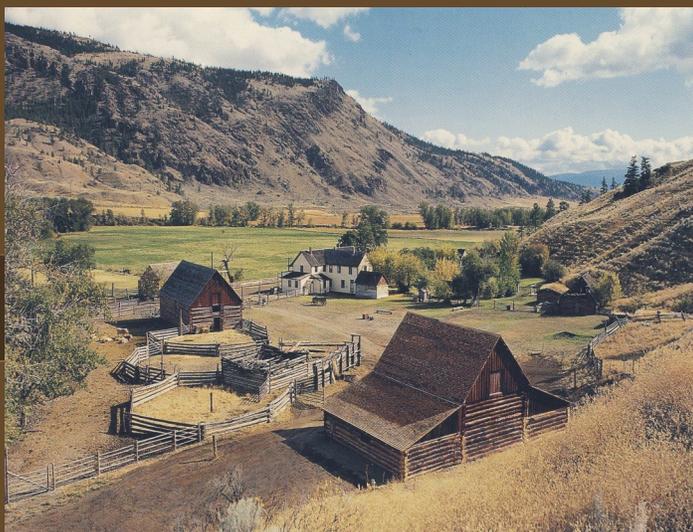


Museum Corner: A Page From History

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&tbn=isch&tbas=0&source=it&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjh-v7wPvaAIVB4GMKH79vAXGQpwUIHg&biw=1280&bih=855&dpri=1#imgrc=kNvyf6CBOL79M:&spfr=1525969403946>