamond 807420, 4th in class of 25. Highland Chief 807421, now owned by J. J. Parsons. Violet 4th 727168, 1st in class of 25 junior yearling heifers, and sold for $355. These animals were all bred by D. E. Pearson, and exhibited at the Spokane show.

Another entry of Mr. Pearson's was the red bull calf Diamond, which stood third in a class of 35 and which brought a good price when the prevailing price for bulls is taken into consideration.

Among the consigners to the sale the following represented Stevens county: Joe Turner, Meyers Falls; I. E. Warren, Fruitland; J. W. Fox, Cedonia; D. E. Pearson, Boyds; Carmichael & Brockman, Chewelah; Worthly Bros., Hunters; M. S. Little, Fruitland.

Among those from this county who were present as spectators and purchasers of cattle was A. F. Plantz of Addy, who bought several head for the purpose of starting a herd of Shorthorns on his ranch at Addy. He bought some very high class stock and showed good judgment in his selections.

Another heavy purchaser was W. E. Seney who bought, besides some females, one of the best bulls sold in the entire sale, not even barring those sold by Day & Rothrock, as he got a bull sired by the imported bull Doune Radiance, a bull which Day & Rothrock prize very highly. Chilco Radiance 842029 is Mr. Seney's bull, and it is the opinion of the writer that few bulls with the breeding and individual merit of this bull have come to the country.

The list of Stevens county representatives at this sale also includes Alex Morrison of Chewelah, W. T. Newbry of Chewelah, and Geo. W. Peddycord of Colville.—H. J. Plumb, County Agriculturalist.

FRANK B. GOETTER

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