## GROUSE CREEK, CARIBOO

Williams Creek is named for Wilhelm Dietz, a Prussian sailor who was one of a party that set out from Lightning Creek and was the first to discover gold on this creek, which was quickly staked by his companions and soon after by others. The most important and richest digging in the Cariboo goldfields, the creek gave birth to the towns of Richfield, Barkerville and Camerontown, which collectively were also known as Williams Creek. Barkerville and Camerontown were named for William Barker and John Alexander Cameron, Barker being the most famous and at one time the richest of the Cariboo gold miners. Dietz's claim was not a money-maker and he died in poverty.

In the early 1860s when placer gold production peaked, the search began for lode gold deposits. The Black Jack, Home Stake, Cornish and the Wintrip were among the first claims to be staked in the area.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA MAP#367
COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, OTTAWA



