

Museum Corner: A Page From History

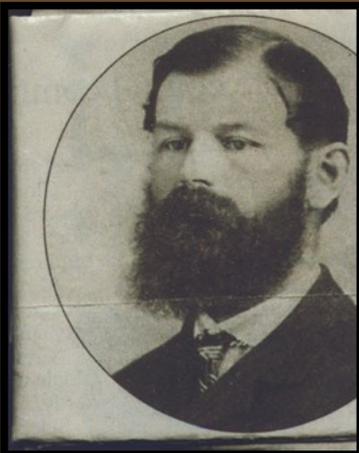
Looking Back: Ashcroft's Public Building

History of the Post Masters and Post Mistresses:

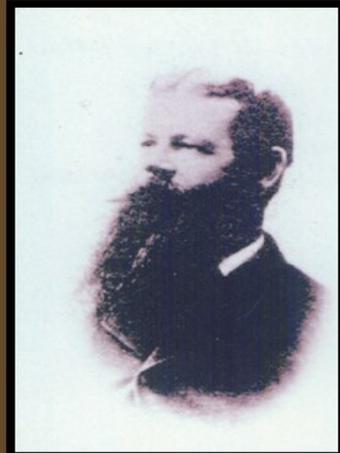
- The first Post Office was set up in the Ashcroft Manor in 1865, with Clement Cornwall as the first Post Master.
- After British Columbia joined Confederation in July 1871, Henry Cornwall became Post Master.
- Mrs. M. J. Cornwall was Post Mistress from 1892 to March 31, 1899, when it merged with the Ashcroft Station Post Office.
- In 1886, Tom Kirkpatrick opened a store and became the first Post Master at the Ashcroft Station.
- The Post Office was located in the Harvey Bailey Store, which was originally Kirkpatrick's store.
- Then in July 1, 1889, the new Post Master became W. Bailey.
- September 1, 1894, J.J MacKay is the Post Master.
- Then not long after, in 1897, J. C. Shields came to take over the Post Master position. The name "Ashcroft Station" changed to just "Ashcroft"
- March 1, 1904, W. H. Kipp became the newest Post Master
- Then in 1912, T. J. Richards was the Post Master, and eventually was the first Post Master at the new public building.
- 1949, Miss. K. Richards became the Post Mistress.
- By 1970, Oscar Johansen was the newest Post Master, and continued to be the Post Master when the Post Office moved to its new location in 1978.



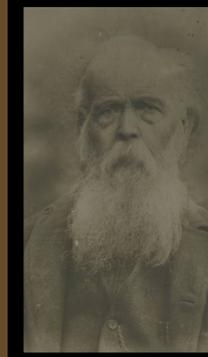
The Ashcroft Manor which held the first Post Office



Clement Cornwall



Henry Cornwall



T. Kirkpatrick



T. J. Richards



O. Johansen

Picture of the public building



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Ashcroft's Public Building continued...



Past photos of the public building

In April 1917, the new public building was completed. The building included a Post Office, a Government Telephone, CPR and CN Telegraph Exchange located on the main floor, and the Telegraph Office and Customs Office situated on the top floor.

The building was built of wood and considered temporary, and was said to last at least 100 years.

The exterior of the building was painted a light grey, with slightly darker trimmings of dark bronze green. As for the interior it was finished with a V joint lumbar with trimmings of prominent grained fur.

By the mid 1930's the building was bricked over. And a few years later the Post Office became the only functioning unit on the main floor, due to the Telephone and Telegraph Exchange starting to phase out.

In 1978, the Post Office moved its location, and in 1981 the old public building was acquired by the Village of Ashcroft and converted into the Ashcroft Museum.

R. D Cumming who had bought the Journal in 1912, eventually started a little "museum" in the room above the print shop in 1935. Then in 1978 when the Cumming family sold the Journal to Cariboo Press, all the artifacts and memorabilia that had been collected over the year and put in the "museum" was donated to the old public building when it was converted into the Ashcroft Museum. R. D. Cumming became the founder of the Ashcroft Museum.

"In 1984, the Ashcroft Museum received an award of Merit from the BC Museums Association for exhibits as designed by Bob Graham which combined wit, humor, imagination, and good taste."



R.D Cumming

The 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 4th and Brink.

250-453-9232

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Present day photo of the public building

