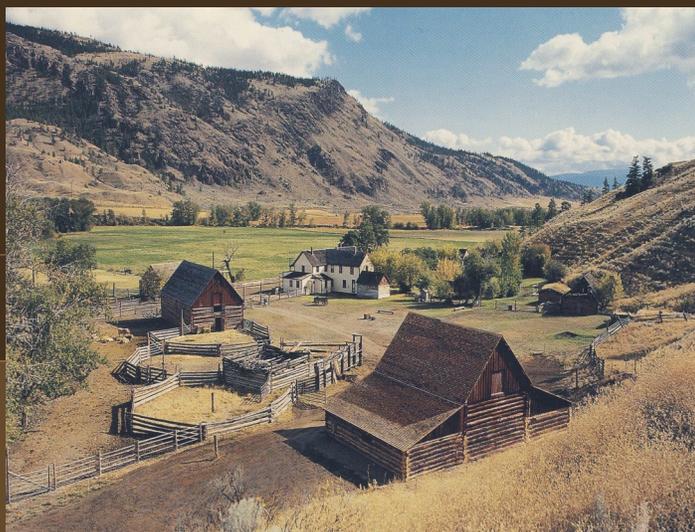


# Museum Corner: A Page From History

May 2018

## Looking Back: Lodgings: Roadhouses

The influx of people into BC's interior in the 1860's prompted the construction of stopping places. These Road Houses could be found scattered along the Cariboo wagon road. Although rudimentary in nature they served their purpose, a place to sleep, a simple meal, and food for their stock. Two of the original road houses "Ashcroft Manor" and "Hat Creek House" are still in existence today and open to the public.



In late summer of 1862, Donald McLean a retired Hudson Bay employee settled with his wife and children on land near the mouth of Hat Creek . "McLean's" was described as the best farm in the colony ,having valuable cattle and fine vegetables. The road house though had not quite so great ratings. A long list of proprietors included George Dunne, William Cargile and Steve Tingley. In 1902 the roadhouse saw a substantial addition ,the sitting room changed to the end of the house and numerous sleeping rooms were added. In 1910 under the ownership of Charles Doering the roadhouse became a private dwelling and Hat Creek House ceased to exist. The last residents were Basil and Dorothy Jackson, who moved to a new dwelling on the property in the early 1950's.

Ashcroft House or Ashcroft Manor as it is known today was completed in the spring of 1863. It was the creation of Clement and Henry Cornwall, brothers who journeyed from England in 1862, and pre-empted 2 parcels of 160 acres on fertile ground near the Thompson River. With the Cariboo wagon road running right by their door, the Cornwall's saw an opportunity to cater to trekkers going north.

The Ashcroft Roadhouse was known to all travellers as good place to stay. Framed pictures hung on the walls, and a large mirror reflected bottles lining the bar. Guests could sit in stuffed leather chairs and read the latest news from England.



<https://www.google.ca/search?q=ashcroft+manor&tbm=isch&tbas=0&our=ent&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEWjh-v7wPvaAtvB4GMKHT9vAXdQpwUIHg&biw=1280&bih=855&dpr=1.111mrgcr=kNvyf6CBOL79M:&spf=1525969403946>

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## Looking Back: Road houses: Page 2



Charles Semlin and Phillip Parke joined forces in 1865 and bought the Wayside house from James Orr. Over the winter they moved the house from its location near Rattlesnake hill to the foot of the hill on the Bonaparte. They opened for business under "Bonaparte House" Semlin and Parke, Props. Thousands passed through the area on their way to the Big Bend mines and the hotel did substantial business. In 1868 Parke sold his interest to "Boston" Sandford, the firm then became Semlin and Sandford. A couple of years later Semlin bought Sandford out and shortly after traded the hotel to James Campbell in exchange for his ranch.

Above: Bonaparte House, Right: Cache Creek House, Below: 12 Mile House

*"Cache Creek House, is situated two miles from the Bonaparte and afford the best accommodation for man and beats. The bar is furnished with the best of wines, liquors and cigars. The table is supplied with best of vegetables grown on the ranch. The services of a first-rate cook have been secured. The stables are furnished with best of hay, barley and oats, and "Boston" the well known proprietor is always on hand to receive his guests" ( BC Tribune, May 14, 1866)*



The

In 1893 Cole McDonald built and established the 12 Mile House. It was situated about 5 miles north of Cache Creek on the old Cariboo wagon road. McDonald conducted a very successful and profitable stopping place for teamsters until his death in 1914..

Ashcroft Museum is open from Monday to Sunday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Come on down and learn some fascinating history about the area.

Located at 151 and 4th Street.

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