

In the fall of 1860, or in the spring of 1861, some American prospectors discovered gold in what was considered to be paying quantities at the Rocky Mountain House, but whether these prospectors were going westward on their way to the Fraser River or to the newly discovered diggings at Caribon, or had come eastward across the mountains from British Columbia, is not certain.

In May 1863, when Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle were at Edmonton, they speak of a party of miners coming in from White Mud Creek, about fifty miles farther up the Saskatchewan, where they had been washing gold. The leader of the band was a Kentuckian named Love, who had been in British Columbia searching for gold and had come eastward into what is now the Province of Alberta, through the Yellow Head Pass. He asserted that already that season the miners had recovered £90 apiece.

Another miner mentioned by Milton and Cheadle as being in the district at the time was Perry, who was well known on the Fraser River.

In 1866, reports of rich discoveries of gold on the Saskatchewan River spread among the miners on the Kootenay River, in the vicinity of Wild Horse Creek, and caused a stampede to Edmonton, but as the gold-bearing bars on the river were not found to be as rich as had been reported, the excitement soon died down.

For the next twenty years miners worked on the bars for about 75 miles up and down the river from Edmonton, with results which are said to have varied from one to twenty dollars a day per man.

In 1887, the first dredge was built on the river and from that time on to the present dredges have been working with varying success, though it is probable that most of the gold that has been extracted down to the present time has been taken out by miners working with shovel and grizzly as of old.

The following is a list of some of the references to the occurrence of gold in this river.

HUTTON, JAMES. On the Geology of the Country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean. Proc. Geol. Soc. (Lond.) Apl. 10, 1861, p. 405.