

Most Kamloops schools, such as Stuart Wood, Allan Matthews, and Beattie, have been named in honour of eminent teachers of the district, but the Junior Secondary School perpetuates the memory of an early farmer and businessman.

John Peterson was born in Rotterdam in 1825. In his late teens he became a sailor, his first trip being to the East Indies. This life took him to most parts of the world; he learnt English, and acquired a taste for adventure.

Xi In 1849 he sailed from Antwerp for California, taking seven months to get there. He arrived in San Francisco on the night before the first great fire, and consequently had no trouble finding work as a builder.

However, he soon fell victim to the prevalent gold fever, and spent the next twelve years in the goldfields, first at Trinity River, and then Salmon River, California. He never "struck it rich", and eventually found it was more profitable to pack goods to the miners.

In 1862, with many others, he moved to B.C., and operated a pack train from lillooet to the Cariboo. A little later he took his train to Seymour Arm, packing goods to the Big Bend miners, and spent the winters in Kamloops.

1871 When the CPR Survey started in that area under John McLellan in 1867, he seized the opportunity to sell his pack-train to the government, but continued to work as the Survey's boss packer for another year, and intermittently thereafter.

In 1868 he decided to settle at Kamloops, and pre-empted land extending ~~from near the H.B.C. property in the west to~~ "Jacko Creek" in the east - later named Peterson Creek. Alexander Jacko had for many years held a huge tract of land extending from the whole Jacko Lake region to the Thompson. He had died in 1863, and the horse range was then run by his son Philip, who officially pre-empted land east of the creek mouth in 1866. Peterson later added Jacko's land west of the creek. *ast of* *Wrong!*

Peterson soon built a large house; this was the first home, apart from H.B.C. property, in Kamloops. He added stables, and purchased ten acres for \$350 at the creek mouth from Jacko in 1875; three years later he bought more land from William Jones. These transactions made him owner of most of the present area of Kamloops.

He soon donated a portion of land for use as a cemetery; this gift was a gentleman's agreement with Government Agent J. Ussher, with no legal deed; in 1897 City Council had difficulty proving ownership, by which time a new cemetery was already needed.

Meantime John Peterson had married Annie Frances Jacko; they had no children, and she died in 1892, aged 31. Her tombstone is still plainly legible in the Pioneer Cemetery.

He had also acquired hotel interests, originally because he held a mortgage on Dassonville's Boarding House, built in 1873. When Ernest Dassonville died in 1876 it was run by Peterson until burnt out next year. He rebuilt, however, on a larger scale as the Cosmopolitan Hotel, selling to Thomas Spellman in about 1880. Later he bought the Arlington Hotel, built in 1884 by Frank Sears, moved it and called it the Oriental, with successive managers M. McCartéy, Dennis Tierney, and Napoleon

Latremouille. The name was again changed, to the Montreal, but was destroyed by fire in 1903, and the land sold to Latremouille. He built again a little later, and soon re-named it the Leland.

In 1885 Kamloops was changing rapidly from a small H.B.C. post to a large railway centre - and land values were changing appropriately. The whole Peterson property was purchased by the Townsite syndicate, consisting of Messrs. Mara, Pooley, and Ward.

It might be supposed that Peterson, now aged 60 and reasonably wealthy, would settle to a life of easy retirement. Instead he immediately pre-empted land 14 miles south of Kamloops, and started a new horse and cattle ranch. He later bought Bartlett Newman's land adjoining, making a farm of 640 acres, the present Willow Ranch on the Nicola road. He was very successful again; his animals were said to be ~~the~~ among the best in the district.

In 1908, however, he finally retired, selling the ranch to Joseph Bulman. He died six months later, aged 83, and was buried with his wife in the Pioneer Cemetery. His only known survivors were a neice Nellie and nephew Johnny.