

Other Immigrants

Northern British Columbia has many people of Scandinavian descent. Americans too settled the north as well as the Cariboo "cow country." There are British pockets in the Okanagan fruit lands, the Shuswap and Vancouver Island. The descendants of German settlers live in the Fraser Valley, and Russian-speaking Doukhobors farm in the Kootenay. The Japanese still dominate some fishing regions though many of their settlements were dispersed when they were sent en masse to concentration camps during World War II.

Names

Many British Columbian names have Indian origins, though the original meanings and pronunciations have been altered radically over the centuries.

According to G.P.V. and Helen B. Akrigg in their book *1001 British Columbia Place Names*, the meaning of "Shuswap," as in Shuswap Lake, seems lost forever, and the place name "Kitwanga" is translated as both "the people of the rabbits" (which is correct) and "the people of the rapids" (which is not).

A good many Spanish names left by the eighteenth-century explorers survive on the coast: the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Gabriola Island, Texada, Galiano, Descanso Bay, Espinosa Inlet and Redonda Islands.

The British mark is conspicuous not only in Vancouver and Vancouver Island, named after Captain George Vancouver of the Royal Navy, but in Victoria, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte Islands and hundreds of inlets, islands, bays and



Japanese loggers in the bush during the 1920's.

towns of lesser renown.

The explorers and merchants of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company left their names all over the place — Fraser, Stuart, Quesnel, Thompson, Ogden, Douglas, Yale, Tod. The French *coureurs de bois* named Lac La Hache, Vaseu Lake, Moyle River and Riviere aux Chapeaux, although the last eventually became Hat Creek.

The gold rush left some of the more picturesque names — Jack of Clubs Lake and Murderer Creek — and so did various wars — Sirdar (the title of Lord Kitchener in the Anglo-Sudanese War) and Mount Haig, Mount Joffre, Mount Aosta (after the British, French and Italian military chiefs in World War I). Some mountains and streams bear the names of young surveyors killed in World War I — Bell-Irving River and Casey Core, for example. Captain James Herrick McGregor, the first president of the British Columbia Surveyors Association who was killed at Ypres in 1915, is commemorated by Captain Creek, James Creek and Herrick Creek, all of which are tributaries of the McGregor River.



Chinese railroad workers (left) and a fisherman (right).