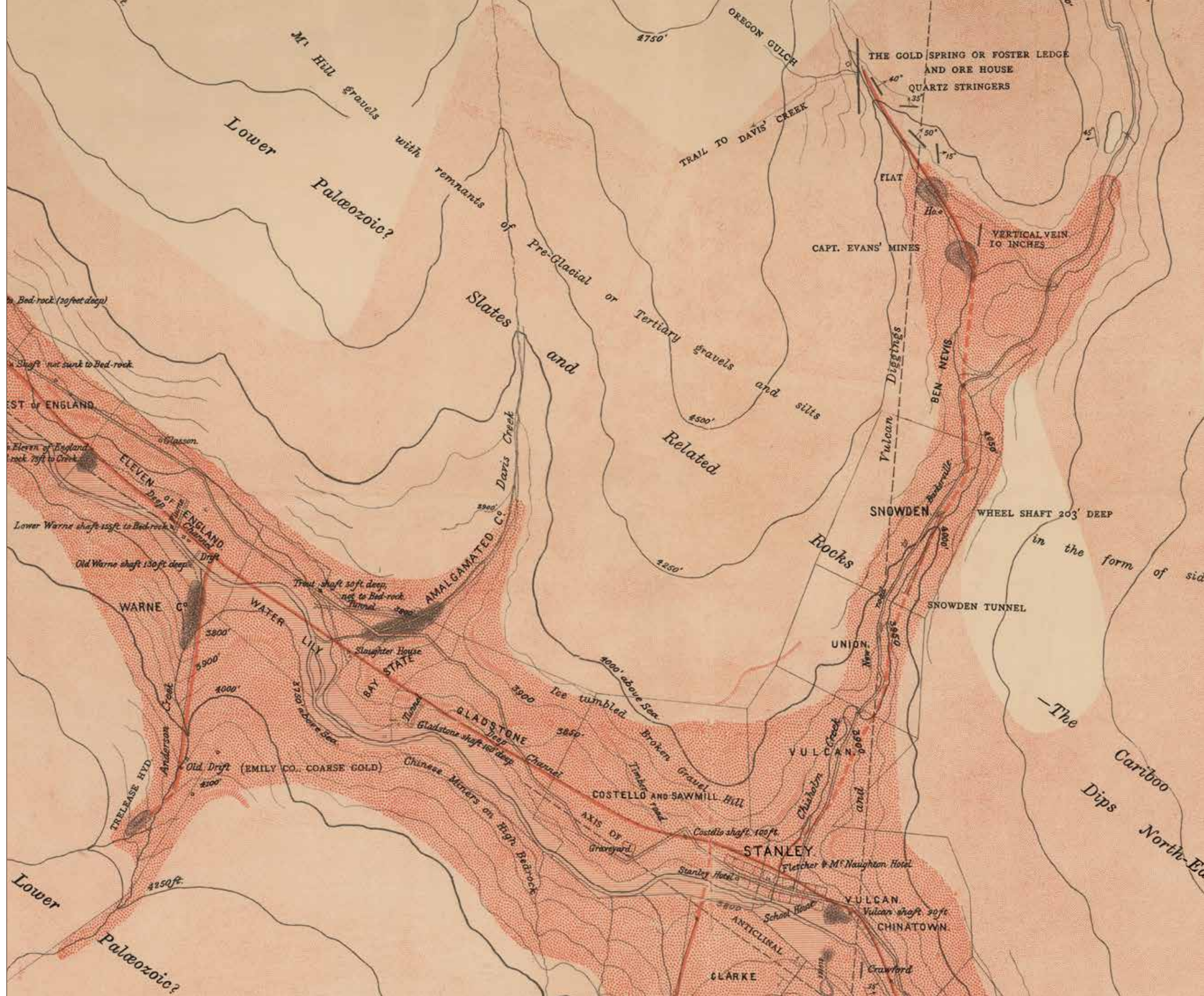


# LIGHTNING CREEK, CARIBOO

With Keithley, Antler, and Williams Creek all solidly staked, the miners of poorer claims began to investigate any unexplored streams within a 20-mile radius of Antlertown. In June 1861, William Wallace Cunningham, Edward Campbell, W. Henry Lightfall, James Bell and John Hume discovered an incredibly rich stream that began as a trickle on the slopes of Agnes Mountain and flowed westward until emptying into the Swift River. When Cunningham took the first pan of gravel from the creek and saw the prospects, he remarked. "Boys, this is lightning" and the name stuck.

It was Cunningham who announced that gold had been discovered on Van Winkle Creek, a tributary of Lightning. Because a Rip Van Winkle Bar near Lytton in earlier days had been prosperous, the new locality was named Van Winkle in its honor. In keeping with political tradition, the nearby community of Stanley that had sprung up in 1870 to replace the declining Van Winkle, was named in honor of Edward Henry Stanley, the 15th Earl of Derby and secretary for the colonies at the time. His brother, Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, was the Governor General for Canada from 1888 to 1893 and left his name to Vancouver City's Stanley Park (and later the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup).

Welshman John Evans, his son Taliesen, and his 'Company of Welsh Adventurers arrived in the Cariboo in 1863 and set to work sinking several shafts on Lightning Creek where 'Cariboo slum' had already defeated more experienced miners—and they too in the end were defeated by "the fine wet silt that was both heavy and gummy".





MAP  
OF PLACER MINES & QUARTZ VEINS  
IN THE VICINITY OF  
**LIGHTNING CREEK.**

BY AMOS BOWMAN MINING ENGINEER.  
DRAWN BY JAMES McEVROY B.A.Sc.

