

SUMMARY

Slumach brought a substantial quantity of gold into New Westminster on at least one occasion during the 1880s. Jackson wrote his infamous letter claiming that to have found a creek, literally full of gold, sometime around the turn of the 19th century. Shotwell and Harrington are on record as returning to civilization with an undetermined quantity of gold in 1911. Gold was found in R.A. 'Doc' Brown's last known camp in 1931. In 1974, G.S. 'Stu' Brown documents his claim to have found billions of dollars worth of gold in a location that matches the description given in Jackson's letter.

It is extremely difficult to discredit the legend or at least the existence of a significant gold deposit, given the historical documentation associated with these 6 key people. Slumach may have gone into parts unknown, via Pitt Lake and Jackson may have come out of parts unknown via Pitt Lake, however all indications strongly suggest that the legendary gold is located somewhere between the Stave Glacier area and the lower Lillooet River and not within the upper Pitt River region itself.

Slumach and 'Doc' Brown's gold obviously came from a vein while Jackson, Shotwell and Harrington and 'Stu' Brown's source can definitely be identified as a placer deposit. It is highly unlikely that Slumach would have 'picked' gold out with a pen knife or that 'Doc' Brown would have 'chipped' gold off, had there been a placer deposit within the immediate vicinity of either of their locations.

The identification of two different types of gold circumstantially identifies two different locations of gold. In my opinion, there is a high probability that there are three separate gold deposits, independent of the other, that have been erroneously interconnected through the generality of the legend itself. My hypothesis is not only based on the obvious differences in gold, it also takes into consideration the geological structure of the entire search area, the various fault lines, the locations of different sites, and distances between these identified sites.

I would be negligent in my writing if I did not additionally warn anyone contemplating an independent ground search that during the course of my research, I have met people who have intentionally contaminated areas to confuse searchers.

These individuals would not identify the areas they contaminated, however, they did readily admit to marking several large rocks with either the letter X or the letter J. These unscrupulous individuals also claimed to have flown over several areas and scattered hundred of pounds of melted brass nuggets in countless different creeks. It was their assumption, that if they could not find the legendary gold they would contaminate areas so badly that no one else would easily find it either.

Regardless of individual opinion or interpretation of my own research, I would strongly recommend that anyone actively searching any of the areas of their choice, to take the extra time to authenticate any discoveries. Old fire pits, tin cans with lead circles on the bottom, old rifle shell casings, and similar historical artifacts should confirm any site located as being legitimate. Lack of authenticity may needlessly lead searchers to focus their attention in an area that may have been intentionally contaminated.

There is little if any doubt that the source of the gold is within the boundaries of Garibaldi Park. Anyone actively conducting a ground search has no option but to accept the fact that it is illegal to prospect or otherwise remove anything from within the park boundaries.

Hiking in Garibaldi park should not be taken lightly under any circumstances, especially in the glacier regions. The terrain is rough, the weather unpredictable and carnivorous animals abundant. Regardless of the reason for hiking in Garibaldi Park or any other parks for that matter it is extremely important to take all necessary precautions and make personal safety the ultimate priority. Study available maps, know the hazards and be prepared for the unexpected. All expectations and achievements will be in vain if personal safety is in any way compromised.

A person can not hike anywhere in the areas that I have mentioned for more than a few hours without finding signs of previous human activity and unfortunately, an increasing amount of modern garbage left behind by others.

Out of respect for the legacy left behind by the legendary, the unfortunate and anyone else who was or will become involved in the pursuit of this legend, I do request that all areas and campsites be cleaned and left in a natural, undisturbed and unpolluted state for others to experience and enjoy.



Aerial photograph showing the heavy snow pack in the higher elevations of the general search area in early June.



Photograph taken in the general area of Glacier Lake.



Photograph of a rock cairn located near the headwaters of Corbold Creek.