

called Keremeos. And there, so they claim, they remain to this day in the long lost and unmarked burial place.

The legend is intriguing because there is considerable evidence that tends to corroborate the story. Old steel weapons have been recovered in various parts of the valley and especially in the areas close to Keremeos. They could have been trade items that were brought to the Similkameen but why were they concentrated almost exclusively around Keremeos.

The pictographs in the valley also provide other clues, especially the 'Prisoner paintings' that seem to depict four Indian warriors roped or chained together and surrounded by quadrupeds, seemingly dogs. It was a common Spanish custom to chain their captives together and guard them with vicious dogs. It is an interesting theory. The discovery of rare Indian armour: hammered copper plate in an old Indian burial near Keremeos also lends credence to the Spanish story. The armour is perforated and amazingly similar to old Spanish mail. Where did the Similkameen First Nations get the idea of armour plate? It was singular to the Keremeos region and some historians contend that the First Nations simply copied the Spanish mail that they had seen which was nearly impenetrable to arrows during the battles. Finally, in 1863, a large building that had been constructed for both horses and men was discovered in the Kelowna area. The size of the massive structure, estimated at around 35 by 75 feet, indicated that it had once been a wintering quarters and even in 1863 was very old. Was this the building used by the Spanish when they purportedly wintered in Kelowna?

Although the smallest, another piece of evidence is perhaps the most impressive of all. Several decades ago a pendant of highly polished and beautifully worked turquoise was recovered from a very old Indian burial site at Okanagan Falls. Archaeologists state that this is the only documented instance of turquoise being found in an Indian grave in the province. Was this precious

stone originally in the possession of one of the Spaniards in the ill-fated expedition of the 17th century?

The clues are fascinating but by no means conclusive and the mystery of the 'Spanish Mound' remains unsolved and only the discovery of this long lost burial place would solve this centuries old puzzle.



A pictograph of a helmeted Spanish conquistador mounted on a horse?



A pictograph of a pair of swords?

David Gregory Photos



TULAMEEN CANYON & THE SIMILKAMEEN RIVER

GRANITE CITY

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GOLD IN QUARTZ SAMPLES FOUND ON GRANITE CREEK.

Courtesy Gino Del-Ciutto

nuggetvalleygoldprospectingadventures.com

eurekagoldsands.com



PLATINUM SAMPLES FOUND ON A TRIBUTARY OF THE TULAMEEN RIVER.

Courtesy Gino Del-Ciotto

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eurekagoldsands.com



GOLD SAMPLE FOUND ON A TRIBUTARY OF THE TULAMEEN RIVER.

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ABOVE & OPPOSITE: THE RUINS OF AN ORIGINAL CABIN ON GRANITE CREEK. IN THE 1970S SEEKERS OF GOLD, PLATINUM AND ARTIFACTS VISITEDS THE SITE WITH EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT AND DUG UP THE AREA AROUND THE BUILDINGS.



PRINCE'S TOWN OR PRINCETON



GOLD SAMPLES FOUND ON GRANITE CREEK
ENLARGED 5 TIMES.

Courtesy Gino Del-Ciutto



OPPOSITE:

The ruins of miner's cabins at Granite City that were built after 1927.



THE GRANITE CITY GRAVEYARD OF THE 1880S OVERLOOKS THE MINING COMMUNITY DIRECTLY BELOW.

Nestled in the jackpine the graves of unknown souls, surrounded by rock cairns, lie interspersed with the names of the

Edgar Dewdney, the roadbuilder of the Dewdney Trail, had James Riordan and Charles Allison stake claims on Nickel Plate Mountain as early as 1894. Allison was the son of John Fall Allison, the first white settler at Red Earth or Vermilion Forks. This site had originally been named after the red ochre used for face painting or pictographs before being renamed in 1860 Prince's Town, later Princeton, to honor the visit to eastern Canada of Queen Victoria's eldest son, Edward, Prince of Wales – later to become King Edward VII. Dewdney and Allison married sisters making them brothers-in-law.

According to legend, greenhorn prospectors had been panning for gold in the Similkameen valley floor and had encountered some locals who, as a cruel prank, told them that the best prospects were on the high mountainous ridges above the 5,000 foot level. Incredibly, the two men found free gold in a rusty red outcrop near the top of a mountain. As a result other seasoned miners quickly staked claims on the mountain. Ironically, the claims staked by Riordan and Allison were allowed to lapse and reverted back to the crown.

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EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES & THE ELDEST SON
OF QUEEN VICTORIA I, WENT ON TO BECOME
KING EDWARD VII. IN THIS PORTRAIT HE IS
WEARING HIS MASONIC REGALIA OF THE MOST
WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF THE UNITED
GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON